

Sir Roger Manwood's School

End of Term Newsletter December 2008

Dear Parents and Member of the School

1. Public Examination Results Summer 2008

This summer saw another outstanding set of A Level results, setting new records for the school. The overall pass rate was 98.2% with 63% of all the exams taken passed at the top grades of A and B. There were many outstanding individual performances with 20 students achieving more than 3 grade A passes and 10 of these students gaining more than 4 grade A passes. With the results pleasing across the board it is good to report that nearly all the students were able to go on to the universities of their first or second choice, with very few having to go through Clearing. We wish them all the best as they now pursue their degree studies.

The GCSE results were equally pleasing. The Average Points Score achieved by our Year 11 students was 480 which equates to an average of more than 9 grade A passes per student. This is particularly commendable when it is remembered that our students all take academic GCSE's with no overly-inflated vocational qualifications distorting the real picture of achievement. Further confirmation of the excellent achievement is that 46% of all the exams taken were passed at the top grades of A* and A. 12 students gained nearly all their passes at A*.

Both the A Level and GCSE results are a testimony to the excellent hard work of both students and staff last year. Congratulations to everyone concerned.

2. Staff Farewells and Arrivals

Mr David Brooks leaves us at the end of term to take up a position as Head of Mathematics at Dover College. Mr Brooks came to Manwood's as a newly qualified teacher in January 2005 and quickly settled in to make a significant contribution to the Maths Department, able to engage students of all abilities whilst also supporting our ablest mathematicians in their recent successes in national competitions. His previous life as an RAF Officer made him an ideal candidate to take over as Officer Commanding the CCF and this aspect of school life has continued to flourish under his leadership. We wish him every success in his new post.

Mrs Helen Venn has a long association with the school stretching back 17 years. Her contribution has been quite diverse reflecting her different skills and talents. Italian GCSE in the sixth form, English Foreign Language support for some of our boarders and work also in the Special Needs Department have all come within her remit. When we became a Language College, Mrs Venn took on the role of Coordinator of the International Dimension, and with her organisational skills events such as International Week have become an annual fixture in the school calendar. She has also contributed greatly to the development of links with China and the Gambia, as well as running successful trips to Italy. We wish her all the best as her husband's work takes her away from this area of Kent.

Mr Peter Day retires at the end of term after 13 years' service as Chemistry Technician. Mr Day has been a stalwart member of the Science Department offering invaluable support to the teaching staff. In retirement he plans to keep busy, not least in his work as curate in a local church. We wish him a very happy retirement.

In January there will, therefore, be a number of new staff joining the school:

Mrs Rosalind Nelson	MFL (Italian)
Mrs Beverley Reid-Easton	SEN Department
Mr Graeme Van de Merwe	Chemistry Technician

Miss Faith White
Mr Louis Martin

Mathematics
Officer Commanding CCF

Mr Stedman is taking over the role of International Coordinator. Mrs Maria Burch will also be teaching Spanish in January, covering for Mrs Morgan's maternity leave.

3. Building Schools for the Future and Curriculum Change – Update

We are still waiting for BSF to move up a gear. In the meantime planning for the future continues in school.

The recent announcement by the government that they were abolishing KS3 SAT's exams has given an added impetus to the move to greater flexibility in curriculum delivery to which we have already been responding. For example, both the Science and English Departments now start GCSE work in Year 9 and they are very positive about the response from the students to this innovation. All departments indeed are reviewing their curriculums in the light of the greater flexibility now possible.

In addition to offering greater "stretch and challenge" the school also wishes to respond to the new emphasis being placed on the acquisition of skills through enquiry-based learning activities and cross-curricular work. The school has also long been committed to "Learning Outside the Classroom" with a tradition of organising trips and visits. This will continue to be a strong feature of our enriched curriculum.

At post-16 level we are piloting this year the A Level Extended Project with a number of students. We have also registered our interest in introducing the International Baccalaureate Diploma to be offered alongside our present provision of A Levels.

4. School Closure (bad weather) Procedures

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

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

b) Once the school has closed:-

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

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

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

c) When the school is open:-

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

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

5. The Berlin Trip

The Year 11 History trip to Berlin in October went very well again this year and pupils were able to visit a range of sites connected to their GCSE course. The tour of the Reichstag was a real bonus and the Olympic Stadium remains impressive even today. The students as usual engaged very well with the rigorous schedule and made it a very rewarding time for all.

6. German Exchange

In the last week of term a group of our students are in Sundern, Nord Rhein Westphalen staying with families. Our links with the Gymnasium there are well-established and the exchange always very popular. We look forward to hearing of their experiences on their return.

7. German Pupil Course organized by the UK-German Connection

Kirsty Bailey (Y13) spent two weeks in August living with a German family in Meckenheim in Nord Rhein Westphalia. This was the result of her entering a competition for which she had to submit an essay in German recommending the merits of making a trip to Germany. Miss Scott also wrote a supporting reference from the school.

During the fortnight Kirsty attended special lessons provided by German teachers in the local school covering German literature, music and film as well as geography and science. There were also a number of trips organized, for example to Bonn and to Koln.

Kirsty would recommend the experience to others saying it was the best way to experience another country's culture.

8. History of Parliament Schools Competition

Jack West-Sherring's (Y9) submission to this competition was one of three entries which received a Highly Commended. As it was the anniversary of the death of Oliver Cromwell entrants were asked to relate their work accordingly. Jack provided an exciting and detailed account of the events of the time by writing a diary of a drummer boy involved in the Siege of Drogheda.

9. Visit to Parliament

Year 12 History/Politics students visited Parliament at the start of term and enjoyed the opportunity to quiz a current M.P. The day included a tour of the Palace of Westminster and an opportunity to go inside the Commons Chamber.

10. Student Investor Competition

This year there are four teams of four students from Manwood's participating in the Student Investor Competition. Each team had a virtual £100,000 to invest on the stock market from the 1st November 2008. The competition comes to an end on the 28th February 2009. One of the school's teams 'Epic Lemons' (James Windsor, Lewis Millar, Richard Thomas and Joshua Hood) is currently ranked in 4th position in the South East of England, and in 7th position nationally out of over 7,900 teams competing. The value of their portfolio has increased by over 40% in the space of five weeks. They need to be in the top 20 teams in the South-East to be invited to the regional finals in March. With a few months to go it is still all to play for, so good luck to all of the teams involved.

11. Young Enterprise Scheme

The school has two Young Enterprise Companies running this year, Harmedia and Anonymous.

Harmedia have already organised a lunch time Rock & Pop concert. Their main product focuses around a new educational resource for the teaching of music in primary schools, and hopefully in the new year this product will be launched in some local primary schools.

Anonymous have also been busy selling a variety of products around school and at the Christmas Fayre.

12. Library News

Our new School Librarian/Resource Centre Manager, Mrs Sharon Turrell, has settled into life at Manwood's very quickly and reports:

We have had a busy start to the school year in the library. In September all new Year 7s were able to choose a free book from a selection of twelve. This was funded by an organisation called Booktrust to promote reading for young people. We celebrated National Poetry Day on 9th October with a magnetic poetry session at lunchtime. Groups of Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed experimenting with words to produce some interesting poems! Also in October we held a Scholastic Book Fair which was a great success. We sold nearly £600 worth of books which generated over £300 of free books for the library. Students suggested titles they would like to read for our free books. Thank you for supporting this. We have also recently had our library computer system upgraded. This will make searching for specific titles and subjects easier for students and gives us the potential for linking books with other media and the internet.

We have started collecting tokens for the BoxTops4Books scheme run by Nestle, so if you eat any Nestle cereals please send in the box top! Collecting boxes are in reception and the library.

'The Times' Newspaper is also starting a Books for Schools campaign in January, with tokens printed everyday. Again, if you take 'The Times' or know someone who does please send in the tokens as this will benefit our students.

Finally, a reminder about library opening hours:

Mon – Thursday	8.30 – 4.30
Friday	8.30 – 4.00

There are sometimes meetings in the Library at 3.30pm but Room F is always available for Homework Club.

13. First Lego League – Regional Final

First = For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

After weeks of preparation, on Tuesday 25th November the team from Manwood's attended the Kent Regional Final at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

The team performed well in all sections of the challenge demonstrating very good teamwork and technical skills when discussing their robot building and programming with the judges.

This year, however, they excelled in the Climate Connections Challenge. This was a research project which involved them identifying a problem caused locally by climate change and then investigating how a different community in another part of the world is tackling a similar problem. The team studied coastal and river flooding here and compared it to the work done in the Netherlands. They were then required to provide alternative solutions which they did by tackling the causes of climate change and suggesting alternatives to burning fossil fuels.

The presentation, which was also given to a Year 7 assembly prior to going to the Regional Final, was the winning presentation at the university and they received the 'Climate Connections Award'.

The team also won 20 house points for this project.

The team was made up of Alex Dixon and Andrew Carlotti in Year 9 and James Lord, Jason Chidwick and Oliver Lyon in Year 7.

14. Success in National Photography Competition

Sightsavers International works in more than 30 countries in the developing world to prevent blindness and restore sight, as well as campaigning for equal rights and inclusion for people who are visually impaired. To promote awareness of the issues the charity ran a national photography competition, the International i-click Awards 2008.

Chloe Greenfield's (Year 12) entry, *Sunset Over Skeleton Pier*, was selected from thousands of entries from across the UK and was displayed at the Oxo Gallery on London's South Bank. It was the winner in the 16-18 age group, Highly Commended Category. Chloe was invited to the awards ceremony held at the Oxo Gallery.

15. Anticipating a happy Christmas holiday – 1843 style

I was recently contacted by the great-great granddaughter of John Clark who was a student boarder at Manwood's in the 1840's. She sent me a copy of a letter which John had written to his parents in December 1843 prior to the commencement of the Christmas holidays. It would seem that just as today his parents were to receive an end of term report on his progress. Perhaps the anticipated consequences of a less than strong performance were a little more drastic in those days:

"Dear Parents

It, again, becomes my pleasing duty to remind you, that our Christmas vacation commences on the 22nd instant. I am anticipating a cessation from my studies, and the pleasure to be derived from your society during the coming festival. I trust the proficiency I have made will prove so satisfactory as to merit a continuation of your parental regard.

I am, Dear Parents, your affectionate son, John Clark."

One hopes that his report was up to the mark. He apparently went on to own the Mill at Sandwich before moving on to work at the dockyard at Chatham.

16. Investors in People

In September the school underwent a two day reassessment of its IIP Status. A large number of staff across the whole range of school activities were interviewed by the Assessor and at the end of the process a very comprehensive report was produced that confirmed IIP status for another term. The Report was very complimentary about many strengths and areas of good practice in the school. For example it commented upon:

- The excellent atmosphere in the school;
- The level of understanding that all colleagues have about what the school is trying to achieve;
- The high level of personal commitment that colleagues demonstrate;
- The supportive environment which enables colleagues to fulfil their desire to succeed;
- The inclusivity with everyone feeling very much part of the whole team;
- The pride in the school's achievements and the willingness to continue to be innovative and forward thinking.

A vital ingredient in the school's success is the quality and dedication of all its staff, and it was very pleasing to have this confirmed again. We are very fortunate to have such a strong team.

17. Gamble – Gambia Building Links in Education

The school continues to maintain its close links with this charity and support its work with the school in Farato. Earlier in the term a cheque was sent from money raised in school. Also, a group of Year 12 students and two staff are now beginning to plan their visit to the Gambia which will take place in April 2009 when they will teach in the school as well as visit areas of local interest.

18. Claringbold Scholar Makes Scientific Breakthrough

Claringbold Scholarships are available at Manwood's to give financial support to students as they pursue their medical studies at university. Currently there are over 20 students benefiting each year because of the generosity of an Old Manwoodian, Mr Graham Claringbold, who set up a generous trust fund for this purpose. Recently I received this interesting email from Rory Sharvill who is one of the recipients of a Claringbold Scholarship:

"I am writing to thank you and the governors once again on receipt of the Claringbold Scholarship. As I know you are aware, university life is not cheap, and the money is very much appreciated.

Last year I took a years break from my medical training and completed an Intercalated BSc in Cellular and Molecular Pathology. Along with the core modules, lectures and exams, I was also able to undertake a 6 month lab based research project. I am currently aiming towards a career in trauma medicine, and as such I looked in to the area of wound healing. In particular, I investigated the phenomenon of applying honey (just the normal stuff you can buy in Tesco's) onto wounds to accelerate the healing process, with the ultimate result being to reduce patients' hospital stay. Not only did I find that it does indeed accelerate the process, I was also able to show the as yet undiscovered mechanism of action, and I am hoping to have the work published next year.

I graduated in July with a 2.1 BSc in Pathology, and I am now back in the 4th year of my medical training. As always, if anyone at Manwood's is interested in studying medicine and has any questions or wants any help with their UCAS I'd be happy to help, either via email or phone.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely
Rory Sharvill"

19. Design Technology

Once again the DT Department has had a very busy term:

Congratulations to our Year 10 DT students who have made a tremendous effort in raising over £500 for Farm Africa Charity, by designing, making and selling a range of products as part of their mini-enterprise project. It is heart warming to see their level of commitment in making a real difference in the world.

21 A Level Product Design students enjoyed a trip to London in December to the Transport Museum and the Design Centre where they undertook a successful Product Analysis/Design Workshop.

20 Year 10 students have been entered for the Fair Trade Print It Competition, which is an excellent opportunity to work with a local company.

A busy term has seen the use of more Cad/Cam work in every year with the laser cutter raising the quality and the scope of the projects.

20. Sixth Form Dinner

This event was held at the Bell Hotel towards the end of term and was very well attended. Indeed, demand outstripped available places. Unfortunately, there is no suitable larger venue in Sandwich or Deal.

The highlight of the evening was the talk given by Guest Speaker, Rachael Hill, who left Manwood's in 2002. After completing her degree in Politics and International Relations at Durham University she became a Research Assistant for a Member of Parliament and found herself writing his speeches and thinking up amendments to proposed Bills, some of which were taken on and later became law. Rachael then decided to apply for a career in the Civil Service as a fast-track entrant. This is an incredibly competitive field but she was successful and now finds herself working in Tessa Jowell's Department on the 2012 Olympic legacy. As Rachael explained this spans working on projects across the world including one aimed at providing swimming lessons for students in Bangladesh.

Rachael has therefore achieved a tremendous amount in the brief time since she left Manwood's. She put down her success to her willingness to get involved and develop interests in a wide variety of activities – something she had first taken on board at Manwood's. The MP, for example, told her that he had given her the job because of her achievements in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Outside her job Rachael is also now involved in the work of an international charity which runs a number of educational projects in developing countries. Rachael ended her inspirational talk by encouraging the present sixth form students to make the most of all the opportunities provided both in class and in the extra-curricular life of the school.

21. Clothes Show Live 2008 at the NEC Birmingham

The biennial trip to the Clothes Show Live left school at 6.30am in early December. Despite the early start there was a full take up for places from the Textiles examination groups in Y10, 11 and 12, resulting in 37 pupils and three staff – Mrs Dean, Mrs O'Connell and Mr Grimshaw making the journey.

It was the last day of the event and extremely crowded. However we were able to watch an amazing, fully choreographed, 45 minute catwalk show of famous designer clothes in a purpose built Fashion Theatre, visit university stands to find out about the various courses on offer and view current undergraduates work, view up to 5 smaller catwalks in the main part of the NEC and browse through numerous stalls for last day bargains.

The event is highly useful and provides a wealth of inspiration for coursework and careers in the textiles industry.

Watch out for a pictorial review in next year's Manwoodian to see what you missed!

22. Art Department

The Art Department have been very busy this term organizing a variety of activities to engage and inspire the students:

Year 12 & 13 trip to Rome, Florence & Pisa, November 2008

20 students from Year 12 & 13 and members of the teaching staff in the Art Department travelled for 5 days around the cities of Rome, Florence and Pisa. Students made drawings and studies of Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces, including paintings, sculptures and architectural wonders embedded within the buildings and culture of each city. The students have since successfully used these studies to inform and inspire major coursework projects at AS and A2 level. They have also run an Italian Night with a presentation to peers, parents and teaching staff celebrating the work achieved on the trip.

Year 11, 12 & 13 trip to Tate Britain, Saatchi Gallery and the V&A, December 2008

50 students from Years 11, 12 & 13 visited 2 of the 3 galleries to make studies and gain experiences to support GCSE, AS & A level coursework respectively. Work experienced included rare pieces from a wide variety of cultures, times and contexts that gave students the opportunity to understand different forms of art and approaches and to transfer these experiences to contemporary subject matter and other themes explored in their own work.

Life Drawing for Year 12 & 13 and Teaching Staff, November – December 2008

20 students from Year 12 & 13 and members of SRMS teaching staff have for the past 5 weeks been creating a variety of work from visiting life models in the Art department. Work created has covered a wide variety of media and approaches to drawing, and has related to a range of art history contexts, times and approaches to the theme of life drawing. Work produced forms a valuable part of the AS & A2 coursework units.

23. Music Report

The Autumn term has been as busy and interesting as ever for musical activities, covering a wide range of pieces, people and places.

As is becoming our tradition, the performing year got off to a rousing start with the Divertimento in September which included the CCF Band, various instrumental and vocal soloists, bands and a good number of our new Year 7 who performed a number of items.

Music was prominent on official school occasions again this term. Speech Day in October saw performances from the School Orchestra and excerpts from the forthcoming production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The String Group also provided an extra touch of class to proceedings at the annual GCSE and A Level Certificate Presentation Evening in December.

Assemblies have been a strong feature of the music department's performance schedule this term. This academic year has seen the introduction of weekly Yr 7 music assemblies; the Harvest assembly in October saw music from the brass group and Chamber Choir; and Remembrance assembly on 11th November featured brass group again and the school choir. In addition, music has played a prominent role in normal school assemblies on average once a week featuring soloists, bands and many of the key school ensembles.

Manwood's musicians have also been out and about in the wider community. The Chamber Choir took part in the Manwood Singers' Concert at St Mary's Church, Sandwich on Oct 11th where they performed Haydn's *St Nicholas Mass* and Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*. Members of the Elastic Band again performed alongside students from Sandwich Technology School and Walmer Science College to several hundred Year 5 & 6 pupils for the Primary Schools Music Festival on 20th Nov. Manwood's musicians also provided musical entertainment for the Deal Rotary and guest of honour the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in late November at Princes Golf Club.

We were able to host ABRSM Exams again this term for 14 candidates, all of whom achieved at least a pass. Many achieved merits and two students achieved very good distinctions - Sophie Boyes - Grade 2 Piano & Joshua Todhunter Newman gaining an excellent 139 / 150 in Grade 7 Violin. There was also success with the Trinity Guildhall Examinations in various disciplines, including a merit for Luke Lyden (Grade 1 Saxophone) and distinctions for Lewis Young (Grade 3 Saxophone) and Luke Lyden (Grade 1 Saxophone). Congratulations to all the successful candidates, and all other pupils who have passed music practical and theory exams this term both in and out of school.

The major termly school concerts yet again provided excellent opportunities for Manwood's pupils to showcase their talents. Our guitarists, drummers and vocalists put on a very accomplished set of Rock & Pop concerts on 3rd & 4th December to large and appreciative audiences. Thanks to Dudley

Ross, Jeff Alexander and all the participants for all their hard work on this. We look forward to the next concerts in early April. The Christmas Concert (9th Dec) was another great success to a sell-out audience featuring over two and a half hours of items from all of the school ensembles plus a set of choral pieces featuring a large proportion of Year 7 pupils. The variety of the programme and the skill and professionalism with which it was performed were much commented upon by audience members. Well done to all involved.

Thank you to all pupils, teachers, and parents who have helped maintain and build up the standard and enthusiasm for music and performance in school and beyond. The new term is already promising to be as busy and varied as this has been, including future highlights:

- Production of *Fiddler on the Roof* (5-7 Feb) in the School Hall.
- Jazz Band open Hornbeam School's Arts Week (9 Feb)
- School Orchestra & Choir Tour to Klagenfurt, Austria (26 Feb - 3 March)
- Production of Benjamin Britten's opera, *Noye's Fludde* (13-14 March) at St Mary's Church, Sandwich
- Founder's Day (20 March)
- Spring Concert (March 26)
- Rock & Pop Concerts (Apr 1 & 2)

A New Year's Resolution? Instrumental tuition and ensemble membership are available to all pupils in the school. It is never too late to get involved in the sort of activities and events you have read about above. Do it now! You'll never regret it.

24. Bridge Builder Competition

A bridge building competition was run this term which made use of the West Point Bridge Building software. Students were asked to construct a bridge that would span a fixed river crossing using a fixed number of connecting joints. They had flexibility in their choice of design, material types, solid or hollow beams and size of materials. Once a bridge design was constructed it could be tested using the simulation software which would send a truck across the bridge highlighting the beams that were under tension or compression. Failed bridge designs would collapse dramatically on the computer screen. Revisions to the design could then be made. The primary objective was to span the river with a working bridge design and their secondary objective was to complete this task at minimum cost. The winners were: 1st Place – Andrew Carlotti (Y9), 2nd Place – Graham Harris (Y10), 3rd Place – James Poulton/Lewis Parsons (Y7).

25. Debating

The Dr David Starkey Debating Competition has produced a huge response in the sixth form. Twenty five teams representing the four houses have entered. So far this term fourteen teams have debated a range of topical issues such as Baroness Warnock's assertion that we have a duty to die, a debate on the proposed refurbishment of Kingsnorth coal fired power station, the current financial crisis and the future of the BBC.

On the 10th of December two teams of sixth formers, one comprising Chris Stowell and Tom Russell and the other Matt Deveson and Oliver Chipchase, took part in the regional heats of the 2008/09 Debating Matters Competition at the Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone. Their motions were "Animal experimentation cannot be justified" and "Student unions are justified in retaining 'No Platform' policies." This was a demanding evening and our teams acquitted themselves particularly well and were unfortunate not to progress through to the regional final.

The Dr David Starkey Middle Debating Competition will take place in the Spring term and the Junior Competition will take place in the Summer term.

26. Manwoodian Writing Competition

The Manwoodian magazine appeared in school at the end of term and Mr Acourt and his editorial team are to be congratulated on another excellent production. Some of the students' creative work in this year's magazine was inspired by the chosen theme of "Heroes" and the following students won awards for their submissions:

Jornalistic Writing:

1st place - "Lettice Curtis – an inspiration" by Milli-Jo Stenning

2nd place – "An ordinary hero" by Chloe Forsyth

Poetry:

1st place – "Paralympic Heroes" by Laura Rochford

2nd place – "Martin Luther King" by Sophia Welton

Art:

1st place – "Heroines" by Alicia Belsher

2nd place – "Lewis Hamilton" by Jason Chidwick

27. Journey's End

In October there was a very successful production of R. Sherriff's play Journey's End involving members of the Year 13 Theatre Studies group with support from three other sixth form and five GCSE Drama students. The audiences were held spellbound by the intensity of the cast and many appreciative comments were received on the high standards shown in every aspect of the production; the attention to detail with set and costume, the technical support with a very professional set of actors. Special mention should be made of Adam Hammett's performance as Stanhope with some very focused support from Oliver Chipchase as Osbourne and Matt Deveson as a young, naïve Raleigh; however all the cast worked as a true ensemble helping each other with lines during the rehearsal period.

The strong back-stage and technical crew helped to transfer the set to 'The Theatre Royal' Margate for one night and take it all down again the same night!). The very mixed Thanet audience were also very appreciative of the production. The in-house staff were so impressed by the professionalism and knowledge of the students that they felt able to hand the show over to our stage manager and her team during the rehearsal and performance. Zac Powell and Henry Poulton were also allowed to run the theatres sound and lighting box – an amazing privilege and experience for them.

The Box Office sales exceeded expectations enabling the production to cover hire costs and make a profit of almost £300 from that one night. This will be put back into the performance budget for Fiddler on the Roof in February. Mrs Coles and Mr Spray would like to thank everyone who took part in any way, and especially Mrs O'Connell, for their hard work and commitment to a very worth while experience.

28. Biology Project Week Sponsored by Pfizers

This Project Week was organized towards the end of the summer term. Chris Burnap and Ore Bajomo (Y13) attended Canterbury Christchurch University where they carried out a research project. At the end of the week they had to write up their findings and give a presentation to a public audience. Chris was awarded "Best Overall Individual Performance" and as a result has a six week salarised work placement at Pfizers next summer.

29. UK Exchange to the Rocky Mountains

Alastair Sitton (Y12) spent 7 weeks over the summer in Canada. He was one of 12 Cadets selected from over 4,000 applicants nationwide who were members of either Army Cadet Forces or Combined Cadet Forces such as we have at Manwood's. The course was dedicated to adventure training with opportunities to glacier climb, rock climb, white water kayak/canoe, mountain bike and alpine trek.

As Alastair commented on his return, it proved to be a most enjoyable and fulfilling experience; a once in a life-time opportunity not to be missed.

30. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

This year's annual presentation evening was held at the Duke of York's school in late November. Once again Manwood's was heavily represented with 39 students having completed their Bronze Award and 8 students their Silver Award.

There are even more students currently working towards these Awards this year. Congratulations to all the students and staff involved.

31. Special Efforts for Charity

Jamie Bray, Luke Durigan and Laurence Smith (Y13) cycled from Dover to Land's End during the summer holidays to raise money for last year's School Charity (Teenage Cancer Trust). Mr Setchell met them in Land's End at the end of their long journey.

Jamie Bray, Laurence Smith, Andrew Manion and Phil Harrington (Y13) raised money for the charity "Hope for Heroes" by completing a five mile run in Deal. This was in the period leading up to Remembrance Day when students also raised money by buying poppies and patronising cake stalls in C Block entrance at break times. On Remembrance Sunday the CCF Band attended the parade in Sandwich and Max Robinson (Y9) played the Last Post and Reveille on the bugle.

In school this term has proved to be very busy for the Charity Committee raising money for this year's chosen charity Macmillan Cancer Care. After a great deal of preparation, 80 harvest parcels were sent out to the local elderly population on 3rd October. This was, for many, an 'eye-opener' to the reality of how many elderly people live, and was received with much appreciation. The various cake stalls held throughout the term generated a lot of interest, raising over £500 in total. To celebrate Bonfire Night, the Charity Committee organized a Sticky Stall, selling toffee apples and sweets, making a further £80. In December, the committee put on a colourful Christmas Disco for the Year 7's, with a fantastic dance-off between a few energetic students, but unfortunately the teachers were not convinced to join in! This event, marking the start of Christmas for many, generated close to £200, through ticket sales and refreshments. An entertaining Christmas Lunch for the elderly citizens of Sandwich was held on the 10th December, enjoyed greatly by both the guests and the members of the committee. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these successes, and hopefully the next term will prove equally as productive.

32. Outstanding Mathematicians

This term the top mathematicians in school have completed in the Senior Challenges organized by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

In the Team Challenge Manwood's was the fourth placed school in Kent.

In the Individual Challenge Gold Awards were gained by Andis Chau, Andrew Carlotti, Damon Sutton, Conor Gower, Aaron Yim and Matthew Lee.

Andrew Carlotti and Matthew Lee have been invited to take part in the 1st Round of the Maths Olympiad. Andrew has also been invited to Hungary to take part in a training camp for the UK team

for next year's International Olympiad – he is one of 20 students from across the country and in fact the youngest. Andrew is in Y9 whereas 17 of the group of 20 are sixth formers.

33. A Level and GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening

This event was held in the last week of term to celebrate the excellent examination results achieved by the students last summer. There was a very full attendance with students joined by their families making a full house in the Sports Hall. The Catering Department's excellent refreshments and the String Ensemble's beautiful playing were much appreciated by all.

A great number of Year 13 leavers made the effort to attend and it was interesting to hear how they had found their first term at university; all were enjoying the experience it would seem. For those who were taking a GAP year, traveling was very much on the agenda, with Australia a popular destination.

34. Sailing Success

On Saturday 13th September a group of Manwood's students took part in the Kent Schools Sailing Association annual regatta at Herne Bay Sailing Club. They arrived at the club to light winds, however, just enough for some sailing. There were 4 races planned, two before lunch and two after. The first two went ahead but during lunch the wind dropped off so all of the boats went afloat for the 3rd race only for it then to be postponed and then cancelled. The wind picked up slightly just in time for the 4th race. Different courses were sailed for each of the races including different triangles and a square. Normally three quarters of the results are counted so everyone is given a discard but due to the bad weather all three results were counted. With all the results collected, Mark Thomas came 22nd overall out of 40 competitors. Atticus Hansell came 20th, James Blackman came 11th and Chris Thomas came 10th and 1st in the Topper group whilst Nathan Brazil crewed by Olivia Feeney came 3rd in the competition losing out on the top two spots to a Great Britain representative and the Kent team captain.

With all the results collected, the winning school was announced. Manwood's came out on top and was awarded the Whitstable Oyster Trophy. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and tough competition from across Kent was fought off including the Kings School, Canterbury.

Students have also been to sailing events across the country including the National Schools Regatta. This event took place at Carsington Sailing Club, Derbyshire at the beginning of the summer holidays. James Blackman, Nathan Brazil, Richard and Mark Thomas and Atticus Hansell were representing Kent as part of the Kent team and competed and trained with people from all over the country.

Richard Thomas, was awarded his KSSA Sailing Colours for the second time this year for achieving outstanding results and contributing to the success of the Kent Schools Sailing Association.

35. Further News on Individual Sporting Achievements

In 2008 Tamsin Beaumont (Year 13) had an excellent cricket season which saw a number of highs. The early season began with a tour to South Africa with the Kent U19 team. On her return she captained the Kent U17 team, steering them to the semi-finals of the National Championships where they finally lost to a strong Staffordshire team. In their 9 games she personally scored over 650 runs with 2 hundreds and several 50's.

Other accolades came when Tamsin was also selected for the Senior Kent team, opening the batting for them on two occasions. She was also selected for the Senior 4's, a competition for the top 48 women in the country and her performances led to a place in the England Academy side. She played in two matches for the Academy against England and South Africa. A strong performance in the latter match led to selection for the Winter Academy squad which trains at Loughborough University.

Grace Wong (Year 11) continues to excel in her chosen sport of Tae Kwon Do. Having competed in the European Championships in Poland in May 2008, where she gained a Bronze medal, she was invited to the World Championships held in Italy. Grace is a Black Belt and trains regularly with the England squad and is currently British Champion in her category.

Lydia Fuller (Year 11) was this term selected to fence for Great Britain Cadets in Germany. She is currently ranked 16th in the country.

Aidan Michaels (Year 7) won the South East of England U12 Sabre Championships and as a result has qualified for the Great Britain National Finals.

Hannah Moon (Year 13) was selected in the summer for the Junior Great Britain rowing team that competed in the European Championships held in Ireland. In the Women's Quad competition she was a gold medallist.

Thomas Walton (Year 10) competed at the British Indoor Rowing Championships held in Birmingham. In his age group and category he came in 3rd place in a time that beat the previous record.

Dominika Szucsova (Year 10) was part of a relay team that successfully crossed the English Channel in July. They completed the swim in just over 10 hours.

Lewis Young (Year 9) also swam the Channel as part of a relay team in late September, completing the swim in 13 hours and 37 minutes. Given the busy shipping lanes that have to be crossed, the strong tides to overcome and unpleasant pollution encountered, Lewis feels that this is very much an extreme sport. I do not think we would disagree!

36. Dover District School Sport Partnership Annual Awards Evening and the Gifted & Talented Programme

The PE G&T programme is going from strength to strength with the selected students achieving success in their chosen sports as well as benefiting from other opportunities the programme can provide.

Once the students reach year 10, their involvement in the programme becomes extensive. Our students have been involved for example in a variety of events as part of the Dover District School Sport Partnership which is led by our sports college Castle Community School. Two of the students Grace Wong (Tae Kwon Do) and Lydia Fuller (Fencing) have been Young Ambassadors for the last two years and have attended various high profile events as well as working with primary school students in their chosen sports. As their two year involvement comes to an end, we are fortunate that Adam Asher (Year 11) has been selected for the next stage of the programme after an interview and coaching observation at Castle. He travelled to Chelsea FC in October for his training in the role.

All of our current year 11 students on the programme have participated in some or all of the following activities:

- Visit to the David Beckham Academy
- Primary Indoor Athletics Festival
- Primary Cricket Festival
- Tag Rugby leader training
- Tag Rugby Festival
- Athletics Festival at Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford

The 2nd Dover District School Sport Partnership Annual Awards Evening took place on Wednesday 10th September at Pfizer Social Club. Over 600 students and parents attended the event for the 40+ primary schools and 9 secondary schools in our area. Nominations were sent to Castle during the last academic year and finalists were selected and invited to the evening where they would be placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their category. As a result of his involvement in the G&T scheme for his rugby, Oliver Best

(Year 11) volunteered to coach, lead and referee with primary school students in tag rugby. The SSCOs (School Sport Coordinators) were so impressed by Oliver that they nominated him for the Excellence in Leadership Award where he came second on the night. Thanks to his excellent effort and work Oliver received an additional award on the night, winning the Volunteer of the Year award in the Dover District.

Members of our Year 7 and 8 girls' hockey teams (now Year 8 and 9) were nominated for Team of the Year as they formed the Dover Partnership entry to the Kent School Games in junior hockey. To win that tournament which involved every district in the county was a superb effort and warranted their 2nd place in the Team of the Year Award on the night.

Grace Wong and Tasmin Beaumont (Cricket) were both nominated in the Individual Excellence category with Grace's appearance at the European Championships and the forthcoming World Championships getting her 2nd place overall. Her phenomenal achievements in Tae Kwon Do were thus recognised but she was beaten to first place by Tamsin who has recently been selected for the full England Women's A squad at the age of just 17.

37. Boys PE

Football

The Autumn term began with our involvement in the Dover Football league. Football has continued to grow at Manwood's and has been demonstrated by our extensive fixture list this season. Six teams played thirty eight games in a wide variety of competitions including the Dover Schools League, Kent Cup and for the first time the National Cup competition.

The Year 7 team was under the joint control of Mr Pearce and Mr Riordan. Boys in Year 7 displayed great enthusiasm for the sport with high numbers regularly attending training sessions and competing for team selection. Selecting a team from so many players was always going to be difficult and this was reflected by the number of boys who represented the team. The season began promisingly with a hard fought 2-2 home draw against a strong Dover Grammar side. Two wins and three defeats followed ensuring a mid table league finish, a good achievement for the boys in their first season. The first round of the Kent Cup provided Year 7 with a home tie against St Anselms School. A tight game demonstrated the passion and talent within the side and the boys were unlucky to lose a close game 2-1, with St Anselms scoring a second half penalty to win the game. Signs are very positive and I am sure the team will go from strength to strength as they develop and progress through the School.

The Year 8 team was led by Mr Grimshaw and had an excellent season. The team built on last year's third place league finish by winning the league in style going unbeaten all season in the league competition. The season got off to a flying start beating Walmer at home by 11 goals to 2. That set the tone for the season and six wins and a draw followed. Victory at home against local rivals Sandwich Tec on the final day of the season was a fairy tale ending to the league competition, and saw the boys crowned league champions. The Kent Cup first round saw league form transferred to cup competition. Manwoods conceded first but produced a stunning display to overcome the early set back winning 9-1. The second round draw paired Manwoods against a very strong side from Towers School. Manwoods battled hard and took the game to extra time with the scores tied 2-2 at full time. With both sides tiring Manwoods were unlucky to concede twice in extra time without reply and eventually lost the game 5-2, a score which did not really reflect what was a very close game. Despite the disappointment of the Kent Cup result Manwoods did go on to achieve a league and cup double by winning the Dover District Schools 7 a Side Tournament held at Castle Community College. Manwoods progressed to the final of a tight tournament beating Astor on penalties to win the competition and round off an excellent season with yet more glory. Well done to Mr Grimshaw and the Year 8 team who have set the standard high for next season.

The Year 9 team have progressed steadily this season. Although two wins and two defeats in the league saw the boys finish in third place for the second year in a row, performances were very

promising. League wins at Walmer (4-0) and Astor (7-3) were followed by hard fought close games with strong side from Sandwich Tec and St Edmunds. However the season will probably be most remembered for the cup run. In the Kent Cup Year 9 performed exceptionally well despite some adversity. Round one saw a comfortable victory over Astor. This was followed by a tough looking second round game away to Canterbury High School. The task became even more difficult as the side was depleted by absence, injury and illness leaving Manwoods with only ten players. The team pulled together and produced the performance of the season to claim a victory by 4 goals to 2. Round three delivered another tough away game, this time against Charles Dickens. Again the side suffered with absence and despite missing several players fought hard and performed well eventually losing 4-2. The Year 9 side also competed in the English Schools National Cup competition for the first time. An exceptional performance in the first round resulted in an impressive 3-1 victory away from home against Bacon College from South East London. Round two provided a trip to North Kent to take on Bexley Grammar School. Manwoods struggled in wet and windy conditions and suffered a disappointing 3-1 defeat.. A solid season with many highs and a few lows, at times the Year 9 side showed great talent and promise and should improve further next year.

The Year 10 team had a tough season. They failed to win a game in the league but did pick up a hard fought 2-2 draw away to St Edmund's. League results however are really an unfair reflection on the effort and performances they produced over the course of the season. Many of the games they lost were tight with only one or two goals the difference between the sides. Unfortunately league results were mirrored in the Kent Cup, with a first round defeat. A home tie against Ursuline College finished 5-2 to the visitors in another close game which could have gone either way in reality. This was another example of the team producing a good performance and showing considerable effort only to lose a close game. Year 10 did however enjoy some success at the District 7 a Side Tournament held at Castle Community College. The boys finished in third place narrowly missing out on a spot in the tournament's final match.

Year 11 were led by Mr Stone and also had a difficult season. Despite energy and enthusiasm results were hard to come by. A 6-0 Kent Cup defeat at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, away in Faversham, set the tone for the league campaign. A pleasing 4-3 win away to Walmer was followed by a close home game with St Edmunds which the visitors eventually won 4-3. However, heavy defeats followed against both Astor and Castle. Results aside the Year 11 team showed a commitment and desire for the sport and were always keen to play their matches, displaying a great attitude throughout the season.

Thanks go to Mr Grimshaw, Mr Stone, Mr Pearce and Mr Riordan for their continued help, support and commitment to football over the course of a long busy season.

Rugby

The rugby season has proved as competitive as ever at all levels with fixtures against some of the top rugby schools in the county and some impressive results.

The U12 squad is just half way through their season as they will enter the local league in the spring term. In the four matches played so far they have one win, a draw and two defeats. Injuries and lack of availability means the strongest team has only been fielded twice where the team produced a highly credible 5-5 draw against Sutton Valence and a victory against Chatham House (17-5). A true reflection of the squad's development can be made at the end of next term as we have high hopes for the boys in the Dover League.

We also had high hopes for the U13's who had had such a good season when they joined the school. These hopes were realised as the team produced five victories in their seven games. Wins against local rivals Chatham House, St. Lawrence College and Kent College were impressive as were two excellent performances against Kings Rochester (our B team) and Sutton Valence. There is a great deal of talent in this team and they should continue to develop as they progress through the school. One poor performance against Norton Knatchbull reminded the boys to never take anything for

granted and to keep working hard at their game. Next season the boys will benefit from competing in the Kent Cup where they have the opportunity to go a long way in the competition.

Unfortunately, the U14 season didn't pan out the way we had hoped as a very tough draw in the Kent Cup against a very strong Judd side, cancellations by opposing schools and unavailability of players meant a record of one win and three defeats. The win came against St Lawrence College (26-12) where the boys gave a glimpse of the talent we have. A great game against Chatham House somehow ended in a 5-12 defeat and the other losses came against strong opponents in Judd and Duke of York's.

Size and a lack of experience made life very difficult for the U15 side. The season was condensed to five matches as early exits in the Daily Mail Cup, Daily Mail Vase and Kent Cup limited the fixture list. Those students who did commit to the squad deserve a lot of credit for their effort and application in the face of adversity. Many still enjoyed the season and played with a smile on their faces, giving cause to use that old cliché, "it is not the winning, but the taking part which counts".

The 2nd XV gained some valuable experience this year with the majority of players coming from year 11 and playing against teams who had played more games and were generally older as well. Despite losses in keenly contested matches against Castle, Chatham House and Simon Langton the team demonstrated skill, aggression, commitment and effort. This resulted in a number of individuals making 1st XV appearances during the season. An excellent 51-0 victory against St Lawrence College gave the side just reward for their potential. A large number of players will be in contention for a 1st team place next season.

The 1st XV season was littered with peaks and troughs, yet ultimately this proved the most satisfying season in recent memory. Unfortunately, a record of 5 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses doesn't quite do justice to the quality of the entire squad and in particular, a number of the individuals within it.

After a highly promising pre-season tournament against Chatham House and Duke of York's, the season began with a match against local rivals Kent College. The boys were highly motivated in a game targeted as one we wanted to win desperately and the performance matched the motivation. A 15-0 victory was impressive as there was some superb rugby which demonstrated both individual flair and teamwork. It also became apparent that our defence was very strong, as reflected in the points against column.

After this result the belief amongst the boys was huge. Commitment to training was greater than ever before as we went on a good Daily Mail Cup run. In the 1st round we beat Dover Grammar 47-3, before turning over a good Simon Langton side 24-15 in round 2. Our 3rd round tie meant an away game against Chatham House – another fixture we were desperate to win after a heavy defeat last season. Once again, a combination of individual brilliance and impressive teamwork saw us overcome an early CHS try to take a 21-5 lead. In an epic game, CHS came back strongly to close the gap considerably before some superb defence in the last ten minutes saw us hang on for a 21-17 victory. The prize for this fine performance was a home tie against Eastbourne College. The preparation for this game was superb with every player committing 100% to the cause for the biggest game in their time at Manwood's. The performance didn't disappoint either and a monumental first half meant a 0-7 deficit at half time could easily be overcome. Despite a spirited 2nd half, Eastbourne produced one sublime moment which took the game away from us for a final score of 3-22.

Unavailability through injury made other games very difficult and this was a contributing factor in one or two of our defeats but overall, the boys can be very proud of their performances during the season. A testament to our ability this year was the "disappointing" draw we achieved against Duke of York's (7-7), a game we haven't won for well over a decade.

A large number of players leave the school after this year and they will be sorely missed. Brendan Egan, Jules Laurens, Louis Joy, Loz Smith, Chris Burnap, Jamie Bray, Josh Tutton and captain Ben Smalley have performed admirably all season and we wish them well in their future rugby careers.

Many thanks to Miss Carnt, Mr Hall, Mr Riordan, Mr Laslett, Mr Ralph and Mr Pearce for their support and hard work during the term.

Basketball

The basketball season has only just begun at Manwoods but it is already looking as though it will be an exciting one.

The Under 13 side have started promisingly. Our opening match provided our first victory when we beat Astor at home by 26 points to 16. Although that has been followed up with two defeats by Walmer and St Edmund's our performances have improve greatly. In both games the boys have made massive strides forward in both their skills and their understanding of the game. Thanks for this improvement has to go to Francois Botes and Geoffrey Pomeroy in Year 11 for their knowledge, and commitment to helping the boys in practice. With this attitude and commitment I am sure it will not be long before these improved performances lead to better results. With a young improving team the season can only go from strength to strength for the under 13's.

The Under 15 basketball team are a very exciting group of players. The side is comprised of pupils in both Year 9 and 10 and coached by Mr Riordan and Mr Hall. The season opened with a home victory over Dover Grammar School for Boys 28-20. Soon after followed a home game against St Edmund's, this was also a Manwoods victory by 31-24. The Under 15 team, lead by Chris Henry and Canaan Ip will take some beating, and I am sure that the best is yet to come from them.

Good luck to all the boys in the basketball squads for the rest of the season and thanks to Mr Hall, Mr Riordan, Francois Botes and Geoffrey Pomeroy for their continued help, support and commitment.

Cross Country

Cross country will also continue into the Spring term. Many individuals have performed well in the Interhouse and District Competitions this term, with both the Junior and Intermediate teams winning the District competitions with ease. The next event will be the Kent Schools Cross Country Championships in Maidstone where we will be well represented in all areas, led by Alex Newson in year 10 who cruised to victory in the district event and has high hopes of national success in the new year.

Badminton

The Dover District introduced a badminton competition last year and we managed to win the overall competition. So far, just one event has been arranged this year which was an opportunity to get younger boys involved. A team of eight boys from years 7-9 played in a competition at Walmer School where we finished third overall. More events are due to be organised next term.

38. Girls' Hockey Report

The 2008 season has proved to be our most successful season for many years. In total 88% of the matches were either won or drawn. The 1st team excelled themselves producing significant victories over Duke of York's (8-0), King's, Rochester (7-1), St Edmund's, Canterbury (9-1) and remained undefeated throughout. The high number of goals scored was in no small part down to the remarkable talents of Maren Regenbogen who finished the season with 19 goals to her name. Capably led by joint Captains Tammy Beaumont and Sophie Dilnot-Smith this was a team to be reckoned with and all the players made excellent contributions to the team's success.

The 2nd X1 also did very well with 5 wins, 3 draws and only one defeat to their name against Duke of York's 1st team (1-2). This is the best set of results achieved by our second X1 for many years. Well done to Captain Kate Diomedé and the rest of her squad.

The junior sides also produced some impressive results; demonstrating that there is a wealth of talent in our younger teams. Jessica Greaves and Charlotte Pape (Yr 9) have achieved Regional and County honours this year. The U14 and U12 teams won all their matches and the U13's only defeat was at the hands of our strongest competitors, Wellesley House. The U15 team improved significantly on last year's season with a final score sheet of 1 win, 3 draws and 2 losses. Their season ended with a new fixture against Ashford School for Girls, which was a keenly fought match resulting in a 1-1 draw.

Girl's hockey continues to flourish at Manwood's and this is due to the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the players and coaches. Well done on a very successful and enjoyable season.

39. House Competition Autumn Term 2008

This has been a very successful term with many excellent competitions involving lots of students in their different age group events. The support given to the inter house badminton for example was superb. On the other hand the boys' Year 11 and senior rugby was disappointing with some houses failing to field complete teams which lost them valuable points. This was a shame because the matches that were played were excellent.

Below is a summary of the different competitions held this term and the aggregated points total achieved across all the age groups.

Autumn Term	Dorman	Knolles	Trappes	Tudor
Boys Badminton	130	80	90	110
Boys Football	190	170	150	220
Manwoodian Writing	0	20	40	30
Rugby	140	190	100	205
Boys X-country	194	225	252	214
Bridge Building	30	30	0	0
Girls Hockey	240	210	140	110
Merit Comp Term 1	50	100	300	200
Music in assembly	34	40	28	28
Year 7 music	100	50	50	50
Chinese	30	10	30	20
	1138	1125	1180	1187

With only 62 points separating 1st and last place this is the closest competition we have ever had.

Many thanks to all those who have taken part in competitions this term and in particular I would like to thank Mr Acourt, Mrs Lamb, Mr Grimshaw and Miss Beale for their support and enthusiasm this term.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Morgan
Headteacher

