

End of Term Newsletter December 2009

Dear Parents and Members of the School

1. New Train Timetable – End of the School Day

As you know the train timetables in our area changed on Sunday 13th December. In particular, without any reference to the local schools, the time of departure for the afternoon train from Sandwich to Deal was moved from 15.44 to 15.34. Once we heard about the change we made representations to various authorities, including South Eastern Trains and KCC Transport, but to no avail. We do not think our students should have to wait for half an hour at Sandwich Railway Station for the next train and, therefore, we have decided to bring forward the end of the school day by 5 minutes to 15.20. This is a permanent arrangement as from the beginning of next term.

2. Staff Farewells and Arrivals

Mr Ian Sayer, our groundsman, is retiring at the end of term. His association with Sir Roger Manwood's School goes back 22 years and during this time he has provided work of an outstanding quality. He has worked closely with the Sports Department making sure that the necessary preparations are in hand for all the sporting activities in school and the many fixtures. More widely the whole school has appreciated his general care for the school grounds which make such a positive contribution to the life at Manwood's. The boarding community are also very grateful for his care of their garden areas around the Lodge and the Grange. We thank Mr Sayer for all his efforts over the years and wish him all the very best in his retirement.

Mr Lee Parsons and Ms Christina Atkins have joined the school as Classroom Cover Supervisors this term.

3. Public Examination Results Summer 2009

A Level Results 2009

A superb set of A Level results this year, yet again setting new records for the school. The overall pass rate was 99% and 65% of all the exams taken were passed at the top grades of A and B.

There were again many outstanding individual performances with 25 students achieving more than 3 grade A passes, 14 students more than 4 grade A's and 6 students more than 5 grade A's.

The students and their teachers are to be congratulated for attaining such marvellous results. Across the board everybody's hard work was rewarded. It was particularly pleasing that in a year when university applications were at a record high and competition for places very severe, these results guaranteed that most of our students were able to gain places at the universities of their choice.

GCSE Results

A very pleasing set of results. The Average Points Score per Candidate of 525, a new record for the school, equates to an average of more than 10 grade A passes per student. Indeed 44% of all the exams taken were passed at the top grades of A* and A.

Again there were some exceptional individual performances with 10 students gaining nearly all their passes at A*. The percentage of students gaining 5+ GCSE passes A*-C, including English and Maths, was 99.2%.

It is excellent to see the hard work of the students and their teachers rewarded in this way. Congratulations are due to everyone concerned, and we look forward now to the students building upon these excellent foundations in their A Level studies in the Sixth Form.

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, Heart FM and KMFM 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. Building Schools for the Future – up-date

In spite of all the concerns for the state of public finances at the present time and the uncertainty associated with an imminent General Election and the possibility of a change of government, we are assured that the BSF programme is still on track as far as Sir Roger Manwood’s School is concerned.

Indeed, the last few months have been quite busy as the school’s BSF Team has had very regular meetings with a KCC appointed architect and Project Manager, where we have worked to clearly define the building provision required by SRMS to successfully deliver an appropriate curriculum for its students in the 21st century.

This exercise is now close to completion and the resulting Design Booklet will form part of the information made available to any building contractors considering bidding for the contract to build and refurbish the secondary schools in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Shepway. The Design Booklet deals in general

principles only and the business of making a reality of these on the ground will only begin when the contract is awarded. This will be some time away and therefore BSF as far as SRMS is concerned is likely to be very quiet for the rest of this academic year.

Although we have been talking about BSF for some considerable time now, there is at this juncture therefore still very little of substance to report. SRMS will remain its present size and on its present site. We believe that it is unlikely that there will be extensive new building but that the focus will be upon refurbishing the present buildings. We do not know the amount of capital investment that will be made available for the project.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments.

6. After School Classes at Manwood's



Maths

Modern Foreign Languages

ICT

French Spanish Mandarin Chinese

Did you know there are family learning classes available for parents here at Manwood's?

We offer classes in Modern Foreign Languages, Maths and ICT with some of the classes being run as family groups so you can bring your children along with you, even if they are not currently a student here.

All classes last for one hour each week and start times vary from 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. In each subject there are ten lessons per term and cost only £35 (per family). For further information please contact Mr Taylor on 01304 613286 or via email act@srms.kent.sch.uk

7. Language College Community Work

As part of our Language School Status, and our commitment to the community, Ms Pujadas-Telmon has taken 14 AS French students to Whitfield Primary School on two occasions this term. The students have taught French across the Key Stages, presenting vocabulary and grammar on the topic of school and Christmas, and thoroughly enjoying the teaching experience. The response from the pupils and staff at the primary school has also been very positive. The sixth formers certainly impressed their hosts with their enthusiasm, commitment and general demeanour.

8. Maths and Computing Specialism

As part of the outreach work associated with our status as second specialism Maths and Computing College, Miss Wadsworth and several members of the sixth form have visited many of our local primary schools this term. They have been helping the pupils in Year 5 and 6 to develop their problem-solving skills and to explore areas of mathematics which they would not meet as part of their regular curriculum. The primary school pupils enjoy this contact with Manwood's and often talk about the work which was covered on previous visits. Our sixth form students value this opportunity, especially if they are re-visiting their old schools.

9. Healthy Schools Status

The school found out just before the end of term that our bid for Healthy Schools Status has been successful. The Award recognises efforts made within PE, PSHE and Pastoral Care towards the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Also the contributions made by the Food Technology Department and the School Cafeteria, under the leadership of our Catering Manager Mr Ray Waldron, were integral to our overall bid and its success.

10. Open University – Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme (YASS)

For six or seven years now we have offered to our sixth formers the possibility of taking part in the Open University YASS Scheme. Students are able to study modules from O.U. degree courses in year 13. The courses require pupils to work independently, and they explore areas of knowledge which are not touched by A Level work.

A number of students have taken up this opportunity with great success and this has now been acknowledged by the Open University who have identified SRMS as a “Partner in YASS”.

11. The A Level Extended Project

A number of students in Year 13 have also taken up the opportunity to carry out an extended piece of research work in addition to their main A Level studies. The Extended Project, worth half an A Level, is a new idea enabling students to pursue an in-depth investigation into a topic of their choice. The consequent development of independent learning skills is ideal preparation for university, as well as giving high-flying students something to discuss in their UCAS applications and at university interviews. Early next term the EP will be introduced to the present Y12 as a possible option and we hope that a number will wish to take up the challenge.

12. Sixth Form Dinner

This annual event was held at the Bell Hotel in early December. Guest Speaker was Mr Gareth Davies, Old Manwoodian 1994 – 2001, who gave an entertaining overview of his time at Manwood’s, the University of East Anglia where he studied Law and the first years of his legal career.

The dinner was very well supported by Year 13 students in what proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. The menu was very well delivered by the Bell and there was a happy mix of formality and students and staff enjoying an evening out.

13. United Kingdom Senior Mathematical Challenge 2009

The school entered 27 pupils for the United Kingdom Maths Trust Senior Mathematical Challenge. Seven students achieved a Gold Award which is a very impressive achievement. They were: Andis Chau, Sam Nemzer, Angus Chan, Matthew Lee, Andrew Carlotti, Damon Sutton and Sherri Lai.

Andrew Carlotti from Year 10 and Matthew Lee from Year 11 have also been invited to go forward to the next round. Andrew, in fact got full marks in the Challenge, a first for the school.

Manwood’s also entered a team of 4 for the UKMT Senior Team Competition: Priscilla Sung, Alex Harrington from Year 13 and Naomi Walker and Angus Chan from Year 12. The team performed very well coming 4th out of 25 schools across Kent.

14. Kent Grammar Schools – Inter-School Quiz 2009

Four students from Year 10 – Oliver Daniels, Andrew Carlotti, Aaron Chidwick and Alex Dixon represented the school at this competition held at Norton Knatchbull Grammar School in Ashford.

It proved to be a very professionally organized event with each team registering their answers electronically and with feedback to the teams and audience via a large multi-media display after every round.

The tension was, therefore, high as Manwood's and Norton Knatchbull left other teams in their wake in what became an incredibly close battle for first place. With just two questions remaining Manwood's had a slight lead but finally were just pipped at the post. A very enjoyable morning out of school for all concerned.

15. Chinese Speaking Competition

In the last week of term a number of students who study Mandarin Chinese travelled to the London School of Economics for this national competition organised by the British Council and sponsored by HSBC.

There were 3 categories of competition:

Connor Gower (Year 11) and Sam Barons (Year 11) took part in the Individual Speaking competitions at Intermediate and Beginner Levels respectively. They had to make a speech, answer questions about Chinese culture and translate Chinese sentences into English.

Six pupils entered the Drama section and performed a short play. They were Sophie Squire (Year 9), Michael Tawiah (Year 8), Oliver Daniels (Year 10), Jeannette Smith (Year 12), Jess Harris (Year 13) and Naomi Wilkinson (Year 13).

This was the semi-final round, with a similar event also being held in Manchester. We will soon be informed of the names of the students who will progress through to the final to be held in London in the New Year.

16. Army Scholarship Competition

Following on the success of Tom Newman in gaining an Army Scholarship Award last year, it was very pleasing to receive the news that Max Pulger-Frame had been successful in his application this term.

Candidates are required to attend the Army Officer Selection Board at Westbury where they undergo a series of interviews and leadership tasks over two days. This year only 36 students from across the country were successful, an indication of the rigorous nature of the procedure. Max will now receive sponsorship of £1,500 a year whilst studying in the sixth form.

17. Student Investor 2009-10

Once again we have a number of teams entered in the National Student Investor Competition. At the moment our best team is in 82nd place out of 2637 teams in the South-East of England, having made an increase in their portfolio of 9.7% since 3rd November. Lets hope that they can improve on this before the close of the competition on 28th February 2010, and earn a place in the South-East Finals, as our teams in the previous 3 years have done.

18. Young Enterprise

Once again there are two Young Enterprise Companies up and running this year. Novus is making pen-pots and key rings, and Just Infinity is in the early stages of producing an educational quiz book for Key Stage 2.

19. Manwoodian Competition

The Manwoodian Magazine came out in the last week of term. Mr Acourt and his editorial team of sixth form students are to be congratulated for producing another excellent production recording life at Manwood's in the last academic year.. The magazine also showcases the creative talents of the students in a variety of ways, not least in the Manwoodian competition which this year had as its theme "Independence". The winners were:

Poetry: Thomas Coleman 7D

Prose: Beth Harris 12C

Photography: William Boyes 7D

Art: Luke Upton 9D

20. The 'Debating Matters' Regional Final

2 Teams of two sixth formers represented SRMS in the Regional Final of this national debating competition. The venue was Dover Girls' Grammar School:

ROUND 1: Charlotte Syme and Helen Falconer went up against a Dover Girls' Grammar School team, arguing AGAINST the motion: "Physician Assisted suicide should remain illegal." It was a tough debate with both teams presenting strong arguments but at the end the three judges unanimously voted the Sir Roger Manwood's team as winners – commending them particularly on their passion and conviction in their argument and their ability to engage personally with the issue debated.

THE FINAL: As Charlotte and Helen had won Round 1, they had qualified our second debating team (Tom Russell and Robert Martin- Short) to take part in the FINAL against the other qualifying team, HARVEY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL. The motion was: "It is undemocratic to treat the BNP differently from other parties." Manwood's was debating AGAINST the motion – a difficult task as it was clear that most of the audience was FOR the motion from the number of questions put to our team. Manwood's fought their corner very well and in the judges feedback at the end of the debate there were no negative comments to be made. From the feedback it felt that Manwood's would clinch victory but when the final result came back, they had given the title to Harvey Grammar by a narrow margin.

The chairman for the debate said that it was the strongest REGIONAL FINAL that he had seen in many years and Tom and Robert were commended by many of the judges and the audience for the many skills that they demonstrated in their debate. They were even told that that the judges thought that they could easily stand up to Jeremy Paxman's tough questioning style if they were ever to be put up against him – such was their confidence and conviction against the weight of opposing views.

The final glory did go to **Manwood's** however and to **Charlotte Syme** who was voted the **INDIVIDUAL DEBATING CHAMPION for the region.**

This term has also seen many debates in school. The David Starkey Senior Competition has reached the quarter final stage and will be completed soon into the New Year. The Middle and Junior Competitions are still to come.

21. The Friends of Manwood's

The Friends have had a very busy term. The major event was the Fashion Show and the usual hard work went into rehearsing the sixth form models and ferrying them to and from the different shops that loaned their clothes for the two evenings. The two shows were well supported, particularly by the students, and was a fine reward for all the efforts made.

A Quiz Night was held in October and again was very well supported. The Friends also provided the refreshments at the many musical events this term – Divertimento, Rock and Pop Concert, Christmas Concert – and their presence at these events is much appreciated.

22. Gamble (Gambia: Building Links in Education)

Team Gambia 2009, comprising 10 sixth form students under the leadership of Ms Scott and Mr Grimshaw, visited the Gambia last Easter. This term they completed the fund-raising for the charity and were able to hand over a cheque for more than £2,000. Karen di Marco, one of the founders of the charity, wrote back to thank them for their wonderful effort and explain how the money would go towards the final phase of building at the school in Farato. She also said that she was looking forward to the next visit from Manwood's students in April 2010.

The plans for the next trip, which Mr Grimshaw and Ms Beale will lead, are well underway.

23. Old Manwoodian Association Support Student Activities

The OMA take a keen interest in the life of the school and try to help where they can. For example, last year they granted some financial support to individual students who were excelling at a national level in their sport, thereby helping them to meet some of the costs they faced.

Last summer two Year 13 students were also recipients of financial grants to help them pursue exciting opportunities abroad. Maurice Pomery went on an Operation Raleigh expedition to Borneo and Abigail Frowde worked as a volunteer on a "Tanzania Orphans and Street Children Project". Both students had to raise a considerable amount of money for the charitable work in which they were engaged and were very grateful for the help they received from the OMA.

24. Charity Committee

This term the Charity Committee has been working to raise money for its adopted charity, The Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust. The charity is dedicated to raising awareness of the impact of brain tumours in both adults and children and giving funds for research to combat the disease.

A number of events have been held to raise money. Each month there is a cake sale which regularly brings in a return of over £120. A 'Sticky Stall' was held in early November and a non-uniform day towards the end of term was also a popular event and a good fund-raiser. The most memorable event was that which saw committee members struggling around school with a giant banana which was raffled. In total over £1400 was raised this term, and with Charity Week and many more things planned for next term, the committee is very optimistic that the total of £5000 is not unrealistic.

The Charity Committee also organised the annual Harvest Festival and the Charity Christmas Dinner for the elderly citizens of Sandwich. Both events went off very well. Many thanks must go to Mr Setchell and all the students who give up their time and put so much energy into organising the events.

25. Farm Africa Charity 2009

A big well done to the Year 10 DT students who designed, made and sold a variety of products and gifts to raise money for Farm Africa. With sales and orders to date they should realize around £300.00 profit. Thank you to Pfizer Ltd who sponsored the costs of the project's materials and components.

26. Creative Corner Exhibition, Victoria and Albert Museum

Sixth Form D&T students (Product Design and Textiles) enjoyed an excellent day out at the Creative Corner Exhibition on Friday 13th October. Our students took part in workshops and lectures which gave an excellent insight into possible careers in a variety of creative industries.

27. Library News

The School year began with a Library induction for all new Year 7s and the opportunity to choose a free book. The free book scheme is co-ordinated by an organisation called Booktrust which promotes reading for young people.

National Poetry Day was celebrated in October with an informal poetry reading session. This was followed by a Book Fair which was very popular and generated over £200 of free books for our school library. Thank you for supporting this.

Information skills and reading game sessions for younger students have taken place amongst much study for sixth-formers, so the library is always well-used. Sixth form prefects provide invaluable help in the library during lunchtime.

The sixth form area has been developed over the summer, with more computers and a greater selection of reference books for private study. A number of new titles have also been added to periodicals we subscribe to, again to benefit our sixth form students.

We are collecting Nestle boxtops as part of the BoxTops4Books scheme so if your family eat Shreddies, Cheerios etc please send in the token! 'The Times' is also running a Books for Schools campaign and we have signed up for this. Collection boxes are in the Library and reception.

Finally a reminder about Library opening times:-

Mon-Thurs 8.30 – 4.30

Fri 8.30 – 4.

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

28. Drama and Theatre Studies

An exciting term culminating in performances in all years. The Year 8 pantomimes are going well, Year 9 have been experimenting in acting for film whilst Year 10 have just had their first moderated performance session which is always rather nerve wracking. The Year 11's meanwhile have produced some excellent short pieces of physical theatre and are now settling to create their final devised scenes for moderation next term.

The Year 12 and Year 13 Theatre Studies students combined to present 'Oh What a Lovely War' by Joan Littlewood and Theatre Workshop towards the end of this term. This is a set AS text and they learned a tremendous amount about working as an ensemble whilst transferring a very complex play from The Theatre Royal, Margate to St Mary's, Sandwich. Two very different, but equally successful performances were very well received and they should be very proud of their achievements. They also spent an excellent day together in London that included a backstage tour of the National Theatres on the South Bank. In the afternoon they saw a performance of 'War Horse' and then in the evening an amusing performance by Fiona Shaw as 'Mother Courage'. 'War Horse' reduced many of the students to tears with its stunning puppetry. Mr Spray and Mrs Coles are now looking forward to some excellent follow up work in the mock exams and the performance pieces for the examiner later in the year.

29. Duke of Edinburgh

This term the main focus has been on completion of the Award. 34 Students completed their Bronze Award, 29 completed their Silver Award and 3 their Gold Award. As a result Manwood's was again very well represented at the Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Duke of York's on 20th November. Indeed, at the ceremony Mr Lawrence received the Pfizer Award for Best Duke of Edinburgh Section Leader and Section in recognition of all his hard work and the success of the D of E Scheme at Manwood's.

A large number of students have enrolled on the award this term and training for the expedition section of the award will take place during the Spring and Summer Terms. New entrants to the award are reminded to check their activities are suitable for each of the sections on the Duke of Edinburgh website www.dofe.org and make sure they start the activities as soon as possible.

The dates of the expeditions for the 2010 season are as follows:

Expedition	Date	Area
Silver Practice (year 11 and 12)	Saturday 24 th April to Monday 26 th April	Elham Valley
Silver Practice (year 10)	Saturday 1 st May – Monday 3 rd May	High Weald of Kent
Bronze Practice	Saturday 15 th May – Sunday 16 th May	North Downs
Bronze Qualifying	Wednesday 16 th June – Friday 18 th June	Alkham Valley
Gold Practice	Monday 5 th July – Friday 9 th July	Brecon Beacons
Silver Qualifying (all years)	Monday 19 th July to Thursday 22 nd July	Ashdown Forest

30. Music Report

The new musical year started, as has become Divertimento on September 25th. Including soloists, and small ensembles of various types, staged with the Friends of Manwood's, was success. It was good to have so many new Year the night.



the custom, with the performances by the event, which is another great 7s participating on

The Jazz Band were invited to perform to the pupils of Sandwich Technology School on October 12th – a busy schedule of two assemblies followed by a longer performance to two whole year groups. The purpose of the visit was to encourage STS pupils to form their own jazz band, and it is good to report that following our Jazz Band's excellent performances which received rapturous applause, the take-up at STS was very successful. Thanks to Dominic Shawcross and the entire Band for a job well done.

The school hosted a performance by a the town of Beznea in Romania on SRMS pupils were joined by Years 5 Junior School to listen to what was a engaging performance by the young band. For many of the performers, this performance outside of Romania so it privilege to be able to offer that



youth band from October 15th. & 6 from Sandwich very enjoyable and people in this was their first was a particular opportunity.

Speech Day on Friday 22nd October from the School Orchestra as well as forthcoming production of Jesus Christ 6th).

saw performances a medley from the Superstar (Feb 4th-

The Elastic Band was out and about on November 4th for another in our local series of Primary School Music Festivals, held on this occasion at Warden House School in Deal. These are valuable opportunities

to bring together large numbers of Primary School pupils to perform songs they have been working on throughout the term, accompanied by secondary school instrumentalists.

Keyboard Killers has also been running all term for the first time – a scheme to encourage KS3 pupils to learn the keyboard. Take up by Year 7s was very good, with two large groups of pupils participating in weekly one-hour lessons for 10 weeks. Again, a number of pupils have requested further lessons and will continue to develop their skills.



The music department held its annual Brass Day for Year 7 on November 13th, giving every pupil the opportunity to take part in a workshop (led by Brass teacher Sally Hannon) and play a brass instrument. A noisy, but nevertheless enjoyable day has resulted in several Year 7 pupils requesting further lessons.

There has been a 100% success rate in ABRSM and Trinity/Guildhall music exams held in school this term. Over 30 candidates entered for practical exams and all at least passed and many achieved merit and distinction grades. Congratulations to all.



The end of term has brought with it the usual profusion of performances by various groups both in and out of school. Rock & Pop on Dec 8th was another great success with a good number of our pupils performing in a variety of ensembles and styles. The concert included a special guest appearance by *The X-Factor's* Ben Mills, currently appearing in Canterbury, who performed a number of his own songs alongside our own musicians.

subscribed event this year, and ensembles plus a set of pieces sizable proportion of Year 7. The carols and other seasonal items to off to a rousing start.



The Christmas Concert on Dec 10th was another fully-featured all school performed by a concert also included get the festive season

The String Group, ever going from under Ms Peycelon's leadership, at the A-Level and GCSE Certificate Evening in the Sports Hall on Dec 16th.

strength to strength once again performed



The Jazz Band under director Dominic Shawcross provided highly acclaimed musical entertainment for a special event in aid of the Sandwich-Honfleur Twinning Association at Sandwich Guildhall on Dec 11th. The band has already been booked for another appearance for the Sandwich-Honfleur Association in the Summer of 2010, and are also looking forward to appearing as part of the Deal Festival of Music and the Arts in July.

The traditional Carol Services both in school (led by the Orchestra under Mrs Cullis) and at St Clement's Church (led by the choirs) on Dec 17th, and the final assembly on the last day of term always have music in prominence and ensure that the term comes to an end in the right festive spirit.

Behind all of the above has been the weekly round of rehearsals, music lessons and piles of admin (particular thanks to Mrs Hudd for all her help in the department office) all of which are only possible because of the dedication and commitment of pupils, teachers and parents and it goes without saying that all of this is truly appreciated. There is much to look forward to next term including the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Feb 4th – 6th), *Singposium* (date to be announced), a one-day visit by the Orchestra to Hardelot in France (Jan 24th) and the Orchestra / Choir tour to Southern Spain (March 11th - 16th). We look forward to all that it brings. Happy Christmas!



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.

31. Rugby Report

The U12 squad consisted of an impressive 36 boys this season and their effort and commitment in lessons, practices and matches was outstanding.

The first half term was dedicated to practice and learning fundamental skills and positions of the game, whilst the second half of term concentrated on gameplay and six matches. The record of won 2, lost 4 does not reflect fully on the talent and potential within the squad and the need to give all 36 boys some game time may have limited team cohesion early in the season. However, all 6 games were tight and Manwood's played some exciting rugby, scoring at least one try in every game. The team was led admirably by John Barons and with some outstanding players in different areas of the pitch the team can look forward to the remaining games they have in the Spring term.

The U13 squad were thwarted by the weather. Unusually, this wasn't driving wind and rain or blizzard conditions which would usually be associated with a winter sport. In fact, it was the extended summer which led to concrete-like pitches and the need to cancel many matches due to take place in the first 4 weeks of term. As a result, the U13 season was disjointed and was helped even less by injuries and unavailability of key players. The three games played all resulted in defeats, although by the third match against Chatham House, the boys began to show their true potential, losing just 5-15 in a well fought contest.

The weather also intervened with the U14 season, although we were able to play 4 matches. The season started with convincing victories against Chatham House (24-8) and Kent College (29-0), before two close encounters with St. Lawrence College (12-17) and Duke of York's (14-24) closed a frustrating season. The potential in this squad is exciting and we look forward to their continued development next season when they enter the Daily Mail Cup and hopefully benefit from a busier fixture calendar.

A record of 2 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses seems a little unfair on the U15 squad who had an enjoyable season. Some of the rugby played was impressive, with individual brilliance mixed with good teamwork. Unfortunately, we managed to give away tries too easily at key moments through naivety and poor play in contact. The turnover rate in possession was high which was disappointing because we proved we could really hurt teams if we kept the ball for long periods. Sam Ludwig had a particularly outstanding season, continually forcing turnovers of his own in contact, whilst many other players held their hands up for a first team call up next season.

The senior squad had the luxury of picking from 53 players this season, many of whom came from years 11 and 12. Many of these gained invaluable experience in the 2nd XV where two heavy defeats were counterbalanced by two competitive games. Some of the players were actually new to rugby, particularly from the boarding community, and they learnt quickly about rules and specific gameplay situations. The two competitive games resulted in a 17-27 loss to Simon Langton and a 36-0 victory against St. Lawrence College. The likes of Josh Cowens, Jordan Lee, Adam Perry, Joel Allen and Nixon Chan formed the core of the side with many others having good moments during the season.

The 1st XV were led with distinction by Nick Jordan who had an outstanding season as hooker and captain. In terms of results, 4 wins and 5 defeats sum up a frustrating season in terms of performance. On the positive side the boys showed commitment, belief, application and considerable skill in the games against Simon Langton (14-8), Chatham House (0-12), Kent College (19-18) and St. Lawrence College (28-15). However, in other games we didn't seem to want to stand up and be counted and played very much within our capabilities. Results against Norton Knatchbull (twice) and against a weaker than usual Skinners side, were particularly disappointing.

The capabilities of the team were summed up in a Daily Mail Vase match against Priory School, Orpington early in the season. Both the staff and players from Priory were impressed and commented on the "professionalism" Manwood's showed in the warm up and during the match. The result (55-0 victory) was testament to that and highlighted the potential of many of the team.

We say goodbye to many Year 13 leavers who have played seven years of rugby at Manwood's and we wish them all the best in the future. Alongside Nick are: James Spencer, Josh Cole, Chris Stowell, Matt Collins, David Armah-Agyeman, George Phillips, Tom Carnegie, Richard Payne, Romain Dennison, Ibitayo Oyebola, Tom Watmough and Charlie Michael.

32. Football

This season, football at Manwood's has suffered the effects of staff and transport problems, with team managers and mini bus drivers difficult to come by. Although we entered each year group into the Kent Cup, we could only enter a combined Year 7 & 8, Under 13 team, and a combined Year 9 & 10, Under 15 team to represent the school in the Dover District league.

Our Year 7 team is one which has had limited opportunities to display its considerable promise. Year 7 boys have attended training sessions in large numbers and shown both ability and desire. Unfortunately Year 7 only competed in a single fixture, a Kent Cup game at home to Norton Knatchbull. This was a close match between two good sides, the game swung both ways before finally ending in a 3-5 victory for the visitors. Despite their lack of fixtures several Year 7 boys regularly represented the Under 13 team in the Dover league and became key members of the side. Thanks go to Year 12 sports prefects Vanisha Patel and Andrew Symonds, and also Year 10 G.C.S.E. P.E. students Mikeshe Patel, Chris Henry and Sam Reeves for their help with training, and to Mr van Poppel and Mr Davidson for their continued support of this team.

Year 8 competed in the Kent Cup and also formed the basis of the Under 13 league side. The opening game of the league season was a tight encounter with Manwood's narrowly losing at home to local rivals Sandwich Tech, 3-4. From there the team developed confidence and improved rapidly. Wins followed against Astor (5-3) and Castle Community (11-1). Manwood's season then peaked with a stunning display on a cold, wet Friday afternoon away in Whitstable. Manwood's were paired against a very strong side from Whitstable Community College in the Kent Cup, our best performance of the season by far saw Manwood's win the game 3-2. Unfortunately this really was the peak of greatness for the Under 13's as league defeats to Archer's Court, St Edmunds and Walmer were to end our league season. Additionally the second round of the Kent cup was also a step too far with a comprehensive 10-1 defeat away to Westland's. Thanks go to Mr Grimshaw for his hard work and dedication in helping to run the Under 13 side.

Year 9 were another team who had limited opportunities during the football season. A very talented group of players had a difficult start to the season losing 3-1 at home to St Anselm's in the Kent Cup. With no league competition to contest this season the battle for the Year 9 boys was to secure a place in the Under 15 team, an achievement which many of the boys managed over the course of the season. A very positive end to the Year 9 football calendar saw the boys win the Dover District seven a side competition, a trophy they have now won back to back. Thanks to go to Mr Davidson who guided the boys to victory on that occasion.

Year 10 boys combined with boys from Year 9 to form the Under 15 Dover league team. Results were hard to come by with Under 15 rugby fixtures robbing the Under 15 football team of several key players, with many fixture clashes early in the season. The Under 15's beat Astor 5-4, but suffered defeats to Sandwich Tech, Walmer, and Archer's Court. The final game of the season saw Pent Valley visit Manwood's for a Kent Cup tie. The visitors left victorious recording a 5-1 win. A difficult season and one we hope to improve on next year.

The Year 11 team also competed in the Kent Cup this season. Unfortunately however, they fell at the first hurdle with a first round 3-0; home defeat against Towers school from Ashford.

A special mention must go to Mr Pearce, as our one and only mini bus driver, without whom away football fixtures would simply not have happened at Manwood's this year.

33. Basketball

The basketball season has only just begun at Manwood's and both the Under 13 and Under 15 teams are showing tremendous potential. We are looking forward to building upon last year's success. We shall report further next term, good luck to both teams this season.

34. Girls' Hockey

Overall, the 2009 girls' hockey season has resulted in more highs than lows particularly in the senior part of the school. Yet again, finding sufficient fixtures for the younger teams has proved difficult and we had to rely on some intra-school games to give them match practice. The U12 team, captained by Phoebe Urquhart, faced some tough opposition in Dover College losing 1-4 in our first match of the season. Our heads stayed up, however, and we achieved a much better result against St Lawrence College; 3-4 at the final whistle. In our last match we started to show some real promise by holding a strong Duke of York's team to a 0-0 draw.

The U13 X1's fixture list was longer, with only one match cancelled due to bad weather. Despite some gritty performances by Lucy Roper and Bobby Clay the team were unable to win their games. However, the losses got smaller as the season progressed and the girls have learnt a lot from playing such tough sides. There was some small consolation at the U13 Kent County Tournament where we drew with one of the sides in our group. Upwards and onwards!

The U14 results were also a little disappointing albeit they competed well in most games. The squad has a number of competent players who will continue to develop, provided their commitment can be maintained. The season began with a tough fixture at DYRMS and, although we scored early on, our opponents reacted strongly and took a 2-1 interval lead. We defended heroically in the second half, but a third goal was conceded at the final whistle. Against St Lawrence College we dominated the first half and should have scored several times, but a 1-0 lead was not sufficient and we did well to secure a 2-2 draw given that we played well below our potential. After half-term we lost 2-1 to King's, Canterbury B, but our final match against Folkestone Girls' Grammar School resulted in a 2-0 victory which was an encouraging end to the season. In the Kent Tournament we almost reached the last eight, but twice a lack of concentration allowed our opponents to score late goals when one more point would have seen us progress beyond the group stages. We looked set for a draw against Newstead, who scored with seconds remaining, and were well beaten by King's, the group winners. Against Colfe's we were leading until the final two minutes and a 2-0 win against Blackheath was merely consolation.

A very competent U15 team, captained by Charlotte Pape, sailed through all their matches with very convincing wins over some of the best hockey schools in the area. Defensively we were strong with Emma Marsh in goal and Jessica Greaves and Casey Moor giving our opponents very few real opportunities. Our forwards were lively with Charlotte, Laura Geary and Mary Wilson prominent. We managed to notch up a total of 25 goals in six matches. 7-2 wins against St Edmund's, Canterbury and King's, Rochester demonstrates the potential in this side as they move up to the senior teams next year.

The 2nd X1 finished the season with two wins, one draw and two defeats to our name. In her role as captain Naomi Wilkinson organised her side well and we enjoyed two victories over St Lawrence College (3-1) and DYRMS (3-2), which were the highlights of the season. Laura Higgins earned her place on the forward line by scoring most of the goals and Alice Smalley, Sophie Carter, Katie Hailey and Dominika Szucsova in goal kept hopes alive in defence.

The 1st team has had another commendable season losing only one match throughout the term. This was very much a new squad and in the light of this the results were very pleasing. It was a slow start with a 1-1 draw against DYRMS; which should have been a win for us as we had, by far, the most scoring opportunities in the game. Three wins followed in quick succession against St Lawrence, King's, Canterbury and King's, Rochester and we started to gel as a team. Stephanie Farrell led her team well and the spirit was high. We came down to earth with a bump, however, in the next game against St Edmund's, Canterbury where we never really got into our stride and suffered a 2-5 defeat. We were determined to finish the season on a high and an excellent all round effort resulted in a 7-0 victory over Dover College. In the Kent Tournament earlier in the term we played some excellent hockey to qualify for the quarter finals. This game was against Ashford and had to be decided on penalties after neither side could score. Unfortunately, these went Ashford's way and we were out of the competition. However, the girls can hold their heads high as this is the best result we have had in this competition for many years.

As usual none of this could happen without the help and support of the teams' coaches: Mrs Urquhart, Mr Laslett, Mrs Drewry, Miss Woodhead, Mrs Preston and Mr Kilbee. A big thank you to each of them for the time and commitment they have given. However, I would especially like to thank Mr Tony Kilbee who is retiring from coaching our hockey teams after 21 years. His help and expertise have been invaluable and I know that all the girls' teams that have benefited from his coaching have been very appreciative and have been spurred on by his enthusiastic approach. We will miss him next year.

35. Kent School Games

The second ever Kent School Games will take place next summer and events are already well under way in terms of qualification. The majority of events begin with local rounds in the Dover School Sport Partnership.

This term a number of our students have taken part in the following events with a great deal of success. Below is a summary of our results so far, with many events to follow next year.

U13 & U15 Boys Table Tennis

Both teams did well to reach the quarter finals but unfortunately didn't qualify for the KSG.

U14 & U16 Boys Badminton

The U14's narrowly missed out on qualification, finishing 2nd overall.

The U16 team of Ryan Cannon, Alex Boddy, Josh Spink and Nick Mount won and qualify for the county finals in January.

U14 & U16 Girls Badminton

Both teams won their tournaments with ease and they qualify for the county finals in January.

U14 team: Lucy Walden, Gemma Hill, Hannah Breddy and Chloe Reeves.

U16 team: Ella Savage, Dominica Szucsova, Jasmine Hollis and Grace Irvine.

U13 & U15 Boys Volleyball

The U13's won 4 games and lost once to qualify in 2nd place for the KSG. The team consisted of Jake Ling, George Peirce, Harry Sims, Owen Hayward and Dominic Wheeler.

The U15's won 2 and lost 2 but went on to win the 3rd place play-off. Unfortunately they did not qualify for the KSG.

36. Dover District School Sport Partnership Annual Awards Evening 2009

At this event, held at Pfizer's, the sporting prowess of a number of Manwood's students was recognized:

Team of the Year (Girls):

1st Place: Junior Athletics Squad (members from current Years 8 & 9)

The team won every competition they entered during the season including:

Powell Trophy

South East Kent Championships

Dover College Invitational

Year 7 Quadrangular Cup

Individual Excellence (Boys):

3rd Place: Max Sykes (Cross-country mountain biking and cyclo cross)

Max competes nationally in cyclo-cross, regularly achieving 1st and 2nd place finishes. He also competes in the National Mountain Bike series and the National Mountain Bike Championships travelling all around the country. This year he finished in 2nd place overall.

Individual Excellence (Girls):

2nd Place: Louise Orchard (Gymnastics)

Louise represented Kent in International Gymnastics, took part in the National Challenge and came 2nd in the SE Gymnastics Challenge Cup. She also coaches young gymnasts from the age of 4 – 10.

1st Place: Hannah Moon (Rowing)

Hannah was selected for the GB squad having won the Senior Single Events and gaining 3rd place in Elite Quads in the national trials. Representing Great Britain in the European Championships she won Gold in Junior Quads.

She is now studying in the US where she is on a full rowing scholarship at the University of Texas.

37. Other Individual Sporting Achievements

Sailing

Congratulations to Oliver Cage-White (Y9) on being selected to join the RYA South East Topper Zone Squad. The hope is that he will now be able to progress to the National Junior Squad and compete in European and World Championships at Junior and Youth level.

Tae Kwon-Do

In late November Grace Wong (Y12) competed in the World Championships in Argentina. On this occasion she did not come away with a medal, but to participate at this level was a fantastic experience.

Channel Crossings

On 8th September 2009 Tom Russell (Year 13) completed his solo swim of the Channel. He set out at 12.37 am from Abbott's Cliff at the far end of Samphire Hoe and finally reached the beach under the cliffs at Cap Blanc Nez at 3.20 pm. After 14 hours and 43 minutes hard toil he had joined one of the most exclusive clubs in the world and he had also raised a considerable amount of money for the "Help For Heroes" charity.

Emily Dwyer in Year 10 was part of a team that rowed across the Channel in early October to raise money for "The Anthony Nolan Trust" that fights against Leukaemia.

Both students are to be commended for their outstanding achievement.

38. House Competition Results for the Autumn Term

Autumn Term	Dorman	Knolles	Trappes	Tudor
Boys Badminton	85	135	220	95
Boys Football	70	155	205	95
Manwoodian	85	40	15	0
Boys X-country	55	130	185	80
Girls Hockey	210	140	210	210
Music	33	49	62	31
Art	225	225	75	0
Boys Rugby	215	120	90	175
Merits	200	50	300	100
	2nd	3rd	1st	4th
	1178	1044	1362	786

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