

July 2008

Dear Parents and Members of the School

1. Staff Farewells / Arrivals

Mr Sean Boyle is leaving at the end of term having decided to return to live in Canada. His contribution to the very successful academic achievement of the History and Politics Departments has been considerable. The USA trips for sixth form students which he meticulously organised and led were a triumph. Mr Boyle has also played a major role in ensuring the success of the annual ski trips, whether as leader or in a support role. It is this latter enthusiasm which has drawn him back to his roots in Canada. We wish him all the best for the future.

Miss Naomi Cuthbertson is moving away from East Kent and has secured a post in a selective school in Buckinghamshire. She will be very much missed by the Geography Department where her skills and enthusiasm have made their distinctive mark. Miss Cuthbertson has also played a major part in the life of the boarding community as Resident Tutor at the Lodge. In this last year she also took up the role of Head of Trappes House, contributing to the further development of the House system in school. We wish her all success at her new school.

Mr Ian Wallace is moving back to familiar territory nearer London. He has gained promotion as 2nd in the Sports Department of a large comprehensive school. In his time at Manwood's Mr Wallace has made a major contribution to the sporting life of the school bringing bundles of energy and commitment. He has also been a main player in the reorganisation of the House system in school taking on the role of overall Coordinator. We know that his new school are gaining an excellent acquisition to their staff and we wish him all the best in his new position of responsibility.

Mr Mick Garton is leaving us to move to Scotland at the end of term. Mr Garton's appointment at Manwood's coincided with the decision to move away from the more traditional role of School Bursar to that of a Business Manager with a wider range of responsibilities. In fulfilling, and developing further this new brief, Mr Garton has outstripped all expectations. Running the school finances, where there is so little room for manoeuvre because of the budget being so tight, and facilitating progress and improvement whilst keeping us in the black, is a major achievement. Mr Garton's remit has also involved working closely with the Caretaking and Grounds staff, the Catering Department, the Office staff and the staff in the Boarding Houses and the excellent work done in all these areas of school life is in no large part testimony to his hard work. He has also forged very good links with KCC that has enabled the school to benefit from significant investment, thereby improving the quality of the school environment. Mr Garton has therefore been a very important member of the Senior Leadership Team and we wish him all the best in his future life beyond the border.

Mrs Jan Judd is retiring at the end of this academic year after a very long association with Manwood's. For many years her commitment was to boarding as Matron, first in the Grange, and then later in the Lodge. She then moved to take up the position of School Librarian for which role she had trained in her earlier career. Under her guidance the library has developed significantly from modest beginnings and is now a very valuable resource centre and set to become even more important in the life of the school with the emphasis being placed on independent learning. We wish Mrs Judd all best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.

Mrs Rachel Springett returned from maternity leave during the summer term and we thank Mr David Mears for his work in the English Department during her absence. She has, however, decided that with two young children she must take a break from her teaching career and therefore leaves us at the end of term. We thank her for her work at Manwood's, which in addition to English teaching, also involved a contribution to the delivery of A Level Film Studies and for a time the pastoral support of the sixth form as Assistant Head of Sixth Form. We wish her all the best as she dedicates her time to bringing up the family and supporting her husband in his business.

Mrs Marcella Mulhearn and Mr Ian Tomlinson have both made valuable contributions to the Sports Department in a part-time capacity but now move on at the end of this year. We thank them for their hard work.

Mrs Sue Taylor joined us in January as a Classroom Cover Supervisor and worked enthusiastically before moving on this term to a teaching position. We wish her success in her new job.

September will, therefore, see a number of new colleagues joining the staff:

Mr Simon Farrer	Business Manager
Mr Robert Frost	Mathematics
Mr Andrew Newing	Geography
Ms Sophie Woodhead	History/Politics
Ms Marie McKay	Psychology
Mr David Riordan	Games/PE
Mr Dan Laslett	Games/PE
Mr Chris Ralph	PE Technician
Mrs Barbara Colla	Design Technology
Mrs Sharon Turrell	Librarian
Mr Sam Hutchings	ICT Technical Support Team

There have also been a number of internal appointments:

Mr Matt Spray will increase his teaching commitment to include some English as well as Drama as he pursues his GTP qualification. Mrs Martin Hargrave, who covered for Mrs Audrey Lamb's maternity leave, will continue in a part-time capacity as MFL Primary Outreach Coordinator. Mr Martin Neeve has been appointed Director of the new Maths and Computing Specialism. Mr David Stevens will be House System Coordinator next year, Mr Scott Grimshaw will be Head of Trappes House and Mrs Audrey Lamb Head of Knolles House.

2. Curriculum Reform and Building Schools for the Future

The April 2008 newsletter explained in some detail how plans were progressing in both these areas which are interlinked – BSF is all about creating a school fit for purpose to deliver the curriculum of the 21st century.

Having identified clearly in our curriculum plans the direction we want to go, staff have been busy planning for the next academic year. In addition to taking on board changes to the important GCSE and A Level

exam courses, staff are planning for the greater flexibility offered by the reduction of the prescribed curriculum at Key Stage 3. There are exciting opportunities here for developing further students' ability to become reflective learners, team workers and self-managers of their learning – all very important skills for the century ahead.

BSF plans also continue to progress. The school's ideas of what we would like the investment to achieve are crystallizing and it will be an exciting time when we begin to sit down with the architects – hopefully this will happen in the next academic year. For the moment because the BSF submission to the government is for the whole of the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area, and there are still issues to be sorted out in the area, the timetable has not yet been clarified.

3. Duke of Edinburgh Report

This term has been an extremely busy period with expeditions taking place at every level of the award, Bronze, Silver and Gold. So far the weather has been kind to us, with sun hats and sun cream being the order of the day rather than waterproofs! By the end of the summer holiday expeditions will have occurred in a wide range of terrains, including the Brecon Beacons, Ashdown Forest, High Weald of Kent and North Downs.

The commitment from both students and staff in school is, therefore, considerable with ever increasing numbers getting involved. If any parent wishes to volunteer their services in any relevant area they feel able to please contact Mr Lawrence at the school to discuss further.

4. The International Dimension

During the Easter holidays a group of sixth form students and staff visited the Gambia again to live in a village and work in the local school set up by the Gamble charity. It proved to be a wonderful experience for all concerned.

Fundraising for Gamble by the group of students who went to the Gambia has continued and so far has raised approximately £1500 through a disco, poetry reading and cake sales. The Soloists Concert held in school on July 9th had a collection which raised a further £300. Mr and Mrs De Marco, founders of the Gamble Charity, and a teacher from the village of Farato, were present at the concert and expressed their appreciation.

A group from our partner school in China arrived in Sandwich on June 26th to spend two weeks staying with host families, visiting local places of interest and attending some Year 12 lessons in school. We are very grateful to the families who so kindly hosted them. Comments included, "table manners were difficult but it was an unforgettable experience. Talking with our host families and making friendships was what we will most remember."

Meanwhile a group of sixth formers with two members of staff are at the time of writing teaching English at Hengshui High School before travelling to Beijing for some sightseeing.

The theme of our International Week this year was China to coincide with the Beijing Olympics and also to encourage the study of Mandarin in the school as we offer it to Year 8 students in September. Highlights of the week in June were a cookery demonstration, an artist teaching Chinese calligraphy and a Chinese dancer leading workshops in Chinese ribbon dancing and plate spinning. A table tennis competition for pupils and staff was also very popular, especially as the prize was a voucher for a Chinese meal for two. Harry Urquhart in Year 7, although losing to Mr Merrell in the final, was the recipient of the voucher.

We are hoping that our bid for a new Comenius project will be successful. If so next years Year 9s will be taking part in a project with partner schools in Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania to compare their lifestyles and see how healthy or unhealthy teenagers in these countries are.

This term has also seen a very successful trip to Barcelona for Year 10 students and above who study Spanish in school. Sixth form students studying French also spent a weekend in Paris.

5. Language Course in Germany

Kirsty Bailey (Year 12) entered a competition with a language learning organisation “The UK-German Connection” (affiliated to the German Embassy in London). After writing an essay in German, she has won a place on a two week language learning course in Nord Rhein Westphalen this summer. She will stay with a host family, take part in German lessons and educational visits around Germany. Pupils from all over Europe took part and Kirsty did extremely well to gain a place.

6. Year 11 Work Experience

Work Experience placements for year 11 students have once again been difficult to find due to competition from other educational institutions and some employers no longer taking on any work experience. A larger year group also required more placements than in a normal year. The school, with support from parents, managed 201 work experience places for 124 students. On the whole these placements have been provided by a range of very supportive local employers who give valuable opportunities for our students year on year. The school is very grateful for the commitment made by these employers and we hope that this partnership may continue for many years to come. We have a number of students on placements in out-of-county locations such as Reading and Fareham. A number of international placements have also been undertaken in locations such as Spain, Belgium, France and Namibia.

Reports coming back from the employers, visiting staff and the students have on the whole been very positive. Students have represented the school with pride, have worked well within their new, short term environments and have benefited enormously from the experience.

A number of retail work experience placements have once again resulted in summer jobs being offered to our students. Some non-retail placements have resulted in part-time work becoming a possibility in the future.

7. Art Department

This term has seen two very successful art exhibitions featuring GCSE, AS and A2 work. The work covered all areas of art and design from painting and drawing to large scale sculptures.

Some work was selected for a further local exhibition of decorative and fine art work. As a result of this two pieces by Tom Cheek and Katie Machray were purchased.

The Friends of Manwoods are donating the money for a large printing press for the art department. We look forward to extending our facilities with the help of local printmaker Beverley Garrett who is joining the department.

8. David Starkey Debating Competition

The finals of the senior and middle competitions were held at the end of the spring term. The winners were:

Senior Competition – Darien Bragg and Jack Beautridge

Middle Competition – Tom Russell and Chris Stowell

The Junior Debating Competition took place during the second half of the summer term. 24 pairs of competitors debated topics from “Silence is overrated” to “Animal experimentation cannot be justified”. Other topics included two debates on China which were scheduled during China Week. The final took

place on July 11th between Mhairi Thatcher and Josie Brown of 9K against Richard Everard and Fraser Newgreen of 9TU who debated the motion “New technologies are more of a curse than a blessing”. The debate was very closely fought which finally saw Richard and Fraser just edging ahead, to take the junior shield, from Mhairi and Josie. Special thanks to the twelve members of staff who chaired debates and helped with judging.

9. Design Technology

The refurbishment of the workshops was completed in April 2008. All the new equipment including the laser cutter have now been commissioned. Already we are seeing the benefits of this investment and a number of new Cad/Cam projects will be introduced from September.

Following the success of the ‘Solar Rollers Team’ in the regional final of the Toyota Technology Challenge at Duxford (where they finished 4th out of 83 entries); all Year 8 students will next year participate in the TTC where they will have to design, research and build a solar powered vehicle; an excellent example of sustainable design.

We continue to strengthen links with local businesses and organisations with A Level student projects including Animal Enrichment with Howletts, an environmental project with Dover Council and a sailing trainer device for Walmer Sailing Club.

Mr Farnham is also delighted to report that A Level DT is proving ever more popular with 34 students opting for the subject in the coming year. There is also a growing trend for Manwood’s students to study Industrial/Product Design at University.

10. National Maths Champions

This term Manwood’s is celebrating winning the prestigious National Team Maths Challenge run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

A team of 4 students, 2 from Year 8 (Andrew Carlotti and Alex Dixon) and 2 from Year 9 (Connor Gower and Damon Sutton) won the Regional Final against 18 leading schools in East Kent. In order to qualify for the National Final held in London on Monday 23rd June.

In the Final they faced 64 teams from across the country including well known independent schools such as St Paul’s Girls and City of London Boys and top state selective schools such as St Olave’s. The competition started at 11am and went on until 4pm with a series of rounds of very challenging maths questions, with teams often competing in direct opposition to each other under timed conditions. At the end of a long and exciting day Manwood’s was victorious.

As a High Performing Specialist School recently granted the second specialism of Maths and Computing, this victory was very timely.

The team was accompanied to London by two of their teachers, Mr Martin Neeve (Head of Maths and Director of the Maths and Computing Specialism) and Mr David Brooks. Both were delighted at their students’ success, recognising that they have some outstanding mathematical talent on their hands. As Mr Neeve commented “The Maths Department has a long tradition of fostering the particularly gifted, offering challenging extension work and encouraging students to explore their potential. Exciting times lie ahead for these students and other gifted mathematicians in the school.”

This indeed was confirmed when the results of the National Individuals Maths Challenge for Year 8 students, also run by the UKMT recently came back into school. Approximately 240,000 pupils entered this competition in March this year. Three of our pupils were placed amongst the top 1280 and so qualified

for the British Maths Olympiad. Alex Dixon and Evie Sparkes performed exceptionally well in this very challenging final. Andrew Carlotti's performance was, however, even more remarkable, dropping only 3 marks in completing a series of extremely difficult maths problems. Andrew was placed 2nd overall in the country and was awarded a Gold Medal and a book prize.

11. Year 10 Business Enterprise Week – 16th -20th June 2008

Plaudits have been coming in from all directions since the very successful Year 10 Business Enterprise Week.

Anne McNulty, Executive Director of East Kent Education Business Partnership wrote "I should like you to know that, without exception, all the business partners involved said how consistently motivated and well-behaved your students were. Congratulations to all of the students involved as they achieved so much. The standard of work was very high and the quality and the evidence of effective teamwork was everywhere. The students were a very creative and enterprising year group and a pleasure to work with."

Best aural presentation was awarded to **Clever Chef** who had the idea of a touch screen weighted food slicer. Its members included Suzannah Kassyk, Katy Morris, Zoe Paxman, Jeanette Smith and Lily Summers.

Best written presentation was awarded to **Level 5 industries** that were keen on recycling plastics by converting it into grow boxes with different kits for different seasons. They were keen for us to 'Grow away and buy one today' and managed to provide a clear, well researched portfolio for their product. Its members included Francois Botes, Samuel Wood, John Gleave, Thomas Laslett and Matthew Thomas.

Best idea was awarded to **Black** for their environmentally friendly alternator which could be attached to a shopping trolley, push chair or exercise bike. It would generate electrical power that could be stored and used to drive various appliances. Its members included Alice Calder, Lydia Fuller, Rebecca Page, Cheska Rees, Lily Stafford-Edwards and Kerry Thompson.

Best overall idea, aural and written presentations came from **Economico** with their eco friendly speed bumps that would generate electricity from the action of passing over the bumps. This electricity could then be used to power signs or other electrical devices. Its members included Ohiojoje Edeki, Maximilian Kinden, Victoria Lyden, Emily Molenkamp and Georgina Skinner.

An additional prize was presented to **Turboline** who the judges felt deserved some recognition for their ideas and effort. The team had the idea of generating electricity from the rotations of a washing line and using this to warm up the clothes hence reducing drying time. Spare electricity could be stored and used to power other appliances. This group included Tom Beer, Oliver Best, Joseph Conway, Ben Fraser and Elliott Powell.

Economico were invited to compete against 14 other local schools in the Area Final held at Pfizer on Wednesday 2nd July. The group was delayed at registration, had only 10 minutes to set up their stand and were the first company to present their idea in the auditorium. Despite these events, **Economico** remained very professional, giving a clear presentation to the assembled judges and answering questions efficiently with well informed answers. There was strong competition for the four prizes from the other companies and it was felt by **Economico** that they probably would not win the overall prize but there was a chance at one of the smaller ones. It transpired that close judging for 'The most enterprising idea' did not swing in the company's favour although they were commended in the Judging Room for their presentation skills and their idea.

12. Young Enterprise

On Wednesday 30th April our three Young Enterprise Companies, Tempo, One-One, and 1337 attended the Dover Area Board presentation evening at the Ark, Dover. Each company had to set up a trade stand and give a short presentation to a packed audience. They faced strong competition from other schools in the area. Company Reports had been submitted to the judges a week earlier. Everyone performed well on the evening but the overall winner's awarded eluded us this year. As part of the evening's events Luke Durrigan was asked to give his speech that had given him first place in the Dover Area YE Public Speaking Competition early in the year.

Some thirty students from our school participated in the Young Enterprise Scheme this year and everyone involved has developed skills in team work, communication and other aspects related to the setting up and running of a business. All individual students were awarded a certificate for their efforts and Jamie Bray, Kirsty Bailey and Ore Bajomo were also given a cheque for £25 for being best achiever in their respective companies.

The Dover Harbour Board has generously sponsored the Young Enterprise Scheme in the Dover area this year and some of their employees have given up time to act as company advisors. This support will continue to be offered next year and beyond.

13. The CCF

The CCF Annual Inspection took place on 7th May. Major David Bradley, a former pupil at Manwood's, was the Inspecting Officer. Shortly after the Inspection he wrote to Major Brooks, the Contingent Commander:

"I am writing to commend you on the performance of the school CCF at this year's Inspection Day. I was very impressed by the standard of the parade and the enthusiastic and knowledgeable responses of the cadets. They clearly enjoyed what they were doing and the level of skill on show at the stands was extremely high. IN particular it was encouraging to see young people develop their leadership skills and your cadet NCOs should be congratulated.

The contingent is clearly in great shape with a strong sense of camaraderie amongst both cadets and officers. The genuine pleasure that everyone felt at the announcement of the promotions demonstrated real spirit and great morale.

In was an honour to be invited to take the salute and I wish you and the Contingent all the best in the future."

The Sandwich and District Branch of the Royal British Legion organized the Civic Parade in Sandwich on 18th May and once again invited the CCF Band to lead the parade.

Chris Stowell has been awarded an Army Sixth Form Scholarship. The competition for these awards is very fierce and this is, therefore, a considerable achievement.

At the time of writing a significant number of Cadets are attending Annual Camp at Weymouth in Dorset.

14. London Zoo Visit

On the 30th June, ten Year 12 Biology students visited London Zoo for a Study Day organised by The University of Birmingham. The theme was investigating diversity of genes from humans to animals, using the zoo as a resource to provide data.

Students began with a lecture on "Diversity in the Zoo" and they were then divided into groups to gather data around the zoo from specific animals. Our school were the Komodo Dragon group and gathered data

from animals such as the anteater, Komodo Dragon, Angel Fish and the Pelican. This data was collected to show the classification of the animals. After lunch students shared their data and analysed the results to find the series of evolution between the animals from which the data was collected.

A lecture was then given by Dr Susannah Thorpe to discuss "Are we Apes?" This was interesting and interactive to show the evidence of the similarity between human and primate walking and the physiology behind this.

The last lecture was presented by Dr Steve Minchin to discuss the use of the genome project and how different genes are used to determine different characteristics.

The day proved a very stimulating one, with hands on scientific work combined with latest ideas from experts in their field.

15. Music Report

Despite several year groups being out on study leave, and the pressure of exams for everyone, the Summer term seems to have been as active as any for musical events and performances. It is also good to see many of our pupils taking prominent roles in performances and productions outside of school.

The term began with Music A2 Recitals in April which were all well done and a credit to the performers.

Members of the cast of *Oliver!* collaborated with Sing United, a community arts project supported by many organisations including KCC and Christ Church University, to provide a much appreciated singing workshop for Sandwich Centre for the Retired on 30th April.

Preparations for the community production of the opera *Noye's Fludde* by Benjamin Britten have been going on all term, with many of the principal roles being taken by SRMS pupils. Unfortunately the performances, which were to take place about now, had to be postponed to March 2009 in order to allow for more Primary School pupils to be involved. Preparations for the new performance dates are already underway and we look forward to seeing Manwood's well-represented in this major community event next year.

The Jazz Band have been very busy this term with three appearances outside of school. The band provided musical entertainment for the Eastry Twinning Association dinner in Eastry Village Hall on June 7th. They gave a complete concert at Woodnesborough Village Hall to a packed house on June 27th, and they were heard in the King's Head in Deal during a very rainy afternoon on Sunday July 6th. The Jazz Band are also playing for final assembly.

Ex-Manwoodian and recent music graduate Tom Sitton was back in school on 18th & 19th June demonstrating acoustic and classical guitars to music classes in various year groups.

Yet again, we have been able to offer free introductory lesson on guitar & saxophone this term, with over 20 pupils taking up the instruments – many of whom are hoping to continue with lessons in the new academic year. We also put on our brass day for Year 7 providing every pupil with the opportunity to try out a brass instrument. We hope that many will want to take up a short course of free lessons as a follow-up to this in September.

The School Orchestra and Choir made a day trip to Wimelle, near Wimereux in the Nord Pas-de-Calais to give a concert in the town's Mairie. The concert went very well and attracted a very positive review in the local newspaper.

Several SRMS pupils entered for the recent St Edmund's (Dover) Music Competition, four of whom performed in the grand final on 4th July. Oreoluwa Olaloko (7TR) won the Beginners category; Mhairi

Thatcher (9K) won the Intermediate Category; and Tabitha Kemp (12A) and Joshua Todhunter-Newman (8TR) were runners-up in the Advanced Category. Well done to everyone who took part.

SRMS pupils have also done very well in ABRSM music exams achieving a 100% pass rate in both theory and practical exams, and with an increasing number of pupils achieving merit or distinction.

Members of the Chamber Choir once again performed with Thanet-based chamber choir Cantate in a concert at Minster Church on June 22nd. The performance included Rutter's *Gloria* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, several items by the Chamber Choir and solos by SRMS pupils.

The Soloists Concert on 9th July featured a wide range of performances from pupils in all years. The standard was higher than ever and the audience well entertained in a programme consisting of over 2 hours of music. As in 2007 the Soloists Concert was in aid of a charitable cause, this year being the GamBLE project which supports Farato school in The Gambia which has been visited by SRMS pupils and staff for the past two years. The total raised for GamBLE was £300.00. Thank you to everyone involved.

The term closed on a loud note (or two) with the Rock & Pop concerts (16th & 17th July) which saw again experienced players performing alongside comparative beginners in a wide and varied programme. Thank you to Jeff Alexander and Dudley Ross for all their hard work in preparing the pupils for these concerts.

Looking Ahead

- Divertimento – Friday Sept 26th
- The next musical will be ***Fiddler on the Roof*** - February 5th to 7th. Auditions for principal roles and chorus parts will take place very early in September.
- Christmas Concert – Tuesday Dec 9th
- *Noye's Fludde* – March 13th & 14th.

16. Ties and Lives – Year 9 Slavery Project

Over 60 members of Year 9 volunteered to take part in the *Ties & Lives* project organised in partnership with Canterbury-based *Music for Change*. Pupils explored aspects of historical and contemporary slavery as well as celebrating African traditional culture and art. Groups worked on dance, art or film over a 4 day period culminating in presentations to the remainder of Year 9 and the whole of Year 7. Year 12 Film Studies students and several members of staff gave generously of their time to support various activities. *Music for Change* provided two practitioners, Lucky and 'Uncle' George who worked with the majority of students in traditional African tribal dance and song as well as Gum-boot dancing, associated with slaves who worked in American mines in the 19th century. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved in what was a very successful project.

17. Drama Report

This has been an exciting and successful year for the department with over 20 performances seen by pupils from Year 10 through to Year 13.

Memorable moments for Year 11 were the 'Ghost' gliding past us in 'Woman in Black' and the excellent workshop session at the Theatre. After the talk-back seminar the Theatre staff commented on the exceptional behaviour and thoughtful responses from the group – all 46 of them!

The AS group enjoyed a very full day in London. IN the afternoon they saw the amazing spectacle of 'The Lord of the Rings' at Drury Lane where we had 'Orcs' clambering around us! However, the evening performance of 'War Horse' at the National was exceptionally moving – not a dry eye in the house! This was theatre at its best; when everyone gets so caught up in the unfolding story the lifesize puppet horses become absolutely real; and the moment when the 3 puppeteers step away from the 'dying' horse caused the whole theatre to hold its breath.

The same group have recently been to Stratford-upon-Avon to experience two performances in the wonderful 'Courtyard Theatre': 'The Merchant of Venice', a sophisticated, modern dress production where every nuance of word as movement held the attention and the stark set allowed one to focus on the dialogue. This contrasted well with Gregory Doran's acclaimed production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' with a magically lit mirrored set.

We have also had another splendid performance in school with a workshop on Brechtian techniques by Kerry and her team from 'Splendid Productions'. We hope that they will be returning in 2009.

Year 10 have experienced a variety of styles with the ensemble approach to 'A Picture of Dorian Gray' at the Gulbenkian, the open air Globe Touring Company with 'Romeo and Juliet' (with picnic!) and 'The Last Resort' at the Theatre Royal, Margate. This was a fascinating masked play where they were allowed on stage at the end to handle to masks and puppets and meet the cast. This week they continue their own mask work with a 'Commedia' workshop Will Wollen, the actor-manager from the Theatre Royal.

We have also benefited from Mr Spray's full involvement in the department, helping to upgrade our technical equipment and infuse the department with more physical skills, sharing his professional training with staff and students alike! He has also begun to work on the inclusion of more dance within the drama syllabus.

Our moderation days have been very successful too: The A2 group produced extracts from 'The Accrington Pals' and 'The Alchemist', both challenging plays; the AS group's devised piece used a variety of comic techniques and ensemble work to get across a serious political message in true Brechtian style. The GCSE groups also produced work of a high standard for the text based and devised moderations. We have also been very pleased with the response from Year 9 and are delighted that we can now offer drama lessons throughout the school. The junior club has also had a constructive year with Mrs O'Brien, faithfully supported by Greg Brown and Daniel Rhodes.

Finally, the school musical production team goes from strength to strength with a superb production of 'Oliver' in February; many of the leads from this will be performing in 'Jekyll and Hyde' next week at The Granville Theatre in Ramsgate. Luke Breen also took on the lead in 'Mort' by the Guild Players in Deal – directed by Bliss Wilson, a past Theatre Studies student. Many of our sixth form students will be involved in a production of 'Journey's End' next October at school and at the Theatre Royal, Margate.

Our thanks to all our students for their hard work and enthusiasm over the year.

18. House Report

Mr Wallace reports:

"The second full year of the House System has once again been a busy one. A number of competitions have taken place.

The boys' badminton competition was won by Dorman house whilst the girls was won by Knolles this year. Boys' football was closely contested this year with Tudor house emerging as the overall winners. Demonstrating that the sporting talent is spread amongst the houses Trappes had a very strong showing in the boys' rugby competition this year and won it comfortably. Trappes were also victorious in the Boys' cross country whilst the girls' competition was won by Dorman. With Hockey playing a big role within the school the interhouse competition is always keenly contested, this year the boys' competition was won by Knolles and the girls by Dorman. The girls' netball competition was also won by Knolles.

Away from the sports field there were once again a number of competitions throughout the year. Again the David Starkey Debating Competition has played an ongoing and central role within the House competition.

Dorman benefited the most as they won the debating competition this year. Dorman also gained the most points for the Manwoodian Writing Competition.

A restructuring of the merit competition this year has meant that each term has had a maximum of 300 house points available to the house with the most merits. The first term was won by Knolles whilst the second term was won by Dorman.

At the time of writing Dorman were leading the competition overall. However, we are still awaiting the results of this term's Merit Competition and the Girls Athletics competition and with just 149 points between first and second anything could happen. The final positions will be announced in the end of year assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils and staff for their continued support of this initiative and to express my hope that it continues to grow and flourish at Manwood's. I would like to thank Miss Beale, Miss Cuthbertson, Mr Acourt and Mr Stevens for their excellent leadership of their houses. I would also like to welcome Mrs Lamb as the new Head of Knolles House and Mr Grimshaw as the new Head of Trappes House and wish them luck in their new roles along with Mr Stevens who will be taking over the leadership of the House System. I am sure they will all do excellent jobs.

Once again thank you for the effort and support and good luck to all four houses in the future!"

19. Boys' Tennis Report

Mr Wallace reports:

"Unfortunately this year the tennis has suffered badly from the weather and our friendly fixtures were limited to just two. Our match against Kings Canterbury saw us receive a heavy defeat; however our team of Year Nines acquitted themselves well against a strong Year Ten team.

Our customary fixture with St Edmund's Canterbury was reduced to just one U15 fixture this year and another closely fought contest saw us win 5-4 in sets.

In the annual Walmer Tennis Competition we had a strong team which saw us win both the boys and girls competitions comfortably against opposition from Castle Community, Sandwich Tech and Walmer. These competitions also acted as a trial for the Kent School Games with 4 of the 5 Dover District representatives coming from Manwood's. Harry Urquhart, Matt Ford and Lauren Moor all acquitted themselves extremely well and will have benefited from the experience. Toby Churchill performed extremely well showing ability, skill and determination to win the Kent School Games for his age group.

The highlight of the tennis calendar as usual was the Bromley Tennis Tournament and our pupils once again participated. This year also turned out to be one of our most successful yet.

Our sole female representatives of Stephanie Roberts and Kirsty Greaves performed very well to top their group and make it to the first qualifying round, here they were unfortunate to play last year's finalists and fell at that stage.

Our Year 7 and 8 pairs failed to make the cup competition but did both qualify for the plate competition. Unfortunately they were drawn against each other in the last 16, with the year 8 pair winning to reach the quarter final where they were knocked out. The junior pairs of Harry Urquhart and Dominic Diomede (Year 7) and Matt Ford and Chris Henry (Year 8) will have gained greatly from the experience and performed very well.

Our senior boys had a very successful tournament. Andrew Symonds, Toby Churchill and Christian Chodecki were making their final appearances at Bromley and they did themselves proud. Both senior pairs reached the cup knock out stage. Christian and his partner Alex Boddy were defeated in a closely contested last 16 match in which they worked hard until the very last point. Toby and Andrew progressed

even further and reached the semi final of the competition which was a great credit to their ability and work rate.

A big thank you to everybody who has taken part in tennis this year whether it be in clubs or at lunch times. Once again we have shown that we have a high level of ability, and an even higher level of enthusiasm, for tennis within the school. I hope this tradition continues and that we improve and develop further.”

20. Boys' Cricket Report

The U12 cricket squad was full of enthusiastic and talented cricketers who looked strong from the very beginning of the season. Led by Will Thurgate, the team were particularly strong when bowling and fielding which sometimes meant the batsmen didn't get enough practice. The first match was a ten wicket victory against St Lawrence College with Jack Lines and Andrew Kirby ensuring the team cruised to victory after the bowlers shared out the wickets. Further victories came against Kent College, Chatham House, Borden Grammar and a 58 run Kent Cup semi final victory against Bexley Grammar.

The 20/20 Kent Cup Final against St. Olaves was held at Addington CC near West Malling. Despite losing the toss, the boys started magnificently, with Lines taking an early wicket. The new batsman was nearly run out for 1 but this missed opportunity proved costly. The two batsmen showed true class to take St. Olaves to 169 for 1. A brave effort in reply against a quality team got us to 100 for 9 with Thurgate scoring 37 and Kirby 20. The future looks bright for this team and maybe they will go one step further next year.

There were large expectations on the Year 8 squad, who had lost just once the previous season to the Kent Cup champions. We drew Dover Grammar again in the first round and the team produced a fantastic result to beat the champions by 6 runs. Remaining undefeated, the team cruised past St. George's Gravesend in the quarter finals by 106 runs to set up a semi final with last years beaten finalists, Skinners. Unfortunately, this game was never played and the U13 squad had to accept that their Kent Cup dream wasn't to be realised. However, to remain undefeated was impressive and bodes well for the future. Maybe we will get to exact revenge on Skinners...

The U14's did very well to reach the Kent Cup semi final, accounting for Dover Grammar, Kent College and Wilmington Grammar on the way. The bowling unit was tight all season, with many strong performances. It was the batting of two players that helped the team to their best ever season at Manwood's. Michael Jones (51 runs) and Conor Michaels (108 runs) both scored well to ensure totals the bowlers could work with. A semi final away to last year's winners, Borden Grammar, proved one game too far but the boys can be very pleased with their efforts.

The U15's also lost just once in the season. The Kent Cup 2nd round loss to Barton Court was an excellent game and one we should have won but some naïve batting cost us as we lost by 5 runs. Otherwise Ned Gleav, and in particular Captain Tom Laslett, led the side with both bat and ball to victories against Duke of York's, St. Lawrence College and Marsh Academy. Unfortunately poor commitment and a lack of availability meant the side had to withdraw from the Kent Cup Plate competition – one we should have been very capable of winning.

Poor weather in May accounted for the 2nd team games which meant there was a large first team squad for the season. After an honourable draw against Sandwich CC in the traditional first fixture of the season, the side showed gritty determination to get past Dover Grammar in the 2nd round of the Kent Cup. Led by captain Gareth Friend who scored 80 not out the team posted a challenging total. The bowling unit proved particularly effective and reliable all season with a number of boys taking wickets. A good team effort ensured a narrow 10 run victory. Harvey Grammar had reached the final three years running so the quarter final was always going to be tough, but a home draw always gave us a chance. The team set a below par target against an excellent bowling attack and we consequently wilted in the field to give Harvey a 9 wicket victory.

The all day game against Dover Grammar was frustrating as we lost the toss and spent most of the afternoon bowling against a dogged batting line up with one strong player. Our inability to bowl them out was frustrating and when the declaration came late in the day we wondered if we had enough time to get the runs. Despite losing wickets at far too regular intervals we batted very well in patches and eventually cruised over the line in a pleasing victory.

Cricket Week suffered from poor weather which accounted for two of the matches. A poor performance against Chatham House in a 20/20 game saw us well beaten and the whole squad had to react and perform far better against the two Old Manwoodian teams. The game against the Vets was closely contested after we did magnificently to bowl the Vets out for the first time in recent years – and for just 139 runs. Despite a brave effort in reply, some silly dismissals cost us and we had to hand the Alan Carpenter trophy back to the Vets for the first time in 3 years.

The U21 match went much better for the school as the opposition were kept to a very slow run rate and were finally bowled out short of 40 overs. A few late wickets in reply didn't stop the school ending the season on a winning note.

Gareth Friend, Jamie Clarke, Paul Holiday, Paul Bennett, Chris Goulden and Liam Martin all leave the school this year and we thank them for the substantial contribution they have made to school cricket in the last 7 years. Tamsin Beaumont also deserves mention as she has recently been included in the full England A squad for the summer.

Having lost just 7 games as a school all season and reaching 3 Kent Cup semi finals, all of the players can be very pleased with their achievements and can look forward to a lot more success in the future.

21. Boys' Athletics Report

Athletics stepped up a level this summer. Mr Tomlinson's vast athletic experience was well received by the students and greater numbers than usual would turn out at lunchtimes to practice, particularly in year 7. This seemed to manifest itself in competition as the year 7 boys won the Dover District title convincingly over a very strong Dover Grammar team. Harry Roberts, Jack Lines, Dominic Diomedede and Zack Cole all gained selection to represent the Dover District in the Kent School Games as a result of their successes.

This success was mirrored further up the school with the year 8 and 9 junior boys winning the South East Kent Athletics championships at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford, with the intermediate squad from years 10 and 11 coming second.

Three boys went to the Kent School Championships which were attended by Kelly Holmes. Adam Asher competed in the 200m, Chris Thomas came 6th in the 1500m and Alex Newson won the 1500m. As a result, Alex went on to represent Kent in the English Schools Championships.

22. Girls' Games Report

Tennis

Although the senior tennis season was a mere three weeks long, due to exam leave, we managed to squeeze in three fixtures, which resulted in two losses and a win against Duke of York's. The junior sides fared better winning five of their seven matches. Manwood's also won the Dover District Tennis Tournament (for years 7-9), which was held at Walmer Tennis Club. Entries into this competition from local schools have diminished in recent years, which is a great pity. The success of the squad was helped greatly by the talents of Stephanie Roberts, Kirsty Greaves, Natasha Roberts and Jessica Greaves.

Rounders

The 2008 rounders' season has been a very successful one for all four teams. The U15 team, captained by Lily Summers, beat all of their opponents by impressive margins demonstrating excellent batting skills. The fielding triangle of Lily Summers (bowler), Dolores Brown (backstop) and Megan Davies (1st post) were a force to be reckoned with, putting out many who missed the ball. The team were favourites to win the District Tournament but were disappointed when the event was cancelled due to several teams pulling out on the day.

The U14 team also finished the season unbeaten, the highlight of which was their win, by 1 rounder, over a very competent St Lawrence side. Their run of good play culminated at the District tournament where captain Sophie Carter led the team to victory beating six other schools to win the trophy.

Congratulations also to the U13 team who notched up four wins against Sandwich, Astor, Duke of York's and Walmer. Their only defeat came in the match against St Lawrence, where they lost by only 1 rounder. Spirits were raised, however, when they lifted the trophy at the District Tournament at the end of the season.

The U12 team also won four of their five matches. They started the season well beating Sandwich, St Lawrence and DGGS quite convincingly, but then the hitting power of the Duke of York's team proved too strong and they suffered their first defeat. Despite some good play from Rachael Azulay and her team they only managed 3rd place in the District Tournament. Their season finished on a high after a concerted team effort to beat Walmer by 15 ½ to 12.

Athletics

Girls' athletics at Manwood's is going from strength to strength. It seemed a tall order to beat last year's achievements but the team excelled themselves by winning every match this season. The trophy cabinet is groaning under the weight of the silverware they won. The season kicked off with the S E Kent championships at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. The intermediate team, led by Paige Giboin, won 7 out of 10 events including the 4 x100m relay in a time of 58.69 secs. Paige achieved a personal best in her event by running 12.95 secs in the 100m; a full 2 seconds faster than anyone else. The Junior squad also rose to the challenge by winning the 200m (Laura Geary), 800m (Grace Thomas), 1500m (Alex Clay), HJ (Kara Squire) and the 4 x100m relay. As a result of this five athletes were selected to compete in the County Championships.

The year 7 Cup was the next match in the calendar and the team did not disappoint. Good all-round performances ensured Manwood's victory and some bright new talent was spotted. Imogen Stocks is an exciting new prospect and someone to watch closely. Imogen (100m), Harriet Jackson (LJ), Alex Clay (1500m), Isabella Drake (800m), Hannah Sykes (HJ) and Jessica Henry (Jav) were all selected to represent the District in the Kent School Games.

The final match was the Powell Trophy at the Julie Rose Stadium. Each school is allowed 30 entries across two age groups. The year 10 athletes were unable to compete because of a clash with a GCSE Science exam so we went with a relatively young squad. Once again they rose to the challenge and produced some outstanding performances to win the cup. Many congratulations to all the girls who competed this season, it is very rewarding when all their hard work pays off!

23. Kent School Games Report

This summer saw the first ever Kent School Games involving 23 sports and 30,000 students from over 450 schools in the county. The students were split into 13 separate school sport partnerships, meaning we were part of the Dover partnership.

We had 86 students in years 7-10 involved in the Games across 9 different sports and we made a significant contribution to Dover's success in the Games. The following are just highlights and all of our

students should be proud of their achievements and the experience gained from such a large county wide event.

Our year 9 and 10 basketball team qualified for the finals after being the best side in the Dover area during the regular season. Unfortunately, an unexpected defeat in the preliminary round to Hereson from Thanet meant the boys missed out on the Finals Day.

The hockey squads (boys and girls) each contained one student from another school, but otherwise our hockey traditions proved we have a very strong group of players. The year 7&8 girls team actually won their group in the morning and went on to win the final 2-1 to get the gold medal.

Individually, we achieved a lot of success too. Neal Makwana lost in the final of the badminton year 9&10 boys singles to gain the overall silver medal and Toby Churchill went one better in the tennis year 9&10 boys singles winning gold. Tom Harman tasted success in table tennis being one half of the pair who won silver in the year 7&8 tournament.

Our year 7 students have proved to be particularly talented in athletics and a large number represented Dover on Finals Day. There were some excellent performances too, notable highlights being the gold medals of Hannah Sykes (High Jump) and Harry Roberts (Long Jump) and Alex Clay's bronze in the 1500m.

In year 9 Alex Newson won the 1500m in the prestigious Kent Athletics Championships, achieving a PB and qualifying for the English Schools Championships in Gateshead.

The Games proved to be a resounding success and we can be very proud of our contribution. The event will be run every two years and we look forward to achieving more medals in 2010.

24. Individual Achievements

Tom Russell (Year 11) is training to swim the English Channel solo in July 2009. As part of his preparation he swims regularly in the sea and by the end of this season he hopes to achieve the Channel qualifying swim of 6 hours continuous swimming in the sea. In September he will take part in a prestigious race with the British Long Distance Swimming Association when he will swim the 10.5 mile length of Windermere.

Alex Newson (Year 9) won the 1500 metres Junior Boys Event at the Kent Schools Games in a time that ranked him 11th fastest in the UK. This performance earned him selection in the Kent Schools Team for the English Schools Athletic Championships held in Gateshead in July.

Hannah Moon (Year 12), after 4 days of intensive trials, has been selected for the Great Britain Rowing Team and will be competing at the European Junior Championships this summer.

In spite of the lengthy nature of this newsletter, it is not an exhaustive account of everything of note that has gone on at Manwood's this term. I apologise to those whose worthy activities failed to get a mention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their hard work over the term, and wish everyone a very happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

C R L Morgan
Headteacher