

Bournemouth School

Newsletter – December 2004

From the Headmaster

As we reach the end of the longest term of the year, living an almost troglodyte existence by coming to school in the dark and (for many of us at least) leaving in the dark, it is helpful to look back at what we have achieved and to look forward to the challenges of the coming year.

Last summer's examination results were good, but we all believe that many of the boys can do even better. It is for this reason that we introduced our 'target-setting' scheme last year. All of the boys in the school are bright and the vast majority of them should be gaining top grades in all of their subjects. Unfortunately, some seem to believe that 'being bright' is enough – doing serious work would simply be wasted effort! Yet year after year I see the look of disappointment on the faces of pupils at the end of Year 11, L6 and U6 as they collect their results. Too often they say to me that they 'knew I should have worked harder'. Some pupils who are not at the very top of their classes seem to persuade themselves that they 'can't do' particular subjects. Clearly, this is nonsense in all but a very small number of cases. What they usually mean is that they can't master a subject on the amount of effort that they are prepared to put in.

The targets that the teachers set – in consultation with the boys – are based on whole range of data that we hold on each boy, including a number of nationally-standardised predictive tests. The targets should be challenging but achievable and should help the boys to achieve the standards that we believe they are capable of at KS3, GCSE and A-level.

Looking forward into the New Year, the greatest challenge for the governing body will be the building of the new – and long overdue – mathematics teaching block. Enclosed with your son's report you should find a leaflet which gives information about our plans and which outlines ways in which you can help us to provide the boys with the teaching facilities that they deserve. We have enough money to be able to start the project, but we need support from every family associated with the school if we are to complete it. I would urge you all to think very carefully about the help that you can give, whether through direct financial assistance or in some other way. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to complete the project within a year of its start in May.

Finally, may I wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

Carol Service

Please join us for the annual Carol Service, to be held at St Francis Church on Thursday 16 December at 7.30 p.m.. This event is always an excellent way to mark the end of term and to get into the true spirit of Christmas.

Traffic / Safety

A few weeks ago pupils were involved in two separate road accidents on East Way. Fortunately, none of those involved were seriously injured, but the consequences could have been fatal. I have held talks with the headteachers of Queen's Park First and Primary schools, together with a senior officer from the highways department. We discussed a range of measures which might be taken to try to protect the safety of the children using East Way, including the possible imposition of a reduced speed limit and an even greater limitation on parking outside the schools. No decisions have yet been taken and I would welcome any observations that parents may have about the problems that we face.

It is, perhaps, worth stressing that in both of the accidents mentioned above, the pupils involved were not without blame. I would be grateful if parents would stress to their sons the importance of obeying the basic rules of the road.

Achievements

Football

The 1st XI reached the last 64 teams in the National Cup, before going out 5-4 on penalties to Charters School, Ascot. This was an excellent achievement. Although the team draws mainly from the 6th Form, Joe Dibben (11E) is a regular member. Joe also plays for Dorset U-16s.

Years 7 and 9 are still in the County Cup, with all the teams looking forward to the football term, starting in January.

Rugby

The 1st XV lost in the 2nd round of the Daily Mail Cup and were beaten in the semi-finals of the Bournemouth Floodlit Cup. The Year 10's did extremely well by reaching the fourth round of the Plate Competition. In Years 7, 8 and 9, the boys have committed themselves superbly this season and have gained some excellent results.

Basketball

Basketball practice is now a regular feature of lunchtimes and the boys will be playing matches against other schools next term.

Sailing

Robbie Urwin (7D) has gained selection into the National Intermediate UK Optimist Training Squad. This is a fantastic achievement as only the top 64 sailors from the whole of Great Britain are selected to train with the squad. Selection trials in the Spring will be held for the World, European and French Championships.

Swimming

Congratulations go to Harvey Yules (L6T), John Adye (L6N), Chris James (L6N) and Jason Clarke (L6E), who competed in the recent Dorset Schools Swimming Gala, racing against the best schools in the county. The team won the freestyle relay and were edged to 3rd place in a very close medley relay. These two results put the team in 1st place overall.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Department has continued its major involvement in Maths Challenges and Olympiads with a visit by the VIth Form to the Presentation and Lecture for the United Kingdom team members during September at The Royal Society in London.

Senior Maths Challenge

Lech Swirski (L6T)	109	Best in School
Mark Gilbert (10T)	92	
Stephen Ash (9T)	91	
Neil Cartwright (U6N)	91	
Robert Seal (U6S)	90	
Alex Clarke (10E)	89	
Jack Cutler (U6S)	85	
Richard Miller (U6S)	82	

There were over 60,000 entries this year across the Nation and the top 5% (approx) are awarded Gold: congratulations to all the above on their achievement. Particularly notable are the scores of Lech Swirski, gaining the highest ever in School.

Most of the Gold winners have competed in the follow-up event, the British Maths Olympiad, the results for which are awaited.

English Speaking Union

Congratulations to Philip Pyke (U6S) and David Charwood (L6N) who represented the school at the recent E. Dorset round of the national competition. The team produced lively and agile speeches of the highest quality, coming second in a very competitive contest. As a result of this success they move through to the next stage of the competition.

The team was ably supported by Jonathan Sims (11E) and Mark Gilbert(10S) who volunteered to take part at the last minute when another school pulled out of the competition. Though they were by far the youngest competitors, they held their own very comfortably in a tough field.

Stars

These stars were gained at the end of last term, but details were received too late for inclusion in the summer Newsletter.

150		300	
Andrew Jay	7N	Brian Gillingham	8S
Sam Leonard	7N	Justin Gruss	8S
		David Schuster	8S

Music

House Music Competition

In only two years we seem to have established a new Bournemouth School tradition. The second house music competition attracted a very strong list of entrants from every house. After the heats, which revealed the enormous range of talent available within the school, only 15 points separated the houses. The Final was held on a Thursday evening and the houses were entirely responsible for organising their own performances. Each house was restricted to two soloists (who could be accompanied) and one ensemble. The final was judged by Miss Budd (ex-Bournemouth School and now Head of Music at BSG), to whom our thanks go. After a superb concert, Darwin came out as this year's winners, only 7 marks ahead of Newton.

Concert

The first concert of the school year attracted nearly 100 performers and an audience of over 200. The concert included a Year 7 choir of 30 boys, a Chamber orchestra that played part of Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 and Worlock's Capriol Suite, the Joint Orchestra played two movements of Haydn's Military Symphony, while the concert finished with a set from the Big Band, showing off their newly acquired pair of congas.

The big band was asked to play for the turning on of the Christmas Lights in the Town Square on Sunday 21 November and a choir sang carols at a local nursing home on 10 December

Instrumental lessons

We have extended the range of instrumental lessons on offer by including both oboe and voice.

Library

The number of class bookings has increased and works alongside the provision of a quiet study area and individual research support for the 6th Form. The amount of research done on behalf of teaching staff has also increased.

The Librarians continue to work on encouraging reading for pleasure and have noted not only an increase in the fiction issues but also an improvement in the quality of the books read by the boys. Many of the pupils are showing a genuine enthusiasm for reading and are sharing this with their peer groups. A specific example is in the continuing success of the Carnegie Reading Group. The attendance has continued to be high despite less interest from Bishop of Winchester pupils. World Book Day in March was celebrated by a visit from local author of teenage fiction, A J Butcher. He gave a very interesting talk to over thirty boys on writing as a career and his own Spy High novels. The group took part in the Carnegie Shadowing project which all agreed had expanded their choice of books and resulted in some very lively discussion on the respective merits of the nominated books. The group are already discussing the books they hope will be nominated for the 2005 Award.

National Poetry Day was celebrated in October by displaying 100 poems throughout the school, many of which were chosen by the pupils. The Reading Group also requested a special meeting in order to share their favourite poems.

Biology

Alex Lawrence (U6D), Jack Cutler (U6S) and Neil Cartwright (U6N) all completed biology summer work placements with CEH Dorset. The projects that were produced from these placements have been entered in the British Association's Crest Science Fair, which is 'an exhibition of outstanding research projects by young people'.

Languages

For the first time, 33 students from Y10 and L6 entered the WJEC Japanese certificate, with a 100% pass rate. 20 of the candidates obtained a distinction. Japanese is becoming increasingly popular amongst the students, and our thanks go to our Japanese teacher Mrs Akemi Lose.

Personal Belongings

The school cannot assume any responsibility for boys' personal possessions. Boys are reminded regularly not to bring valuable items to school and to use their lockers to protect their possessions. All personal possessions should be marked with the owner's name.

If boys have to take valuable items to the sports hall it is recommended that they take with them a combination padlock to secure their possessions in the lockers provided. Suitable locks can be purchased from the sports hall reception desk.

Governors' Report and Meeting

The governing body was pleased to meet with around 30 parents at their recent annual meeting. A number of issues were raised by those present, including examination results, the use of the canteen area and behaviour on buses.

Penn Hill Bus

The Penn Hill Bus is up and running, with stops along the route from Poole town centre via Penn Hill. The pass for the Spring term costs £125. There are a few seats left, so if you might be interested, please contact Mrs. Jan Richardson on 709976.

STAFFING

We were pleased to welcome the following new members of the teaching staff at the start of the term:

Mrs E Teenan	English
Mr N Chlubek	English
Miss C Darwin	Languages
Miss E Gillett	R.S.
Mr J Connor	Chemistry/Science
Mr J Tenant	Biology/Science
Dr E Durant	Chemistry
Mr A Pardy	Physical Education

The following new support staff have joined us:

Miss J Brown	Art Technician
Mrs S Carter	Office Administrator
Mrs B Jousiffe	Science Technician

Three language assistants have recently joined us for the year:

Mr Jan Buddensiek	(German)
Ms Dorothee Dejardin	(French)
Mr Leyre Perez-Quiroz	(Spanish)

Parents' Association

The first fund raising event of the year was the ever popular family quiz and fish and chip supper held in October 2004. This attracted a record number of teams, some of whom were more competitive than others! This event also included the "£1 in a bucket" draw, and as usual an enormous amount of money was raised for our funds.

These funds have already been put to good use by contributing towards benches for the junior playground, and water dispensers in the school, thereby benefiting a large number of our boys.

The bulk of our funds, however, together with the proceeds of future events, are to be used as a contribution towards the new maths block that you should by now all have heard about. We would welcome any ideas for raising the money needed to complete this project, and also any additional helpers for our fund raising events.

The monthly lottery continues to be a good source of income for the PA as well as the recipients of the prizes! Recent winners are as follows:

August 2004

£108.50 drawn at New Parents' Cheese and Wine
Tricia Stammers, Mrs A Clegg, Roya Roushanbakhti

September 2004

£106.00 drawn by Mary Brackley
Mr PJ Underwood, Mr and Mrs Ardley, Mrs R Barrett

October 2004 £108.00

Dr & Mrs Tudor Smith drawn by Josh Thomas 9N
Mr & Mrs Ackroyd drawn by Luke Johnson 8S
Mr & Mrs OLeary drawn by Ben Clayton 8S

November 2004 £108.50

Mrs C Olding drawn by Michael Cook L6N
Mr & Mrs Smolaga drawn by Andrew Menage L6N
Mr JP Gardner drawn by Simon Laws L6N

Arrangements for the End of Term

Friday 17th December 2004

School finishes 12.10

No buses will run in the afternoon
except the East Dorset (Verwood) Bus at 12.15 p.m.
and the Penn Hill Bus at 12.30 p.m.

Canteen will only be open until mid-morning break.

Packed lunches

will be available for boys entitled to free school meals.

End of Term Detention

12.20 – 15.20

Start of Term Arrangements

Tuesday 4th January 2005

Timetable is Week 1

Start of School 8.20 a.m.

School buses

will run as normal in the morning and afternoon.

Bournemouth School Scouts

The highlight of our summer was, of course, our Icelandic Expedition. Taking our summer camp to Iceland was quite an adventure in itself but that did little to deter Mr Andrew Sherriff (Explorer Scoutleader) and Mr Jeremy Sullivan (Assistant Scoutleader), aided and abetted by Mr David Young (Assistant Scoutleader), from taking up the challenge of getting twenty Scouts (and the Ancient Scoutleader) to Iceland and back, with equipment, in safety. In fact the only item which went astray was Sam Emberson's Sea Scout Cap which he generously donated to an Icelandic coach firm's lost property department on the last day

After leaving the school minibuses looking rather lonely in a vast coach park at Stansted we set off by Iceland Express towards the frozen north. Those Scouts who have been brought up in the knowledge that Real England ends just north of the Thames looked decidedly apprehensive when the captain soon announced that Glasgow was visible three or four miles below and the UK was left behind a few minutes later.

It rained heavily when we left Keflavik airport but the Icelanders assured us that it was most unusual weather. Our first camp was set up in the grounds of a Scout youth hostel at Hafnarfjordur and we remained there for five days whilst playing at being tourists and visiting all the sights. After a diet of waterfalls, geysers and Gifte Shoppes we spent an interesting morning whale watching from an elderly fishing boat in the North Atlantic. Not many whales but plenty of dolphins showing off. Graham Lewis generously presented his mini-SuperScout woggle to the fishes whilst Lewis Wedgwood lost his somewhere in Keflavik airport. The design has since been modified.

The entire population of Iceland is about the same as that of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch and Scouting seems to be very popular. Every day we met ex-Scout coach drivers, boat skippers, shop assistants - and a travel agent from Broadstone! We learnt the Icelandic Scouts' handshake from a gigantic Viking which seemed to have an element of arm wrestling built in. We tried to pronounce Icelandic place names which usually led to more local mirth and an assurance that Icelanders had the same difficulty. English is officially the second language and the bookshops seemed entirely stocked with schoolbooks in English. We were repeatedly told that English meant real English not American - apparently our colonial cousins are not too popular!

We then moved up into the hills to the Icelandic Scouts' sprawling camp site and training centre at Ulfljotsvatn where the 'most unusual' downpour added a frisky gale to its repertoire. Despite this Jeremy and Andrew led two expeditions up into the mountains which really tested the Scouts and their skills. During the first of these the wind increased greatly back at the base camps and both our large sleeping tents collapsed in a tangle of bent lightweight poles. The Scouts left at the base camp did a fantastic rescue job in getting all the kit out of the wreckage and into one of the small site huts. We had an interesting variation on an auction sale when the hiking party returned and odd socks etc., had to be reunited with their owners.

Once again the Icelandic Scouts blamed it all on the 'most unusual weather' and said 'no problem' before moving us into luxury accommodation with four-bunk cabins and a vast dining room made from Nisson huts left behind by the British Army after the war. The camp programme continued with visits to geothermal swimming pools and to the pumping station which sends geothermally heated water 70kms to warm Reykjavik with only a 2.8 degrees centigrade loss over the whole length. We saw the crack in the wall which dramatically shows that the American and European plates really are moving 2cms apart each year. We climbed into the terrifying subterranean cavern where the waters from four hydro-electric generators roared forth on their way back into the river.

And when it was time to go home, we got up at 3.00am in temperatures around 7 degrees Centigrade and reached Bournemouth twelve hours later with the 'most unusual weather' running at 27 degrees!

We have had a pleasing number of new members this term - and more seem to arrive each week. There is a new spirit of enthusiasm in the Troop and we were able to enter two teams in the District Night Activity and three in the Town Cooking Competition. The Explorer Scouts raised two teams in the annual Beckwith Banner Competition; one of which came third overall in a fierce competition with much older Scouts and gained a trophy for showing the best Scouting Skills.

Field Day took us out into the New Forest for an Incident hike arranged by the Explorer Scouts. We must thank Mrs Platt and Mr Woodley for riding shotgun on the trains yet again as well as manning up bases with little warning.

Congratulations to George Randell who has completed the Gold Chief Scout's Award.

At the time of writing our Royal Navy Recognition Inspection is less than a week away. We will be meeting the new Staff Officer, Sea Scouts, Lt.Cdr John Haynes RN on Tuesday 14th December.

J. Preston.
Scoutleader