

# Handsworth Grammar School Newsletter



## May 2006

### A Word from the Headteacher:

Our exam students are now on study leave and we wish them all the very best. The Year 13 Prefects and Supervisors did a tremendous job and for this exam period we look to Year 10 monitors to help us - I am sure they will undertake their duties well.

The recent non-uniform day raised £872.90 for Homestart - thank you for helping us to support them.

**R J Shephard**

### HGS Young Musician of the Year

The second running of this event culminated in the Finalists' Concert held in the School Hall on May 8. The audience was treated to a display of musicianship representing a remarkable depth and variety of talent. Fourteen boys gave performances ranging from the classical strings, woodwind and brass, plus piano and guitar, through to a rock band, electric guitar and beatbox. Our young musicians are very fortunate to have Mr Czepiel, our piano tutor, to provide accompaniments. Mrs Ackers and Mr Culshaw, our cello and brass tutors, were joined on the judging panel by Mrs Benson, Head of Music at Handsworth Wood Girls' School. While they deliberated, the audience enjoyed the outstanding violin playing of the HGS Young Musician of 2005, David Kayente, followed by a surprise item on the piano from Mr Jones, Head of Science! There are no losers on an evening like this and the promising quality of the younger musicians, including two Year 7 boys, was noted. Congratulations to all our finalists and in particular to our prize-winners (both Year 11 GCSE Music students) ~

'HGS Most Promising Young Musician 2006' Kieran Cameron, clarinet

'HGS Young Musician 2006' Guy Jones, electric guitar.

### Summer Soiree

Following the most enjoyable evening of music, strawberries and cream held in the Quad last summer, we are delighted to announce that this year's event will take place on Wednesday, July 12. Tickets will be on sale in June.

**M Bernamont**

### Our Sixth Form Needs You!

I am looking for parents who are willing to act as advisers to a group of about 8 students as part of our Sixth Form "Challenge Of Management" conference. This is a one day event at Newman College in which our Year 12 students, together with those from St Paul's Girls School, learn about the world of business through a series of team exercises. These range from practical tasks such as designing, building and selling a product in a competitive market, to more theoretical exercises such as a computer based business simulation. If you are interested and able to devote a day (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July) to the conference either contact me at School or email me at [woodcockja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:woodcockja@yahoo.co.uk).

**J.Woodcock**

### UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

In March 2006, over 50 boys in Years 9 and 10 were entered for the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. Over 30 of these managed to achieve a certificate for their efforts, but a special mention ought to go to Charlie Kelly and Bavnesh Sond of Year 10 for achieving the highest results in the School and therefore gold certificates. Well done to all the students that entered.

**A K Campbell**

### RE web notes:

Year 10 student revision notes for RE, along with a few other things, can be found at:

[www.rcollins.com](http://www.rcollins.com)

**R Collins**

## 'Gifted and Talented' initiative

The National Academy of Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) requests that students who have submitted application forms remain patient; they have a considerable backlog of applications to process! I am hoping that students will receive information soon after the half term break.

Congratulations to the following students who received prestigious awards (and £20 vouchers) at Thinktank, Millennium Point, on Monday 15 May 2006. The North West Collegiate of local schools acknowledges their excellent progress and achievements in the areas of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

Mathematics: **F Khattak, A Al-Muslah, B Campbell and A Sohal**

Science: **N Rashid, M Sahota, A Rajgor and D Smyth**

Technology: **A Sehdeva, R Sandhu, A Nicholson and W Dawson**

**P Jones**

## Science Faculty Activities

As a reward for the hard work of Year 9 students (for the most part) in preparation for their Science SATs, including many of them spending a day in school during the Easter holidays for revision, they will all have a day out on Friday 16 June. Groups will visit either the 'Explore' Centre at Bristol, Millennium Point or the City Learning Centre at Broadway School. Letters will be issued soon.

Year 12 Biology (and Geography) students are getting geared up for their residential week's field-work at Stansfeld, Oxford, taking place in late June.

On Wednesday 5 July a number of Year 10 students will be attending the Institute of Physics' 2006 Schools' Lecture entitled 'Gravity, Gas and Stardust'. **Mr Hubbard** will be circulating information soon after the half term break.

**P Jones**

## Work Experience is Coming!

Our current Year 10 students are now actively seeking placements for the Work Experience fortnight from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006. With the help of their parents, and the advice and encouragement of the School, they will be contacting prospective employers in person, by phone or by letter to make sure that they obtain a placement which will be successful, productive and, I hope, enjoyable.

**Calling all Parents!** Is your company able to offer a worthwhile placement to one of our students for either one or preferably two weeks? If so, or if you want further information, please contact me via the School or by e-mail to [glynbowen@lycos.co.uk](mailto:glynbowen@lycos.co.uk). As you know, our students can demonstrate a lot of enthusiasm, adapt well to new situations, and are a credit to their parents. By making their own choices, they are properly motivated and endeavour to choose placements which will help in developing their career plan.

**G.M.Bowen**

## Yr 11 Alton Towers Trip – 25 March

By 07:45 on Saturday morning, a dozen or so excited Year 11 students arrived at HGS and boarded a coach for our destination. Not many of us had eaten breakfast, so we ate sweets on the coach journey. As we arrived and got off the coach, still buzzing with the substantial sugar intake, Mr Bernamont gave a quick briefing. Then we were free to go!

We spilt up into about three different groups and wandered off to find the four rides that **had** to be ridden: Rita, Oblivion, Air and Nemesis. It wasn't long before we crossed paths with everyone in our group from School, including a few sixth formers we had bumped into unexpectedly.

By 5 o' clock it had started to rain heavily. All three of us were exhausted and headed towards the meeting point for the trip back to School. Thanks to Mr Bernamont, Mr Azam and of course the coach driver for an awesome day out.

**Tomas Katafiasz**

**Congratulations** to Kulwinder Gill, the mother of two of our boys, who was elected unopposed as Parent Governor last term.

**E Lear, Chairman of the Governing Body**

## **Another Match of the Year – Staff v 1st XI**

Brimming with confidence after their win over the 2nd XI, the staff side secured an historic ‘double’ by beating the 1st XI 3 goals to 2, the last victory being in 1992/3.

The staff stunned the 1st XI when Down, guesting for the Staff, scored in the first minute. Alarm spread amongst the 1st XI when Maw, enjoying his 28th consecutive 1st XI encounter, latched on to a 40 yard pass from Griffiths and gave the staff a 2-0 lead.

The 1st XI were stung into action with Moloney (M), Glynn, Holland and Caddle pushing hard in midfield. With Brown, Burke and Tanimowo organising the defence in front of stalwart goalkeeper Campbell (J), the 1st XI found more rhythm. Salmon settled the 1st XI’s nerve with a good opportunist goal. With Cheung, Moloney (C) and Mehmi taking the initiative, the Staff were put under pressure. Enver was also using his guile to lead the line.

The staff regrouped at half time and ‘talked a good game’, but shortly after the interval, Salmon poached the equaliser and the outcome looked ominous.

As it was, Herculean defending from Campbell (A), Griffiths, Westwood (another guest player), Yusef and Bird, meant that the staff weathered the storm. The lively McCarron in midfield together with Campbell (S), making a nostalgic return after a lengthy injury, were able to prompt incisive counter attacks thanks to the immaculate marking by ‘Bite your legs’ Nichols, whose tackling was reminiscent of a different era. Fisher was beginning to upset the 1st XI back four and following a pinpoint hoof from Campbell (A), Maw nipped in to caress the ball over the keeper to cause widespread bewilderment. Despite some last minute close shaves, with Dhahan’s safe pair of hands, the Staff had done the impossible.

On paper the result was clear-cut (the Staff had no chance) but the game was played on grass! The 1st XI players deserve the highest credit for the spirit in which they approach the game (rotating the squad to give everyone a game and allowing the staff to field ‘guest’ players) and also for the way in which they accepted the post match banter from staff.

**Impartial Staff Correspondent**

## **CP Birmingham Summit: Friday, March 10**

This event, held at the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston, brought together school co-ordinators, arts providers and students with national and regional CP leaders. The involvement of the Youth Panel was highly significant on a day spent focusing on the future direction of Creative Partnerships. Our two representatives, Shaun Broomes and Daniel Evans (Year 10), made valuable contributions to the discussion sessions. Daniel also spoke in full conference, providing a fine model of the self-assured and committed young people who are benefiting from the creative approach.

**Copies of the newsletter produced by the CP Youth Panel are available from HGS Reception and Library.**

## **“Myigrations” Project On The Road**

On Wednesday, March 1 our Year 7 boys were entertained and inspired by Katrice Horsley in a workshop session that explored different ways of collecting and sharing evidence of our cultural roots. Ms Horsley is one of the country’s leading storytelling artist/educators. Since then our students have embarked on the first of many stages that will take us from the stories, recipes, games, songs, etc. presented by Year 7 through to a final exhibition and performance day at The Drum in June.

**M Bernamont**

## **Citizenship**

Natwest bank are back in School undertaking some work with some year 7 & 8 groups. They have been talking about what banks are for and how do you open an account. The groups found the work interesting and Natwest commented upon how good the groups are. They are also going to be working with the year 9 groups. The topic in Citizenship is moving onto politics, covering themes such as what political parties are there, how does the local council work and how are leaders chosen to represent the people.

**D Griffiths**

## Diary dates:

29 May - 2 June	Half Term	19 July	Challenge of Management
12 June	Schools Exams Week starts	21 July	Last Day of term
16 June	Year 9 trips	17 Aug	AS and A2 results day
19-23 June	Biology & Geography Fieldtrip	24 Aug	GCSE results day
26-30 June	Biology Fieldtrip	4 Sept	Term starts - staff only
5 July	New Intake Day	5 Sept	Year 7 and 6th form only
	Uniform Sale	6 Sept	All students in School
7 July	HGS Reunion	24-28 Oct	Half term

## Physical Education Report

The 6-a- side U15 **Indoor Cricket** team went to the Warwickshire Finals. They beat Wheelers Lane, Kineton and Broadway to qualify for the Final where they beat Park View comfortably by 5 wickets to become **WARWICKSHIRE U15 CHAMPIONS**. The squad comprised of Pritpal Grewal, Kishan Mehta, Edward Mott, Harvinder Malhi, Amarkumar Rajgor, Ajay Gill and was captained by Anuop Bassi.

Outdoor **cricket** trials and practices have started in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 with all teams entered into Leagues and Cups with many fixtures already organised. Year 9 easily beat Moseley in the Lords Taverners Trophy.

In the Ladywood and Perry Barr Athletics Championship Peter Whitehouse continued his success in the 800m and has qualified for the North Birmingham Championship. Leon McDonald came third in the 100m as did Oliver Sawyers in the 200m. Guest runners pushed these two individuals into third place and therefore stopped them from qualifying into the next round.

Nathaniel Martin and Adam Brown achieved the Personal Survival level 2 seal award which is a good achievement.

The **Fantasy football** season has finished with Mr. Robinson keeping top place and is the overall winner. Taiyub Shafieq snatched 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the final week and Harpreet Mander claiming 3<sup>rd</sup>. The F.A. Cup winner is Shohib Tariq.

The Primary **Sports Partnership** is helping to develop Year 3 Orienteering at Nelson and then going on to help with Athletics and Striking and Fielding at St. John's after half term. We are also looking to organise Short Tennis and Athletics Festivals.

The staff also continued their unbeaten football record with a 4-1 win over Aston Manor. It was one sided with only the one chance for Aston Manor which they converted. After that it was attack after attack with Mr Fisher scoring a hat-trick after Mr A Campbell had equalised.

Several of our boys play for the Old Boys U16 Water Polo team who have been very successful recently - well done.

**D Griffiths**

## Parent drop-in sessions with your School Nurse Team

Come along and meet the team on the following dates:

Thursday 8 June	2006 -	Meet the team	Topic: Head lice and how to treat them
Thursday 22 June	2006 -		Topic: Healthy eating
Thursday 6 July	2006 -		Topic: Health services and how to access them
Thursday 20 July	2006 -		Topic: Evaluation and future topics

## Sessions held at:

Room 5  
Ladywood Health and Community Centre  
St Vincent Street West