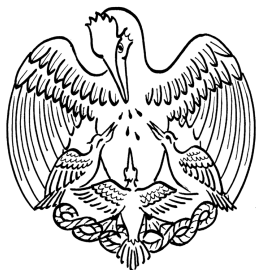


SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

6 January 2009

Dates for your diary

GCSE Science Modules	12 January	GCSE Science Modules	21 January
GCSE H & S Care Module	12 January	Yr 11 Parents' Evening	22 January
Yr 9 SAT Mock Examinations	13 - 15 January	GCSE Science Modules	23 January
GCSE Science Modules	15 January	GCSE Science Modules	27 January
GCSE Science Modules	19 January	GCSE H & S Care Module	27 January
Yr 10 Work Experience Parents' Eve	20 January	Yrs 9 & 10 Chinese Away Day	28 January

Dear Parent

Happy New Year! I trust you were able to enjoy some time with family and friends over a no doubt hectic Christmas break and that you steered clear of the flu bug that struck a lot of us down the moment the school doors shut for the holidays.

I made it through to Boxing Day before succumbing and finally taking to my sick-bed. So stunned was my family that they started to share out my Christmas presents believing that death must be imminent. I would like to think that they are quite pleased that I recovered and am now back in harness and ready for the excitements of the new term.

Retrospective

But before we move on, it's important to look back at a very splendid end to last term.

We believe that Christmas is an opportunity for us all to celebrate as a school community. We did this in a vastly eclectic range of ways.

Prize-giving

We celebrated the achievements of our Year 12 pupils at West Road Concert Hall on 10 December. A list of the prize-winners is attached to this newsletter. It was wonderful to see our former pupils and their parents again and to hear of their successes in their new colleges.

The evening was not without its excitements. We had booked Dr Alison Mowbray, Olympic silver medallist and Cambridge PhD, to present the prizes and to give the address. She joined Mrs Anderson – who at that time was over eight months pregnant and feeling that she might actually give birth on the

evening – and me on the platform, where we stood for about 40 minutes awarding prizes and certificates.

I was rather disconcerted when Dr Mowbray turned to me – bending down from her 6' 2" to my 5' 3" to say, 'I think I'm going to faint.' She then wobbled off the platform to disappear behind the scenes, while I gave some thought to the content of the address I might have to give. Since I haven't yet won an Olympic medal, I was hoping that I could entertain the audience with tales of last year's holiday, perhaps. However, Dr Mowbray showed the spirit of a true Olympian and made her way back on to the platform just in time to save us all from a riveting overview of the Cannie travels. Her account of her silver medal win in rowing was absolutely inspirational; she

held the audience spellbound – and stayed upright to the end.

Mrs Anderson, too, held on until January 6th. We are delighted to welcome her little son to the extended SVC family. Mrs Anderson is under strict instructions to bring him in to school as soon as possible. It'll probably be quieter for him ...

Year 7 pantomime

We hesitate to call the entertainment we offered Year 7 by such a grandiose title, but it was a version of Cinderella, complete with Ugly Sisters (Mr Tanner and Mr Osborn), a dashing Prince (Mr Stavrou) and, of course, Cinders herself (Miss Levison). The Prince was gutted to lose the girl to the baker (Mr Culpin) who won her heart in the end, but then seniority must count for something.

Mr Mastin masterminded the event with his usual meticulous attention to detail and drove the cast hard, insisting that they had to rehearse at least once. Year 7 seemed to be very taken with the performance despite its lack of polish in parts, but then it was Christmas.

This year, the Christmas readings and poems were prepared and presented by our Year 11 pupils who also played for carol-singing. They provided wonderful rôle models for their younger peers and entertained them with warmth and style.

Great St Mary's Carol Service

This is the evening when Christmas really starts. We were delighted this year to have Canon Roger Royle as our officiating vicar. He even gave us a mention on the Terry Wogan show – not that we

heard it, of course, but some of you TOGS were good enough to let us know.

Each year we believe that the performance of our young people cannot be bettered; each year it is. This year's was superlative. From the Madrigal Singers, to the Chamber Choir, to the Junior Choir; from the Recorder Group to the Brass Band the quality of the music was wonderful. All those of us in the congregation were very moved and very proud to be associated with such excellence

It is always invidious to single out individuals but two of our soloists deserve special mention: Sarah Wright's singing of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' was ineffably sweet; Ella Gough's rendering of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' was absolutely superb and moved many of the congregation to tears.

Without the hard work, talent and inspiration of Mrs Macleod and Miss Haworth our young people would never achieve such excellence. We were delighted that Canon Roger Royle endorsed Mrs Macleod's relationship with her pupils, having watched and admired her wonderful rapport with them from the front pew. He was less pleased that she was 'Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year', urging all of us to ignore that station and tune in to 88 – 91 FM, but his admiration and praise of Mrs Macleod were both deserved and heartfelt.

Staff revue

This event is always a highlight of the end of the Christmas term for Years 10 and 11 as their peers and staff join forces to entertain us all. This year's revue was fantastic; the calibre

of the acts was uniformly high. We started with a rousing rendition of 'Honky-Tonk Woman' from the Elastic Band – sorry Matthew (Holt, who really didn't want to give the band such a stretching name; he was outvoted by his co-players, Tom Byers, Joe McGrain and Li Xie – joined by Adam Bond who sang vocals and, for those of us old enough to remember the original, looked and sang like a young Mick Jagger. The acts that followed ranged from stunning vocals from Grace Mooney, Max Thompson, Michaela Bogen, Adam Bond, Max Reader and Pippa Bransfield-Garth to exuberant dance routines from the GCSE Dance troupe and the Year 11 CoPE groups and the teaching assistants under the operatic leadership of Mrs Moore. Amazing discoveries included the talent of Mr Burgess and Mr Stavrou who sang 'Baby one more time' in Blue Grass hillbilly mode to the vast entertainment of the audience; we discovered that Mr Reynolds actually does have rhythm despite previous performance indications to the contrary; Mr Mastin and Miss Haworth turned in a terrific piece of mime to 'Last Christmas' but they are now talking to one another again; Mr Sutton, Miss Brown, Mr Osborn and Miss Gelder dazzled us all with a magnificent display of jiving – it wasn't quite 'Strictly' but they performed some amazing terpsichorean feats and the chaps managed not to drop the ladies during the lift sequences. Mr Konig, guitar and Company rounded off the event for us with a rendition of the school song.

All in all, it was a fantastic end to the term and did a great deal to send us all off into the

holidays feeling that school was a good place to come back to.

Trumpington bid - postscript

We were very excited to learn on the 18 December that we had been recommended by the Local Authority and endorsed by the Cabinet of the County Council to run the new school in Trumpington. At the community meeting held in December in the presence of the Adjudicators, 6 people spoke after the bidders had given their presentations; all either endorsed SVC directly or asked for a 'village college' for Trumpington. We heard, too, that of the written responses to the consultation, our bid had received the majority support.

It was very disappointing, therefore, to learn on the last day of term that the Schools' Adjudicators had awarded the school to Parkside. Their reasons for their choice were as follows:

- Parkside has an already established trust – this is not a pre-requisite of bidding to run a new school; we will be consulting on our trust later this month;
- Parkside has 'outstanding' contextual value-added (a measure of schools' success); although Coleridge's contextual value-added (CVA) is not 'outstanding' the Adjudicators accepted that Parkside had a plan to address this; SVC's CVA is 'good'; the Adjudicators took no notice of the context of this, nor of our Ofsted report judging our school to be outstanding in 17 out of 26 aspects;

- Parkside, Coleridge and the new school are all of a similar size; this means that the new school will not be a 'junior partner' to Parkside.

We were stunned by the outcome of the process and disbelieving that the Adjudicators should so blithely disregard the results of the consultation process all of which favoured our vision for the new school. Still, it is as it is and we're all a little wiser – and a little more cynical – after our brush with the Realpolitik of the world of education.

Please be assured that we regard the time, energy and effort put in to the bidding process as well-spent. The research we undertook has equipped us well to prepare our own school for an increasingly competitive educational world. Your children will only benefit.

My warmest thanks go to all of you who offered us your unequivocal support throughout a very extensive campaign.

New staff

At the end of last term we said goodbye or au revoir to some of our colleagues: to Mrs Anderson as she embarked on her maternity leave; to Mr Goossens who has worked for us as a supply teacher because we had been unable to recruit a permanent teacher of sufficiently high calibre to take the rôle of Second in Languages; and to Mr Morrison, a very able Teaching Assistant, who left us to tour the world.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Locke, who joins us as a Second in Languages and teacher of French and Spanish; Mrs Brown, who will take over Mrs Anderson's classes for the

duration of her maternity leave, Mr Mullins, who will be taking Mrs Horrocks' classes until she returns from her extended sick leave, and Ms Crown, who will take Mr Stewart's classes until he recovers from his recent operation.

New Science Wing

We took ownership this week of the first 6 laboratories of our new Science Wing. The labs are absolutely superb – spacious, filled with light and equipped to a very high standard. We were keen to have a building that reflected our status as a Science College and are very grateful to our architect, Matthew Hucklesby, and our building firm, Morgan Ashurst, for all they have done so well to achieve that.

The majority of our pupils will be taught in the new setting from next Monday. The second phase of the Science Wing and the next phase of our building programme that will bring us wonderful new facilities for Food Technology, Hospitality and Catering, ICT, Mathematics and Geography begin later this term.

In the next newsletter we will let you know a date when you can join us to visit the new laboratories and judge their quality for yourselves.

Snow comes to the land

We are always a little nerve-racked when the snow starts to fall and the local transport infrastructure becomes uncertain. Pupils gleefully await reports of school closures while headteachers rise at 5 am to judge whether the school buses will make it through.

Please be assured that we will remain open unless advice from the bus companies is that there are issues with the roads that would prevent pupils getting safely to school. Should it be

necessary to close the school, we will publish a notice on the homepage of our website at www.sawstonvc.org and inform Radio Cambridgeshire and other local radio stations.

It only remains to thank you for your stoic support through another year and to wish you a happy and healthy 2009.

June Cannie
Principal

Year 12 - List of Prize-Winners

Art	Kaila	Yadlin
ASDAN CoPE	Ryan	Judges
Biology	Kelly	Lloyd
Business Studies	James	Postle
Chemistry	Tom	Carta
Dance	Annie	Whyte
Drama	Cameron	Carr
DT	Sarah	Murphy
Electronics	Alice	Kelley
English	Rhys	James
English endeavour	Ella	Betts
Food	Emilie	Mahoney
French	Spinoza	Pitman
GCSE PE	Helen	Moss
Geography	Susannah	Worster
German	Amy	Nicholas
Graphics	Laura	Boxell
Health and Social Care Award	Megan	Ayres
History	Fionnuala	Kavanagh
ICT	Martin	Rolph
Maths	Julia	Hiom
Maths endeavour	Charlie	Orpwood
Music	Declan	Corr
PE Boys	Daniel	Mackay
PE Girls	Nikki	Savill
Physics	Alasdair	Paterson
RE	Kerry	Bond
Spanish	Rebecca	Sawcer
Student Centre	Charlotte	Honour
Textiles	Alex	Stratton
Top GCSE Performers	Sam	Tovey
	Susannah	Worster
	Martin	Rolph
	Declan	Corr
	Rhys	James
Achievement awards	Nikki	Savill
	James	Postle
	Tom	Carta
	Kelly	Lloyd
	Alasdair	Patterson
	Tom	Curran
Endeavour awards	Molly	Wright
	Alice	Ward
	Katie	Heath-Smith
	Jamie	Gowlett
	Michael	Johnston
Henry Morris Award	Tom	Curran

