



ONE YEAR ON - LIVE AT FIVE

Just one year on from the news that GEMS planned to close our school we went live with our new Kingswood College Trust website and Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) showing how much the school has developed under the Trust.

Local and national media are following upon last year's stories and there should be features in the Visiter group and Champion in the next two weeks, on Radio 4 and Wish FM.

I hope that you have been able to access the new website and link into the VLE. Everyone was working to a very tight time schedule to meet the deadline for going live and there are bound to be several teething problems and errors/omissions on the site. We will be controlling the site from school and it is thus important for us to know of any issues / concerns so that we can deal with them immediately. Do not hesitate to contact me by 'phone, letter or on eborowski@kingswoodcollege.co.uk

We will start using the website for the publication of the weekly Newsletter as from Friday 18th January but if you would still prefer a hard copy please let Mrs Linaker know by contacting her by 'phone or on slinaker@kingswoodcollege.co.uk

Once you like into the VLE as a parent you will have access to four sections:

- 1. Letters** - Containing copies of letters which are sent to all parents as well as the standard School Trip Consent Form for you to download as and when required.
- 2. School diary** - This contains details of what's on when. If you highlight and click an event it will, if necessary, give you further details eg. the times of departures, arrivals etc for trips. This section will be updated on a very regular basis so please keep checking it.
- 3. Governors' Report** - Containing copies of documentation sent to all parents.
- 4. Update My Details** - To inform the office of any changes of address, 'phone numbers or e-mail.

Access to information relating to teaching and learning is via the children's password. Once into this the sections you may be interested in are:

My Area - My Work - which contains details of any work set by teachers.

Classroom - Classroom resources - which contains departmental and Year group information.

Pupil Room - Documents - which will contain standard school handbooks.

If you have any difficulties at all please do not hesitate to contact us. Training sessions are scheduled for next week:

Tuesday 15th January - 14:00, 15:00 & 16:00

Wednesday 16th January - 14:00 & 15:00

PPP - PREPARED, PUNCTUAL, POLITE

Our New Year's resolution for all our pupils is to be prepared, punctual and polite. All pupils are being asked to design and produce a poster highlighting these 3 Ps. The task is on their VLE and posters should be ready for Monday 21st January. Prizes will be awarded to the best one in each year group.

THE LAST WEEK

SANTA DASH. On the last day of term, before Christmas, the whole school took part in a Santa Dash to raise funds for the Sam Formby Appeal. The pupils and staff entered into the spirit of the activity and many dressed in appropriate festive garb. What followed was a colourful and jolly spectacle, which included Elves, Santa's and even Mrs Chandler, dressed as a lonely fairy! The dash took place down the school drive from the main building to meet Mr Wynne, who had driven the minibus down and parked it across the drive, in the interest of safety. The finish line was back at the main building. Everyone had a great time despite the cold weather and pupils gave generously to the appeal. Well done everyone. **Mrs Evans**



DEAL OR NO DEAL.

In a departure from our usual end of term activity, the General Knowledge Quiz, we decided to stage our own version of 'Deal or No Deal'. It was quite a task collecting enough boxes for the game but Clarke's shoe shop in Ormskirk very kindly saved 22 boxes for us. We set up the game so no one actually knew where the money was and certainly, Mr Wynne, who did a good impersonation of Noel Edmunds during the afternoon, had no idea at all. Everyone joined in the game with great enthusiasm and even began to imagine that Mr Wynne really was talking to the Banker on the end of the telephone! Carl Noble won the opportunity to be in competition with the



Banker and he really got involved in the game calling for advice from the audience and those who were in charge of the boxes. I would like to thank all those who took part and a very special 'thank you' must go to Mr Wynne, who could probably take over from Noel Edmunds if Channel 4 ever needed a replacement! The afternoon made a refreshing end to the Christmas term and was a great success. Thank you senior school.

Mrs Evans

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON ICE.

On Wednesday children from Years 6,5,3 and 2 went to watch 'High School Musical' the ice show. We all got really good seats, it was very entertaining, someone even fell over in the background. Thank you for organizing this I hope we have another trip like this. **Madeline Coleman 6M**

MISCELLANEOUS

SAM FORMBY APPEAL.

A big thank you to all pupils, parents and staff who have contributed to the Appeal. The Mufti Day raised £500. The Santa Dash, Carol Singing and donations after Dickensian Christmas raised a further £2,100. Sam is still going to the gym several times a week and is hoping to compete in some races later in the year. His dream is to travel abroad on his bike. **Mrs Cowell**

OXFAM CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

Mrs Joyce gets the goat. In the weeks prior to Christmas senior pupils decided to forgo the pleasure of sending each other Christmas cards, instead they collected the money together. This money was then added to that raised when Mrs Evans and Mrs Hodge organised a raffle. A grand total of £123.19 was raised and this will buy 2 goats, 1 toilet and 2 vet kits. Many thanks to all who gave so generously. **Mrs Joyce**

MISCELLANEOUS/.....

OLIVER PRODUCTION.

There was a full cast rehearsal for 'Oliver' on Tuesday 18th December at the start of the Christmas holiday and the turnout was excellent. The rehearsal focused upon the larger scenes with the full ensemble. The rehearsal went very well but we still have much work to do this term. Key players have to learn all their lines by the end of January. E3 and other rehearsals will now commence apace. **Mr Roberts**

OLIVER POSTER COMPETITION.

We need a poster to advertise 'Oliver'. Design a poster (A3 / 4) and hand it in to Mr Roberts by the end of January. Prizes will be given for the best entries. **Mr Roberts**

OLIVER.

As you may be aware we are currently working on a school production of Oliver that we aim to stage at Easter. For this we will require Victorian costumes and would be grateful if there is anyone who could help us in making costumes. If you think you could help please could you contact Miss Mapstone or Mrs McWilliams.

WISH FM RECORDING.

1W are very excited at the moment as we are going to be on the local Wish fm. Radio station. They are coming to record us, next week when we are to be included in their 'Little Lyrics' slot. Watch this space. **Miss Whitehouse**

FRIENDS OF KINGSWOOD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 17th January 2008 - 08.45. Coffee in Pear Tree reception room. Update and discussion on this term's events and ideas for future events.

Tuesday 22nd January 2008 - 19.30. Following requests from a number of people a further meeting will be held in the Blue Drawing Room for those unable to attend morning meetings.

Saturday 2nd February 19.30. Medieval Banquet in the Great Hall includes: Mulled wine on arrival, 5 course medieval banquet, murder mystery fun, singer, jugglers, medieval music and actors. Only 80 tickets are available and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Tickets are £20 each and are available from the school office. Full details have been sent home with this Newsletter.

Saturday 29th March 2008 - To celebrate the first anniversary of the takeover of Kingswood College by the Trust, Friends of Kingswood are organising a Celebration Ball. Full details will be sent home shortly, please put this date in your diary.

Saturday 17th May 2008 - Following the success of last year's camp night, please get your tents and caravans prepared for the 17th May. Full details to follow.

A big thank you to all those who did their Christmas shopping on line. At the moment we have made £123.82. Anyone who is thinking of joining weightwatchers can now do so online.