

# KINGSWOOD COLLEGE TRUST



**NEWSLETTER 5**

**FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2008**

## **THE LAST WEEK**

### **GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING - Wednesday 8th October**

The class of 2008 celebrated their GCSE successes with the presentation of certificates in the Chapel on Wednesday evening. As always it was a lovely occasion and an opportunity to meet up with friends and share news of College life. Many thanks to all who helped make this such an enjoyable event. **Mrs Taylor**



### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Many thanks to all parents, pupils and staff who have donated to our Harvest Appeal on behalf of the Kenya Health Appeal. The children got a real insight into the need for our help during a visit on Monday last from Rotarian and honorary Tribal Chief Mr. Cyril Legge who brought with him slide illustrations of the work Rotary are doing in Kenya and of the desperate conditions which many people there have to endure. He also greeted the children in Swahili and showed them his tribal robes. Mr Legge returns to Kenya in two weeks time and we hope to be able to give him a generous donation to take with him to help with the cost of a new mental health project he is supervising there. Donations so far are well in excess of one hundred pounds and we will continue to accept gifts until Friday next, October 17th. There is a bucket in the Chapel for donations after each day's assembly and for spare change left over after Toast in the morning. Many thanks again to all who have already contributed. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **Mr Howarth**

### **NEW CHINA CITY**

Thank you to all those parents, staff, friends and families who attended the charity evening at New China City on Friday. The evening was a great success and after a five course banquet and lots of dancing, on chairs, and plenty of karaoke singing we raised £1,300. Thank you. **Lynda, Sue, Lynn and Jade.**

On behalf of the staff who attended FOK's evening at the China City restaurant, can I just say what a fabulous evening we had – the food just kept coming and the entertainment had to seen to be believed.....a particular highlight being the rendition of 'Pretty Woman' by one of the Governors! I understand that another evening is already being planned for February, so gather your friends together and book a table now.....not to be missed!

Thanks as ever to the FOK parents who work tirelessly for the cause and to Mrs Dabelaetes and her staff for such a memorable night. **Mrs Massam**

### **END OF TERM - Friday 17th October**

Term 1 will end at 13:00 on Friday 17th October. The time-table for the coaches will be 2 1/2 hours ahead of the normal scheduled times.

### **FORMAL OPENING OF BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS**

#### **Friday 17th October**

West Lancs Chair of Council, Mr Cyril Ainscough, will formally open our new Nursery, Beautiful Beginnings, at 10:00 on Friday 17th October. This will be followed by a Celebration Assembly in the College Chapel.

## THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE

Each month one parent from each Year group is invited to join the Principal for breakfast in the Blue Drawing room. The occasions are very informal and there is no 'hidden agenda'. The gatherings give parents an opportunity of meeting each other and hearing views of those in different sections of the school. It also provides the school with the opportunity of hearing views / concerns of parents and taking any necessary steps to improve the service we offer. The first gathering of the year took place on Wednesday 8th October when representatives from Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6,, Year 7, Year 9, Year 11 attended. The following topics were discussed (any follow up action being highlighted in red):

### 1. Friends of Kingswood events.

Those attending the Chinese evening on Friday 3rd October thoroughly enjoyed it and £1,300 profit was made. The next major event planned is the Family Christmas Ball on Saturday 6th December. The cost of tickets will be £35 per adult and £20 per child. The Friends of Kingswood have given a full breakdown of the costings of the event and wish to reassure parents that the ticket prices barely cover the cost of the event and any profit to be made will come from raffles etc.

### 2. The cost of 'extras'.

We are all very conscious of the effects that the recession may have upon people and we will be limiting the number of extra activities this year because of this. We are not planning a Ski trip this year - the next one will be in 2010. Likewise previously popular trips such as Train and Play at Real Madrid, Water Sports in Greece, European Capital City trips, will all be on hold for the next twelve months. This should not be interpreted as a reluctance on the part of the school for organising these trips but simply as a measure to help during these difficult times.

### 3. Charitable status - helping the local community.

The school supports many Charities both local and national. This term the children are supporting the work of the Rotary Club in their work in health care and education in Kenya. We are aiming to help our neighbouring schools by allowing them to use our server to set up satellite VLE systems in their schools. We are also planning to establish a system to enable pupils whose parents cannot afford full time private education to have support / private tuition through e-learning. More details will be announced shortly.

### 4. Sixth Form

Much interest was expressed for the school having its own Sixth Form. The school would love to have its own Sixth Form once again. We are looking at the educational programme we could offer to ensure that it is different and better than what is already being provided elsewhere. At present there is much interest in the International Baccalaureate (IB) route and once final decisions have been made open meetings will take place with all interested parties.

### 5. Uniform Shop - new PE Kit

Many parents have experienced problems in the school shop this summer and for that we apologise. Discussions have taken place with the management of Rawcliffes and reassurances have been given that plans are in hand for alternatives to be available in items which are no longer in production. Rawcliffes will be supplying the new PE kit as from January 2009. In the meantime the school will place the orders. It is planned that there will be a new summer dress ready for the Summer Term 2009. Samples will be on display soon.

### 6. Lunches - new ordering system

Although the feedback from the pupils at school has been positive on the whole, several parents had some concerns:

- \* Could parents be involved in helping the younger children with their choice of meals?

The menus are on the Parents' section of the VLE. It is a three weekly cycle and children make their choice at the beginning of the cycle for the 3 weeks.

Action: We will notify parents as to when the choice is to be made so that they can respond for or with their children.

- \* Can they change their choice during the cycle?

Yes if they have good reason.

Action: Children will be informed that this is possible by informing their Mentor and giving plenty of notice.

- \* Can Year 2 have toast at break?

This has been discussed with the staff concerned.

Action: Yes if they order and pay Miss Gillam at the beginning of the week so that they are not slowing the service system down at break, when time is of the essence.

## THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE Cont/.....

\* Do staff monitor what the children are eating?

Yes. All Prep school staff dine with the children and monitor what they are eating to ensure that they have a balanced meal. Each week pupils of all ages dine with their Mentors and a close eye is kept on what they are eating.

\* What snacks are available at break?

We can no longer sell biscuits or squash as snacks at break times. Healthy snacks - fruit, raisons, seeds, etc are all available and are now proving to be popular.

Despite many of the concerns parents commented on the fact that children were now eating things which they have previously said they did not like.

### 7. Parking at the Nursery

Everyone welcomed the opening of the new Nursery but several had experienced / witnessed problems with parking at times of the day when school pupils were being dropped off or collected.

- Action:
- \* The Nursery car park is only for parents with babies who are not yet walking. Parents of children who can walk should park in the Parents' car park and walk through the woodland pathway.
  - \* The Nursery car park will not be available for use between 08:15 - 08:45 and 15:30 - 16:00.
  - \* A gate will be erected at the end of the woodland pathway to prevent children running across to Pear Tree.
  - \* A zebra crossing will be marked between the woodland pathway and Pear Tree.
  - \* Parents collecting Infant / Junior children will be asked to wait in the Reception room in Pear Tree and collect them from there.

### 8. Optional Extra Music classes

Year 2 appear to be enjoying their violin lessons with Mr Larsen-Pass. Year 1 are eager to start their recorder lessons. Anyone interested in starting 1:1 private instrumental lessons should contact Mrs McWilliams.

### 9. Year 11 Coursework

Year 11 is a stressful year with the demands of coursework. The school produces a calendar of deadline dates to ensure that the workload is spread out over a period of time.

## SPORTS NEWS

**Football** The U13 Football squad travelled to Abbeygate College last Thursday. An excellent game finished 5 - 2 to Abbeygate. Our scorers were Dan Noble and Luke Wilkinson. Man of the match was shared between Oliver Tasker and Ross Aylmer. Well done. **Mr Wynne**

## FRIENDS OF KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

Friends of Kingswood are holding a Spooky Disco on Thursday 16th October in the Great Hall for all pupils. Pupils who wish to attend may bring a change of clothes into school on the day. Fancy dress is optional. The Spooky Disco will start at 15:45 with collection at the main entrance at 17:30. Tickets are priced at £5.00; all money should be sent into school by Tuesday 14th October.