



January 2010 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

NEW UNIFORM ARRANGEMENTS

As I hope you are already aware, the College uniform will be changing from September 2010. The new uniform has been adopted after extensive consultation with students and parents. The emphasis has been on finding garments that are smart, practical and good value for money and which retain the traditional approach of our current uniform whilst incorporating a few more contemporary and stylish details.

There will also be a new approach to purchasing the uniform. We will be specifying a smaller number of core items and these will only be available from our single preferred supplier. But parents/carers will be free to buy all other items from any supplier they chose, although they will, of course, still be available from our preferred supplier, too. Eventually, second hand core items will also be available from the PSA ReShop.

The core items will be readily identifiable as approved uniform items, and we will therefore be able to be much more stringent in insisting that proper uniform items are worn - and worn properly. The blazer will have an embroidered badge on the breast pocket and skirts will also be marked to show that they are regulation wear. We expect that there will be an option for items to be supplied with name tapes already applied.

The upshot of all this should be that students will have smarter, better quality garments with little, if any, increase in the total cost of the uniform to parents and carers.

The Governors have decided to adopt a single preferred supplier to ensure that the quality and uniformity of the uniform items can be maintained over a period of time and that we can obtain assurances about the future costs of the items specified. In order to meet Office of Fair Trading concerns about such arrangements in schools, we have engaged in a full procurement process to identify our preferred supplier. The College has no financial interest in the supply of uniform or the awarding of single preferred supplier status.

Bird's of Dereham have won the right to be the sole supplier of the new core uniform items from September 2010 and they will soon be providing details of how they intend to make the uniform available to parents. This will include facilities for online ordering and making uniform available at the College as well as, of course, at their shop in Dereham.

The new uniform will only be compulsory for Year 7 from September 2010, although students in Years 8-11 may adopt it then if they wish. It will become compulsory for all main school students from September 2011.

We will be sending out a leaflet with pictures of the new uniform later this term. These pictures, which will show how we expect the uniform to be worn, will also be on the College website and Parent Portal.

Mr Melvyn Roffe – Principal

COME DINE WITH ME

We would like to offer all parents the opportunity to dine with the students at lunch time week commencing 8th February, 2010. Please contact Mr Bob Bales- Catering Manager to book the day you would like to attend. Lunch will be available from 1300-1330 daily. Please book early as numbers will be limited. On arrival at the College please report to Reception where Mr Bales will meet you and accompany you to the refectory.

Mr Robert Bales – Catering Manager

DAY PARENTS' FORUM

The next meeting of the Day Parents' Forum hosted by Mr Boyle will be held on 27th March 2010 at 11am in H5. Please contact his secretary on 01953 609008 if you wish to attend.

BULLYING SURVEY

Norfolk County Council's annual survey of bullying in secondary schools will be taking place during the Spring term. The College participated in this survey last year and the data helped the Student Council in its revision of the College's Anti-bullying Policy. Selected groups of students in Years 7-10 will take part in the survey and we will receive the results in May 2010.

Mr Walter Boyle – Vice Principal/Dean of Students

MOBILE PHONES

There is a need to remind parents that **picture/camera phones are not permitted** at the College. If students do not observe the agreed Code, as set out on the Mobile Telephone Licence, or if they abuse the use of mobile phones, e.g. making nuisance calls, using the phone outside the permitted hours, phoning each other or friends and family outside school after "lights out", etc, then the College reserves the right to withdraw the licence to have a mobile telephone and to return the telephone to parents for an appropriate length of time. The College has identified a supplier of phones without cameras who offers a special deal to parents/carers and students at the College. You can contact the College's Personal Account Manager at Select Telecom, Laura Porter on 01353 862444.

The co-operation of all parents and carers in upholding the College ban on camera phones is important in keeping your son or daughter safe from possible abuse and exploitation on the internet. Please do your bit to help.

CYCLE POLICY

Any student wishing to ride a bicycle to College is required to obtain, sign and return a cycle policy agreement from Mr Boorman's office before bringing their bicycle onto the College premises.

DEVELOPMENTS TO OUR COLLEGE MEDICAL SERVICES

We have been in discussion for some months with the Wymondham Medical Partnership, which provides the clinical medical service to our boarding students, about developing and extending the medical service available at the College.

As a result of those discussions we are now able to improve the service to students in the following ways:

- A third GP surgery will be provided every week with immediate effect. Surgeries will now be provided on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Where appropriate, some of these clinics will be provided by a Nurse Practitioner;

- A confidential teenage health and wellbeing clinic will soon be provided at 4.30pm on Tuesdays.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of an additional full time nurse to our College nursing team from 25th January. This appointment will enable us to provide round the clock staffing for the Medical Centre by qualified nurses from Sunday evening until Saturday afternoon during term time, to provide a nurse on call on Saturday evenings and until 7pm on a Sunday and double the availability of qualified nurses between 8am and 5pm on weekdays.

All students, whether day or boarding, will have access to these improved services, although there will be circumstances where practice doctors and nurse practitioners will be unable to provide some services to students who are not registered with the Wymondham Medical Partnership due to NHS protocols and the need for access to clinical records.

Other service extensions are under consideration and these will be notified to parents/carers as and when they are implemented.

Mr Andy Boorman – Vice Principal/Director of Boarding

TECHNOLOGY RECIPE BOOK

The Technology department is currently working towards producing a recipe book. We have a team of dedicated students who are developing the book, they are currently researching local produce to produce a range of seasonal recipes. It would be great if we could have support from local businesses in the production of the book. If you are interested or know any one that would like to be involved in the project please contact Miss J Moore or Miss K Finlay, Technology Department.

Miss J Moore - Technology Teacher

BOOK BRING & BUY IN AID OF UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who donated books to sell at a local Book Bring & Buy coffee morning in aid of underprivileged children in India. Over £700 was raised on the day and will go towards helping disadvantaged children in nurseries, schools and orphanages in the Gujarat area of N.W. India. Your support was very much appreciated.

Mrs J Horne – Librarian



The amazing whole College production this year will be 'Hairspray'. With a cast of thousands (well cast, crew and band total in excess of 100

students from Years 7 - 13) and a budget to match, this all-singing, all-dancing show is set to be a phenomenal showcase for the immense talent of our students.

Performances will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 9th - 11th March 2010 and at 4:30pm on Friday the 12th March 2010. Tickets will be on sale in the Library and will cost £4 for students of the College and £8.00 for all others.

To assist in the production, we would be grateful to receive any donations of wigs and clothes from the 1960s – for male and female – that you are able to make to the production. Unfortunately, we cannot return any such donations but if you would like to see your 'pre-loved' clothes in one last hurrah on stage please send them in to Mrs. Macallum as soon as possible.

Mr I Trafford – English Department

VISIT TO NIG DECEMBER 2009

Our students returned from a five-day visit to our partner school in Northern Germany. They brought with them warm greetings and best wishes for 2010 to everyone at Wymondham College from host families, students and staff at the Niedersächsisches Internatsgymnasium in Bad Bederkesa.

They had travelled to Germany on a double mission. Firstly they were going to offer a selection of Christmas workshops to the younger students at NIG and secondly they were to explore the brand-new Klimahaus® Bremerhaven 8° Ost within the context of a joint climate-change project with their host partners. Despite a sudden onslaught of sore throats and tickling coughs, all students displayed a fantastic attitude throughout the visit and as such were brilliant ambassadors of the College.

After a warm welcome in his office by Headteacher Peter Dury, our delegation joined up with the host students to embark on a whole day's climate change project with Ms Gray and Mrs Pfeiffer and their German colleague Frau Wiencke. An online competition was launched to find out who has the higher carbon footprint (in German: "CO2-Rucksack") – the German or English students. We shall leave you in suspense as to the final result; there is soon to be a display in the Geography department. Throughout the activities all students engaged in bi-lingual discussions about the relevance of 'climate-change' to their lives, about the extent to which each and every one of us has a 'good' and a 'bad' foot and about pathways towards a more sustainable future. Some definitions and arguments were unavoidably lost in translation, however, spirits remained high throughout the day, which is certainly more than the eminent congregation in nearby Copenhagen could deliver.

The visit to the Klimahaus in Bremerhaven three days later was the definite highlight of this project. As a group we were setting out on a journey of discovery around the world, always following the 8th degree longitude. Starting from a railway platform in Bremerhaven itself, we travelled through such different climate zones as that of Switzerland, Sardinia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Antarctica, and Samoa – all the way making friends and getting to know sights, smells and sounds of the respective regions. Favourites with our students were the refreshing downpour of rain as experienced from the inside of a weather-beaten Fiat 500 on Sardinia and dressing up as Polar explorers at -10C. It was difficult not to get drawn into the hardship of people's lives as we met them on our journey. A separate section of the multi-media exhibition was in fact dedicated to the actual impacts that the change of climate has had on human beings, animals and their respective habitats.

The Christmas workshops were delivered with boundless enthusiasm on our last day in Germany. Whilst Lauren and Adam were making Christmas crackers with three sets of Year 7 classes, Alex, Dabota and Shannon impressed with their repertoire of Christmas carols. All German youngsters now believe that "Santa (really) got stuck in the chimney"! Chloe, Eloise and Ms Gray were meanwhile busy making Christmas cards with Year 6 students.

What more is there to say? We all were probably overwhelmed and intoxicated by the atmosphere at the German Christmas market in Bremen, the generosity of the host families and the abundance of food at meal times. I am sure this visit will stay in the memory of those who went and those we visited for a very long time. Hopefully many more students from NIG and Wymondham College respectively will be able to share similar experiences in the future. We look forward to welcoming a German delegation next autumn.

Thank you to all those who helped to make this trip possible.

Mrs B Pfeiffer – Modern Foreign Language Department

JUDO CHAMPION

Congratulations to Aaron Bishop (Year 7) who recently took part in the Eastern Area Judo Competition. This is a big competition where judo players come from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire to compete against each other. Aaron gave his all on the day and succeeded in winning a bronze medal.

BUSINESS LANGUAGE CHAMPIONS

As part of the Business Language Champions scheme supported by The Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT), RLN East and Norfolk County Council our A level linguists are working with Judge's Choice Pet Foods based in East Harling to undertake market research for the company to assist their further expansion into the French, German and Spanish markets. Students will undertake research into the European canine and feline population and the current routes to market of their food and then present their findings to Company Chairman, Mr James Chester in March.



The scheme will also see Wymondham College hosting French lessons for members of the local business community who will learn alongside some of our students and staff.

GERMAN PLAY

There are still places available for the German Comedy "Auf dem Campingplatz" to be performed by The Onatti Theatre company in The Chapel on Wednesday 3rd February (4:15-5:10). The performance and refreshments, courtesy of our German Club, are entirely free! If your son / daughter has not yet reserved their seat, they should do so immediately via the electronic link they have been emailed.



Mr Jeremy Moyle – Language College Director

YR 10 PARENTS'/CARERS' CONSULTATION EVENING

The Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Evening will take place on Wednesday 3 February from 6.30pm. Please note that this will be held in the HUMANITIES BLOCK and **not** in the Sports Hall. Your son/daughter will have an appointment sheet and it is important that they arrange times with their subject teachers. If they do not arrange an appointment time, there will be no guarantee that parents/carers will be able to see the teacher concerned.

MAIR CUP

The Annual Mair Cup Competition will be held on Sunday, 7th February at 7 pm in the Sports Hall. Tickets are £3.50 for adults. The tickets will be available from Mrs Horne in the Library on a first come, first served basis as there is a limited capacity in the Sports Hall. Tickets will be available two weeks before the Festival. **It will not be possible to buy tickets on the evening itself.** (*Please complete and return the slip on the bottom of this letter to Mrs Horne to order tickets*) Boarders please sit with your house. Day students very welcome with a ticketed adult. I am afraid there will be no entry to the Sports Hall before 6.45pm. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.15pm in the Library.

All boarders returning on Sunday 7th must do so by 6.30pm – houses will be locked after this time as all the main school houses will be attending the event. All boarders to attend in school uniform please.

Mr Andrew Day – Director of Music

Dates for your diaries

Parents' Panel – 30th January 1130 in Principal's Office

Boarding Parents'/Carers' Forum – 30th January at 1030 in H5

Boarding Committee Meeting – 1st February at 1230 in the Conference Room

Yr10 Consultation Evening – 3rd February at 1830

The Lincoln Lecture – 4th February

Mair Cup Music Festival – 7th February at 1900 in the Sports Hall

Reports Issued to Y11 & Y13 – 12th February

Half Term – 12th February

Please note that it will be a Week A when we return on Monday 25th January, 2010.

Mr Melvyn Roffe – Principal

For up to the minute news please look at the College website at www.wymondhamcollege.org, don't forget you can also access information from there by clicking "Visit the Intranet Site" and logging onto the VLE (Username: parentportal Password: fifteen88).



MAIR CUP 2010

SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 7.00 PM IN THE SPORTS HALL

Mrs Horne

I would like to purchase ____ tickets for the Mair Cup Concert to be held on the above date and I enclose the sum of _____.

NAME _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

FORM _____