



May 2010 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

CHANGE TO THE TIMING OF THE COLLEGE DAY

Governors will be deciding whether or not to change the start of the College Day from 0840 to 0830 at their meeting on 11th June 2010. If you have any views about this proposed change please let the Clerk to the Governors know no later than Monday, 7th June. Please write or email bursar@wymondhamcollege.org.

THETFORD ACADEMY PROJECT

After a period of enforced silence during the election campaign and its political aftermath, I am now in a position to confirm that a Principal Designate of the proposed academy has been appointed. She is Mrs Christine Carey, an experienced headteacher from a school in Lincolnshire. She will take responsibility for the Academy on 1st September 2010, assuming that the preparatory work meets the approval of the Department for Education. Governors will decide whether or not to proceed with the College's involvement with the Academy at their meeting on 11th June.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

After a successful experiment last year, the College will once again be enabling a greater number of students than previously to attend the Royal Norfolk Show.

Students may attend in one of three ways:

1. By invitation to participate as part of the College team helping the organisers of the show, playing music at the show or staffing the College tent.
2. By opting for one of the trips organised as part of the Enrichment Week programme.
3. By requesting Leave of Absence to attend with parents/carers. This must be requested in advance from Heads of House in order to comply with attendance regulations and will only be granted on the days specified for each year group.

Day	Year Groups
Wednesday, 30 th June	Years 8 and 9
Thursday, 1 st July	Years 7, 10 and 12

Your co-operation with these arrangements will ensure that this dispensation can be continued in future years. The designation of each day for certain year groups enables us to ensure that worthwhile activities can take place for the rest of the College during those two days.

SPORTS DAY

On the 25th of June we will be holding our first Wymondham College Aerobathon. Not only is this event a great way of staying fit and healthy but it is being used to raise awareness for Macmillan Cancer Care and the work they do for people whose lives have been affected by cancer. The idea was brought forward by our previous Head Boy, Hamish Wright and the work he and his brother Oli had done with the charity. We now wish to continue the support for this noteworthy cause and are looking for your help, so come along, bring a pound and have a good time. The Principal's Council will also be providing refreshments and are looking for any support they can get from parents. Please email principalscouncil@wymondhamcollege.org if you feel able to assist.



PSA SUMMER FAYRE

The PSA Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday, 10th July, following the New Student Induction Day.

STUDY LEAVE

Y11 and Y13 will start Study Leave from Monday 7th of June (after the May half term).

Y12 will start Study Leave from Monday 24th of May and return to lessons on Thursday 10th of June.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day will be held on Saturday, 3rd July and the Guest of Honour will be Mrs Hilary Moriarty, National Director of the Boarding Schools' Association. Parents/Carers of Prizewinners will receive invitations to attend Speech Day after half term.

Following Speech Day and Lunch for invited Guests, the Enid Ralphs Building will be officially opened by The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Shephard of Northwold.

The Draft Programme for the College Diamond Anniversary Celebrations will be launched at Speech Day.

PARENTS/CARERS OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS - ANNUAL STUDENT REPORTS

We are modifying the way in which we publish our annual student reports in order to prepare for the move to online reporting which will commence in September. In place of the standard report all students will receive an Enhanced Progress Review and a tutor report and boarding students will receive an additional boarding report. This system is being trialled with Y10 this term. Y10 students will therefore not receive a Progress Review at half term but instead it will become the Enhanced Progress Review, published to parents and carers at next exeat together with the summary tutor report and boarding report, where applicable. An explanatory letter will be issued with the report and, as always, we would be grateful for your comments.

PARENTS/CARERS OF YEAR 10 - WORK EXPERIENCE

Key Stage 4 students may take work experience placements in holiday times up to and including February half term of Y11. We need six weeks' prior notice on the self-generated work experience forms for in-county placements and three months for out of county, in order to undertake the necessary checks. This applies only to official work experience placements and not to those which are arranged privately by parents/carers and which take place solely in holiday time.

PARENTS/CARERS OF YEAR 9 STUDENTS

As part of the transition from Key Stage 3 to 4 we are holding our usual induction meeting for parents, carers and students of the present Y9 on Sunday, 27 June at 6.30pm in the Chapel. We expect it to last about one hour.

NEW COLLEGE UNIFORM

Over the past year the newly established College Uniform Group chaired and co-ordinated by Mrs Quinton, has been working on a revised specification for the College uniform. After extensive consultation, the new uniform items have been selected and sourced, and will be worn by students from September.

The new uniform comprises several specified items - a reverse striped house coloured tie, a navy-blue jumper showing house colours in the V, new shaped blazers with our badge pre-embroidered, a charcoal grey pencil skirt and a cardigan option (girls only), and a number of items of PE kit. The items have been chosen with the intention of creating greater uniformity amongst the students, and raising the standard of their appearance. However, other items such as shirts and blouses can now be purchased from any supplier – thus hopefully reducing the cost to parents without compromising on overall uniformity.

The College also now has a 'Protocol for Wearing Wymondham College Uniform', setting out clearly to students, staff and parents how our uniform is to be worn. A copy of this is enclosed with this newsletter. Photographs of students wearing the new uniform are available on the website, and sample items of uniform are on display in Reception.

Birds of Dereham will be the sole supplier of specified uniform items for the next three years. Purchases can be made in person at their premises at Norwich Street in Dereham town centre or

from their website. Birds will also bring a mobile shop to the College this term on Sports Day, June 25th and Preview Day, July 10th. Next term the mobile shop will be here on Saturday September 18th from 11 a.m. to 1p.m and on Friday September 24th and Friday October 15th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Some P.E. items are also available online from Tyler's Sports Suppliers.

All Y7 students will be in new uniform when they arrive in September. For students in Ys 8 to 11, the new items will be phased in over a time period of one year. During this period they may 'mix and match' items of new and old uniform. Students will then be wearing only new uniform from September 2011 and this will be rigorously enforced by staff.

The Wymondham College PSA Re-shop, located opposite the Refectory will carry items of second-hand old uniform for sale during the current year, and will gradually accumulate a stock of second-hand items of the new style uniform, as they are outgrown. The Re-shop will also carry sample sizes of new uniform for children to try on before ordering from Birds of Dereham and will provide changing facilities when the mobile shop visits.

We intend to make a collection of clean re-usable old uniform items from Y11s once they have finished their examinations this summer. The boarding houses will act as collecting points for these, and the Re-shop will open for donations on GCSE results day. These items will initially be offered for sale at the Re-shop. Once the transition has been made to new uniform, any leftover stock from the Re-shop will be used for charitable purposes.

We are always grateful for the support we receive from parents. We would be particularly appreciative of it on this occasion in regard to parents supplying the correct items for their children, and encouraging them to wear it in accordance with the protocol. We all want to see students taking pride in wearing the uniform that they have helped to devise.

NEWSPAPER LEAGUE TABLES

Please note that the College will not be releasing A Level and GCSE results for use by media organisations in "league tables" in August. The information will, however, be available from the College website a day after results are published to students. We are proud of our students' success, but "league tables" are increasingly meaningless and misleading. The end of Mr. Glover's article below about A* Grades at A level outlines one of the ways in which this is true. There is an article on the website entitled "What Examination Results Mean" which explains more about the problems with the "league tables".

FAREWELL TO LEAVERS

It is appropriate to pay tribute at this time of year to the Y13 students who leave the College in the summer. Over 70 students have been here for 7 years and will take a particularly strong set of memories of College life with them. Others joined in the middle of their main school career, and many arrived in Y12 to spend their Sixth Form at the College. However long their time at the College, we thank all students for all that they have done. The College is a good place to live and work due to the nature of the student body, the overwhelming majority of whom are very fine young men and women.

As they face the coming weeks of examinations, and then the pleasures and preparations of the summer, then move on to face the world, they take our best wishes with them. A student's relationship with the College is lifelong, and we look forward to keeping in touch with all students, hearing about and sharing in the success that will certainly come their way in the future.

We also wish every success to the dozen Y11 students who will not be returning to the College in September.

These final weeks are often pivotal to a student's future opportunity, and I know that parents will be offering encouragement and support through what is likely to be a busy and possibly stressful time. There is a great deal at stake, and students must remember that effort is almost always justly rewarded.

Mr. Melvyn Roffe - Principal

THE NEW A* GRADE AT A LEVEL

Summer 2010 sees the first awards of the new A-level specifications in nearly all subjects, together with the first awards of the new A* grade at A-level. This new grade will reward exceptional performance and allow for improved discrimination between the best performing candidates. The A* grade will be available as an award for all A-levels.

It is important to remember that the A* grade will be awarded for the A-level qualification as a whole only, not for the AS qualification or for individual unit or modular results.

The A* grade will be awarded to candidates who have achieved:

- A grade A overall in their A-level, *and*
- 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks (UMS) on the aggregate of their A2 units.

The way in which the A* grade is to be awarded will mean that it is achieved by learners who have consistently performed very well throughout their A-level units and outstandingly on the A2 units, which incorporate the most challenging questions. This does allow for what might seem a minor oddity, in that it is possible that there will be candidates in summer 2010 who do not achieve grade A*, but who have higher A-level UMS scores (which arise from the total units, both AS and A2) than candidates who have achieved the new grade.

It should also be noted that the percentage of A* grades is likely to vary from subject to subject, as does the percentage of grade A results awarded each year. The new grade is not being awarded to a set percentage of the total candidates or a set percentage of those who achieve a grade A. It will strictly be awarded according to the rules set out above.

Thus far, the only university which has asked our students to achieve a grade A* as part of their current offers this year is Cambridge, and even then only in two cases. It is likely that this will change and that grade A* will become a wider part of the system of offers in the coming years, although we do not expect it to be developed beyond only a small number of universities in the foreseeable future.

The UCAS tariff for the A* is 140 points, in line with the current system. (Grade A 120; grade B 100; grade C 80; grade D 60; grade E 40.). This means that even with this change to recognise exceptional performance by students, in "league tables" schools and colleges where students routinely gain five C grades will do better than those where students on the whole gain three A* grades. It is worth bearing this in mind when looking at newspaper league tables.

Kenneth Glover – Vice Principal/Director of Sixth Form

ENRICHMENT WEEK, MONDAY 28TH JUNE – FRIDAY 2ND JULY 2010

The Royal Norfolk Show

Students will be permitted to visit the Royal Norfolk Show again this year as stated by the Principal above. Y8 and Y9 students are permitted to go on Wednesday whilst Y7, Y10 and Y12 students can go on Thursday. There will be transport available for boarding students who wish to travel with the College. Students visiting the Show with parents/carers must seek Leave of Absence in advance.

House Days

Students from the main school house have voted where to go for their House trip during Enrichment Week. Students from Peel, Cavell, Kett and New Hall are going to Thorpe Park whilst Fry students have opted to go to Alton Towers.

Full details of Enrichment Week will be in the post shortly.

Mr Richard Smith – Assistant Principal/Head of Cavell

BEACH THEME SCHOOL SOCIAL ON SUNDAY 13TH JUNE AT 7:00PM TILL 9:30PM (BOARDERS' BIG WEEKENDER)

Outside Cavell will be a Whole School Social with a Beach Theme.

Entry is free and open to everyone. There will be loads of inflatables, a surf machine as well as a doughnuts stall, candyfloss, popcorn, sweets and ice cream van. (At a cost)

So put on your funky surf shorts and flip flops and come and have a beach party.

Mr L Summers - Cavell Resident Boarding Tutor

BIG WEEKENDERS

The Big Weekenders this coming half-term will be held on 12th/13th June and 10th/11th July. On Saturday 12th June there will be a "Big Sleepover" on "The Park" and the boarder activity on Sunday 13 June will be the Cavell Fun Day. On Sunday 11th July a trip to Great Yarmouth is available. The PSA Summer Fayre will take place on 10 July and weekend leave will not start until 4.00pm on that day to enable all students to support this event. Details are available on the VLE and from Mr. Boorman or Mr Smith.

CLOSED WEEKEND

The first weekend of the College year has traditionally been a closed weekend for boarding students in Y7 to Y10.

As a trial for the academic year 2010/2011, this particular weekend (11th/12th September) will be a Big Weekender with plenty of activities taking place and boarders are very much encouraged to stay to enjoy these. Details will be posted on the VLE. However, the weekend will not be "Closed" and weekend leave will be available for all students whose parents request it.

If weekend leave is requested it must be received by the Head of House by the preceding Tuesday 7th September. Please note that on this occasion Boarders in Y7 to Y10 who have been granted weekend leave must return on Sunday evening between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

Mr A Boorman – Vice Principal/Director of Boarding

GIFTED & TALENTED AND STUDENT LEADERS CONFERENCE

This is a residential course hosted by the College from 27th - 29th July for Gifted & Talented Students and Student Leaders in Ys 9 and 10. The Keynote speaker will be Kriss Akabusi. This will be followed by an engagement activity led by Camouflaged Learning. The cost for this is £199 to include accommodation for two nights and all meals. Students who are eligible should have received an application form by e-mail. This should be returned with a cheque to cover the cost FAO Mrs Caroline Hall at the College.

Mrs Julie Atkinson - Director of Community Engagement

PRIME MINISTER'S GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

The Prime Minister's Global Fellowship

Unlocking talent

For the second year running, one of our Y 13 students has been successful in being one of only a hundred school leavers nationwide to be awarded a fully funded Fellowship to spend six weeks in a developing country. This summer, Hannah Waterhouse will visit Brazil where she will spend two weeks as a guest of a multinational company, two weeks in a home stay programme and two weeks working in a school. We wish Hannah every success during her trip and look forward to her return when she will share her experiences with the College, our community and The Prime Minister himself.

LINKED UP FUNDING

We have just heard that our joint bid with Attleborough High School to access £3000 of "Linked Up" funding to celebrate and promote our MFL links with Business has been successful. This money will be used to promote our work to help further develop employer engagement in language learning throughout Norfolk schools.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A SPANISH STUDENT?

For a two week period within 12th September to 2nd October we will be welcoming around twelve students from Spain to Wymondham as part of the Spanish / English Integration project run by The English Experience School of English in Norwich. During their three week stay in Norfolk, the 14-15 year old students will spend two weeks attending morning lessons at The College. Cultural, social and linguistic activities are organised at other times.

If your family lives in or near to Norwich or Wymondham and would be interested in hosting one of our Spanish guests for three weeks, please contact Katy Hall at The English Experience by email on teachingadmin@paston.co.uk for further details. A payment of £105 per week is offered to host families. It would also be helpful if you could copy me in to your email – languages@wymondhamcollege.org. Thank you.

Jeremy Moyle – Director of Language College

COLLEGE CHARITY WEEK

A very successful week of charity events took place in the week commencing Tuesday, 4th May. Fry kicked off the week with their dog show, 'Frufts', which raised £105 for Macmillan Cancer. New Hall students swam the channel before breakfast, held a lunch-time Summer Fayre, and washed cars after school on Wednesday to raise £214 for Addenbrooke's Special Care Baby Unit. On the Thursday Kett students paid to watch Mr Blakey sacrifice his crowning glory at lunch-time, and battled round an obstacle course after school, to raise £600 for Child First. Cavell conducted a Man-hunt, and held a disco on Friday to raise £150 for The Make-a-Wish Foundation. Peel finished the week on Saturday with their own Summer Fayre, raising £600 for Help the Heroes.

Mrs Mary Quinton – Assistant Principal/Enterprise Co-ordinator

MUSIC OPEN DAY

On Saturday 12th June the Music department will be holding its annual Open Day from 9:30am to 12:00pm in the Music Centre. There will be three simultaneous concerts taking place in the main rooms of the department. Pupils who take instrumental lessons at the College have the opportunity to play their latest pieces in an informal atmosphere. The morning also involves group performances from Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band, Jazz Band, Saxophone Group, Flute Choir, Brass Ensemble, String Group, Girls' Junior Choir and other smaller ensembles. No tickets are required as the morning is free. Please come and support your children and enjoy some of the six hours of music.

Mr Andrew Day – Director of Music

DRUGS AWARENESS FOR PARENTS [please note change of date]

Do your children know more about drugs than you do? Sadly, in many cases, it is highly likely that they do. The Drugs Education group have invited the Matthew Project, a charity which works with drug users and which also works in schools to educate young people, to come to school on Sunday 20th June at 7pm to give a presentation to parents about drug use by young people. This will be a highly informative evening and will alert parents to the risks that many young people are taking. Please plan to attend – the event will be held in the Chapel. It would be helpful if you could e-mail Mr Boyle, boylewa.staff@wymondhamcollege.org, to confirm your attendance.

Mr Walter Boyle – Vice Principal/Dean of Students

VISITING AUTHOR

We have a very famous and popular author – MORRIS GLEITZMAN - visiting the College Library on Friday, 11th June, to speak to all Y7 students. Most of the Y7s have been reading the first book in his trilogy – Once – it will be a great opportunity for them to meet Mr Gleitzman and listen to him speak about his books. We will be selling his books in the library from Monday 7th June if any student wishes to buy one and have it signed on the day by Morris Gleitzman, please remember to bring money back with you after half term.



Mr Janet Horne – Librarian

PSA SUMMER DRAW TICKETS

All students have been given an envelope containing two books of PSA Summer Draw tickets. Your support by purchasing these tickets would be very much appreciated and a prize will be awarded to the House which sells the most draw tickets. All counterfoils, cash and any unsold tickets should be returned in the envelope to the College by 5th July. The draw will take place on 10th July at the PSA Summer Fayre.

The Parent Staff Association

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS

(1) Year 10 Wales

Thank you to all who participated in the Y10 trip to Bala. It was a real pleasure to work with the students who were a real credit to the College. The white water rafting ended the week on a high. Thanks to Mr Griffiths, Mrs Abel and Mrs Long for giving up their Easter break to facilitate this trip.

(2) Year 8 Gressenhall. Homes or Habitats

Thanks to the parents and students who supported the above trip. Both days were enjoyed by students and staff. Comments were received from Gressenhall on the exemplary behaviour of all students.

(3) Nepal – 18th October – 29th October, 2010

(i) Sunday 4th July to Tuesday 6th July

This will be a residential trip and we aim to scale the heights of Yorkshire with a visit to Leeds University Activity Centre at Selside. This trip will involve students self catering and also tackling Yorkshire's Three Peaks – Pen-yghent, Whernside and Ingleborough. Further details will follow once it has been confirmed that we can run this trip. We have had to arrange it at this time so it does not conflict with the Madrid or DoE trip. If there are any outstanding consent forms and money for this trip could they be returned at the start of next half term so that we can finalise the details.

(ii) Wednesday 16th June, 2010 - Doug Scott Lecture 'The Big Three'

Doug Scott will be presenting an illustrated talk about his climbs on the three highest mountains in the world, Everest, K2 and Kangchenjunga. He also supports and works in Nepal with Community Action Nepal. This will give those taking part in the trip the opportunity to hear one of the main players in traditional Himalayan expeditions first hand. His talks are insightful, motivational, exciting and often humorous. If you would like to take part in the trip then please let me know as soon as possible as there are only a few seats remaining. Students have already received a letter and permission slip regarding this trip.

(4) The Business of Farming – Thursday 24th June - Year 12

The Business Studies and Geography departments are running a trip to Hall Farm, Wickmere, near Aylsham. This is an annual event that is organised by Holt and District Farmers Club and provides Sixth Form students from Norfolk with an insight into the many different aspects of modern day farming. It is an event that has proved highly popular with sixth form students at this stage of their A Level course as it provides an invaluable insight into the synoptic elements of both subjects. Letters and permission slips are available from either department.

School Garden

A small band of students and staff are keeping the school garden going which is now starting to 'bear fruit'. Thanks to all who are maintaining and developing this area.

EcoSchools

The EcoSchools Club is looking at ways to rationalise the recycling system as SNDC no longer collect the general waste. The group will be considering the use of Pearsons and will be visiting their waste collection and recycling centre at Thetford next half term to help in the decision making process. The Energy team will be making a presentation to the Governors later this term on their report following the Energy Audit conducted last term.

Ms Angie Gray – Head of Geography

WYMONDHAM COLLEGE SHOP – NOW OPEN 5 DAYS A WEEK!

Wymondham College Shop is the onsite shop selling stationery, revision guides, school DVD's and much, much more. So that we can improve our service to the College community we are now open 5 days a week, we will be open on Mondays and Fridays between 1pm and 1.30pm and then open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 12.30pm and 1.10pm. We are also currently looking into upgrading our website to incorporate an eCommerce sector which will enable parents to purchase products online and get the item delivered to their student at the College (watch the Parent Portal for news on this!). If you would like more information regarding College Shop why not send us an email at collegeshop@wymondhamcollege.org or visit our website at www.wymondhamcollegeshop.co.uk.

Chris Baskerville –Y10

RHINELAND TRIP MAY 2010

For a third year running the Rhineland Trip with students from Ys7 and 8 has been a huge success. Our arrival in Germany was blessed with lots of sunshine, gentle breezes and warm temperatures, which made exploring the woods and the stream behind the youth hostel in Bonn even more attractive.

The two action-packed days in the Rhine valley offered the students a first cultural and linguistic experience of Germany and the German people of today. With great excitement our group found its way through the dark, narrow and wet defence tunnels of Rheinfels Castle, before indulging in a proper German-style BBQ with "Bratwurst", pasta salad and mountains of bread rolls. Whilst waiting for the food to be cooked, many of us went down to the local playground only to find that it was used for a PE lesson by students and staff of the local primary school. I am very proud to say that many of our students used their first German to exchange names, favourite football teams etc. The challenge in the afternoon was to buy their favourite flavour ice cream in German, before embarking on a short Rhine cruise.



Day two threw literally everyone into "Phantasialand"- heaven; the thrill of the rides, the achievement of climbing the 509 steps up to Cologne Cathedral and the sheer enjoyment of spending time with your friends in an exotic place echoes through all the projects that have been handed in to us over the last week. We should not underestimate the social benefits of these trips abroad – they forge a sense of belonging together, they build and strengthen friendships. I am always amazed by the level of empathy and care that the students show on these occasions. It was a pleasure to travel with them.

Frau Pfeiffer – Modern Foreign Languages Department

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) - RAF SECTION

All eligible students will be returning home with a letter that outlines my proposals for establishing the RAF section of the CCF from September 2010. Part of the letter is a tear-off slip for students to return to me - signed by parent/carer - to confirm their intention to join the new section at the start of the new academic year. We need a minimum of 25 students to get the section going again and hopefully we will be able to achieve that. If parents/carers have any questions about the RAF section of the CCF please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Mr R Moorhouse – Vice Principal/Bursar

NATIONAL SQUAD SAILORS

Following their performance in last year's National Championships, James Dennis (Yr 9 Cavell) and Toby Percival (Yr 7 Peel) were invited to join the RS Tera National Squad. This has involved them in attending training weekends through the winter and spring at sailing clubs around the country in preparation for this year's Nationals to be held in June at Netley Sailing Club near Southampton.



During July, Toby will form part of the Norfolk team competing at the National Youth Regatta where he won the rookie fleet last year and best under 12 helm of the competition. James meanwhile will be competing in the RS Tera World Championships in Carnac, France.

Dates for your diary

28th May – Half Term Begins
12th June – Boarders' Big Weekender
12th June – 0900-1100 Open Day
12th June – 0930-1200 Music Open Day
19th June – Boarding Parents'/Carers' Forum
H5
19th June – Day Parents'/Carers' Forum
Conference Room
25th June – Sports Day
25th June – Exeat Weekend
28th June – Enrichment Week begins
3rd July – Speech Day and Official Opening of
the Enid Ralphs Building

Please note that it will be a Week B when we return on Monday 7th June.

Mr Melvyn Roffe – Principal