



PENNTHORPE SCHOOL

Newsletter

13th January 2012



Dear Parents

You will have noted some real urgency in the work going on at the Art and Design Centre this week and the removal of the tower of blue containers has allowed the first proper interrupted view of the building. It's starting to look very exciting and Mr Perry, Mrs Charlesworth and Mr Wood have been in with their tape measures this week planning the move back in. We are very much hoping that this will all be done before the start of the second half of term, so we have set a provisional date for the official opening on Monday 20th February. Mr and Mrs Moll will be returning to Pennthorpe to cut the ribbon and we hope you'll be able to pencil this date in your diaries and join us for the first look around the new facility. Watch this space for further details.



The government this week announced their intention to scrap the national curriculum for ICT and replace it with some more exciting design and programming

work. In line with much of their current legislation they are keen to give schools freedom to attempt more challenging computing and, with the new iLab, we will have the perfect facility to lead the way in this area. It's interesting though that this had led to such an outcry against PowerPoint, Excel and the like. I actually feel all of these programmes get a bad press largely because people don't know how to use them properly. When you watch PowerPoint being used as an interactive, multimedia tool in the classroom it can have a real wow factor. I'm no Mathematician either, but I'm always impressed by how Excel can produce analysis of important data and display it so imaginatively at the touch of a button. Maybe I am just a little bit dull (my own children think so) but I still consider there's much to be said for improving basic ICT skills *within* our own curriculum alongside the design and programming units that we hope will extend and enrich it. Three of our staff attended BETT at Earl's Court this week (the biggest exhibition of educational technology in the country) and they came back buzzing with new ideas. Time to consult the budget I think!



Finally I'd really like to recognise the success of one of our Year 8s whose achievements could easily

be overlooked because he competes in an individual sport rather than a team one. Josh Attwell truly is a remarkable boy. Last week he competed in the British Junior Open Squash Tournament (the largest event of its kind in the world, attracting the top competitors from all around the globe). Josh entered the Boys U13 category which saw entries from Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Israel, Croatia, Czech Republic, Norway, USA, Canada, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and of course England. He started well, beating a fellow English player 3-0 in the first round and an Indian 3-1 in the second. By the time he had played all 6 rounds he found himself finishing 14th overall. Josh was the second highest finishing British player, with the top one, the number one in England, finishing only 3 places ahead in 11th place. Overall Josh has had a remarkable 12 months in squash. He came 3rd in the British Closed last November and has now become the number 2 ranked U13 in the country. Well done, Josh, from all of us at Pennthorpe. We really couldn't be more proud!



Have a super weekend.

Matthew King
Headmaster

Email difficulties

Over the Christmas break we changed our email provider and, since then, although most parents are still receiving emails in the normal way, some of our emails have apparently been going into Junk Mail spam filters. If you are expecting an email from a member of staff, can we ask you to check your Junk Mail as their reply may well be in there! If it is, could you put your cursor on the email in your junk mail inbox, right click and select Junk Mail. It will then give you the option to add the sender to your Safe Senders list. This will avoid this happening again. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Nestlé Box Tops for Books

Last week we published an article regarding the Nestlé 'Box Tops for Books' scheme.

I'm sure you are all to some extent aware of the questionable ethical nature of the actions of the Nestlé corporation and a little hunting on Google will reveal plenty more. We are keen to address this issue by putting both sides of the debate to our pupils during Fair Trade Week later this term. In the meantime, we'd like to be clear that as a school it's certainly not our intention to endorse Nestlé but rather, if you are still choosing to buy Nestlé products, then we would be foolish to miss out on the free books they are offering.

Umbrellas

With the promise of plenty of good old British wet weather to come soon, why not treat yourself to one of our gorgeous Pennthorpe golf umbrellas to keep off the rain? We still have a few left, and they are great value at £19.99. If you would like to order

one, please speak to the front office staff who will be happy to give you an order form.



Additional fixture

We have entered our U11 netball team into the Lancing tournament on Monday 5th March, which is an extra fixture not shown on the calendar.

As you will see on the calendar, this is the date set for the House Netball competition, but please don't worry if your daughter is in the U11 team as she won't miss anything! Mrs Tusler will now be running the Middle School house netball competition separately on Friday 9th March.

Missing Netbook

One of our Year 8 pupils is currently missing her netbook and I wondered if I might ask you to check at home to see if an extra one has appeared and if so return back to Pennthorpe. We are sure it has simply been misplaced but we are now reaching the position where we will need to replace it and we don't want to do so before exploring all possible avenues.

Staff at school have already checked the classrooms and locker room and we'd be really grateful if you could conduct some similar searches at home. Thanks for your help with this.

Possible Traveller Site in Rudgwick

As reported in the local press before Christmas, Horsham District Council has shortlisted land at Smither's Rough on the A281 as a potential Traveller Site. Further details can be found on the HDC website, the websites of the WSCT or Horsham Resident newspapers or by emailing rudgwickactiongroup@gmail.com. Local residents have called a meeting at Rudgwick Village Hall on 23rd January at 8pm. Alternatively, interested parties may wish to write to the Senior Planning Officer at the Horsham office.

JANUARY 2012	
Date	Event
Mon 16 th	School Council meeting at 8.00 a.m. Dining room
Tues 17 th	Chapel Choir dinner at Pennthorpe 7.00 p.m.
Wed 18 th	1 st XV Rugby v Shoreham (A) 2 nd XII Rugby v Broadwater Manor (H) Colts A Rugby v Shoreham (H) Colts B Rugby v Longacre (A) Colts C Rugby IX v Broadwater Manor (A) U13A & B Netball v Windlesham (A) U13C Netball v Broadwater Manor (H) U11A Netball v Broadwater Manor (H) U11B Netball v Longacre (A) U10 Netball v Longacre (A)
Thurs 19 th	
Fri 20 th	

