



**DEVIZES
SCHOOL**
A SPORTS COLLEGE

DEVIZES SCHOOL NEWS



IMPORTANT NOTICE

SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY
19TH DECEMBER FOR THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.
SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN ON
MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2008
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



No. 967/2007 14th December 2007

Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

On behalf of the staff at Devizes School I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. The last two terms seemed to have flown by again this year. The academic year has started very well with the introduction of a new school day that everyone seemed to get used to quite quickly earlier last term. We have also seen the introduction of a new house system that has sent a very positive buzz around the school, rejuvenated many of the internal school sporting competitions and has enabled many more students to get involved in leadership roles in the school. The new and improved offer of Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) has been enthusiastically taken up by the vast majority of students. I hope and trust that this enthusiasm can be sustained into the New Year.

After an excellent and entertaining Carol Concert at St. John's Church on Tuesday evening and a very tasty and successful Christmas dinner at school on Wednesday, we are all looking forward to a very pleasant Christmas period and looking forward to a successful New Year.

Teachers leaving for foreign climes!

As is often the case at the end of a term, we are sad to be saying goodbye to several member of staff. **Mrs Wilson** is leaving to start a new life in Russia with her husband in the New Year. Mrs Wilson joined the Mathematics department in September 2006 and has made a real impact with her teaching groups. **Miss Sorrell** will also be leaving to move to another corner of the world – Australia! Miss Sorrell has been teaching in the English department since January 2007 taking over from teachers on maternity leave. We thank them both for their hard work and commitment to their teaching and wish them both every success in their future lives abroad. **Mrs Hepworth**, teacher of SEN, is taking a four term sabbatical from January to August. We wish her all the best on her temporary break from work during which she plans to travel to a variety of exciting locations around the world.

Immediately we return from the Christmas holiday the Sixth Form will be entering a period of Advanced Level modular examinations. These are very important exams and we wish them every success.

Mr Irons

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST DAY OF TERM

The school will be closing on **Wednesday 19th December at 12.25pm**. **Bodmans** coaches will be arriving at this time to transport students home. However, the **APL** service that usually operates, will not be able to collect students and alternative arrangements will need to be made for these students.



Students using the **"Connect 2 Wiltshire"** service (formerly Wigglybus) should contact the service provider directly to arrange transport.

Inside this issue:

- P2/3 Devizes School
Governors
Sixth Form Trip to
Disneyland Paris
- P4 Sudoku
Year 10 Inter House
Competition

Dates for your diary.....

DECEMBER 2007

10th - 18th

Year 11 Mock Exams

18th Sixth Form Presentation
Evening - 7.00p.m.

19th Last Day of Term 2

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

20th December - 6th January 2008

SCHOOL RETURNS ON
MONDAY 7TH JANUARY

JANUARY 2008

6th Y10 Trip to Pencelli
leaves on **Sunday 6th
January**

11th Y10 Pencelli Trip returns

17th Year 10 Parents' Evening
4.00pm

Devizes School Governors

Why should you care who they are and what they do?

Did you know that although Mr Irons, the Headteacher leads and organises the school on a day-to-day basis, it's the school Governors that decide what they want the whole school to do in the long term, setting suitable aims, objectives and the policies to achieve them.

We certainly do work together with the Head and all the teachers, as they are **the** experts in children's education, but Governors carry out three main roles:

- To provide a strategic view
- To act as a critical friend
- To ensure accountability

Who am I?

Ian Halpin, recently elected Chair of Governors. I have two daughters, the eldest has just started in Year 7 and lately enjoyed being in the 'Grease' performance.

During the day I am a Marketing Manager for an IT Company that particularly focuses on Schools, Colleges and Universities. It means I spend lots of time in schools talking to Headteachers and keeping up with all the Government education initiatives. I hope I can use some of this professional knowledge to make Devizes School even better for all our children. There is 20 of us in all, with at least 7 being parents with children at the school. Others are appointed by the local authority or nominated members of the Devizes Community. The Head and two other staff members are also governors, so all-in-all we are a 'right old cross section', but the largest group are parents! We meet as a full governing body just 6 times per year. However, given that there is 20 of us, it would be difficult to get things done in such a big group, so we have smaller committees looking at specific areas. They meet in between and report to the full meeting.

Committees:-

Premises - sorts out all maintenance and development of the buildings and school grounds.

Finance & General Purposes - monitors and authorises the £5.5 million it takes to run Devizes School.

Curriculum - everything to do with what our children learn. Like 'Spanish or French'.

Staffing - overseeing the appointment of the 150+ staff it takes to run the school.

Pupil Welfare - making sure the school is a safe and healthy place where all pupils can enjoy and achieve their potential.

Pupil Discipline - deals with exceptional situations like warnings and exclusions.

Admissions - sets the policy deciding who can come to Devizes School.

Right now we are looking into a few other projects that you might want to get involved with:

1. Making the school a 'greener' place:

Should the school buildings and environment be more environmentally friendly?

Also, should we be teaching pupils more about environmental issues and prepare them for the world they'll grow up to inherit?

2. International Links:

How do we prepare today's pupils to grow up in a more globally connected world?

You might have read about Mr Irons & Miss Marshall's trip to a South African school recently, but also should we use other links, perhaps Devizes Twinning?

3. Parental Involvement:

Can the school communicate better with parents? E.g. more informative newsletters, parents evenings, newspaper articles - but how about text messages, emails or informal evenings?

I can't really deal with individual pupil's issues; those should be dealt with by following school policies. But if you have ideas or opinions for improving the school generally, feel free to let me know your thoughts personally. The best way is by email: (halpini@gmail.com), but letters handed in at school will get to me too.

Join us!

We have vacancies for new Governors periodically and right now we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you'd like to join us, please contact Gill Wheeler, who is Clerk to the Governors

Mr Ian Halpin

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PUPILS

Starting immediately, if you sign in late with Mrs Slade, which is 0845 or after, you must either have a note from your parent/guardian or an appointment card explaining where you have been and the reason for your late arrival. If you have a note, please hand it to Mrs Slade when you sign in.

Remember, your parents/guardians can phone in and leave a message on the pupil absence selection on the answer phone if you are going to be late in or they can send an email.

If you sign in late and you have no explanation, you will be recorded as an **Unauthorized Absence** on the register.

If you have **ten** Unauthorised Absences on the Register the EWO will be informed and they can then issue a fixed penalty fine for not attending school.

A BIG thank you to everyone who attended the Carol Service on Tuesday 11th December - we raised £100 for Dorothy House!



Invites you to a Parenting Support Group. The programme will run for 9 sessions starting Wednesday 16th January until 26th March 2008 - 12 until 2pm.

For further information contact 08457 585072

Sixth Form Business/Travel and Tourism trip to Disneyland Paris "Brilliant"

Day 1, The journey...

It was a cold winters morning and the Business and Travel and Tourism students were about to embark on a trip they were never going to forget.

The journey itself was slow going to begin with, that was until Stephanie Ball announced she had spotted the London Eye, the only problem was we were still in Reading! Good thing this was a business trip not a Geography one. Mr. Evans would not be impressed!

Our only entertainment after that was Brian, the bus driver. He decided to give us an oral run of our journey and our stay in Paris; to say it was in-depth would be an understatement. Every time he stopped for breath the students were relieved thinking he was finished, but oh no he still carried on. Finally his tale was over and we had reached the Euro Tunnel. Everyone began to get a little hot and claustrophobic and it didn't help the situation when Simon sprayed aerosol whilst in the tunnel. After a snooze we all woke up in Paris to what we thought was the official X Factor bus final featuring Leona Lewis and Ray Quinn, i.e. two students from Chippenham College having a 'sing off'. After endless renditions of various songs and endless screeching they finally gave in and we had reached our destination, Disneyland Resort Paris. With that, we all retired to our rooms to dream of the magical day ahead.

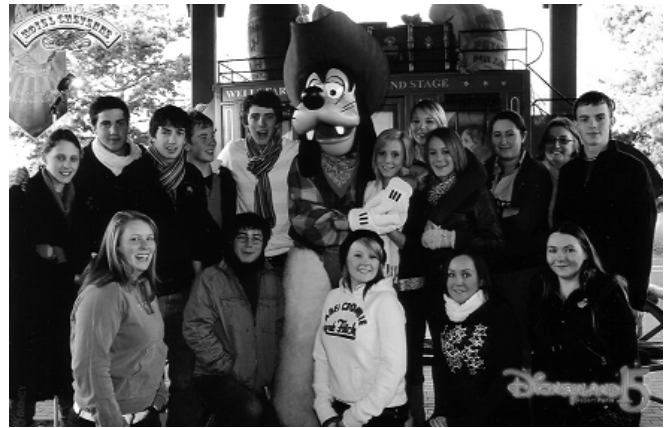
Day 2, the park...

Everyone woke up early and ventured down to the park after an interesting breakfast, and headed towards the roller coasters. Even Hannah faced her fear of big rides and experienced 'Crush's Coaster'. However when the ride was finished her initial reaction was 'I've never been so scared in my life'.

Everyone enjoyed the hair raising rides including, Space Mountain, Crush's Coaster, Rock n' Roller Coaster and the girls in particular enjoyed Big Thunder Mountain. However, it wasn't just the ride they enjoyed, it was the queue as well, as there was much laughter after Jess Moffat made a friend in the queue and they became very close! In the evening we got all geared up with our cowboy hats and went to "Buffalo Bills Wild West Show" everyone was 'whooping and hollering' as the Cowboys and Indians, along with cows, buffalo and horses, re-enacted the events of the wild west. We all longingly awaited our cowboy cuisine which turned out to be chilli and dry bread, oily potato and a selection of interesting meats, a bite size corn on the cob and apple crumble and ice cream, which Toby was force fed by a clown! To enhance the Wild West theme it smelt as if Disney had especially shipped in Wiltshire's finest manure to set the aroma of the show, especially for us country bumpkins!

Day 3, the work...

Day 3 we had a very early start and a quick breakfast before heading down to the seminar Disney had put on for visiting students. At the seminar there was a brief appearance from Mickey Mouse and Goofy, who tried to get our brains going by getting everyone up and dancing. Unfortunately at 9am after a late night, no one was very enthusiastic. After the informative conference we all went off in groups to ask people around the park our questionnaires. However this was an experience as half the people we were asking could speak very little English. After we had the sufficient results, we all met up to check in with the teachers. Even though the weather had suddenly plummeted, Jorge made a special appearance in shorts and flip flops. We all then headed back to the park for a last chance to go on the unforgettable rides. Anna and Jess took the eager Mrs Boulton on Space Mountain, and with a '1,2,3, vroom' they were off, and did Mrs Boulton scream! Anna and Jess were left in stitches and the photo at the end of the ride was pretty self explanatory. However Mrs Boulton was left shaken, but not stirred as she said she would go on it again. Gemma, Rachael and Stephanie went to witness the thrilling stunt show, and were left on the edge of their seats as cars drove off the roof of lorries, through rings of fire and people were being set alight.



Anna Schofield, Jess Moffat, Gemma Henry, Steph Ball, Rachael Ellis, Hannah Van Den Berg, Amy Langan, Amy Farrant, Toby Mullins, Simon Warren, Mike Dagnall, Chris Pratt, Jorge Wadman, Daniel Green. Mrs Boulton & Mrs Musgrove.

Dan Ottaway (DJ) couldn't be with us on the business trip, so Toby and Co. decided they would use a lip gloss they found at the park to represent him. They took (DJ) the lip gloss, on rides and had photos taken with characters such as Cruella de Vil and Donald Duck holding DJ.

The evening came and the lads were no where to be seen. We wondered if Jorge had frost bite but actually they were an hour late because they were still getting ready! We all sat down to eat at Planet Hollywood. All the girls were very impressed with a certain waiter... ahem.

The food was demolished in minutes as everyone was very hungry. Its unbelievable to think, that after the amount of food Gemma and Stephanie brought with them, which could feed an army.

Back at the hotel we went down to the cracking Karaoke. Lets say the boys were less than impressed, but the girls made the most of it and had a good old boogie.

Day 4, coming home...

After being instructed to be up bright and early the night before, everyone got up at around 6.30am, However the teachers were still fast asleep at 7 O'clock, when we were supposed to be going for breakfast, bless! We all grabbed some food and then went back to get our luggage and had a last chance to shop. Anna and Jess however got a little carried away and when they came out of the gift shop thought they had been left behind. The group and teachers were no where to be seen. The panic set in and they frantically ran around the mass of buses looking for our group when suddenly they spotted Mrs Boulton and had never felt so happy to see her.

With everyone accounted for, we set off on our journey home and everyone was very quiet as they were absolutely shattered. We arrived at passport control and Mike Dagnall approached the Immigration Officer, and as he showed his passport, proving his name to be Mike Dagnall, suddenly Simon Warren shouted Mark! Lets just say panic ensued, but everyone got through ok in the end! In a hurry, Stephanie ran into the bus's wing mirror and got a very funny look from the bus driver!

We had one last stop before we entered the tunnel and then we were well on our way back to England.

At around 6.30pm we arrived back at school and every one was eager to get home to bed.

All in all the trip was excellent, educational and fun. And a big thank you goes to Mrs Boulton and Mrs Musgrove for putting up with us for 4 days.

Anna Schofield

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains all the letters 1 - 9

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | 6 | | | | 8 |
| | 9 | | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | | 4 | | 1 | | 7 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 4 | | 2 | | 6 | | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 1 | | 9 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| 8 | | | | 1 | | | | |

YEAR 10 INTER HOUSE COMPETITION

Wednesday 5th December saw the first Year 10 Inter House Competition take place. There were four different events, which were all played in the correct spirit, despite being fiercely competitive!

The main boys event was football, played in some very wet conditions. However, this did not effect the outstanding football being played, most notably by **Bradley Whitbread** representing King who score several goals, including a cheeky back heel. Other good performances included **Jake Pearce** with some silky skills and match winning saves and **Jason Nash** who made some well timed passes and tackles.

Overall the event was a massive success and once the results were collected and verified, the results were as follows:-

The 'A' Team Cup:

- 1st Gandhi
- 2nd Mandela
- 3rd King
- 4th Teresa

The 'B' Team Cup:

- 1st Mandela
- 2nd Teresa
- 3rd Gandhi
- 4th King

The girls hockey event also suffered the wind and rain. However, they continued to play with enthusiasm and determination. Miss Beck would like to congratulate all the teams on their team work and co-operation, especially Mandela House who demonstrated excellent team work skills. Results were as follows:

The 'A' Team Cup

- 1st King
- 2nd Mandela
- 3rd Gandhi
- 4th Teresa

The 'B' Team Cup:

- 1st Mandela
- 2nd King
- 3rd Teresa
- 4th Gandhi

In the fitness suite challenge, each house were asked to make up a team of two boys and two girls and with some houses failing to organise the correct number of participants, the results were effected. Those who did compete worked very hard and covered a huge distance on a range of equipment. Each team had to demonstrate stamina on treadmills, rowing machine, cross trainers and the bike and the winning team

Solution to last issue's puzzle:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 |

completed a massive 19932km.

After Mr Langan collected and added all results, the final table looked like this:-

- 1st King
- 2nd Mandela
- 3rd Gandhi
- 4th Teresa

The final event was the inter house badminton, this was very well attended and allowed Mrs Strickland to run a very successful singles and doubles competition. The level of badminton being played was extremely high with some very experienced badminton players. This event allowed for 8 opportunities to score 1st team points for your house.

The final results table looks like this:

| Doubles | Court A | Court B | Court C | Court D |
|---------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 st King 2 nd Mandela 3 rd Gandhi 4 th Teresa | 1 st King 2 nd Mandela 3 rd Gandhi 4 th Teresa | 1 st Gandhi 2 nd King 3 rd Mandela 4 th Teresa | 1 st Gandhi 2 nd King 3 rd Mandela 4 th Teresa |
| Singles | 1 st King 2 nd Mandela 3 rd Gandhi 4 th Teresa | 1 st Mandela 2 nd Gandhi 3 rd Teresa 4 th King | 1 st Gandhi 2 nd King 3 rd Mandela 4 th Teresa | 1 st Gandhi 2 nd Mandela 3 rd Teresa 4 th King |

After the event we interviewed Mr Long, who had this to say:-

"Congratulations to all who took part. The year group conducted themselves in a very mature fashion and played sport to a very high level. The new house system has brought tutor groups together and allowed you to play in new teams, which you have adapted to very well. Next term I would like to see all of you participating in a range of sports"

I would like to thank all the PE staff and Mr Kirby for making the first Year 10 Inter House competition a massive success. Well done to all the winners, but also everyone who participated!

Mr Cocks

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