

Mall Vouchers are now available from Reception for all those Year 11 and 10 students who have received 10 postcards. You must produce the postcards to get the mall voucher.

Inside this issue:

Commonwealth Competition	2
Reward Stamp Results	2
Aim Higher Parents' Evening	2
Holiday of a Lifetime	3
Rocket Technology Day	4
Music Notice	4

Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 13

Newsletter Date: 7th May 2010

School Uniform: Burgundy Sweatshirts

Thank you to the many parents who actively support the school by encouraging students to arrive dressed in the correct uniform. All students in Years 7 to 11 are expected to wear the uniform, including the sweatshirt. In the cold weather this January, it became clear that a number of students did not have a school sweatshirt and attempted to wear a number of alternatives to keep warm. **From September 2010 we will be reinforcing school uniform expectations that all students have and wear a school sweatshirt.** Even if students choose to wear a coat, they should only do so over a school sweatshirt.

The business of school is learning. Uniform allows students to arrive in school ready for learning, without the social pressures to wear alternatives or respond to the latest fashion. The uniform is described in the student planner and on the school website under *student information*. It is simple and cost-effective in providing appropriate clothing for students in school. Students were involved in recommending the current zip design in 2007. It is not permitted to wear alternative cardigans, "hoodies" or jumpers.

Please ensure your son/daughter has a school sweatshirt for September 2010. Sweatshirts can be purchased through the school because of the support of the PTA. Please ask for an order form through the Reception Office.

Black shoes are also an important part of the uniform. Simple "daps" are not appropriate for use in busy corridors and classrooms. Trainers are not appropriate footwear throughout the day.

Thank you for your support in enabling students to arrive in school ready for learning.

Richard Badley, Headteacher



Common Wealth Competitions

Commonwealth Photographic Awards

One powerful image can often say more than many pages of writing. If you want to make your response to the Science, Technology and Society theme an image, then start snapping! Whether you use a digital, analogue, or disposable camera – or even a mobile phone – we want to see your pictures. Send them in by 1st June 2010 and you'll be in line for some fantastic prizes. For full details, please visit: www.thercs.org/youth/photoawards

Commonwealth Vision Awards

Aspiring young filmmakers are invited to make a 30-90 second film responding to the Science, Technology and Society theme. Submit your fully-made film via YouTube or post a hard copy before the closing date of 1st July 2010. For full details, please visit: www.thercs.org/youth/visionawards

Reward Stamp Results

Up to Easter 2010, the top student is Cameron Parsons in 7.5 with 384 stamps, followed by David Kiddle in 7.7 with 354, and then Jordan Foster in 7.5 with 350. Holly Grinham in 7.8 is the best girl (329 stamps) and the only other scores over 300 are Harry Prendergast (307) and Jordan Cribb (307), both in 7.7, and Jade Campbell (311), Alex Ford (315), Shelby Haynes (313) and Laura Sanderson (300), all from 7.5. It is interesting to note that the B side of Year 7 collects more stamps than the A side.

In Year 8, Laura Jones in 8.7 leads the way with 319 stamps, followed by Abigail Bowden in 8.5 (273) and Ellie Furnival in 8.8 (218).

In Year 9, Jess Hocking in 9.3 is best with 276, followed by April Dokpesi in 9.4 (226) and Georgina Galsworthy in 9.2 (254).

Congratulations to students from 7.5 who are well ahead of the others, 8.7 and 8.8 who are close together and leading Year 8, and 9.8 and 9.3 who are ahead in Year 9.

Year 8 Aim Higher Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents who attended the Aim Higher Parents' Evening on Wednesday 20th April. Again it was a successful evening where parents could find out if going on to Higher and Further Education was right for their son/daughter.

Students from Bath Spa, Bristol University, Bath University and UWE spoke to parents on three topics:

- The costs and benefits of Higher Education
- Student Life
- Career Progression

Please look out for further opportunities for all students to explore the possibilities of Higher Education with our Aim Higher Programme that runs in all years.

Holiday of a lifetime by Mrs Allsopp and Miss Wallace

When Miss Wallace and I set off for our trip to the Falkland Islands we certainly did not realise that we would be caught up in a global catastrophe!

Two years ago Mrs Helen Bell, Head of Year, left Mangotsfield School to take up the post of Deputy Head at the Falkland Islands Community School (FICS). Immediately Miss Wallace and I said that we would go and visit her there. We knew that the Falkland Islands were renowned for their wildlife, penguins and albatrosses in particular, and this was an added incentive for our visit.



It took 18 months of careful planning and preparation to put our travel plans in motion. Considering I am not the world's best traveller, the thought of a 24 hour plane flight certainly gave me some sleepless nights! Also we would be leaving here in April, our Spring, to go into their Autumn. However - nothing ventured, nothing gained - so with a large supply of travel tablets and 2 enormous suitcases containing thick coats, scarves and woolly hats, we set off from RAF Brize Norton. We stopped on route to refuel at Ascension Island (32 degrees) and then onto the Falklands (8 degrees).

The first sight that greeted us as we left Mount Pleasant airport was a turkey vulture circling overhead. This, and the biting wind, certainly encouraged us to "keep moving". In fact the turkey vulture was only one of the amazing birds that we were lucky enough to see during our stay. We were able to not only see, but get close to, four of the five penguin species that inhabit the Falklands, the Magellanic, the Gentoo, the Rock-Hopper and the King. Another highlight was being able to get close to the nesting Black Browed Albatross and realise just how huge these magnificent birds really are. We also saw dolphins playing in the surf and a large lazy sea lion swimming in the harbour.

The people of the Falklands were extremely hospitable and they extended us every kindness. The Falklands conflict is still clearly remembered and Liberation Day is celebrated every year. While we were there some British soldiers, veterans of the conflict, came for a visit and toured the battlefields. Apparently quite a few veterans return to the Falklands to visit people they met back in 1982.

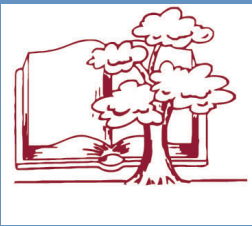
Obviously while we were there we took the opportunity to visit the secondary school, Falkland Islands Community School (FICS). There are only 2 schools on the Falkland Islands, the primary school and the secondary school. The secondary school is much smaller than Mangotsfield, the total school population is smaller than one of our year groups. They only have years 7-11 at the school, if students want to study A levels or go to university then they have to come to England and stay there to finish their studies. The students still follow the same basic curriculum as English students, ie English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Technology, ICT, MFL. Their classes are much smaller than ours and the school is fully inclusive. In other words, all students aged 11-16, no matter what their difficulties, attend the one secondary school. For some students it is too far to travel into Port Stanley to attend the school daily so, if they are over 9 years old, they stay in Port Stanley during the week at the boarding school. If they are under 9 then the teacher goes and stays in their house and teaches them there for a week at a time. I'm not sure who would find that the most difficult - the student or the teacher!

While we were there Miss Wallace and I spoke to some of the teachers and Miss Wallace in particular worked with some of the staff on developing their knowledge and expertise on the Interactive Whiteboard. We hope to have built up some links with the school through asking if any of the Falkland Island students would like pen-friends in England. Also we hope, at a later date, to continue to build on the link we have made through the use of ICT, eg e-mails and linked lessons.



Finally, our holiday came to an end and we packed our cases (now full of stuffed penguins and photographs) and set off for the airport. We arrived to find that the plane was grounded and then we found out about the impact of the Icelandic volcano. Luckily Miss Wallace and I were able to continue to stay with Mrs Bell and her husband while waiting for the planes to start flying again. Eventually we reached home a week later than planned and with a large dose of jet lag.

This trip enabled us to see people, places and animals that we never thought possible. It was also an opportunity to try new things - I even flew to a small island in a small 8 seater plane which landed in a field! It has been an experience that will stay with us for years to come.



**MANGOTSFIELD
SCHOOL
AN ENGINEERING AND
SCIENCE COLLEGE**

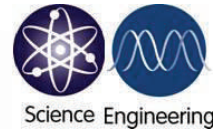
Please give any feedback or articles for later editions to Ms Terri Chard

Phone: 01454 862700
Fax: 01454 862700
E-mail: t.chard@mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

We're on the Web

www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

Please remember that the telephone number for the Student Absence Line is 01454 862777



Rocket Technology Day



Recently, 20 potential rocket scientists from Year 8 went to the University of the West of England to build their own rockets. The Aim Higher day was presented by Starchaser, a company working towards space tourism and aimed at encouraging students to do science and engineering at university. The presentation involved some great film sequences of rocket launches (not all of them successful!) and some fantastic experiments with different rocket fuels.



Jessica Mason, Abigail Bowden and Robyn Kelley

Catastrophic Failure

The mid-day meal was provided for the students but, as you know, there's no such thing as a free launch(!) and some hard work was needed building the rockets. Careful measuring, cutting and gluing led to some very impressive looking rockets which were taken to UWE's equivalent of Cape Canaveral (the lawn outside the Vice Chancellor's office) and let off into space. Well, perhaps not quite into space - quite high up in most cases - but into trees for others and, for one or two, a catastrophic failure of the rocket re-entry canopy system (the parachute) and a perfectly vertical descent straight into the ground.

Excellent Behaviour

The perfect mix of interesting science and engineering theory and hands-on learning meant that everyone enjoyed themselves and Phil the rocket scientist from Starchaser was given a big round of applause from the students. We would like to thank the students who attended for their excellent behaviour during the day. Phil said it was the best Rocket Technology Day he'd had so far. **Look out for more photos on the website.**



Jack Williams, Ollie Flew and Bryn Hudson who won prizes for the best rocket flight



Ben Goodman

As part of the KS3 Music Curriculum this year, Year 7 students and some musicians from Years 8 and 9 will be participating in **Gamelan Workshops** next week, using traditional Indonesian music percussion instruments. Workshops will be run by Andy Warn, a local musician, with many years of experience in this field.

We would like to welcome any parents who are interested to visit the workshops. There will also be an opportunity to see the Music Apple Mac suite and gain some 'hands on' experience. If you would like to visit the Music Department on either day, between 1.55 and 3.45 pm, please contact the Music Department soon as possible. Places will be available on a 'first come first served' basis.