

# Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 13

Newsletter Date: 27 March 2009

## Special points of interest:

Deadline for Easter Revision Course bookings is today. If you have missed this deadline, please see Ms Chard on Monday.

## Inside this issue:

Gwen Fussell 2

Romanian Visit 2

PDC lesson 3

Rugby Champions 3

Red Nose Day 4

## Ski Trip

On Friday 13 February, 41 students and 4 teachers set off by coach to Austria. 27 long hours later we arrived at our hotel very weary and exhausted, but we soon cheered up after a delicious Austrian meal (typical of all the meals we ate that week).

The snow was fantastic—superb conditions for ski-ing/snowboarding. One day it snowed constantly, there was nearly 1 metre of snow! As a result, transport from our hotel became very difficult so we had to rely on local taxis. We had 2 days of ski-ing in difficult conditions because of poor visibility but all of the groups coped incredibly well.

Evening entertainment was varied—swimming, skating, quiz and bingo nights. Skating at the new ice rink in Kitzbuhel was one of the highlights.

At the end of the week all the students received a medal which reflected their achievement for either ski-ing or snowboarding. Alfie Warren-Knight of Year 10 is undoubtedly the fastest snowboarder (!) and a special mention must go to newcomer Taylor Stevens of Year 11 who after just one day on the slopes as a beginner snowboarder was promoted to the advanced group.

All too soon our week came to an end and we were all a little sad to leave our hotel and the slopes for our long trip back to Bristol.

Ms Aldous, Ski Trip Organiser



## Launch Event for the BIKE Project

On Thursday 2 April, we shall be launching the BIKE IT project. This aims to encourage more children to cycle to school. Cycling is a great way of keeping fit and active whilst also helping the environment. From 8.00 am-8.20 am there will be a BIKE IT Breakfast, where all children who cycle to school on that day will receive a voucher for a free breakfast at the Breakfast Club and be entered for a free draw to win some great biking prizes.

There will also be two professional bike mechanics, called Dr Bike, in all day for students to get their bikes fixed and serviced for free. Students will need to sign up to get their bikes fixed as we anticipate that Dr Bike will be very busy all day. Other appointments will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. So get involved on Thursday 2 April. Even if you don't normally ride to school, bring your bike in and get a free breakfast and check-over for your bike.

## Junior Circuits

Junior Circuits is a weekly session aimed at teenagers who are committed to getting in shape and improving their health and fitness. Circuit training offers a complete solution; it can improve strength,

endurance and aerobic fitness as well as burning fat in one workout.

Wednesday  
5.00 pm-5.30 pm  
**At: KINGSWOOD LEISURE CENTRE**

Price = £2.90 per session  
Age Range – 11 to 16 years old

**For further details or to book your place, please contact Reception on 0300 333 0300**

## Congratulations to Gwen — by Tim Tamimi

Gwendolyn Fussell has been confirmed as the oldest Lunchbreak Supervisor out of all the schools in South Gloucestershire. At the age of 81, Gwen is a grandmother, with 3 of her grandchildren here in Mangotsfield School as students.

For those of you who surprisingly do not know Mrs Fussell already, she is one of those people who make school feel like a second home.

Gwen joined Mangotsfield 21 years ago after working at the Chase Boys' School so you can see that she has had years of experience with dealing with children. I had the chance to ask Gwen about her feelings on her long career; she excitedly answered, "I love it, working here is all I want to do," and she added, "I hope I will be given the chance to go on forever!". To be honest, I quite envy Gwen for her enthusiasm towards her

job. Such positive thinking helps the world to become a better place.

I feel hopeless at trying to use words to describe the friendship and love Gwen provides us as students.

Truly, words are not enough., and I assure you there is nothing like the warmth of the motherhood she shows; "I like to think of them as my own children," she said when I asked about the students.

On behalf of the students, the staff and the teachers I would like to wish Granny Gwen a long and happy career and life.



## Romanian Visit

On Friday 6 March, Mangotsfield School played host to 9 Romanian visitors as part of a Sports College initiative that supports teachers from other countries travelling around the world to experience education in countries other than their own.

They were mainly here to see how we teach Physical Education in England. It seems vastly different from sport in Romania where each teacher only teaches one sport and is more of a coach than a teacher.

The delegation was made up of coaches of handball, volleyball, athletics and swimming. They spoke really good English and could communicate with staff and students alike, although sometimes this was through the international language of hand signals!

During their experience at Mangotsfield School, they joined in with a badminton lesson, observed GCSE and BTEC theory lessons and toned muscles with Mrs Mole's aerobics lesson. They also observed a really fun Physics lesson with the Year 13 students.

It was really nice to see people from other countries come to our school. It teaches us that the world is a bigger place than the Mangotsfield area or even Bristol. It shows us that, although there are differences between us, there are also similarities and that we are all human. We gain tolerance for other people's behaviour and culture.

I am sure that they thought our way of life was a bit weird but they seemed to enjoy themselves immensely, especially with regards to

the Brunel Restaurant's fish and chips at lunchtime (although they did ask for tabasco sauce to put on it!!!)

At the end of the day, it was sad to see them leave. We liked showing off our school and they enjoyed their visit. They presented the school with a goodie bag with maps and information about Romania which is now on display in the foyer. We are keen to keep up with the link and if anyone would like a Romanian Pen-pal then they need to see Miss Chard who will set it up for them.

So, for now, "Ramas bun" (Goodbye in Romanian)

## Enquiry-based Learning...

During the past four weeks in the panel. PDC, students from Years 7 to 11 have been conducting enquiries into relevant modern issues that are affecting many young people in today's society. The aim of enquiry-based learning is for students to progressively take full responsibility for the content, processes and outcomes of their enquiries.

We need to encourage, support and provide opportunities for our learners to operate as independent learners. We need them to take responsibility for their own learning, to manage their own time and to become reflective learners.

### Independent enquirers

**Focus:** Young people process and evaluate information in their investigations, planning what to do and how to go about it. They take informed and well-reasoned decisions, recognising that others have different beliefs and attitudes.

Young people:

- identify questions to answer and problems to resolve
- plan and carry out research, appreciating the consequences of decisions
- explore issues, events or problems from different perspectives
- analyse and evaluate information, judging its relevance and value
- consider the influence of circumstances, beliefs and feelings on decisions and events
- support conclusions, using reasoned arguments and evidence.

An Independent Enquirer is someone who can plan how to solve big questions or problems on their own and also carry out research effectively to help them do this. Students have been working alongside the following QCA guidelines shown

Independent Learning, action planning the curriculum to planning, problem solving, develop these skills within each opportunities to work with individual and provide them vocational professionals and with a wealth of opportunities common standards for to excel. have become important again. Therefore, at Mangotsfield School we are

## Rugby Champions of the South West — by George Pike

The day started well when we got onto the coach with our Head teacher Mr Badley wishing us luck. After a journey of more than an hour we arrived at North Petherton Rugby Club in Somerset. Mr Risdale gave us a great team talk and we went through our team tactics. We got changed and started our pre-match preparation.

Our first match was against the Cornish Champions, a school from Wadebridge. It was a tight match but after some good forward play, Monty Reed made a break up the field, avoided several tackles and scored our first try, which Jacob Perry then converted. The second half saw us dominating the Cornish Team and when Sam Earnshaw

scored a second converted try we were 14-0 ahead. This try was shortly followed by another. In the last 10 minutes, Wadebridge started piling on the pressure but our defence stood firm with some crucial tackles and the game ended on an emphatic victory of 19-5.

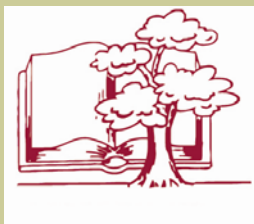
In our second match, we played Bishop Cleeve school who were champions of Gloucestershire. Again Monty gave us the perfect start by making a fast break and off loading to Chase Houghton who touched down for a try. The rest of the half resulted in no more scores, mainly due to the brave tackling of Jake Muxworthy and Harvey Ambrose who prevented their very big and very

mean looking fullback from scoring on numerous occasions.

The second half saw a kicking tactic by Ryan Roach that set up Ashley Eyles to go over for the second try.

We continued to apply the pressure and our third try was scored and converted by Jacob Perry following some good build up work by George Pike. The final whistle went and we had won the tournament.

Monty Reed as Captain collected the trophy and we received 5 new balls for the school. We now look forward to the next round where we have the chance to play the champions of Buckinghamshire.



**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](http://www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk)

If you would like  
to opt out of  
our new text / e  
-mail informa-  
tion service,  
please contact  
the school on  
01454 862700.

## Red Nose Day at Mangotsfield School "Doing something funny for money"



### Junior Spin

Junior Spin is a weekly session aimed at teenagers who love to get fit and enjoy cycling. Spinning improves cardio-vascular fitness, tones muscles and is a great way to burn calories. It is run within a controlled environment on a stationary bike. Spinning is especially developed not to measure one individual against another, but to motivate everyone within the group to work towards their own specific goals.

Tuesday, 5.00 pm-5.30 pm

**At: KINGSWOOD LEISURE CENTRE**

Price = £2.90 per session

Age Range – 14 to 16 years old

**For further details or to book your place,  
please contact reception on 0300 333 0300**

**Kingswood Leisure Centre, Church Road, Staple Hill, South Gloucestershire  
BS16 4RH [www.sgleisure.org.uk](http://www.sgleisure.org.uk)**

