

### Special points of interest:

Please do not telephone the school to check whether we are closed due to severe weather. Closure details will be announced on local radio stations and will also be available on the South Glos Council website and the Mangotsfield School website.



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# Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 7

Newsletter Date: 10th December 2010

## Parents and Students cook together

The first of the parents' sessions went down well with everyone involved when 15 parents and students came to an evening cooking session run by Mrs Garner. The families learned how to create a vegetable lasagne with fresh, healthy ingredients and the finished dishes looked fantastic. Mrs Garner was asked if she would teach them to cook a dessert next time so it sounds like we may be running another session in the future.

We would like some  
Dads next time!!



Meanwhile we have more sessions coming up. We still have places on all our courses for parents and their children, so please fill in the form (available from Reception) and return it to Ms Chard as soon as possible. The courses are **free** and run from 7.00 pm until 9.00 pm.

There are still places available for the following sessions:

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January: Drug Awareness session
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March: "Yeah, whatever!" – How to Communicate with Teenagers
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May: Internet Safety session
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July: Art for Parents

## ALL ABOUT AMBITION!

Thinking about your future ... Meeting people from industry ... Finding out how to get into different careers ... Getting motivated about the future. These were the aims of the Kingswood Partnership Ambitions event that took place on Thursday 4th November. All Mangotsfield Year 9 and 12 students attended 'Ambitions' held at the UWE Exhibition and Conference Centre - a day which saw more than 1500 students and 90 exhibitors come together to talk about future opportunities. Our Year 9 students took part in 3 different workshops, each run by a broad range of companies from Airbus, the BBC, Hotel du Vin to the Police. Year 12 students also attended workshops as well as a careers fair and a motivational talk by the paralympic athlete from Thornbury, Kate Gray. Students from all 6 schools in the Kingswood Partnership were mixed together in their workshops and there was a great atmosphere on the day with the Year 9 students showing a maturity that was a real credit to them and the school.



Amy Calway, who wrote a winning newsletter clip about the Ambitions event, tells us more in her own words ...



"I was one of the thousands of students to go to the Ambitions Event at the University of the West of England. The question on everyone's mind probably was - WHAT WILL I DO IN THE FUTURE?

With this in mind, there were similar questions like - WHAT JOB FITS ME? and HOW CAN I GET THE GRADES I WANT TO DO WELL AND SUCCEED IN LIFE?

This day helped me find out the range of jobs that are available!

Amy Calway, Year 9

## Does your child do great things out of school?

The PTA would like to award a prize to the child who makes a great contribution to the local community out of school hours. This could be volunteering at a scout group, caring for others by helping out family or dedicating themselves to a sport.

We really want to celebrate our students and what they do when they leave the school gates. If you have some information, please e-mail it to [t.chard@mangotsfieldschool.org.uk](mailto:t.chard@mangotsfieldschool.org.uk).

## ROAD SAFETY

For over a year, Governors have been making strong representations to South Gloucestershire Council to improve road safety around the school. The village centre will, we hope, see improvements which we have supported, before April. We are now working on an update to the school Travel Plan, which is a good opportunity to press the County to systematically improve all the roads around the school.

If you have views, or your children have experienced incidents, do feed them into the process. Please e-mail your comments to [a.wait@mangotsfieldschool.org.uk](mailto:a.wait@mangotsfieldschool.org.uk)

## Brownie Points make prizes!

Students who would like to catch up on their reading skills have been invited to join the Brownie Points scheme. Miss Smith launched the project at an evening event for parents who found out how the scheme will work and how successful last year's scheme was.

More than 20 students took part last year, each reading 3 books with the help of Sixth Formers and interactive on-line quizzes that checked on their progress. The Sixth Form students were trained to help the Year 7s with reading which saw some students' reading age rise by as much as 5 years! The average increase was 1.71 years which was fantastic after only 4 months.

The 35 Year 7s taking part this year can look forward to prizes and certificates at the end of the scheme – maybe even a brownie? We will let you know how this year's readers get on.



## Booked Up!

In September, over 240 bookmarks arrived at school and each bookmark had a list of 19 great books printed on it. Every student in Year 7 was given a bookmark and they were asked to add their name and tutor group and then tick the book they would like to read.

The bookmarks were collected and sent off to Booktrust, an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages to read more. Booktrust then sent us the books which were chosen, we put the bookmark in the book and gave out the books to every member of Year 7. The books were given to students to keep and all for free, so thank you very much Booktrust!

**Read more about the Booked Up scheme at [www.bookedup.org.uk](http://www.bookedup.org.uk)**



*Year 7 students in Miss Smith's group, 7.8, receive their books.*

### **Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Catering Students**

We are still waiting for the return of non-stick cheesecake tins with removable bases (large and small sizes).

**Please could students return them as soon as possible.** Thanks to students who have returned theirs already.

### **Participation Award**

Students can now receive prizes for participating in clubs. Just ask a member of staff to sign your participation grid every time you attend a club in school and the more hours you complete, the more prizes you could get!

### **LUNCHBREAK SUPERVISOR**

**Required as soon as possible, a reliable Lunchbreak Supervisor to support students at lunchtime.**

**5 hours per week, term-time only  
HAY 13, £1,637-£1,722 per annum**

**Closing date: 3.30 pm on Friday 7th  
January 2011**

All details are available on the school website

[www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk](http://www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk)  
or telephone 01454 862740



**MANGOTSFIELD SCHOOL  
AN ENGINEERING AND  
SCIENCE COLLEGE**

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

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**We're on the Web**

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



*Have a  
Merry  
Christmas and  
a Happy  
New Year*

## Faraday Engineering Challenge 2010

A group of Year 8 students beat 5 other teams in this year's Faraday Engineering Challenge when they designed a device that could be operated remotely to perform basic operations. The teams had to design and make the tool that would pick up and move a ball into a tray but only by viewing the operation by watching a video monitor. To make the test more difficult, the teams had a limited amount of money to buy the materials to make the machine and they had to create a video to document their task.

There were 3 teams from Hanham High School, a team from Yate International Academy, one from The Grange and our team from Mangotsfield (Alex Ford, Kate Willmott, Billy Sims, Beth Clay, Kevin Li and Cameron Band).

**Congratulations to our team for winning such a difficult challenge.**



Connexions Personal Advisers come into school to offer support to teenagers. Our focus is to mainly work with those who may need our support in getting into employment, education or training but we can also support those with other problems that may be affecting them in or out of school. Have a chat with the Connexions Personal Adviser at parents evenings

**Parents/guardians of Year 11 Students:**  
Encourage your teenager to look at college & 6<sup>th</sup> form prospectuses and start applying preferably before Christmas – the school will often have stocks of prospectuses and look on website [www.futurefinder.org.uk](http://www.futurefinder.org.uk)

Encourage your son/daughter to consider a back up plan & look on Connexions website [www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk) for school leaver vacancies, career ideas, CV builder, interview tips and other useful websites, ideas and information (includes information for parents too). [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) has an advice line from 8am-2am freephone 08080013219

Look on [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) for information about apprenticeships

See school Connexions' notice board for information on 6<sup>th</sup> form/college open days, vacancies, volunteering opportunities .....

**HOW TO HELP YOUR  
SON/DAUGHTER IN THE  
AUTUMN**