

*Welcome
back to 2011*

Inside this issue:

Engineering Project 2

European Café 2

Year 9 Curriculum Offer 3

Important dates this term 4

Public Services Diploma 4

Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 8

Newsletter Date: 7th January 2011

Christmas Concert great success!



Reminder: You must have your school jumper with you at all times. It is compulsory to WEAR it during assembly.

Mangotsfield Students among first to visit Bloodhound SSC Project

Six Year 8 students are participating in the Go4SET Engineering challenge to design a new Eco-Classroom. They are competing against designs from other local schools and will present their ideas at a conference in February. Part of the project involves group mentoring from a professional mechanical engineer from company DE&S.

Also, on Thursday 25 November, as part of the scheme, the students were some of the first-ever school children to visit the exciting Bloodhound SuperSonic Car project on Bristol's harbourside. The team already holds the world land speed record of 763 mph set in 1997. With the new Bloodhound car, engineers are hoping to achieve 1000 mph in this new car to be built next year. Students explored the 13 metre life-size model of the car that will be powered by a Rolls-Royce EJ200 jet engine and Falcon hybrid rocket and carbon fibre design.

If successful, Bloodhound will cover 469 metres every second, equivalent to 4½ football pitches in 1 second and will be faster than a bullet fired from a Magnum 357!

The best part was watching the animation of the record attempt and getting to build our own car and test it with a really powerful air pump (we won!).



Alex Ford 8.5

Find out more at www.bloodhoundssc.com / www.go4set.org.uk

Year 8 European Café

On 9th December, Mrs Royall's Year 8 German group organised a European Café for staff during Lesson 2 and break time. "After studying the topic of food for a few weeks now", said Mrs Royall, "the idea of a café gave the group something really exciting to focus on". The group designed all their own invitations, posters and table decorations for the event and invited staff to enjoy some European snacks such as coffee, hot chocolate, croissants and pains au chocolat. There was also a raffle. The event raised just over £40 for the charity "Action for Kids" and the money will go towards providing specialised trikes so that a few severely handicapped children can get around and enjoy their Christmas this year. A big thank you to all staff who supported this event.



Mrs Kinneir is running a textiles club every Thursday lunchtime. Come and join in!

Year 9 Curriculum Offer - Changed Date for Curriculum Evening, 8th February 2011

We had a very positive response from our Year 9 Information Evening on 1st December. In response to a number of parental comments, we are moving the date for the return of options to Monday 7th March. In order to support the delivery of courses across the Partnership, we will be asking students to let Miss Phillips know if they are thinking of opting for a course at another school or the College by Monday 28th February.

A number of parents also said that they would have liked a summary of the curriculum information shared that evening, so here is a brief summary.

The Government shared an education white paper at the end of November, which may have an impact on the final option choices offered. The key areas which impact on Year 9 choices are:

- The introduction of the English Baccalaureate, which will require students to achieve grade A* - C in English, mathematics, two sciences, a language and geography or history. The White Paper maintains the expectation that all current Year 9 students will remain in education or training until aged 17; we believe that this will include school, college and work-based learning placements. This combination is an important one to consider.
- The investigation of vocational courses, like BTECs, to decide what value they will have against GCSEs – the outcomes of this will be known in Spring.

We will make an offer of courses for next year, based on what we know, and we may adjust this to give students the best possible outcomes in two years time. In the light of the changing situation, we are delaying the Year 9 Options Evening until 8th February. We hope many of these issues will be clarified to enable us to provide guidance.

Levels of Qualifications

We currently offer courses at different levels, which are equivalent to GCSE grades:

Level 2 – GCSEs at grades A* - C

Level 1 - GCSEs at grades D – G

Entry Level - below GCSE grade G

Types of qualifications

Qualification	Level	Assessment type	Comments
GCSE	1 and 2	Exam, controlled coursework	Modular approach may be reduced so that all exams are taken at the end of the course
BTEC, OCR National, NVQ	1 or 2	All coursework, with short targets	BTEC currently worth 2 or 4 GCSEs, but this equivalence may be changed
Diplomas	1 or 2	Exam and coursework with extended pieces of writing	Currently the range of 14 subjects is offered across the Kingswood Partnership
Range of college courses	Entry	All coursework	Some students attend college to study courses eg motor vehicle maintenance or childcare

Dates for Reflection and Action

Tuesday 4th January – Personal Development Curriculum (PDC) choices lessons start

Tuesday 25th January – Curriculum Evening – subject leaders will be available to talk with you. The curriculum booklet will be available, giving options for 2011.

Thursday 3rd March – parent/ teacher evening.

Monday 7th March – new options form deadline.



**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

**Do you
qualify for
Free
School
Meals?
If you do,
pick up a
claim form
from
reception**

IMPORTANT DATES IN JAN/FEB

19th January	Year 11 Subject Evening, 4.30-7.00 pm
27th January	Year 11 Photographs
3rd February	Year 10 Aim Higher Day
8th February	Year 9 Curriculum Options Eve, 7.00 pm
15th February	Celebration of Achievement Eve, 7.00 pm
19th February	End of Term 3
28th February	INSET DAY

KINGSWOOD PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC SERVICES DIPLOMA START EXPLORING THE PUBLIC SECTOR



At the start of Term 1, 32 Year 10 students from across the Kingswood Partnership Schools gathered at the Grange School to meet Sergeant Paul Sharpe from the Army and Corporal Adie Smith-Hayes from the RAF. Both visitors gave a presentation about their organisations and career pathways. This was then followed by smaller group question and answer sessions.

There were lots of facts and figures to take on board. For example, students discovered that there are 140,000 in the Army and seven different divisions - girls are not allowed to join the Infantry or Tanks. They also learned about the rigorous entry procedures, requirements and two day interview. Besides having a grade C in Maths, English and Science, men have to be able to run a mile and a half in 9 minutes 18 seconds and women in 14 minutes.

The RAF we discovered has 38,000 and does a lot of humanitarian work, eg flood rescue in the UK and abroad. Contrary to popular myth, the RAF is not just about being a pilot. There are a range of career options and interests that can be pursued. Corporal Smith-Hayes also told us how he has been able to develop his interest in sport, playing Rugby and Basketball for the RAF and travelling to Australia, America and Europe as a result. He is also a qualified expedition leader.

Applying to join the RAF is equally as demanding as the Army. Both stressed the importance of teamwork and gave interview advice that all students would find very useful. We look forward to building on the excellent experiences that students have had so far this year.

James Dale, Lead Practitioner said: "Students enjoy the flexibility of the Public Services Diploma and the range of learning styles involved. Having the opportunity to meet a range of people from outside agencies has enable students to demonstrate their maturity and learn about their local community."