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Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 2

Newsletter Date: 25 Sept 2009

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES EVENING

TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER
7.00 pm



All Year 11 students and their parents/carers are warmly invited to our Post 16 Opportunities Evening. This is your chance to find out more about our Sixth Form and the Kingswood Partnership, to talk to subject teachers and to collect a prospectus and application forms.

It is a very important and useful evening. Year 11 have already had a lot of information about Post 16 education, but at this evening the opportunity to speak to subject teachers is invaluable.

Our Sixth Form is extremely successful and our range of courses extensive, so please come along to discover more.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 29th September.

Louise Bird
Head of Sixth Form



New volunteering opportunities with Barnardo's Children's Services in South Gloucestershire

There are two new volunteering opportunities in South Glos. One to support parents and carers of school age children, the other to support positive contact between young prison fathers and their children.

Tim Langhorn is the local Volunteer Co-ordinator and his role is to support the development of volunteering throughout South Gloucestershire.

Tim and the team have a number of ideas, creating new opportunities for volunteering as the project develops. The first induction training for volunteers will start in September.

Being a volunteer can be rewarding, challenging, supportive, useful, dynamic and plenty of fun. We are looking for people who have a positive, caring and empathic attitude to children, young people and their parents or carers.

If you have the time, then give yourself the experience of a lifetime or a lifetime of experience.

For an informal chat to find out more, ring Tim on 0117 967 9341 or e-mail tim.langhorn@barnardos.org.uk

Year 10/11 Support Evening

In the 2009 GCSE exams the Year 11 students managed to achieve 62% A*-C grades. These fantastic results are due to their own hard work but also to the help and support they received from parents and staff.

For most of us it is a long time ago since we sat any exams and the challenges are a distant memory. We know that you want to support your son/daughter in achieving their very best. The Year 10/11 GCSE Support Evening will give you practical advice and helpful tips on how to provide that support to your child.

Following a short introduction there will be 4 sessions specifically designed for you, whether parents of Year 10 or Year 11 students. These sessions will tackle topics such as:

- Stress
- Time Management
- Revision Skills
- IT and how your child is using it!
- Sixth Form
- Coursework
- Work Experience

There will be plenty of opportunities to talk to staff and have all your questions on these topics answered. This evening is for parents only, students will be briefed in activities which take place in school.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 7th October from 7-9pm

Self Managers are . . .

"Speak up! No one can 'hear' what you're thinking without you being willing to stand up for it. Mind-reading is something most people can't do".

Self management is a concept that allows all students to explore and develop their emotions, their skills and reflect on their life experiences. It's about equipping all students with the tools to 'manage themselves and their responses to situations' so that in turn they live more resilient and effective lifestyles.

At Mangotsfield School, PDC lessons have considered this ethos and provided students with opportunities to develop their ability to self manage. Year 7 have considered the transition from primary to secondary school, and the need to be fully equipped and organised for all lessons. Year 8 have considered concepts of resilience and empathy, putting themselves into other peoples' shoes. Year 9 have tackled the vital skill of time management and recognising what makes someone successful; whilst Years 10 and 11 have reflected on their progress so far and set targets for their next academic year.

PDC will also receive input over the next academic year from various outside agencies. Initially PC Ashford, who has run many successful sessions for students in the past, will be discussing concepts of Personal Safety and Internet Safety with Year 7, as well as the vital concept of drug awareness with Year 8. Our thanks to PC Ashford in advance for his valued input.

Prospective Parents' Open Evening

On Monday 14 September, Mangotsfield School enjoyed its most successful Open Evening ever as students and staff worked together to welcome over 400 prospective parents into the school.

It was standing room only for a Headteacher's talk that was greatly appreciated by our visitors. For the main presentation, Mr Badley was joined by Year 11 students who talked about their aims and ambitions. Our visitors were impressed by the Year 11's high aspirations and praise for the school.

A lot of credit for the evening's success, however, should go to the students who stayed until 8.30 pm to act as guides. The school is very proud indeed of the skills that they showed in talking to sometimes quite large groups of parents and children, answering questions and giving their own views of life at Mangotsfield School. Many visitors commented on the students' good manners, enthusiasm for the school and clear depth of knowledge. There were well over 100 guides and they should be really pleased with what they accomplished on the Open Evening.

There were of course, many other students who helped out by taking to the cricket nets or conducting science experiments. There were students taking part in English lessons, painting, acting, singing and displaying a massive amount of energy and commitment by dancing virtually non-stop for the whole 3 hours.

Our visitors and their children were able to take part in a wide variety of activities put on by our staff such as Maths puzzles, immersion into French and German culture, Humanities and Design & Technology.



The Open Evening was a real joint effort between teachers and students. It was really pleasing that there were so many visitors to appreciate their efforts.



**MANGOTSFIELD
SCHOOL
AN ENGINEERING
AND SCIENCE
COLLEGE**

Please give any feedback
or articles for later

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We're on the Web

www.mangotsfieldschool.
org.uk

Join in the
fun at a
PTA event

Swine Flu Advice

Following up-to-date national advice, the school **will not automatically close** due to an outbreak of swine flu amongst students. We may need to make alternative arrangements if there is a situation where we do not have sufficient staff in school to run the normal timetable.

If there are any alternative arrangements that need to be made, we will inform you via letter and details will also be posted on our web site. We will make every effort to maintain the normal running of the school and do not envisage any problems at this time. Please make sure all the contact details we have for your child are up-to-date by checking the information form that was sent home this week.

If your child does have symptoms of swine flu (see below), please do not allow them to come to school until all the symptoms have passed. If a child displays symptoms while at school we will contact you and ask for them to be collected and taken home. In this way we hope to reduce the spread of the disease. Please phone the absence line (01454 862777) as normal if your child is not at school and inform us of the nature of any illness.

The symptoms of swine flu

Patients with swine flu typically have a fever or a high temperature (over 38°C / 100.4°F) and two or more of the following symptoms:

- unusual tiredness
- headache
- runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or cough
- loss of appetite
- aching muscles
- diarrhoea or vomiting

If you are concerned for yourself or a member of your family please look on the website www.direct.gov.uk/en/Swineflu and if you have symptoms phone 08001513100.

You should contact your doctor direct rather than using the National Pandemic Flu Service if:

- * you have a serious underlying illness
- * you are pregnant
- * you have a sick child under one year old
- * your condition suddenly gets much worse
- * your condition is still getting worse after seven days (five for a child).

Balloon Race Results



Winner	£25.00	Sam Hocking 11.3	Arundel West Sussex	149.0km
Second	£15.00	Rosie Say 9.6	Yaverland Isle of Wight	131.5km
Third	£10.00	Joe Harvey 8.5	Shanklin Isle of Wight	131.0km

Records	Distance from School	Furthest Found
2005	1056 km	Wiebaden, Germany
2006	228 km	Manton's Farm Norfolk
2007	1269 km	Ledec nad Sazanou, Czech Republic
2008	271 km	Needham Harleston Norfolk
2009	149 km	Arundel West Sussex

PTA EVENTS

**Quiz Night
16th
October**



**Car Boot Sale
26th Sept from
12 noon**



**PTA Annual General Meeting
6th October at 7pm in the LRC**