



The Royal High School, Bath

Newsletter - Week ending 5 October 2007

Young Gardeners: Year 11 students *Henny Niekirk* and *Jenny Cooper* (pictured right) have made a big impression at Lansdown's Millennium Green. The green fingered duo, who are both working for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards have been using their spare time to help keep this valuable amenity looking at its best. They have done such a great job that the Millennium Green Trust has asked them to design and plant their own plot. We look forward to seeing what they have created.

Public Speaking Auditions: The English Speaking Union and Rotary public speaking competitions will soon be under way. We will be holding auditions on Tuesday 9 October at 1.10 p.m. for students in years 10 & 11 who wish to take part. You need to prepare a two to three minute speech on a topical or moral issue of your choice, and then face a few questions about it. Yes, note cards are allowed! Public speaking is an excellent skill to develop and will serve you very well in the future, so why not have a go. See Miss Hendry for more information.



Science News: The *Science Society* held its first meeting of the term on Wednesday evening. Sixth form biology students and staff participated in a practical investigation and attempted to genetically engineer bacterial cells. The jellyfish, *Aequorea Victoria*, naturally contains a gene that makes it glow in the dark so our aim was to insert a transformed plasmid of DNA, containing the pGLO gene, from the jellyfish into the cell of the *E.coli* bacterium. The successfully transformed bacteria take up the pGLO gene, resulting in bacteria that glow in the dark.

The *Year 13 Biology Field Trip* to the South Devon coast last week was blessed with good weather, enabling the students to successfully complete A Level coursework investigations of the ecology of both fresh and salt water habitats. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful Gorah Rocks (below, right) as they hunted for crabs, seaweed and limpets.



GCSEs-What can a parent do? Written by a psychologist who is also an ex-teacher and mother of four, this book offers many useful tips to help parents and students cope with the stresses and strains of public examinations. It provides practical suggestions for effective revision, motivation and what to do when things go wrong. Copies can be obtained from Mr Melton, our Head of Upper School for £3 each.

Sports News: 26 schools from Bristol and Bath took part in the *U19 National Netball Tournament* preliminary round at Bristol Grammar School last Wednesday. Teams were divided into four groups, with eight going through to the next round. We were given a tough group, but did exceptionally well beating Bristol Grammar, Kingwood, Gordano and Colston Collegiate. We lost narrowly to Ralph Allen, but made it through to the next (county) round on October 13.

HEAD'S COMMENDATIONS

Jess Heffer 9A

Jemma Reid 9A

Beth Leyden 10B

Calendar

Mon Oct 8	Today	German Exchange visitors arrive	
	4.00-5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal (Buggy War)	Memorial Hall
	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.	U14 XI, U15 XI and 1st XI Hockey v Kingswood School	Away
Tue 9	Today	U16 County Hockey Tournament v Clifton College	Away
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal (Girl Gang)	Memorial Hall
	4.00 - 6.15 p.m.	U12 A&B, U13 A, U14 A VII Netball v Ralph Allen School	Away
	6.30 - 8.30 p.m.	Royal High Sixth Form College Information Evening	
Wed 10	Today	Italian Exchange visitors depart	
	Today	'Out of The Box' Drama Day	
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal (Choir)	Memorial Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parents' meeting for Spanish Exchange	
	7.30 p.m.	Theatre visit ' Midsummer Night's Dream	Bath
Thu 11	Today	Girls' Days School Trust senior Hockey Rally	Oxford
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal (Netball)	Memorial Hall
	4.30 - 7.00 p.m.	Sixth Form Debate (Civic Rights)	Library
Fri 12	Today	'Ted's Big Day Out' (Royal United Hospital Forever Friends Appeal)	
Sat 13	Today	U14, U16, U19 County Netball Tournament v The Grange School	Away
	8.15 - 10 a.m.	U13B XI Hockey v Kingswood School	Home
	9.00 - 11.00 a.m.	Royal High School Activities Programme Session 4	

School Travel Plan: Volunteer parents are needed to join the working party to update our Travel Plan. No experience is necessary, just interest and willingness to give a little of your time. For further information please contact Miss Bevan on 01225 313877 x 2857.

Parking at school: If you pick up or drop off your daughter at school please be mindful of the safety and welfare of other motorists, residents and pedestrians. You are asked not to drive on to school premises before school or at the end of afternoon school, as there are pupils moving around the site. We have also had reports of inconsiderate and hazardous parking by parents, particularly at the back of the school near the Old Chapel, making it dangerous for others to turn into or out of Richmond Heights. This route is used by many young children walking to St Stephen's School. Your co-operation and understanding in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Concert for St Stephen's Church: There will be an evening of stunning music from the *Voskreseniye Resurrection Ensemble of St Petersburg* next Wednesday 10 October at St Stephen's Church in Lansdown Road. The concert starts at 7.30 p.m. and is in aid of the St Stephen's Tower Appeal. It will feature a range of Rachmaninov vespers and traditional Russian folk songs. Tickets are £10 and available on the door or from Bath Festivals Box Office 01225 463362.

Reading lists: The fiction Reading Lists for all year groups have now been updated and sent to every student via email. If parents would like a copy (by email) of either the Key Stage 3 or 4/5 list, or of both, please contact Miss Hendry at c.hendry@bat.gdst.net.

Fundraising gift wrap sale: Your chance to purchase fabulous wrapping paper in a range of attractive designs, sourced from European sustainable forests. Parents should have received a brochure with samples via daughters this week. The Friends of The Royal High School receive 25% cashback on every item sold. To ensure delivery before Christmas, please return your orders by half term. Any queries to Miss Bevan at l.bevan@bat.gdst.net.

School Shop: *Art materials*, including sketch pads, paints, pastels and brushes are all reasonably priced. We also have new *sports equipment*, including mouthguards (£2), hockey sticks (£8), hockey socks (from £3), swim hats (from £1.50), tennis racquets (£13) and shin pads (from £4.50).

Christmas CD: You should have received information and an order form about this joint initiative by the GDST and UNICEF. The CD features music by The Howell's Senior Girls' Choir & The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. £1 from each sale will also go to The Crane Academy, the school we are supporting in Kenya. The deadline for orders is Friday 12 October. Please contact Miss Bevan if you require further information on 01225 313877.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9 October 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. Sixth Form College Information Evening

For Year 11 students and parents to meet staff and discuss A level and I.B. Options. You will also be able to see the new college facilities. The evening will start in the **Memorial Hall at 6.30 p.m.**