

# Excalibur



ISSUE 11 - March 2010

## King Arthur's Community School

### "A Good School" - OFSTED, February 2010

Thank you to parents and members of the community who sent messages of congratulations to the school following our recent OFSTED inspection. Your kind words were much appreciated by the staff and myself. The school is confident that it can build on this success and continue to improve. In the summer term we will be planning ahead for the next phase of King Arthur's development. Your comments or suggestions would be most welcome.

With best wishes for a Happy Easter.

*Tamra Bradbury, Headteacher*



## MP visits King Arthur's

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March Mr David Heath, Somerset MP, came to King Arthur's to congratulate us on our recent Ofsted report. We were lucky enough to ask him a few questions.....

We asked him why the schools in Somerset are treated differently to schools in less rural areas. He said that they are treated differently because money goes to places that are financially deprived; it's unfair because in King Arthur's the money that the school gets per child is well under the national average and some schools are getting paid more than double per student. He thinks this is unacceptable and his aim is to make it a fairer budget.



We asked him what he enjoys most about being Somerset's MP. His answer was that he likes helping individuals as well as big groups of people to make a difference. He also enjoys standing and giving Somerset's view in the House of Commons. Because he lives in Somerset and has been part of the local community most of his life he feels he can help people in Somerset achieve their goals. Mr Heath feels this county can excel.

Mr Heath finds it hard being away from his family and misses his children. He has to spend 4 days a week in London and the rest of the week within Somerset. He likes to celebrate others success and often gets invited to openings and celebratory events. Unfortunately, he can not attend all of these as he is wanted in so many places at once. Despite this he always finds time for his family.

David Heath is a real community man who strives to do the best for his home county. When asked whether he'd always do this difficult job he replied 'As long as I enjoy speaking out for Somerset I will continue this job.' Needless to say he's still enjoying it!

*By Kara Poole (Year 8) and Amy Chick (Year 10)*

## World Maths Day

King Arthur's Maths Department along with 1,133,246 students from 56,082 schools in 235 countries worldwide took part in this challenge. We had some success in the practice sessions getting on to the leader board on a couple of occasions. Year 9 top set were, at one time, 7<sup>th</sup> in the world and there were individual achievements for several Year 10 students. On the day itself Samuel Short and Serafim Gunin scored over 12 000 correct answers, so very well done to them. We are looking forward to next year and doing even better!

**Mrs Morris, Head of Maths**

## Friends of King Arthurs

The Friends of King Arthur's held another successful Quiz Evening on Thursday 18th March. Quiz master Deryck Lemon challenged the 25 or so teams with a wide variety of questions. Approx £640 was raised towards school funds.



Our next event is on Saturday 1st May 2010:

### CAR BOOT SALE

King Arthurs School, West Hill,  
Wincanton  
10am – 1pm

(Open to sellers from 9am)

£5 for Sellers – free entry for Buyers

Bacon Rolls & Refreshments

Available

To book a pitch call in school hours:

01963 34010

*Please Note: All unsold items and rubbish must be taken away*



### King Arthur's Draw

We will shortly be sending out some draw tickets to each family. Funds from this draw will be going towards our 'Outdoor Enhancement Scheme'. We are aiming to create a canopied seating area and generally make the areas surrounding the building more inviting. The draw will be made at the Car Boot Sale.

## CAS Week

We have had a tremendous response to the CAS Week booklets and applications for placements on the great variety of activities. To bring everyone up to date, most students have received acknowledgement letters concerning acceptance on their specific application. Letters will follow to students from the individual activity leaders relating to specific arrangements, payments and expectations. However, there are still a small number of students who have not applied for an activity placement. Regrettably the following activities are now full: Rome, London Leisure & Tourism and Fishing.

Students in Year 10 can apply for a place on some of the activities if they fulfil the requirements relating to their Work Experience placement.

CAS Week follows Somerset's policy of 'Play Safe' and risk assessment. If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact school.

**Mr Lemon, CAS Co-ordinator**

## Focus Day

A Focus day was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March for Years 7 to 10. Years 7 and 8 students worked in cross curricular groups on the subject of 'Diversity.' Year 7 examined what was meant by the word 'Britishness.' Groups composed a new National Anthem, examined national costumes and designed a British costume, explored the sports and games associated with Britain and further afield. One group explored how they might sell the image of Britain in 2010 and another group redesigned the National flag.

Year 8 experienced and examined the cultures which help to enrich Britain today. They cooked food brought to Britain by cultures overseas, participated in a Japanese drumming workshop and explored dances from other countries.



In Years 9 and 10 students attended workshops and sessions given by Nat West Bank, the RAF, the Driving Standards Agency, Shepton Mallet prison service, Sweda (Somerset and Wessex eating disorders association), South West waste partnership, the Fire Brigade, South Somerset District Council and the St. John's Ambulance. This work supported our PSHE programme and the acquisition of life skills in general. Arising from the day students (Seema Miah, Hannah Pink, Jenny Naylor and Shannon Stock) have put themselves forward for the National First Aid competition and G and T students in Year 9 have had a follow up visit from Juliette Lawn of the South West Waste partnership to discuss sustainability in school.

**Mr Wright, Assistant Headteacher**

## Tag Rugby Festival

King Arthur's school hosted their annual tag rugby festival for their cluster of partner primary schools. All seven primaries (Horsington, Our Lady's, Wincanton, St Nicholas, Henstridge, Charlton Horethorne, Milborne Port and Templecombe) entered the competition. Previously the tournament had never had all seven schools attending. The format was changed slightly this year: after a morning of coaching by the King Arthur's sports leaders and Wincanton rugby club, there were then two competitions pool A and pool B.

Eighty students from the primaries benefited from the day, learning new skills, meeting the club link from Wincanton RFC and meeting students from King Arthur's school that will inevitably help their transition into the secondary school.

Milborne Port were the winners of the pool A competition and St Nicholas-Henstridge won the pool B competition.



Charlton Horethorne and St Nicholas-Henstridge teachers praised the event "this format is much better for our smaller schools - our pupils have gained so much from today by playing in the pool B competition".

The King Arthur's sports leaders from Year 10 and Year 11 were a credit to the school and acted as perfect role models for the young players. All games were officiated by KA leaders, who were extremely confident and did an excellent job. The sports leaders were Richard Kirby, Joe Bridger, Chester Lewis, Graham Hutchings, Mike Brook, Matt Viola, Ross Andrews, Josh Dare-Cullen



## Dig It, Grow It, Cook It, Eat It

As part of our outdoor learning programmes, Year 7 and 9 students are involved in the creation and maintenance of our memorial gardens and the allotments, working with Year 6 students and Westhill Nursery.

We entered the 'Dig It, Grow It, Cook It, Eat It' competition sponsored by Somerset Waste Action Programme. The competition involves keeping a scrapbook of our activities through the 4 stages of 'Dig It, Grow It, Cook It, Eat It' as our garden develops. Also, as one of the first 25 schools to register we will be receiving a free tonne of compost and a selection of vegetable seeds from Viridor.

Last year our vegetables were well received at the summer fete and we aim to have a stall this year.

We'll keep you posted as our gardens and allotments progress.

**Sue Pearson – SENCo**



## Badminton Success

Having won the County Badminton Finals at KS3 Girls and KS4 Boys both teams moved onto the South West Regional Finals at Exeter to play for a place in the National Finals at Nottingham.

The KS3 girls performed well above expectation, won their group box and played Talbot Heath in the final alas going down 4-1. The number 1 and 2 for the team, Jenny Naylor and Helen O'Rourke, although still Year 8's, were noted by the coaches present for their future potential. The team were Jenny Naylor, Helen O'Rourke, Clare Goodson, Poppy Skipper, Jemima Miah and Seema Miah.



The KS4 boys beat last years winners in the group box to go on and play Exmouth in the final. Unfortunately they also went down 4-1. Team: Joe Wakelam, Matt Phillips, Graham Hutchings, John O'Rourke and Michael Brook.

## Health Awareness Day

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May we will be hosting a Health Awareness Day from 3.30pm - 6.30pm for students, staff, parents and members of the local community. There will be many activities and health related personnel at the school promoting health from Nutritionists, Physiotherapists, Hypnotherapists, Gym Instructors leading classes in Spinning, Tai Chi and Pilates etc and local clubs promoting their sport.

We hope that you will be able to join us at the school on this occasion in helping promote an awareness of health and benefit from the many different classes, lectures and exhibitions that will be on offer on the day. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mr Hayes, P.E. Department*

## Visit by Mayor of Wincanton

Mr Richard D'Arcy, Mayor of Wincanton, and his wife Gill visited the school recently. The school is keen to make a link with the Town Council that is mutually beneficial.

## Rugby

The Under 16s and Under 15s were unbeaten this term. The year 11s played two games and were comfortable victors in both. Having won the area competition last year they are looking forward to the prospect after half term of another tournament win. Meantime Year 10 won their first game of the season against Ansford.

## Sport Relief

The Year 8 students had a choice of swimming, running or dance mats in order to raise money for sport relief. The students managed to raise **£124.15** for sport relief. Lunch time activities in the Sports Hall included Beat the Teacher, basketball and netball shoot, stack the cups and golf target competition.



## Staff Vacancies

### CLEANING STAFF REQUIRED

12 hours per week

£6.30 per hour

Required for 19th April 2010 to join our dedicated team of cleaners

Times to be negotiated, will include after school working

**Applications to Mr David Dolling, Site Manager - by letter or telephone**

## Dates

<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>
<b>SPRING TERM ENDS</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>
<b>TERM STARTS</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b>
UK Maths Challenge (Yr7 & Yr8)	29 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
Year 11 Leavers Assembly	14 <sup>th</sup> May
GCSE Examinations begin	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Progress Reports	26 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr8 Parents' Evening	27 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>HALF-TERM</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>
Yr10 Examinations begin	18 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Days	30 <sup>th</sup> June/1 <sup>st</sup> July (provisional)
Sports Presentation Evening	1 <sup>st</sup> July
School Fete	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
Yr6 Induction Day & Evening	7 <sup>th</sup> July
Music Summer Concert	8 <sup>th</sup> July
Yr 10 Work Experience starts	12 <sup>th</sup> July (2 <sup>nd</sup> week optional)
Yr5 Enrichment week	12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> July
Yr5 Enrichment Evening	15 <sup>th</sup> July
CAS Week	21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
<b>TERM ENDS</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>

## King Arthur's Community School

Visit [www.kingarthurs.org.uk](http://www.kingarthurs.org.uk)

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