

March 2009

Dear Parents

Language College

I am very pleased to inform you that the school has been re-designated as a Language College until our next Ofsted inspection. The school has successfully met its targets and has designed projects which develop an awareness of cultural diversity. We have also supported local and national developments in teaching modern foreign languages for all ages. The re-designation was confirmed after our successful Ofsted Inspection when a clear plan for development was approved by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Our plan builds on the successes of our previous re-designation, in particular, the emphasis on projects to extend our students' understanding of language and culture, for example Asia Day, Frontiers Day and Comenius projects with partner schools. We are developing new links with schools abroad as well as working with local organisations on projects about the Jurassic Coast and the Olympics in 2012. We continue to deliver training to local primary school teachers.

Staffing

Julia Broom will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term. Andy David will be Acting Head of Department during her absence and we have appointed Sharon Ritchie to take over her teaching.

Student Achievements

We were delighted to win the regional heat of the Rock Challenge. This is a large group dance on elements to do with young people's health and human rights. This year we worked with Weymouth College and we are grateful to Rachel Ball and Rhea Soulsby who choreographed our entry. It was called "Chains" and the theme was child exploitation. We were the overall winners and also received an award for best choreography. As a result we will be going to the Southern Open Final in Portsmouth in May. This is a very prestigious event and our school was up against some very large Performing Arts Colleges who are able to spend lots of money on sets and technical support. Our success was due to the talent, enthusiasm and commitment of our students and staff. I would like to congratulate all students who took part and thank the staff who worked with them. This was a wonderful achievement.

The next round will cost over £500 for the coach so students will be fund raising for this in the next few weeks. Any donations which would contribute to this will be received gratefully. The school will ensure the students can go whatever happens!

We have also had several sporting successes this term:

Cross Country

All three girls' teams brought home silverware from the Dorset County Cross-country Championships at King's Park, Bournemouth in January.

In the first race of the day the Inter Girls pulled off the most pleasing surprise of the day by being crowned county champions. **Lucy Ackerman** was first home in an impressive 13th position with **Annie Macdonald** 17th and **Sarah Fullegar** in 19th position. With **Lucy Haley** 24th and **Abby Legg** 38th they beat Bryanston into second place by ten points.

The Year 7 Girls also performed excellently and were just edged out of the title by Leweston. **Lottie Willmore** was prominent early on and held third place until the last quarter of the race before finishing 18th, whilst **Honor Slade** showed great strength to pull back several places in the closing stages to be first home for the team in 8th position. **Steph Cole** 23rd, **Annie Armstrong** 33rd and **Alice Noonan** 34th made up the winning team.

The Junior Girls who were crowned U13 county champions the week before, were always going to find it hard in a very competitive field which included Leweston who had won the national title at this age in December. All of the Sir John Colfox team were Year 8 students competing against runners in Year 9 and they did extremely well to finish third, with Talbot Heath springing a surprise to take the title from Leweston. Three of the team finished in the top twelve with U13 county champion **Beth Letherby** leading them home in 9th, followed by **Wendy Robertshaw** 10th and **Anna Roberts Wray** 12th. **Holly Butt** 32nd and **Sophie Hall** 36th completed the team.

Two senior girls competed with **Emily Martin** finishing 5th, and **Lucy Tweed**, running her sixth county championship, just behind her in 6th place.

The Year 7 Boys finished a very respectable 7th overall with **Rhys Kirkpatrick** finishing a superb third to take the bronze medal.

Six students were subsequently selected to represent the County in the South West England Championships at Taunton. **Rhys Kirkpatrick** was the highest placed Colfox athlete finishing 9th in the Minor Boys race. **Lucy Tweed** was 32nd in the Senior Girls race, **Beth Letherby** was 34th in the Junior Girls race, **Oscar Tweed** was 41st in the Inter Boys race, **Honor Slade** was 58th in the Minor Girls race and **Lucy Ackerman** was 61st in the Inter Girls.

Beth Letherby has been crowned Wessex league x-country Champion. Each runner completes five races over the course of the year and their average finishing place is added together after the fifth race to get an overall score. Beth won overall and was part of the winning team as well. **Matt Fry** finished fifth overall. This is a fantastic achievement for both of them as the races are highly competitive, taking in the best runners across two counties.

Six of our students represented the County at the National x-country Championships in Nottingham. This is one of the toughest races in the x-country calendar as there are over 300 runners in each race making the start almost impossible and if that was not tough enough the first part of the course is on a hill. **Beth Letherby**, **Maddy Gape**, **Anna Roberts Wray** and

Wendy Robertshaw made up almost the entire County team. **Matt Fry** and **Rhys Kirkpatrick** represented the County in the junior boys category. The race is always covered by Sky TV adding to the excitement of the day.

Primary Cross Country

The school hosted a very popular Pyramid Cross Country Championship in January. The event was well supported with 59 runners from ten schools competing in the girl's race, and 67 boys representing ten schools in the boy's race. Cheered on by enthusiastic teachers and parents, they ignored the freezing weather and heavy ground to produce races of outstanding quality. St Mary's Primary School, Thorncombe won the girls event whilst Marshwood Primary won the boys event.

Netball

The year 8 girls played excellently in the area tournament to finish runners up after losing 1-0 to Beaminster in a close fought final. They were then selected to represent the area in the County tournament in Bournemouth, but were unable to field a team as half the squad were representing the County at the National Schools Cross Country Championship.

Hockey

Jacqueline Gape experienced a hugely successful weekend representing Dorset at the West of England Under 18 Hockey Tournament in Clifton, Bristol. The team played six other counties from the West of England in the round robin tournament and won all of their games. Jackie's outstanding performance was recognised by West of England selectors who have invited her to trial for the West of England Team at Millfield in April. This is an excellent achievement and the first time anyone from the school has ever been invited for trials. The County team will now represent the West in the National Finals at Cannock on 18th and 19th April.

Under 18 County Hockey Champions

The under 18 girls hockey team played superbly in the Betty Hammond Hockey Tournament to become County Champions after finishing runners up for the last three years. The tournament took on a round robin format this year with the overall result depending on the number of games won. Colfox started brilliantly with a 2-1 win over Parkstone Grammar School. They followed this with two consecutive 3-0 victories over Corfe Hills and then Queen Elizabeth School. The scorelines reflected their high level of play as each game was only 16 minutes in total. This set up a tantalising final game against hosts Gillingham School, who have won the title for the last seven years. With Gillingham having drawn their first game, Colfox needed to achieve a minimum draw to ensure the title. The girls celebrated a well deserved victory and subsequently received the trophy from Betty Hammond, a stalwart of County Hockey who has chaired the Dorset Hockey Association for the last fifty years. With many players younger than the 6th form guideline this squad has a lot of potential to retain the title in coming years.

Team: **Rachel Andrews, Daisy Guy, Daisy Crisp, Laura Broad, Toni Aplin, Lucy Timbrell, Megan Tuck, Emily Beaton, Jackie Gape, Felicity Leins, Rachel Trump and Danielle Donovan.**

Basketball

Our Year 11 boys were runners up in the Area Tournament held at Budmouth. They beat Thomas Hardyes and All Saints, but lost out to a marginally superior Wey Valley team on the night.

Biathlon

Five students from Colfox travelled to Bath to take part in the British Schools Biathlon Championships. **Laura Bowen-Ashwin, Lauren Podger and Abbie Letherby** qualified first from the regional round in the 6th form age group. **Beth Letherby and Rhys Kirkpatrick** qualified as individuals. The 6th form girls finished fifth overall in a very competitive group. This was their sixth consecutive National Final – a tremendous achievement in itself. Beth finished 23rd and Rhys 8th overall capping a great few weeks for these individuals who represented the county in x-country the previous week.

Sports Leaders

A number of our Sports Leaders have been successfully supporting primary sport in the local pyramid. Our BTEC sports leaders have been visiting St Catherine's school every Wednesday to run a range of activity sessions. Our BTEC dance leaders also ran the Primary Dance Festival at Freshwater which was hugely popular and well organised.

House Events

Congratulations to Toro House who won the Dragons Den competition. This involved students from Years 7 – 10 producing a business plan to make products to raise money for their House Charity. They had to give a presentation to sell their idea to the panel of "Dragons". All of the teams gave excellent presentations and had very good ideas. Toro House were successful as they had planned theirs more sharply and were intending to make the most profit.

Fund Raising

The school has been raising funds during this year for two projects. We would like to create a fitness suite on site for the use of staff and students. This would support the principles of healthy schools and would be a useful addition to our PE curriculum. The Staff and Governors raised over £1,000 at a recent Pledge Auction and we will be continuing to raise funds for this in the future.

The students have also been raising school funds from House activities to support trips and events and changes that the students wish for in the school environment. Any reductions that are made to repairs and maintenance across the school are also being added to this money and we currently have raised £2,125.50

Students will be able to choose what they would like to spend this money on towards the end of the year. If anyone would like to make a donation to either fund please make cheques payable to "**the Sir John Colfox School**". Any donations will be gratefully received.

Forth coming events

Music

On **Thursday 2nd April** we are holding a concert to help raise money for our link school in Ghana. Performing at the concert will be the choir, the orchestra, small groups from the local string and wind days in the primary school, and a selection of other soloist from years 11 and 12. The concert begins at 7 pm. Tickets will be on sale via the music department from March 26th. There will be a presentation from Mr Middleton prior to the interval showing pictures of his recent trip to our link school, and a raffle during the interval to help raise money for them. Concert tickets cost £1 for adults and 50p for students.

On **Monday 27th April**, the year 11 BTEC group have their final evening performance. The theme for this performance is Chicago and they will be performing songs, dances and scenes from the show. The concert begins at 7 pm and tickets will be on sale via the year 11 students after Easter or on the door. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1 for students aged 16 and under.

On **19th May** Year 9 BTEC students will be performing to their parents at a wine and cheese evening in the school hall.

On **8th June** Year 10 BTEC students will be performing a selection of items based around Michael Jackson's song "Thriller" and a show written by Mrs V Goodwin called "Space Rox". Tickets will be available from the beginning of June, £3 for adults and £1 for students aged 16 and under.

All monies raised through BTEC concerts will go to improving school facilities for Performing Arts such as a new stage, microphones and equipment.

Term ends on the **3rd April** which is a non uniform day in support of the Hinomaru House charity "Help the Aged". Our new term starts on the **20th April** and will be a very short term for Year 11 students as the GCSE examinations start in the week beginning **11th May**.

I have attached the calendar for next term to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Kay Taylor
Headteacher