



February 2010 Issue 27 - Winter Term

Dover Mini Times

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Time passes so quickly when you do something that you enjoy, and now with forty years of teaching under my belt, I look forward toward the evening of my career, much of it spent here at Homewood. I have constantly reminded students how unfair this job is - they remain the same age, but we keep on getting older! The tell tale signs of ageing are for all to see. When I saw the first strands of grey hair, I thought I'd dye. There are however some perks of being over sixty :

- No one expects you to run into a burning building.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You enjoy hearing about the operations of other people.
- You have a party and the neighbours don't even realise it.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- You have flabby thighs, but fortunately your stomach cover them.
- You don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of the glass.

I could go on but I won't! There is a reason why I feel the need to draw your attention to the notion of time; this quote by William Shakespeare says it all : "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries". I believe that we need to take every offered advantage and every fleeting opportunity if we sincerely wish to achieve our personal goals, whatever they may be. Keep attending school regularly, listen to advice given, complete homework, prepare thoroughly for tests and always try to use your time wisely because you will wake up one morning and wonder where it has gone!

I look forward to the time we will spend together as a mini-school after the break. Keep safe.

Best wishes as always



Mr Marklew
Dover Mini School Leader

Dover Mini School

contact details:

01580 764222 x219

dover@homewood.kent.sch.uk

Contact details:

Please ensure that you let school know of your most up-to-date contact details (address, telephone number, mobile numbers, emergency numbers etc). In the recent bad weather we were able to send texts out to people for whom we had up-to-date contact numbers but it became apparent some people had not kept us informed of their new contact numbers etc.

Dates for your diary - Spring Term 2010

Monday 15 th March	Start of Spring Term
Wednesday 31 st March	Staff Development Day (students not in school)
Thursday 1 st April - 6 th April	Easter Break (school resumes Wednesday 7 th April 2010)
Monday 26 th & Tuesday 27 th April	Parent Consultation Days Year 7 & 9 (students not in school)
Monday 3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 28 th May	End of Spring Term

Attendance:

If you are not able to come into school your absence must be reported to the absence line 01580 767048 on each day of absence as early as possible in the morning and state the reason for the absence. On your return to school a note from your parent/guardian must be brought in and given to your tutor. If the reason for absence is known in advance then parents/guardians must write to the school beforehand. If you are unable to get through on the school absence line then ring the Dover Mini School office 01580 764222 x 219 instead. You can now also email absence in to:

AbsenceLine@homewood.kent.sch.uk

School Uniform:

Just a reminder for parents and guardians that if your son/daughter is unable to wear full school uniform on any day then you must provide them with a note as to why they are not wearing the particular item of uniform.

Holiday Requests

Please do not arrange holidays during term time. If you make a request for holiday during term time it may be refused and any days off will be counted as unauthorised.

Congratulations to **Sophie Clark 9D10** who has been invited to participate in a dance project for young people with exceptional talent and potential. All the performers chosen, aged eight to 19, receive training from specialist schools, conservatoires and centres for advanced training in London, the South East and East Anglia participating in the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Music and Dance Scheme. This scheme gives young people with exceptional potential in music or dance the opportunity to receive the highest level of training by providing them with bursaries. Schools and centres participating in the scheme have produced some of the world's greatest musicians and dancers, including Nigel Kennedy, Alison Balsom, Darcey Bussell and Jonathan Cope. Sophie will be involved in a dance performance at the Southbank Centre, London in March.

Hi my name is Georgia Cooper and I am in D6. I am 11 and this term I have been working with a project called "Voice in a Million". This is a group of children who auditioned and were chosen to be part of a performance at the O2 which took place on Wednesday 28th January 2010. Many people auditioned and about 4000 children got through to be in the backing choir and about 30 got through, including me, to be part of a special featured choir. I was going to sing a big chunk of the song 'Ben' by Michael Jackson but unfortunately it was decided that a male singer should take this part however I still sang as part of the featured choir and had a microphone above me. Sinitta was at the performance. During one of the rehearsals we met and sang with the 12 X-Factor finalists. The day was quite scary, very long and exhausting but I had a fantastic time.

The concert at the O2 was the first in a series of events worldwide, which over the course of the next year, will enable the project to reach their goal of recording one million children's voices in harmony; and more importantly, help broaden the awareness of the millions of orphaned and abandoned children that need a new mother, father, home and family ... for life. A share of the proceeds from all the events and CD releases for the project will go to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.

KS3 Maths Champions for Christmas Term

Congratulations to the following Dover students who were part of the KS3 Maths Champions group for last term:

Peyton Mannouch D1, Phoebe Wilding D1, Sasha Gomez D2, George Francis D6

On Wednesday 20th of January 23 students went to the farm to complete a maths farm quiz and handle the animals on the farm. The quiz included addition, subtraction, division & multiplication skills. The quiz also involved working out the area/perimeter/volume of pens and troughs, working out ratios, identifying square & cube roots and drawing to scale. All of which are topics included in the key stage 3 maths scheme of work. The students were allowed to handle the guinea pigs, rabbits & hamsters and were allowed to walk the goats. The students were identified as maths champions by the maths class teachers for their contribution to their Environment and Survival maths lessons. They received an event log and a postcard was sent home signed by Mr Gaygan, Principal Teacher of Maths. This is the second term this reward has happened and will continue as part of the Key Stage 3 maths reward system.



The 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' was set up to provide Britain's next generations with a sense of compassion, understanding and knowledge on topics relating to the past and a trip to Auschwitz, Poland certainly complies with the projects aims. Two sixth formers from every participating school take part in seminars, reflecting on life for those living in the concentration camps and listening to Holocaust survivors speak of their harrowing experiences living during that time and I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in this project. A one day visit to two sites of the Auschwitz grounds provides real evidence of what happened at the camps and puts into perspective just how real, horrifying and personal the experience was and still is for everyone involved in the camp's history.

Being able to visit the site gave us all the chance to see first hand what life was like for the prisoners, the small, damp uninhabitable conditions they were confined to and the personal objects they left behind. Taking learning out of the classroom and away from textbooks it became clear just how horrific and real the camp was as we were able to look around the grounds, walk through the surviving gas chambers, visit the memorial site and pay respect to those who lost their lives there not so long ago.

Everyone who leaves the camp today tells of something that made the experience and the camp real for them. The pictures of inmates hanging on the walls, the towering pile of suitcases, personalised with names and addresses, the piles of hair cut from the young and old, the pigtails with ribbons still tied, or often even the silence, the coldness and the emptiness of the site leaves visitors feeling angry, upset and confused. The emotions the camp provokes can often be overwhelming, standing on the site makes the whole chapter of history so real and something which can no longer be forgotten or left untold. A focus on individual suffering brings home just how awful the ordeal was for everyone involved and the hair affected me in a way I did not think was possible. From walking around the camp it became clear to me just how distressed the inmates must have been feeling and how terrified they must have felt, not knowing if they'd ever see their loved ones again. The 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' teaches us to never forget, learn from the experiences of the past, relate them to our lives today and make sure history does not repeat itself.

The trip has most definitely made us more aware of the contemporary lessons which we can and must learn and pass onto others. We must recognise the role of the bystander during the Holocaust, those who had an awareness of the unfolding events but did not or could not stop them. Relating this to contemporary life we should endeavour to challenge acts of prejudice or discrimination in both our communities and society at large, even when they may be unpopular. We must also welcome those who join our communities and make the world a more humane place by changing our everyday actions to help others.

BY JESSICA PARKER 11SH9

Excellent ERS Students!

On Friday 29th January, 26 students from year 7 and 8 were invited on a visit to the newly-planted school orchard to celebrate their excellent achievement in ERS (Ethical and Religious Studies) so far this year. Each student was nominated by their ERS teacher as having shown an outstanding commitment to their ERS lessons, demonstrated either by an exceptional piece of work or homework, or consistent contribution in lessons. We arrived at the farm, complete with wellies and warm coats to protect against the January weather, and were taken down toward the orchard by Nici Norris. Unfortunately, the field we needed to cross was waterlogged, and we couldn't get to the orchard on the day. So we headed down towards the trees and open space behind the tennis courts, and were given an interesting and informative talk on the newly planted orchard by Nici, including why it is so important to plant new orchards using native and local species of fruit trees. Did you know that Kent has lost around 85% of its native orchards, with more and more of our apples and fruit being imported from other countries around the world? After the talk, and lots of interesting questions from the students, Mrs Smith led a short yoga session outside in the field, with the emphasis being on - of course - Tree Pose!

The Dover students invited to attend were: Phoebe Wilding D1, Maria Dudley D3, Sophie Cox D9, Rayney Lee-Wharton D2, Michael Hutchinson D3, Rachel Faiers D7, Sam Brunger D8

Congratulations to Ashleigh Loosemore, 7D4, who came 25th out of 122 girls in the Year 7 Kent Schools Cross Country.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT: 47 students and 5 staff will be visiting Italy during the March holiday. They will be based in Sorrento, during their stay in Italy they will visit Rome, Mount Vesuvius, Capri and the Amalfi coast. Next year, March 2011, there will be a trip to Iceland and further information will be available after May 2010 - Mr Lawson, Geography Department.

On the 24th February, 19 pupils and 2 teachers from Homewood School will be travelling to our partner school in Koblenz in the Rhineland to take part in our annual German exchange. Whilst they are there, the pupils will learn a considerable amount about life in Germany and come into contact with lots of the German language. They will also take part in trips to the ancient Roman city of Trier, Cologne's cathedral and chocolate museum and to the Loreley national landmark, as well as swimming, a butterfly garden and Koblenz itself. The Rhineland is a very beautiful area and the families and partner school have always been very generous - we just hope that the weather is kind too!!! - Mr Mills, Languages Department

On the Dover Notice Board

The following Dover students all received letters from Mr Cotterell due to their excellent school reports for the Christmas Term '09:

D1 Robert Anderson, Ellis Ashley, Laura Barclay, Georgia Brient, Lauren Cox, Lily French, Lucy Keane, Free Morgan, Jordan Newman, Louis Roberts, Sophie Rogers, Natalie Vinal-Meyer, Phoebe Wilding, Georgia Woodcock

D2 Katie Barry, Jordan Beeney, Charlie Brisley, Elliot Coombs, Kristan Everett, Ruby Gadsby, Joseph Garrett, Sasha Gomez, Jessica Greener, Alisha Hameed, Harriet Heathcote, Kieran Hogben, Rayney Lee-Wharton, Katie Mills, Ashley Patchett, Megan Robb

D3 Jamie Bissett, Sophie Chappell, Lauren Chilcott, Laura Gorry, Natalie Hearne, Francesca Hickman, Maria Dudley, Mary Hunter, Michael Hutchinson, Thomas Marshall, Abigail Mitchell, Ruby Thornton

D4 Ella Bee, Thomas Corden, Ellen Curry, Harold Everett, Hannah Farmer, Chloe Hancock, Shannon Hunt, Jasmine Jere, Ashleigh Loosemore, Rochelle Mills, Dominic Munns, Holly Palliser, Shannon Sivyer, Elana Waite, Bryony Wattenbach, Miles Wilson

D5 Thomas George, Harry Gibson, Delyth Hickman, Dannielle Keeler, Jack Kilroe, Jacob Lawson, Amelia Martin, Jamie Newcombe, Francesca Ratcliff, Juliet Seymour, Shanna Shelley-Dadson, Hannah Slattery, Molly Smith, Meg Stone, Rebecca Thomas, Taylor Toll, Morgan Todd, Laura White, Katie Wood

D6 Emily Carpenter, Georgia Cooper, Jessica Crampton, Ellie Cribben, George Francis, Noah Gorham, Precchhya Rai, Loren Regan, Toby Sainter, Abegael Tomlin, Lucianna Tomlin, Elle Zuk

D7 Oliver Banbury, Charlie Bugden, Charlie Dickens, Rachel Faiers, Emma Goldsmith, Alex Gurr, Rosie Miller, Rachel Moncrieff, Jae-Chante Norris, Holly Scamell, Samantha Snelling, Katherine Thorne, Reece Warner, Stacey Whatman

D8 Ellie Allen, Calvin Baxter, Rebecca Bray, Samuel Brunger, Rosanna Butler, Courtney-Paige Carpenter, Charlotte David, Jack Hollamby, Dominic Manson, Emily Milton, Victoria Missen, Sophie Reeves, Emma Richards, Chloe Skingsley

D9 Daniel Ayrton-Turner, Sophie Cox, Sam Davis, Theodora Gorham, Hannah Gunn, Georgia Harris, Charlotte Juniper-Clark, Samson Ogunbiyi, Anthony Oliver, Shelby Seamen, Lilia Smith, Alice Stanley, Nicholas Stickels

D10 Sophie Clark, Maisie Collado, Callum Curry, Joseph Dowle, Ashley Garfield, Aaron Nwansi, Nathan Robson, Sarah Russell, Megan Sharp, Sophie Turnbull

Event logs as at 18th January 2010

D4 is leading the way on Events Logs this term and have 127 in total, D3 are second with 86 and D1 have 82.

Individual congratulations to Ellis Ashley D1 who has 11 event logs and Michael Hutchinson D3 who has 10. They are closely followed by Ellen Curry D4, Chloe Hancock D4, Georgia Harris D9 and Lilia Smith D9 who all have 9 event logs each. (Apologies - event log counts given in last newsletter were incorrect)

The following Dover students all achieved 100% attendance during Christmas Term 09:

D1 Ellis ASHLEY, Laura BARCLAY, Lauren COX, Lily FRENCH, Jordan NEWMAN, William PAUL, Sophie ROGERS, Thomas WILLIAMS, Georgia WOODCOCK

D2 Samuel BRIGHTLING, Charlie BRISLEY, Elliot COOMBS, Joseph GARRETT, Jessica GREENER, Harriet HEATHCOTE, Chloe HUGHES, Katie MILLS, Toby MORRIS, Megan ROBB, Joseph SKINNER, Kieran WHITEHEAD

D3 Lucy BRYANT, Morgan BRYANT, Megan CAMBRIDGE, Sophie CHAPPELL, Laura GORRY, Natalie HEARNE, Michael HUTCHINSON, Thomas MARSHALL, Abbi MITCHELL

D4 Ella BEE, Thomas CORDEN, Hannah FARMER, Ashleigh LOOSEMORE, Bradley SKINNER, Elana WAITE

D5 Cameron CAGE, Emma COLEMAN, Harry GIBSON, Delyth HICKMAN, Taylor TOLL

D6 Emily CARPENTER, Jessica CRAMPTON, Ellie CRIBBEN, Andrew PARTRIDGE, Precchhya RAI, Toby SAINTER, Luciana TOMLIN

D7 Rachel BRADFORD, Luke FORD, Aaron HAWKER, Jae-Chante NORRIS, Reece WARNER

D8 Kalvin BAXTER, Samuel BRUNGER, Benjamin EDWARDS-DAEM, George FULLER, Dominic MANSON, Emily MILTON, Sophie REEVES

D9 James APSEY-BROWN, Sophie COX, Hannah GUNN, Charlotte JUNIPER-CLARK, Anthony OLIVER, Alice STANLEY, Nicholas STICKELLS, Bradley TAYLOR

D10 Luke BENSON, Callum CURRY, Tayla FOORD, Ashley GARFIELD, Sarah RUSSELL, Jack WILTSHIRE