



## CHORAL SUCCESS

Many congratulations to the Choir who performed with the Plymouth Philharmonic Choir in the Guildhall on Sunday. This was a very prestigious event and our students received rapturous applause for their part in Britten's very challenging "St Nicholas". Many thanks to Miss Mitchell and Mr Johnson for making this possible.

Make sure you get your tickets for the Christmas Concert on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets go on sale from Monday £4 adults, £2 for children and can be bought via Parentpay or from Reception.

## SPORTING SUCCESS

Many congratulations to the girls' U18 Hockey team who are through to the Western Region Finals and congratulations also the Year 8 and Year 9 Rugby teams who are both through to the South Devon Finals and the U14 Netball Squad who are through to the County Finals. We are very proud of all their efforts.

### Inside pages:

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Crime Scene Investigation & PSHE News

Careers and Connexions at the College

Who are we? National Marine Aquarium

## CHILDREN IN NEED

We raised £700 for Children in Need: congratulations to everyone involved.

*See you at St. Nick's!  
Pop-Pop*

## DON'T FORGET 'ST NICK'S FAIR'

**THIS SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> November - 12.30-3.30pm**

Only a few days to go until the College's biggest fundraiser of the year! We hope to see you there. Come along for:

- Bargain gifts, toys and foods
- Lunch in the Christmas café
- Music, games and activities

**Please donate what you can – every little helps! Students (and parents) can bring them into College all this week and on Saturday morning. We need:**

**Raffle prizes:** chocolates, wine, biscuits, special preserves, toiletries, DVDs, tickets for events, gift sets and any other luxuries to go in the prize hampers will be gratefully received.

**Accessories:** Jewellery, scarves, belts, bags and purses, and hats (PLEASE no jumble)

**Bric-a-brac:** Anything goes, but please sort through and send in the sellable stuff!

**Second-hand books**

**Second-hand CDs and DVDs**

**Second-hand Toys and games**

**Tombola:** Small items such as jars or cans of foodstuffs, soaps, mugs and chocolates

**Preserves and chutneys:** especially homemade mincemeat, but also jams, chutneys, pickles...

**Crafts, Dried flowers and plants:** such as home-made tree decorations, dried flowers, indoor plants and potted bulbs,

**Cakes:** Please bring these in Friday 27<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> morning

**Raffle tickets:** Please sell your raffle tickets and return completed and stubs to college. There are more available for sale: please collect as many as you need from Reception. Please return unwanted tickets too, as we run short of these on the day.

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## UNIFORM

I received seven comments from parents about our proposed new uniform following the last newsletter. The Governors have now confirmed that this will be our new uniform from next September and will be on sale

from Easter. Current students can continue to wear the existing uniform for at least the next two years. Several parents have pointed out that the new shirts are more expensive than white ones. The suppliers have confirmed that

they will run special promotions throughout the year so there will be opportunities to buy the new shirts at lower prices. We are all sure that the uniform will be a practical way of improving smartness.

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December 2009

## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION AND PSHE NEWS!

A large number of Year 9 students spent a day using forensic science to solve a murder in a Crime Scene Investigation simulation. The company that runs the exercise said that this was the best bunch of students they had worked with in four years of doing the job.

Many thanks to the St John's Ambulance for giving all Year 11s a day of first aid training.

Next week is Drugs & Alcohol Awareness Week and students will all be engaged in a variety of activities and presentations in Assembly. Look out for the special information leaflet on this going out with this newsletter.

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## WHO ARE WE?

This is the first in a series of short articles profiling our Trust Partners: I hope you find it informative and useful.

### PROFILE OF OUR TRUST PARTNERS: NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM



The National Marine Aquarium is Britain's biggest aquarium and is dedicated to inspiring everyone to take action towards sustainability and conservation of our oceans.

The aquarium holds a massive 7million litres of water in seven life support systems and 60 separate tanks, providing homes for the 3000 fish that are on display at any one time.

Looking after the fish - and the visitors that come to see them - is a team of about 60 staff fulfilling a wide variety of roles. Our engineers make sure that there is always plenty of perfect water for the fish and that the building is in good shape; our biologists tend to the every need of the animals, from food and medicines to home maintenance and "enrichment"; and our educators make sure that every visitor goes away inspired and with a positive view of the marine world. Keeping it all running smoothly are housekeepers, a finance team, retail and catering staff, marketing, IT and visitor services teams.

Central to our existence is a strong learning ethos - we are here to pass on our knowledge and, more importantly perhaps, our enthusiasm for the marine environment. There are many facets to our learning activity, from research into conservation psychology and links between health and the seas to outreach projects, curriculum-linked schools programmes and teacher CPD. Partnership and collaboration are vital to what we do and the link with Kingsbridge is an opportunity for us to learn from, and contribute to, the work of an excellent local community college.

We are proud to be trust partners of Kingsbridge Community College and look forward to many years of "enriching" collaboration.

[paul.cox@national-aquarium.co.uk](mailto:paul.cox@national-aquarium.co.uk)  
[caroline.johnson@national-aquarium.co.uk](mailto:caroline.johnson@national-aquarium.co.uk)  
[www.national-aquarium.co.uk](http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk)

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www.kingsbridgecollege.devon.sch.uk

## CAREERS AND CONNEXIONS AT THE COLLEGE

The Careers Library opens Mondays to Thursdays from 8.45am to 2.45pm and is situated in the Student Support Centre. It provides a wide range of resources including books, college brochures and DVDs, and students have access to computers with specialist Careers programmes. Mrs Arscott, and the Work Related Learning team, are delighted to assist students whether they are looking for information about a specific job and what qualifications are needed, or details on how to apply for a college/university course or apprenticeship. This is also the place to come if they are looking for a work experience placement or would like to attend a career talk or visit.

Key events in the careers education programme include:

Year 7 : Meeting "local heroes"

Year 8 : Take Your Child to Work Day

Year 9 : A nine-week career module and support at option time

Year 10 : Employment day, including an individual interview with a local employer or member of the community, health & safety briefing, session on taxation and careers research with Connexions.

And a week's Work Experience in July

Year 11 : Individual support with options post-16

Sixth Form : Individual support with college and university applications

Visits from guest speakers, taster days and college open days are organised throughout the year

The Work Related Learning Team is headed up by Ms Thomas and ably assisted by Mrs Arscott. At the Year 10 Parents' Evening Ms Thomas and Mrs Arscott are available to answer your questions regarding work experience in the reception area. Both can be contacted at the College on ext 112. If you can help with Careers talks, work experience placements or visits to your work place, please contact Mrs Arscott: she would love to hear from you.

**Connexions Cornwall and Devon** is an independent, non-judgemental and confidential advice and guidance service. Lis Ponsford and Josie Cuffe are the Kingsbridge Connexions Personal advisors who provide personal & careers advice to individuals, tutor groups and year groups from Year 9 upwards. They are based in the Student Support Block at the College and their key focus is to offer one to one interviews focusing on post 16 options and possible future career plans. They can offer targeted support with areas such as CV writing, job hunting and interview techniques to those school leavers who plan to look for work. They also help those young people interested in applying for FE College with their course selection and application forms, and offer independent advice on A level and Higher Education options.

Any young person can ask for an interview, although the key groups are those in year 11, year 12 leavers and those who do not plan to go on to Higher Education after year 13.

Young people can also talk to Connexions, in confidence, about a range of issues. Advisers work closely with other organisations so that they can get the right help for a young person depending on their need.

Although primarily a young person centred service, Connexions also offers advice and guidance to parents if requested.

Connexions advisors are also on hand during Years 9 & 11 parents' evenings. Drop in or arrange an appointment through the normal subjects appointment booking form.

## OTHER DIARY DATES FOR THIS TERM:

8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 12 Parents' Evening
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Sixth Form Awards' Evening
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert 7pm

## HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Thank you to the parents who have written to me with their views on whether we should authorise holiday during term time. I always want to know what parents are thinking and will make sure that these points are put before Governors when they consider this early in the new year. We appreciate that for parents such as those involved in the holiday industry, it is sometimes difficult to take holidays during the summer. We continue to be concerned about the impact on their academic learning when students miss lessons during term time.

## SUCCESSTRACKER

We are delighted that over 200 parents have attended evenings explaining the new Successtracker system and how you can access it online from home. Better quality information enables us to work more closely with you in supporting your children to succeed and I am pleased with the positive feedback you have given us.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Collard who won the Silver Award in the National Secondary Headteachers' PA of the Year competition. All those of you who have had contact with her will agree that this is a richly deserved success.

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Daisy Hughes

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## CATERING

Thank you for your positive response to the introduction of Parentpay and cashless catering. As always with new systems, there were some teething troubles in the early weeks but these have settled down and we are now seeing positive impact. We have introduced the new systems as a service to parents and students, making payments easier for parents and reducing queuing time for students. Any funds that we can save on administration costs mean more money for books and equipment, particularly as the costs of installing the system have been costs by a grant from Government through the County Council.

Thank you for pointing out to us that you were not able to see the

balance remaining when you viewed your page, and this has now been made possible. Some other frequently asked questions/concerns:

- Free School Meals: the allowance is set by the Government at £2.05 per person per day. Parents can add to this through Parentpay if they wish
- Daily spend limit: we can put a daily spend limit on the system if you would like us to. Please contact Sandra or Penny in the Finance Office, ext 101/102, and they are also the people to contact with any other queries. Menu: can be accessed via the KCC website or via the link on the Parentpay home page.

## PROPOSED TERM DATES FOR 2010-11 (pending ratification by Governors)

We apologise for the error in the last Parents' Letter (November). These are the dates that are being proposed for 2010-11.

Autumn Term  
2<sup>nd</sup> September - 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
Half-Term: 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Non-Pupil days: 1<sup>st</sup> September; 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Spring Term  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
Half-term: 21<sup>st</sup> February - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
Non-Pupil day: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Summer Term  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2011 - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
Half-term: 31<sup>st</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011  
Non-Pupil day: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011

An additional non-pupil day has yet to be allocated.

Some parents have asked whether they can see details of what their child has eaten. The Governors felt that this option was too much like 'a spy in the cab' when we first introduced the system, but we can keep this under review if there is a demand.

I would reiterate that all data is kept secure on the College servers according to the regulations of the Data Protection Act. It is not available to third parties. We do not store fingerprints and the Government's own IT advisors, BECTA, state that "it is not possible to recreate a pupil's fingerprints or even the image of a fingerprint from what is in effect a string of numbers".