



## Head's Corner Christmas 2010

I am pleased to present this, my nineteenth contribution to Head's Corner which is published in both leaflet and web form.

This has been another very busy term, marked by a number of successes for the school. Even though the Autumn Term is long compared to other terms, the time seems to have flown by and, as I write this article, the musicians are preparing for this evening's Christmas Concert, students are preparing for tomorrow's BTEC Drama & Dance Performance and the rest of us are preparing for the snow! The school closure at the beginning of December, brought about by the snowfall, icy conditions and weakened transport links, is the first of its kind at this time of the year. I'm sure we all hope this does not augur a long and difficult winter.

Other events this term have included our annual Presentation Evening in November. This is a very important calendar event and is organised to enable us to celebrate and congratulate last year's Year 11 students on their very successful GCSE and other results as well as their wider achievements during their time here at Harrow Way. Our guest speaker for the evening was Martin Simmons, Vice-Principal at Andover College. We enjoy a special affinity with Andover College as it, like Harrow Way School, continues to build from strength to strength.

Recently this term we also held our fifth Christmas Fair which was typically very well supported by our school community, raising £500 for the Piam Brown Specialist Children's Cancer Ward in Southampton. I am grateful to the Harrow Way Community School Association for their fantastic hard work in preparing for this and other fund-raising and community opportunities throughout the year. Special congratulations of course go to our students who threw themselves enthusiastically into the organisation of the evening and did a great job in running the various stalls.

Also this term we have received two visits from Ofsted. The first visit was arranged because of our hugely successful Full Inspection in November last year. One of the judgement categories that Ofsted inspect in schools is the quality of safeguarding for all members of the school community. In that main report our safeguarding was judged to be outstanding and we were extremely gratified

therefore to be invited to showcase our safeguarding policies and procedures to a member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) Mr John Kennedy. The purpose of the invitation for us to showcase our work in this area was to enable Harrow Way, one of only a dozen or so schools nationally to whom this was extended, to contribute towards a government "Best Practice" guidance document, to be published in the near future.

More recently we were visited by another HMI, Mr John Mitcheson, who came to inspect the School Sports Partnership that currently serves our area. This visit too was very successful, and we look forward to receiving the published findings.

## School Population

Our full Year 7 cohort of 180 students settled down very well in September. As usual, they were able to do this so quickly because of the excellent preparation for transition that we operate in close partnership with our family of primary schools. Harrow Way has increased in size once again this year and figures for 2011, although not yet finalised, indicate that the school will grow yet again next September. I acknowledge the confidence and trust that the families of Andover are placing in us. We take our commitment to our school community very seriously and we are always looking for ways to improve our service.

## Uniform

I continue to receive many favourable comments about the smart appearance of our students throughout the school. It might be worth reminding readers, particularly at this time of year when students need to wear additional clothing that, in addition to the wearing of trainers students are not allowed to wear hoodies or hoodie type garments. Nor is leather or denim clothing permitted in school. Outer coats should be dark in colour without heavy logos. Also, parents are asked to ensure that any scarves worn by students should be plain black. For information, the full school uniform list is available on our website as well as on relevant school literature. Please remember that students are required to wear full school uniform on the way to and from school as well as throughout the day.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

## Attendance and Welfare

We are always looking at ways of continuing to improve student attendance at school. I realise that taking holidays during term time may present an attractive proposition for some parents as holiday companies often provide discounted rates outside traditional holiday times. However, I know that readers will understand that this practice is very unhelpful from a school attendance and learning standpoint. Whilst all applications for leave of absence are considered individually, I must make clear to parents that any application for leave of absence for the purposes of a family holiday for students who are, or who will be in Year 11 at the time of the absence, are normally refused. We ask for parents' support of this, as with all school policies; clearly it is vitally important for students to attend school in order to learn and to make progress and this is even more especially the case in the final examination year.

Our Flexible Learning Centre, which includes Learning Support and Family and Student Support provisions, began its work in September. We intend to hold a formal opening of the Centre in the New Year.

## Staff

Leavers this term include Mr Austin Anderson, Teacher of Maths, who left us to return to the USA. We also said goodbye to Mr Scott Williams, ICT Technician, who took up a promoted post in Wales and Mrs Rachel Roberts, Cover Supervisor who left to return to industry. Finally, after 25 years service, we say goodbye to Mr Clive Graham, Community Education Manager, who has made a huge contribution to the school and wider community. Clive will be retiring at Christmas. He has served the Harrow Way School community for a generation and his professional skill and commitment to inclusion has meant that very many adult learners and their families have been able to access education and other provision, both through school based arrangements and through Andover Adult and Family Learning, which although part of the Harrow Way School community, is based at The Longmeadow Centre, Cricketer's Way. We wish these colleagues all the very best for the future.

We have recently recruited new staff and I am pleased to welcome the following colleagues who have joined us recently or will be doing so later in the year. Mrs Julia McLachlan, Education Welfare Assistant (change of role), Mr Matt Smith, ICT Technician, Mrs Margaret Angus, Teacher of Special Needs, Ms Elaine Hall, LSA, Hannah McLaughlin and Emily Blackburn, Cover

Supervisors. We will also be welcoming back Miss Lowing from Maternity Leave in January. Mr Chris Dale will be continuing at Harrow Way as a Teacher of Maths. After Easter we will also be joined by Miss Claire Dudman as a Teacher of Maths.

Finally, as well as my end of term letter dated 8th December, I would like to draw our families' attention to an additional letter I will be sending out shortly, providing details of our forthcoming Parent Consultation Day on Wednesday 12th January.

I now wish to draw readers' attention to our new Curriculum, which comes into effect in September 2011. We were delighted that in our Inspection, Ofsted agreed that our Curriculum is outstanding and we are always looking for ways to improve it still further. The reason that it is outstanding is that it provides a very wide, diverse and flexible learning experience. We now intend to introduce a three year Key Stage 4 curriculum from September 2011. This means that from that date Key Stage 3 will include years 7 and 8 only and all students will enter Key Stage 4 at the beginning of Year 9. This means that students who are currently in Year 8 will be provided, together with their families, a range of information, advice and guidance (IAG) about the choices and curriculum pathways that will become available to them from the beginning of Year 9. In the early spring of Year 9 more IAG will be provided in order for students to refine their curriculum as they enter Year 10. The benefits of this new three year Key Stage 4 curriculum are that students will be able to experience a wider range of courses offering even greater diversity and flexibility in order that their learning experience is further enhanced. Families of students who are currently in Year 8 will therefore be engaged in the IAG process during the forthcoming Spring Term. However, any parent with questions about our new curriculum should contact Mr Warren, Deputy Headteacher, in the first instance. We are very excited about the new opportunities shortly to be offered and are looking forward to developing our school improvement programme still further.

It now just remains for me to wish all members of our school community a restful Christmas break and a peaceful New Year.



Headteacher - December 2010



**Time to Talk - Bookable Consultation Sessions 2011**  
 Hampshire Educational Psychology Service  
**PARENTS – CARERS**  
 Would you like:-

- to discuss how to support your child's learning at home?
- to discuss concerns over behaviour?
- to discuss issues to do with relationships and emotions?

The Educational Psychology team is offering consultation sessions with two psychologists to discuss your concerns, clarify issues and together generate possible courses of action. We will only be able to discuss school-related issues when a parent and a member of school staff attend together. This will be a joint problem-solving session, not a route to educational psychology assessment. It is not usually helpful for the child to be present especially if the concern relates to behaviour management. If you think you might bring your child, please discuss this by phone in advance of your appointment.

Each session is an hour long.

**TO BOOK YOUR CONSULTATION SESSION PHONE Louise Arnold on 01962 876366**  
 for Winchester and Test Valley Partnerships

Benefits **01264 368000**

**DON'T MISS OUT!**


Extra help for **working families with children**

**Do you have children?  
 Do you pay rent?  
 Do you pay Council Tax?**

You might be entitled to extra money towards your rent or Council Tax payments.

Call us for an estimate now on **01264 368000**

Visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefits) to see if you qualify using our online calculator  
 Email [benefits@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@testvalley.gov.uk)



Any delay might mean that you are missing out on support.

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefits)

**TEST VALLEY**  
 BOROUGH COUNCIL

**FREE fun things to do this Christmas**

Day	What we'll be doing	Time and place
<b>Mon 20 December</b>	<b>Story telling and crafts for families with children under 11.</b> Come along to a story telling performance, and enjoy Christmas stories and crafts as a family.	King Arthur's Hall 1.30pm to 3.30pm
<b>Tues 21 December</b>	<b>Football in the Testway 7s sports cage.</b>	King Arthur's Hall <b>Under 11s</b> - 10 am to 12 noon <b>Over 11s</b> - 1pm to 3pm
<b>Wed 22 December</b>	<b>Christmas crafts for families with under 8s.</b> Come and join us to make your own tree decorations, stain glass windows and much more.	Church Centre, Smannell Road 10.30am to 12 noon

**Book early, so you don't miss out.\* Call Vikki on 07521 666716 or Askalot on 01264 358443.**

**New for 2011!** Single parent's club starting Wednesday 5 January 1 - 2pm. **Sparks** runs every two weeks at King Arthur's Hall and everyone's welcome. Want to know more, call Jo on **01264 738826** or Yana on **07748 144932.**

\*If there aren't enough people coming along we may have to cancel

# CALENDAR DATES

## December '10 to July '11

Christmas Holiday Mon 20 December - Mon 03 January inc.	
Wed 5 Jan	Yr9 Information & Guidance DVD + Careers Booklet
Thurs 6 Jan	Progress Reviews home - Yrs 7,8,9,10
Tues 11 Jan	Town Schools Rock-it-ball Competition 3.45 - 5.30 pm
Wed 12 Jan	Parent Consultations Day - 1 & Yr 11 Study Skills
Wed 12 Jan	14-16 Consortium Parents Information Evening, The Lights 6.00 - 8.30 pm
Thurs 20 Jan	Yr 10 GCSE PE lead Wheelchair Basketball
Tues 25 Jan	Aim Higher Yr 9 Taster Day
Wed 26 Jan	Consortium Yr 9 Taster Day
Thurs 27 Jan	QMC Interviews - Year 11
Thurs 27 Jan	Ski Trip Final Parents' Evening - 7.00pm
Fri 4 Feb	Year 9 Reports home with Curriculum Booklet
Sun 6 Feb	Ski Trip departs returning 13 Feb
Wed 9 Feb	INSET DAY 5
Wed 9 Feb	County Badminton Finals
Mon 14 Feb	Ex-student Pantomime all week
Tues 15 Feb	Key Stage 4 Year 9 Curriculum Evening
Tues 15 Feb	Yr7/8 Girls Tag Rugby Competition
Wed 16 Feb	Pd 3/4 Year 7 Spelling Bee, Auditorium
Half term - Monday 21 - Fri 25 February inc.	
Fri 4 Mar	Whole School - Rights Respecting Schools Day (RRSA)
Thurs 10 Mar	Rural Schools Football - Yrs 5/6 1.00>4.00pm
Fri 11 Mar	Peter Symonds Interviews - Year 11
11 & 14 Mar	Yr 11 GCSE Art Exam all day
w/c 14 Mar	Blue Fusion (Yr 10/11)
15/16 Mar	14-16 Interviews - Yr 9
Thurs 17 Mar	Town Schools Football - Yrs 5/6 1.00>4.30pm Sparsholt
Fri 18 Mar	Top Link 1 (Year 9)
Wed 23 Mar	Study Skills with LC
29 & 30 Mar	Aim Higher Yr 8 Taster Days
Wed 30 Mar	After school: Town Basketball Yrs 5/6
Thurs 31 Mar	Yr 8 Girls: HPV vaccine 3
Fri 1 Apr	Set up for School Show
Mon 4 April	School Show this week
Fri 8 April	Top Link 2 (Year 9)
Fri 8 April	Yr 8 Reports home

Easter Holiday Mon 11 April - Monday 25 April inc.	
Thurs 28 April	Progress Reviews home - Yrs 7,10,11
Thurs 28 April	Year 10 Exams + controlled assessment until 6th May
Mon 2 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Wed 11 May	ADSSA Athletics - Yrs9/10/11
Mon 16 May	GCSEs begin
Thu 19 May	KS3 Superstars all day
Mon 23 May	Yrs 7,8,9 tests until 10th June
w/c 23 May	Yr9 New Forest trip this week
25/26 May	Secondary Mountbatten Dance Festival
Fri 27 May	Yr 7 Reports home
Half term - Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June 2011 inc.	
6 or 7 June	Aegon Tennis
w/c 13 June	Calshot residential trip (Year 8)
Wed 15 June	Yrs 7/8 ADSSA Athletics
Fri 24 June	Year 10 reports home
w/c 27 June	National School Sports Week
Tues 28 June	GCSEs end
29 June - 1 July	Aim Higher Year 10 Residentials
Fri 1 July	Superstars final
Fri 1 July	Leavers' Dinner/Dance
Mon 4 July	Yr 7 Charlton Lakes this week
Tues 5 July	Induction Day/Evening - Parent Consultation Day 2
7/8 July	Yr 10 BTEC Residential Drama trip to Wales
Mon 11 July	Aim Higher Year 7 Taster Day
Tues 12 July	Swanage and Lulworth trip Yr 10
12/13 July	Year 5 Activity Days
13/15 July	Year 10 Enterprise Days
19/20 July	Yr10 BTEC Drama/Music/Dance showcase
20/22 July	Year 9 Enterprise Days
Thu 21 July	Stars in your Eyes
Sat 23 July	Dark Side of the Moon show
Mon 25 July	Sports Day - Key Stage 3 Presentation Eve
Tues 26 July	Sports Day (Reserve day)
Wed 27 July	Last day of term
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY</b> Thursday 28 July - Friday 02 September inclusive <i>(Published on HCC website July 2010)</i>	

### School Jackets - Price Increase

As you will be aware, we have managed to keep the cost of school jackets the same for the past three years. However, owing to inflation and the rise in VAT, we are unfortunately now compelled to raise prices on these items, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. The new prices will be as follows:

26", 28", 29"	£21.00
30", 31", 32", 33"	£21.50
34", 35", 36"	£22.00
38", 40"	£27.00
42", 44", 46", 48", 50"	£28.00

### [www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk](http://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk)

Don't forget to visit the website for all the performing arts news, sports and trip reports, recent events, letters home, exam information and much more. If you can't find what you're looking for, please do not hesitate to contact the school, who will put you in touch with someone who can help provide the relevant information.

### PLEASE DIAL CAREFULLY



An Andover household regularly receives misdialled calls for Harrow Way Community School.

The telephone number for Harrow Way School is 01264 364533.