

## EASTER NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2019

### **Borden at Home:**

#### **Easter Revision Classes:**

Students in Years 11 & 13 will have received information about the revision classes happening in the Easter holiday in numerous subjects across KS4-5. These are voluntary sessions provided by staff designed to supplement (not replace!) students own on-going revision. It is imperative that students register in with their subject teacher at the start of their revision session. Non-uniform should be worn and no canteen facilities will be available.

#### **Sixth Form News:**

Whilst Year 13 have been busy with 'mock' exams and finalising University and work places for September 2019 they have also been preparing for their final A level exams. At the same time our Year 12 students have begun planning for their 'life after Borden' by beginning to secure summer work shadowing placements, attending a UCAS Higher Education conference as well some individual visits to University open days. We also had four visitors from Queens College, Cambridge University who spoke to seventeen Year 12 students about how to prepare for an application to Cambridge or Oxford Universities. The event was also opened up to a select group of students from Year 10.

#### **UK Chess Challenge:**

After a two year absence Borden has once again entered the UK Chess Challenge. This involves 1200 schools nationally, with up to 40 000 pupils. 24 pupils from year 7, 11 and 12 took part in the opening rounds of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge and seven are eligible to enter the regional finals to be held in May. As Chris Mutah and Luciano Campisi of Year 7 both won all seven of their matches there will be a play-off next term for this year's school trophy. Some of those wins were against very strong players in Year 12 so we are looking forward to good things from these two in the coming years. Thank you to Mr Chittenden and his willing army of sixth formers for running this club so often at lunchtime.

#### **History Department - Year 7 Dover Castle History Trip:**

The Year 7's went to Dover Castle on the last Wednesday and Thursday of March. Both 7CL/MC and 7DRG/7LLB enjoyed lovely spring weather for their visits. The trip tied in with work studied in History lessons on medieval castles as well as allowing the boys to learn more about an important local history site. The tour kicked off with a tour of the WW2 tunnels Dunkirk experience which was enjoyable and informative. The History department took over at this point and the boys were given tours of the Keep and Castle grounds with the history of the castle being explained. This was not only of educational benefit but was also good physical exercise for all involved. From the look of some of the boys it appears that the History department is fitter than many of them! Thank you to Mr Sumner, Mr Finch and Mr White.

### **Music News:**

This term, the Music Department held a Spring Concert on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, which was very well attended and featured performances from a variety of groups. The Orchestra performed a medley of Disney songs and the choir performed music from The Greatest Showman. There were also pieces performed by clarinet and saxophone groups set up by students. In contrast, there were also performances from two rock bands. A special well done to those who performed solos in the concert: Toby Clark, Marcus Louch and Lucas Fox.

In addition to the concert, many students have been entered for instrumental exams. Although most are still waiting for results, well done to James Hogben (Cornet), Isaac Youngson (Drum Kit), Joseph Fowler (Piano), Logan Dootson (Clarinet), Alex Upward (Tenor Saxophone and Piano) and Marcus Louch (Clarinet). Thank you to Miss Phillips.

### **Sporting News:**

The last few months have been exciting ones for Borden sport and football in particular:

The Year 7A side made it to the quarter finals of the County Cup.

The Year 7B side made it through to the semi-finals of the Kent cup - narrowly losing to King Henry's school.

The Year 10s did well to make it to the county semi-finals, eventually being beaten by a very strong Wilmington GS.

The 2nd XI won their league and made it through to the finals of the county play offs that were played in a two leg format. They were well beaten in the first leg that left a good deal of work to do in the 2nd leg. Whilst we won the return fixture (in terrible playing conditions) we could not make up the goal difference. Frustratingly we had finished above the other school in the league!

Saving the best until last, our Year 11s went unbeaten to become joint county champions in a final against Wilmington Grammar School. This was a hotly contested game that perhaps we should have won outright but for a fortuitous last minute equaliser from Wilmington. Both players and travelling supporters did the school proud with their conduct and performance. Quote of the evening came from Mr French "if my midfield put half the effort into revision that they did into the game tonight their exam results will be great in the summer!"

With all of the excitement of many of the school's football teams doing so well this year it is hard for the hockey and the rugby teams not to feel a little overshadowed - however both sports have been well represented in friendly fixtures as well as district tournaments. Notable performances included the year 10 hockey performance in the St Edmunds invitational hockey tournament as well as the year 8 rugby teams display in the district rugby shield.

**In individual sporting news:** Mitchell Crosswell and Owain Cullen have both represented the school and county at national judo events and the Gear brothers (Hayden and Ethan) both gained selection to represent the county at the national cross country championships. Matthew Harwood represented Kent at the National Short Mat Bowls competition. Well done to all students who have represented the school, district and county.

Thank you to Mr French, Mr Weller, Mr Brinn, Mr Feeney and Mr Cornford for running the respective teams.

**Borden abroad:**

**Skiing Trip February 2019:** Mrs Carter and five other members of staff took a group of 44 students, from Year 8 through to Year 13, to Aprica, Italy for this year's skiing trip. Aprica is located in the Lombardia region of Italy, on the pass between Lake Como and the Dolomites which has a charming vibe and peaceful atmosphere in the village. The group stayed at the centrally located Hotel Roma which is a lovely family run hotel where the staff are very friendly and accommodating and the food is in abundance. For six days, the students skied for five hours per day, three hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon under the supervision of the instructors from the ski school in their respective ability groups. During the week, such improvements were made that students were moved between groups and tested further. They were constantly being assessed and were presented towards the end of the week with a medal and an achievement card. During the evenings, the group took part in activities such as a quiz night, bum boarding, a pizza night at a local restaurant and ice skating. All had a thoroughly enjoyable time and the arrangements for next year's trip to Prato Nevoso, also in Italy, are in full swing. The final score in terms of injuries was staff 1, students 1.

**Modern Foreign Languages:**

A few weeks ago, a party of A Level and GCSE French students visited Montpellier in the South of France. The excursions included the visit of a Roman amphitheatre in the city of Nimes and the UNESCO world heritage site of Avignon. Congratulations to all the students who seized every opportunity to practise their language skills and improve their cultural knowledge. It was particularly nice to hear French people praise our students for the quality of their French. Finally, a very special thanks to Ms Bailliez, Mrs Westby and Mr Robbins for all their support and for making this trip possible.

At the time of writing, 60 Year 10 students are in Barcelona with Mrs Frost and are planning on returning at the weekend, Brexit permitting.

**Finally,** I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday period – even GCSE & A Level students need to make sure that they enjoy some 'down-time' and build breaks into their revision schedules to eat chocolate!

Borden returns on **Tuesday 23 April**. The timetable will be Week 2.

Best wishes,



**J R Hopkins**  
**Headteacher**

