



# Cathedral Carol Concert 2002

The festive season got off to a swing on Wednesday 11th December 2002 when over 150 students took part in the College's annual carol service at St. Philip's cathedral in Birmingham.

**M**any musical groups took part including College Band and staff and student choirs. The readings were provided by 7 Bundy. The evening was a terrific success and enabled everyone to enter the Christmas spirit. In addition, the music department have been involved in a number of projects this term including the Winter Concert, The "Sound of Music", Christmas Cabaret and the Young Voices concert at the Birmingham NIA.

**Message from Ann Jones** - What becomes apparent as you read through this edition of Inside Out is the incredible range of activities in which students and staff at Kingshurst are involved. We have always prided ourselves in achieving outstanding exam results and, while this is a vitally important part of college life, it has always been our aim to create an environment that encourages involvement in a wide range of activities, often outside the classroom. The articles you are about to read bear testimony to the hundreds of individuals in college who are getting involved and having a good time, as a result! As we come to the end of term I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and positive New Year.



■ The College Choir perform on a memorable night at St. Philips Cathedral in Birmingham.

## Presentation evening celebrates Year 11 achievements

**O**nce again, the celebration of this year's Year 11 students' achievements in their GCSEs and GNVQs, took place in November. Ann Jones, Principal, welcomed a drama studio packed with students and parents and the guest speaker, Chair of Governors, Bryan Mason, praised both the diligence and independence with which our students had approached their studies. Yet another set of excellent results across the year meant that the vast majority of students collected a fine set of certificates.

As usual, selected students, received special awards, introduced by Bruce Walton, Assistant Principal with responsibility for Year 12, who acknowledged each student's individual outstanding academic achievements and contributions to college life.

Closing the formal pro-



ceedings, Vikash Poye, President of the Student Union, presented Bryan Mason



with a token of the college's appreciation and provided some inspiring words of sup-

port for his fellow students as they embark on the first year of their Post-16 studies.

Pictured are Ryan Davey and Nicola Trenfield receiving their awards from Bryan Mason, Chairman of Governors. A full roll of honour is on page 7.

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# International Links

In a rapidly changing world, Kingshurst places great importance in preparing our students to meet the international opportunities that exist. In order to do this, Marie Wears has forged educational links across the globe encompassing a diverse range of cultures. In the last issue of Inside Out, we highlighted the value of educational visits in broadening our students' personal development in our feature on the Washington visit. Here, we look at some unique opportunities in which our students have recently participated.

## European Youth Convention – Finland

The 2002 European Youth Convention in Tampere, Finland was the third EYC to be held, the previous two being in Sweden and England respectively, and Kingshurst has attended all of them. Other countries taking part in the 2002 Convention were Finland, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Latvia and Slovenia.

**T**he CTC delegation this year was made up of four post 16 students: Nicola Luck, Tom Bleazard, Farah Lodhi and Kirstine Szifris, under the supervision of English teacher Roz Trudgon. The Convention's topic was the importance of forestry and sustainable forestation. The students had some instruction in this area from Science teacher Nigel Gardener before the convention, and were looking forward to experiencing some of the concepts first hand.

In spite of a 4 a.m. start the outward journey went remarkably well, (apart from Farah's lost luggage which decided to stay a little longer in Helsinki, turning up in Tampere at 9 p.m. that evening!).

During the first evening a welcome concert was given by the Finnish students and a local choir. The choir was excellent, however the Finnish student rock band was somewhat of an acquired taste!

Over the course of the three days spent in the forest in Kuru all of us were given the opportunity to experience the reality of the forestry industry. Each of us planted trees, cleared undergrowth, felled trees (with a chainsaw!) built a fence in the old Finnish tradition, built a log cabin, learned survival skills (including eating ant-hill chewing gum!) and drove a Forwarder.

Alongside these activities we also took part in a Finnish style Olympic Games in which the Kingshurst Student Team won the gold medal (actually a chocolate bar) for the fastest three man skiing time! Much time was spent in the sauna, a great Finnish tradition, and swimming in the lake, which was freezing at 6 a.m.!

At the end of the Convention a ten point charter was drawn up based on the ideas and concerns of the student delegates surrounding the importance of forests and forestation which was sent to the European Parliament.

The major strengths and successes of the Tampere Convention were due mainly to the amazing opportunities available to all the delegates during the three days in Kuru. Opportunities that not only allowed staff and student delegates alike to experience new activities and attempt new skills, but also gave students the opportunity to work closely in international groups, thereby learning more about other cultures and ways of life. The students from Kingshurst left an extremely positive mark on the Convention and on all the delegates, both staff and students, with whom they came into contact.

**By Roz Trudgon**



## Model UN Conference

Four year 12 students and history teacher Dean Bowker recently attended BRATMUN, the model United Nations conference held in Bratislava. All four students spoke at the conference as delegates representing Israel and India. All four were confident and articulate and a credit to the college. Darren John and Daniel Marsden submitted a resolution, which, although gaining the required signatures to be put before the conference, was unfortunately not accepted. The resolution was well argued and both Darren and Dan can feel proud of their efforts.

The cultural experience of travelling from Austria through to Slovakia, thus passing through what was once the iron curtain was an eye opener for all. The advantages, both economic and political, of Western democracy, are all the more apparent once experienced.



# Focus on Cleobury Mortimer . . .

A selection of quotes from students who took part in this year's residential trip to Cleobury Mortimer

Having been to Cleobury Mortimer in year 7, I found that it is an experience that can be enjoyed for people of all age groups, even teachers! The activities available allow a mixture of social and physical recreation. Nothing much had changed except for additional activities. These included the high ropes and raft building, which were challenging and involved teamwork. Being involved in these activities and supervising the students enabled me to gain experience with children and taught me how to approach and communicate more effectively. After this unique experience, I now have a few more options in the career path I would like to take. Along with teaching I would now also consider a career in outdoor pursuits. I would definitely recommend year 12 students to consider volunteering to accompany next year's visit.  
**Leanne Perry, 12 Hurds**



Cleobury Mortimer was the best trip I have been on so far, it had everything: countryside, friendly staff, activities that you never dreamed of doing, good food and OK accommodation.  
  
The activities were fun but most of them scary! My favourite activity was climbing and abseiling. I had never done anything like this before and went straight for the hardest challenge- the straight climb. When I was nearly at the top I wanted to give up because my fingers were numb but Wave urged me on and I did it!  
**Casey McAuliffe, 7 Payne**



I liked Cleobury because I got to know every one in my class and also the activities were great.  
**Jamie-Leigh Chapman, 7 Payne**



The bizarre instructors, fun activities and the beautiful scenery of Cleobury Mortimer all added to the enjoyment of the stay. The challenge course was the best of all, taking a mud bath to develop teamwork skills sounds good to me! High Ropes, using confidence to get a cross a high balance beam and climb a wobble pole and leap for safety, definitely a terrifying experience!!! It was time to settle problems in fencing, by having a dual with other member of your tutor group, the winner with the pride of the universe and the loser with huge embarrassment. . . Getting utterly and totally lost and tired in night walk, at least we found the package (cups and hot chocolate) OK. All in all, a totally enjoyable stay with the best activities available, Cleobury Mortimer must be the best place to stay for a residential!  
**By Matthew Marson, 7 Payne**



Things got even better though when the teachers fell into the lake with us! Actually, I stayed on dry land and while they were all drenched and cold, I was nice and dry. Ha ha ha! I couldn't stay dry forever though, I was finally thrown into a big muddy puddle on the survival challenge course.  
**Lola Lawal 7McTague**

## Post 16 view point

Over the course of the next few weeks the Post-16 Common Room will be undergoing a radical makeover!!! Vending machines will hopefully be installed; interesting colours will be put on the walls and big cushions distributed.

Several year-12 students have volunteered to decorate the common room, as they will get the most benefits from the improvements made. By Christmas the plan is to have a much more comfortable social area, an exciting 'play' area and a peaceful work area. The Student Council hope these new facilities will not be abused.

Over the last few months the Year 13 students have been working to get all the coursework in on time. The year-12 students I hope are enjoying the course and I hear many have been working on their CAS hours. The student council wish you luck in whatever you may be doing in this area. Please do not hesitate to ask us for ideas or help.

Good luck to the Year 13 IB students in their up and coming mock exams. I hope the Year 13 students use the Christmas holiday as the final relaxing break before the final exams. Try not to work too hard. **Happy Christmas!!!**

By **Kirstine Szifrif, 13 Starkey**

## CAS project generates funds for cancer research

In July, many of our altruistic IB students produced a superb Fashion Show in order to raise in excess of £300 for Cancer Research. The sheer quality of the event illustrated what a dynamic set of post 16 students we have here at Kingshurst. I have seen most students' CAS diaries recently and most are superb. Your diaries must be complete by Friday 24 January 2003. This will enable you to focus entirely on your IB exams! **By Sarah Wastie**



## Carrie-Anne's search for stardom

I'm in Year 13 now studying a BTEC in Music, and it is that time in my life when I need to decide where my future is headed. The career path I truly wish to follow is the route to stardom. My dream is to get to the top of the charts with my passion and love for singing. This year I have been performing in college events as well as attending auditions in my spare time. By doing this I hope to gain the experience and contacts I need to make it to the top. At the beginning of the year I was involved with "Cop Idol", a spin off of "Pop Idol" held by the West Midlands Police. I have reached the final ten in the country and the final will be held next year, raising money for the Building Blocks charity. I also entered a talent show in a local

social club where, after many heats, I came fourth, winning £100! In August I received a phone call informing me that I had reached the audition stage of a TV show you may have heard of called "Popstars -The Rivals". I went to Manchester and found myself performing in front of record company representatives. Unfortunately, I did not make it to the next stage where you sang in front of the famous judges Pete Waterman, Louis Walsh and Geri Halliwell! But I did meet Pete Waterman and Davina McCall so the day wasn't too bad! More recently I have been in a karaoke competition, hoping to win £1000! I am in the final, which is being held on December 18th. I hope to continue with many auditions next year, including one for series two of "Pop Idol" – so watch this space!

# OCR Recognising Achievement Award

Darren discusses his visit to the capital, the London Eye and the small matter of winning a GNVQ National Award – one of only three awarded nationally

On the 28th November Lee Fletcher, my guests and I had invites to the OCR National Recognising Achievement Awards 2002 at One Great George Street, London.

Needing to be in London early meant an incredibly early start to the day, although actually that's an understatement, what I should say is a frighteningly early start to the day. Being up at 3.45 am in order to catch a coach from Digbeth Coach Station at 5.30 is not the greatest beginning to the day. It did get better though, despite some very uncomfortable coach seats and various numb parts of our body as a result of the offending seating we arrived at Victoria Station in relatively good working order. After a brief excursion to Victoria Train Station to pick up my second guest it was on to the site of the presentations, which it should be noted, thanks to some superb time management we arrived at dead on time. Once inside we were directed to the amazing Great Hall (very worth of its title I assure

you!) where refreshments were on offer. Soon after I left my guests and proceeded to the rehearsal and I soon began getting butterflies! After a run through of the presentation ceremony, which did nothing to quench the afore mentioned butterflies, I returned to the Great Hall once again. Soon though every one was called to the Thomas Telford Theatre and the time had arrived. The ceremony began with welcoming speeches from people such as Ron McLone, Chief Executive of OCR and other high-ranking officials of the examination board. We were also treated to a fantastic speech from Fiona Bruce, the BBC News and Crimewatch presenter, who I must say, is one of the nicest people I have had the pleasure to meet. Soon it was time for the 24 awards and, as people were lining



■ Darren receiving his award from Fiona Bruce, presenter of the BBC 6 o'clock news and Crimewatch

up to be congratulated on their achievements, it was apparent that their achievements spread across the board and many were of the highest calibre, particularly impressive amongst the winners was Kwame Koduah-Sarpong, who arrived in England in Year 10 with English as a second language only yet achieved all A and A\* grades in his GCSEs; Elizabeth Potts who Gained A grades in AS and A level French and German despite suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. There were many other great stories of achievement; I was in esteemed company and felt privileged to be so.

After the fantastic ceremony we were treated to an equally good meal that gave me the opportunity to mingle with my fellow winners and the guest speakers. Even by the end of the award ceremony though the day was not over as Lee Fletcher, my guests and I had the opportunity to go on the London Eye. Riding high above the skyline of London really was a fitting way to finish the day and I feel privileged not only to be able to say I am a winner of such an award but to be able to experience a day as fantastic as the one that I did.

## Coaches of the future

By Jane Simcock

Leanne Perry, Kirsty Stevenson, Sarah D'Arcy and Melissa Samuel continue to assist with training the Bennetts Well Junior School Year 5 and 6 netball team as the school has no-one who is able to train the children. They regularly give up their own time on a Tuesday after school to train them for an hour. Leanne Perry, Melissa Samuel, Emily Watkins, Kate Nicholson and Mark McEvoy have successfully completed the Netball Level 1 coaching course to help launch their budding coaching careers. Well done!

MATHS PUZZLE • MATHS PUZZLE •

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### King Herod's Gold Coins

Calling all over 18s out there who think they're a budding mathematician and fancy winning a bottle of fine wine. Simply answer our maths department's little teaser and e-mail your answer to [puzzle@kingshurst.ac.uk](mailto:puzzle@kingshurst.ac.uk).

King Herod has 9 gold coins. Although they look identical one of them is slightly underweight. He also has a set of balancing scales in which he can put coins on either side to see if they balance or not. Is it possible to detect the underweight coin by using the scales only once? If so, how can it be done? By the way, the answer is yes it can be done! Winners announced in the next edition.



MATHS PUZZLE • MATHS PUZZLE

# Students Visit McNabbs Ice Cream Factory

Students able to understand the nature of manufacturing in a manufacturing environment

By Dr. Barrie Reece

As part of their work for Units in the GNVQ Manufacturing at Intermediate Level, students made a visit in October to McNabbs Ice Cream manufactory not far from the College. McNabbs Ice Cream provides ice cream for the Mr Whippy vans.

They were met by Mr John Preece, the Managing Director who explained all parts of the ice cream manufacturing process from mixing and pasteurisation, through homogenisation, cooling, maturation and extrusion to packaging, freezing, storage and despatch. Students saw part of a production run and by scooping the material up with their hands enjoyed eating a pre-run of the food that was collected in a bucket!!

A great experience was had in the walk-in-freezer where air was at a temperature of minus 250°C! The luxury of spending some time in the blast freezing room operating at an incredible minus 400°C was denied because it was operated only in the Summer months. John Preece is now providing the College with materials sufficient to make 100 litres of his luxury vanilla ice cream and a relative of his associated with Regency Mowbray in Stafford is providing flavours and fruity ingredients. This will allow students to experiment with flavours and produce different ice creams using small freezing units in the Food Manufacturing Unit. In addition to



■ Andrew Jagers forgets his table manners

this they will be able to perform Sensory Analysis of the ice cream in the special tasting suite constructed for the purpose and then select a preferred ice cream for use with the College's own small scale industrial ice cream extrusion unit for sale in the King's Restaurant.

An essential feature of the GNVQ Manufacturing course is compliance with the requirement that "in order to understand the nature of Manufacturing, students must actively experience a Manufacturing environment" Certainly in the case of Food. Manufacture, the College fully meets this requirement.

## Winter concert showcases musical talent

On 27 November, performers from the CTC got together to put on a show stopping performance at the Winter Concert. The variety and quality of the acts were outstanding. There were performances from the college choir, college band, solo singers, bands and many more! The showcase of talent proved to be a hit with the huge audience, their appreciation was clear from the smiles, claps and cheers throughout the night! After being involved with many of the concerts before, I can honestly say that the standard of performances gets better and better! A CD featuring a wide range of musical talent from Year 7 students right through to BTEC students, is available now - buy one for Christmas!

By Carrie-Anne McNally, 13 Rushbury

## Students raise valuable funds for worthy charities

The college's first **Jeans for Genes Day** was a great success resulting in £850 being raised by the college for this worthy charity.

Students and staff were asked to attend college with a pair of denim jeans and their choice of footwear whilst wearing their usual smart attire on top. For example, school blouse, shirt and sweatshirt. Jeans for Genes, organised by four national charities, raises funds for research into serious and often life-threatening genetic disorders affecting thousands of children. Money raised also helps to fund valuable advice and support services for families. This year we sold over 80 pink ribbon badges in college

for the **Breast Cancer Awareness** charity, raising £98.97. The wonderful Irene Clarke sold the badges at reception for staff and students alike during the month of October. Breast Cancer Awareness Month (September - October 2002) started in the United States, where the pink ribbon symbol was first adopted. Breast Cancer Care led the way in bringing the awareness month to the UK and since 1994

the campaign has gone from strength to strength. Now we have support from high-profile celebrities such as Breast Cancer Care patrons Cherie Booth QC and Geri Halliwell, and high street names such as Asda, Boots and Superdrug. We will aim to do our bit throughout 2003!

By Nichola Lawson

# Interactive Sculpture Project



Year 12/13 AVCE Art and Design students delivered their interactive pieces to The Pines School this term.

**W**e had some unavoidable delays, mainly as a result of discovering hitherto unseen problems with either the materials or the designs. That is the nature of 3D design work. Often the most stunning design on paper becomes infeasible as a three dimensional object. Both students and staff

experienced a steep learning curve in terms of resistant materials. Most designs underwent adjustments and some were entirely reworked. While the sculptures are now complete and ready for children to use, the space allocated to them is still undergoing extensive building work. For

the time being our pieces are being kept in storage. Once the space is ready they will be either mounted on walls or sunk into the ground for safety. We plan to return to the school for a grand opening of the interactive space.

**By Helen Laishley**

## MyMathsGold

The college's maths department have registered with a maths tuition site called MyMaths.co.uk. If you are lucky enough to have the internet at home you can have free access to this site simply by using the login name and password. The site should help you to revise with your children with clearly laid out lessons, tests and games. LOGIN: ctc PASSWORD: kimber



## Identity

### A Branch of Young Enterprise

Year 12 Business AVCE students are currently taking part in a Young Enterprise Scheme. Young Enterprise gives business students the chance to gain experience in a realistic business situation. Students have the opportunity to set up and run a real company.

Our company is called IDENTITY. We will be sell-

ing a selection of stylish cuff links, ideal for great Christmas presents, at a reasonable price. We have been invited by organisers of the prestigious Clothes Show 2002 at Birmingham NEC to promote and sell our product. We will also have a market stall at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in Solihull in March 2003. Additionally, we

will be selling them in college, so look out for us at brunch and lunch in the foyer.

Finally, we are currently selling shares in our business to the public, so if you are interested please contact Marjory Boylan for more information.

**By Nicola Hackett, 12 Palmer**

## Year 11 Roll of Honour

### Academic Excellence

Adam Newbery

### Hanson Cup

Sukhvinder Dhaliwal

### Lucas Cup

Carley Wheeler

### Principal's Cup

Darren John

### Nina Ascroft Cup

Aron Burton

### IMI Cup for Science & Technology

Adam Newbery

### Theatrical Excellence

Ryan Davey

### Sporting Achievement

Anthony Hill

Mark McEvoy

Kirsty Stevenson

Emily Watkins

### Outstanding Contribution to College Performances

Natalie Cronin

Keeley Hill

Glen Boden

### Exemplary Attitude to Work

Maria Treweeks

Rebecca Turner

Matthew Guy

## Song writing contest winner

The winner of the song-writing contest from last issue was Rebecca Okeghie, 9 Pearce. She came up with a fantastic song called 'School is Out' which is going to have pride of place on the forthcoming 'CTCCD', featuring songs from many of the talented musicians at the CTC. Rebecca's song is a funky dance track with a great chorus that could be a big hit if the charts weren't full of Pop Idol wannabees. Well done Rebecca - keep writing!

# Pride of Solihull!



**T**he prestigious Solihull Secondary Schools' Team of the year title is awarded to a team achieving exceptional success. For the first time in the college's history we have received this honour. The award recognises the fabulous achievements of the boys who won the National Inter CTC and Sports College's Football competition and the girls who won the West Midlands Cup and progressed to the last 16 in the country during the 2000/2001 season. As their manager last year, I found them a fantastic set of players to work with. They have been an enormous credit to the college, not only in terms of their unprecedented success but also in their commitment, superb camaraderie and exemplary sporting conduct. Mr. Cannadine and Miss Woods deserve great credit for their enthusiasm during their time at the college, which helped engender the positive team spirit that helped propel them to success. A presentation to formally recognise this award will take place in the new year. Above is a nostalgic picture of the teams in their formative years! **By Lee Fletcher**

## Ben sets his sights on Winter Olympics

Benn Hall, aged 12, has been crowned Champion of the two premier race series titles in Dry Ski Slope Racing, Grand Prix Series Champion and Celtic Cup Champion in his age group.

**T**his year's prestigious Grand Prix Series, hosted by the English Ski Council, was sponsored by Thomson Holidays who pledged a prize of two weeks training at the British Ski Academy in Chamonix, France. The purpose of the Academy is to be a stepping stone for athletes to achieve world class levels of performance. A prize of this calibre (worth £1000 +) ensured a full field of elite racers from Great Britain, battling it out for supremacy and the Grand Prix Championship title – which Benn took convincingly at Rossendale. The young ski star will travel to Chamonix in January to spend two weeks on the slopes in preparation for the English and British Championships in Austria & France at Easter.



Benn who is ranked 5th in the country in his age group, would like to represent his country at the highest level in ski racing and hopefully, one day compete in the Olympics himself. According to Ann Jones, "The magnitude of Benn's success is staggering and we are extremely proud of the rapid progress he has made towards fulfilling his ambition".



## Cross country honours

The runners (pictured) have made an excellent start to the season. Special praise must go to the following athletes whose inspirational running in the Solihull Cross Country League has led to their selection for the district team: Danny Mulholland, Trevor Edwards, Sophie Price, Luke Deakin, James McSwiggan, Karl Carman, Sophie Green, Natalie Gibson, Sarah Anderson, Gemma Donnelly and Jo Hawkins. We have high hopes they will lead the college teams to success in the spring.

We hope you enjoyed this issue of Inside Out. As staff, we feel it is very important to recognise our students achievements in order to help motivate them further. Occasionally, we are left in the dark about their achievements and they may not have received the publicity they deserve. If this has been the case I would love to hear from you and work towards highlighting their achievement in college and in the local media. I can be contacted on [lee.fletcher@kingshurst.ac.uk](mailto:lee.fletcher@kingshurst.ac.uk) or **0121 329 8300**. Finally, I'd like to thank James Howell and Matt Timmins for their technical assistance and everyone who contributed ideas and stories. Merry Christmas! Lee Fletcher, Editor