

# THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

2nd October 2009

This week I have started doing mock interviews for girls and boys in the top part of the school doing entrance and pre-tests to their senior schools. Although it is important to make it as close to the real thing as possible, I was struck by the look of horror in one of the girl's faces when I told her to imagine that I was the Headmistress of her senior school!

Mr Webb would like me to mention that the third of three ministers visited the school yesterday to help Form 9 with their Common Entrance R. E. project. The ministers were subjected to what those who have helped in previous years call '**The Inquisition Experience**'. The first minister, Reverend Alison Parker, a Methodist for Basingstoke, visited at the start of term and was new to the ordeal. She came in place of Reverend Tim Horsington who retired in the summer. She was considered by Form 9 to have answered the ten probing questions about her views with great skill (much to her relief). Next was Brother Hugh Sommerville-Knapman, a Roman Catholic monk from Douai Abbey at Woolhampton, who narrowly escaped torture from the girls when he argued the case against women priests. Reverend Lucy Thirtle, the Anglican vicar of Kingsclere, faced the panel yesterday for the fourth year in succession, so she was well versed in the possible consequences of giving answers considered by the Inquisitors to be heretical! After the question and answer session each minister also had to submit to the indignity of having his or her photograph taken – an essential part of the project. We hope they are brave enough to return again next year.

The Section assemblies, every Thursday, have been a real hit with the children. I was most impressed to hear in great detail from Oliver Frisby about the Middle School assembly and most importantly the moral on bravery. It is lovely that these assemblies can be levelled more appropriately to the age ranges in the different areas of the school.

Next week some children are taking part in our first ever real tennis match at The Oratory. I don't know how Mr Brown has managed to practise for the event considering Thorngrove doesn't have a real tennis court (and has no plans to build one!). I certainly wish the children the very best of Henry VIII luck.

I have sent out a form with the children today about email addresses and text numbers. As you know I would like to send every parent this newsletter electronically but would like you to choose a preferred email address. A text service is also on the cards in the near future for emergency contact only. Please fill in this form and return to the office by 9th October.

Please note that there are individual school photographs on Friday next week. It is important to ensure that the children are looking their best!

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Form 4 have very kindly written the following article for my newsletter about their trip to Butser Ancient Farm:

On Wednesday, Form 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm to learn about the Celts. First we sat in a roundhouse. There was a fire in the middle of the roundhouse and it was very warm, dark and smoky. The walls were made from wattle and daub and the roof was thatched.

Next we became archaeologists and we used a trowel to scrape the soil away to find artefacts. We found pieces of pottery, bones, shells and metal objects-it was very exciting!

After that we sculpted some warrior faces and roundhouses out of clay, just like the Celts would have done. You can see our masterpieces on display in 4B.

After a lovely picnic lunch in the drizzle we tried our hands at clunching. First we had to crush the chalk by smashing it with a wooden mallet made from a tree trunk and a branch. Then we mixed the chalk with soil, straw and water until it became a gooey mixture. It felt disgusting but we loved it-well most of us! Finally we put it in a mould to make part of a sheep shelter.

Our last activity was making jewellery. The Celts liked swirls and circles so we made curly jewellery. Some people made a man pendant, others made rings and torcs.

Finally we returned to the coach exhausted after an action packed day!

To find out more, come and see our posters which are on display in the Form 4 corridor!

The book fair will be set up all next week in the New Hall corridor. Please feel free to browse and of course buy some books.

Have a good weekend,

Best wishes,

Adam King  
(Headmaster)

N.B. Please see next page for match results

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## Fixture Changes for Next Week

No changes

## Match Results

### Boys' Results

#### **Under 13 7-a-side tournament....**

##### **A team**

v. St.Neots A Lost 0-1  
v. Farleigh A Won 1-0 (Wallace)  
v. Highfield A Drew 2-2 (Wallace & Knight)  
v. St.Francis A Won 5-0 (Bolkiah 5)

##### **FINAL**

v. St.Neots A Won 2-1 (Wallace & Bolkiah)

##### **B team**

v. Daneshill A Lost 0-3  
v. Highfield A Lost 0-1  
v. Farleigh B Lost 0-1  
v. Farleigh A Lost 0-1

##### **9<sup>th</sup> Place Play Off**

v. Holme Grange A Drew 0-0

#### **Under 10/11s**

v. Elstree A Drew 1-1 (Patrick-Smith-pen)  
v. Elstree B Lost 0-1

#### **Under 9s**

v. St.Francis A Won 1-0 (Fanning)  
v. St.Francis B Lost 2-5 (Stevens 2)

#### **Under 8s**

v. St.Francis A/B Won 6-1 (Franklin 3, Patmore & Woodhead)

## Girls' Results

Tuesday U9 Netball v Cheam Won 8-5

Wednesday U12/13A Hockey v Farleigh B Drew 0-0  
U12/13 B Hockey v Farleigh C Lost 3-0  
U10 A Netball v St Gabriel's Won 3-2  
U11 Netball v St Gabriel's Lost 10-6