

KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL
END OF TERM NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Parents

We have come to the end of a very busy school year but I do hope your daughter has enjoyed her time with us. This year sees the retirement of two long-serving colleagues. Mr Horton joined the staff here fifteen years' ago, Handsworth being the third Mathematics Department he ran; he has built up a close team of able teachers. Mr Horton has particularly enjoyed the Year 9 Residential and he will be really missed. Mrs Holden originally came to Handsworth as a pupil and has taught here for the last 23 years. Originally an Art teacher, Mrs Holden added firstly Resistant Materials Technology and then Textiles Technology to her repertoire. She has ably led the Department and the annual fashion show will be a lasting legacy. We wish them both every happiness.

Holidays

Absence from School during the term is detrimental to learning. Holidays must not be booked during term-time and may be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Attendance

Attendance here is excellent but we remain concerned about a few girls with intermittent absence. Our new attendance system (Keep Kids Safe) has been a great success. If your daughter is going to be absent from school for any reason you **must contact school before 08.30am** using the following automated service

Text: 079624 816 018

Telephone: 0844 239 3299 (option 1) please complete the whole process.

Messages can be left on these numbers from Midnight onwards on the day of absence. If your daughter has a medical or dental appointment, **let us know 48hours in advance** using the above method. Please note that parents will need to come to the main school reception on Rose Hill Road to collect their daughter in person. If your daughter arrives late for any reason, she must sign the register in reception.

Term Dates 2010-2011

The Autumn Term Starts as follows:

Year 7 - Friday 3rd September 2010 - normal school day

Lower Sixth - Friday 3rd September 2010 - normal school day

Upper Sixth - Friday 3rd September 2010 - afternoon only

All year groups – Monday 6th September 2010 - normal school day

Collection of GCE and GCSE results

GCE – Thursday 19th August (Year 13 from 10.00am, Year 12 from 12 noon)

GCSE – Tuesday 24th August (Year 11 from 10.00am, Year 10 from 11.00am)

Term dates for 2010-2011 can be found on the following on the website using the following link

<http://www.kingedwardvi.org/term-dates/>

Parents' evenings

Year 7	Tuesday 1 st March 2011
Year 8	Thursday 17 th March 2011
Year 9	Wednesday 17 th November 2010
Year 10	Thursday 28 th April 2011
Year 11	Thursday 3 rd February 2011
Lower Sixth	Wednesday 9 th February 2011
Upper Sixth	Tuesday 23 rd November 2010

These dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologise in advance should this be the case.

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Teacher training days

Wednesday 1st September 2010

Thursday 2nd September 2010

Tuesday 9th November

Tuesday 4th January

Thursday 24th March 2011

Activity Days

Wednesday 30th October 2010

Monday 15th November 2010

Thursday 3rd March 2011

Friday 1st July 2011

Monday 18th July 2011

GCSE Gujarati and Punjabi Lessons

These take place during the lunch hour and/or after school and information will be available in September when it will also be put on the website.

ParentPay

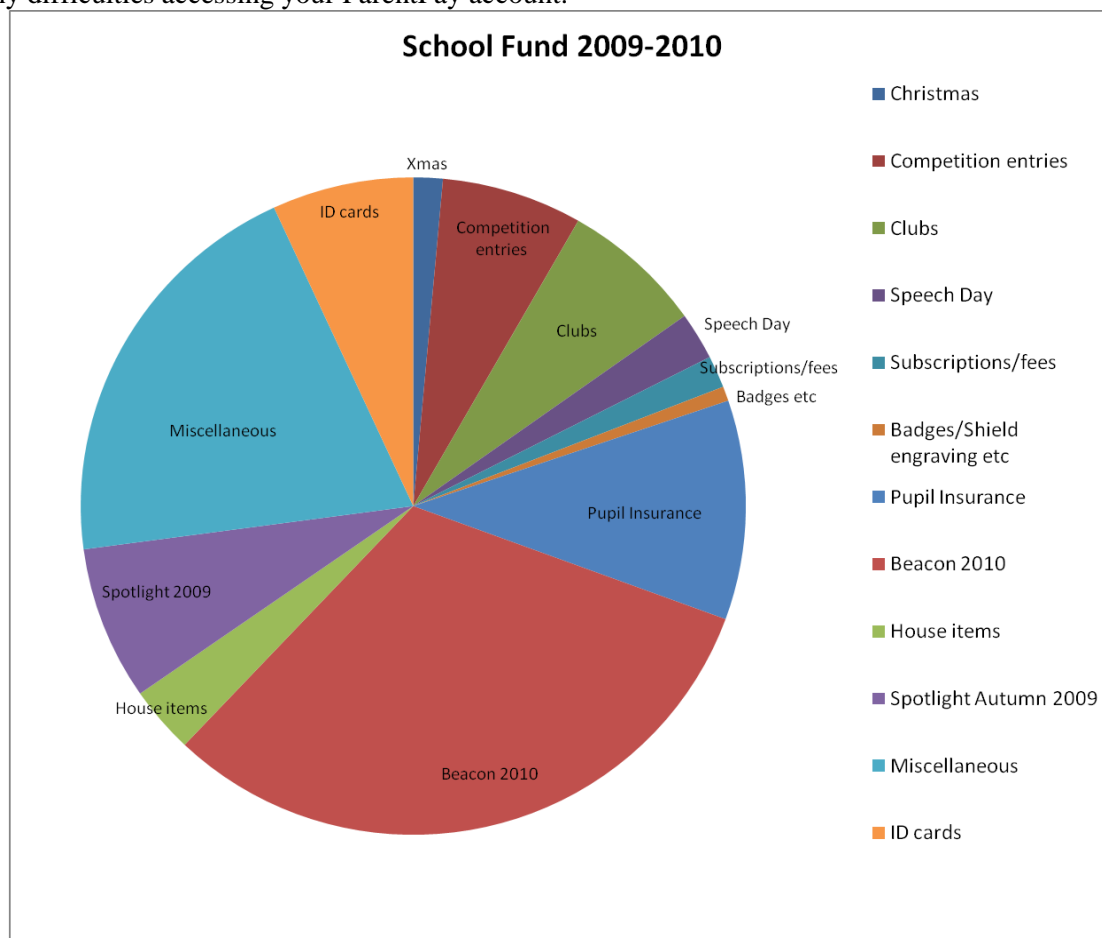
For information about ParentPay please follow the link:

<http://www.kingedwardvi.org/storage/admissions-sept-2010/ParentPay%20Information.pdf>

School Fund

We really appreciate your contribution to School fund which buys so much that makes school life interesting for the girls.

School Fund for 2010-2011 is £20 payable via ParentPay. Please contact ICT Support at the School should you experience any difficulties accessing your ParentPay account.



Charities

Since September 2009 we have raised money for the following charities:

MacMillan Coffee Morning	£300.00
The Duga fund (Leklebi Sr High School – Ghana)	£610.00
DEC Disasters Appeal – Islamic Society	£122.54
Jeans for Genes non-uniform day	£742.14
Ronald McDonald Houses near hospitals	£250.00
BBC Children In Need	£3300.00
Bid Services (for the deaf)	£305.00
Tickled Pink non uniform day	£550.00
Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research	£250.00
Haiti Water Aid	£400.00
Sport Relief	£1616.67
World Vision	£250.00
RNIB	£380.00
PDSA	£475.00 (still some monies to add)

Mobile phones

Mobile telephones are becoming an increasing problem in schools. We believe that they are a useful safety aid on the journey to school but there is no need for them in the school day. As pupils now have secure storage in their lockers, all mobile phones must be left there in the school day. Permission must be sought from a member of staff if a pupil needs to use her telephone. It might be an idea to provide a cord so that the telephone and ID card can be hung on the same hook.

School meals

All school meal transactions will only be made using the ID card. At the beginning of term, please send in a cheque payable to AIP in an envelope marked with your daughter's name and form or, preferably, use ParentPay. If your daughter regularly eats a two-course lunch, may I suggest you make your initial payment for about £30 which should last about three weeks but you may need to allow more for snacks at break and bottled drinks. Even if your daughter normally brings a packed lunch to school, it might be a good idea to put a small sum, say £5, on her card in case of emergencies. Cards are much safer than cash in school. While we will not allow a girl to go hungry if her card is empty, this is for one day only and you must keep a check on her spending.

Sick girls

The staff in the School Office also look after sick girls and it is very important that you keep them informed of any changes of address or emergency contact numbers and that you are contactable on the given numbers. If your daughter uses an inhaler or needs an Epipen for an allergy emergency, please can you send a clearly labelled spare one into school at the beginning of term for safe-keeping in the School Office. A number of members of staff, including administrative staff, are trained in Epipen use each year. We are no longer allowed to administer paracetamol, if your daughter suffers with period pains please ensure that she brings her own. If you are requested to collect your daughter from the medical room please would you arrange to have her picked up as quickly as possible.

Care Plan – If you have filled in a care plan and your daughter has medication in the School Office for emergency use, please would you remind your daughter to collect it if she has not already done so. In September, please ensure that you send in her medication again and that it is in-date. Please amend her care plan if there are any changes that you think are relevant for us to know. Follow the link if you need to fill in a new care plan:

http://www.kingedwardvi.org/storage/admissions-sept-2010/Welcome_Personal_Care_Plan.pdf

Lockers

Girls here are provided with two lockers, a small one for their books only (so that they remain in good condition) and a large one for PE kit and coat. Please ensure that your daughter has a lock for at least one of these so that her belongings can be kept safe.

We advise combination locks so that keys cannot be lost. Your daughter must not share her number with anyone or use an obvious number eg her date of birth.

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School bags

School bags should be of a suitable design which enables books to be stored flat and which is waterproof. A rucksack or satchel style bag is ideal.

Uniform

Recently, I have been concerned about the appearance of a number of girls. Some have hair styles unsuitable for School with fringes covering their eyes. Eye-makeup of any sort is not allowed. Some girls have blazers which are out of shape and skirts which have become un-pleated; these should be dry cleaned to restore them. From September, I would like girls to wear 60 denier tights to avoid laddering.

Severe Weather Clothing

Girls should have ready a navy or black coat and scarf, hat and gloves in case the weather is bad.

Shoes

School shoes should be black leather (not fabric) and stout. Flimsy, ballet style, shoes are not suitable for School.

Website

There is a parents' section on the website with up to date information, please follow the link

<http://www.kingedwardvi.org/information-for-parents>

Parents' Peace Fund

Please follow the link to find out more about the Parents' Peace Fund: <http://www.kingedwardvi.org/parents-peace-fund>

A Gift Aid form is also available if you have not already filled one in. Please follow the link:

http://www.kingedwardvi.org/storage/admissions-sept-2010/Welcome_Gift_Aid_Declaration.pdf

What a lot to remember! Do have a good summer.

With best wishes

Elspeth V Inch

Dr Elspeth V Inch OBE
Headmistress