



January 2005

HEADLINES

It has been a very busy year so far but also a very satisfying one. We started in September buoyed up by record breaking GCSE results, 70% of students having achieved 5 or more A*-C grades, and further encouraged by a government invitation to apply for a second specialism to run alongside our Technology College (TC) status. This was a clear indication that our first 4 years as a TC had been judged a great success and we have now had confirmation of Humanities College (HC) status as our second specialism. This brings with it an extra £60,000 per annum along with performance targets for English, Geography and History in addition to those for the TC subjects of Maths, Science and Technology.

As usual there was no shortage of special events in the Autumn term. This featured a very well attended Target Setting Day in October, a welcome visit from our local M.P. John Maples in November and, in December, a record turn out for the Annual Parents

Meeting was followed rapidly by two sold out nights of Cabaret and finally by a very successful Awards Evening. As our guest of honour, the latter featured Mark Foster who was previously the business presenter for BBC Midlands Today and is now Corporate Communications Manager for Land Rover. No doubt the record attendance of around 40 parents at the annual meeting with governors on 13 December was not unrelated to the proposals which we had circulated for changes to the school day from September 2005. While it was a very good natured and constructive meeting there was little doubt that those attending were largely opposed to the proposals and they raised a number of issues which clearly merited further investigation. In consequence, when the issue was debated at the Governors' meeting on 19 January, it was resolved that:

- **there will be no changes to the school day for 2005-6**
- **all parents will be circulated with a questionnaire seeking**

their views

- **in the light of the responses to the questionnaire a decision will be made by July 2005 about whether to proceed with any changes from September 2006.**

Speaking of meetings and questionnaires, parents will find enclosed with this newsletter an invitation to meet with Bob Drew, who will be leading this term's OfSTED inspection – which has been anticipated for some time, given that it is six years since our last one - at a special parents meeting on Tuesday 22 February. Also enclosed is a questionnaire seeking your views about the college and an information leaflet about the inspection process. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to respond to the invitation and questionnaire so that the inspectors are able to get a clear and accurate picture of parental opinion. The inspection takes place during the week commencing 28 February and we will let you know about the outcome as soon as possible thereafter.

M J Thompson

Some Important Dates:

- ✓ Tuesday 8 February to Thursday 10 February: Dance Production: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Tuesday 22 February: OfSTED meeting with parents: 7.30 p.m.
- ✓ Thursday 24 February: Year 11 Parents Evening re Sixth Form Courses: 7 to 9 p.m.
- ✓ Friday 25 February: PTA Quiz: 7.30 p.m.
- ✓ Monday 28 February to Friday 11 March: Year 11 Mock Examinations
- ✓ Monday 28 February to Friday 4 March: OfSTED Inspection
- ✓ Thursday 10 March: Year 9 Parents Evening re KS4 Curriculum: 7.30 p.m.
- ✓ Thursday 17 March: Target Review Day.

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French Assistant

In October we were pleased to welcome Priscilla le Gloinec, our new French Assistant. Priscilla, who is a university student studying English in Paris, chose to come to Warwickshire for her year abroad and will be working at Southam College until the end of May.

As well as working with GCSE and AS students in years 10, 11 and 12, helping to improve their French speaking skills, Priscilla will also be working with the class teacher in year 7, 8 and 9 French lessons, giving students the opportunity to converse with a native speaker and to find out more about life in France.

We hope Priscilla enjoys her stay in England and that staff and students will do all they can to help her feel welcome.

Technology Update

We started the year with the news that Peter Bicknell, now in year 12, had produced such an outstanding portfolio for his GCSE Design and Technology coursework that it was being retained and used by the Edexcel examination board as exemplar material.

In November, fifty year 8 students took part in design and make workshops run jointly by the Smallpeice Trust and the Manufacturing Foundation, of which the college is a member. Their tasks included working in teams to design and make jet propelled vehicles and tall, free-standing structures.

In December textiles students from years 11, 12 and 13 went on a visit to the Clothes Show Live at the NEC, Birmingham. Also in December the year 11 manufacturing group visited Britannia Ventilation UK in Southam. The visit was kindly provided by Ian Levin, a parent governor of the College and the technical director of the company.

At the end of a busy term, all year 7 and 8 students were involved in manufacturing activities, working in groups to batch produce Christmas tree decorations (year 7) and Christmas crackers (year 8). Congratulations to all the students and especially to those teams that produced the best design and make outcomes.

We are fortunate to have the continued support of industrialists in the classroom—Steve Howes (Rover), Eric Rawnsley (GEC, now retired) and Jim Sleight (BBC) all act as link engineers supporting students with their project work. Many thanks for giving up your time.

Finally, the department is excited at being able to offer 'Product Design' at GCSE and A level from next September. This more relevant and up to date course will develop students' creativity and problem solving capabilities far more than the course currently on offer. We look forward to seeing some innovative and exciting outcomes.

Engineering Challenge

As part of the Engineering Education Scheme four year 12 students—Emma Young, Suzanne Freeman, Peter Bicknell and Tom Payne are working with engineers from Aston Martin at Gaydon to design a device to help Aston Martin to measure movement in the brake, clutch and accelerator pedals of cars which they are testing.

The four students attended a four-day residential course at Birmingham University in December to spend time planning and designing their device making use of the extensive facilities available in the University's Engineering Faculty. At the end of the time there they made a very impressive presentation to the rest of the schools and colleges about their progress to date and their plans for the coming months.

This term they will need to complete the design stage and prepare a report in readiness for the Celebration Day at the NEC in April.

Road Safety

In order to help to prepare year 12 students for their future roles as drivers on our busy and potentially dangerous roads, they will be participating in the following two schemes this term:-



- ASTRA - a series of six seminars covering a whole range of road safety issues from car maintenance to drink driving and the dangers of speed.
- Pre-driver training - a series of five theory sessions, followed by the same number of practical sessions.

Emma's Essence

Nine students from year 12 have been involved in setting up their own Young Enterprise company to manufacture and sell soap products. They have had to raise their own funds, order their raw materials, manufacture the soaps and then sell them at a range of venues.

They have had many successful sales both in College during lunchtimes, at the John Turner Festival in November, at Parents' Evenings, at other schools and at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Southam in early December.

They will be continuing to sell their product this term and will be at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in the Royal Priors in Leamington Spa in March.



Battlefields Trip—November 2004

Once again this year the History Department visited the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium. After journeying to France on the Eurotunnel, a brief visit was made to St. Omer cemetery where many different nationalities are buried including Chinese, Canadian, German and South African troops. Students also visited the Poperinghe shooting post where deserters were shot by fellow soldiers.



The first full day of the trip was spent in and around Ypres. Students went to preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood, compared a German and a British cemetery and visited the inter-active museum called 'In Flanders Fields'. They later returned to Ypres for the Last Post ceremony. After that they were allowed some time to visit the famous chocolate shops.

The following day students (and staff!) had to get up really early to journey to France and the area of the Somme. On arrival, they had a guided tour of Newfoundland Park at Beaumont Hamel. The tour was given by Canadian gap year students. A visit was also made to the Theipval Memorial to the missing which was huge and had thousands and thousands of names on it.

The last morning was spent at Vimy Ridge, another Canadian run site. Students were taken on guided tours of the underground tunnels used by Canadian soldiers in 1915. The impressive Canadian National Memorial was shrouded in mist but still looked very beautiful.

Over 70 students went on the trip and the History Department received a lot of positive feedback from students. For example, "I wanted to stay longer!" "I was shocked at how young so many of the soldiers were". "Walking round the trenches was great". "The shooting post for deserters was very moving". "I didn't know before I went how many men were just a name on a wall".

Sports Matters

A Golden Sporting Year!

2004 will be remembered as an excellent sporting year for the College

Athletics

Year 7 Boys Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 7 Girls Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 9 Boys Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 10 Girls Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 7 Boys Warwickshire Combined Events Champions
 Year 9 Boys Warwickshire Combined Events Champions
 Year 10 Boys Warwickshire Combined Events Champions

Basketball

Year 10 Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 7 Mid-Warwickshire Runners Up
 Year 8 Mid-Warwickshire Runners Up

Cricket

Year 7 South & Mid Warwickshire Plate Winners
 Year 8 South & Mid Warwickshire Cup Runners Up
 Year 9 South & Mid Warwickshire Cup Runners Up

Dance/Gymnastics/Trampolining

A record 130 students took part in the Dance Production

Football

Year 7 Boys South & Mid-Warwickshire League Champions
 Year 7 Girls South Warwickshire Cup Winners

Netball

Year 7 Warwickshire Runners Up

Rugby

Year 7 Mid-Warwickshire Champions
 Year 10 Joint Mid-Warwickshire Champions

Rounders

Year 10 Mid-Warwickshire Runners Up

Athletics

Warwickshire Combined Events Championships:

Minor Boys (Year 7)	Position
Dan Cummins	1 st
Jason Heeles	11 th
Jacob Rowlands	12 th

Junior Boys (Year 8 & 9)	Position
Fred Pask	3 rd
Andrew Young	10 th
Jamie Pratt	12 th

Inter Boys (Year 10)	Position
Charlie Gladden	1 st
Sam Reeves	4 th
Tom Bush	5 th

This was an incredible performance and particular credit to Dan Cummins and Charlie Gladden becoming County Individual Champions. Charlie Gladden reached the English Schools Inter Boys 400m Final and next year he will still be in the same age category!

Mid-Warwickshire Athletic Team Championships:

Impressive wins for Emily Howell (200m), Lauren Hawthorne (800m), Alex Williams (long jump) and Rae Watt (discus).

For Year 7 Dan Cummins won the shot and for Year 9 there were crucial victories for Andy Young (1500m), Fred Pask (high jump and hurdles), Dan Dennehy (long jump and triple jump) and Harry Harman (javelin) which helped them beat Warwick School to the title. Year 10 captured a huge points victory with the relay win the icing on the cake. There were individual wins for Charlie Gladden (200m and 400m), Adam Poole (triple jump), Sam Went (shot) and Sam Reeves (high jump).

In other College teams there were superb winning performances from Maxine Sedgely (javelin), Andy Fluke (hurdles), Jack Goodridge (high jump), Shelley Went (100m and long jump) and Danielle Scarborough (javelin)



Basketball

The basketball season was a mammoth hit last year. After years of building up the sport college teams were entered for the prestigious Leamington League. No one could have imagined the success that the boys were to achieve. Three teams were entered, Years 7, 8 and 10 and they not only got through the pool games, but also got all the way to the final. On the way they beat many schools and colleges that count basketball as their main sport. The College played 35 matches in total, winning 26, losing 8 and drawing 1. 945 points were scored and 522 points were conceded.



Rugby

The Year 7 team enjoyed a wonderful season helped by the superb commitment of assistant coach, Carl Batchelder. His enthusiasm became infectious as this superb set of students displayed impressive commitment to training and matches. After some early defeats, the team found their feet and started an amazing winning streak. This culminated in victory in the Mid-Warwickshire Rugby Festival.

Won	Drew	Lost	Player of the Season	Clubman of the Season
18	1	2	Jacob Rowlands	Greg Swinburn

The Year 8 team had a disappointing year after last year's success. The team finished third in the District Festival.

Won	Drew	Lost	Player of the Season	Clubman of the Season
10	0	9	Josh Taylor	Alex Taylor

The Year 9 team had inconsistent performances. They finished third in the District tournament but produced a wonderful performance in the Midlands Cup to defeat Tudor Grange. This performance reflected the potential of the team.

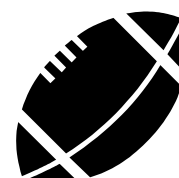
Won	Drew	Lost	Player of the Season	Clubman of the Season
10	0	11	Graham Ferris	Josh Whitehead

The Year 10 team has always been one of our strongest rugby sides. The team are joint District Champions having drawn the final with Kenilworth. They also reached the final of the South Warwickshire Sevens tournament.

Won	Drew	Lost	Player of the Season	Clubman of the Season
11	1	6	Jamie Newport	Tom Bush

The Year 11 team suffered from the tragic illness and loss of Eddie Priest, who was liked and respected by staff and students alike. He always gave 100% on the pitch and off the pitch he helped coach younger students. Eddie will be sadly missed. The team had only a handful of fixtures, but lack of strength in depth resulted in an inconsistent set of results.

Won	Drew	Lost	Player of the Season	Clubman of the Season
4	0	4	Tom Haigh	Luke Moran



Boys Football

Last year was an extremely pleasing year in the turbulent world of Southam College football. All teams who represented the college did so in a sporting and committed manner. As a college our record improved greatly. The final league positions were very pleasing. In years 8, 9 and 10 we finished mid table which is respectable considering the size of most of the schools we play against.

In year 7 we achieved a huge success in winning the league and only being defeated in one game against Kenilworth, which our boys have since beaten in an excellent cup game 4-1. The entire team were a credit to themselves and worked extremely hard all season.

Year 8 had an indifferent season, disrupted by injuries and illness. Missing a goalkeeper for most of the season the team battled hard in every game. Towards the end of the season however, the team began to come back to full strength and the future has started to look much brighter.

The year 9's, under the watchful and experienced guidance of Mr Savage, enjoyed a good deal of success in their season. Again, however, the team was dogged by injury and an unwillingness to train. This made selection hard and hindered the progress made. However the boys are developing a team spirit and with key players returning to the team they should experience more success in year 10.

Traditionally a small team, *year 10* started to pass the ball around bigger and stronger teams and enjoyed a good deal of success using this tactic.

Football is now one of the most popular female sports at

Players of the Season 03-04

Year 7	Ryan Lloyd	Year 9	Andrew Young
Year 8	Ross Westland	Year 10	Craig Burrin

Girls Football

Southam College with a significant growth in the number of girls involved in practices and the standard of football played. The 2003/4 season saw the start of the U12 and U14 Girls football league in Leamington held at Myton School on their new all weather pitch.

We had a fantastic turn out from the U12 5-a-side footballers who were very competitive, enthusiastic and committed to practices, coming second overall in the Leamington League. They were then entered in the Stratford District Tournament – which they won - and went on to represent Stratford in the West Midlands Youth Games held at Warwick University. They came fifth at the Youth Games and were a great credit to the College.

TOP GOAL SCORER
Alex Williams

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Lauren Case

The U14 5-a-side squad played in the Leamington League. The team showed excellent commitment and worked well together as a team. They had a fantastic season and came second overall in the league, losing only one game.

TOP GOAL SCORER
Vicky Meaney

PLAYERS OF THE SEASON
Matilda Lomas and Lisa Howes.

Rounders

Well done to Year 8 who had the biggest turn out at rounders practice from Year 7 through to Year 11.

The U13's rounders' season started slowly in 2004. The team had a very nervous start in some of the friendly matches in preparation for the U13 County Tournament but went on to develop a fantastic team spirit.

RESULTS OF THE U13 ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT 2004 League 1

Match	Result	Score
Southam V Myton	Lost	11½ - 7½
Southam V Kineton B	Won	13½ - 5½
Southam V Kenilworth	Lost	8½ - 6½
Southam V North Leamington	Won	16 - 6½

Play-off for 5th & 6th place

Match	Result	Score
Southam V Myton B	Won	13½ - 7½

The girls played confidently and with determination and were placed 5th overall. This was a good end to a season where they showed so much enthusiasm and commitment.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON: Abigail Richards

Year 9 had a tremendous turn out to practices and made fantastic progress as a result.

In the Mid-Warwickshire tournament Year 9 eventually came 6th out of 8 which was disappointing and did not reflect the ability of the team.

In the Mid- Warwickshire Tournament Year 10 put on a fantastic performance, winning 3 of their 5 matches to end the season as runners up.

In a very short period of time the year 7 team developed into a fantastic squad. The girls grasped and executed tactics previously only taught to older students ensuring the team remained unbeaten until the county tournament, losing narrowly to Kenilworth in the final.

Netball

Netball teams were fielded in all age groups again last year, playing friendly matches with the Year 7 A and B teams. Years 8-11 competed superbly in the Mid-Warwickshire leagues. Year 8 finished in 3rd position, behind Kings High and Kenilworth. This was a very promising start for this team. Year 9 also finished in 3rd position, achieving their target of raising their position from the previous year. Year 10 finished in 4th position, which was again an improvement on the previous season. They had a close game against the winners Kings High, losing only 5 – 6. Year 11 were 3rd, behind Kings High and Trinity.

Congratulations must go to all squad players for their commitment, competitive spirit and

Cricket

Year 7 were in fine form and lost just one game, their opener to Myton. This sadly prevented an ever improving squad from reaching the final of the South/Mid Warwickshire Cup. Instead they breezed past teams on their way to the plate final where they beat North Leamington.

Year 8 were the entertainers of the College. Sixes, fours and wickets were always the order of the day for this team. Crushing the opposition was becoming a regular occurrence as they cruised

to the final where their batsmen's slightly over confident approach to bowlers proved to be their undoing and they finished as runners up. Nevertheless, the team learnt much from the day and had a pleasing year - they will mature and gain the ultimate prize at some stage soon.

Year 9 team had some pleasing performances and won their pool games convincingly to reach the final against Princethorpe. This had everything that makes people love the game. Twists and turns,

the game swinging one way and then another and a nail biting finish in which Princethorpe won the game with one ball to spare.

This was a pleasing year for all cricketers at the College. They could easily be counted as the most consistent state school performers of cricket in the area. Winning a plate final and being runners up in two South/Mid Warwickshire cup finals, they can be proud of themselves.

Dance Production 2004 Thank You for the Trampoline!



A record cast of 130 students from Year 7 to Year 13 magnificently performed three shows of dance, gymnastics and trampolining to record audiences. The incredible commitment from students of ALL abilities and the continued enthusiasm of the audiences created a lovely atmosphere and helped raise enough money to purchase a top quality trampoline that will appear in this year's show. Thank you to everyone for making this possible.

We would like to record our thanks to the following students below who have now left the College and who made a superb commitment to the Dance Production tradition:

- Matt Goatley has been one of our major performers, excelling in spectacular sports acro routines and being our lead trampolinist over several years.
- Melissa Vaughan has graced the stage with beautiful dance solos and group pieces for seven years. Melissa frequently teamed up with Lynsey Worrall, Kirsty Baldwin and Gemma Cowley who also made great contributions. In last year's show they also helped organise the rest of the cast superbly.

Mumps Cases and Outbreaks

Over the last few weeks there has been a substantial increase in the number of cases of mumps seen in children and young adults across Coventry and Warwickshire.

This is a picture that is being seen all over the UK. There is a cohort of individuals born between 1980 and 1990 (ages 14 to 25 years) who are too young to have been exposed to natural immunity when disease was circulating and too old to have received two doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella).

Children who develop mumps should be kept away from school, and from as many people as possible, for five days from the onset of swelling glands. This is because mumps is very contagious and is spread through coughs and sneezes. For further information do not hesitate to contact your GP.



Dance Production

This year's performance of dance, gymnastics and trampolining takes place on Tuesday 8 February, Wednesday 9 February and Thursday 10 February starting at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall. Tickets are already selling fast and can be obtained from the College, price £4 for adults and £3 for students.

100 Club Winners

October	287	F Howell	The draws for January and February will be made at the PTA Quiz Evening on Friday 25 February
	72	R Lewis	
	67	J Shirley-Smith	
November	36	W Harmer	
	22	N Parry	
	257	M Brown	
December	97	L Wilkins	
	61	M Fellows	
	257	M Brain	