



The Manor

*A foundation school with
a performing arts specialism*

Patron: Julie Spence, OBE, QPM, DL
Principal: Ben Slade BA (Hons) Ed, QTS (Wales), NPOH, FRSA
Chair of Governors: Andy Pellew • Chair of Trustees: Roger Salmon
Founder Member of The North Cambridge Community Trust

20th July 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

The Manor Matters!

We have now almost reached the end of another successful year at The Manor. I would like to thank you from the heart for your continued support and encouragement. This has kept me going during some very difficult times. I really appreciate it.

Goodbyes

It is very unusual and highly welcome that we are not officially saying goodbye to any members of staff at the end of this year. However, earlier in the term we did say goodbye to a number of staff – some as a result of a restructure and others due to retirement: Christine Jackson; Betty Hedges; Marion Papadopoulo; James Utting; Peter Glazebrook; Grania Fallon; Sally Lemon; Ray Benstead. I am delighted to say that all of these staff subsequently found alternative employment. Mrs Pap is now the Fundraising Officer for the Papworth Trust!

New Staff

I am delighted to give a warm “The Manor welcome” to the following colleagues who start their new posts with us in September.

Lauren BAILLY	Humanities (also responsible for homework, independent learning and transition)
Ben MULHOLLAND	Lead Practitioner: Music
Kerys ARUNDELL	Teacher of Chemistry
Sarah LETHERBY	Teacher of PE/Dance and 1:1
Susan JOHNS	Teacher of Science (1 day per week)
Nadine EDDY	Inclusion Worker
Charlotte GIBBONS	Admin Trainee
Chantelle GAWTHROP	Art Assistant.

These are all excellent staff and I am really pleased to be welcoming them to the teaching and support staff teams. I know they will ensure the school continues to improve in a number of key areas.

I am also hoping that there will be a proper musical instrument tuition service which parents can pay for directly rather than going through school. We will be in touch early in the new term to discuss this further.

Leadership Team Changes

The Leadership Team for September 2011 will be as follows:

Ben Slade	Principal, Governor and Trustee
Jan Collings	Assistant Principal: Inclusion and Interventions (SENCO)



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Paul Edwards	Assistant Principal: Curriculum, Quality Assurance and Behaviour
Jo Arbon	Assistant Principal: Teaching, Learning and Operations
Rob Maltas	Associate Senior Leader
Lucy Crebo	PA to the Principal
Janet Brown	Clerk to the Governing Body.

Our Patron is Julie Spence, OBE, QPM, DL, former Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire.

Our Chair of Governors is Cllr. Andy Pellew.

Our Chair of Trustees is Roger Salmon.

Leaders of Learning (Heads of Year) – changes

Leader of Learning: Years 7 and 8	Kevin McCann
Leader of Learning: Years 9 and 10	Claudine Le Moal
Leader of Learning: Year 11	Lee Parry (and Student Voice)

Uniform Changes – Important Reminder

Please remember **ALL** students (except Year 11) **MUST** be wearing the following uniform when they return to school in September:

- Black shoes
- Black socks
- Black trousers or black skirt
- White shirt
- School tie
- School burgundy V-neck sweater

Most of the uniform is available from Tesco, Asda or Peacocks. The school ties (free for first tie) and The Manor School sweatshirts are available at cost price from the school at specified times during the holidays. **The school uniform is compulsory for all students.**

Outward Bound and Newquay Trips

We are very grateful to HSBC Bank who have paid for over £40,000 worth of Outward Bound course places for a number of lucky Manor students this year.

Between the two Outward Bound trips and the recent trip to Newquay, almost 100 students have benefitted from high quality outdoor education experiences for free. Students have repaid us by behaving brilliantly on all trips. All students have been a credit to their school and to their families.

Media Coverage

I have exploited every opportunity to get the message about the positive changes at The Manor out to the public via the media. I have had regular, positive coverage from The Cambridge News and



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Cambridge First and I am now writing a blog for Cambridge News which is widely read. Furthermore I have contributed to many articles in the TES and other national publications. We have also seen two weeks of "GCSE Revision Helpdesk" on the Star 107 FM Breakfast Show "in association with The Manor". This has also received positive feedback. Comments from parents/carers, students, staff and members of the public are much more positive than they were but we still have a way to go to shake off the image of the past. I would like to thank you all for supporting my articles on raising the profile of Arbury and Kings Hedges as this is an important argument which needs to continue and to achieve something!

The new Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Nick Clarke, visited the school on 15th June 2011 and I was delighted that he has publicly (as well as privately) endorsed the comments in the Cambridge Evening News article.

Jon Coles the Director General for Schools visited the school on 29th June and wrote stating "it is certainly clear that you have come a considerable way on your journey with the school and it is very good that OfSTED have recognised your progress and also think that you have excellent capacity for further improvement".

Last Week of Term

On 19th July the bi annual 'Manor on the Move' sponsored walk took place with all able students being involved. The walk started at the Penny Ferry pub in Chesterton and followed the river Cam to Bottisham Lock and back (approximately 10 miles). It was good to see Marie Cassidy (governor) and Alan Soer (Trustee) both taking part in this walk.

Today there is the annual "Sleepy Hollow" project which involves the whole of Yr 7 where the village holds an open debate on whether a dual carriageway should be given planning permission to run through the village. This is attended by the Mayor of Cambridge, Cllr. Ian Nimmo-Smith.

Start of Next Term

Monday 5th September is a Staff Training Day with no students in school. On Tuesday 6th September Year 7 only will be in school with everyone attending on Wednesday 7th September.

The Open Evening is at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4th October 2011 with Open Day Tours for prospective students, parents, carers on Thursday 15th September and Wednesday 21st September by appointment.

What we need to do better next year

Thank you to all parents and carers who filled in the questionnaires. ***In around 35 out of 40 questions The Manor scored very highly indeed and this was great to read.***

However, there were five clear areas for improvement. Although the scores aren't awful, they are certainly not good enough and we will be working hard to address these issues next year:



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Question	Percentage
1. The school actively encourages parents/carers to be involved in its activities	68
2. The school takes account of the suggestions and concerns of parents/carers	69
3. The school consistently provides appropriate homework	69
4. The school gives my child opportunities to make positive contributions to the community outside school	66
5. Pupils/students at the school behave well in all year groups	70

Thank you for all of your help, support and encouragement. Much has been achieved this year but there is even more to do next year!

Best wishes for a brilliant summer break!

Kind regards

Ben Slade
Principal