

STIMPSON SHOUT

THE MAGAZINE OF KEN STIMPSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Summer Edition 2016



KSCS AT
DISNEYLAND
GRADUATION
THIEPVAL WAR
MEMORIAL

Created by Ken Stimpson Community School IT Services

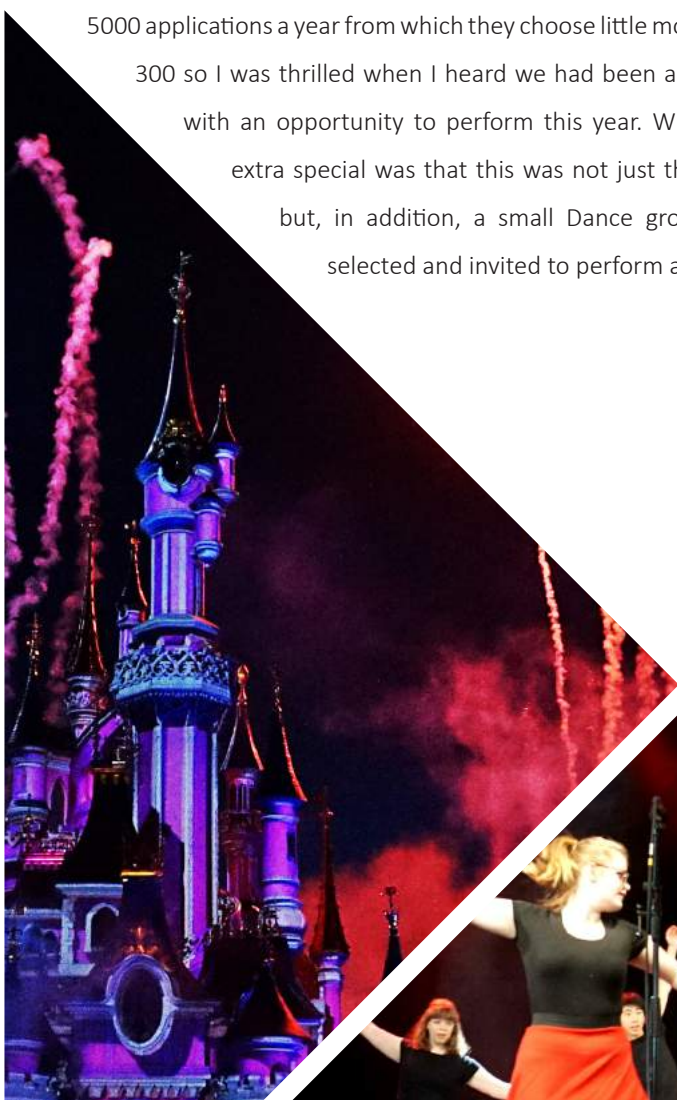
KSCS AT DISNEYLAND

I have always admired the work and comradery the young people in our school choir have and how they rise to every challenge thrown at them with outstanding performances not only within school but also in the city and beyond. As a young musician myself I always particularly enjoyed concert tours both in the UK and abroad as this gave a different aspect to the performances as well as the joy of experiencing different countries and cultures.

That is why, 12 months ago, I approached the governors to request permission to organise a trip for our young performers. I had long heard of the Performing Arts Programme at Disneyland Paris and so decided to make enquiries. They receive in excess of 5000 applications a year from which they choose little more than 300 so I was thrilled when I heard we had been accepted with an opportunity to perform this year. What was extra special was that this was not just the choir but, in addition, a small Dance group was selected and invited to perform as well.

Fast forward 12 months and, on July 1 thirty excited youngsters gathered at Ken Stimpson for our first Performing Arts tour. Unfortunately it did not start as we had hoped as, following the success of the Welsh Football team in the European Championships and all their fans trying to get to the quarter final match (much to the joy of Mrs. Lackenby) combined with a series of broken down trains, we experienced an 8-hour delay at the Eurotunnel in Folkestone. Tired after a 16½ hour journey, but still excited, we arrived at the Davy Crockett Ranch where we were all met with Pizza and our beds.

On the Saturday everyone was up early to be taken backstage at Disney, into the parts that the 'paying public' are not allowed to see. We were all given the title of Disney Artists for the day and taken to the Videopolis theatre. This is a huge venue that can seat nearly 1000 audience members and we had just 30 minutes to walk through transitions and, in some cases, change things ready for our performance at 11.00am.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

You will know by now that this will be my final half-term as Principal at Ken Stimpson Community School, as I have accepted a similar role at The Deepings School. This is my seventh year as Principal and, astonishingly for me, my sixteenth year at the school. That means that the current Year 13 leavers were just beginning Year 7 as I assumed my current role and it has been a privilege to have overseen their journey through the school.

A great deal has changed in my time at the school. The school buildings have been transformed and we have continued to grow in size. We have introduced a successful House system and revised our uniform. There is an excellent focus on academic rigour, supported by high quality teaching, yet also an emphasis on developing well-rounded individuals. Sport and the arts are tenets of our school life. The school is increasingly popular and is a multicultural school where pupils of different races and religions get on well together. I firmly believe that, for all of our futures, this is a key strength of our school community. It was fantastic to see this rewarded through our International School Award last September.

Ken Stimpson is an outward looking school that has always been keen to work with other schools, businesses and organisations to improve the quality of our provision. We have always believed that we can learn from others and that we also have a lot to offer. I am sure that this will continue long after my departure.

Leading a school of this size is a very challenging but rewarding role and one which is dependent upon high levels of support from students, staff, governors, colleagues and also members of the local community. I feel that I have been very fortunate to have received this support over my time at Ken Stimpson. I never cease to be amazed by how far staff at Ken Stimpson go to support students in their care, be that academically or pastorally, and I believe this to be the greatest strength of the school.

Although there is a lot of change on the educational horizon, I am confident that the school's Leadership Team and Governors will continue to place the best interests of our students at the heart of their decisions.

The recent Ofsted judgements made about our school confirm that the foundations have been laid to make this a truly outstanding school. I am, and will always continue to be, very proud to have served as Principal of Ken Stimpson.

YEAR 11 GRADUATION

WOW, AMAZING, STUNNING!

These were the three words I used to describe how smartly dressed and mature the students presented themselves at the Year 11 Graduation Day held on June 28.

Mr Lord, Mrs Holland and the Heads of House acknowledged the graduation and subject achievements of all the students that attended the event.

There were prizes given out for high attendance and some lucky students were drawn from a prize draw. Congratulations to Sam Davies, Amber Bollons and Rebecca Sansom who received prizes for their high attendance over 1 year and more.

The morning culminated in a wonderful buffet and lots of photos to mark the end of the Year 11 examinations and moving into studying at Post 16.

We wish all the Year 11 a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to celebrating with them on August 25.

Congratulations to the students who have achieved 100% attendance over this academic year.

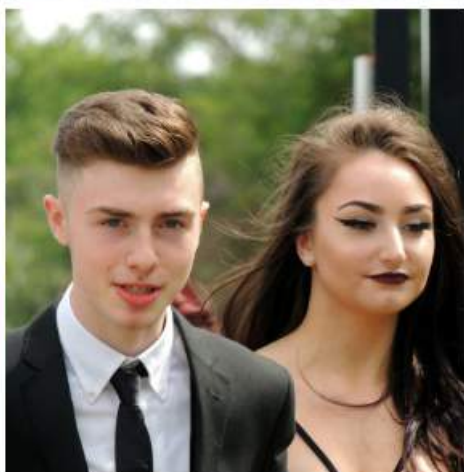
In particular, I wish to pay special recognition to the following students who have 3 or more years of 100% attendance.

- Deborah Airey
- Sam Anderson
- Liutauras Bereznevičius
- Amber Bollons
- Billy Boor
- Michael Christie
- Courtney Covell
- Tayla-Jayne Eldred
- Kayla Green
- Logan Marriott
- Shirelle Miller
- Rebecca Sansom
- Ethan Smith
- Lisa Sorningam



More Photos on our facebook here





POST 16 GRADUATION

One of the main aims for this years Post 16 graduation was to make it memorable for our departing students.

One of the main aims for this year's Post 16 graduation was to make it memorable for our departing students. After consulting the Post 16 Social Committee it was decided that the theme of a Children's Party would be used. Pass the Parcel and an inter House Tug of War contest proved to be great fun (and very competitive!). Several of the girls had also requested a "parachute" to play games with, apparently it was very popular in their Lower School PE lessons, and again a lot of fun was had by all involved.

Lunch included Jelly and Angel Delight, (of course) Pizza and lots of very nice "nibbles". I have to say the Angel Delight was a particular favourite of mine.

A huge vote of thanks goes to all the students involved in the Social Committee for their help and hard work, not just for this event but for all the work they have done over the last school year.

Everybody involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and take away from Ken Stimpson very positive memories of their time at our school and we wish them every possible success as they move into the next phase of their lives.

Neil Kenefec

Head of Year Thirteen





Aspiration
Success
Integrity
Excellence



KSCS AT DISNEYLAND

No one knew what to expect, we didn't know how many would come in to watch but we needn't have worried. Disney really treated us like artists with lights, sound and even smoke machines to create a 30-minute performance of amazing quality. As always our students really did not disappoint and rose to the occasion with a performance beyond anything I have seen them do.

Backstage, after the performance, Disney commented on the quality of our choir's harmonies and the choreography for the dancers. They then stated that they would like it if we applied to return again at some point; an honour and credit in itself.

The students then had the opportunity to spend some time in the park soaking up the full Disney atmosphere. This isn't just the rides but also the chance to see some of the best performers there are with a selection of Dancers, Musicians and Actors. However that was not enough for the Ken Stimpson youngsters, they were even seen hijacking the Disney Brass Band performance of 'Let It Go' singing along to the delight of the performers, audience and Disney staff. At Ken Stimpson we do not do things by half.

This was a phenomenal experience and achievement for everyone involved and something I'm sure those taking part will never forget. I would like to pay my personal thanks to the Choir and Disney Dancers for their tremendous effort as well as the quality of their performance. Alongside that a huge thank you to Mrs. Yewbrey, Mr. Hale, Mrs. Lackenby and Mrs. Eldred for their help on the trip itself, it would not have been such a success without you.

Our programme was :-

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Nants Igonyama (from 'the Lion King') | Acapella Quintet |
| • Stampede (from 'the Lion King') | Dancers |
| • Circle of Life (from 'the Lion King') | Choir |
| • How Sweet the Sound/Amazing Grace | Choir |
| • Let It Go (from 'Frozen') | Choir |
| • Pencil Full of Lead (Paolo Nutini) | Dancers |
| • Angels (Robbie Williams) | Choir and Dancers |
| • Reach (S Club 7) | Choir and Dancers |



"I've waited 6 years for a performing arts trip and boy, it didn't disappoint! Performing at Disney was a once in a lifetime experience and I've never felt so proud to be from Ken Stimpson than when the rapturous applause came. It is all down to Mr Norman - a complete blessing to the school and I shall be eternally grateful for the opportunity he has provided."

- Emily

"Disney was my first time out of the country. I have done many things that I wouldn't have dared to do a month ago, I'm so glad that I was able to go"

- Esther



"Disney was incredible, I have made memories I'll never forget"
- Matthew

"Disney was the most amazing experience of my life because it happened with all my friends and performing arts family. I'm so proud of everyone that came and tried thier hardest. I hope that in the future we will get to do things like this again.

I would like to thank Mr Norman and team for making all of this happen"

- Chloe



NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR YOUTH BIRMINGHAM 6 JULY 2016

The National Festival of Music for Youth is the largest celebration of Youth Music in the UK featuring over 40,000 musicians in 50 regional centres. Following our success in the local Peterborough Music Festival in March, achieving the hat trick of wins in the School Choir Class, I took the choir and acapella group to King's Lynn in March for our local festival where we received extremely positive feedback.

Following this we were invited to perform in the National Festival as part of the Festival Fringe and, on Wednesday 6 July, less than two days after returning from France, the choir and acapella group were on a coach again, this time to Birmingham and the iconic International Convention Centre and Centenary Square.

Upon arrival and following registration the day started for our young people by taking part in a professional Singing Workshop in the Convention Centre with 'Friday Afternoons', a scheme started by the Benjamin Britten estate to get more people singing together. They took part in some new warm-up routines before working with another choir to perform a new song. A great start.

Then it was time for our acapella group to take centre stage with a performance in the Festival Fringe in Brindley Place. This is the area of Birmingham famed for its restaurants, coffee shops and bistros so, combine the location with a sunny day, and this was a performance to a huge audience; one that was met with great appreciation.

Although we had not been successful in qualifying for the actual Festival performances in the world-famous Symphony Hall we were allowed entry to watch the choir classes take place in the venue. Symphony Hall is still regarded as one of the best concert venues in the world and is home to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestras as well as hosting performers from all over the world. This gave our students the opportunity to see the inside of this iconic venue as well as hear the standard of a choir that had qualified for the main festival; a real aspirational experience as many commented afterwards how much they wanted to be performing in there next year!

Our day finished with the full choir performing on Centenary Square in the heart of Birmingham in the main Festival Tent. This was at 5.30pm when the bulk of city workers were making their way home across the square. Comments on the quality of their singing were received and, once again, our young people did themselves huge justice in a performance of the highest quality.

And so, at 6.00pm, we boarded the bus and returned to Peterborough after a hectic, and tiring week. This marked the end of an incredible year in which the choir and acapella group have performed 32 times in school, around Peterborough and beyond. I am already receiving enquiries for the 2016-17 academic year so watch this space for more information. I'm also looking at our next Choir Tour in either 2017 or 2018. However I would like to take this opportunity to give my own personal thanks to every member of the Ken Stimpson choir, it is a joy to work with you. You never fail to deliver and impress not only me but your audiences from around the world. Some of you I know will be leaving the school this year, all the best in whatever you choose to do for your future. For those of you still at Ken Stimpson next year here's to the next chapter in our extraordinary story.

Mr. Norman

Head of Music, Choir Director.



"Performing arts have provided so many opportunities for us and provided a strong support system. I have gained so much from performing arts and it is what makes school so enjoyable! The music workshop was amazing and I had a great day."

-Amy

"Birmingham was a fun and new experience in which we managed to see other choirs who were all extremely talented in their own ways. It was nice to see so many people brought together and inspired by music!"

-Hollie

"The music of youth festival gave me yet more experience at performing! I would like to thank Mr Norman for organising the recent trips"

- Sophie

"The Birmingham trip was very enjoyable and inspirational. I loved watching all the other choirs and loved performing even more. I hope we do it again next year!"

-Matthew

"Birmingham was amazing and a great opportunity, the other choirs were amazing. I had a great day, with my friends doing what I love best - Singing!"

-Maddy



MUSIC FOR YOUTH NATIONAL FESTIVAL	
FESTIVAL TENT SCHEDULE	
WEDNESDAY 6 JULY	
10:15	Bolton School Saxophone Choir
11:30	TRANS EUROPE EXPRESS WORKSHOP with Damien Harron
13:15	Hawthorn Community Key Stage 2 Choir
13:30	Calderdale in Harmony
13:45	St Mary's Catholic Primary School Choir
14:00	Warwickshire County Choristers
14:30	TRANS EUROPE EXPRESS WORKSHOP with Damien Harron
16:15	St Cecilia Singers
16:30	Las Estrellas
16:45	East Herrington Primary Academy
17:15	Bitesize Ensemble
17:30	Ken Stimpson Community School Choir
17:45	St Andrew's School Choir
18:00	King's Daughters

Integrity

Hello students and staff of Integrity house and everybody else out there it is Mr. Housley here hoping you are all well and looking forward to a well-deserved summer holiday and break. I would like to start off by saying a massive well done to everybody, both students and staff for getting through the academic year.

As always it has been a year full of action for everybody and especially for us in Integrity house. In terms of our overall attendance and Connect points Integrity have not been as fruitful as last year. However, I have to say that the Lower School tutor groups in Integrity house have been legendary when it comes to their positive Connect points and must be commended for all their efforts.

Very well done and thank you to everybody in Integrity House who has done their bit and that little extra and contributed in their own way. Attendance, punctuality, sports and charity events, parent's evenings and the many activities we have taken part in this year all have a positive impact on us as a House but more importantly on you as a person. Well done to those of you who have given something new a go or pushed themselves. To those of you who haven't "maybe next year?"

A special thank you as always to all the tutors of Integrity House together with Mr. Erwin and Mrs. Kelly for all their continued support.

As we come to the end of the academic year it is during this time we find ourselves saying good bye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I recently had the pleasure of attending both the Year 11 graduation ceremony and prom. I felt so proud of everybody and could not believe the transformation, independent and very driven young men and women. I hope and I am sure that you all will continue to strive next year and beyond and do yourselves proud.

Also this year a number of staff members are moving on from Integrity House. On behalf of KSCS and myself I would like to thank you. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you, KSCS and Integrity House will be losing some outstanding teachers, tutors and special people. We wish you all the very best of luck for the future and the next part of your journey.

I hope that you all have a wonderful and safe summer. Look after yourselves and each other.

The best of luck always
Mr H x





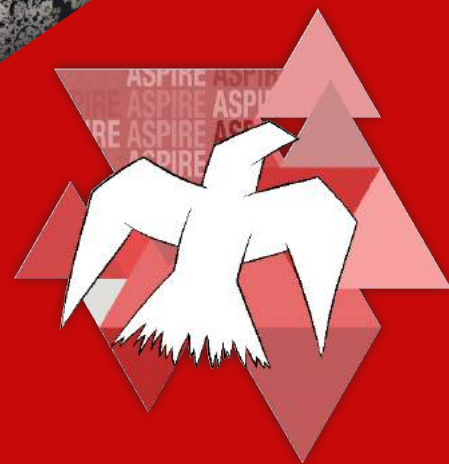
Thanks

I want to begin by thanking Mr Reed for looking after Aspire House for the past Academic Year. It has been a busy 8 weeks since I returned from maternity leave in May, lots of sporting events, Art Gallery, Performing Arts Trip to Disney, Year 8 moving up to Upper School and of course GCSE and A Level exams.

Upper School Aspire:

It was lovely to celebrate with Year 11 on their Graduation Day, lots of awards, photographs and prizes were won. I was delighted to see Amber Bollons win an iPad for Excellent attendance throughout Year 11, well done Amber. I wanted to say a special well done to Tayla Eldred who not only achieved 100% attendance for 5 years at KSCS but 9 whole years of her schooling. What a fantastic achievement.

Mrs Purdy



Excellence

Farewell to Year 11

We said farewell to our current crop of Year 11 students who have now finished their exams and are relaxing during the summer before starting on their new paths in September. Many will be returning to KSCS Post 16 and I look forward to seeing those students looking smart and enjoying their new role in school. To the others I wish you the best in whatever you have chosen to do. I hope that it brings you success and happiness and that you look back fondly on your time at KSCS. Good luck to all Year 11 leavers and especially those in Excellence!

Welcome to Yr 8

As the Year 11 leave we welcomed the Year 8 students who have moved up to the Upper School tutor groups. I know you have been made to feel welcome by tutors and new friends in the group. Welcome to Upper School and as I often say to all Excellence students- 'give it a go'.

Thank You

Next academic year I will be taking up a new role in school as Raising Standards Leader for Post 16 and will be leaving the Excellence House team. I will miss all (yes all!!) of the students in the House and wish you all the best. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the great group of tutors that work in Excellence House for their efforts so consistently well over the last 5 years. They spend a lot of time with students to help them through their school careers and am grateful for all they do. Also, a thank you needs to go out to Mr Abbott for his support throughout the year. My biggest thanks, however, goes to Mrs Dunn, my Student Support Officer, who works tirelessly to help and support all students and has been amazing in her support of me and, most importantly the students. I will miss working alongside her – whoever takes the role as Head of House has the best support available and I know it is left in safe hands with Mrs Dunn involved.

Finally, have a great summer holidays, take care and see you all in September.

Mr Walls



Success



I have to start by extending a massive congratulations and thanks to the whole of Success House. We have been at the top of the attendance table since September 2015! This is a real achievement and all those who have kept their own personal attendance up deserve even more praise. Every week Mr Abbott reminds me how close the others, are but they haven't managed to catch up yet.

We need to adopt the same resolute approach on sports day. As I am writing this Mr Hughes – ever competitive and always wanting the best for us as a house – he has just given all our students a clear message about teamwork. We are just in the lead and following the field events which have been happening over the past week. His message was clear: everyone can make sure we have a full team entered for each event. Even if we don't win, playing as a team and taking part can hopefully mean Success clears up again.

It has been a real pleasure to see students take pride in being part of their respective Houses and House groups.

This was clear on year 11 Graduation day. As always our students looked fantastic! The atmosphere this year was excellent – students rose to the challenge of, the formal demands of the day, whilst relaxing enough to fully enjoy each others company. I am looking forward to welcoming many back in September and they will be superb role models for the younger students.

I hope students remembered to thank their tutors before leaving for the summer holidays. As a team they work tirelessly to keep groups organised. I know Mrs Nuzzo and Mr Gaduzo's groups will be saying a sad farewell as they leave us. Thanks for all your hard work just in case the students forget!

Good luck to Mr Corner who is also leaving our team to become an Assistant Principal. Don't forget us and we may need you for sports events and if there are ever anymore dancing challenges – he remains the Gangman style King!

Mrs Wyton



THIEPVAL WAR MEMORIAL

July 1 2016 marked the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, the bloodiest and most brutal battle in the First World War, where, by the end of the battle in November 2016, some 420,000 British soldiers were killed or injured. As we were travelling to Disneyland Paris many world leaders were gathering at the Thiepval War Memorial in the Somme region to commemorate this occasion.

We were returning home from Disneyland on Monday 4 July and it seemed a suitable opportunity to pay our own respects to those that fell in the service of their country and gave their lives so that we could have weekends such as we had enjoyed the previous 3 days. We started our visit to the Somme region with a short visit to the Lochnagar Crater near the town of Albert. This site was significant in the Battle of the Somme as, at 7.28am on July 1 1916, this crater was created in an act that marked the beginning of the Somme assault. Miners from the U.K. tunnelled under the German troops and blew 27,216kg of explosives sending debris 1200m into the air; leaving a crater 91 metres across and 21 metres deep.

The site is now a privately owned memorial to the fallen of the Battle of the Somme but, to our young people, this was just the beginning of their visit to the Somme region. A visit designed to allow reflection of events 100 years earlier.

After leaving Lochnagar we travelled to the Thiepval memorial, the site of the international service just 3 days earlier. This is the National Anglo/French memorial and, at the time of our visit, was still closed to the general public. However we were lucky enough to secure a time slot to visit in collaboration with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

F I R S T
W O R L D
W A R

*"OUR VISIT TO THIEPVAL CHANGED ME.
I NOW HAVE A GREATER RESPECT AND
UNDERSTANDING FOR THOSE THAT SERVED FOR
US, SOMETHING I WILL ALWAYS HOLD DEAR."*

-KATIE



***“SEEING ALL THE GRAVES, SOME ONLY 17
YEARS OLD, REALLY OPENED MY EYES TO
EXACTLY HOW CRUEL WAR IS.”***

-SOPHIE

The Thiepval War Memorial to the Missing of the Somme pays tribute to the 72,246 missing British Empire servicemen with no known grave. The names of these individuals carved onto the many walls of the memorial itself. I was fortunate enough to visit this as part of a family holiday in 2014 and it had a profound effect on me and my understanding of the First World War; particularly the iconic graves marked with the words “A Soldier of the Great War Known Unto God”, i.e. a soldier whose name was not known and whose family would not have known what happened to them. I wanted to give the same opportunity to our young people.

It goes without saying that our young people were respectful and appropriate throughout their visit but this was much more than that. Many were heard to comment on how they personally had been affected by the visit, tears were shed, crosses laid and prayers whispered where people felt it appropriate. However, my own memory of this visit can be summed up by the words of one young man when we returned to the coach. He came to me and said “Mr. Norman, thank you for bringing us here and helping us understand what others sacrificed. We needed to see this, everyone needs to see this!”.

Mr. Norman

Head of Performing Arts



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Sporting Success

First congratulations go to Jaden Harris who has, again, been crowned as WORLD CHAMPION for kickboxing. It seems like a perennial achievement and is simply amazing and a reflection of her great effort and determination. Well done Jaden. There has been a selection of House based activities this year, including Lower School Sports Hall Athletics and Whole School Cross Country. Even as a PE teacher I do not know the final results – they are to be announced at the end of term assembly – but as always I am proud of the efforts of all those who were involved and tried their best. I hope the results reflect this.

- Mr Walls

City Athletics

Last week the school was, once again, in attendance at the City Athletics. This is where all Peterborough Schools are invited down to the track to compete against each other.

On the first day, KSCS arrived with the Year 9 and 10s. It was a fantastic day where the Year 10 team was made up of mostly GCSE students as you would expect. For the second day it was Lower School consisting of Year 7 & 8. Once again another great day, with student's good behaviour and efforts. Below are a selection of the results, and a big thank you to Mrs Dunn for her support.

Year 7 Girls:

Chelsea White 5th in 1500m

Year 7 relay team: 5th in Final

Year 7 Girls: Jorja Matchwick 2nd in Shot Putt

Year 7 Girls: Abi Guerin 2nd in Long Jump

Year 7 Boys:

Freddie Frasier 1st in Hurdles and 100m final

3rd in the Relay final

Freddie Frasier 1st Long jump

Year 8 girls:

Ella Robinson 1st 800m, and 2nd in 200m final

Molly Fletcher 2nd in 100m final

Phoebe Daly 3rd in Hurdles final

Made the Relay final

Molly Fletcher 3rd in High Jump

Year 8 boys

Louis Griggs 3rd in hurdle final

4th in Relay final

Conan Renshaw 2nd in Javelin

Year 9 Girls:

Jade Roberts 3rd Hurdles final

Sophie Cowell 1st in Discus

Year 9 Boys:

3rd Relay final

Year 10 Girls:

Ellie Forrest 1st Hurdles final

5th in relay final

Ellie Forrest 1st high Jump

Ellie Forrest 1st in Shot Putt

Year 10 Boys

Callum Boyes 6th in 800m final

Lucas Rall 4th in Javelin

Liam Roberts 3rd in Long Jump

I BELIEVE

The long summer holidays we enjoy are the remnants of a time when everyone young and old was expected to help in the fields during the harvest time. Getting the crops in was, for obvious reasons, much more important than school. Of course nowadays harvesting is done by monster machines but the agricultural tradition of the summer holidays survives and continues to prove impossible to shift despite occasional efforts by campaigners to do so.

The word holiday derives from a combination the Old English words holy and day, although the idea of a holiday being a special religious festival has gradually become outmoded. Nevertheless, people continue to use holidays as a time for pilgrimage; the destination is secular rather than spiritual but the idea that we return rejuvenated is the same.

I particularly dislike holiday adverts on television. What annoys me is the casual way they (Trivago, Booking.com and other companies like them) appear to offer a 'lifestyle choice' (to use the jargon) while in no way acknowledging the crippling costs of an annual holiday – family or no family. These companies perpetuate this fantasy 'click and go' mentality that so spectacularly and so cynically ignores economic disparity. Yet we – the audience – are also to blame. We know those images of perfection (the pool, the apartment, the weather) are unreal and, in fact, unrealisable yet we are still seduced by the dream they hold out.

With holidays comes the weight of expectation. If you're splashing out a year's worth of savings on a seasonal sunny sizzler in Spain, not only are you expecting to enjoy it, you damn well are going to enjoy it and you're not likely to admit otherwise.

A six week summer holiday presents the same dilemma to children that retirement presents to old people: what do you do with yourself? It is a well-known problem that retired people, who have spent years looking forward to retirement, suddenly find themselves struggling to cope with so much unstructured free time. Similarly, students grow increasingly excited as the end of the school year draws nearer, yet grow equally excited as the holidays come to an end and they return to school where their day is regimented by a loud bell announcing bite size chunks of time they find more easily digestible.

You won't be surprised to hear that I didn't really enjoy family holidays as a child. Where do I start? The excruciating embarrassment of changing into your swimming trunks on the beach as mum holds up a towel while reassuring you that nobody's looking. The endless 'I wants' that caused endless rows (me just as guilty as my brother and sisters) – for ice-cream, drinks, toilets, chips, joke shop goodies, amusement arcades, novelty t-shirts and so on.

O my poor parents! O all those poor parents past and present! I salute your selflessness, your patience, your ability to suffer and still maintain that 'holiday spirit'. But can I further salute my own selfishness and thank goodness that this summer I won't be packing the car with a bucket and spade and sitting in a traffic jam for seven hours in a dangerously simmering heat haze.

Mr Billson



HAVE A FUN SAFE SUMMER SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER