



# THURSDAY BULLETIN

## Welcome back!

Summer has zipped by and here we are at the start of a fresh year.

It has been an excellent summer in terms of GCSE examination results with another increase in the **5+ A\*-C** and **5+ A\*-C including English and Maths** categories. This year we exceeded the best the school has ever achieved. As proud as we are, we are confident that we will continue to improve in 2008 and beyond.

Another record is the size of Y7.... Yesterday 265 students joined us. So an especial welcome to you all!

There will be a number of changes this year across a whole range of areas and I will explain them as we come to them. The most significant change for now though is staffing. Below is a complete list of staff changes.

Sammy Crook Deputy Head – see introduction below  
Jan Sampson Assistant Head – Welfare

### New Teaching Staff

Mark Hooper	Maths	Jane Stephens	Maths
Julie Castleden	English	Paula Wilkins	English
Vicky Firby	D&T Food	Julia Dillon	D&T Food
Jon Vipond	D&T	Dave Phillips	SEN
Hannah Hoon	Science	Rachel Owen	Art

Clare Soper Graduate Teacher PE

Julie Crowland School/Family Partnership Officer – Julie will write in a future bulletin about this new role.

### Teaching Assistants

Elaine Rolls	Sam Harris
Gillian Crimp	Anna Williams
Rosie Shanklyn	Heather Passmore

Sarah Skinner Jane Kallaway Administrators

David Harris Becky Harris Cover Supervisors

Charlotte Drake ICT Technician

I am sure that you will make them welcome as they settle in.

I am looking forward to a great year for THS – it will be action packed I'm sure but we wouldn't want it any other way!

Andrew Lovett

## An Introduction from Sammy Crook, Deputy Head .

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Sammy Crook and I'm the new deputy head for the school. Sadly unlike Mr Kaye, I'm what some people would refer to as vertically challenged but what I lack in height I hope I make up for in other ways.

I'm very excited about joining the school at such an exciting time in its continued development and look forward to working with staff, students and parents. I have all sorts of responsibilities right across the school but my main focus is working with teachers to make lessons as interesting as we can and working with students to help you achieve your potential.

Prior to joining THS I taught in two Plymouth schools. I enjoy Art, music and walking, as well as being a big animal lover. I hope to meet as many of you over the next few months.

## Maths Years 7-11

For students in years 7-11 to be able to complete work set in class and at home they will need the following equipment:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Protractor
- Compass
- Calculator (scientific)

This equipment is available to buy from their Maths teacher.

## Request for absence during term time

We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that is why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child. However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time.

Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on course work they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year examinations.

Parents are reminded that the law does not say that parents have an automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term-time. However, in exceptional circumstances the school may authorise, in advance, a request for a period of leave of up to ten days in any year. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides, and must be for the purpose of an annual family holiday. If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.

The request for authorisation must be made before the proposed absence, ideally before a holiday is booked. Forms may be obtained from the Reception Office or the Attendance Administrator.

From September 2007, the school will be following these principles.

- All requests for absence during term-time are considered on an individual basis.
- Students in years 10 and 11 will need to discuss the implications of absence with individual subject teachers.
- Authorisation will not be given if students will miss examinations or examination coursework.
- Authorisation will not be given to year 11 students during the spring or summer terms.
- Authorisation will not normally be given if:
  - The student has already been granted absence during term-time during the current academic year.
  - The student's attendance during the previous six months is less than 90%.
  - The request for authorisation is received less than ten days prior to the start date of the absence.

### Tiverton Junior Operatic Club

A reminder that Tiverton Junior Operatic Club will begin rehearsals for its 2008 production "Disney's High School Musical" on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at St Andrew's Church Rooms, Blundells Road, 7-9pm  
New members welcome  
For more info contact Mark Drysdale ☎  
01884 251141 or  
Viv Curtis ☎ 01884 253672

### Culm Valley Orchestra

Do you .....play a musical instrument? And ....enjoy orchestral playing?  
Are you ....free on Saturday mornings? Then join....Culm Valley Orchestra

We are an amateur orchestra meeting on alternate Saturday mornings in the Magelake Hall, Uffculme to play classical repertoire for our personal pleasure.

For more information please contact  
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or David Goodland 01984 633334 [gillanddavid@aol.com](mailto:gillanddavid@aol.com)