

25th November 2008

To: All parents

Newsletter : November 2008

1. Christmas Concerts and Christmas Lecture

You are warmly invited to two concerts being given by pupils from both BGSB and BGSB. The **Christmas Concert**, which will consist of a wide variety of Christmas music, takes place in the Boys' School Assembly Hall on **Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm**. Seasonal refreshments will be served. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2 for students and Senior Citizens and will be available from the School Office from Monday 1st December. Our two schools are also joining forces for a performance of **Handel's Messiah** in Bury Parish Church on **Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm**. *The Messiah* was first performed at Easter but became linked with Christmas in the years following the composer's death in 1759. The most famous part of the oratorio, the Hallelujah Chorus, has become an integral part of the celebration of Christmas. The schools' joint choir and orchestra have produced a spectacular reworking of this piece for this performance. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2 for students and Senior Citizens and will be available from the School Office from Monday 1st December. After the performance seasonal refreshments will be served in the new facilities at the back of the church. (NB When ordering tickets for the Handel concert you are asked to indicate your refreshment choice. Thank you.)

You are also warmly invited to our **Christmas Lecture** which will take place in the Assembly Hall on **Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm**. The lecture, entitled 'Songs of the Stars: The real music of the Spheres', will be given by Professor Donald Kurtz of the University of Central Lancashire and is open to all senior school boys, parents and friends. The idea that stars 'sing' can be traced back to the time of Pythagoras who is believed to have generated the idea that the universe was based on harmony, and that as the planets and stars spun they hummed, creating a music that was audible to the gods and superior mortals. Scientists today have shown that stars produce unique sounds of their own which provide a fascinating insight into the interior of the stars that has never been seen, or heard, before. Professor Kurtz's multi-media lecture will look at the relationship of music to stellar sounds and will include a musical composition where every member of the orchestra is a real (astronomical) star. No tickets are required for this lecture. Seasonal refreshments will be served.

2. Appeal for good quality toys and for tinned food

Following the excellent response over the past fourteen years, BGSB is once again aiming to support the work of the Wood Street Mission in Manchester. Their Christmas Appeal is for good quality toys and for tinned food. We should be very grateful for any donation you are able to make to this appeal. Items can be left in the School Office. The closing date for the collection is **Wednesday 3rd December**.

3. World Challenge expedition to Peru in 2010: Appeal for old clothes

Please do not throw away your old clothes! Bring them into school instead! Following this year's very successful World Challenge expedition to Mongolia, another expedition will take place in 2010, this time to northern Peru. A team of 22 Fifth and Sixth Form boys have signed up for the expedition. Fundraising is an essential part of the two years of preparation. The team will need to raise around £5000 for group funds, which will go towards the charity work which the challengers will do while they are in Peru. And this is where you can help. A good way of raising funds is through a clothing collection. If you have any old clothes, clothes that your children have grown out of, old shoes, handbags, belts, towels or bedding, please place them in a plastic bag and bring them into school. Please put a label 'For World Challenge' on the bag and ask your son to hand it to Mr Bishop. Mr Bishop says: 'It is a win-win situation in that you get to have a clear out; the clothes go on to help out in a developing country, and the World Challenge team makes some money selling the items on to a clothing recycling company.' Your help would be very much appreciated. The clothing collection will be going on over the next two years, so you can bring in your contributions at any time. Thank you.

4. Reports

L6th Formers are taking reports home this week. 2nd, 3rd, 5th and U6th Formers will be bringing reports home on the last day of term.

5. Newsletters by email

Most parents responded to our request for email addresses, to enable newsletters to be sent electronically. It is clear, however, that many parents would prefer to receive a hard copy. We will, therefore, send newsletters by 'boy-post'. The newsletters can also be viewed on the school's website – www.bgsboys.co.uk

6. Prints of paintings of the school

Later this week all boys will be bringing home a letter from the Development Office about three paintings of the school recently done by Mr Gerry Halpin, a former member of the Art Department here at BGSB. The letter will include details of how to order prints of one or more of these very attractive paintings. Proceeds will contribute to our Centenary Appeal and will be attributed specifically to the new Sixth Form Centre for the students of both schools.

7. Staff Pantomime: Dates for your diary

The Staff Pantomime, *Aladdin*, will take place in the Assembly Hall on Thursday 29th and Saturday 31st January. Further details nearer the time.

8. Parking on Bridge Road

I remind parents that there is a risk of a parking ticket if cars are parked on the verge along Bridge Road.

9. Attachments

- a) Helping your son's reading (First to Fifth Forms only)
- b) Christmas Disco (First and Second Forms only)