

# Hockerill News

Issue 6, Summer Term 2006



**A Memorable Day**  
Speech Day and Midsummer Ball 24 June 2006

## Principal's Column

I write at the conclusion of a very busy and quite amazing year.

Further good news this term came from the DfES who have asked Hockerill to become a "Leading Edge" school. We are thus one of a very small and select group of schools who have four specialisms, in our case Language College, Music College, Training School and now Leading Edge School. We intend using the funding for this new status in exciting work as a lead partner in developing personalised e-learning and also to continue our innovative curriculum development modelled on the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). We also heard last week that a bid to the Wolfson Foundation for £40,000 had been successful to assist with the introduction of Music Technology within the new Music Suite.

Thanks to all the parents for their very kind and complimentary feedback about Speech Day and all the events surrounding it. The 1,000 seater marquee on Thames Lawn was completely full for our annual celebration of personal and organisational achievements. VIP guests included John and Frances Sorrell (Sorrell Foundation), Dr Lachezar Matev (Ambassador of Bulgaria), Bryan Hammond (Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council) and Mark Prisk (MP for Stortford and Hertford). The music performed by the students was first class, as it had been at the al fresco Music for a Summer Evening two days earlier and was also at the vibrant Midsummer Ball that evening.



At Speech Day with John and Frances Sorrell

Congratulations to the College's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) on their highly successful parade and inspection and good luck to our expeditionary party leaving for the Indian Himalayas next week.

I wish all those students and staff leaving us at the end of this academic year every happiness and success in the future and to all parents, students, staff, and friends of Hockerill – have a great summer.

**Dr R B Guthrie**

## Grandparents' Day

Saturday 20th May 2006 saw the first 'Grandparents' Day' at Hockerill. It was a very popular event with almost 200 attending. Our Grandparents were kept enthralled by information about the many aspects of College life and the wide range of opportunities offered to our whole community. The Prefects led tours with the students related, accompanying and narrating. They were then treated to refreshments and fantastic Musical performances to round off the morning. Lots of positive feedback and praise for the organisation of the day has been received along with some generous donations to the College fund. The high standard of behaviour of the students involved was also widely commented on. The day was a great success, and one which we will certainly repeat in the future.

**Mr P Gillmore and Mrs M Blackaby**

## Interact

This summer term has seen the arrival of the new Interact Club officers. To date, we have hosted a disco for Years 7 and 8, and a party to celebrate the end of the mock exams for the Lower Sixth. All involved would agree that these events were very successful raising £120. This money was donated to Action Aid. In addition, Interact members raised £50 for our partner school in Iasi, Romania by baking and selling cakes on Grandparents' Day. The club members have many fantastic fundraising ideas which we look forward to organising in the Michaelmas Term of 2006. We thank you in advance for your unwavering support.

**Abigail White**

## Congratulations go to ...



Malcolm McCarthy on being appointed Head Boy for 2006/07



Barbara Baer on being appointed Head Girl for 2006/07



Mr and Mrs Vernon on the birth of Sam (14 June)



Mrs Bates, on the birth of Daniel (23 June)



Matthew Gardner on being selected to represent Great Britain at the European Junior Archery Cup.

## Celebrations



**Celebrations** involved students from every year in the College, singing, dancing and playing in the orchestra. A compilation of music from movies and musicals, superbly executed and performed on three nights to packed houses. Mrs Becky Vernon headed the choreography team, Mr Paul Foulkes the musical team and Mr Steve Jacobs the sound and lighting team.

The students were amazing and far too many to mention here, but how could I not mention the superb partnership of Ginette Luff and Markus Polke, especially in the songs from Phantom of the Opera. I am sure I was not the only one with a tear in their eye. The Blues Brothers, Phil Bourne and Jeremy Burnel were awesome, as were Will Smith, Malcolm McCarthy and Matt Davies. The tremendously funny performance from James Rowbottom as Austin Powers will stay with us for ever.

Maria Pestell, Charlie Dixon and Nicole Gronland and the rest of the dancers, danced with such enthusiasm and energy throughout all three performances.

Lets' not forget the backroom 'boys', the magical Maggie Smith who scoured the charity shops to perform miracles with her team in producing the costumes and props. Mr Matt Jones and his team spent hours painting and decorating the scenery. Mrs Ran Abraham and her team excelled themselves with the make-up.

Last but not least my Front of House team who I think did a super job!

Over the three nights Barbara Nessling and I raised, with your help from raffle prizes donated once again by World Duty Free at Stansted and the refreshments, over £800 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Thank you everybody for supporting us.

**Mrs B Shellard**

## Music News

Students from the College's Music Department delighted audiences with their musical talents when they performed in the 'Celebration' Concert held in St Alban's Hall over three nights in April (see above).

On 15 May we were delighted to welcome the Yale Spizzwinks(?), an a capella singing group of 14 students from Yale University, USA. An exciting programme was organised for the day including afternoon Masterclasses with the College's singing students. This was followed by an evening concert which showcased the group and the various Hockerill ensembles and which demonstrated once again the fantastic musical ability of our students. A wonderful evening was had by all.

"Music for a Summer Evening", held on 22 June, was an outdoor music concert for Hockerill families and friends to enjoy whilst picnicking in the grounds of the College. The feedback received was very positive and a pleasure to hear.

24 June saw performances by Hockerill musicians at both Speech Day and the Summer Ball to round off our first term as a Specialist Music College. It's been a busy time but thoroughly worthwhile and I would like to thank parents for your continued support at these events.

**Mr P Foulkes**



## Midsummer Ball



The warm summer's evening of Saturday 24 June saw our fourth annual Summer Ball. Some 400 members of the Hockerill community came together for this end of term spectacular.

We had a guest list covering much of Europe and beyond, some truly fine wines and food with great entertainment featuring award winning magicians, the operatic Three Waiters, the Dean Dyson Band and musical numbers from our very own Emilie Boyd, Ginette Luff and Malcolm McCarthy with the Hockerill band.

The money raised will go to the Hockerill Development Fund which aims to build and improve facilities for the students through capital expenditure.

This event was sold out three months beforehand with people waitlisted for tickets. It is becoming more and more popular every year so remember to book your tickets in good time next year!

Thanks must go to those involved with the College whose hard work and generous donations made this event such a success. Thank you also to Savills Estate Agents for sponsoring the floral displays.

## World War II Cooking

In May Year 9 parallel historians took part in a World War II cooking activity. Using recipes from the time, largely written by Margaret Patten OBE, a leading government adviser on food and rationing during the 1940s, students created eight dishes, working in pairs. These included scones with "mock cream", corned beef rissoles, fishcakes, carrot cookies, oatcakes and fruit crumble, which were eagerly devoured at the end of the lesson. The cooking was accompanied by World War II songs which helped to create a nostalgic atmosphere. Thanks to Mrs. Opperman for her expert culinary guidance!

**Mr M Jones**

## Activ8 ur Health



On the 8th June 2006, 58 Year 8 students and 22 exchange students from Münster took part in an 'Activ8 ur Health' Road show. Students participated in a number of activities such as Street Dancing, Healthy Living, Fitness Testing, Circuits and How to be Active in your Life.

Staff associated with South East Herts Primary Care Trust came to the College to offer these workshops to our students and praised the enthusiasm shown by all the students taking part.

Well done to all those who took part.

**Mrs Ashlee-McCrae**



Sharm El Sheikh February 2007

Over the last month 31 students from Years 9 and above have expressed an interest in taking part in the Scuba Diving Trip to Sharm next February. A number of students will be working on their PADI Open Water certificate over the autumn term with an instructor from Planet Scuba and then all of us will be enjoying an action packed week's diving on some of the best diving sites in the world,



next February. It's all very exciting but a reminder to everyone that to guarantee your place you need to pay a 10% deposit by the end of term.

**Mr & Mrs Sinclair**



## La Coûme 2006

On the 24 May, a group of Year 7 students from Hockerill, went on a school trip to the south of France, in a little village called La Coûme.

The whole week was packed with activities and historical sights! We met Marta and Olivia at Gérone airport, Spain then had a picnic and visited the city. In the evening, we met the people who helped us to enjoy our trip. Rooms were shared in groups of 3 and 4.

On Thursday we visited La Capelle de Belloc, which was situated on the top of a mountain, the view was magnificent! We went into hot tubs and we visited Le Four solaire de Mont Louis.

We visited the village Mosset and asked questions in French to the local people. We visited a Perfume Tower, and went to the beach, rock climbing, orienteering and shopping in the village of Collioure.

Sunday, we went walking to the Pic du Rousillon, which made everyone exhausted, but it was fun especially playing a few games of handball!

We visited Marché de Prades, after a long walk we arrived at St Michel de Cuixà in the village of Vilfranche, we had a little treasure hunt in the church trying to locate pictures and statues. In the evening, Marta organised a traditional dance. Wednesday, unfortunately we had to depart La Coûme.

Over all, everyone had a great time. The teachers were all great. I hope to go back next year!

**Emily Banjac**

## Language College

As usual the summer term is the busiest for the Languages Faculty with a multitude of different language experiences.

The three-day trip to France was the first of many trips this term. The Year 7 group and the accompanying staff had a busy and enjoyable time.

The one-week Year 7 trip to La Coûme was very successful. There is another section on the visit with accompanying picture.

At the time of writing the Year 8 programme is in full swing. The four trips and exchanges with France and Germany are all going very well – the Bilingual French group in Dagneux and German exchange in Münster, the Bilingual Two students are in La Traverse and the Parallel Groups are in La Coûme. Meanwhile we are as always happy to welcome students from Dagneux and Münster who have integrated into our special Cross-Curricular week programme.

Next week the group from Jasi arrives for their annual two-week visit to Hockerill. It is

wonderful that we are welcoming our Romanian friends for the tenth time. This partnership has blossomed into something quite exceptional. In February 2007 the Music Department is organising a concert tour in Jasi which will involve close work with children and teachers from the Special School. This new departure promises to be a very exciting initiative.

Over the summer there will be a Centre de Vacances in La Coûme for students who study French or Spanish in Year 10.

Other language-based activities include the International Day of Drama, a Day of Languages, an exciting football activity linked to the Goethe Institute and involving training and a visit to Highbury. Students have also benefited this term from extra bilingual input from the Maths and Science Faculties and of course the whole College is receiving regular feedback regarding the new links with Rwanda.

These are indeed exciting times on a global scale.

**Mr M Ullmann**

## Wonderful Partnership



A land of a thousand hills, a land of a million contrasts, a land with a troubled past but a land with an exciting present and a promising future and we hope to be part of that future. Through our interest in global issues we at Hockerill have entered a new partnership with a secondary school in Gisenyi in north-west Rwanda by beautiful Lake Kivu next to the DRC border.

Mr Ullmann and I have just returned from twelve unforgettable days fostering our new twinning with Gisenyi and setting up other links between the UK and Rwanda. What inspired us about the country is the unwavering confidence and determination of its people, the warmth extended to visitors from the west and the tremendous efforts to cope with the multitude of challenges facing the country, be it economic, educational or environmental.

Our partner school gave us a welcome normally reserved for royalty. They placed a large banner outside the front gate announcing our visit, decorated a blackboard beautifully focusing on our 'wonderful partnership', composed a lovely song and a very moving poem on the same

theme and presented scenes depicting Rwandan culture.

There was a high powered debate on the Arts versus the Sciences, a sketch about women's rights and two major sports fixtures where we were introduced to both teams. Such was the enthusiasm of the students that we returned with 600 handwritten letters, in either French or English, addressed to our students.

We are now in the process of arranging a superb environmental project encompassing several faculties from both schools. This curricular project will hopefully receive British Council funding, enabling teachers and students to visit each others' schools.

The whole experience has already been a huge learning curve for us and there is an exciting swell of interest at Hockerill. We will be engaging ourselves in fundraising efforts to help students and staff from Gisenyi to travel here in 2007 and other ways to provide better resources. It is, however, the willingness to share curricular ideas, work collaboratively and form strong human relationships between staff and students which are the key factors in what is clearly a "wonderful partnership".

**Mrs J Chalmers**

## The Trenches



For cross-curricular week Year 9 students have been working on the theme Conflict and Commemoration. As part of the week we visited the battlefields at Ypres, Belgium on Wednesday 14 June. We departed extremely early from College. Our itinerary included visits to the preserved trenches at Bayemwald, In Flanders Field Museum, the Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries at Essex Farm, Tyne Cot and Lijssenthoek. We ended the day at the Menin Gate to participate in the Last Post Ceremony. Laura Batey, Oliver Pitt and Toby Hodges laid a wreath on behalf of the College to the memory of all those who have given their lives in conflict.

**Mrs M Fraser**

### Stephen Macey "Waiting"

*The shells rain from above  
Bringing a relentless stream of death  
A machine gun starts its hellish chatter  
Each night I writhe not sleeping not resting  
Just waiting, waiting for the sirens or the  
whines of falling bombs*

*The constant fear of the order to go over  
Sheer terror tearing at your mind  
I don't know what is happening or why  
All I know is danger  
While I wait for a sign*

*There is no chance for us  
We're by ourselves  
Sitting together but still alone*

*All of us waiting for the command that will  
take us to the grave.*

## Our International Community

Areas of Interaction Day 4, the final cross-curricular celebration of the Middle Years Programme for Year 7, centred upon the theme "Our International Community" and took place on 15 and 16 June 2006. The focus of the two days was a comparative study of similarities and differences in lifestyles in Britain and in four countries closely linked to Hockerill; Belgium, Romania, Rwanda and Australia.

Students embarked on an enthusiastic and rewarding investigation of life in the selected countries and produced a Project, in written or electronic form on the country which had been allocated to their Equipe. This was based upon a questionnaire completed by our various partner schools. In addition, students questioned the local community in Bishop's Stortford on their knowledge of the international community and arrived at some interesting conclusions. A series of musical performances, together with exciting editions of "The Weakest Link" rounded off an excellent two days.

At the end of the academic year, the MYP has been launched to great success, with much enthusiasm and enjoyment evident from the students. I am sure that our Year 7s have had a much-enhanced educational experience this year and eagerly look forward to the next year of their MYP journey.

I will be concentrating on my new role as Deputy Head of Humanities from September and so I hand over the MYP baton to Mrs Sinclair.

**Mr M Jones**

As the new MYP co-ordinator I would like to pass on my thanks to Mr Jones for his tremendous work on the first year of the MYP and I look forward to working with the Year 7 and 8 students next year.

**Mrs D Sinclair**

## Sponsoring a Rwandan Student

Before our visit to Rwanda two girls from Year 12, Kristy Dingli and Joanne Price, raised over £200 to be used to sponsor students from Rwanda who are unable to pay the boarding fees in our school in Gisenyi. This money has been changed into dollars and a dollar account has been set up to launch an ongoing scheme to sponsor a child's education. It is estimated that it would cost about £100 a year over a period of six years (i.e. a total of £600) if you sponsored a child from their first year in secondary school.

Naturally there would be a mechanism to help children already in the school over a shorter period of time.

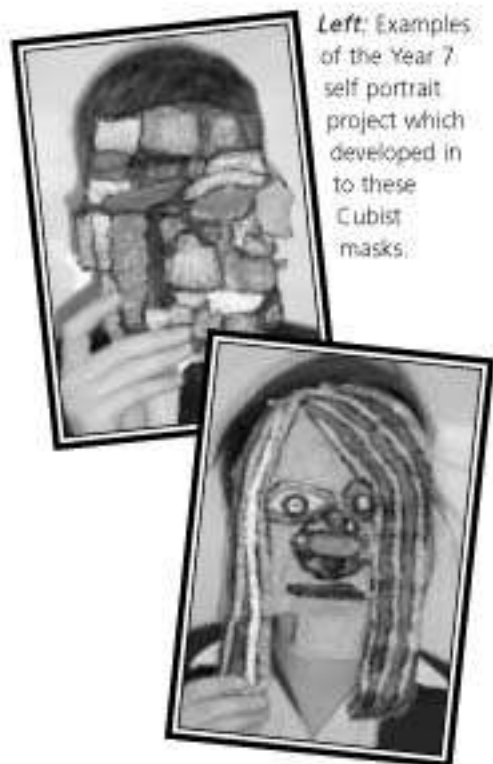
We would be very pleased to hear of parents and friends who would like to participate in this wonderful cause on a regular basis. We have discussed this with our Rwandan friends and they would certainly be very selective with the students we sponsor and would provide information on the children involved.

If you are interested please contact the College Bursar, Mark Aldridge, Janice Chalmers or Mike Ullmann. A donation form can be picked up from College Reception.

# Creativity in Art



Above left and right: Examples of Year 11 GCSE coursework based on a musical theme.



Left: Examples of the Year 7 self portrait project which developed in to these Cubist masks.



Above: Louis Reynolds, a Year 10 artist decorates his African pot which forms part of his GCSE coursework.



Above: During Activities Week our Year 8 pupils enjoyed an art project with our exchange students from Dagneux and Munster. We visited the Tower of London and the London Eye, along with a tour around the historic city of Cambridge. The students then created a t-shirt design based on the research they had collected. They painted directly on to the shirts using fabric paints. It was very hard to choose between the many excellent designs, however two of the best are shown above.

## Technology News

June 2006 means the end of another academic year and what a year it has been for the department. Year 11 students giving 100% towards their coursework, Gifted and Talented days, work related learning days and the MYP days 'Structures in Space' and Wren's St Paul's. Students have been given the opportunity to say how the subject will develop through the setting up of a DT committee and in between all these events, the teachers have taught some inspired lessons.

Some highlights:

Year 11 students across the department have produced outstanding work this year and at the time of writing all students have achieved at least a grade C with their coursework element: if these grades remain, the department could be on to its best performance ever. All the work culminated in the annual exhibition held on 8 June in the Cloister Garden. This well supported exhibition gave everyone the chance to stand proudly next to their work and receive the well deserved praise of family and friends.

The 18 KS3 students who formed the DT committee have been instrumental in a number of changes next year, including a new textiles project in Year 9 and a rearrangement of the Year 8 curriculum to enable the teaching of new skills at an earlier stage in the year. They are presently working with me on assessment structures and I look forward to both working with the existing members next

year as well as welcoming new students from Year 7.

In Food Technology Year 10 students sat their Basic Food Hygiene Certificate and 98% of the students obtained a commendable pass. This is a great performance when you consider that this is a trade examination.

Away from the formal structure of DT, T1 has been a key location during the lunchtime sessions, with students across the year groups spending their 'free' time on their work with a resulting increase in the overall standard. I have been particularly impressed with the improvements from the boys in KS3, and at a time when the national press are moaning about the academic progress of boys.

In Year 7 the department has supported the Middle Years Programme and the assessment structure has allowed students to achieve credit for independence and engagement, this has been a superb addition to the DT system and I look forward to seeing this develop.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year, whether staff, parents or students. A reminder,....don't forget the Technology Fund which allows us to provide a varied programme for the students and Year 11 don't forget your summer prep!! Have an enjoyable vacation and roll on the next academic year.

Mrs D Sinclair

## Strange Goings on

Visitors to Hockerill at the beginning of activities week would have been bemused to see groups of toga dressed students converging on the Science Department to join the groups casting coins out of metal alloys, a group making and testing a model coliseum - not to mention the aqueduct on the College Field and the Roman road in the DT Department. This was all part of the IB Group 4 project (Gp.4 is the one containing the Sciences and DT): an interdisciplinary project forming a compulsory part of the coursework requirements. Following Adam Hart-Davies' series the theme selected was 'the science behind what the Romans did for us'. The projects culminated in a presentation in the Chapel to the entire 6th Form and invited guests. Many thanks to the Science and DT Team.

Mr J S Chalmers

## Boarding Calendar 2006/07

Again, we have an exciting programme of events for our boarders next year.

The open weekend for boarders and their parents will take place from 1100 on Saturday 9 until 1500 on Sunday 10 December, featuring a Christmas Buffet with firework display; a "Strictly Come Dancing" competition, the Boarders' Inter-House Challenge and Jazz Brunch followed by sport on Sunday. There will also be an opportunity for parent teacher consultations. Tickets are available through the heads of house. Overseas parents are advised to make their travel arrangements now.

Mr C Wright

### September

Sat 2 Freshers' Weekend  
Sun 10 Alton Towers  
Sat 23 Classical Concert - Royal Albert Hall

### October

Sun 1 Brighton and the South Coast  
Sat 14 London Theatre Trip - Evita

### November

Sat 4 Guy Fawkes  
Sat 11 Annual Talent Show and Buffet  
Sat 25 Christmas Shopping at Bluewater

### December

Sat 9 & Christmas Celebration and  
Sun 10 Boarding Open Weekend

### January

Sun 14 London Museums  
Sat 20 Afternoon in Cambridge

### February

Sat 3 Ice Skating  
House socials and parties

### March

Sat 3 Lightening Roadshow Disco  
Sun 17 Star Wars Fantasy Weekend  
Sun 24 Boarders' Easter Dinner

### April

Sat 21 Junior games and quiz evening  
Sun 22 Afternoon in Cambridge (seniors)  
Sun 29 Thorpe Park

### May

Sun 20 Punting on the River Cam

### June

10 Jun Boarders' Summer Sports Festival  
23 Jun Speech Day & Summer Ball(18+)  
Quasar/Roller World

## Glowing Gherkins

What glowing gherkins tell us about the nature of our universe.

On Wednesday 3rd May the Year 12 Physics course went to a lecture given by the famous scientific author Simon Singh at Hertfordshire University in which he presented his new book "The Big Bang" and showed why the Big Bang theory was one of the most important theories of the 20th century. By using impressive experiments he managed to explain difficult physical issues in a very simple way to a broad audience. Furthermore he outlined the whole development of the Big Bang theory, proved that the Teletubbies are evil and made salty gherkins glow. Although some of the visitors of the lecture missed the physical depth in Mr Singh's explanations it was a very exciting and valuable experience. We would like to thank Mr Parsons and Dr Letten who made this physics excursion possible.

Tim Zuhlsdorff & Friedrich Hanzsch

## Annual Sports Dinner



In the absence of Mr & Mrs Simon Vernon who are on leave following the birth of their second son, I, as temporary PA to the PE department have been asked to report on this year's Sports Dinner!

The event on Friday 5th May was to celebrate the sporting achievements of the squads involved in rugby, hockey, netball, basketball and football. What a very talented array of sporting young people attended the dinner, all year groups were represented and the presentations of certificates, cups and trophies were greeted by tumultuous applause by all of those present.

The evening commenced with drinks in the Cloister garden. This was followed on entry to the Refectory by the Grace from Malcolm McCarthy which preceded the excellent carvery dinner.

Mr Simon Vernon executed his duties as Master of Ceremonies with great aplomb as he guided us through the evening's

events. Entertainment from members of the First XV and the First XI with guest appearances from some of the staff was hilarious.

The extremely pleasant Mr Frank Arnesen and his wife were present at the dinner. Mr Arnesen presented the students with their Sports Colours and also presented the Player of the Year trophies to some outstanding sports stars.

To conclude the evening Mr Arnesen spoke about his work as Director of Youth Development and Scouting at Chelsea Football club.

The culmination of another very successful sporting year and celebratory evening. Many congratulations to all of those taking part. **Mrs B Shellard**



## Skiing in Clavière

"Why don't we use the Euro in England, Mr Whiteley", was one of the first of a million questions I was asked on this year's ski trip, I tried to give some sort of reasoned, economically driven, intelligent answer but after 18 hours on a coach it can be difficult at times. But as always it was a joy to listen to the students buying their shopping, gifts and snacks in the motorway services and having long and animated conversations with the staff. We frequently met the same coaches when we stopped and some of our students were even helping out other school students and staff with their language difficulties at times.

This year we visited Clavière which is where the training took place for the Olympic downhill skiers. The hotel was better than we might have hoped. On arrival I met with the hotel owner and as my only 3 words of Italian were unsuitable (I learnt them from Mr Geritcitano when I helped him fit a kitchen and he hit his finger with a hammer) I decided to talk to him in French, my French is OK, I can ask a question but the students have to interpret the answers for me. I was talked to in rapid, gushing and hospitable French for the next week. I think I did alright!

The accommodation was really good, the food was lovely and we had only a five minute walk to the slopes. For the first time in many years we used the local ski school which has the advantage of local knowledge. All the groups from the beginners to the semi professional skied off the piste, through the trees in the morning on lovely icy hard crust and enjoyed good quality spring conditions in the afternoon.

The programme of evening entertainment ranged from High Ropes to Karaoke, Bowling and Disco. We had a great team of staff who worked hard all week to help make the whole trip a huge success. My thanks go as always to Mr James, Mrs W and Mrs Abraham. Also to the new boy Mr Foulkes, and Miss Cattermole who would be coming again if she wasn't going back to Oz.

This year's trip was a huge success again and it was enjoyed by all, behaviour, teamwork and support for each other was excellent. The group worked well together and looked after each other. Ski 2007 sold out in less than 48 hours!

**Mr A S Whiteley**

## Mallorca

During the May half-term holiday, Year 12 Geographers visited Mallorca to conduct fieldwork. As in previous years the sun shone and whilst the drought conditions caused problems for the river survey (there being no rivers flowing on the surface) all other surveys went well, with the biggest threat being sun burn.

For the third year in a row, Mallorca has proved a successful base for the conduct of fieldwork and, whilst we may look for alternative sites in the future, variety being the spice of life, the island has certainly proved popular with the students, hopefully not only for its exciting nightlife.

On the weekend of 10th and 11th June a follow-up trip to Dorset took place and this allowed a British sand dune system to be compared with the Mallorcan equivalent and also allowed us to consider changes along the River Tarrant thanks to the support given by several landowners along this beautiful valley. Being fed by a chalk aquifer, this stream tends to flow for longer than most but in a changing world, the phenomena of the disappearing stream is just one change that we will all have to get used to.

Armed with an abundance of data we now expect Year 12 Geographers to produce the high quality coursework that we have been used to over the last four years.

**Mr A Marshall**

