
Principal's Newsletter

5 November 2021

Dear Parents,

During this short week, we have been able to restart the engines in spectacular style. The cast list for *Seussical*, yet another production to look forward to, is up. This Middle and Prep School opera brings together many pupils, many talents, and combines them with the indefatigable energies of Ms Clark, Mr Bishop and Ms Poole. As a fan of the Seuss books, I can readily imagine the possibilities. Another glorious night of the roar of the crowds and the smell of the greasepaint to look forward to.

The masks are back on in the communal places of the secondary phase. We have also for the moment abandoned whole school secondary phase assemblies. Hopefully, the lower number of cases in school this week is a trend which will continue and we will be able to resume assemblies.

I have been away for two days at a headteacher conference being briefed on many developments and problems besetting education in the city and country while powerless to do much about them in a room with my colleagues and arrived back on campus at 3pm on a Friday afternoon. High spirited pupils were pouring out of the gates into the illegally parked cars picking them up. On campus there was still plenty of life and energy. The 1st XV were playing one of the oldest school rugby fixtures in the country against King William's Isle of Man. Chapter 8 had a football match in a national cup. The drizzle fell as the boarders gathered with Ms Radley to begin a weekend which will include a visit to the river of light. Here was for me, a sharp contrast between the discussion of national educational policy and the real, day to day life of a school, the excellence or quality of which consists in the entirety of the experiences a pupil has in school. The enthusiasm of our pupils reflects the interest they have in their life, in the world, and in the possibilities of the journey of education. Much more uplifting than an Ofsted document.

There were two parents' evenings this week. Year 13 are in the throes of their glide path to landing planning. It is crunch time with UCAS and with Oxbridge. Year 11 parents had an academic information evening on Teams designed to help them to support their child to get ready for the 25+ exams that constitute the intended 2022 exam season, which, judging from the comments from parents, was well received.

The PTA will hold their AGM on Wednesday 10 November at 7pm. The meeting will be held online and the link will be posted on the PTA Facebook page.

Thank you, Sean Webster. After his very successful solo art show, Sean donated an original artwork and a hamper full of art goodies and supplies for pupils to the arts faculty. Sean, an OL, is an excellent example of creativity blossoming in a person. I felt the same about the remembrance art which is now hanging in the chapel, produced under the leadership of Ms McCone by a number of younger pupils. Next Thursday at 11am the CCF will lead the school in an Act of Remembrance which will be live-streamed into the classrooms. Unfortunately for covid reasons we could not have the packed chapel of a Remembrance Sunday service and we are further hampered by the fact that most of our CCF cadets have only been in the CCF for 8 weeks or less. Covid has destroyed the tradition of marching which sustains a CCF. We have to begin again with a new group of cadets. An example of the gaps and delays in the personal and academic development of pupils all the way through the school.

Hockey and rugby against Ripley St Thomas tomorrow. It looks like we will have proper autumn sport weather.

May I wish you and yours a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal