



From the Headmaster: Mr C. Hyde-Dunn, MA(Oxon), PGCE, MA(Ed.), NPQH

Letter to all parents

Friday 3 February 2012

Dear Parents

Sport

It has been another busy and productive week at Abingdon Prep. On the sports field, it was the turn of Years 5 and 6 to take centre stage and how the boys rose to the occasion. Standing on the touchline, parents bracing themselves against arctic winds, spirits were soon warmed by some superb team performances against Pinewood School. Moreover, a series of resounding home victories was replicated by the successes of our travelling sides. Particular mention should be made of Kaveh Babaahmady who netted a hat trick in the Under 11A's impressive winning display. I very much look forward to hearing the match reports in Monday's assembly and for a full list of results please consult the school website. While the "snood" may be banned, boys are always welcome to wear gloves during the winter season and once again they are reminded to bring their school tracksuits to all games sessions, especially as the big freeze threatens to envelope us.

Art Visit

On Monday, Year 8 boys from the Invitation Art group had the privilege of visiting The Royal Academy and view the David Hockney "A bigger picture" exhibition. On display were some of the artist's most distinctive landscapes, including his freshly completed towering work, "Bigger trees near Warter", measuring 15 x 40 feet and made up from fifty canvasses. I am delighted to tell you that all the boys were impeccably behaved throughout and showed themselves to be a great credit to our School as well as themselves. Our thanks are extended to Michèle Kitto for organising such an enriching school trip.

Pre-prep

From some of our oldest pupils to our youngest, today the Pre-prep assembly was led by the boys in our Reception class. They told the story of dinosaurs in a most animated fashion, in front of a proud parent audience, who afterwards joined the boys in their classroom to see their books and displays. For further parent invitations to Pre-prep assemblies, please see the school calendar and may I thank Deirbhle and Elaine for organising this event.

Year 5 School Play

Stefan is another member of staff who, together with Tara, has both been busy preparing the boys for their forthcoming performance. Right now Year 5 are putting the finishing touches to their premier of the *Pepys Show*, an unmissable one night only production next Thursday 9 February starting at 18.00. Please see Stefan's separate mailing this week for further details.

Quiz Night

Speaking of managing expectation, the Staff team are limbering up nicely with flashes of mental agility, ahead of this evening's Quiz Night Extravaganza. With more than 120 super keen participants, anticipation is building and Krypton Factor exercises have been exchanging hands. Despite desperate efforts to elicit some sort of clues, Master of Ceremonies, Robert Shaw, has been unbreakable in his silence and inscrutable in his

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intentions. We will have to wait until this evening when, over a newspaper wrap of fish and chips, all will be revealed.

I look forward to seeing many of you tonight and of course at our various school events next week, including a Year 3 and 4 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 7 February.

With all best wishes,

Crispin Hyde-Dunn