



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

Letter to all parents

Friday 27 January 2012

Dear Parents,

Another week has flown by in a kaleidoscope of school activity. Yesterday, the early evening serenity of my study was happily interrupted by enthusiastic banter from our boys. Members of the cross country team, still resplendent in their new Abingdon Prep running vests were reliving with me their earlier triumphs of the day at the Oratory Preparatory School. Both our Under 11 and Under 13 teams won their respective age categories and our boys are to be highly commended upon this remarkable achievement. Further details of their runaway successes can be found on the school website, and may I thank Ashley David-Ward for promoting our inaugural entry to this competition. Other sporting victories this week included some superb football results against our opponents Christ Church Cathedral School and The Dragon. The Under 13 1st XI score line was especially emphatic and the summation of a superb team performance. Once again for a full round up of scores, please turn to the school website.

Sulgrave Manor

A view of our web page will also show boys from Year 4 dressed as Tudors during their visit this week to Sulgrave Manor. Home of the Washingtons, this charming 16th century manor house has come to symbolise the special relationship between Great Britain and the United States. Moreover, our boys delighted in immersing themselves in such living history and looked most authentic all clothed in their Tudor style wear, complete with waistcoats and flat caps - perhaps some additions to our school uniform!

Norovirus and healthy eating

I am very pleased to report that illness from the norovirus seems to have abated. Naturally, we will continue to remain vigilant over the boys' hygiene with an emphasis on regular hand washing especially before lunch. Continuing with the food theme, I have also reminded the boys of the need to make sure their break time snacks are healthy. Last week there were quite a few crisp packets and chocolate wrappers littering Beverley Field, but I am very delighted to report that the boys have responded extremely well to our campaign for improved tidiness around the school, as well as healthy eating. As always your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

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Quiz Night and Scalextrics Night

Next Friday 3rd February we are looking forward to hosting the APS Quiz Night. There are still some spaces available for those who would like to form a team and the deadline for entries has been extended to Monday 30th January. Projecting further ahead, all is in pole position for a fast and furious evening of Scalextrics racing on Friday 2nd March. Already this week I have taken delivery of a very fine looking 250F (alas in model form only) and it will now undergo a rigorous programme of preseason testing ahead of our prestigious event. And, as if you needed no further encouragement to don your fireproof racing overalls, we are hoping that there may even be a “virtual” guest appearance from a certain mystery gentleman racer and one time legend of the silver screen.....As ever, to avoid disappointment please check with the school calendar for precise timings.

Year 8 exams

Next week, we have some of our pupils visiting the Royal Academy to view the highly acclaimed David Hockney exhibition. There are also a number of football fixtures against Pinewood School on Wednesday 1st February. In addition, our Year 8 boys will now be turning their thoughts to revision, with our own mock Common Entrance exams taking place the week beginning Monday 6th February and the Abingdon Academic Scholarship exams scheduled to start on Monday 5th March.

No doubt next week will be as busy as the past few days, but whether we will see Chinese New Year dragons or indeed Mr Tiddles, the diabolical cat burglar (ask pupils from Year 1) remains to be seen!

With all best wishes,

Crispin