



# ABINGDON

From: Dr Chris Burnand : Master of Scholars

12 September 2014

To parents

## Scholars' Events

After some almost universally excellent exam results from the scholars over the summer, I hope they are all settling down to the new academic year after an enjoyable holiday. As ever, I am writing to alert you to the scholars' events, which Mr Hallinan and I do expect them all to attend in the forthcoming term. We would be very grateful if you could put these dates in your diaries so that they can be kept free by the boys.

You, as parents, are also very welcome at these talks, but those in the CMR will be more crowded, so do please let Mr Hallinan or myself know if you would like to come to these.

The first event of the term will take place on Tuesday 7 October, beginning at 6.00pm in the Amey Theatre. This will be the occasion of a range of presentations by our own boys – middle school and sixth-form – which will be followed by the annual dinner to which middle school scholars and their parents are invited. Mr Hallinan will be writing separately to all the parents of middle school scholars with further, more detailed information about this event, a letter which will also contain details of the whole programme in place for middle school scholars.

On Thursday 6 November at 5.30pm Christopher Jefferies will be speaking in the CMR on 'Ethics and the Media'. Christopher taught me at Clifton College for my English Literature GCSE, but following his retirement he was wrongly arrested in 2010 for the murder of Joanna Yeates in Bristol, and was vilified by several national newspapers. He subsequently gave evidence to the Leveson inquiry, and his own personal experiences should make him a fascinating speaker on this topical subject.

The final event of the term will be on Thursday 27 November, when we are delighted to be welcoming Dr Michael Ward who will be discussing 'C.S. Lewis on Imagination and Reason in Science and Religion.' Michael is a leading expert on C.S. Lewis and Senior Research Fellow at Blackfriars, Oxford. His two books on the Narnia stories, *Planet Narnia* and *The Narnia Code*, which uncovered a secret imaginative scheme underlying all the Narnia chronicles, received great critical acclaim and the latter was made into a BBC documentary of the same name. The talk will be at 5.30pm in the CMR and, like all the talks of the term, will last for one hour.

As ever, we would also urge the boys to go to as many as they can of the departmental events advertised in the calendar. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or suggestions for future speakers: we have some ideas in the pipeline, but as ever further possibilities are always extremely welcome.

Finally we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the scholars on their achievements last year, particularly in their exams in the summer.

Yours sincerely

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