



ABINGDON

From: Dr Chris Burnand : Master of Scholars

6 September 2019

To Parents,

Scholars' Events

I hope the scholars are all settling down to the new academic year after an enjoyable holiday, and some extremely impressive exam results, especially at GCSE. As ever, I am writing to alert you to the scholars' events, which we 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 – all scholars are expected to attend the first three events. As parents you are very welcome to attend all our talks.

On Monday 23 September, at 5.30pm in the Amey Theatre, Professor Owen Darbshire from the Saïd Business School, will give a talk entitled 'Making Decisions: Non-rational dimensions which influence our choices'. He is currently Associate Professor in Organisational Behaviour, and his research and writing focuses on how labour markets, employment patterns and work are changing internationally. It promises to be a fascinating talk from an academic working at the top of his field, focusing on some of the factors which influence the decisions we make. This talk will be over at 6.30pm.

The second event of the term will take place on Friday 4 October, beginning at 6pm in the Amey Theatre. This will be the occasion of a range of presentations by our own middle-school scholars, which will be followed by the annual dinner to which middle-school scholars and their parents are invited. Mr Jamison will be writing separately to the parents of middle-school scholars with further, more detailed information about this event, a letter which will also contain further details of the programme in place for middle-school scholars this term (including a trip for the fifth-year academic scholars to Oxford on Thursday 7 November).

The third date is Thursday 14 November, when (again at 5.30pm in the Amey Theatre), our chair of governors, Professor Mike Stevens will be speaking to the title 'Medical dilemmas'. Mike is an OA and a medic who specialised in paediatrics, and was appointed Professor of Paediatric Oncology at the University of Bristol. Though now retired from clinical practice, he remains academically active as an Emeritus Professor.

We also expect all academic scholars to attend the EPQ presentation evening on Monday 25 November, which will begin at 5.20pm. At this event some thirty Upper Sixth students will be delivering a range of talks based on independent research conducted over the last twelve months. With a wide range of subjects, it should be an excellent evening of talks and presentations.

As ever, we would also urge the boys to go to as many of the departmental events advertised in the calendar as possible. 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 hugely welcome.

Yours sincerely

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