



ABINGDON

From Dr Chris Burnand: Master of Scholars

7 May 2020

Dear Parents

### **Scholars' programme this term**

In these very strange and difficult times, scholars' events for the Summer term have probably not been at the top of anyone's concerns, but Mr Jamison and I thought we should get in touch to outline the programme we have in place for the rest of this term.

Owen Matthews, acclaimed writer, journalist and historian, has kindly agreed to postpone his talk on 'How to Get Ahead by Lying to Everyone: Richard Sorge, A Life In Espionage' until next term, as we thought it better to wait until we can reconvene in person rather than attempt anything on line for such an event. Therefore, the talk and annual dinner at the end of last term, which we were lucky to squeeze in before the lockdown, will have been the last big formal event of the year. In particular, I am delighted that we had the chance to give something of a send-off for the current upper sixth scholars who have served the School with such distinction over the last five, or even seven, years.

In addition, we have had to cancel the scheduled fourth year trip to the opera in London this term, but hope to run an additional post-GCSE trip for those boys next Summer!

On a more positive note, Mr Jamison will be writing to fifth year academic scholars shortly to outline an exciting new research project which the unfortunate cancellation of their GCSE exams has allowed us to set up. We hope the scholars will seize this opportunity to pursue some interdisciplinary research on a topic relevant to their ongoing studies in the sixth form. There will be generous rewards for the best ones!

Also, later this term, we will be launching the summer projects for current third and fourth year scholars in the normal fashion. All these boys will be asked to research a short presentation on a subject of their choice over the summer which they will then deliver to the other scholars in their year group in the early part of the Michaelmas Term. Some will then go on to give them again at the scholars' presentation evening on the occasion of the Middle School scholars' dinner later that term.

Although we have speakers in place for next term, we continue to be very grateful for any suggestions for other good speakers: if anyone has further names/contacts for next year please do get in touch with one of us.

Yours sincerely,

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