



From Head of Middle School Scholars: Andrew Jamison

16 September 2020

Scholars' Events

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you well, that your son has enjoyed the return to school, and is looking forward to the academic challenges in front of him. I'd like to congratulate the former fifth year scholars for their hard work, and wish them well for their further studies at A Level. With no trips, dinners or external speakers allowed for the time being, we're trying not to let that overshadow this term for the scholars, and as you'll see below we're continuing to offer as much as we can in the given circumstances, and expect them to attend. Please also note that Dr Burnand, Master of Scholars, is on sabbatical this term pursuing his own research on Cicero and Roman Oratory; we wish him well in this and look forward to welcoming him back in the Lent term.

The first event of the year will be the Scholars' Induction on Monday 28 September at 4.15pm in the Amey Theatre. This year the event will be for pupils only, but the Head's PA will be in touch with precise details of how you can watch it online.

One of the highlights of the scholars' calendar is the Middle School Scholars' Presentations Evening, showcasing research projects scholars have undertaken over the summer. This year the presentations will happen from 4-5.15pm on Friday 9 October in the Amey Theatre. All middle school scholars are expected to attend this, and we have put in place measures to make this a Covid-safe event for students, including socially distanced seating plans and ventilation. This year, however, there will be no dinner afterwards, and neither parents nor other external visitors will be allowed to attend. The event will be live-streamed and recorded, though, so you can watch it from the comfort of your own home. The link to this event will be sent out nearer the time.

The same arrangement is also in place for the Lower Sixth STEP (Summer Term Extension Programme) presentation afternoon on Tuesday 17 November from 3.45-5.15pm. This is a new venture, which allowed students who were then in the 5th year to undertake some independent research in the gap between the end of their public exams and the start of the summer holiday. We had a great uptake for this programme, some fascinating projects, and the best will be presenting their work on this occasion. The plan is for academic scholars to attend this in person in the Amey Theatre, and others remotely (the link for this will also be available nearer the time). Parents are also welcome to tune in.

Usually the fifth year academic scholars would have a trip to Oxford and produce a newsletter during this term, however this has had to be cancelled. We plan on producing a Middle School Scholars Newsletter at the end of the term, though, and would particularly encourage fifth year academic scholars to think of ways in which they could contribute to this, whether this is writing a research based article or opinion piece. I will be in touch with them later in the term with more guidance.

Lastly, we encourage the boys to keep reading widely, and seek opportunities within departments for extension work which stretches and challenges them. While we won't be able to meet in person for the foreseeable future, Dr Burnand and I look forward to welcoming you back to school at the next available opportunity. Please do get in touch with any queries, or if you have any recommendations for future speakers, as these are always welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Jamison
Head of Middle School Scholars
andrew.jamison@abingdon.org.uk
01235 849092

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563 Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk