



# ABINGDON

From: Dr Chris Burnand: Master of Scholars

14 September 2023

To Parents

## Scholars' events this term

I hope all the scholars are all settling down well to a new academic year. It was very pleasing to see again some fine exam results from them.

It is a particular pleasure to introduce Mr Ian Middleton as my new colleague taking over responsibility for the middle school scholars (following Mr Chase's departure to pastures new), whom I am sure many of you already know as a chemistry teacher, Stockdale's tutor, and football coach (and a fellow West Ham fan). We are writing once more about forthcoming scholarship events, all of which we expect scholars to attend this term. We would be very grateful if you could put these dates in your diaries so that they can be kept free – this letter makes clear which scholars are expected to attend each event, though of course everyone is welcome to all of them. As parents, you are once again very welcome to attend these talks in person.

On Thursday 28 September, at 5.15pm in the Amey Theatre, there will be an evening of brief presentations by seven students in the current L6 who produced the best STEP (Summer Term Extension Programme) projects over the summer after their GCSE assessments were finished. All academic scholars are expected to attend. The event, which celebrates the best of the independent research undertaken, will be finished by 6.45pm, and parents are especially encouraged to come to hear about the exciting work that has been done (and the event precedes the L6 and 4<sup>th</sup> year Meet the Tutor evening that same night).

The second event of the term is on Wednesday 4 October at 5.30pm in the Amey Theatre. We welcome back an OA, and indeed an old scholar, Rupert Janisch, who is a PR and communications expert, who in 2020 set up his own business. He will be talking about his career and experiences since leaving school. This talk will be for all scholars and will be over at 6.30pm.

Soon after half-term on Friday 3 November, beginning at 6.00pm in the Amey Theatre, we will have an evening featuring a range of presentations by our own middle-school scholars. It is expected that all middle-school scholars will attend these presentations, and parents are most welcome as well. Indeed, the talks will be followed by the annual dinner to which middle-school scholars and their parents are invited. Mr Middleton 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 (including a trip for the fifth-year academic scholars to Oxford on Thursday 9 November).

We are yet to finalise the date of the final talk this term, a presentation by Phil Harrison, who has served as a vice-president of Google, and who will be talking about his career in the computer industry. We will send out this date and further details as soon as we have them.

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

Yours sincerely

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