



ABINGDON

From: Dr C Burnand and Mr I Middleton

15 January 2024

To Parents of All Scholars,

Scholars' Events in the Lent Term

We are writing to the parents of all scholars to draw attention to the dates both of the Roysse Society meeting and of other scholars' events this term: they are all in a bit of a bunch in the second half of term.

The first event and the only full Roysse meeting for all scholars is on **Friday 1 March** (7.00-8.30 pm) in the Amey Theatre. We are very lucky to be welcoming Kim Darroch (OA) to Abingdon, who will be speaking in conversation on the theme of 'The World in Chaos? What happens next?'. After studying zoology at university he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and had a rich and varied career working for the Diplomatic Service. Among other things he worked on the Channel Tunnel project, as Britain's permanent representative to the EU, as National Security Advisor, and as Ambassador to the United States of America. In 2019 he was appointed to the House of Lords as Baron Darroch of Kew. It should be a fascinating evening. This is a ticketed event, though free places will be reserved for all scholars. I will be later sending a separate google form to parents so that you can let me know of any scholar who is unable to attend because of some unavoidable family commitment. We will also provide a supper before the talk for those scholars who wish to sign up for it. Unfortunately because this is a ticketed event, if you wish to come as parents, you will have to sign up for (and pay for) tickets at the Abingdon Box Office.

The following week (in the Amey Theatre at 5.30 – 6.30pm on **Tuesday 5 March**), we are also delighted to be welcoming Professor Mike Edmunds who is currently president of the Royal Astronomical Society. Mike is Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics at Cardiff University and former Head of the School of Physics and Astronomy. In addition to his main research, he is chair of the international Antikythera Research Project, and will be talking about this extraordinary object in an interdisciplinary talk, combining the history of science, maths, engineering and design. The talk is entitled 'Astronomy and Computing in Ancient Greece - the Story of the Amazing Antikythera Mechanism'. This talk is compulsory for all academic scholars, though everyone else is of course welcome as well. Parents are also most welcome at the talk (without any need for reservation).

In addition, Mr Middleton is organising a trip to Bletchley Park for third-year academic scholars on **Thursday 7 March**, which we hope will generate some interesting presentations from them. Mr Middleton will be in touch separately about this shortly.

We would be very grateful if you could make sure to get these events in your diaries now so that all the scholars can be free to come to them. As ever, we very much welcome further suggestions for speakers for the future, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

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