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Dear Parents

Another very busy year comes to a close. This term has been dominated, of course, by the external exams. It was extremely encouraging to see both the Upper Sixth and Upper Fifth working so hard in the final run up and we have high expectations that they have done very well. The IB results will be available online from 15.15 GMT on Monday 6th July. If a pupil has any difficulty accessing them he/she should contact Dr Filho either by email or on 820442. Some GCSE results are also being published online for the first time this year, but all results can also be collected from the Library from 10.00 on Thursday 27th August or by telephoning 820400. Any results not collected during the morning will be put in the post that afternoon.

Higher Education

The Upper Sixth's university applications now await the confirmation of results. Overall, the application process went very smoothly this year and the pupils are holding offers to a wide variety of prestigious universities in both the UK and beyond, including two for Cambridge. The most popular universities were Durham, Edinburgh and Exeter whilst the range of subjects was as wide as ever with languages and science (including two pupils with offers for medicine) appearing prominently alongside the ever popular economics, business, history and politics. The Lower Sixth are now finalising their choices having attended presentations in College by a number of UK universities and also the Fulbright Program which places students in US universities. They spent a whole day in the last week of term learning about the application process so they will be able to hit the ground running as soon as we return in the autumn.

Sport

On the sports field the pupils have been participating in athletics, cricket and rounders. The girls had a fantastic rounders season winning the L4 and L5 Island schools' trophies and overall the junior girls secured the combined trophy as the U4 team were also runners up. We had a really pleasing athletics campaign with our senior girls and boys both securing second position in the Island competition. Our junior girls also recorded a second and third place. This term we have also hosted the annual match against the MCC which was a typically close encounter whilst our U13 XI had a promising season beating Leinster CC who boasted a couple of Irish international players. Finally, the annual Derbyhaven Bay swim took place in near perfect conditions and was won for the second year running by Sophie White in the M5 whilst Sam Fry also in the M5 was the fastest boy.

Music and Drama

Music and drama have again had a very full and busy term. In addition to producing high quality music for our weekly services the choir has performed at weddings and at larger events such as the Commemoration and Leavers' Service. This was a very moving occasion at which the chapel choir, augmented by U6 pupils and staff, performed Handel's Zadok the Priest to a full congregation including many of our German parents. The chapel choir also performed in the

Mananan Festival and produced such a marvellous sound the Bishop compared them to King's College choir! The Summer Serenade with solo performances by all of our U6 musicians interspersed with choirs and instrumental music was an extremely enjoyable evening and a fitting way to say goodbye to the U6 who have contributed so much to the musical life of the College over the years. The school orchestra performed at Founder's Day lifting the spirits with the Radetsky March and Sousa's liberty Bell and in the final week of term the pupils have been singing and playing for their Associated Board practical exams. The high point of the term came at the very end with the junior production of James and the Giant Peach. This was a spectacular show and a huge amount of effort had gone into the staging and costumes. There were a number of very impressive individual performances and I am sure that everyone who saw it would wish to congratulate the cast on an extremely entertaining evening.

A list of all the latest sports, art and music colours accompanies this letter.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme continues to flourish at College. The Bronze groups completed their expedition section by giving a very successful presentation to parents and other guests. Silver and Gold participants are now departing to the Lake District for the first week of the holiday to complete their qualifying expeditions and we hope the good weather continues! All pupils who have completed their Awards in the last year will be invited to collect their Bronze or Silver Certificates at a special Award Presentation that will take place on Tuesday 15th September at 7.00 pm at the Gaiety Theatre in Douglas.

Pupil Appointments

We now have our new body of praepositors in office following the departure of the U6 at the end of May. Philip Kearney is our Head of School with the support of Poppy Walker (Head Girl), Karoline Bax, Fred Joyce and Amelia Quinn as full school praepositors. We are very fortunate to have once again such a capable team and I am sure that they will be excellent ambassadors for the College throughout the forthcoming year.

Extended Essay

I have been asked by Mrs van Rhyne to remind pupils moving into the Upper 6 that they should hand in the first draft of their Extended Essay soon after they return in the autumn. The Upper Sixth is an exceptionally busy year and it is important that they complete this task before the year begins in earnest and other deadlines beckon.

Finally, you will shortly be receiving from the Bursary a leaflet on the Pupils' Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. This is for information only; all pupils are automatically included and there is no additional cost.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing summer

Yours sincerely

Joss Buchanan