

From: Miss R Jane Corlett

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December 2009

Dear Parents

At last the end of an exceptionally busy term is in sight. The very good public examination results in the summer set a target for the current GCSE and IB groups to aim at and I am pleased to report that a significant number of these pupils are rising to the challenge and have been working very hard indeed. I have enjoyed reading through their reports towards the end of this term and have been repeatedly delighted at not only the academic performance but also the significant extra curricular commitment and achievement that a large number of our pupils have attained. All year groups will have internal exams at the start of next term – pupils have already received their exam timetables and you will also have received a copy of this for your information as well. All but a couple of the Upper 6 have now submitted their university applications and a significant number of them have already received offers for their courses which this year range from International Relations to Off-road Vehicle Design! The Sixth Form have two lectures to look forward to during the course of the Spring Term: the first will be given by Professor Howard Scarffe (OKW) on "Why & Cancer" and the second will give our students an insight into "The Future of Criticism" by Professor Kate Belsey from Cambridge University.

General Knowledge Paper

As always at this time of year I would urge you to have a go at our world famous General Knowledge Paper – it will be published in the Guardian newspaper nationally but you will receive it electronically and can therefore get a head start on the rest of the world. For our school community there is a competition for this with a prize presented on Founder's Day. Entries should be submitted to me no later than Friday 8 January and can be either individual or family entries.

House Drama

The very full Autumn Term resulted in an early House Drama Festival this year, giving less than three weeks for rehearsals. This year the Festival has to go down as quite possibly the best ever with three hugely entertaining and polished performances. The adjudicator was Neil Smith, a former Director of Drama at Malvern College who now works as a professional Director and playwright in London. Neil had his work well and truly cut out to decide on the eventual individual and group prizes. In the final outcome, the Tatton Shield for Best Play was awarded to Walters House. A number of our pupils also benefited from acting master classes and workshops delivered by Neil whilst he was with us.

Music

This has been a jam-packed, highly productive and successful year in the music department. It began before half term with the Young Composers' concert, where the GCSE and IB students performed their latest creations to a full house and great acclaim. Following the half term break, the Choir began their hardest working half term of the year with the Remembrance Service, singing anthems by John Ireland and Vaughan Williams beautifully. Praise must also go to the Brass group who accompanied the hymns and in particular, Ross Penrose who played the Last Post here in school and at the service in Castletown. The Associated Board exams followed with almost 100 children from College and Buchan taking the range of grades in Theory and Practical performance. Graihagh Cordwell and Caleb Bester set the standard by each gaining an outstanding 141 marks for Grade 8 and Grade 6 singing respectively.

The orchestra, comprising pupils from College and Buchan (led by Sue Mills) took centre stage in November with a highly enjoyable concert featuring our many Grade 8 performers sandwiched between orchestral pieces such as The Muppets, Eleanor Rigby and The Radetsky March. Again there was a full house, the Flute Group performed (led by Anya Morgans), Gareth Moore accompanied and the conductor was Liz Green. The Girls' Choir gave a delightful candlelit performance in chapel to a very appreciative audience of

John Rutter's collection of carols, Dancing Day, in early December and the full chapel Choir ended the term with the traditional 9 lessons and carols given on two nights to an overflowing chapel. The Choir was superb, directed by Liz Green and the congregation raised the roof with the carols, aided by our wonderful organist, Gareth Moore. As they spilled out into the cold night air, the congregation proclaimed it the best carol service ever!

Sport

Girls' hockey has continued to reach the highest standards again this year. At present the 1st XI have secured the Island Schools League and have a 100% record on and off Island. The U15XI, U14XI and the U13XI are all also the Island Schools League Champions! Our U12s were runners up in their tournament. Particular mention should go to Sosie Cox who was declared Player of the U13 Tournament. We were thrilled that Louise Corkill got through to the last 75 in the England U18 trials. Louise, Poppy Walker and Emma Killip all represented the IOM U21s with Louise and Poppy being selected to train for the North West U21s. Lauren Finch has also been playing for the North West U16 team in the UK. Boys' sport at KWC continues to flourish with some excellent performances. The 1st XV have had a more successful season this year, winning the local derby against Castle Rushen High School and scoring victories over Abbotsholme, Queen Ethelburga's, St David's, St Bees and Rossall. The lower school has fought hard against all the other Island school with some great victories along the way throughout all the year groups. The U13s had a successful tour away to Llandudno and the U14s look forward to their trip away in Liverpool. The Basketball season has just started and the boys have been holding their own against the Island schools with the Junior Basketball team having made it into the semi final of the league cup at the time of writing. It has also been the cross country season and our pupils have been battling the elements at times. Of particular note is Adam Colley in the Lower 4 who has broken the junior boys' cross country record and is the first boy to run the junior course in under 13 minutes. 12 minutes 55 seconds is the new record.

Top of the Bench

Last weekend we hosted the Isle of Man heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Top of the Bench" competition and I'm very pleased and proud to report that our team of William Tipper, Melissa Biggart, Peter Currie and Harriet Nuttall did us proud; although they just missed first place by a whisker, the prizes for best individual performances went to William and Harriet. This is a new event and was enjoyed by all who took part.

Young Writers' Competition

We were delighted in early November to find out that a poem submitted by school which had been written by one of our Sixth Form pupils, Eleanor Leece Drinkwater, was chosen out of literally thousands from throughout the UK and overseas for publication in a regional anthology. The work was selected for publication on the basis of creativity, imagination, perception and expression and a copy of the anthology will be kept at the British Library and further libraries across the country. Our Head of English, Mr Morris informs me that we will also get a copy here in school!

Number Day

Following last year's successful event, the Maths Department has decided to take part in another NSPCC Number Day in January for students in the Fourth Form during lesson time. The NSPCC organises a Number Day each year to make Maths fun and to raise funds to support its Childline services and Child's Voice appeal. This will be an enjoyable way for students to engage with the subject following the exams. Students will be given sponsorship forms, and we invite you to make a donation to this worthwhile cause. There is no obligation to do so, however, and all the students in the Fourth Form will take part in these worthwhile activities.

Pupil Appearance

The majority of our pupils are well turned out: they are neat and tidy and adhere to the school rules on uniform and appearance. However, there is a handful of pupils who are quite the opposite and it is only fair to warn parents that those pupils who persistently flout the school rules in this respect will be sent home until such time as they do conform.

****Hot off the Press****

I have just found out that our Cross country teams have triumphed this afternoon in the Inter Schools competition – our teams won the Junior and Intermediate Girls' Competitions and our Lower 4 Boys won theirs. Well done to all.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!
Yours sincerely,



School Colours Autumn 2009

Full Colours

Sport

Bradley Bolus – Rugby
Anna Bowen Hockey
Louise Corkill Re Award Hockey
Jonathan Dixon – Rugby
Patrick Evans – Rugby
Emma Killip – Hockey
Katarina Kinrade - Hockey
Felicity Linehan - Hockey
Aiden O'Shea – Rugby
Lea Pollert - Hockey
Amelia Quinn - Hockey
Ben Sharples – Rugby
Poppy Walker - Hockey
Guy Wood - Rugby

Half Colours

Sport

Jake Alsop – Rugby
Hugh Berry – Rugby
Caitriona Cox – Hockey
William Ennett – Rugby
Lauren Finch – Hockey
Sam Games – Rugby
Philip Kearney – Rugby
Cameron Lee – Cross Country
Oliver Lockley – Cross Country
Adam Nash – Rugby
Alex Sharpe – Rugby

Intermediate Colours

Murray Acheson – Re award Rugby
Voirrey Acheson – Re award Hockey
Alice Ashe – Cross Country
Laura Atkinson – Cross Country & Re award Hockey
Jack Berry – Rugby
Oliver Bowles – Rugby
Ryan Dentith – Rugby

Liam Finch – Rugby

Arts

Callum Finch - Music
Poppy Westerman - Music
Keira Woodward - Music

Arts

Alex Beadle - Art
Olivia Christian - Art
Graiagh Cordwell - Music
Cameron Lee - Art
Felicity Linehan - Art
Giverny McAndry – Art & Music
Harriet Nuttall - Art
Ross Penrose – Music
Bryony Scott - Art
Lucy Slater - Art
Keira Woodward - Art

Junior Colours

James Allen – Music
Eve Aycock - Hockey
Caleb Bester – Re award Music
Morven Brown - Music
Chris Chan - Music
Marcus Clague – Cross country
Adam Colley – Cross country

Abby Cooper - Hockey

Hannah Howitt – Cross Country & Re award Hockey
Kunal Patel – Rugby
Emma Wilcox – Hockey

Sosie Cox – Re award Hockey
Ruth Hurst – Hockey
Sarah Oatts - Hockey
Wallis Rodd – Hockey
Hannah Sheward - Hockey
Fay Wilcox - Hockey
Florrie Wood - Music