

From: Dr Sarah J Welch
Principal

Castletown • Isle of Man • IM9 1TP
Tel: +44 (0)1624 820428 • Fax: +44 (0)1624 820401
Email: principal@kwc.sch.im
Web: www.kwc.im

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Dear Parents

It was good to see so many of you at Founder's Day celebrating the achievements of our pupils and showing your support for the College. The May Ball that evening was a great success, and I am most grateful to the Friends of KWC for organising the event.

I spoke at Founder's Day about the importance of reflection, and as we approach the summer holidays, it is an appropriate time to reflect on my first year as Principal of King William's.

Reading your children's end of term reports, I am impressed by how much they have achieved this year and hope that they will think carefully about the advice their teachers have given them. There is plenty in those reports about all they contribute to the wider life of the College, too, through sport, performing arts, leadership and service. I have found getting to know the pupils most enjoyable. I think I know all the faces now, even if names at times elude me! I am pleased to have had the chance to discuss pupils' work when they come to me for commendations and to give some of them a pat on the back by inviting them to tea in my study. They are always interesting to talk to and most of them have a great sense of fun as well as an impressive work ethic. We are looking forward to the IB and GCSE results this summer, trusting that they will reflect the high standards that we as teachers have set them and to which the pupils themselves have aspired.

At Founder's Day, I also paid tribute to those teachers who are leaving at the end of term and who have made such a positive impact on the College. You will be pleased to know that our staffing for the new academic year is in place, with a number of well-qualified and highly recommended teachers starting in September. We look forward to all that they will contribute when they join us.

We recognise the importance of building good relationships among pupils, staff and parents, and I would like to thank you for your support this year. Many of you completed a questionnaire in the Autumn that has already helped us to address some areas of concern. I am always happy to speak to individual parents about ways we can enhance the education we provide and have found such meetings over the course of the year most constructive. I hope you are finding that the College is communicating with you more effectively by means of e1, GroupCall, email correspondence and the website, but please let us know what we could be doing better.

Since we are keen that your children get the most out of their time with us, development of both the academic curriculum and of our facilities is top of our agenda. In the coming year, we will be launching an Academic Enrichment initiative to help all pupils reach their full potential. Work is underway on the first phase of the Performing Arts Centre—the Music School refurbishment—and we hope to see rapid progress of that project. Over the summer, we will be undertaking further maintenance work to improve our existing facilities.

While there will be plenty going on here over the holidays, I hope you and your children find time to relax and to reflect. As I said to pupils in Chapel recently, we would all do well to consider the advice of James Levin, "Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action."

I wish you all a very good summer.

Yours sincerely

