

From: Miss R J Corlett
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July 2010

Dear Parents

Where has the summer term gone? It has flown by in a blur of hard work, examinations and plenty of sun filled days on the sports field! This term, as always, has been dominated by external exams. Despite a late start to the term for some, on account of the volcanic ash cloud crippling UK airspace, the 3 weeks of IB exams went very smoothly. It is hard to believe that the results for those exams are imminent – they are available on 6th July. This means that the majority, if not all, of the U6 will be able to relax over the summer, without the spectre of results looming over them. I can now safely say that the GCSE exams all ran very smoothly as well, with the very last one currently underway as I am writing this paragraph in fact! The results for these exams will be published on 24 August – unusually, this is a Tuesday. Pupils in the U5 will be able to call in at school between 10.00am and 12.00noon on that day to collect their results from the Scholl Library if they so wish, but it should be noted that this must be done in person or by a parent. We do not divulge individual results to friends or other interested parties! Any pupils in M5 who would like to collect their results are asked to wait until 11.00am on 24 August – again, this is in the Scholl Library. Any results slips not collected that day will be posted to home addresses. On both of these occasions, key members of staff are here on site and available to help, answer queries, give advice etc.

Drama

One of those rare events happened towards the end of term – a Common Room play. This was very well received by audiences over two nights and I do hope they felt well entertained by members of the teaching staff in very different roles to the ones that most pupils and parents are accustomed to seeing them in! Although the term has been exceptionally busy, with time at a premium, we all had fun putting ourselves on the other side of the fence in order to entertain the troops. Rehearsals were notable for their laughter – oh, and the impossible task of getting the whole cast together in the same place at the same time to rehearse. The day of the first performance was in fact the first time that we met as a complete cast, which I hope was not too obvious to our audiences. We performed a short play, “Artistic Licence” written especially for the Common Room with bespoke individual parts.

The final few days of term saw a Junior Production – “The Vackees” – regrettably, I wasn’t able to attend this owing to a prior commitment in the Far East with our hockey teams, but I am looking forward to hearing all about it when I return.

Music

Our musicians have continued to delight us this term. The Summer Serenade concert was held in Big School to a capacity audience at the end of the first half of term. This is always a popular and thoroughly entertaining evening and this year was no exception. It is always good to see the orchestra in action on Founder’s Day – I was particularly struck this year by the age range involved – entertaining the large audience and setting the mood for a celebratory, grand occasion.

Sport

Cricket at College has flourished this summer with all teams doing exceptionally well. We have dominated cricket against all the other Island schools, only losing 2 games across all the year groups. We have a current win rate of 80% - quite an achievement!

The girls have again competed very well in their Rounders fixtures this term. Notable performances have been in the Intermediate age group where both A teams of the U14s and U15s have been unbeaten in their league fixtures. They were able to maintain this outstanding result in the Interschools tournament also where they won all three trophies convincingly, not dropping a point all day. The following girls all represented the

Island recently against the All England Rounders teams which visited the Isle of Man; Voirrey Acheson (Captain), Laura Atkinson, Rebecca Cooper, Alice Ashe, Megan Loveridge and Lily Westerman.

The annual Derbyhaven Bay Swim took place in superb sunny conditions with what could be a record entry of 37 swimmers. Despite the bright sunshine, a stiff breeze whipped up over the bay and although the spectators on the beach were oblivious to it, the swimmers had to compete in difficult and challenging conditions. Girls were particularly well represented and the top 5 places all went to girls. Hannah Howitt secured what I suspect will be her first of several wins in a very respectable time of 13 minutes and 43 seconds, just under a minute outside the girls' fastest time set in 1994. The outright record for the swim of 11 minutes 10 seconds was set in 1983 by Simon Crookall. This is a wonderful, unique annual event which involves the whole school and we are grateful not only to our own staff who play their part but also to the wider College family and friends who help out and without whom it would be very difficult, or quite probably impossible, to hold.

Towards the end of the term, a series of 'Higher Education Sessions' have been laid on for the Lower 6. This is now a regular feature of the school year and includes presentations by Andrea Bourne of the University of York and Dr Melanie Taylor, Admissions tutor, Corpus Christi, Cambridge. The entire year group visit the Higher Education Fair in Douglas and finally they follow a day long programme here at school during which they complete their UCAS online registration, carry out individual research on university courses and also work on a first draft of their Personal Statement.

At the time of writing, we are all looking forward to the final Monday of term – the CCF will have gone on their annual camps in Scotland by then, but for those of us remaining, Albert Hay, Head of History, has organised a Medieval Day! Pupils will be firing muskets, reading Chaucer, taking part in medieval scientific experiments, making shields – and having a medieval feast at lunchtime! Brilliant!

At the start of the summer break we have a number of trips heading out from school. Members of the 4th Form are flying out to north eastern Spain on a Watersports trip which will undoubtedly be action packed and thoroughly enjoyable. Meanwhile, as referred to earlier in this letter, we have two girls' hockey teams heading off to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia where they have a full itinerary of matches and sightseeing planned. Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold expeditions will also be taking place off Island in July.

I am delighted to announce the following appointments for this coming academic year: Head of School is Ben Hellowell, Head Girl is Jessica Andrews and they will be assisted by Lea Pollert, Peter Bates and Vanessa Simpson as Praepositors. They promise to be a very strong team.

We have a number of staff leaving us this term and as I spoke about each of them at Founder's Day, I am not going to repeat myself in this letter. However, I was embarrassed to realise that I had made one very careless omission! Tim Gandy stepped in as a temporary teacher of Design Technology in September. He stayed longer than we had ever anticipated and as a resident in the building has really established himself in that short time as a member of our school 'family'. We will all miss Tim and wish him every success in the future.

I can now confirm that staff joining us in September are:

Jessica Kaye – Housemistress of School House, joins us from Haileybury, a historian, and is bringing considerable experience and scholarship to the post.

Richard Parry – Teacher of Design Technology, joins us from Chigwell School, Essex, having converted to teaching following a first career in creative communications industries.

Esther Drane – Teacher of Modern Languages [French & Spanish], joins us from Savio Salesian College, Merseyside, and will also become a resident tutor in School House.

John Wright – Director of Music, joins us from Cathedral Choir School, Yorkshire where he is currently Director of Music, and brings considerable experience to the post.

Dominic Winrow – Teacher of Boys' PE & Games, joins us after completion of his PGCE in Liverpool.

And finally.....as I said in my address on Founder's Day, it has been an extraordinary year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils and parents for the support and kind wishes that I have personally received. Thank you.

Have a wonderful summer!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhona Collett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

SCHOOL COLOURS AWARDED – SUMMER 2010

Sport

Full

Zaeem Jafri - Cricket
Richard Sissons – Cricket

Half

Guy Wood - Cricket

Intermediate

Murray Acheson – Cricket
Sebastian Aycock – Cricket
Matthew Lamb – Cricket
Nick White - Cricket
Voirrey Acheson – Rounders
Laura Atkinson - Rounders
Rebecca Cooper - Rounders
Georgie Everest - Rounders
Hannah Howitt - Rounders
Emma Wilcox - Rounders
Sophie Hall - Rounders
Alice Ashe - Rounders
Megan Loveridge - Rounders
Lily Westerman – Rounders
Oliver Bowles – Athletics
Ryan Dentith – Athletics
Megan Sheward – Swimming
Elizabeth Wilson – Swimming

Junior

Andrew Vels – Cricket
Tom Gerrard - Cricket
Marcus Clague – Cricket
George Blackwell – Cricket
William Broadhead - Cricket
Breeshey Cain - Rounders
Ellie Schofield - Rounders &
Athletics
Wallis Rodd- Rounders
James Kelly – Athletics
Marcus Clague – Athletics
Adam Colley – Athletics
Joseph Bowes - Athletics

Music

Half

Laura Brindley

Intermediate

Jenna Woodward
Thomas Coates
Jonathan Chan

Art

Half

Graihagh Cordwell
Emily Platten
Georgia Leece-Drinkwater

Intermediate

Francesca Hedley

Drama

Half

Elizabeth Coase
Eleanor Barrett
Thomas Fayle