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HEADMASTER'S NOTES

I am so pleased to be writing to you all this week following a number of wonderful trips for our boys in Years 4, 5 and 6. Year 4 went to Kew Gardens (pictured), one of the world's great botanical treasure troves, whilst Years 5 and 6 explored human development from the Stone Age, through the Iron Age, the Roman Conquest and up to the arrival of the Normans at Butser Farm (pictured). Experiential learning in these environments remains a vital (in both senses of the word) part of life at Willington and I know that the boys will have benefited enormously from these trips. Speaking of Year 4, I am delighted to congratulate four boys in that year group who have been selected for the Surrey Under 9 Cricket Squad. Our quartet of county boys pictured here are Isaac Robinson, Freddie Johnson, Roshan Ramaiya and Harry Hammond; very well done, boys! We are very proud of you. Speaking of pride, it is with an abundance of such that I speak of the Choristers who sang Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Church, Augustus Road yesterday (pictured). Their rendition of And the Glory of the Lord from Handel's Messiah was sublime. Mr Inglis-Kidger continues to lead the Choristers to greater and greater heights and I feel compelled to urge you to come and hear these marvellous boys perform. The perfect opportunity for this will be at our Annual Gala Concert on Wednesday 28th June, commencing at 7:30pm and also being held at St. Paul's Church. This is the high point of the Arts Festival we hold every year. Finally,



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to round off our congratulations, we must say an enormous "well done" to Finn Kearns (who sang at Evensong yesterday) on his superb accomplishment of achieving an Academic Scholarship to King's College School, Wimbledon for next year. We are delighted for Finn and we wish him every success.



Following my words last week about the power of your positive comments on social media, it has been a wonderful week for hearing about a veritable avalanche of goodwill that has been circulating. I must say a huge thank you once more to the many, many parents who offer such kind words in support of Willington when asked about advice on schools for a boy in this area. As ever, I believe your sons are the best advertisement for the school, but the power of your support in advocating Willington to prospective parents is invaluable. Having met parents this week who come to us either through recommendations from work colleagues or clients and the like, I must say there is a great groundswell of positive opinion out there and, on behalf of the school, I thank you.

Having thanked parents en masse, I must now conclude this week's piece by offering my

deepest thanks from the School to a former Willington parent, who has been attached to us now since 2002. I speak, of course, of our Chair of Governors, Di Griffin. Di has decided to step down

as Chair at the end of this academic year and the mantle is being taken up by Rob Stewart, our current Vice-Chair. Di brought her eldest son Jack to Willington as a Reception Class pupil and he was followed by his brother Felix. Jack went on to be Head Boy and he and Felix both eventually went on to Epsom College. Di was one of the founding mothers of POW and has served on the Board of Governors for 12 years; a considerable proportion of that time as Vice-Chair and now as Chair. We shall undoubtedly miss her insight and her resolute determination to guard all that is good about Willington, as well as being instrumental in supporting the development work we have undertaken in recent years. I should like to thank her publically for the support she has given to me during our time working together, which has been invaluable. She takes her formidable skillset to work as a member of a newly formed NHS scrutiny panel, which makes use of her background in healthcare and governance oversight. We wish her every success and happiness for the future and thank her for her dedicated service to the Willington family.





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