



## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Welcome to the gateway to another weekend, as I write to you, once again, following our return from the Half Term break. I hope your holiday time together was most enjoyable. As I write to you this week, the sounds of the school play rehearsal in the Main Hall are drifting into my Study and the ebullient energy of our wonderful boys rings out as they sing with all their might. Of course, whilst the cherishing of artistic endeavours such as these is part and parcel of the life of our marvellous school, spare a thought for those schools being reported in the press throughout the week who are facing stringent cuts and for whom such activities will clearly not fit the new funding structures. I hear reports on Radio 4 of schools having to run a shorter day, dismiss staff or, in some way, shape or form, be less than they are in order to operate in the state sector. Even here in Merton we hear of the challenges facing schools in areas such as ours and I feel so fortunate to be where I am. For just as we reach the culmination of the production cycle with the four performances next week (have you booked your tickets yet?), already the planning for our Annual Arts Festival is being shown to me and, once again, it will be a glorious event in our yearly range of activities.

However, before we get too far down the line of looking to future events, let me bring to your attention several exciting key events to look forward to attending or hearing about from your sons. Firstly, we build up to National Science week from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March with some precursor activities in this week to come. As ever, visiting speakers and a range of scientific events will be engaging the boys with wonders of the scientific world. We all know about World Book Day coming up on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, when we shall, I am sure, be inundated with boys in costumes representing their favourite literary characters. This comes in advance of our annual visit from the Travelling Book Fair, which will be with us for a week from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, giving the boys the opportunity to find something new to read and enjoy. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our Open Evening and Scholarship Showcase for existing Willington parents on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March ahead of our Open Morning for prospective parents on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. As well as the chance to see our new classrooms, there will also be the opportunity to see some of the work completed in our highly successful programme to support boys applying for 13+ Scholarships. There will also be a chance to see what our Oates Scholars have been doing of late and to hear about exciting plans for a Leadership initiative for the boys, as well as an update on our building programme.

Having mentioned our Oates Scholars a moment ago, you can see here photos of them in a Shakespeare workshop that took place yesterday. Run by the Globe Theatre Outreach Project, the workshop explored the key themes of the 'Scottish Play' and delved into the mind and motivations of Macbeth himself. The boys greatly enjoyed the practical nature of the workshop and did a fantastic job of reciting and role-playing some of the pivotal scenes and dialogue from the play. Next week, Mr Currie leads Year 4 on a visit to Bletchley Park, home of our code-breaking centre in World War Two, where the world's first modern computer was built.

I hope you have a marvellous weekend together and I look forward to encountering you at the school play next week.



Reception W's Puppet Show



Year 6 Arrive Alive Workshop



Broccoli for dinner after Gardening Club



**AFTER SCHOOL EVENT FIXTURE AMENDMENT****WEEK EIGHT****Monday 27th February**

8.40am Assembly : Hymn Practice  
 9.30am Whole School Science Workshops with Dr. Jasmine  
**2.00pm Years 1 & 2 Finton House Cross Country**

**Tuesday 28th February****8.40am Assembly : Class 6F**

**11.15am U7 A-G v Wimbledon Common Prep (Home)**  
 POW Pancake Lunch

**4.00-6.00pm Dress & Tech Rehearsal 2 Dream On!****4.00pm-5.00pm SRE Talk for Parents****5.30pm Finance Committee Meeting****Wednesday 1st March**

8.40am Form Time

10.30am Dream On! School Performance (Junior Boys)

**2.00pm Years 5-8 Epsom Cross Country (Selected Boys Only)**

2.50pm Junior Assembly

**Thursday 2nd March WORLD BOOK DAY**

8.40am Assembly : World Book Day

8.40am Year 6 Mindfulness with Alpa Joshi

**9.00am Year 4 Trip to Bletchley Park****7.30pm Dream On! Parents' Performance****Friday 3rd March**

8.40am Assembly : Ruth Henson

8.45am-12.30pm Reception Forest School

10.30am Dream On! School Performance (Senior Boys)

**7.30pm Dream On! Parents' Performance****WEEK NINE****SCIENCE WEEK****Monday 6th March**

8.40am Assembly : Science Week

3.45pm Reception to Year 3 Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 7th March**

8.40am Assembly : Michael Chanter/News &amp; Achievements

9.00am Year 7 Trip to London Zoo

1.15pm Health &amp; Safety Committee Meeting

**2.30pm U8 A-C v Finton House (Home)****4.15pm Voice Recital, Main Hall****Wednesday 8th March BOOK FAIR ARRIVES**

8.40am Form Time

**11.15am U8 A&B Willington Tag Tournament (Drax)**

2.50pm Junior Assembly

3.45pm Reception to Year 3 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 9th March**

8.40am Assembly : Hymn Practice

8.40am Year 6 Mindfulness with Alpa Joshi

9.30am Year 6 Trip to Science Museum

**2.00pm Yrs 3-5 Finton Hse X Country (Selected Boys Only)****6.30pm Scholarship Showcase Evening****Friday 10th March**

8.40am Assembly : Ruth Henson

8.45am-12.30pm Reception Forest School

**4.00pm POW Film Night (Reception to Year 3 + Siblings)****Sunday 12th March**

**Years 6-8 IAPS Cross Country Championships, Malvern College**  
**(Selected Boys Only)**

**READING CERTIFICATES**

William Kane (7C) Gold

Lukas Garnett (5J) Bronze

**MUSICIANS OF THE WEEK****Junior Music** James Millard (2S)

Kai Gee Kee (3L) Freddie Johnson (4S)

Dougie Wadie (5C) Max Behnert (6F)

Mattia Berchicci (7P) Sami Khan (8G)

**Orchestra** Forbes Brickwood (7P)**Hawk Choir** Nico Di Filippo (5J)**Choristers** Leo Fong (6F) and Charlie Higginson (6F)**Hymn Singer** John Higginson (3L)**Sparrows Choir** George Whittaker (1B)**BADGES OF THE WEEK****Fab Friend:** Sam Greetham (7C)**Superstar:** Geno Bonning-Pitorri (6F)**What Would We Do Without You:** Ned Walton (7C)**MRS. HOPPE'S YEAR 4 MATHS STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Leo Bruce (4S)

**HOUSE POINT BADGES**

Harry Overend (5J) Lancelot 875

Leo Stefanovski (5J) Excalibur 875

Harry Overend (5J) Lancelot 750

George Willis (5C) Excalibur 750

George Willis (5C) Excalibur 625

Adam El-Hady (5J) Merlin 500

Sam Redwood (5J) Galahad 500

Joe Burrows (5J) Galahad 375

Nico Di Filippo (5J) Galahad 375

Nihaal Saraon (5J) Lancelot 250

Jack Chandler (4T) Merlin 250

Leo Hansen-Damm (4S) Galahad 250

Rafi Nicolaides (4S) Galahad 250

Samuel Winson (4T) Lancelot 250

James Roberts (4S) Merlin 125

**RUGBY PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

Connor Croudace (6S) Callum Hunter (6S) Joshua Vergunst (6S)

Joe Baillache (5C) Michael Carroll (5C) David Hemphill (5C)

Eason Ha (4T) Reuben Parish (4T)

James Millard (2S) Raphael Othoro (2S)

**WEEK 7****JUNIOR****HOUSE****POINTS**

2nd Excalibur

3rd Galahad

1st Lancelot

4th Merlin

**JUNIOR****OVERALL****HOUSE****TOTAL**

1st Excalibur

4th Galahad

2nd Lancelot

3rd Merlin

**WEEK 7****SENIOR****HOUSE****POINTS**

2nd Excalibur

4th Galahad

3rd Lancelot

1st Merlin

**SENIOR****OVERALL****HOUSE****TOTAL**

1st Excalibur

4th Galahad

3rd Lancelot

2nd Merlin