



## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Disappointment abounds as we watch the weather, cruel mistress of outdoor activities, cut down our plans for the much anticipated Parents' Football Tournament more savagely than the recipient of a sliding tackle from defender supreme Norman "Bite Yer Legs" Hunter. Fortunately, we have only postponed this glorious festival of football and so Sports Day will be an event of epic proportions this year. I trust that the additional time to train will only add to the spectacle we hope to enjoy. My thanks to the POW Team and to Mr Tattersall for their excellent work in ensuring that arrangements were swiftly put in place to take care of everything and I hope you were able to enjoy the impromptu Cake Sale that took place today!

With adaptation having featured here, I must say how lovely it was to attend the first of a new format of Music Department performances this week. The new Musical Performance Series offers an opportunity to hear an array of instruments from across the orchestral family and I hope you might take the opportunity to join us for next week's performance on Tuesday after school. A shorter event than our full concert programme, this is a delightful way to hear a sample of the talent that our musicians have to offer. My thanks go to Mr Parker for introducing this new format, which we shall review following this trial period during the Summer Term. Also, next week we welcome the Self-Esteem Team Charity, who are providing a talk for parents on Monday evening, starting at 6:30pm. With the increasing focus on Mindfulness, Self-Esteem and Wellbeing, alongside good mental health, this offers an excellent opportunity for you to hear a little about the work being done in School, as well as ask any questions you may have about how to support your son in an increasingly pressurised world.

From the pressure of modern life, I turn to the pressure of competition, as we await with eager anticipation the Inter-House Cricket, which takes place next week. Year 3 open the batting (so to speak) on Wednesday, whilst Years 4 to 8 conclude matters on Friday in our traditional conclusion leading up to Half Term. Galahad and Lancelot shared the honours last year; can one of them wrest it fully into their grasp this year or will Merlin or Excalibur snatch it away? I do hope you will be able to come and see this hotly fought contest play out next week.

I conclude this week by reflecting on the General Election Campaign. We have seen the educational programmes set out in manifestos this week. These come against a backdrop of claims of huge cuts, a Governors' strike in West Sussex (not where one might assume one would find a hotbed of radicalism!), an enraged Jamie Oliver debating free school meals, arguments over how many teachers are leaving (or not) the teaching profession, and whether or not plans to scrap university tuition fees, limiting class sizes and increasing funding for Sure Start Centres are affordable under Labour Party taxation plans. My head is spinning almost as fast as the political football that is our national debate on education and I give thanks once again for the independence and freedom we enjoy as an independent school. I hope we start to see a little more light and a little less heat being generated as election day draws nigh. However, after yesterday's Leaders' Debate (missing two rather important leaders), I fear we shall continue to see more heat than light being generated. I wish you all a peaceful weekend.



Our young gardeners proudly showing off their produce, Reception boys enjoying a story being read to them by two of our Year 8 boys and Year 1 out and about at Brooklands Museum (above) and at Morden Hall Park (below).





**AFTER SCHOOL EVENT FIXTURE AMENDMENT****WEEK SIX****Monday 22nd May**

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

**Oates Scholars' Trip Design Museum****6.30pm Self Esteem Team Talk for Parents****Tuesday 23rd May**

8.40am Assembly : Peter Bines, Summerstown Church

**2.30pm U10 A/B/C v Homefield (Away)****2.30pm U9 A&B v Priory (Away)****2.30pm U8 A/B/C v Priory (Home)****4.30pm Musical Performance Series****7.30pm Festival Chorus Rehearsal****Wednesday 24th May**

8.40am NSPCC Thank You Assembly

**11.30am Cricket House Matches (Year 3)****2.30pm 1st XI v Priory (Away)****2.30pm U11 A&B v Priory (Home)****2.30pm U11 C&D v Priory (Away)**

2.50pm Junior Assembly (Reception-Year 2)

**Thursday 25th May**

8.40am Assembly : Hymn Practice

2.50pm Year 3 Production

**Friday 26th May**

8.40am Assembly : Ruth Henson

**12.00pm Cricket House Matches Years 4-6 at Goals****12.00pm Cricket House Matches Years 7 & 8 at Drax**

2.00pm Year 2 Polka Road Safety

**Normal Collection Time/Half Term starts (Reception-Year 2)****4.00pm Half Term starts (Years 3-8)****HOUSE POINT BADGES**

Sam Gale (6S) Lancelot 1,125

Jazib Ahmad (7C) Excalibur 875

Logan Herries (6S) Galahad 875

Jack Chandler (4T) Merlin 375

Leo Hansen-Damm (4S) Galahad 375

Rafi Nicolaides (4S) Galahad 375

Reuben Parish (4T) Galahad 375

William Kane (7C) Merlin 250

**HANDWRITING GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Joshua Mountain (2W)

**UK MATHS CHALLENGE****SILVER AWARD** Finn Kearns (8S)**MRS. HOPPE'S Y4 MATHS STUDENT OF WEEK**

Daniel Clatworthy (4T)

**SCIENCE CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Finn Kearns (8S)

Shatansu Samal (6S)

**MUSICIANS OF THE WEEK****Junior Music** Leo Hewitt (2W)

Matthew Redwood (3H) Leo Hansen-Damm (4S)

Leo Stefanovski (5J) Jacob Potter (6F)

Jazib Ahmad (7C) Kohtaro Harada (8S)

**Orchestra** George Johnson (5C)**Hawk Choir** Matthew Rhee (5C)**Chorister** Jacob Potter (6F)**Hymn Singer** Callum Campbell (5J)**Sparrow** James Millard (2S)**BADGES OF THE WEEK****SENIORS****Fab Friend** Daniyal Coles (7C)**WWWDWY** Sam Goodhind (8S)**WWWDWY** Adam El-Hady (5J)**JUNIORS****Superstars** Class 2S for their Assembly**Fab Friend** Harry Mortimer (1F)**Star of the Week** Jack Perry (1F)**Star of the Week** George Whittaker (1B)**WWWDWY** Joe Griggs (1B)**WWWDWY** Adam Sugihara (RS)**CRICKETERS OF THE WEEK**

Jacob Potter (6F) Reuben Parish (4T) Ravi Vohora-Loyns (4S)

**SELF-ESTEEM TEAM PARENT TALK**

Please join us for the Self-Esteem Team Parent Talk on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6.30pm in the Main Hall. Refreshments and crèche facilities will be available. For further details, please see the email sent on Thursday 18th May.

**MUSIC AWARDS**

Raif Dunt (3L) Acoustic Guitar Grade 1 Merit

Dylan Jackson (3H) Acoustic Guitar

Preliminary Grade Merit

Arun Swales (3H) Acoustic Guitar

Initial Stage Distinction

**WEEK 5  
JUNIOR  
HOUSE  
POINTS**

2nd Excalibur

4th Galahad

1st Lancelot

3rd Merlin

**JUNIOR  
OVERALL  
HOUSE  
TOTAL**

1st Excalibur

3rd Galahad

2nd Lancelot

3rd Merlin

**WEEK 5  
SENIOR  
HOUSE  
POINTS**

1st Excalibur

4th Galahad

3rd Lancelot

2nd Merlin

**SENIOR  
OVERALL  
HOUSE  
TOTAL**

2nd Excalibur

4th Galahad

3rd Lancelot

1st Merlin