

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



WEEK 5, 4TH OCTOBER, 2024

Dear Parents

A very busy week draws to a close with the sun deciding to make an appearance, which was very welcome as I found myself standing on the touchline for the U9 girls' hockey fixtures against Gresham's this afternoon. With some tremendous hockey on display from both schools and all the players across the matches, a theme that has resonated with me this week has been that of performance. It was wonderful to see all of the girls playing superbly and to witness first-hand our U9A girls team in their first fixture of the season pulling off a strong performance to win 3-0; but for me, a strong performance is about so much more than the winning. For me the true 'win' lies in the journey – the teaching, learning, opportunities and relationships that have enabled the performance. This is evident across all of our teams, young and older, and does not simply exist on the sports field.

I have greatly enjoyed the feast of performances that we have been treated to in the Read Hall this week. 4A successfully kicked off the class assemblies schedule for the year with a fascinating insight into their current topic; 'Swords and Sandals'. To put on an assembly so early in the new academic year showed real confidence and I cannot wait to see more class assemblies in the year ahead. We were also treated to a creative 'double-header' on Thursday evening as we not only had an incredible Year 5 Concert but also an Evening of Poetry and Music. There were undoubtedly some brilliant stand-out performances from young musicians, writers and performers who are very much at the top of their game; however, it was equally pleasing to see the 'win' that comes from someone showing bravery to perform in front of an audience for the first time or stepping out of their comfort zone, stretching and challenging themselves to put their best foot forward. This is not easy; it takes guts and determination, but it also helps when there is a smiling audience and supportive team around you willing you to perform at your best- a safety net of sorts.

It is this safety net that we look to ensure is in place so that whilst our pupils are far from wrapped up in cotton wool, they feel comfortable to take well-judged risks knowing that being brave can unlock new opportunities to grow. On the note of safety nets, I want to say thank you to all who attended the Childnet session this week and I hope that it gave you food for thought on how to help your children navigate the online world in a positive and balanced way. For those unable to attend, the link to the recording can be found in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to reflect on the performance that has truly stood out for me this week, which has been the interviews that I have been conducting with Year 8 pupils who have put themselves forward to be Prefects. These pupils have often been at the school for some time (many for the best part of ten years), and whilst they all demonstrated that they were incredible individuals with their personal experiences and 'wins' over their time at the School; the universal theme from all of them was how proud they are to be part of 'Team Town Close' and just how much they want to give back in their final year with us. Well done to all and I look forward to announcing our Prefects in the Headmaster's Assembly next Friday.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the pupils next week.

