

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 7, 18TH OCTOBER, 2024



Dear Parents

I write to you today with a group of pupils stood outside my study giggling as I type. Unfortunately, it is not due to my witty intellect or a well-timed punchline, but because it is apparently hard to take someone seriously if they are decked out in a shiny multicoloured shell suit even if they are clearly doing important Headmaster-ish duties – something I will note for future non-uniform days. It was lovely to see the Whole School together for our assembly today in their non-uniform outfits in aid of our new school charity Able2B – thank you to everyone for supporting this with your kind donations and vibrant outfits. It has been a nice way to round-off what has been a busy but brilliant first half term and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone in our wider school community for making my first half term a truly memorable one.

This final week has been just as busy as the rest of them, and within a jam-packed events schedule, there has been a number of tremendous achievements to highlight. At the weekend Our Year 8 F24 Team enjoyed a very successful day at the Greenpower Education Trust International Finals at Goodwood Road & Racing. Competing against 90 international teams from within the 11-16 year old age category, they ranked 21st overall and 5th in Class. A fantastic achievement for a young team who, according to Mr Buck, were a joy to accompany. Well done to Tilly, Eva, George, Ethan, Edward, Hugo and Ruby, and special thanks to the enthusiastic band of parents for all their support over the weekend. Also at the weekend I thoroughly enjoyed cheering on Beau, Percy and Jacob, who clinched victory in the U12 category in the ESSKIA National Final, which took place at the Norfolk Snowsports Club.

On Monday, competing against 16 other schools from across the East of England, our girls progressed to the knockout stages as winners of their group and remained unbeaten until the end of normal time in the Final when only a golden goal in extra time for the opposition split the two teams, with Town Close finishing runners up on the day. With both teams in the Final qualifying for the Nationals, all were in high spirits and deservedly so after a day of impressive hockey when the entire squad played their hearts out! They now have the National Finals at Repton School to look forward to after the half term and wish them the best of luck.



We also enjoyed some fantastic assemblies and events this week including a wonderful assembly by Mrs Beasley on the topic of 'stereotypes' and how not to put people in boxes, which whilst a serious and thought-provoking topic, also provided some levity when one of our Year 8 pupils got temporarily stuck in their box! 4W's assembly continued the historical theme of the two previous Year 4 class assemblies and they treated the audience to not only a huge amount of information about what the Romans did for us, but also managed to incorporate more TV theme tunes and Hi Vis jackets into their assembly than I have ever seen before. I suggested at the end of assembly that we should consider their recipe for Stuffed Dormouse for the lunch menu but this was not met with much enthusiasm, so I think we will stick with roast dinners instead!

We also enjoyed two fantastic literary events with an author visit from the fabulous Dominique Valente, who was promoting her excellent new book 'Witchspark', and a Pre Prep virtual drawing workshop from illustrator Nick Sharratt. Sticking with the literary theme, we also enjoyed marking Harry Potter Book Day; inspired by this year's theme of 'Care of Magical Creatures', Mrs Guymer recreated Hagrid's Hut in the Library and Potion Making at lunchtime was a huge hit, too!

Finally, it was wonderful to be able to catch up with so many Year 8 parents this week at our Parents' Evening and to announce the new Year 8 Prefects who will take on a number of exciting projects focused on Pre Prep, the Year 8 Common Room and a Pupil Podcast.

Depending on your year group you will likely find a number of letters this week detailing important upcoming events or providing information. In the weeks when we return after the half term, I will also be writing to you on a number of matters including the launching of a Breakfast Club, gauging interest for potential minibus routes to school, Parent Forum opportunities, the Town Close Pupil Podcast, extra-curricular dance, School Strategic Priorities and the proposal for a Year 5-8 Ski Trip for the academic year 2025-26, amongst other things.

As we go into the half term break, I hope that the children find the time for some much needed rest and relaxation, but also hopefully the odd adventure.



N A J Tiley-Nunn

