



Dear Parents

Friday 18th June 2021

It has been a week of weather contrasts but conditions have generally been very kind for our Year 8 children enjoying their residential trip to the Lake District. It has been great to see the photos on the @townclosetrips Twitter feed and we have been so pleased to be able to give them this fabulous opportunity after a prolonged prohibition of all residential trips. There is a letter for Year 7 parents this week about arrangements for their children's long-delayed visit to France. Year 8 returned to receive Common Entrance results. The papers were not significantly adjusted to take account of two periods of home learning as other exams have been and Year 8 can be proud to have tried so hard and risen to these challenging assessments so well, despite the limitations of the last year. They should now be extremely well prepared for their GCSE studies as they move to their senior schools next term.



This morning's Headmaster's assembly for Prep children, led by Rayyan, Zach, Osman, Sophia, Maria and Lizzie from Year 7, was about sunshine, both literally what the sun is and metaphorically how we can all bring "sunshine" to those around us. We also enjoyed Sophie's wonderful singing of *Tightrope* from *The Greatest Showman*. 6C led Monday's assembly with impressive presentations about their hobbies, including Dungeons and Dragons, kayaking and climbing. Pre Prep Bird Families discussed celebrating achievements and Mrs Harries' assembly was a belated celebration of World Ocean Day, with the children learning about how to protect oceans and their wildlife. In this morning's regular celebration assembly, amongst our usual range of awards, we gave the new Year 2 Top Birds their badges. It has also been lovely to see Year 2 exploring the Prep Department as they prepare for the transition to KS2 studies from Year 3. 4V led a wonderful Viking assembly for their parents and Year 4 on Wednesday, which challenged our stereotypes through music and poetry.



This week, we have seen joyous rehearsals for the dance and music sections of the Pre Prep Sports Days. I loved singing the *Olympic Blues* with Year 2, for example, and seeing Reception carrying their "flames" outside my study. Timings are all on the Pre Prep curriculum letters and we look forward also to next Friday's Prep event. Spectators will be welcome for each and refreshments will be served, all according to current government guidance, with further detail in letters on the Portal. A letter with the exact arrangements for the Prep Prizegiving on July 9th (Years 3-5 in the morning and Years 6-8 in the afternoon) will be sent next Friday. Following the delay in lifting coronavirus restrictions, we will only be permitted to have a partial audience for this, sadly.



This week, our Year 7 cast members have been busily rehearsing for *Joseph* being performed to a live partial audience on July 1st and 2nd and I heard about more thrilling girls' and boys' cricket fixtures. On Monday, I joined Oak class to make banana bread, which I hope tasted delicious for the parents who tried it. We were generous with the cinnamon! Year 1 children have been busy tasting vegetables grown in school as part of our Royal Society project and Year 2 designed some lovely Japanese information leaflets and created Georgia O'Keefe flowers. Year 5 children were classifying plants in their science lessons, while I joined Year 6 children honing their debating skills in PSHE with Miss Button. Year 7 Mandarin students were writing characters using Chinese calligraphy brushes and there is a letter today for current Year 6 children about their second foreign language choice for next year, which is being expanded to three. Meanwhile the remaining Year 3 classes enjoyed their chocolate tasting as part of their Aztecs studies. Finally, we were delighted Priya and Sophia published their book entitled *Getting a Dog* (Bella is a fan!) and we also thoroughly enjoyed asking Professor Brian Cox a range of questions in his Presentation to schools.



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Skington

