



Dear Parents

Friday 2nd July 2021

Today was the last Headmaster's Assembly of the school year and my final one as Headmaster. A group of Year 8 leavers read a poem about how the summer holidays for all our leavers mark the end of one journey and the beginning of another, illustrating the point with a tug-of-war rope where each end can be thought of as both the beginning and the end. We enjoyed Assadallah's trumpet duet with Mrs Koczur playing *Brasilia* and Edward Brightwell's performance of *Magalovania* on the tuba, congratulated Headmaster's Commendation and House Point winners, wished our U11 boys' Colts A team good luck for their national finals and shared numerous awards. Pre Prep assembly was about the story *The Wrong Rock* where we learnt about difference and cooperating harmoniously. Mrs Lawry led Bird Family meetings where we explored aims for the coming year in our new classes, while assembly this morning saw our usual celebration of birthdays and stars of the week.

This week Year 7&8's performance of *Joseph* delighting pupil audiences on Tuesday and Thursday and played to its first parent audience last night. It was fantastic to share the joy in the children's spirited performance and the resumption of live theatre. Congratulations to the cast and directors for battling adversity to deliver such a great show! Our postponed Prep Sports Day took place and it was lovely to see so many parents supporting despite the cool, damp conditions. The final scores will come once high-jump has been concluded and we are also organising the opportunity for 4J, who have been isolating this week, to compete in events on Tuesday afternoon. We enjoyed three of the four Pre Prep sports days, with our usual mix of differently themed races and relays, as well as singing and dancing choreographed expertly by Miss Skinner and Miss Goddard. We look forward to running the postponed Year 1 event on Tuesday 6th July at 2.15pm (registration from 2.00pm).

This week we enjoyed meeting Year 4 parents and pupils virtually for the induction to Year 5 and Year 2 children and parents in person for their induction to the Prep Department, which included this impressive [information film](#) made by Mrs Reeves and members of our current Year 3. We were sad that the Year 5 Horstead trip had to be postponed to September due to Horstead staff having to isolate. However, this means we can run Moving Up Day for children, where children visit their new class (Year 4 and below) or new tutor (Year 5 and above), on Tuesday, when most of Willow and 4J will have returned. Year 7 children and parents had a virtual meeting with Mr Walker about September's rescheduled French Trip to the Château de la Baudonnière, while seven of our Year 8 F24 Club members look forward to the second race of the season tomorrow at Lotus. We wish them well.

Next week is the final week of the summer term. We have decided not to run swimming galas to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission but look forward to a variety of other events. The Nursery Leavers' Assembly is on Monday in the Read Hall for Nursery parents whose children move to Reception next year. Monday also sees the Flatford Mill trip meeting for Year 7 and their parents via Zoom. Tuesday is the new Moving Up Day for children and Year 1 Sports Day. On Wednesday, we look forward to a whole Prep Department Event, the Better Together Day, which will involve each Prep year having a *Challenge Together*, *Laugh Together*, *Discover Together* and *Be Together* event, with normal timetable suspended. This replaces the traditional Prep Fete, which we still cannot run, and is a **non-uniform day for Prep Children only**. We also look forward to welcoming 4W parents for their assembly. Term ends for Pre Prep children on Thursday and Prep children will have their final assembly together outdoors. Term concludes for Prep children on Friday with the Prizegiving ceremonies I wrote about last week (Years 3-5 morning, Years 6-8 afternoon).

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend

Nick Skington

