

Dear Parents

12th July 2011

What an exceptional Summer Term we have all enjoyed and experienced. All the children deserve praise for their hard work and endeavours and certainly have earned a much deserved holiday.

There is much to highlight in this term's achievements: the Royal Wedding, which already seems a distant memory, gave the beginning of the Summer Term an instant lift and will have given many of the younger children their first insight into the great history and pageantry of our country. Our Sixth Form Year 8 pupils rose to the challenge with their respective Entrance Exams in mind, and I am delighted that they were all successful in gaining places at schools of their first choice. They have enjoyed a varied Leavers' Programme, with visits to a racing stables, walking the 'high ropes' under tree canopies, rocking to 'The Music of Queen' at Eastnor Castle and the many challenges that are an essential ingredient of Leavers' Camp. I know you all join in wishing them great success for their exciting and challenging future, and look forward to learning of their achievements to come.

We said goodbye to Father James in May who returns to Belmont Abbey to run the Education Department. Father Aidan Doyle has already established himself at the heart of the school and we enjoyed a rousing First Communion service for Louis de Rohan, Cole Gallagher and Ben Nelson in June. I hope you will all enjoy getting to know Father Aidan and warmly welcome him into our community.

We also bade a very fond farewell to Stevie Geogeghan and we thank her for her care of your children and musical input into school life. We will miss her greatly. We are welcoming Gwenda Lee as Girls' Matron from September. She is looking forward to being part of St Richard's next term.

Over the year, Forms IV, V and VI have taken part in The Stonemason's Tale, celebrating 1000 years of Herefordshire Cathedral and its community. Co-ordinated by Mr Hugh Farey and Mrs Annie Bull, a series of memorable workshop activities and showcase events were delivered to pupils by specialist artists and tutors. The historical, social and spiritual connections between the Cathedral Close and the people of Hereford have been explored and celebrated throughout the school year. These have ranged from stone-carving and film making through to storytelling and photography, carnival arts, dance, music, drama, history trails, maths projects and so much more. We are proud to have been part of such large and varied community education activities at the Cathedral. I would like to add that Leticia Salcines won the Logo Competition for the Pageant Day and the banners and posters have been displayed around the county all month. Well done Leticia! The Choir, or Medieval Singers (you heard part of their repertoire during Speech Day) has received many compliments from those in the Cathedral during the performances. Our wonderful Herefordshire Bull has survived a few nights alone in the Cathedral, being processed through High Town and travelling to the Bromyard Gala and back, to take pride of place at Prize-Giving!

Activities Day this year was a wonderful bonding day for all the Forms. We were joined by the Pre-Prep for the morning and the children were involved in musical workshops with Drum Crazy and worm charming where the winning team found over eighty worms in total in their 4m² boxes. We were lucky to have Mrs Karen Nielsen in our parent body, who held theatre make-up sessions for each group throughout the day. The children learnt how to create 'gaping' or 'seeping' wounds and fangs. Scavenger hunts, swimming and rounders, together with a super picnic for all, followed by Cheesman Games completed a very enjoyable day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, in every capacity, at St Richard's, for their enduring hard work in providing education, care and support for our pupils.

We ended the term with the annual Poetry Competition where we enjoyed a morning listening to the finalists who recited poems, learnt by heart, and performed to the school. Every pupil in the school learns

a poem of their choice, which is then assessed by Mrs Ros in a series of heats during the last two weeks of term. The range of subjects and delivery was impressive, well done to them all.

We were well supported by our Governors as we celebrated the end of term with you all at Prize-Giving. I am sure you and your children enjoyed hearing Dr David Houston speak about his experiences through life. He told us about providing medical support in all types of scenarios and terrains, especially coping with awful diseases and crocodile bites.

I congratulate those children who won prizes and cups and congratulate all your children as a whole for their endeavour in the classroom this year.

I was delighted to be able to launch the St Richard's 2011 Appeal at Prize-Giving and I hope you all took the opportunity to see Mr Hugh Farey's virtual reality tour in the Front Hall. To complement this, our architect will be finalising the plans and these will be available for everyone to see as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we have created a webpage on our website: www.st-richards.org.uk/appeals.html; visit this link for up-to-date information. Please join the Committee and me in making this ambitious, but achievable, project successful and if you feel able to help in any way, please contact the Appeal's Chairman, Mr Hugh Farey (Boz).

On the sporting field, we were blessed with no rain for the end of term Sports Day, which was organised, as always, with great attention to detail, by Mr Hugh Farey, ably assisted by all the staff. It was wonderful to see the great energy and enthusiasm the children have for the afternoon's events, culminating in the excitement of the House Relay, which is a joy to watch. On this happy note, I wish you all a very restful and, hopefully, warm summer and look forward to welcoming you and your children back on 8th September.

I have pleasure in enclosing Summer Term reports together with the Provisional School Calendar (also on the website) and other forms for completion for the start of next term. The order forms for the whole school photograph are also enclosed.

Yours sincerely



Nathan S Cheesman
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