

27<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Lent Term, I trust you all had a very happy holiday. The children seem to have returned refreshed and we have enjoyed a very busy few weeks since the beginning of term. Our seniors are currently working hard towards their entrance exams; our teams have already played or taken part in eighteen sporting events! I have pleasure in enclosing an updated School Calendar; please do take note of added events, some of which are highlighted in this letter.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children: Blanca Costa Oliden into Form 6; Alexander Whittal into Form 2; his sister Scarlett into PP2 and Charles Maiden into Form 1. I would also like to welcome our new Gaps: Nathan Askey-Doran, Robert Walsh and Claudia Silano-Malouf. We have a comprehensive rota for them to become involved in all aspects of St. Richard's, from the academic and sporting departments to the boarding house. I would like to thank Helen Willis for her guidance in helping them to settle into life at St. Richard's.

**Form Rep Meeting: Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45am.**

The next meeting is on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please do let your Form Rep know if you have any points to raise.

**Open Morning: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am – 12.30pm.**

Just to remind you that we are holding an Open Morning for the Main School, Pre-Prep and Nursery Department, on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February. If you know anyone with young children, please encourage them to come to have a good look around the school and meet some of the pupils and staff.

**Orchestral Concerts: Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1.40pm**

The Informal Concert will be held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 1.40pm in the Front Hall. Please look at the music notice board and the school website nearer the date, to check if your child will be taking part. All parents are very welcome to attend the concert.

**St. Richard's Cross Country: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February/Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February**

The children are training hard for the forthcoming events: St. Richard's Cross Country for local Primary Schools on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, and the local Prep Schools event is on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Bag 2 School**

Once again, this excellent fundraiser has raised £315 for the school. Thank you for your donations and my thanks to Jane Lewis for co-ordinating the scheme.

## Website Survey

Thank you to all of you who responded to the Website Survey last year and for your generous comments. I hope the following addresses the main points raised:

- You will have noticed that there are many **new photos** on the site, including a **slide show** on the Home page. We will endeavour to keep all these topical and up-to-date and we always appreciate any extra photos that you may have to offer; Please send them to the School Office.
- We have changed the News page slightly to have **News in Brief** down the centre – this is where we will mention individual or team successes; longer articles will continue to go ‘behind’ the images on the page. The page might flit around a bit but the trick is to be steady with the mouse; there are ‘instructions’ for use on the page. If anyone continues to encounter problems then please come to the Office for a brief lesson! Again, if you have a newsworthy item to add, please send in a ready-to-print paragraph, preferably with 2 to 3 photos.
- We endeavour to put all **team lists** and **match cancellations** up as soon as possible.
- We have decided that we are not going to put **match results** on the website. Matches are reviewed on an overall basis in the School Magazine at the end of the school year. Anyone particularly wanting to know results should feel free to call the School Office and ask!
- The **School Prospectus** should be available online in the early part of this year.
- The new **Music News page** is a huge success, with Mrs Bull and others writing up all our concerts; practice timetables for the term and music exam results are also available here. Since music lessons change every week it is not practical to put these on the site.

The overall opinion is that the website is working well for all of us but please do continue to let us have your feedback.

## Note from the Matrons

We can report a good start to term; however, there have recently been intermittent cases of a sickness bug so please be responsible and vigilant and if your child does become ill, please keep them at home for a period at least 24 hours after they have recovered.

We also request that if you give your child permission to bring their PSP and hand-held consoles to school, that they have appropriate games to use. Any unsuitable games will be confiscated and not returned.

May we remind you that children are uncomfortable with parents in the boarding area. If you wish to see your child or collect an item from their room, please see the Matrons first.

## Full Boarding Weekend: Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February Form 4, 5 and 6

This term, we are holding a senior weekend which has been extended to include Form 4. Please remember to book your child/children in for what promises to be a fun and action-packed weekend. There will be a charge of £25.

**Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

We are extending the half-term holiday in the Summer Term, to include this important day. All children are expected to return to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. We will be holding our own Diamond Jubilee Celebration on this Wednesday afternoon from 2.00pm, therefore this particular Wednesday will become a normal full-length school day.

With best wishes for a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan S Cheesman

Enc.