

July 2014

Dear Parents

As I write we are in the middle of Explore Week. Pupils are building rafts and trying them out on the lake, taking part in the Happy Puzzles Maths Challenge, learning to play the Harp, exploring "Soul Space", enjoying "Gatton in Art" or "Gatton at War" or even playing Quidditch!

Furthermore Year 10 are having World of Work Week and the Sixth Form are visiting a number of universities following a very successful "Move Up" day for Year 11 pupils. And just in case that was not enough, most new pupils who are joining us in September have visited for their Induction Day.

I am always so impressed by the level of commitment and enthusiasm that the teaching staff and non-teaching colleagues bring to both their regular lessons and the myriad activities that go on.

Over the Summer holidays Cornwall and Elizabeth Houses will swap over. It was not possible to build a Sixth Form Annexe on Cornwall House but planning permission was obtained for Elizabeth, so the new Annexe is built there and Upper Secondary girls will occupy the main part of that house while Lower Secondary girls will be housed in the old Cornwall building.

There have been problems with the foundations of the new Annexe, so it will not be ready for September. A modular building is being brought in to provide temporary accommodation for the Cornwall Sixth Form boarders.

Following feedback about the Parental Consultations held for boarders on the Fridays at the start of Half Term and at the End of Term, we have changed the times of these meetings. They will start at 2.30pm rather than 4.00 pm which should make travelling easier for boarding parents.

Governors have agreed term dates for the year 2015-16 so all term and half term dates up to July 2016 are now on our website. This should allow parents to plan holidays which avoid term time and also ensure that pupils do not need to arrive late for the start of term or leave early in future.

With my very best wishes for the Summer holidays

Paul D Spencer Ellis

Headmaster