

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Dear Parents and Guardians

This has been a really great start to the School year.

Following our excellent A level results, numbers in the Sixth Form have shot up. There are 55 pupils in the Upper Sixth, including 25 boarders, but the Lower Sixth is 87 pupils including 57 boarders. This means that the Annexes on Kent and Alexandra House are full, as is Gatton Hall. The Board of Management has reacted to this by agreeing to finance another Annex containing 21 study bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms. Work will start very soon so that the building is ready in time for next September. Applications for the Lower Sixth for September 2014 are likely to be capped at 100 so that we can maintain the quality of teaching and level of success.

We have recently received portraits of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty the Queen and our President, the Duchess of Gloucester, both of which are, most unusually, signed by them. They have been hung in the Dining Hall.

When she visited us on September 10<sup>th</sup> our President presented the Netball Captains with a beautiful silver cup named *The Duchess of Gloucester Cup*. This cup will be competed for annually in our First Netball Team match against Gordon's School. This year the *Duchess of Gloucester Cup* match will be played here on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November starting at 2.00 pm while the First Fifteen will be competing for the *Sovereign's Cup*, presented to us last year by our Patron, in their match at Gordon's School, Woking. Spectators are most welcome at either match.

Remembrance Day Service will begin at 10.30 am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Every year there are parents who wish to attend. Places are limited, so please do contact me by e-mail so that we can allocate the few spare seats. The Preacher this year will be The Bishop of Croydon.

Harrisons Catering are going from strength to strength with Andrew and his team work collaboratively with the student food committee to help develop new ideas for meals. "Saturday Night Take-away" was trialled over a three week period. Feedback from pupils was very positive and they enjoyed the change. Heads of House also thought it worked well. We recently had an inspection of the kitchens by Environmental Health Officers and were rated as generally satisfactory.

This last day of the first half of term is a "mufti day" because pupils rose to the challenge set by Mr Bendall to win a very large number of commendations. I think this was an excellent initiative and allows us to end what has been a very long first half of term on a most positive note.

With my best wishes for a great Half Term.

Paul D Spencer Ellis  
Headmaster