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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



31st March 2017

Dear Parent,

As pupils and staff set off for a well-earned Easter holiday it is time to draw breath after another hectic term.

On the sporting front, the Year 10 Netball team won both the District Tournament and the District League and the Year 6 Football team won the RRPSSA Football League. Our Under 16 Rugby team entered the prestigious Worth School Rugby 7s tournament, and despite being new to Rugby 7s, gave a very creditable performance. Ours was the only state school in the tournament and we gave the independent schools a surprise by winning against both Worth School and Brighton College.



The Year 10 Netball team

Black History Month has become a regular fixture in the school calendar and the Sixth Form arranged another fitting celebration on 3rd March in the PAC. It was a vibrant evening of music and dance and was very well received by the audience. Well done to all the students involved with making the evening such a success.

The Friends of RAAS have been busy with fundraising activities and the Easter Fair earlier this month was another fantastic event. I was delighted that our musicians were able to support the event with performances throughout the day.

In February our pianists had the opportunity to perform in Chapel at the Piano Duets Concert. Pupils of all abilities performed some wonderful pieces and I was impressed

with their level of performance. Meanwhile, Drama cast and crew have started work on their latest production 'Twelfth Night' ready for the Leatherhead Festival in May.



The cast of 'Twelfth Night'

This week I was pleased to recognise more pupils for their commitment to the Gatton Aims when I handed out Gatton Awards to nine pupils from the Junior School, Senior School and the Sixth Form. These awards are given to pupils who reflect one or more of the Gatton Aims and are particularly special because nominations are made by both staff and peers. The Gatton Award winners are:

- Harry Williams (Year 5)
- Paige McAuliffe (Year 5)
- Lottie O'Brien (Year 6)
- Emily Berry (Year 8) – Peer Nomination
- Cameron Anderson (Year 10)
- Daniella Prochazkova (Year 12) – Peer Nomination
- Zanett Schiller (Year 13)
- Ethan Lamberton (Year 13) – Peer Nomination
- Victoria McWhirter (Year 13)

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the Parents' Perceptions survey in January. Overall the level of satisfaction with the School is high and the majority of parents would be happy to recommend this school to a friend. The new parent consultation booking system has been received well and you seem to be happy with the co-curricular programme. There will always be things we could do better and I will be reviewing a number of things based on the feedback you have given. During the summer we will be carrying out building work in the main school building and making all pupil toilets unisex. I hope this will address the concerns of some of the girls who felt it was unfair that their toilets had been made unisex, but the boys still had their own toilets.

I recognise there is a need to focus further on improving teaching and learning particularly in the younger years of the Senior School, and this came through in the Parents' survey, with some of your comments about prep. I have created a new post, Director of Teaching and Learning to increase the focus on this key area. The new Director will work with Kate Ross as the academic deputy. We had a good field of

applicants and the position was given to Bryony Potter who is currently our Head of Science. Bryony has made a good impact on Science here and I look forward to seeing the impact she can make on teaching and learning after she starts her new role in September.

Another key appointment has been made this term and that is for the new Deputy Head Co-Curriculum. In September Joe Czerpak will be joining us from his current role as Deputy Head Co-Curricular in a boarding school in Abu Dhabi. He brings a tremendous range of experience in independent and state schools in this country and overseas and is very excited to join this school in particular. He will be coming with his family including his son who will be joining the Senior School. I look forward to seeing him take our co-curricular offering forward.

I would like to wish you an enjoyable and restful holiday and look forward to welcoming pupils back in the Summer Term.



Mark Dixon
Headmaster