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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



10th February 2017

Dear Parent

This term started with intense activity as the Sixth Form started their mock exams within days of getting back. Year 13 students achieved a solid set of results with many firmly on track to meet or exceed their target grades in the summer. For Year 12 students this was the first major assessment in their A Level or BTEC courses. There were exceptional results for some students, and for others the mocks were a reality check. Teachers are working with all students to use the results from these assessments to help them achieve the best possible results going forward.

The announcement of the Sixth Form scholarships has created a buzz around the school with many Year 11 pupils keen to be awarded a scholarship. We have been interviewing applicants over the last few weeks and there are more interviews to come. So far, we have been very impressed with the quality of applicants so I am confident we can award at least 10 Sixth Form scholarships when the applications are reviewed at the end of March.

There have been some notable individual success stories this term. Oscar Brown in Year 13 has secured an offer to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, Karl Paul Parmakson in Year 12 came second in a Chemistry Olympiad in his home country of Estonia, and Tegan Shone in Year 11 has been nominated for the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. I would like to congratulate these students on their achievements.

Our sports teams have been busy with fixtures for rugby, netball, swimming, hockey, cross country and athletics. The girls U13 Rugby players had their first fixture of the season when they went to a tournament with other local teams earlier this month. They had some tough matches but were particularly pleased to win against local rivals St Bede's!



After the very successful inaugural Gatton Association First XV rugby match against a Reigate XV in December, there will be another match this Sunday 12th February at 2pm on the top field. Do come along and support our team as they take on the Horley XV. There will be refreshments on sale to raise funds for the rugby tour of South Africa.

The snowfall in January caused the performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream to be delayed by a week, but this did not affect the quality of performance which was excellent. Last week Gatton's Got Talent got underway in front of a packed and lively audience. There certainly is a lot of talent in Gatton as the performances on the night showed. Congratulations to everyone who took part. The drama department are now gearing up for their next big production of Twelfth Night which they will be taking to the Leatherhead Festival next term.

Pupils have enjoyed a hectic schedule of trips and activities this term and more new activities are already being planned for the summer term. As I write, fifteen Sixth Formers are flying to Boston on their way to a skiing holiday in Maine, USA. The rest of the School must wait another day before the half term break but I would like to wish you and your children a good half term.

With best wishes



Mark Dixon
Headmaster