

Address Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TD
Headmaster Mark Dixon

Telephone 01737 649000
Email info@gatton-park.org.uk
Website www.raa-school.co.uk

ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new School year.

This term we have more pupils than ever before, including a record number in the Sixth Form. The 'Outstanding' boarding Ofsted earlier this year, and the continued good results, have made this school popular with an increasing number of parents and pupils.



During the summer holiday, last year's Year 11 and Year 13 pupils received their A Level and GCSE results. The A Level results were excellent, with the majority of our Sixth Formers securing a place at their chosen university.

GCSE results were equally pleasing in terms of the progress made by pupils, many of whom exceeded expectations, and also in terms of the number of high grades achieved. Against local schools we stood out well as having the best GCSE results of any non-selective state school, by a clear margin. My congratulations to the Year 11 and the staff for that.

We welcome two new members of the Senior Leadership Team this term; Rea Mitchell and Shaun Greenwood. Rea joins us from Gordon's School, another state boarding school in Surrey, where she was Assistant Head. In her role as Deputy Head (Academic) she will continue the focus on teaching and learning to ensure our pupils make the best possible academic progress. Shaun Greenwood joins us from the Hawthorns School where he was Head of Lower school. As Head of the Junior School, his priorities are to ensure pupils succeed both academically and outside the classroom.

Before the start of term, I was able to meet boarder parents when they brought their children to the boarding houses on Sunday. I also met parents at Gattonian Day last Saturday. Gattonian Day was a festival of sport organised by the Gatton Association, our alumni organisation. It was the second time they have organised this event and this time they invited current parents and pupils. It was a day when the whole Gatton community came together for a relaxed afternoon of meeting



people and enjoying playing or watching sport. It is clear that this school reaches far beyond its current pupils and staff; parents, past pupils and past staff are key members of the Gatton community and give this school its unique character.

As well as events in Gatton Park, there were some noteworthy trips in the summer holidays. The music trip to Cornwall just after the end of last term was a fantastic experience for those involved. They stayed in village near a church where they performed. There were trips to the seaside in glorious sunshine and visits to local landmarks. A particular highlight was an impromptu performance in the Minack Theatre which is in a spectacular setting on the Cornish coast.



For many years, pupils at this school have raised money to help orphaned children in Malawi so there is a special connection between this school and the Open Arms Orphanage where they live. This summer, pupils from our school were able to meet the children we have supported when they visited the Orphanage during an expedition to Malawi. The trip was a truly memorable experience which also included a hike up a mountain and helping to construct a new building at the orphanage.

The renovation project on Gatton Hall has now been completed and Sixth Formers have moved into the newly refurbished boarding. The ground floor has been redecorated and has already been pressed into service for school events. The project has gone very smoothly and it is good to know that Gatton Hall can remain at the heart of our school for many years to come.



Staff have been putting together plans for events and activities for the school year and you will hear more about these in the newsletter. In the meantime, I am looking forward to another busy and productive school term.

Mark Dixon
Headmaster