

May 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians

Founders' Day suffered from indifferent weather but we had a great speech by Sir Eric Thomas, Vice Chancellor of Bristol University, some excellent music arranged by Miss Alison Butler and many prizes were given to pupils with records of hard work in the classroom as well as in Sports, Music and many other activities.

On Saturday 6th June we have the Junior School Prizegiving and I look forward to recognising the many achievements of our younger pupils, including those who took their SATs last week.

We are currently working to appoint a Director of Co-curricular Activities. This new person will have the day to day responsibility for the management of all activities, including the 4.00pm to 5.00pm programme as well as coordinating sports fixtures, music and drama events as well as Army Cadets and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme to ensure that clashes are avoided where possible.

He or she will also be reviewing the current range of activities on offer to ensure that we work to meet pupil and parent expectations and introduce new activities where possible. There will always be some problems with capacity for some popular activities such as cookery club, but I am sure that we can expand many of the more popular activities as well as being clearer about what some other activities actually involve. I hope to have more news about this later this term.

Year 10 pupils will be bringing home the results of their end of year assessments at half Term. These are a very useful check on their progress towards GCSEs next Summer as more than half the course has now been covered in all subjects. While plenty of pupils have produced results which are pleasing at this stage, it is clear that a few have more work to do in mastering all the subject content that they have covered to date.

Partnership with Parents is a meeting which we hold from time to time on a Saturday morning starting at 10.30 am This is designed to be convenient for parents of Boarders and Flexi Boarders and both Junior and Secondary parents. Fr Paul Johnstone chairs the meeting and I am usually present or else one or more of my Deputies attend. It is a forum where parents can raise concerns and suggestions for improvements in any aspect of the school – and I am also grateful for the positive comments that also come from that meeting. The next meeting is on Saturday 13th June – please look out for the notice in the weekly newsletter.

With my best wishes

Paul D Spencer Ellis
Headmaster