

23rd April 2010

HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO PARENTS – SUMMER TERM 2010

Dear Parents

Sports Hall Extension

Construction started on the Sports Hall Extension over Easter and I am pleased to report that the contractors (ROK) have made excellent progress, assisted by the dry weather. All the foundations have been laid and the steel superstructure will be arriving on site next week. The playground will remain out of use during the construction period. If you are visiting the school for an event, please make every effort to use the car parks in Amersham as parking on site will be extremely limited.

Travel Disruption

The grounding of air transport has thankfully had a relatively limited impact on the school. Several members of staff holidaying in Europe made heroic efforts to return for the start of this week, although two members of the teaching staff are still in Asia as I write. I am most grateful to other colleagues who have stepped into the breach to help cover their work. The French exchange group in Marseille had their return flight cancelled hours before UK air space was reopened but arrived back by train only 24 hours late.

House Ties

The last edition of The Challoner reported on the proposed introduction of house ties. At the end of last term the Student Council have unanimously voted in favour of a proposal to change the tie so that it incorporates the colour of each student's house and so the plan is going ahead. This change will come into effect from September when Years 7-10 will be expected to wear the new house ties. As Year 11 will only have one more year before changing to a sixth form tie, house ties will be optional for one year only.

Students and parents will be able to purchase their new ties from the school shop from half term onwards and further reminders will be issued nearer the time. As this is a one off change we are able to offer the ties at the cost price of £3. We are all really excited about this move as we believe it will help to increase students' sense of house identity which has already become such an important part of school life since the revival of the house system in 2004.

Temporary alteration to the school day

As usual, the school day will be altered slightly during the public examination period. Morning registration will be at the normal time of 8.40 am, but Period 1 will begin at 8.55 am and all the times of the day will be advanced by 15 minutes. The school day will therefore end at 3.30 pm and coach operators will be advised of this change. These arrangements will operate between Monday 10 May and Friday 11 June inclusive.

Study leave for Years 11, 12 and 13

The last day of teaching for year groups taking public examinations this term are planned to be as follows:

Year 11	Wednesday 12 May
Year 12	Wednesday 12 May
Year 13	Thursday 13 May (leave at 12.30)

Year 9 Timetable

Year 9 will follow a new timetable from June 7th. This will reflect boys' GCSE option choices and will enable work on some GCSE courses to begin early. The whole school timetable will as usual be revised to accommodate these changes so there will also be some alterations to the timetables of other year groups.

School Captains

Congratulations to **Thomas Cunningham, Giles Kibourn** and **Michael Prokopiou** who have been appointed as School Captain and Deputy School Captains for the coming year. I would like to thank this year's team of **Tom Tryon, Alex Stobbart** and **Sam Westaway**, along with all the Head Boys, House Captains, prefects and mentors who have done such a superb job assisting in the running of the school and acting as excellent role models over the last year.

Book Return

Parents of students in Years 11 and 13 who are completing GCSE or A Level courses this term are reminded that all text books loaned to their sons will need to be returned. In line with school procedures, parents will be charged for any books which are outstanding.

Sports Day

We would like to invite all parents to attend Sports Day on Wednesday 14th July which starts at 1.30pm on the School field.

London Marathon

We wish Matron well in her attempt to run the London Marathon this weekend to raise funds for the Helen and Douglas House Hospice, the world's first children's hospice, in Oxford.

Hay Fever Season

Now the hay fever season is upon us can we remind you to ensure that, if your son suffers from hay fever, he has taken his medication before he comes to school and is equipped with any medicines (including eyedrops) that he may need during the school day.

Dates for the Summer Term


Your son has been issued with two copies of this term's calendar card, one for him to keep in his blazer pocket and one for you to keep at home.

School Holiday Dates 2010/11

Autumn Term 2010					
Term starts	Monday	06 September	Term ends	Friday	17 December
Half term starts	Saturday	23 October	Half term ends	Sunday	31 October
Spring Term 2011					
Term starts	Wednesday	05 January	Term ends	Friday	08 April
Half term starts	Saturday	19 February	Half term ends	Sunday	27 February
Summer Term 2011					
Term starts	Wednesday	27 April	Term ends	Friday	22 July
Half term starts	Saturday	28 May	Half term ends	Sunday	5 June

Bank Holidays during term: Monday 2nd May 2011

Yours sincerely



Dr M A Fenton
Headmaster