

4 July 2008

Dear Parent

The highlight of the term has been our special Vines weekend with its splendid ball and sun-drenched fete. We are grateful for the generosity of so many parents who ensured that the school community could join together to celebrate in this anniversary year.

LEAVERS

We say goodbye to the 52 children from Year 8 who move on to their senior schools around the globe. Details of their achievements are in the attached End of Year Review. We also say goodbye to a number of children leaving from other year groups: Arshia Amirazody, Kitty Berkeley, Isabella Christie, Anna Cleary, Alec Coombes, Hannah Coombes, Ellen Duthie-Jackson, Amelia Eldridge, Emma Guthrie, Fred Holt, Niamh Johnson, Harry Lambourne, Charlie McGuigan, Brandon Moore, Boris Saull-Hunt, Georgina Soan, Gonzalo Sunyer, Joshua Walker, Gabrielle Watson, Maurice Wedner-Ross and Ruan Wheeler.

At prizegiving this year we say farewell to a number of staff: Mrs Joanna Yeats-Brown, who leaves her part-time maths and exam support position to become Head of Maths at New Beacon; Mr Luke Taylor, ICT Technician, who leaves us after two years; Mr Jeremy Reid, who has been an extra student assistant and has been much appreciated in the Boarding House as Mr & Mrs Caithness have settled in to their new role; Mr Phil Young, whose time as Head of Drama ends on a high with the successful performance of Calamity Jane and who goes on to Woldingham School; Miss Christine Consul, who has been a French teacher for six years and moves to Haileybury's International School in Kazakhstan; Mrs Sally West, who leaves the English department and her role as Head of Juniors to take a career break and spend more time at home; Mrs Penella Bingham, who retires after ten years as SENCO; and Mrs Meg Radford, who retires having taught in Pre-Prep and Prep for ten years and looked after our Catholic community for six of those years.

We wish all our leaving staff and children all the very best for the future. Details of our new staff appointments will be published with your beginning of term letter.

FOUNDATION

A special feature of this anniversary year has been the establishment of The Vinehall Foundation and I am delighted to report that well over half a million pounds has been donated towards bursary funding. Sufficient funds have been received towards Projects to allow the Governors to give the go-ahead for our new synthetic grass pitch on the Cornfield. Work will commence in July and should be complete by October half term if all goes to plan. We are still aiming to raise the balance of funding towards full completion of this project and we are grateful for your ongoing support of the Foundation and its aims.

SCHOOL FEES

The Bursary hopes to be in a position to accept credit and debit card payments as well as direct debits for school fees from September. Credit card payments will attract a handling fee. Full details including direct debit mandate forms will be sent as soon as the formalities have been completed.

UNIFORM SHOP

Please use the Simmonds website for the purchase of all items of uniform on www.simmonds-ltd.com. On entering the site click on Vinehall School. Once into the Vinehall page click on Purchase Uniform

on the right hand side of the screen and you will see the uniform pages. Alternatively, the school shop will be open at the following times:

<i>Week commencing 14th July</i>	<i>Mon-Fri</i>	<i>10-4</i>
<i>Week commencing 18th August</i>	<i>Mon-Fri</i>	<i>10-4</i>
<i>Week commencing 25th August</i>	<i>Tues-Fri</i>	<i>10-4</i>
<i>1st, 2nd and 3rd Sept</i>		<i>10-2</i>
<i>4th and 5th Sept</i>		<i>8-9</i>

From Monday 8th September the shop reverts back to the regular opening hours.

HOLIDAY COURSES

There are still places available for the soccer course at the end of August, for any girl or boy in Year 3 to 8, and for the tennis coaching courses. Please see the website under Parents' Zone – Letters from Staff - for details. Places can be booked by sending an email to the office (office@vinehallschool.com).

FRIENDS OF VINEHALL

The Friends of Vinehall would like to thank all the Class Reps for their incredible commitment throughout the year culminating in the Summer Fete and Disco on Sunday which was a great success. The happy atmosphere makes this a very popular event with the children and their appreciation of the brass ensemble, the school band and the gymnasts was very audible. The Friends would like to thank those members of staff who, behind the scenes, helped the events run smoothly. We would also like to thank all parents for kindly giving their time, for making sweetie jars, baking cakes and for digging in cupboards and giving to the bottle tombola and produce/plant stall. It seemed that the disco rounded off a fabulous anniversary weekend and made sure everyone was suitably tired out! As a result of your involvement and generosity it has been a very successful year for the Friends of Vinehall with donations to Rwanda, a keyboard for the music department, library equipment for the Pre-Prep and athletics kit for the Prep School.

The Friends Committee now hands over from Catherine Elliott to Sarah Brown and I am grateful to the outgoing committee for all their hard work and professionalism in ensuring a successful annual programme of social and fundraising events.

ANNIVERSARY BALL

We are immensely grateful to the team of parents, led by Deborah Jarrett-Potts, who made the Ball a magnificent occasion to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Vines Society as well as the seventieth anniversary of the school. Over 120 helpers generously supported this event and it was an opportunity for 450 members of the Vinehall community past and present to come together to celebrate the success of the school. Although it was not intended as a fundraising event, the Ball raised in excess of £26,000 for Rwanda Aid. Please see our website for more details and photographs.

FINALLY

During the holidays you will receive next term's calendar and new class lists. The office will be open for one week after the end of term from 10 am until 4 pm and the entire school premises will be let to the St Bede's Summer School and the Salvation Army until 22nd August. Telephone messages and any emails (office@vinehallschool.com) will be dealt with by staff on rotation. The office will be open again from 26th August.

We wish our leavers much happiness and success in the future. For those of us returning, we look forward to meeting again in September and I wish you a very pleasant summer holiday.

Yours

Julie Robinson
Head