



Vinehall School

26th April 2011

Dear Parent

With the early arrival of the beautiful summer weather I hope you have been able to enjoy a warm and relaxing Easter break. The Summer Term promises to be extremely busy, so I trust your children are ready to return and are eager to get involved in everything that makes each Vinehall week so enjoyable. We have 12 new pupils starting this term, a very large number for this stage in the academic year. In addition, we have a further nine pupils who will be with us for all or part of this term as overseas pupils. I am sure everyone will do their best to make them feel welcome and quickly settled into Vinehall life.

The first week back is somewhat more complicated than usual owing to the Royal Wedding, but in essence, the School will operate as normal on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Any boarding pupils who are staying in School on Friday will be handsomely entertained. Although the following Monday is also a Bank Holiday, Vinehall will continue the tradition of having a normal school day, no doubt much to the relief of parents and those soon to sit their Common Entrance exams.

Staff News

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Jeremy Reid, who joins us as House Tutor this term and who will be taking on an increased teaching role from September. Mr Reid has been teaching at Yardley Court until the end of the Lent Term, but may already be familiar to you from his time previously at Vinehall, either as a pupil or gapper!

Summer Term Events

There are a large number of important events this term which I would encourage you to make note of in this term's calendar. Wherever possible, please aim to keep your family holidays within the school holidays to ensure no lessons or key events are missed. Please may I remind you that all requests for absence should be sent to me in advance. Calendars are available to collect from the Front Hall and all important dates are on the website, which also provides the facility to print off each week in a larger format. The website also has an additional copy of the forms for clubs this term and for Saturday Activities for Years 3 to 6, which can be found in the Pupils' Zone.

On Thursday we have a visit from the educational group "Thinkalink" which has been to Vinehall in previous years. They actively encourage parents to attend sessions with their children, so further details regarding this along with times of each session will be sent by Mrs Redstone in the near future.

The Mixed Generation Golf and Tennis Day deserves particular note. Taking place on Sunday 22nd May, you should already have received details about this excellent event, with replies now starting to come in. However, if you are yet to reply but intend to participate in what will be an excellent family fun day, please do so at your earliest convenience so that catering plans can be finalised. Whilst I have made good progress over the last term with learning names of pupils and also parents, this will be a fine opportunity to match the two together!

There are parents' consultation evenings this term for Years 3, 6 and 7 (as well as a CE Revision Meeting for Year 8 parents). If your child does not have a formal parents' evening during the term but you would like to know more about his or her progress in any subject, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The form teachers and subject teachers will be happy to contact you and/or arrange a meeting and Mrs Redstone (Mrs Richardson for the Pre-Prep) can arrange for a number of staff to meet with parents by appointment.

Details of this term's theatre events will be sent by email by Mr Whitehead. Please ensure that the office knows when you are attending and let us know subsequently if you need to cancel. Places are usually limited and if we know that you are not coming due to a last minute change of plans, we can invite others to see a show or a concert. As usual there is a wide variety of talent on offer for your entertainment this term! The ticket booking form will be available online. For music lovers, the season's Subscription Concerts continue on 7th May with the Navarra String Quartet and on 4th June with the Haffner Wind Ensemble.

Sporting fixtures remain a key component of the Vinehall week. There are numerous matches and sporting fixtures arranged to ensure that our pupils can have opportunities to represent the School, particularly in the older year groups. Sports Day will involve everyone as usual towards the end of term, although with our current weather perhaps we should be holding it sooner rather than later!

The annual Vines' Day on Sunday 3rd July brings with it the Friends of Vinehall fete and opportunities for a lovely family day out. Further details will be available soon.

In Year 8, our Common Entrance candidates will be focussing on their all-important exams. Please will parents of Year 8 pupils do all that you can to ensure that all Year 8 pupils attend rehearsals in preparation for "*Oliver!*" which is an important focal point for the top year in the second half of this term. In particular, when arranging dates for senior school uniform fittings as well as the perennial dental appointments, please do be aware of rehearsal dates to avoid disruption where at all possible.

There are also a number of special events for our leavers and their families and formal invitations for these events will be sent out in due course. However, will you please mark the LEAVERS SERVICE in your diaries (Sunday 3rd July at 11.30 a.m. prior to Vines Day) as all leavers are expected to attend this special service.

Pupils

Our 13+ Scholars have already been congratulated on superb performances and achievements to date, with a fine collection of awards to a number of schools. You will be delighted to read that all our Cranbrook candidates have achieved places at Cranbrook on 13+ tests yet again or taken up offers of scholarships or places at other senior schools. Now it is the turn of our Year 8 Common Entrance pupils to prepare for their important end-of-prep school examinations and these will take place straight after half term. As a School, we will be doing all we can to make the preparations as smooth and successful as possible for them.

Clothing/Hair

Please will you ensure that all items of clothing and kit are named clearly and that any kit which does not belong to your child is returned to school. Pencil cases should be restocked (and checked before examinations). Hair should be cut and any nits dealt with before term begins, please. In particular, boys' hair should be off the collar and out of the eyes; girls' hair should be tidy with long hair held back with appropriate hair bands. All hair should be of natural colour and without extra ornament such as braids which on occasion return from foreign holidays.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy summer term ahead.

Yours faithfully



Richard Follett
Headmaster