

26th March 2010

Dear Parent

We are celebrating a record year for scholarships with twenty-two scholarships so far to a range of highly competitive schools. The fact that we can demonstrate outstanding standards of achievement in music, art, sport and DT in open competition with other prep schools is a testament to the efforts of our teaching team who work so hard. It is wonderful that our Year 8 pupils have done so very well and I hope that you have been following Vinehall news stories in our newsletter, *Vinelines*, across the term. If not, please do take a look at it on the school website and view our picture gallery on www.fotki.com/vinehallschool.

The winning House on points this term was Ashton and ashtonites enjoyed their celebratory outing this week. The form with the most points across this term was 3D.

We are grateful to the Friends of Vinehall for some superb events this term, including the wonderful Murder Mystery Evening with its outstanding hamper raffle, the Pre-Prep pancake race, FoV cake sale and Easter egg hunt. Vinehall parents have been generous in their support and we appreciate the time and energy that you put into these extra and special events. Many thanks to all involved.

STAFF NEWS

You are already aware that Miss Judy Gorrie is 'hanging up her whistle' and we look forward to welcoming Miss Laura White as Head of Girls' PE from September 2010.

Mrs Helen Hoffmann has been appointed as the Assistant Head at Bodiam Manor School, with effect from September 2010, and whilst she will be much missed for her teaching, organisation and assemblies at Vinehall, we congratulate her on her promoted position and hope that she will stay in touch. Mrs Hoffmann has achieved much in her short time with us. She will be at Vinehall to see us through next term.

Mrs Lynda Hunter has been filling Mme Raymond's shoes most effectively this term. She is due to retire (again) at the end of the summer term and I am delighted to announce that Ms Florence Buet will be taking on a half time French teaching position at Vinehall to cover her lessons. Ms Buet already teaches in the languages department at DPS and has taught French at St Ronan's. The energetic Miss Taylor-Langley will become Head of French in September and will continue to lead the department forward.

Mrs Karen Cooper wishes to step down from her position of Head of Juniors in favour of concentrating on leading the Classics department. Mrs Cooper has been very successful in the role and happily Miss Annie Dron has agreed to take it on. Mrs Cooper will be handing over to Miss Dron across the summer term.

Mrs Debbie Gearey has decided to stop being head of two departments. She will remain Head of Drama but is passing Head of English over to Mrs Jo Dix with effect from September. Again, they will work alongside each other and so the handover will be especially smooth.

As ever, we are grateful to the staff for putting in extra time and effort so that the children can enjoy a broad education, including visits, talks, matches, themed weeks in school (this term, we enjoyed Science Week), days celebrating subject areas like World Maths Day this term, competitions such as the annual Townsend Warner History Prize and GK, holiday courses for sports and now touch typing and residential trips such as this term's French trip, not to mention special projects and productions like the tremendously impressive Shakespeare Project for Year 6 this term and English Speaking Examinations which brought in best ever results for Years 5 and 7 this year. On top of that, dress-up days for charity and concerts add to our pupils' all-round personal development and all this takes place alongside a very busy academic curriculum. I hope that you will agree that the staff have earned their Easter break!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The 13+ scholarship season is not quite at an end since Tonbridge academic papers remain to be done after Easter. In addition to an outstanding collection of Cranbrook results (with internal preparation only), our pupils have achieved the following awards to their selected senior schools:

Phoebe Baker	Academic Scholarship	Kent College
Leah Cave	Academic and Music Scholarship	Battle Abbey
Leah Cave	Music Scholarship	Lancing
Hannah Goldhill-Watts	Art Scholarship	Lancing
Andrea Harriman	Music Scholarship	St Leonards Mayfield
Jack Huntington-Rainey	Music Exhibition	Sherborne
Daniel Hutt	Music Exhibition	Tonbridge
Chloë Jeremy	Academic Scholarship	Sevenoaks
Ben Jones	Music Scholarship	Battle Abbey
Oscar Kotting McMillan	Academic and Sport Scholarship	Buckswood
Joy Ku	Art Scholarship	Eastbourne College
George McGirr	Sport Scholarship	Sevenoaks
Charlotte McNally	Academic Scholarship	Sevenoaks
Kajal Radia	Top Academic Scholarship	Eastbourne College
Charlotte Ward	Academic Exhibition	King's, Canterbury
Jack Winchester	Academic Scholarship and Music Exhibition	Sevenoaks
Alec York	DT Scholarship	Eastbourne College
Aneesa Zaidi	Art Exhibition and Academic Scholarship (Forbes Wastie Award)	Eastbourne College

YEAR 8

Year 8 CE pupils will find some holiday work in their report envelopes and on the website. They will have been given relevant instructions in class and it is recommended that they should aim to do an average of one hour's concentrated work per day. Tonbridge Scholarship candidates have been given separate instructions and will be expected to do considerably more than this!

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Please check your children's hair for nits during the holidays. It is important that the hair is checked whilst wet. There will be a nit check at the beginning of next term and day children will be sent home if they are found to have nits. Boarders' hair is checked weekly during term time as a matter of course.

It is important that day children have sun cream applied before they come to school during hot and sunny weather.

BOARDING

Temporary boarding is available to all Prep School pupils Monday to Friday on a regular or ad hoc basis. Please contact Houseparents on houseparents@vinehallschool.com for more details and to make bookings.

UNIFORM AND SHOP

The children should return in summer uniform next term. Please ensure that all items of clothing, including shoes, are clearly named and have loops for hanging.

Simmonds website is up and running to enable 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 enter all our uniform pages. Alternatively, the school shop will be open at the following times during the Easter holidays:

31 st March	10am – 2pm	14 th April	10am – 2pm
15 th April	2pm - 4.30pm	19 th April	10am – 12.30pm
20 th April	10am -12.30pm		

From Wednesday 21st April the shop reverts back to the regular opening hours.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

The Governors have confirmed that with effect from September 2010, formal Saturday school as part of the weekly academic timetable will remain for Years 7 and 8 only. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will be offered an activities programme and Mr Whitehead will be putting that programme together over the coming months as our timetable comes together. A letter providing more detail will be sent out in due course.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Day children return on Wednesday 21st April (boarders return on Tuesday afternoon, 20th April, for tea at 4.30 pm). The office will be reopen on 14th April and school will be open on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th April for any parents who wish to drop off kit on those days.

We look forward to welcoming eleven new pupils into the Prep School and one into the Pre Prep next term.

With best wishes for a Happy Easter.

Yours sincerely



J Robinson
Head