

4th January 2008

Dear Parent,

I trust that you enjoyed a lovely break with the family over Christmas. Those of you who are Telegraph, Financial Times or even Daily Mail readers will have noted positive reference to Vinehall in the Boxing Day editions of those papers, in connection with our support of grandparents through grandparents' days. The big news for 2008 is that it is an anniversary year for the school and we will be celebrating with a Ball in the summer term as well as launching our Vinehall Foundation. Further information will come to you about all of these things in due course.

I am delighted to report that all of our Cranbrook candidates have been offered places; William Barrington, Angus Berkeley, Romilly Ellis (who already has an offer from St Leonard's – Mayfield), Alexander Hunt, Joshua Jones and Sam Piper. The competition for Cranbrook places is fierce and they have done very well indeed to secure the option of a place.

At the time of writing it is snowing to welcome our new gappers. Should the school need to close owing to severe weather then the office will inform class reps and we will aim to contact parents of day pupils through a network of phone calls. We also inform our local radio station, kmfm. To receive the latest update either phone our own information line on 01580 883058 or listen to kmfm. Alternatively you can check the Vinehall website or go to www.kmfm.co.uk. It is especially important that we have your up to date contact numbers. Please note, however, that we will only close the school if we become unable to staff classes or lose power. It is extremely rare. However, if you live in an area which is affected by extreme weather then we would not expect you to take any risks in attempting to get to school.

The new gap students are Miss Davis, Miss Hanley, Mr. Davies and Mr. Walter. We keep Mr. Reid as a House Tutor, resident in the stable yard, until the end of this academic year.

Mrs. Parry is now our Registrar and has taken up her desk in what was Mrs. Lambourne's office. We are pleased to have Mrs Lambourne back in the front office where she began twenty-four years ago! Mr. Yeats-Brown has become Head of History and we are immensely grateful to Mr. Whitehead for taking on the scholarship class in Year 8 on top of his other commitments. Also to Mrs. Barry who is stepping in to teach Topic for us for the rest of this year.

Sister Victoria Barwick is our new School Nurse and she will start in February. In the meantime, she is able to give us regular weekly hours as part of her induction to Vinehall.

I enclose this term's Calendar of events which can also be viewed through the Vinehall website. Please drop off kit bags on Tuesday if it suits you and remember that there are no clubs on the first Wednesday of term. Day pupils should be collected at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th January if possible.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that your child's hair is trimmed and tidy and that all kit is clearly named ready for the beginning of term.

On behalf of all the staff at Vinehall I wish you a happy and prosperous 2008 and we especially welcome our sixteen new pupils this Lent term.

Yours sincerely

Julie Robinson
Head