

April 2008

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have enjoyed the Easter break and that your children are now looking forward to an exciting summer term. I enclose next term's school Calendar for your reference. Please note the dates of important events and aim to keep your family holidays within the school holidays wherever possible.

Mr Whitehead's letter about this term's theatre events is enclosed so that you can book tickets. Please note that tickets for the Vinehall Anniversary, Vintage Ball which will be held on 28th June are available from djj@tinyworld.co.uk

Inspection Report

Our long-awaited Independent Schools' Inspectorate report has arrived and your copy is enclosed. The team of ISI inspectors did a very thorough job and we are proud of the outstanding rating that Vinehall has achieved. We are delighted that the inspectors found plenty of evidence of outstanding standards in education as well as pastoral care, welfare, links with parents and governance. The inspectors discovered that Vinehall achieves its aims and that we are true to our school motto. The inspection report provides objective evidence that Vinehall is already one of the top prep schools in the country as you will see if you compare our report with those of other prep schools. You can do this online through the ISI website: <http://www.isi.net>. There is much for us to continue to do here at Vinehall so that we can maintain and improve the rich variety of experiences and opportunities that we offer your children and we will continue to do our very best for the children in our care. We are grateful for your help and support.

Pupils

Congratulations to Jack Newman and Eleanor Judd who have both attained places at Cranbrook on superb results. This means that all of our Cranbrook candidates have been successful again this year.

I am delighted to report that two Vinehall pupils achieved places in the top 50 of the Townsend Warner History Prize – well done to Claire Macfadyen and Alexander Pugh. Sam Piper, William Barrington, Oliver Giles and Andrew Overall were placed in the top 100 and Joshua Huntington-Rainey, Frederick Williams, Archie Todd, Angus Begg, William Orr, James Wardle and Roo Whittaker also competed in the second round. Well done to all candidates.

We welcome five new pupils this term: Hyunggi Chang (7I) joins us from Korea, Gonzalo Sunyer (5P) returns to us from Spain, Will Morrison (3E) comes to us from London. Benjamin Reeves and Theo Marsden start in Kindergarten.

Staff

Mme Consul is to move abroad to teach French in Kazakhstan. She has been a dedicated and efficient French teacher at Vinehall for six years and we will be sorry to say farewell to her at the end of the summer term.

We are grateful to Mr. Butcher who has developed the important role of Senior Master at Vinehall over the last six years. He intends to step down as Senior Master at the end of this term and will continue as Head of Geography and games teacher. He hands over to Mr. Yeats-Brown who will take on the Senior Master position from September.

Mr. Young has decided to return to his roots in senior school teaching and has accepted the position of Assistant Head of Drama at Woldingham School from September 2008.

Mr. Court has informed us that he will no longer be able to offer judo at Vinehall from September. Mr. Court runs judo classes in Tunbridge Wells and will be happy for any children who wish to continue with judo competitively to attend courses with him there. Further information is available from Mr. Court and he can be contacted direct on 01892 549950.

Parents will be delighted to hear that there will be no school on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th, and also that Vinehall will run as normal on 24th April since our teachers are not considering any strike action!

Minibus Service

There will be changes to our minibus billing system so that parents must book for the whole term in advance. Casual bookings will be possible but regular users will be charged for the full term's journeys.

Clothing Checks

The sports staff intend to run spot checks on kit across this term to ensure that children are wearing their own clothing rather than 'borrowing' from others. Please will you ensure that any kit which does not belong to your child is returned to school.

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

Yours sincerely

Julie Robinson
Head