



From the Headmaster
B J Wignall, MA, FRSA, MCM

June 2023

Dear Parents,

I am writing to all Lower Sixth parents as I normally do at this time of the year to cover a number of topics of relevance.

Summer Holiday

There has been really good work done by the majority of pupils this term – and indeed this year - and they will certainly have earned a break over the summer. However, I am afraid that if they are to maintain their good progress they cannot regard the summer as entirely free from work. For our IB students detailed research and preparation for the extended essay is an absolute must if this important part of the course is to be completed in draft by the start of next term. All students should have a clear work plan relating to their extended essay and need to spend a significant amount of time on working through that plan during the summer break. For our A Level and BTEC students there is more than enough to keep them occupied in simply preparing for the second year of their course.

Prefect Selection

It is at this time of the year that I speak to the Lower Sixth about prefect selection, and I thought it might be helpful to explain to you the process by which we will choose prefects from the group currently in the Lower Sixth.

I feel it is particularly important to write to you as almost every year I have conversations with Sixth Formers (and occasionally their parents), regarding their disappointment at not being made prefects. I hope that by writing in advance of any decisions being taken you will be in a good position to understand how we arrive at our decision. I have already spoken to members of the Lower Sixth about our way of selecting prefects.

We seek information from a number of sources in coming to a decision about prefect selection. Members of the Lower Sixth have had various school duties, and this process has been monitored. We consider reports from Housemasters and Housemistresses and Tutors. Having taken the factors outlined above into account (and others) Dr Chatterjee and I meet and I come to a decision regarding the appointment of prefects.

As I have already suggested, each year there are people who are disappointed that they have not been made prefects. I always go out of my way to make it clear to members of the Sixth Form that being a prefect is a responsibility rather than a reward, although I quite accept that it is seen as both. Each year we have thoroughly sound individuals who have been disappointed not to be prefects and who ask “what have I done wrong”? The answer to that question is, frequently, “you have done nothing at all wrong”. In addition to the vitally necessary attributes of integrity, honesty and trustworthiness – which I hope all

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members of the Sixth Form possess – the ability to work in a team is vital. The ability to take on quite significant responsibility, which includes the ability to direct the younger pupils and support the discipline of the school without at any time making misjudgements which exceed authority or make other students unhappy, is also something that is taken into account. An assessment of an individual's ability to cope with the additional workload without compromising his or her studies is, of course, vital.

I hope that all our pupils leave here with significant leadership qualities, and not being appointed as a prefect does not mean that somebody will not be given responsibility or be trusted during their time in the Sixth Form.

Last Day of Term

You have already received a letter from Dr Chatterjee outlining arrangements for the last day of term, but – for completeness – the details are also attached to this letter. Those details include the timings of the day and arrangements for transport.

I hope that I will have the opportunity to see many of you before the end of term.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely



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