



## End of Term Report

As we come to the end of the long summer term this final newsletter records the successes of this year. First among these must be coming out of Special Measures in March, a term earlier than expected. This means that we are where we hoped to be at this stage but with a far more positive report behind us than we had dared hope for.

This was followed last week by the diocesan inspection: I am delighted to announce that this has also been extremely positive. Further details appear below and the full report will be made available on our website soon.

During the year our governance went from an Interim Executive Board to a Shadow Board of Governors and we are now ready to introduce our new permanent Board of Governors for September. Full details will be provided at the start of next term.

The school has also grown during the year and we are now full with students and have a small waiting list. With a larger intake expected into Year 12 we should be close to capacity next year. We also remain fully staffed for next term which is not easily done in the current climate.

It has also been the first full year in the new buildings and they have worked well for us. We had a setback with the field but that has now been rectified and it will be ready for use when we return next term.

## Arrangements for September

The first thing to say about next term is that the new timings come into effect. We have staff training days on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and only Year 7 and Year 12 students should come to school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8.40 am. Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 students should return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.40 am. School will now be finishing at 3.15 pm each day. There have continued to be requests for holidays at the end of this term, most of which have been refused. The delayed start for most students has extended the summer holiday so it is expected that everyone will return on the first day.

## Time to say Goodbye

We have recently said goodbye to students who have finished their studies with us and now it is time to bid farewell to some of the staff who are moving on. Firstly our two retirements: Richard Cook (Science) and Mary Sharrocks (EAL). Our very best wishes to these two dedicated teachers for a long and happy retirement. Other teachers who are moving on are Hazel Matthews (English), Stuart Dalton (Music), Phil Clarke (Maths) and John Davis (Technology). Again, I would like to thank them for their work at the school and wish them well in their next position.

We also say goodbye to two members of the Senior Leadership Team: David Bliss, who has been with us for the last two years and has greatly helped with our journey out of Special Measures and with our National Challenge work, and Eamonn Stokes, who has served in many positions in the school, culminating in a deputy headship. I am extremely grateful to these two for their support over the last two years and for their substantial contribution to the work of the leadership team.

Three of our teaching assistants are moving on too: Katrina Hartley and Will Cook are taking up places at university next term and Julia Foster is moving to another school. Our Imam, Qari Muneer, completes his placement with us next week. Again, I thank them for their contribution to the school and wish them well for next year.

We also say a temporary farewell to Emma Weston, Head of Sixth Form, who is going on maternity leave. Her post will be covered by Pauline Helcoop next year.

## Examination Results

A reminder that A level results are issued as usual on the third Thursday of August, the 19<sup>th</sup>, but GCSE results are now to be issued the following Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. Year 9 students will have received their Teacher Assessments, which have replaced SATs, by the end of term. We will report on these with the other exam results at the start of next term.

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## Final week of Term

Next week we will follow our usual pattern for the end of the year, with Sports Day on Thursday. Friday will be St John Fisher Day with a whole school liturgy followed by a barbeque. School will end at 2.10 pm and any student who needs to wait behind for transport reasons should inform their form tutor earlier in the week so that supervision can be arranged.

Following a request from the School Council, it has been agreed that the last day of term, Friday 23 July, will be a Mufti day when students are able to wear their own clothes. A charge of £1 will be made for this privilege with all monies raised being donated to charities supported by the School.

Students are asked to remove all personal belongings and to ensure that if they have a locker it is left empty and unlocked.

## Performance News

On Monday of this week Year 8 students were treated to a performance by a pop group called *Injustice*. They went down a storm with the mix of singing and breakdancing: thank you to the Music staff for arranging this event.

On Thursday evening our Music and Drama Showcase was a fantastic event and a great way to start the end of year celebrations. Schools often refer these days to Gifted and Talented students and this was an opportunity for the talented ones to shine. It was a great pity that Simon Cowell was not able to be here as he would have been impressed by the performances. Another thank you to the staff who have auditioned and rehearsed the students, and to the parents who provided support and encouragement.

My very best wishes to everyone for a long and restful summer and thank you for your support and hard work this year. Onwards and upwards!

*Sean Hayes*

## Learning Support/Asdan Successes

A Year 10/11 option is to follow a course which concentrates on students developing and gaining various transferable skills to prepare for employment and to boost their confidence.

This year our Year 11 Learning Support group has followed an Asdan course which has involved students completing 12 major challenges dealing with various skills such as working with others, problem solving, researching the internet and giving oral presentations. Year 7 students will have seen the group putting on a very impressive assembly on Haiti. Their efforts have now paid off.

At a recent Asdan External Moderation meeting all 6 Year 11 Asdan students passed the Certificate in Personal Effectiveness Level 1 course (CoPE).

In another Asdan success, 16 students from Years 10 and 11 have passed their Asdan Bronze award which requires similar transferable skills in 6 major challenges.

This is a major result for all of our Asdan students. Well done to all of you.

*Mr Jones, Asdan Co-ordinator*

