



Quainton Hall School

Newsletter

Friday 30 April 2010

No. 19

Dear Parents,

I wish you all a very happy Bank Holiday week-end and remind you that school is closed on Monday 3rd May with boys returning to school on Tuesday 4th May.

I was very fortunate to be able to visit Walsingham, in Norfolk, together with our Bursar Mr Kiddle, to attend the AGM of Walsingham College (Affiliated Schools) Ltd. The board is comprised of several Guardians of the Anglican Shrine and members, some of whom are also QHS Governors. The hospitality and friendship offered to me as the new headmaster of QHS was very generous and heartening. Board members and guardians take a keen interest in the life of the school and it was a great opportunity for them to ask me questions and for me to brief them about life here in school.

Our 13+ senior school entrance examination results seem to have bedded down now. I am very pleased to see that of the 14 boys in P8, 13 were able to secure an offer of a place at either their first or second choice schools. Only one pupil did not succeed in this respect but I am very pleased to report that he has now secured a place. Four boys were able to secure scholarships. Two boys have conditional offers linked to their performance in the Common Entrance examinations taking place this term. We wish them well and are sure they will be successful. I will publish the actual destination schools of our P8 boys at a later date.

On Wed 5th May next week, we welcome as a visitor, Mr Aresh Nejad, senior orthopaedic consultant at the Stanmore Hospital. He has kindly agreed to come in and talk to the boys in P7 & P8 about his life as a doctor and surgeon and will be bringing in some tools of his trade, including titanium plates, replacement hip joints etc! It promises to be a fascinating talk and will enrich the career education programme of the school.

Do you know of someone who has a fascinating occupation/career? We are looking for a criminal barrister, an architect, an engineer, an actor, a professional musician etc. If you do, I would be very interested in possibly inviting them in to give similar talks in the future.

Friday 7th May sees the Chapel Choir visiting Charterhouse in London and I look forward to accompanying them.

Our school Open Morning takes place on Saturday 8th May from 10.00am to 12.30. We have a good number of ex-QHS boys coming in to act as 'ambassadors' and to be available to talk to visitors. In addition the staff will be on hand together with our boys to act as guides and offer activities for visitors to view. Please encourage anyone you know who may be exploring the idea of independent prep education for the children to come along where they will be made to feel very welcome. The programme for the morning will include school tours, activities in classrooms, some drama and music and two short talks by myself.

As in all schools, from time to time there are changes in staff and I would like to share some news regarding such changes at QHS for September.

Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Nnochiri, our two part-time art teachers will be leaving at the end of this term. We are in the process of appointing a new teacher of art who will be able to teach and deliver all of the art from P3 to P8 and I will inform you as soon as we have this complete.

Fr Neil Roper our School Chaplain will also be leaving us at the end of the term. He is seeking to develop his teaching career by gaining experience in a post in a different school setting. We have placed adverts in the national press in order to hopefully appoint a new teaching chaplain.

All three colleagues will be sadly missed and we wish them well for the future.

We have also undertaken recently, a management re-structuring exercise in the school. The regulatory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which has been in place since 2008 has led many independent schools with Early Years settings to review how best to meet those requirements and we are no exception. Suggestions and comments were also made by inspectors at the time of the school's last ISI Inspection in 2008, regarding the management framework in school.

As a result, two new management posts have been created – Head of Early Years, covering 0 to 5 and Head of Lower School, covering Years 1 to 4. Through a period of consultation and competitive interview, Mrs Tracie Doe has been appointed as Head of Early Years and Mrs Gretta Mahon has been appointed as Head of Lower School. These new posts will take effect from 1st September 2010. In the meantime, the current posts of Head of Nursery, Head of Pre-Prep and Head of Middle School will continue for the rest of this term. Miss Sheila Berry has been offered and has accepted the post of class teacher in the prep school.

I will communicate further with parents at a later stage as this new structure unfolds and I would like to thank the members of staff involved for their co-operation at a time when we seek to change and improve the management and Early Years Provision in school.

EFB

U11 CRICKET v DURSTON HOUSE

The first match of the season was upon us already, with all its doubts and uncertainties, particularly with regard to whether or not we had chosen the best members of Prep 5 to respond to the support of those in Prep 6 who played last year.

Against Durston House you know you will get a good match and that a win can be looked upon as a bonus. Not surprisingly, with so little chance to practise, neither side managed to bowl very straight, and wides and no-balls dominated the score. However, Matthew B-S, Jash G and James F all contributed positively to a score of 103 for 3 in the allotted 18 overs. For our bowlers it was much the same story, which kept Durston House in the hunt, despite losing more wickets than us, and 6 were required off the last ball, which was very wide, so 2 runs were added and an extra ball was offered. Fortunately for us, only 1 was scored off this ball, so victory was ours, by 2 runs.

We now have time to practise together for a while before the next match; let us hope the fine weather keeps going.

GPB

Under 11 C Cricket v Durston House

Considering this was our first fixture after one week of practice the boys played well. We played a game of 20 overs and lost by 2 wickets, at one point it could have gone either way when we got two of Durston House batsmen out off of 3 balls. Well done to Tyrese W who was the bowler and Jos M and Chirag D for their superb catches. Unfortunately, a bout of butter fingers set in and a few catches were dropped. Special praise must go to Roan G for his great bowling and batting. Durston House only managed to gain 6 runs from his 3 overs and Roan G hit a mighty 6 off his first ball as batsman.

CE

Prep 3 and 4 Examinations Tuesday 5th May – Friday 8th May 2010

A few reminders

- Please ensure that you arrive in school on time.
- That you have the correct equipment – e.g. 2 sharp pencils, 30cm ruler, rubber, a blue pen (Prep 4 only) and coloured pencils.
- If you find that you have an instrumental lesson at the same time as an exam, please make sure that you inform your music teacher and arrange an alternative time.
- PE and Swimming lessons will take place on the normal days but possibly at different times
- A copy of the exam timetable accompanies these notes.
- After the exams staff will be writing reports, which will be sent out on the last day of this half term and there will then be a Parent/Teacher Consultation evening on Thursday June 10th.
- Effort and Attainment Grades for Prep 3 and 4 are given out at the end of term

GEM

Charterhouse Chapel Service

On Friday 7th May the Chapel Choir and servers will set off for their “big match” of the season, when they will give a service of Sung Vespers at the historic Charterhouse Chapel. It would be lovely to see as many parents as possible this year, especially those of Prep 8 boys for which this will be their final visit. The service starts at 5.30pm and will last about 30 minutes.

MAE