

23rd October 2009

Dear Parents,

Headmaster's Newsletter October 2009

It has been an extremely rewarding first half of term and although it has been eight weeks long it has flown by and we can reflect with a great deal of pride on numerous achievements. I know that staff and pupils alike are all looking forward to the two week break.

Academic

Please find enclosed your son or daughters interim report card including effort and attainment grades and teachers' comments. The vast majority are extremely positive reflecting all the hard work that has been done. Congratulations to Megan Lewis who has received three Sixth Form distinctions and Gemma Bagge, Faraz Taraq, Poppy Turner, Emily Ruffell-Hazell, Cindy Wong, Lydia Riches (2), Kelvin So and Charlotte Bryan have all gained 5 green commendations and have all received book tokens from me.

Congratulations to the following pupils in Year 7-10 who were commended for their half-term assessments:

Channon:

Toby Griffiths, Ed Shawcross and James Kwok

School:

Angus Yeung, Matthew Ajmaya, Johnny Mudge and Daniel Moss

Jack Tigg:

Victoria Challes, Hannah Clarke and Maisey Shepherd.

Southcombe:

Charlotte Maddison and Corinne Walker

Fielding:

Jay Dyer, Jared Wedge-Thomas, Toby Page, Matthew Pugh, Shayann Akhtar, Thomas Batchelor, Joshua Coglan, James McLeod, Matthew Sawyer, George Shepherd, Hobz de Cauz, David Grenfell, George Mason, Ben Rigg, Callum Brunton and Aaron Dawson-Riley.

Sibly:

Henry Cole, Tom Bryan, Edward de Havilland, Theo Elliott, Chris Holyday, Jacob Ruffell-Hazell, Marcus Worrall, Alex Trepass, Henry Felek, Ewen Alexander, Joseph Fender, Maaz Akhter and George Searle.

Ashurst:

Frances David, Elen Falkingham, Charlotte Hughes, Betsy Shepherd, Rebecca Youings, Fenella Slingsby-Smith, Ele Brandwood, Georgina Longbottom, Megan Gibbins, Tessa Harris, Lucy Longbottom, Hannah Spear, Lucy Sewell, Chloe Bagge, Holly Brown, Sarah Taraq, Hannah Fisher, Katie Newey, Bethany Hobbs and Clarissa Bole.

Laker:

Joanna Wallace-Beecham, Sarah Mudge, Rebecca Handford, Daniella Smith, Stephanie Brown, Isabel Gooding, Tessa Down, Tirion Smith, Ele Bowden, Phoebe Wadman, Charlotte Bowering, Rosie Walker, Megan Loveridge, Lauren Theobold, Alex Hoskins, Alex Chilcott, Melissa Fry, Harriet Parker, Daisy Pike, Hannah Shepherd, Sidonie Kravis, Jess Orme-Dawson, Molly Joyce, Pearl Wilson, Charlotte Long and Hannah Robinson.

National Poetry Day

This was celebrated by exploring writings on heroes and heroines across the curriculum. Thank you to Mrs Hall for co-ordinating the day.

Open Day

Once again we were blessed with bright sunshine for Open Day. We had 55 families

visiting the Senior School which I hope will result in a good entry next September. All of our visitors commented on how impressed they were with our pupils whether at the car parking, meeting guests, acting as tour guides, putting on displays in the departments or other activities. They looked extremely smart and took great pride in showing off Queen's. My thanks to all of the parents who helped on the day –staffing the café hosting our visitors at lunchtime or recommending Queen's to friends. As always your support is greatly appreciated.

Quartz Festival

This continues to go from strength to strength and this fourth year was excellent. We received a great deal of very positive feedback about the sculptures on the front lawn and the art exhibition as well as the evening events. Many people have commented that the exhibitions were the best yet and the evening shows were extremely well supported with a number of sell – outs. They seem to have appealed to a wide audience and it was good to see so many of you there. In order to help Mr Wheatley plan next year's event he would welcome any feedback both positive and negative. Please do feel free to email your observations to Mr Wheatley on kaw@queenscollege.org.uk As always I am extremely grateful to Keith Wheatley and John Marston for putting so much effort into planning the evening events. Thanks also to Charlotte Lampard the art exhibition curator and Anita St John Gray and the NADFAS volunteers who staff the exhibition. We had 12 schools in addition to members of Queen's and the general public. Once again over 3000 people visited the school over the ten day festival. Particular thanks to Richard Appleby and his technical team who worked long hours – often into the night as well as the prefects and senior students who worked front of house. Thanks also to Peter Evans and members of the Friends and PSA who ran the bar and Helen Broderick, Margie

Tuffin and their team who staffed the popular Quartz café.

Trips

The Year 12 Geography trip to the Dorset coast was a great success. There are a number of trips away over half term. Miss Ashman is leading the American exchange visit to our partner school in Los Angeles, Viewpoint High School. Mrs Western is leading the Art trip to Paris. Mr Bisson is once again taking the historians to Madrid and Mrs Greenow is taking the Spanish pupils to Barcelona. I am extremely grateful to all the staff for giving up part of their half term to lead these trips.

Chapel

Many thanks to the Chaplain for the Harvest Festival service and to Mr Paul who was our preacher at the boarders service last Sunday on a theme of investigation. Crossfire welcomed Fergus Llewellyn to the second session of term on the subject of 'What Price for a Life'.

Music

The House Music Festival was a great success. Thank you to Mr Quick for organising and coordinating the event. Many congratulations to all the houses but particularly the winners, School House and Ashurst. We hope this will become an annual event as it certainly had the effect of enhancing their community singing in assembly.

Sport

Results and reports are now posted weekly on the school website. Recent rugby highlights 1st XV wins against Dauntseys and West Buckland. On the hockey field the U15 XI having struggled to win games last year now have two consecutive victories 2-0 against Bristol Grammar School and 2-1 against West Buckland. U12 XIs continued to take the season by storm with both teams winning 12-0 against Bristol Grammar

School.

Cross Country National Cup – in juniors Oliver Livingstone was 6th, Simon Stent 10th, Matthew Brown 16th, James Wilson 17th. In the intermediates – Dan Handford was 5th.

Canoe Polo SW Division 3 – we won 4 out of 5 matches which is an excellent start to the season. Positive attacking play from Jonty Hedges, Leo Hinds and Ian Mak meant that they all scored and they were well supported in defence by Ryan Page, Max Newton and James Baker.

RKR Sports will be visiting Queen's on Monday 23rd November on the Sport's Hall balcony. They will be selling Hockey kit and this can be paid for by cheque or cash but cannot be added to the school bill.

Friends of Queen's College

My sincere thanks to the outgoing Chairman Helen Broderick who has done a fantastic job over the last two years. I am very grateful to Simon Willets and Abbie Thresher who have taken over the reins as Co-Chairman. If any parents would like to know more about the Friends or would like to join the committee or would like to help with the organisation of various events then please feel free to contact Simon on 01823 350007 or email sjw@combers.co.uk or Abbie on 01823 333738 or email abs@thresher.eclipse.co.uk. There are some exciting events planned for the future and it would be great if they were well supported.

Please find enclosed with this newsletter the Queen's News, a flier with details of the Senior School Play, 'Macbeth', a letter concerning Sixth Form Parents' Meeting and an invitation from Mr Quick to join the Queen's College Choral Society.

If you have an email address that we hold you should by now have received a copy of your child's interim report by email. We will continue to send paper reports as well. If you have any comments on this system please email contact@queenscollege.org.uk

I wish you all a very good half term break and hope that your sons and daughters have a thoroughly well deserved rest.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Headmaster