



School House Newsletter

Second half of Autumn Term 2020



Mrs Cooling



Mr Cooling



Mr Bishop



Mr Exley

MEET THE TEAM!

Dear parents, guardians and students

Well this has certainly been a challenging, yet strangely rewarding term, culminating in the realisation that the safety measures adopted were necessary and ultimately ensured that the health and wellbeing of our boys has been met.

The main challenges came when enforcing restrictions on our boarding community at a time in our boys' lives where we would normally encourage a greater degree of independence and independent thinking. I couldn't count the number of times I was told 'last year we were allowed'! As much as some students resented what seemed to be an added

and some might say, unfair or an overly-cautious level of protection to activities and independence, as the Coronavirus drew closer and became an unwelcome reality, it was humbling that many of our students were thankful for the care and support they received as they began to realise the necessity for such restrictions.

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Mr Hart



Mr Judge



Mr Roberts



Mr Cruice

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I am very proud of how the boys who have been most affected in the latter stages of this term by having to isolate and rearrange their holiday plans, were so compliant, polite and appreciative of the support they received from the house staff.

I would also like to extend my greatest thanks to the wonderful School House staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our house has been kept safe and the boys fully supported.

Mr Bishop, Mr Roberts, Mr Exley, Mr Judge, Mr Cruice, Mr Hart and Mr Cooling – thank you from myself and the boys for going above and beyond this term.

I have included include pictures of the School House staff team so that you can put a face to a name.

We are incredibly lucky to have staff who are fully dedicated in supporting the boys but who also genuinely enjoy their boarding responsibilities.

Mr Bishop has been promoted to the Assistant Houseparent for School House. His ability to adapt to the changing structure of the house

and dedication to ensuring the wellbeing of all the boys, leaves no doubt that he will be an exceptional assistant and we are grateful of his permanency for the years to come. The domestic staff have also ensured that our house has remained clean and safe whilst adapting to the new way of working and this has undoubtedly helped to ensure no spread of cases.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the many parents and guardians who have been supportive during these times when I am aware you will also have been worried and inconvenienced too. The emails of support have been most welcome and kept us all going.

For most of this half of term, it's been 'business as usual' which has ensured that many of the activities that the boys enjoy have still been accessible.

Firm favourites are basketball, five-a-side football and of course gaming in the warm!

Those who stayed for the half-term break were introduced to new activities including zorbing and Segway exploring as well as cooking

and art classes.

It was also a good opportunity to stay on site while having access to sources of study.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Open Mic night on 21st November with our very own, super talented, Justin Li stealing the show! I think his own written and produced Covid inspired song could be a worldwide hit! I hope to be able to share this with you shortly.

We hope that 2021 will bring an easing of restrictions and a gradual return to the 'extras' that make our school experience so special. CJ Stide has been appointed by the residents of School House to be this years 'Head of House' and he will start to be able to plan some house excursions and social events to mark this exceptional year.

It remains only to wish you a wonderful Christmas break and hope that we all return refreshed and ready for any challenge thrown at us again next term!

With seasonal best wishes,

Jennie and Robert Cooling
Houseparents
School House

