



School House Newsletter

First half of Spring Term 2021

**Dear Parents, Guardians
and Students**

Despite all of our crossed fingers and high hopes, we have started this term even more restricted than when we left the last!

With fewer boarders in School House and all of the Queen's community learning online it certainly hasn't been an ideal start to 2021.

Remarkably the boys who have



remained at school have kept in high spirits and often helped not only the other boys, but also the staff stay sane in this strangest of times. I certainly feel as though our strong relationships this half-term have been more important than ever.

Although we have been largely limited by the lockdown, we have



SCHOOL HOUSE Double Ultra Triathlon



in aid of Young Minds

still managed to provide the boys with a whole range of fun and engaging activities to make sure they are able to make the most of a tough situation. Whether it's playing basketball or volleyball in the sports hall, taking part in online escape rooms, swimming or kayaking in the pool, going for refreshing (and very muddy!) countryside walks, keeping warm and cosy with a computer game, playing all kinds of unique sports with Sporty Stars, archery and more!

All of the boys have got involved and showed some fantastic team spirit. It really has made it an enjoyable half-term for us all.

Online schooling has been a challenge for everyone. But the perseverance and resilience that the boys have shown when engaging with their studies has wowed us all.

With all kinds of issues ranging from wifi dropping, concentration difficulties and getting to grips with some new techniques for maximising lesson effectiveness (I have to admit I'm still learning, there's so many functions available on Google Classroom it's difficult to remember

them all), the boys have on the whole engaged themselves and managed to show what they are capable of. It will most definitely be a well deserved half-term break for everyone and hopefully a chance to take some time away from the screens and focus on relaxing and recuperating before the next half of term.

As a house we have been holding weekly house meetings every Saturday that we have encouraged as many of the boys to



join as possible. It was great to see students from all different time zones getting involved all in one place, all at one time. We had students joining from School, all across England, Hong kong, Turkey and even Canada joining us. During these meetings we would often start with a quiz or activity, with

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a very lucrative prize. Followed by a short discussion around a different topic each week, finishing by setting a task to complete across the week.

My personal favourite task was the 'view from my window' competition, as we got to see some fascinating landscapes and one student even managed to capture some snow at school!

During these meetings we also discussed our upcoming fundraising event 'The Double Ultra Triathlon Challenge'. If you would like to find out more about this or to donate to help us meet our optimistic goal of £1000 for Young Minds charity please follow this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/schoolhouse2021>

The next meeting will take place on Saturday 27th February and will be led by an external company 'Clued up Coaching' to discuss ways of managing wellbeing, specific to young men.

With a house as diverse as ours it can sometimes be difficult to showcase all of our wonderful cultures. However with the final week of this half-term falling on the Chinese New Year, we saw the year of the Ox in, in style. An evening dedicated to the festivities saw the Catering department bring in one of their top chefs, who is renowned for their Chinese cuisine. Creating a three



course meal with delicacies ranging from crispy duck pancakes and kung pao pork to a variety of tropical fruits and delicious ribs (we were all very full up). We were also able to watch some musical performances from some members of our boarding community. Will's singing certainly brought a vibrant atmosphere and roused the crowd. It truly was a magical evening!

It definitely needs to be said how thankful we are for the wonderful medical team (testing everyone continuously to make sure we are able stay up and running), the housekeeping staff for keeping the house clean and safe, the catering staff for providing fantastic and substantial meals to keep us all running, the house staff for always putting the boys mental and physical wellbeing and most importantly the boys, for staying positive throughout this term and giving us something to smile about.

All that's left to say is we are counting down the days until we are allowed to have all of the boys back in the house, although there is still no definite end in sight we hope it comes sooner rather than later.

Hoping you stay safe and well,
Best wishes

Mrs Jennie Cooling, Mr Rob Cooling
Houseparents
Mr Joey Bishop
Assistant Houseparent



Have a great Half Term, everyone!