



School House Newsletter

First half of Autumn Term 2020

Dear parents, guardians and students

Wow! What a year to start as the Houseparents of School House. Regardless of the challenges this year has brought to all of us, our family could not be happier to be looking after such a diverse group of young people who all bring their own unique, positive energy to the School House community.

When we moved in back in August,



we welcomed the huge amount of space that the boys had to call their home. This is an increase from previous years as we now have what were all of the main office spaces as our School House 'bubbled' social areas. The front of the main school building is now our very grand front door! However, we felt that our boarding home was lacking a little



bit of identity, so we have started to strip back some of the office style and started to create a home that we feel the boys can feel proud of and can relax in after a day of lessons and at the weekends. We have grand plans for further improvements and I hope that these can begin as soon as the covid restrictions allow.

The many social spaces have enabled our year groups to remain bubbled in the house without the students feeling too restricted. I doubt that many boarding environments have had the luxury to maintain comfortable distancing between year groups such as been able in School House.

We have been able to have some fun activities on site, including 'Inflatable Fun' which included an inflatable obstacle course; even giving the opposition a head-start, Jack Lee (Y9) always managed to navigate through in record time! On one of the hottest Sunday's since returning, the boys enjoyed an afternoon of Laser-Tag. One of my favourite photos from this term is of (can you guess?) camouflaged in the cargo-net! For the less adventurous we have had

two shopping trips to Clarks Village in Street and Exeter City Centre. Getting out and seeing some other places has been a welcome break from online shopping! We have also had lots of House matches. I particularly enjoyed watching the Badminton - James Wong (Y12) - we were very impressed with his tactical shots, Basketball - Kyrie He (Y13) was a superstar and Hockey (Oliver Dermody (Y13)

- I can't erase the image of the blue



face paint whilst tracking back! I was unaware of just how talented some of the School House boys are but also how enthused they all are to get stuck in for the love of their House. We have even managed to join in with the year 9 and 10 pool competition. Needless to say we could do with a little more practice - I'll be practising over half-term



Jeffrey (Y10) for our rematch! During the final weekend of this first half of term, Dylan (Y11) flew the flag for School House on Exmoor completing two days of the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Well done Dylan. On this day we also concluded the first half of term by recognising and supporting the efforts of our amazing NHS by raising money to run, whilst being pummelled with powder paint, across our wonderful grounds. The colour-run really was an amazing, fun, climax to a challenging term which reminded us all what a



wonderful community we belong to. We also welcomed 'Juno' our Boarder-Collie puppy only this past week. At only eight weeks old and full of mischief, she has already stolen the heart of some of our biggest softies - CJ (Y13)! We hope that the boys will enjoy watching her grow and develop into the School



House pet. Although some restrictions have been frustrating for the boys (and staff!), they have adapted and accepted the necessity for some undesirable changes and I would like to thank the boys and their families for their continued support. Our house motto is 'We are all a bit weird, but we look out for each



other' and as long as we continue to stick by our values, I am confident that our house will continue to be a happy home.

I hope that the boys all enjoy a relaxing half-term - whether staying in school, returning home or staying with a guardian or host family - and return refreshed and ready for the final half of the Autumn term. With best wishes for a very happy half-term,

Jennie and Robert Cooling
Houseparents - School House

