

September 2010

Dear Parents

First of all, may I welcome you and your daughter back to a new school year. We have had a very busy time in school over the summer break and I would like to keep you up-to-date with developments.

The Sports Hall build based on the Boys' School site, is progressing on schedule despite the poor weather and we are very pleased with the contractors, Bardsley Construction. I hope you have received the Sporting Start Newsletter which outlined the programme of development regarding the next 10 years, which begins with the 2 year sports' programme.

Our ICT facilities have undergone a huge overhaul over the last few months. This has caused some initial teething problems, but will result in faster access speeds, the ability to be able to log on to the system from anywhere on the schools' sites and a consolidation of facilities. We believe we have created an infrastructure which will support future ICT developments across the curriculum.

I would also like to inform you of our successful examination season this summer. Our A level students achieved a fantastic 78.4% A*, A and B grade percentage, with over half the results being an A* or A grade. More importantly over 78% of our students attained their place at their first choice of university, 67% of which were at Russell Group universities. You will have read in the papers of the individual success of some of our students: Fehn Chua-Short achieved her dream of studying Natural Sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge. Elizabeth Bramhall gained 4 A* and will be studying at York, and Victoria Wijeratne and Karen Pinto gained 3A* grades each for their places at Manchester and Kings College respectively.

Our Lower Sixth students gained an equally impressive 73% at A/B grade, and we are also pleased that these girls acquired a very small number of D grades and no E/U grades at all.

We are thrilled with the GCSE results, where the A/A* grade was just short of 80%. The strength of the school in delivering excellent standards, in traditional subject areas, at all levels, is the result of sustained hard work and the dedication of both pupils and teachers, which is underpinned by the support of parents and families. These fantastic results and our success at higher education entry, are a reflection of year-on-year good work habits and practice, which will enable our students to approach the next stages of their lives with confidence and competence. I would like to congratulate all our pupils on their success and wish our Upper Sixth leavers all the best in the next stage of their life.

Many girls have participated in a variety of memorable activities this holiday break. The Belgium choir and orchestra stunned the tourists at the Menin Gate in Ypres

when they performed in July. Some of our CCF/Navy Cadets were guests at the commissioning service of the new submarine, HMS Astute at the end of August which was a unique experience for them, especially meeting HRH Duchess of Rothesay. Other girls have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and I know several have been undertaking fundraising activities to raise money for the Ecuador expedition next year.

The new term's diary looks to be as full as ever and the Autumn Term dates list will be with you shortly, as will last term's Merchants' Tales. The Girls' School, including Stanfield, is due for the new, short-notice, interim inspection during this year and I hope you will be able to respond to the invitation to comment on the School's performance when we are given the notification.

I hope you will be able to attend the many events during this term, including Prize Giving on November 5th and the joint production of Jesus Christ Superstar at the end of November, as well as the PTA's Christmas Fair on Saturday 4th December.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L A Robinson
Headmistress