



March 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we come to the end of another busy term, I have yet again been very impressed by the energy, commitment and creativity of our pupils and staff, who have enjoyed a full and rewarding term.

There have been several highlights.

Dr Gill's Joint Schools' production of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee was another opportunity for our pupils to showcase their acting abilities and talent. Rehearsing since early autumn, the whole cast and crew deserve enormous credit for the overall quality of the performance. The depth and accuracy of the characters really transported the audience back to the controversial social issues of 1930s Alabama. I am very grateful for their commitment to school drama and in many cases to music as well, and also grateful to the many parents who have been taxiing their sons and daughters to rehearsals and performances over many months.

This month we were also delighted to welcome Ben Heason to give the Emrys Jones Lecture, delivered to a large audience, including pupils from several local schools. His lecture was entitled 'Climbing into the Lost World'. Ben told us about his ground-breaking expedition to Venezuela, where he made the first free-climbed ascent of the Angel Falls (the highest waterfall in the world). Ben demonstrated that, by coupling hard work, focus, planning and teamwork with positive thinking and a determination to succeed, just about any goal is attainable.

We were also able to invite Dr Kathryn Weston to the school who addressed our parents as part of our Merchant Taylors' Speaker Series. The title of her presentation was 'Future-proof your child: how parents can boost children's life chances and secure their success' and it was very well received by an enthusiastic and engaged group of parents who had braved the winter weather to attend.

It has been another busy term for sport with rugby, football, hockey, swimming, orienteering and rowing. The breadth of sporting talent shown by our boys is a real strength of our school and a special vote of thanks must go to the staff who support, coach, referee and transport boys to these fixtures. Some of our outdoor sportsmen have had to show particular resilience during the cold weather and I am grateful to parents for their dedication and flexibility when arrangements have been changed.

The U14 rugby team have made it to the Lancashire Final which was unfortunately postponed last week due to bad weather and will be held next term and the Hockey 1st XI made it to the Quarter finals of the National Championships. In individual success, Sixth Form Student James Harper has been selected for the England National U17 Rugby squad.

A date for your diaries during the first few weeks of next term is Friday 27th April when our CCF Inspection Day will take place. Parents and friends are warmly invited to join us from 2pm with the Inspection of the Guard of Honour. Tea will be available all afternoon and the Inspecting Officer's address will take place at approximately 3.45pm after which Cadets will be dismissed. The Inspecting Officer this year is Group Captain John Lawlor, Chief of Staff, RAF Air Cadets.

At the end of a term which began with mock examinations for boys in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth, I must urge them to make the most of the revision opportunities which present themselves over the Easter holidays.

It now only remains for me to once again thank parents for their unfailing support for the School and to wish you and your families an enjoyable Easter break

Yours sincerely



D Williams