



Boarding News

December 2018



Message from Director of Boarding

It has been another remarkable term in boarding, with robust academic progress swathed in an ample amount of good old-fashioned fun! It always astonishes me as to how much boarders achieve with their time in boarding, participating in a wide variety of sports, significant musical accomplishments, involvement in drama productions and numerous other clubs and activities whilst steadily progressing academically and receiving an abundant amount of praise from their teachers. I hope the following gives a flavour as to endeavours of the Michaelmas term.

Edwin Jones

Sport

Boarders as always have made full use of the significant amount of sporting activities offered by the school, and my thanks to Mrs Millard and her team for welcoming and encouraging the boarders to participate fully in the numerous opportunities provided. Many boarders and in particular the German girls have

participated in just about everything, from hockey and football to trampolining and squash. Amelie Steegmann, Lottie-Lou Smith and Rowan Bayly have on several occasions been chosen to play for the extremely competitive hockey first team, a noteworthy achievement in itself.



Badminton club after school has also proved to be popular with the boarders, with many having played in inter-house Badminton competitions. In particular Geri Ng, Mike Chow, Sophie Kutnjak, Hoffman Leong, Haziq Fazal, Gabriel Hu and Sophie Wanik have shown superb commitment. And several boarders have taken advantage of the good weather to play until sunset on the tennis, and especially Hoffman who is becoming an extremely skilled tennis player!



Most Friday and Saturday evenings a large number of boarders additionally turn out for further football and hockey games under the guidance of evening boarding staff. On one occasion there were 48 boarders playing on the Astro until very late into a Friday evening - many thanks to Mr Buckingham and Mr Stubbings for giving so freely of their time to organise these popular sessions (and for joining in!).

Choir House

As always Choir House has been extremely busy with the 24 choristers somehow managing to accomplish 20 hours of singing every week in addition to school life, whilst not neglecting to also

have large amounts of fun! The highlight this term was a trip to Abbey Road Studios in London where the Choristers made a one-off recording with Canterbury Poet Laureate Lemn Sissay; this was part of the Cathedral's Canterbury Voice fundraising campaign and provided a wonderful photographic opportunity to mimic the famous picture of the Beatles from the sixties.



All choristers are immensely gifted but we must mention one in particular, a superb individual achievement came from Frederick Butler who was a finalist in the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition.



Music

We are always blessed to have so many skilful musicians living within the boarding community, and this year we again have an abundance of talent. Under the guidance of Mr Payne (Director of Music) and his team, Alavaro Casanovas played in a lunchtime concert and the Kent Festival Piano Classes here at the school in November. Sophia Grundmann, Fred Rupp, Sophie Wanik, Joseph Henry, Marcus Yanni, Luisa Heiss, Valerie Heiss, Antonia Beusch, Andrey Abramov and

Emily Eckert have all been actively involved in the Choir, Orchestra or Big Band at the Colyer-Fergusson Hall for the Michaelmas Concert and St Edmund's Day, and all were also involved in the Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral on the last day of term.



School House

Our younger boarders love living in this part of the school, with graffiti wallpaper and bright colours adorning every wall, and my thanks go to the four Houseparents who live amongst the boarders and provide such a homely and caring atmosphere. Saturday nights have been mostly film nights with *High School Musical* leading the way, and karaoke over the weekends has also been great entertainment with the children struggling at times to get CSgt French off the microphone (should someone tell him?).



Activities have been numerous with amazing trips on Saturday mornings, some examples are indoor rock climbing in which Sunip Gurung was rated as an excellent climber with the fastest time, another seeing bears and deer at Wildwood Animal Park, and also the Go Karting trip which is always extremely popular.

To encourage greater cohesion between Choir House choristers and the boarders living in the main building on 'the hill', School House were invited to a wonderful evening at Choir House during the term. The chef laid on a fantastic spread for the children, consisting of mini burgers, hot dogs and pizza (obviously all big hitters with the youngsters). After dinner the children listened to some of the choristers play on the grand piano.



Academic Life

As well as fun in boarding there has also been immense hard work as pupils work towards exams. Our Sixth Form pupils are also making their university applications with many international students hoping to study at some of the UK's top universities.

Sixth Form Mathematicians achieved some excellent results in the 2018 British Mathematical Olympiad run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. This is a challenging, long-established competition for the best young mathematicians across the country and our pupils performed brilliantly, earning two gold and three silver medals. Congratulations to Gabriele Hu, Jason Zhu, Matteo Juvara and Runxuan Zhang.

Weekend Activities

Many thanks to Mr Buckingham for providing a massive number of activities this term, and we now have a trip away from school every Sunday afternoon. Over the past few weeks boarders have been able to visit Bluewater, Chom Chom

restaurant, Ice Skating Rink, Rock Climbing Centre, the Christmas Fayre in Tunbridge Wells, Paintballing, Lazer Rush and a trip to the seaside at Margate with Dreamland and the Turner Gallery.



These trips have been extremely well attended with the minibuses taking the boarders away from school for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon. We will develop this in the Lent term with some longer weekend trips and are all looking forward to a day trip to the Harry Potter studios and a weekend trip to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Spotlight



As Captain of Boarding Vladislav Zlatkin is an inspirational leader of the boarding community. He somehow manages to dedicate a large amount of time to being the voice of the boarders in addition to being Captain of School and a dedicated member of the CCF, working at his fitness at the university gymnasium and, of course, studying hard in his goal to read medicine at university.

End of Term



And so with the academic progress tests completed we entered December and the end of term arrangements began. Christmas trees appeared in the Common Rooms and were quickly decorated; yuletide biscuits were made on a Sunday morning with Mrs Jones in the Food & Nutrition Department, and Christmas films (Home Alone and Elf) were given their yearly showing. The Christmas Ball on the last Friday in the stately dining hall is always an exciting event and an opportunity for the boarders to dress up in their very best garments. A great evening with music chosen by the boarders and a professional magician circulating and making everyone muse as to how he made various objects disappear between his fingers.



This was a lovely way to end a wonderful term and my profound thanks to the boarding team and to every boarder who make boarding life so perfect within the school.

We wish all our boarders and their families a happy Christmas.

