



18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear parents,

I am writing at the end of an extremely busy and rewarding term. September and welcoming the new Year 7 students seems very distant! The term has seen a vast array of activities including the Sponsored Walk, School of Rock, Careers Fair, the Carol Service, many sporting fixtures and the Senior Citizens Party. The letter will summarise the final few weeks and highlight the key events of the new term.

### **Senior Citizens Party**

We welcomed over 100 local senior citizens on Friday afternoon. The event was largely organised by our pupils. Money was raised through the school bazaars. The food was prepared by Year 10 and Year 8 pupils acted as hosts. The whole afternoon was coordinated by the 6<sup>th</sup> form volunteers aided by Mr Woollett. I have already received several letters praising the students for their hospitality.

### **Sporting Update**

I received a lovely e-mail from a parent following our recent success in cross country.

“On Tuesday the school took 6 pupils to compete at Lightwater near Woking with 15 or so other schools, many private with all the sports gear, and our pupils did amazingly. Of the 3 categories of races that they entered they won all 3!! (the standard was extremely high) and all of the pupils we took qualified for the next round. It was very impressive and I would like to thank the staff for their enthusiasm and effort. The pupils were all charming and great fun to be with and clearly extremely talented.”

Following these strong performances 6 pupils have been selected to represent central Surrey at the Surrey School's cross country competition in January: Hayden Gale, Ella Smyth, Sam Dexter, Luke Mackenzie, Felix Vaughan, Ewan Bate.

More generally, it has been a good term for extra-curricular sport. A new timetable will be released in January with a focus on preparation for the Gym and Dance evening. Once the evenings become lighter again after school's clubs will return to the usual finish time of 4.45

### **Key Stage 3 Concert**

The music department is holding a KS3 concert on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the BPA. This is an opportunity for students in Years 7-9 who play an instrument or sing to perform to an audience. Pupils who would like to perform should have already registered their interest with their music teacher or Ms Sampson. Due to the high level of interest, some pupils will need to perform for us on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January in order to achieve a balance in the concert, and we will try to involve those who are not selected in a future event. All are welcome to come and watch the event on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Music Concerts 2018**

There are a large variety of music concerts planned for 2018, which are following a different format to previous years. Some highlighted dates for your diary are below – we hope to see lots of friends and family there supporting the students involved in these events.

9<sup>th</sup> January – KS3 Concert; 14<sup>th</sup> March – Year 11 GCSE Concert;  
18<sup>th</sup> April – A-Level Recital Evening



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1<sup>st</sup> May – Music Concert (all music extra-curricular clubs will be involved in this event)  
28<sup>th</sup> June – Cabaret Night; 5<sup>th</sup> July – KS3 Concert; 11<sup>th</sup> July – Year 10 GCSE Concert

### **Online safety**

We are often asked by parents for advice regarding online safety. I was forwarded an interesting article that provided guidance for parents and online security particularly around Christmas. The article can be found at <https://www.e-safetysupport.com/stories/292/digital-christmas-tips-for-parents#.WjTQxWe7LIV>

### **Uganda Fund raising**

The school is taking a group of 20 students to Uganda in July as part of the Build Africa project. The students have made a great start to reaching their goal and have started cake sales and organised a Year 7 Disco. There will be more events taking place in the New Year.

### **Careers Advice**

Careers guidance can be as daunting for parents as it is for students. As always I would stress that our careers adviser is always available to answer questions on [carroll.jo@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:carroll.jo@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk). We have recently been forwarded a useful website that parents can use to help them understand a wide range of the key decisions affecting students when making the key transitional choices. The website can be found at <http://www.ukcareers.ey.com/schools/career-advice/parental-advice?src=JB-26001>

### **Apprenticeship Fair- March 14<sup>th</sup>**

There has been an expansion in the numbers of apprenticeships in recent years particularly those aimed at the post 18 sector. We are proposing to stage our first apprenticeship fair on 14<sup>th</sup> March from 2-4.30pm. The aim of the afternoon is to offer interested Year 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> form students the opportunity to speak to different apprenticeship providers and employers. We have had a number of people who have already expressed an interest in taking part. Please do write to Mr Panting on [panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) if you are interested in participating in the event.

### **Competition for Year 8 and 9**

As stated in the previous letter, the NHS is running a competition for year 8 and 9 pupils to create a job advert for a position in the NHS. Pupils can work by themselves or in groups of up to 4 and need to submit the entry to Miss Jackson in R10 by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Details of the competition can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM0JpcCrIbw#action=share>

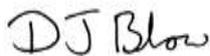
### **Uniform**

I would like to thank parents for the support they provide the school with administering the uniform rules. Could I remind all parents that shoes must be black and polishable. Canvas trainer style shoes are not permissible. Please ensure that all clothing is named in case it is lost.

### **End of term**

The term will finish on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm. The school will reopen on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 8.45am. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow  
Headteacher