

5th December 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This long Autumn term ends next week and I write to report to you news of past and future events.

The Playground

Planning permission has been granted to develop our playground with a new specialised surface, landscaping to create a new garden area and the installation of a 'bicycle shed'. Our Architect is currently finalising the details of our proposals with the Planning Officers and contractors have been instructed to commence works the moment we have been given the go-ahead.

School Visits

Mrs Reeves organised a Business Studies trip for Years 10 and 11 to 'new' venues (for us) this term, **Reuters** in the City of London in the morning and then in the afternoon, **Westferry Printers** on the Isle of Dogs.

Ms Noades, accompanied by Senorita Porto, took the Year 11 GCSE Art group to **Tate Britain** to see the **Turner Prize Retrospective Exhibition** and then to **Tate Modern** for an interactive workshop.

More recently, Year 9 visited the **Natural History Museum** to see the **Volcanoes and Earthquakes Exhibition** to enhance their studies in Geography.

On the subject of visits, for those of you whose children are going on the **History trip to the World War I Battlefields in France**, please remember to send in their **Passport and European Health Insurance Card** so they can be photocopied.

The School prides itself on the number, quality and originality of the visits which are organised and, to give you advance warning, currently we are planning excursions for **Years 7-10** for the **final week of the Summer Term**. As well as the normal 'adventure day', we have booked tickets for the **Tutankhamun Exhibition** on the **final Tuesday of that term**.

Recent Events

We have been treated to a rich variety of **assemblies** given by the **Chairman of the Governors', Members of Staff and Pupils**. Subjects have ranged from **poetry recitals, the history of the School and short playlets** to, most recently, **a music assembly presented by pupils in Year 11**.

Year 7 September 2008

Last month, following our busy **Open Mornings and Afternoon**, we held an **Assessment Morning** for children wishing to enter Year 7 in September 2008. As a result, many of the places have already been taken and only a very few remain.

PTO

Games Staff

Recently two new faces have joined the Games Department to help Mr Orchard and Mr Powell with our extensive games programme. **Mrs Claire Dannatt**, who has much experience teaching games in local schools, will be concentrating particularly on the girls' games and **Miss Charlotte Harvey**, who is a student in her final year at St Mary's College studying for a Sports Science degree, will be assisting her from time to time.

Change of School Times for Thursday, 13th December and Friday, 14th December

Thursday, 13 th December	Doors Open	8 45 am
	Registration	9 10 am
Friday, 14 th December MUFTI DAY	Doors Open	8 45 am
	Registration	9 10 am
	Term Ends	Midday

Important Dates for Spring Term

Please make a note of the following dates in your diaries:

Tuesday, 8 th January	Term Begins at 10 00 am
Monday, 14 th January	Year 11 Mock GCSE's
	Year 10 Mid Year Exams
Wednesday, 23 rd January	Year 10 Physics trip to Natural History Museum
Wednesday, 30 th January	Year 9 Geography Visit to Kew Gardens
4 th -8 th February inclusive	Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday, 5 th February	Year 11 History Visit to Holocaust Exhibition
Wednesday, 6 th February	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday, 8 th February	Half-Term Begins 3 35 pm

PLEASE NOTE: PARENTS' EVENING FOR YEARS 7 AND 8 WILL BE TUESDAY, 4TH MARCH

St Johns the Baptist Church, Kingston Vale

I have been asked to pass on to you details of the Christmas Services for the above Church.

Sunday, 16 th December	6 30 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	6 00 pm	Crib Service and Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day	9 30 am	Christmas Communion

Please find enclosed a calendar detailing most of the events planned for next term, a letter from the Secretary of the School Council about a special Christmas Lunch planned for next Wednesday, 12th December, the Exam Timetable for Years 10 and 11 for week commencing 14th January.

And finally, I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing holiday and festive greetings.

Yours sincerely,

Robin F Metters