

Address Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TD

Headmaster Mark Dixon

Telephone 01737 649000

Fax 01737 649002

Website www.raa-school.co.uk

ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



July 2020

Dear Parent,

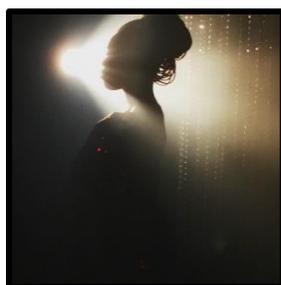
Headmaster's End of Year Letter July 2020

It has been barely four months since life at School changed completely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It would be too easy to focus on the immediate issues we face with the continuing impact of coronavirus, but in my last letter of the School year I want to focus on what we have achieved in the whole of the School year.



Let's start with our many sporting achievements. Pupils have participated in a bewildering array of sports this year. Many took place in curriculum time, and others took place within our amazing co-curricular programme. I am pleased we have been able to offer the traditional sports of rugby, netball, swimming, hockey and football, alongside mountain biking, boxfit, judo and archery to name but a few. There have been some notable successes in the year with Year 10 girls and our Under 12s girls becoming District Netball Champions, and

winning the Patron's Cup in our rugby and netball matches in the annual fixture against Gordon's School.



Then there were the many theatrical and musical events that took place. A particular highlight was 'Cabaret' – a collaboration between many school departments – that was beautifully performed, staged and presented, and drew acclaim from the enthusiastic audiences. The team in the Music department have excelled themselves by running many musical events including the Year 7 Music Showcase, the 'Lighter side of Gatton', percussion workshop as Holmesdale School and various Christmas Carols services. I was

delighted when the Governing Body agreed we could become an 'All Steinway School' and look forward to taking delivering of the world-class Steinway pianos. This will elevate music to a new level.



I have been immensely proud of all the work pupils have done to support those less fortunate than themselves. Fundraising events have included wearing stripes to support Stripey Stork who support families in need in Surrey, Sleepeasy where pupils slept outside for a night to raise money for East Surrey YMCA, Operation Christmas Child, and the Christmas Lunch for Age Concern.

There have been other notable events including a number of Model United Nations conferences, including one here in Gatton Park, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and the DofE Gold awards ceremony, and our own general election campaign which took place on the same day as the General Election. There have been many school trips including the ski trip, Netherlands, Cern in Switzerland, WW1 battlefields, London shows, theme parks and the ever-popular trips to shopping centres. To help prepare for life after school, pupils attended jobs fairs, careers talks and university visits.



School events have run throughout the year and these have included Remembrance Day, Parents Evenings, Assemblies, Open Days and celebrations of achievement. I must pay tribute to our Cadets who have been invaluable in helping to ensure these events run smoothly. There have been many house events including competitive sports, photo competitions and well-being events. Harrison Catering Services have provided some fantastic theme nights which are enjoyed by pupils and staff including pancake day, Chinese New Year and Burns Night. Special mention must go to the Harry Potter meal where there was a top table with the junior staff dressed up as the Hogwarts teachers.



On the academic side of things, the year has not ended with pupils taking external examinations, but Year 11 and Year 13 pupils will still be awarded grades in the Summer. I would like to stress, once again, how impressed I have been with the mature approach taken by pupils as they have continued their learning whilst at home in the last few months. It will stand them in good stead when they come back in September.

The next job is to plan for September and this is something that will continue throughout the summer as we receive more Government guidance. I have been asked many questions about what is happening in September, especially from families who are living overseas, so a set of Frequently Asked Questions has been produced (see [HERE](#)). This document will be updated through the summer as we get more information so please check the 'Covid-19' page for updates.

All that remains is for me to wish you a lovely summer holiday. I think we have all earned a break after the last few difficult months.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Mark Dixon'.

Mark Dixon
Headmaster