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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



14th October 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been only six weeks since I became Headmaster of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School and it is hard to believe how much has happened in such a short time. It has been a steep learning curve but I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with our pupils, parents, governors and everyone associated with this School. I have been impressed with the attitude to learning and positive behaviour of the children. The families who visited on the two Open Mornings gave consistently good feedback about the enthusiasm of the children that showed them around. It is clear that pupils are proud of this school.

I have been equally impressed with the sporting achievements of the teams that represent us in inter-school matches and tournaments. The Year 10 Netball team had a particularly noteworthy win at the recent District Championship Competition. It is good to see such numbers representing the School in such a breadth of sports. As you know, I would like to increase the number of sports teams so more pupils have an opportunity to participate in competitive sport and I am working with governors and members of the senior leadership team to move this forward.

Looking ahead, on Wednesday 9th November there will be our annual sporting fixture with the only other state boarding school in Surrey, Gordon's School. The Sovereign's Cup Rugby match and the Duchess of Gloucester Cup Netball match will both start at 2.30pm. These are important matches for the school, and pupils from our Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 Rugby and Netball teams will be out in force to cheer our teams on. I would like to invite parents to come along and join us at this event. Our catering team from Harrisons, who sponsor the Rugby First XV, have agreed to provide hot drinks and food for spectators. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the food and drink will be put towards the Netball tour to Barbados and the Rugby tour to South Africa. My thanks to Harrisons for their support.

Finally, I would like to mention one of our pupils who did a very brave thing yesterday. Ella-Louise Brown had her hair shaved off to raise money for her friend, and a former pupil at this school, Daniella. Daniella has been suffering from Leukaemia and had benefited from support from the charity, Starlight Children's Foundation. Ella aimed to raise £150 for the charity but she has already exceeded her target and the total is currently £900. I am really touched by this act of kindness and by the way the whole school has supported Ella. She is an example to us all and a true friend to Daniella.

I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable half term break and I look forward to welcoming your children back, relaxed and ready to learn, after half term.

Mark Dixon
Headmaster