School Office: 01737 649000
Weekly Newsletter
Issue No.1 – 2016/2017
9th September 2016

ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen"

- Winston Churchill

WHOLE SCHOOL

Headmaster's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to all parents and carers at the beginning of what promises to be a very busy academic year. There is already a buzz about the school as new and returning pupils settle in to the routine of school life.

In my first assembly I talked to pupils about taking pride in being Gattonians. I encouraged them to get the most out of their wonderful surroundings, the community, and their time in the school, both in and out of lessons.

There is a lot to look forward to this term. There are already many sports fixtures for Rugby, Netball and Hockey, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are planned, Drama productions are in the diary and the Music Department is working on a diverse range of concerts.

I know many of you will have looked through the activities in the Co-Curricular Programme with your child when the brochure was circulated in August. There was an air of excitement when pupils signed up for co-curricular activities on Wednesday and the programme will commence next week. There are further details about Co-curricular activities in this newsletter.

I will write to you in the next week or so with more news, but in the meantime I wish you all the best for the new term.

Mark Dixon
Headmaster

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and another packed co-curriculum programme. Each term we review the programme and update it to reflect the season, the activities that are the most popular, and include new activities. This term we have added new activities including Magic Club, Fencing and Sugar Craft. Popular clubs such and cookery clubs, trampolining and mountain biking are continuing and we have many new music and science clubs.

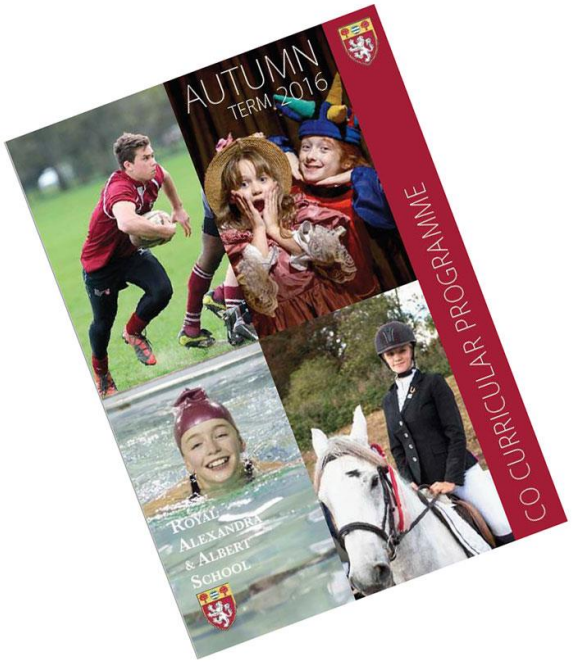
The booking system opened on Wednesday and hundreds of pupils have already signed up for their preferred activities. The booking system will be open until Friday afternoon so please encourage your child to make the most of the opportunities available.

If a club is full, pupils can put their name on the waiting list and they should be encouraged to do this. They will then get priority for that club next term. The waiting lists also help us to plan activities for next term.

I will email you with details of your child's activity choices on Friday evening. Clubs will start on Monday (12th September) so if you have any questions about your child's choices, please get in touch over the weekend. We can then make any adjustments before the registers are printed on Monday morning.

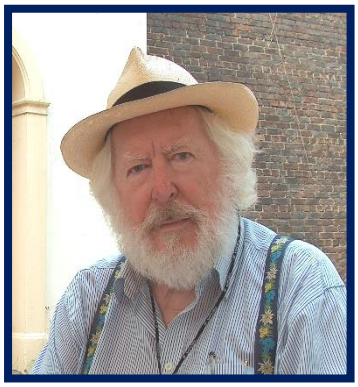
We are always looking for new ideas for activities so if you think of an activity you would like us to add to the programme please get in touch. If you have any questions about the co-curricular programme please email cocurriculum@gatton-park.org.uk.

Anne Vaughan
Head of Co-Curricular



Roger Collis RIP

4 February 1935 – 10 August 2016



Roger Collis was a loyal supporter of RAAS, and a frequent participant in our public occasions. He lived (until 2009, with his wife Deirdre) in a charming Gatton residence just beyond the School gate called 'The Pigsty'. Roger was, as they say, larger than life. Following an extensive career in the pharmaceuticals industry, he was a foreign correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune, and a noted travel and business journalist and author. Roger had a great love of literature and language. He could recite hours of famous texts from memory, and we all enjoyed his huge, beautifully modulated, broadcasting standard voice. His wife 'Dee' has two dance prizes in her memory on our Founders' Day prize list. He was a most diligent parishioner of St Andrew's Church at Gatton. There will be a requiem mass for Roger in his church this coming Friday, 16th September at 11:00. At the end of this service, he will be buried, as he wished, alongside Dee, not far from the church door. The colourful contribution made by these two remarkable souls is embodied in the startling Edward Lear inscription they insisted upon as their gravestone: *'The owl and the pussy cat went to sea…'*

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOST PROPERTY

Parents are asked to ensure that all personal items brought into school are clearly marked with the student's name. Sewn in labels are the preferred method of marking as these do not easily become detached from clothing. If using permanent markers, please ensure that you use the student's full surname as we have a number of students with the same initials.
With the onset of colder weather, we ask you to ensure that all overcoats are named as we do accumulate a large number of unnamed coats over the winter months, which we are unable to return to students.

Distribution of Lost Property

Named items:
Will be returned to students either via the Main School Reception or via the Boarding House.

Unnamed Items found in School or outlying areas:
Electrical Items (Mobile phones) - Held by Gary Bendall
Valuables (Jewellery, spectacles, watches, pencil cases etc.) - Held by Main School Reception.
Clothing/Shoes – Held by Sewing Room, Gatton Hall

Unnamed Items found in Boarding Houses:
Any item found in the Boarding House will be held, in the House, for safekeeping.

Swimming Notice

Recreational Swimming is cancelled until further notice

Swimming lessons, squad training, waterpolo, octopush, kayaking and scuba diving are continuing as normal.

HERE'S WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THE COMING WEEK…		
Sat 10th Sept 16	Hever Castle	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)

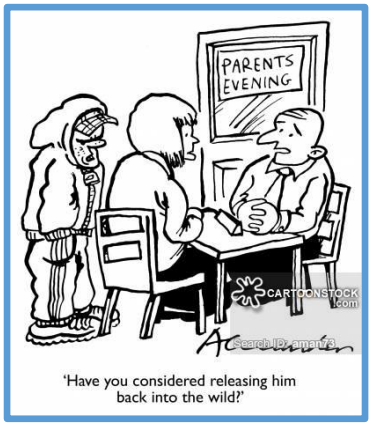
AVAILABLE TRIPS ON WISEPAY

Sun 18th Sept 16	Museum of Transport, London	£7.00	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)
Sun 25th Sept 16	Joss Bay Beach (trip to beach with & without Surf lesson)	With surf lesson £35.00 WITHOUT surf lesson £5.00	Boarders
Sat 1st Oct 16	West End Theatre Trip The Play that went Wrong	£35.00 (students) £40.00 (additional adults)	Year 7 & above Additional Adults
Sun 2nd Oct 16	Chessington World of Adventures	£29.50 £10.00 Merlin Pass Holders	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)
Sun 2nd Oct 16	Tower Bridge Experience & HMS Belfast	£20.00	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)
Sat 8th Oct 16	Fright Night at Thorpe Park (12.30 – 10pm)	£29.50	Year 8 + (NOT AVAILABLE FOR Duke of Edinburgh Bronze participants)
Sun 9th Oct 16	Rollerskating at RAAS	£5.50	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)
Sun 9th Oct 16	JRC Global Buffet	£19.99 £10.00 Juniors under 150cm	Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)

Sat 12th – Sun 13th Nov 16	Bushcraft Camp-Juniors	£12.00	Junior Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)

Sun 13th Nov 16	Micro Navigation (novice & confidence building)	£5.00	Duke of Edinburgh participants (Open to others)
Sat 19th – Sun 20th Nov 16	Bushcraft Camp-Seniors	£12.00	Senior Boarders (+ flexi boarders resident for weekend)
Sat 19th Nov 2016	Rugby trip to Twickenham: England vs Fiji	£20.00 15 years & under £30.00 16 years & over PARENTS & STAFF	ALL INCLUDING PARENTS & STAFF
Sun 20th Nov 16	Micro Navigation (more advanced)	£5.00	Duke of Edinburgh NB Gold Award Duke of Edinburgh should attend (open to others)
Sat 26th Nov 16	Rugby trip to Twickenham: England vs Argentina	£25.00 15 years & under £65.00 16 years & over PARENTS & STAFF	ALL INCLUDING PARENTS & STAFF
Sat 26th Nov 16	Christmas at Kew	£10.00	ALL
Sun 11th Dec 16	Bruges Christmas market	£55.00 pupils £60.00 (parents & siblings)	ALL

Partnership with Parents



These meetings are regular forums for RAAS parents to discuss school matters with staff. They are held on Saturdays at 10:30 in Gatton Hall, Dates for the year are on the School calendar. **The first meeting, Saturday 1st October at 10:30, is an opportunity to meet and talk with the Headmaster, Mr. Mark Dixon.**

Agenda items or questions may be sent until Thursday 29 September to:

PaulJOHNSTONE@gatton-park.org.uk

SENIOR SCHOOL

Changes to prep

In light of feedback from the Parental Listening Groups held last year, this academic year will see a change to the prep policy in Year 9. Instead of pupils completing prep projects, a prep timetable will be introduced across subjects. We believe that such a change will help build the independent learning habits that are so crucial for success at GCSE level and therefore help support the transition pupils will make at the end of the year. The setting of regular prep will also encourage the development of positive study habits in pupils as well as important skills in planning and organising their time. Years 7 and 8 will complete prep projects during the Autumn Term as we continue to evaluate the form prep should take in these years. As a school we would welcome your thoughts upon the effectiveness of prep projects and whether they fully engage and support pupils in their learning. We will be inviting parents to provide us with comments during the week before the October half-term as at this point pupils will have completed the first two prep projects of the academic year. We look forward to receiving your feedback at this point.

Kate Ross

Acting Deputy Head Academic

JUNIOR SCHOOL

8 September 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: Residential Educational Trip for Year 6 Students

We are delighted to inform you that we are again organising a five day residential, educational, adventure course for Y6 students at the Kingswood Centre on the Isle of Wight for June 2017.

Kingswood is the leading residential activity centre provider, welcoming over 130,000 children each year. Their centres provide a rewarding educational programme offering many National Curriculum-linked modules combined with thrilling outdoor and indoor adventure activities, with secure and controlled residential accommodation.

The dormitories vary in size and sleep between 4 and 12 children per room, with the majority of rooms sleeping 6 – 8 children comfortably. All of the rooms are single sex accommodation

Residential courses organised by the school are an optional, but invaluable part of the National Curriculum. Pupils benefit hugely from the experience, both educationally and socially and I feel certain that the **Discovery Programme** which we have chosen will prove to be both enjoyable and very worthwhile.

The trip will take place from **Monday 12 June 2017 to Friday 16 June 2017**. The cost of the visit will be **£400 per child** and includes return travel by coach/minibus, ferry crossing, full board, accommodation and a full programme of activities.

If you would like your child to participate in this trip please arrange a deposit payment of £100 via your Wisepay account by Friday 14 October 2016 and complete and sign both the attached consent form and the emergency contact form and return them to Fiona Mallinson in the Junior School Office.

Once the deposit has been paid we would suggest a monthly payment of £60 from November through to March when the final payment will be due to the company**.** Payments should be made via your WisePay account.

In the meantime if you wish to find out more about the ethos of Kingswood, its courses, supervisory and safety measures, please visit www.kingswood.co.uk, in particular the “Parents section”.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Ines Salman
Head of the Junior Dept

Social Meeting for Junior School Parents - Saturday 17 September 2016 10:00am – 11:00am

On **Saturday 17 September** from **10.00am – 11.00am** we will be holding a social meeting for parents. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and other parents in the Junior School. Coffee and biscuits will be provided in the Performing Arts Centre (10:00am – 10:15am) and then you will be invited to join your son/daughter's class teacher for a brief meeting where the expectations and curriculum for the year will be outlined.

Could you please complete the attached reply slip for the Parent Social Meeting confirming whether you will be able to attend and return it to the Junior School Office as soon as possible so that we know how many parents to expect. Alternatively you may email Fiona Mallinson with your reply – fionamallinson@gatton-park.org.uk

I hope you have had a restful summer and are ready to support your children during the school year. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me preferably via email at inessalman@gatton-park.org.uk or my office phone 01737 649047.

Yours faithfully

Mrs I Salman
Head of the Junior Department

PARENTS SOCIAL MEETING
Saturday 17 September 2016 10:00am – 11:00am

Name of Child _____ Class _____

I / We will be able to attend the Parents Social Meeting on Saturday 17 September 2016.

Signed_____Parent/Guardian

Pencil case

At the beginning of the term, all the 6S students came prepared with a pencil case. Mrs Salman thinks that Miss Spencer [the class teacher] has cast a magic spell on all the children in the class.

She thinks this because last year a lot of the children came unprepared. We as class members think that it is very important that every class should come prepared to all lessons. We hope that in the future all classes will be as fantastic as our class [not bragging or anything]. We think that as year 6 students we should guide and encourage all the younger students. This is a good example of it. We hope that younger students shall follow our footsteps in school.

By: Jemima Philip, Olivia Cowen and Abigail Patel

All in 6S

Dear Grown Up,

On **Tuesday 13th September 2016**, our school will be taken over by a whole host of mischief-making Big Friendly Giants, Oompa-Loompas and Matildas!

It's all part of **The Dahlicious Dress Up Day**, where children come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character for a wonderfully fun and creative way to raise money for **Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity**. The charity exists to make life better for seriously ill children and young people around the UK. We'd love your child to join in, and we have lots of marvellous educational activities planned for them!

It's simply a suggested donation of at least **£1 per pupil** and you'll help our school to raise money for specialist children's nurses and other marvellous things like support for families living in poverty while caring for seriously ill child.

It's very easy to get involved – simply help your child choose a character, create a costume and remember to send them in with their donation on the day. Your child can dress up as any of Roald Dahl's fantastic characters, or simply wear his favourite colour – **yummy yellow!**

We hope you can join in our **Dahlicious Dress Up Day!**

Yours sincerely,

Miss Clark
Literacy Co-ordinator

Inspiration for your Dahlicious costumes

We have lots of help available to parents and children who want to make their own costumes or are looking for ideas about how to put together a costume out of household items. Turn over to find out more!

You can also look at the costume guides on our website **www.dahliciousdressupday.org**

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The Dahlicious Dress Up Day Costume Guide

If you and your child are not yet familiar with Roald Dahl's stories and characters, this is a perfect opportunity to introduce them. A great place to start would be to read *The Twits*, which is full of wickedly funny characters and gross-out humour that children will love. There is a whole host of information about Roald Dahl's stories on **www.roalddahl.com**

Even if you have read all of the stories, we know it's not always easy to think of a costume, so here are some ideas which are easy to put together.

Mr Twit (*The Twits*)

Scruffy clothes and messy hair is the key to *The Twits*, and for Mr Twit you'll need a big bushy beard made from wool or even cardboard, with some disgusting things stuck in it or drawn on.

Mrs Twit (*The Twits*)

Along with messy hair and a long cane, Mrs Twit also has a long warty nose. Have some fun making one out of card – download our guide from **www.dahliciousdressupday.org**

BFG (*The BFG*)

Long trousers (green or grey are ideal), shirt, waistcoat. You can make the *BFG's* giant ears from paper plates attached to a hairband.

Matilda (*Matilda*)

Blue dress (actually any dress will do!), hairband and a pile of books.

Yummy Yellow

Don't forget, yellow was Roald Dahl's favourite colour so you can join in **The Dahlicious Dress Up Day** by wearing anything yellow.

Costumes can be as simple as plain clothes and a big spoon (George, from *George's Marvellous Medicine*) or as complicated as a papier-mâché Giant Peach (from *James and the Giant Peach*).

There are lots more costume ideas and guides to help you on our website
www.dahliciousdressupday.org

Dates for your Diary – Autumn 2016

Wednesday 7 September – School Photographs

Tuesday 13 September – Roald Dahl Dress Up Day

Saturday 17 September – Junior School Parents Social 10:00am

Saturday 24 September – Open Morning (Year 6 Tour Guides)

Thursday 29 September – Internet Safety Talk for Years 5 & 6

Saturday 8 October – Open Morning (Year 5 Tour Guides)

Thursday 6 October – Y6 Heights & Weights Measuring

Tuesday 11 October – Flexi-Boarder Parents Evening 4 - 6pm
Friday 14 October – Boarders Parents Evening 2 – 4pm

Friday 14 October 2:00pm – Break up for Half-Term (Seniors 2:30pm)

Sunday 30 October – Boarder's Return 4-6pm
Monday 31 October – Lessons Begin for Autumn Term 2

Friday 11 November – Remembrance Day Service

Friday 2 December – 7.00pm Christmas Play

Saturday 3 December – 9.30am Christmas Play

Wednesday 7 December – West End in Schools Pantomime – 'Scroogical'

Thursday 8 December – Junior Boarder Christmas Dinner

Assemblies for the Autumn Term

Please Note: **Assemblies will take place at 8:35am in the PAC.**

The dates for the class assemblies are subject to change so please check with your child's teacher nearer the time if you intend to come and watch.

6L – Monday 19 September
6S – Monday 26 September
5C – Monday 10 October
5S – Monday 14 November
4M – Monday 21 November
3B – Monday 28 November

Friday 16 December 2:00pm Break up for Christmas Holidays (Seniors 2:30pm)

Boarders return on Tuesday 3 January 4-6pm

Lessons begin for the Spring Term 2017 on Wednesday 4 January

Royal Alexandra and Albert School Lunch Menu – Week Two

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
LUNCHEON	**LUNCHEON**	**LUNCHEON**	**LUNCHEON**	**LUNCHEON**	**LUNCHEON**	**LUNCHEON**
Classic Spaghetti Bolognaise	Bobo de Frongo (Chicken & Casava Stew)	Sage Roasted Turkey	Chilli con Carne	Classic Chip Shop Fish & Chips	Burrito Bar Pulled Mexican Spiced Chicken Refried Bean (v) Lime & Coriander Rice, Sour Cream, Cheese, Salad	Brunch
Pork & Black Olive Casserole with Polenta	Mukeca de Peixe (Spicy Fish Casserole)		Baked Fillet of Cod on Chorizo & Cannellini Bean Cassoulet	Potato Topped Beef & Onion Pie		
Layered Mediterranean Vegetable Lasagne	Vegetarian Feijoada	Field Mushroom Wellington	Falafel Enchilada with Harissa	Cheddar, Onion & Potato Pie		Jason's Juice & Smoothie Shack
Tomato, Garlic & Sweet Basil Ciabatta	Garlic Broccoli	Savoy Cabbage & Roasted Carrots	Salsa, Rice, Fresh Green Salad	Mushy Peas & Baked Beans		
Rocket & Baby Spinach Salad	Steamed Rice	Baked Garlic Herby Potatoes	Steamed Rice	Royal Alex 'Chippy' Curry Sauce	Mexican Salad Bar	
Italian Gingerbread Cake	Banana Cake	Eve's Pudding	Mexican Chocolate Pudding	Vanilla Rice Pudding with Berry Compote	Magdelenas Caseras	
SUPPER	**SUPPER**	**SUPPER**	**SUPPER**	**SUPPER**	**SUPPER**	**SUPPER**
'Pizza Xpress' House baked fresh pizzas with assorted toppings, mozzarella cheese & fresh oregano	'Stiff Upper Lip' Sausage & Vegetable Wellington Admiral's Fish Pie Individual Vegetarian Cottage Pie	Royal Alex 'Burger Joint' House Made Prime Beef Burger Mozzarella & Field Mushroom Burger Popcorn Chicken Burger	North African Safari Slow Braised Chicken Tagine Moroccan Spiced Beef Stew Mini Khobz with Butternut & Spiced Aubergine	Toni's Italian Pasta Night Assorted pastas & sauces selected by our resident Italian culinary expert, Toni	Chef's Special Menu	Roast of the Week
Rocket & Parmesan or Grande Caesar Salads	Roasted Root Vegetables & Gravy	Coleslaw & Relish	Cumin Seed Scented Carrots & Buttered Greens	Garlic & Herb Ciabatta		Yorkshire Pudding
Garlic Potatoes	Herb Roasted New Potatoes	Shoe String Fries	Scented Cous Cous	Italian Salad Bar		Roasted Potatoes & Root Vegetables
'Ice Cream Parlor'	Apple & Pear Pie with Custard	Banana Muffins	Zesty African Orange Cake	Tiramisu		Lemon Drizzle Cake