

Comment from the Principal - 25th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

A glorious day enjoyed by well over 40 new students during their familiarisation at the School.

Transition Day

I refer, of course, to Transition Day which is our annual occasion to give our incoming students a chance to meet with each other, and learn something more about the School they will join next year. Our new Prefects took much of the initiative in organising and running a range of activities designed to promote friendships and see something of what they might learn here. A treasure hunt was followed by Chapel which included some singing and sampling of a brand of confectionary (ask your children!); activities in science included bubble making, testing chemicals and flying paper 'planes; Afghan biscuits were on the menu in food; and newspaper fashion figured in art; sport completed an enjoyable day for all.

Peer Mentoring

A group of Year 10 students led the Year 9s in the training for the peer mentoring programme at their camp this week. It was so encouraging to hear of the excellent leadership skills of these Year 10 students: they will work with selected Year 9 students from this year in assisting the new Year 7 students settle-in to School life. This new programme will do much to reinforce the pastoral care which I believe is a distinctive element of what we are about.

Uniform

As you know our uniform is another one of the things that makes us distinctive. By and large our students wear it well and with pride: I am grateful to you, as parents and carers, for ensuring that they are attired properly. There are always occasions when, from time-to-time, issues arise and now it seems to be around footwear. Just to be clear that the approved School shoes are black, polished, lace-up leather ones and not *Converse* or *Vans*. Now, I know that one or two students are wearing *Converse* or *Vans* and they will have been told about not wearing them; however I would ask that over the holidays the appropriate shoes be obtained so that we can remove an area of doubt and aggravation. Thank you for your help and understanding.

Fees

The help and understanding of those of you who still owe fees will also be appreciated in paying before the end of the year. I really would not want any of us in the office to have to have an unpleasant conversation about this so if you are experiencing difficulties please do not hesitate to get in-touch so that some form of arrangement can be made.

Next Year

Information packs for next year, including book lists, should now have reached you but if you have not received this pack please do contact Reception.

Forthcoming Events

As always I would like to highlight the following events in the coming few days:

Week 8 – Jackman on duty

Wednesday 30th Nov - 1000 - First aid whole-school training on dealing with snake bites

Friday 2nd - Jackman to lead Chapel

...and a reminder that, as intimated, **Monday 5th December** is a **student-free day**.

The **Graduation Dinner** is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 6th December in the Yacht Club

Awards Night is at 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th December, in the Civic Centre: a reminder will be sent next week.

The **final day** for all students is Thursday 8th December which involves us all – staff and students alike – in the beach volleyball competition.

With all good wishes for what I hope will be a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Kerr

P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal