



Newsletter April 2017

Welcome to the spring newsletter. I write to you at the end of a very busy half term. At the start of this half term we had our annual residential Ofsted inspection, and I am delighted to share with you that we were graded as Outstanding in all areas. The inspector was impressed with the residential team's knowledge, understanding and care of the girls. We have also been communicating with parents, carers and families through our online survey, and I would like to thank those of you who completed it. The overwhelming majority of feedback was incredibly positive and supportive, with a few clear areas where we could improve. One of the areas was helping parents to continue to support their daughter's learning and to this end Mrs Chippington has re-issued our curriculum overviews to you all, which include clear areas and ideas for things you can do to help your daughter to learn and make progress. I hope that you find these helpful.

Year 11 and Year 10 students have been busy preparing for their forthcoming GCSE examinations. The girls in Year 11 have been working hard on completing their coursework, and many students are coming into school during the first week of the holidays to attend revision classes. The GCSE examinations begin in earnest in May and I would ask parents and carers of Year 11 students, and students in 10E, to ensure that their daughter uses the time over Easter to revise thoroughly.

At the beginning of March girls in Year 10 completed their work experience. The week long experience saw students working in a range of locations including schools, nurseries, shops and offices. The feedback from the work experience was overwhelmingly positive, with employers valuing the girl's hard work, determination and eagerness to learn. The girls were a credit to the school and to you, their families. Thank you for supporting us with work experience, it is incredibly valuable in promoting independence and communication skills.

This half term students have been embracing the great outdoors. Girls in 7R visited the British Wildlife Centre to learn about the wild animals that live in our local habitat, as part of their outdoor learning curriculum. 7R have also been learning about our animals in our smallholding, from the sheep to the alpacas. Our Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group have been to Guildford over the past few weekends to practice their canoeing skills, in readiness for their expedition in the summer. The group are showing lots of promise with their canoeing skills, and are shaping up to be a really strong D of E team. One of our ex-students, Courtney Pyne received her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award at St James Palace some weeks ago, adding to the growing number of Golden Grange girls.

Girls have also been active in our local and wider community this half term, with students visiting the elderly residents at the Woodfield Centre. Year 7 students have also visited a local synagogue as part of our RE curriculum, where they are currently learning about Judaism. We have also recently developed links with the University of Surrey, and this half term students attended an open day there to find out more about life at University. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the day, and many of them have started talking about going to University when they are older, which is fantastic.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to two members of staff. Miss Richardson is retiring after 16 years of service to the school in a number of roles. Miss Palmer has taught Maths with us this year and will be leaving us to pursue new opportunities. I would like to thank both members of staff for their contribution to our community, and wish them well for the future. Mrs Shearer, a supply teacher known to the school, will be covering Maths on our return.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy spring break. I look forward to seeing the girls on our return to school on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

Sarah Wild - Headteacher