

December 2006

Dear Parents

The longest term of the school year is now drawing to a close and I am delighted to report that a great deal has been achieved since September. Exam classes seem well on track for success and the school as a whole responded well to the challenge of Inspection just after half term. The full version of the Inspection reports will be published on the school website early next term, with separate documents dealing with the senior and preparatory schools respectively.

The cultural highlights of the term included an **Autumn concert** in October which was delightful, in terms of the quality and diversity of the music. The annual musical production, *Les Miserables*, played to full audiences and universal acclaim for five nights in November. Successes of the **Rugby** season included a fantastic 1st XV victory over Eltham College three weeks ago and consistent excellence on the part of our U14 teams.

The sporting highlight of this term thus far, however, has been the achievement of the senior girls' **netball** team, under the captaincy of Sam Holder, in reaching the final stages of the national netball tournament. They were one of only two teams from the whole of Kent to qualify (the other being Benenden) and we look forward to hearing of their continuing success.

The school **website** continues to develop and I hope that parents will look to it increasingly for fresh information about the school. The pages are updated weekly, although the termly calendar will remain the most important source of routine information and we will continue to send letters about important occasions such as parents' evenings. Items recently added to the website include news of the appointment of Mr John Gallagher as **Head of the Prep School**, with effect from September 2007.

Perhaps unseasonably, I need to draw the attention of senior school parents to a number of complaints that we have received recently about **poor driving and poor parking** in the vicinity of the Horn Park lane entrance to the school at the start and end of the school day. We are particularly concerned about the practice of stopping, however briefly, on the zig-zag lines to the right and left of the school entrance. I am sure that all parents will appreciate the importance of considerate behaviour in this matter and bear in mind the priority that we assign to the safety of our pupils.

My final point of substance concerns the first week of next term. The Spring Term will begin on Monday, 8th January. Parents should be aware, however, that the School will be closed on Friday, 12th January for the **Senior School (11+) Entrance Examination**.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all pupils and parents,

Yours sincerely

Richard F Russell