



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update 08/08/21

Dear Parents

The spread of Covid infection within the school seems to be stabilising. There is thus every likelihood that we will get through to half term without interruption or further precautionary measures. The vaccination programme in the senior school is due to take place on Monday. This will be managed and implemented by the Oxleas Trust which will also be responsible for obtaining parental approval.

European Languages Day was celebrated across the whole school last week, including the following initiatives:

- **EYFS and KS1** pupils took part in a 'show and tell' session an object or story book from another country and singing a song in another language and sixth form students taught **KS2** pupils German lessons.

In the senior school:

- **English** taught Beowulf and focused on Germanic roots of Old English compared to German. They also read The Little Prince in English and French.
- **Maths** focussed on the Greek alphabet. Parents will doubtless recall that Greek letters feature more frequently as Maths becomes more difficult.
- **History** studied original source material on the WW2 French Resistance in the original French.
- **Art** organised a whole-day art project in which pupils painted Picasso's Guernica on the wall of the foyer of the creative arts centre whilst the Spanish Civil War provided a focal point for Sixth Form students of and Spanish. The mural remains in place.
- **Music** ran a Song competition with songs in different languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic.) The link to the performances is [here](#).
- **Modern Languages** ran a Y7 art competition on the topic "Languages open doors" in which pupils in Years 8-10 taught their own home language to fellow pupils.

This week's highlights included the year's first meeting of the **John Glyn Society** in which Kate Philips, Controller of Entertainment at the BBC, spoke with engagement and humour

about her experience of working in television, addressing, amongst many other things, the vexed question of the future of television and public broadcasting in a technologically advanced society.

We have received several requests already this term from parents of senior school pupils to be released from **Saturday morning sports fixtures** against other schools. We will always consider such individual requests if there is a compelling reason, but it is important that everybody should appreciate that the fundamental expectation is that that pupils should be available to play, if selected for school teams, including at weekends. Any requests for exemption need to be approved by me or by Mrs Graham. I am sure all parents will appreciate the importance of recovering momentum in competitive team sport which was so significantly eroded during the worst period of the pandemic last year.

With just a week to go until half term, I wish to reiterate my thanks to all members of the school community for their cheerful co-operation and support as we have cautiously resumed normal service.

With best wishes to you all

Richard Russell
Headmaster
