



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 29/04/22

Dear Parents

The Summer Term is now well under way, with actual GCSE and A level exams looming and cricket fixtures planned for boys' and girls' teams in the weeks ahead. Pupils in Year 11 and above have responded magnificently to the prospect of “real” examinations for the first time since 2019 and teachers have worked with them to secure the best outcomes possible without the unenviable challenge of grading their own classes as has been the case in the last two years.

We have already received news that six of our leading linguists in Year 11 have successfully negotiated the DELF (*Diplôme d'études en langue française*) course, gaining a qualification which far exceeds GCSE in its level of difficulty.

The Outdoor Education programme has resumed this week with the Year 5 residential trip to Bradwell Bay in Essex. Activities have included archery, fencing, crabbing and high level rope walking.

We now have seven Ukrainian refugee pupils in the school, following the arrival of six new joiners in the junior school earlier this week. The challenge of getting used to a new school, a new language and a new country simultaneously is somewhat daunting for our new arrivals, but the response of our existing pupils and staff has been fantastic and the whole school community is benefiting from this very direct involvement in response to the war in Ukraine. We have been contacted by a number of other independent schools following a piece in [The Times](#) at the start of the Easter break and I hope very much that independent schools collectively will be able to make a significant contribution to our national response.

This may be tempting fate but I'm inclined to conclude that Covid seems to be an increasingly distant memory. Long may that remain the case!

Best wishes to all

Richard Russell
Headmaster