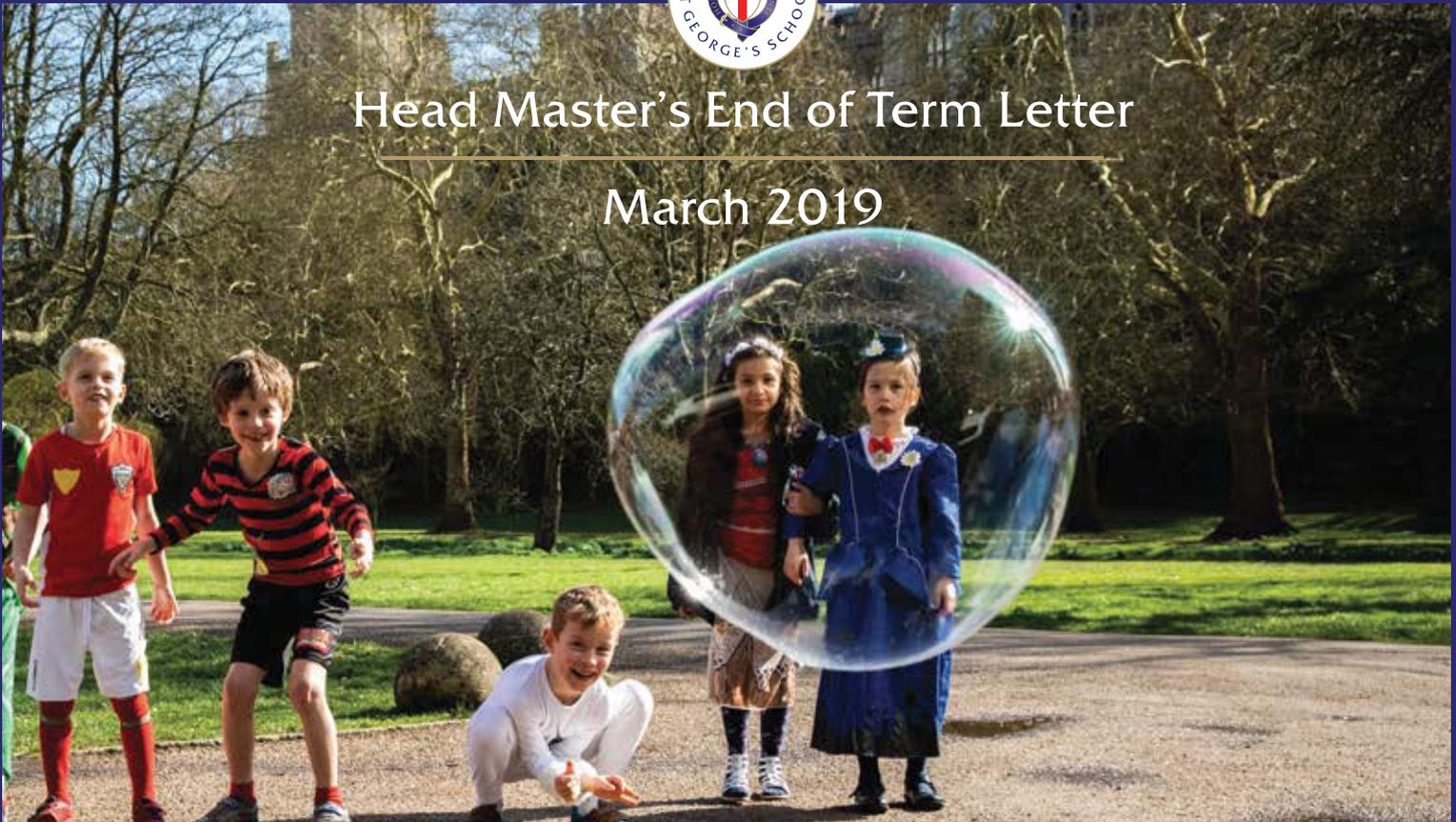




Head Master's End of Term Letter

March 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

If your daughters and sons have come home this afternoon exhausted, I would not be surprised: they have worked so very hard over the last five weeks and achieved great things in many different areas, both in and out of the classroom. There is tremendous energy at St George's, and the children are absolutely invigorating – they bring good cheer and positivity each and every day, and it is a great privilege for my colleagues and me to be surrounded by such caring, kind, imaginative and well-mannered children. In a world of increasing sophistication, it is so refreshing that the girls and boys here have such a natural persona with no airs or graces, they are a great credit to you. Indeed, it was their exceptional manners and attitude to one another that was commended by the team of ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) inspectors who joined us immediately after Half Term. They spent two days observing lessons, meeting staff and pupils, analysing the parent and pupil questionnaires, scrutinising our documentation, policies, procedures and site, and looking at our boarding provision. This is a 'regulatory compliance inspection', so rather than judging us to be good or outstanding, it is an assessment of whether we meet the expectations of the Independent Schools Regulations, a set of standards set out by the Department for Education. As a result, their report is very formulaic in its nature, but I am pleased to confirm that we have met all the standards and have been found to be fully compliant in all areas. During our verbal feedback the Reporting Inspector specifically expressed her delight at all they had seen from the pupils, our extremely thorough records and safeguarding policies, and the energetic and optimistic atmosphere across the school. It is very rare for an inspection team to go 'off script' in a feedback session, and we can all be immensely proud to have received validation of this nature. Their report has just been released this week, and I have great pleasure in attaching it for your attention.

One of the many enjoyable parts of my job is learning of the successes of children, individually and collectively, and sharing it with the community at our 'Celebration Assembly' on Monday mornings. Given all that has been going on (highlights of which are overleaf), we have been able to celebrate a wonderfully broad range of achievements. All of this is hugely gratifying and indicative of the hard work and attitude the children put in on a daily basis.

St. George's School, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1QF

Telephone: 01753 836530

www.stgwindsor.org

On the topic of attitude, you may have come across this rather pertinent reminder of its importance:

IF...

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
=
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

$$\begin{array}{c} K + N + O + W + L + E + D + G + E \\ = \\ 11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\% \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} H + A + R + D + W + O + R + K \\ = \\ 8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98\% \end{array}$$

Both are important but both also fall short of 100%

However

$$\begin{array}{c} A + T + T + I + T + U + D + E \\ = \\ 1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\% \end{array}$$

Alongside the many individual achievements, there have been some first-rate collective successes to celebrate, and these are highlighted on the following page. I would like to thank our Parents' Group for organising a wonderful Quiz Night which raised over £900. We are most grateful to all our parents who attended and helped make the evening such a great success. The monies raised will be added to the ongoing fundraising total which will help to fund various projects including the replacement of the children's playhouse in the Kindergarten playground. Further information on other projects being planned will follow in due course.

The school came together two weeks ago for our Open Morning, an event which saw 32 new families visit the school. I couldn't have been prouder of all that I saw from the children and staff. Other highlights include: 56 of our pupils took part in the Berkshire Maestros massed concert at the Royal Albert Hall, just one of a number of concerts and performances from our Chamber Choir; our Girls and Boys teams have excelled in a number of festivals and tournaments, fixtures and out of school endeavours; we have enjoyed a host of visiting speakers and workshops; a number of trips have been undertaken, including our Year 6 residential to France who are coming to the end of a hugely successful week away; our choristers continue to sing to an exceptionally high standard and are currently preparing for their services during Holy Week. We wish them well for this, and extend an invitation to our community to join one of the public services held, including Mattins at 10.45am on Easter Sunday. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our internal choristership candidates from Years 2 and 3 who took part in our 'Chorister Experience Day' and subsequent auditions. The level of commitment and enthusiasm shown from the boys throughout the process was extraordinary.

As we reflect on our successes, I am reminded of a salient quote by Albert Einstein who once said, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid", and this is the crux of our belief as a school. We have a school filled with individuals, so we must take great care not to treat everyone the same but to give them precisely what they need to be able to thrive and succeed. The support and community spirit demonstrated by everyone in Home Park Private at our Inter-House Cross Country event was indicative of so many individuals coming together as one.

Looking Ahead

Please find attached our diary for next term. May I draw your attention to some of the highlights:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|---|
| May 08 | 2.30pm: Meeting for Year 3 parents - Transition to the Upper School | July 04 | Production of 'Mary Poppins Jr', Farrer Theatre, Eton College. Matinee and evening performances (times to be confirmed) |
| June 08 | 3.30-8.00pm: Parents' Group Family Day | July 07 | 2.00pm: Speech Day in St George's Chapel (compulsory for pupils in Years 4-8) |
| June 20 | 7.00pm: Gala Concert, St George's Chapel | July 08 | 7.00pm - VISION 2025: Presentation given by the Chair of Governors and Head Master |
| June 21 | 8.45am: Kindergarten Sports Day;
10.00am: Reception Sports Day | July 10 | 8.00-9.00am: Lower School Open Morning for current parents |
| June 28 | 9.30am - 12.30pm: Years 5-8 Sports Day;
1.30-3.45pm: Years 3-4 Sports Day | July 12 | 9.15am: Leavers' Service in St George's Chapel (Years 1-8 attend) |

This Term in Numbers



U9 Fighting Fit Fencing Schools Competition



Sporting fixtures this term



IAPS Small Schools U11 Netball Tournament



Metres run at the Inter-House Cross Country



Number of steps climbed by pupils for Chapel Assemblies



Families attended our whole school open morning



Children took part in a sponsored skip raising money for vital research carried out by The British Heart Foundation



Raised at the Parents' Group Quiz Night



Number of canticles, responses and anthems sung by the Choristers in St George's Chapel



CD recorded by the Chamber Choir



Children took part in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall



Instrumental performances by our young musicians



Correct answers submitted for the weekly maths puzzle



Scholarships to Senior Schools



100% of pupils received merit or distinction in their ABRSM music exam



Words written for the BBC2 500 Words competition



Swan rescued from the school roof!



Chicks hatched in the Lower School

Central to my role is the guidance, advice and preparation we give families for the next stage of their children's education. I would like to thank all our parents who were able to join us for the Senior Schools Fair earlier this month, at which 33 senior schools exhibited and spoke very highly of the discussions they had with our families. I have enjoyed meeting a number of parents this term to discuss senior school options and look forward to continuing these next term. Catherine is taking on the role of Senior Schools Coordinator, which will involve her being a conduit between us and senior schools, whilst I shall oversee the advice given to parents and preparation given to the pupils, alongside Ian Nicholas (Assistant Head, Academic). I am engaged in a number of senior school visits to meet Heads and Registrars, and am building up a very good relationship with them. Each term, I will be giving a presentation to parents on senior

school entry, and will be delighted to meet with you at any stage to get the ball rolling. It is my advice that parents meet with me in Year 4 to begin the discussions, although I would of course be very happy to meet before that stage. I am in the process of writing a guide for senior school entry, which will be updated each year to include key dates, assessment information and some key points about each school. This process should be extremely smooth and supportive for parents, and I look forward to guiding you through the journey, offering advice and liaison with your chosen school(s). At this stage, may I congratulate all those who have been offered places for September 2019 in both Year 8 and Year 6. On the scholarship front, may I warmly congratulate all those who have worked hard for auditions and interviews. I wish our Year 8s all the very best of luck in their revision this holiday ahead of Common Entrance in June.



We are well underway with our preparations for the strategy plan for 2025 and beyond. Following an extremely productive 'Strategy Planning Day' with Governors and members of the Senior Leadership Team, the focus is now to meet with parents and staff to determine the priorities for St George's. Our vision for the school will be based around a desire to create a fusion of our heritage and unique identity with innovation to prepare the **change makers** of the future. Information about this process will follow at the start of term, and I very much look forward to engaging with you as we construct our new vision. Thinking 'big and bold' came out of the strategy meeting, and we have exciting plans for the future. Above all else, we are looking to cement our core values as a school. Tremendous global opportunities await our young people, a world where robots and super intelligence coexisting with humans will bring about change not seen since the industrial revolution. Two strengths will ensure our children go out into the world with confidence and humility: kindness and authenticity. Every day we are privileged to observe St George's girls and boys who demonstrate these two values. If they can arrive and leave school every day, and ultimately head off into the world, true to themselves, they will be the **change makers** of tomorrow. I am looking at every area of school life to ensure that we are creating the right environment for what I ask of the children: that pupils from St George's make their mark, be the very best they can be, be themselves, and be kind.

I challenged the children in Assembly to read lots this holiday, to get outside as much as they can, to explore and build dens, and above all else, help with the washing up. Catherine, Arthur and Patrick join me in wishing you all a wonderful Easter and look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday, 24 April.

Worshipful

