

MAY 2016

This is an exciting time as we enter the Summer Term. Examinations loom on the horizon for years 10, 11 & 13 and an array of enthralling activities will form part of the summer curriculum for all the year groups but especially years 7, 8 & 9.

The past term (Spring Term) is always a difficult one for teachers as we have to squeeze in a wide range of opportunities into the shortest term of the year. Fortunately, we are old hands at this and in addition to preparing KS4 and KS5 students for external examinations we ran over 20 trips to places such as Italy, Holland, the Globe Theatre and Sussex University to name but a few.

Recent highlights for me have been the Cluster Concert at the Rose Theatre where our students performed with students from a range of primary schools in our local area. It was wonderful to work with pupils who we hope will one day join us for secondary school. I hope that they in turn were able to learn from working alongside older students from our school. The evening performance was highlighted by a range of outstanding performances showing off outstanding acting and musical skills. It is no exaggeration to say that we are the number one school for performing arts in the local area.

The Federation Ski Trip to Italy in conjunction with Coombe Girls' School was an enormous success as was the Football tour to Ajax which took place over half term. I would like to thank the students and the staff for making the trips such a success.

Year 10 took part in their two week work experience. In some cases the "experience" of a full time job was a bit of a shock, but I know that they all enjoyed it and learned an enormous amount. This would not have been possible without the help of parents and friends of the school and I would like to thank you all for your assistance with this.

In the recent Maths Challenge Competition I am proud to say that we came in first place above teams from Kings College Wimbledon, Ricards Lodge and Coombe Girls' School. We traditionally do well in this annual competition, but it is always good to recognise the outstanding mathematical talents of many of our students.

In preparation for the GCSE examinations the school has been delivering in excess of 30 hours per week additional revision lessons for students in Year 11. Teachers do this in their own time and I am very grateful to have such a committed staff that want to do everything they can to support students to achieve their potential. Predictions for GCSE results are looking very healthy and we are expecting to see significant increases in results for both attainment and progress.

On the sporting front, the highlight has been that Coombe Boys' School has been named in the top 100 sports schools in the country (no.59). It is only possible to feature in the list if you have been successful across a range of sporting disciplines. We are one of the smallest schools on the list and so it is great to be featuring above many schools who have a greater number of students to draw upon. We are the highest ranked school in Kingston and one of the very best in South West London.

At the time of writing several of our football and basketball teams are about to compete in the Surrey finals and we have a good chance of becoming county champions in a number of age groups. I would also like to congratulate Ryan Sessegnon who is currently playing for England in the U18 European Football Championships.

We are anticipating a visit from Nick Gibb (Minister for Schools) in May and we are looking forward to having the opportunity to showcase our work. The future is looking very exciting and I look forward to updating you on our progress.

Yours faithfully,

David Smith

Headteacher