

28th May 2010

Dear Parents

We have had a very successful period so far this term with Senior School and KS1 pupils having completed their exams and our Y11s currently on GCSE study leave. Please therefore find enclosed your assessment grades for pupils in Years 7-10 [no assessment grades for Junior School this time]. Pupils in Junior School will complete their exams in week 7 & 8 and **all exam results** will be sent home soon after half term (Y10 Friday 11th June; Y7-Y9 Friday 18th June; Y5-Y6 Friday 2nd July). Y9 pupils will also find enclosed their confirmation letter regarding their GCSE options. The acknowledgement slip will need to be returned to form tutors after half-term.

Successes

I am pleased to announce that Mr Paddy Birbeck has been appointed as Director of Studies. This is an important post which involves overseeing the academic development of all pupils in Senior School and organising the school timetable and KS4 options.

The Junior School **Easter Cookery** course was once again a great success. Children enjoyed making Beef Bourguignon, Potatoes Dauphinoise, Croissants, Tuilles, Choux Chantilly, Leche Flan, Tumis Bunchis, Kaeng Pet Kai (Red Chicken Curry), Nam Prik Kaeng Dang Nem Ran (Spring Rolls), Hazlenut and Chocolate Biscotti, Sorbetto al Limone, Sauteed Peppers with Olives and Capers, Polenta baked with Sausage and Cheese, Papa Pomodor. Many thanks to Mrs Loasby, for organising the event and liaising with Nonnas, Mr Tedcastle and Miss Cowley for their invaluable help.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 pupils who conquered their fears at Kingswood. We believe outbound trips like these offer our pupils a unique chance to step out of their usual comfort zones and face real life challenges. Self-confidence, self-reliance and team work are fostered and children's general attitude is often turned into a more positive 'can do' self-image. Leadership qualities are often generated through the type of activities they engage in. Next stop – Year 7 September visit to PGL, then Rua Fiola in Year 8.

The **125th anniversary service in the Cathedral** marked a special milestone in the history of the school. My thanks to all our pupils, past and present, to all the performers and to all those who attended on the night.

The Old Westbournian's v Headmaster's X1 **cricket match at Chatsworth** was a sociable affair and played out in one of the UK's most glorious settings. The weather was warm and the cricket played with enthusiasm by staff, dads, boys and OWs. Posh picnics were high on the agenda and my thanks to all who turned up to play and support.

Many thanks also to the FOW committee for organising our **125th Anniversary Ball** held at Baldwin's Omega. In particular my thanks to Wendy Baird, Jill Hallsworth and Louise Heath who put in a great deal of hard work to make it a very successful event. The 188 guests who attended enjoyed a 5 course dinner, had the opportunity to revel in photography, a casino, a cocktail bar managed by our own Mr Tedcastle, a disco and also dance to live music played by Sheffield band, 'The Sharp Cuts'.

Congratulations to five students who managed to pass their PADI **scuba diving** course over two days last weekend. It was a great achievement because this type of activity requires real courage and determination. Peter Sykes (Year 7), Lizzie Peck (Year 8), Leo Gibson (Year 7), Edward O'Dwyer (Year 8) and Zac Evans (Year 9), all had to complete four open water dives to graduate from the course they started last term. Stoney Cove in Leicester was the venue and it involved dives to a depth of 16m (over 50ft) where they were able to view a variety of ship wrecks and fish, they even managed to swim into a wrecked helicopter cockpit.

News

Music

A huge number of children are taking their music exams this term; we wish them luck. Junior School have started a programme of performing in assembly and this has been a popular addition to our performance schedule. Seven children went to Dellside Senior Citizens' residence and to HSBC Bank to play; they were a great credit to the school. In the MAPs music class we have nine pupils (a record number) taking theory. These children are all aged 10 and 11 and are undertaking an exam often taken by 14 to 15 year olds as it is nearly GCSE standard.

Sport

At the Wellow girls' Football Tournament held on Tuesday, 11th May our U13A team won the whole tournament, winning every game they played. They now hold the title two years running. Our U11A team were runners up after losing 2-1 to Lincoln Minster in the final.

Well done to all our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils as each and every one of them contributed to a fantastic swimming gala; it was the closest and most competitive house event I have seen for some time. The results were: 1st Whitfield, 2nd Holmes, 3rd Johnson and 4th Mercer.

A special mention for Sam Wolstenholme, one of our sports scholars, who made 102 not out against St Anselm's recently - a fantastic achievement.

Future events:

The Year 11 Art Show is during half-term on Thursday 3rd June from 6.00 – 8.00 pm in Ashdell Grove Hall. Wine and nibbles will be available. Everyone welcome.

Headmaster's Surgery is on Thursday, 10th June from 3.30 – 4.00pm in Ashdell Grove Hall [this is an opportunity for parents to meet informally with me to discuss any concerns or issues].

School Uniform Sales

The first Junior School Uniform sale will be held in the Junior School Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, 23rd June from 3.30 – 5.00 pm, and the first Senior School sale will be held the following day, Thursday 24th June, in Ashdell Grove Café (basement) from 4.00 - 6.30 pm.

OWs cricket is on Friday, 9th July; dads, boys and OWs are all welcome. Email Mr Elvidge njelvidge@westbourneschool.co.uk if you want to play.

Westbourne Golf Society plays on Monday, 12th July, mums, dads, children and friends are all welcome. Email Mr Davey idavey@westbourneschool.co.uk for details.

Westbourne's **tennis academy** starts on Wednesday, 9th June at Fulwood Tennis Club where pupils receive coaching from professional Jonathan Wragg. Contact Mrs Gibbons if you are interested.

Senior School open evening – Thursday, 24th June, 7-8pm

Music for a summer's evening – Thursday, 1st July 5.30 – 6.30pm

Senior School Prize Giving will take place on Thursday, 15th July from 6 – 7pm, followed by a farewell buffet for Year 11 parents and pupils.

Junior School Prize Giving will take place on Friday, 16th July from 11.00 – 12.00 pm, followed by a farewell lunch for Year 6 parents and pupils.

Summer School - Preparations are well underway to make this the best week ever, with a blend of music, drama, craft and sport. The week will have a creatures and critters theme. The dates are 26th to 30th July, from 9:30 to 3:30pm and wrap around care is available. All inclusive cost is £115 and it is available to Westbourne pupils and friends. Ask at the office or see posters for details.

Finally we wish our Year 11 pupils luck and remind them to come to school to pick up results on Thursday, 24th August and **GCSE certificates** in December.

I look forward to seeing you at the many events we shall be holding after half term and wish you all a relaxing break.

Yours sincerely

