



Dear Parents

I hope that you and your children had an enjoyable half term break, and that you are looking forward to what looks like being a very busy and exciting second half of this autumn term. With the iPad launch, Project Week, Academic Review evenings, term 1 assessments, a wealth of sports activities, and the mock exams for years 11 and 13, it promises to be a roller coaster ride for all concerned.

We also start the decision making process for years 9 and 11 as they prepare to move into the IGCSE and IB programmes respectively. We are sometimes asked why this needs to happen so early – well, it's because the choices they make will influence the courses we offer, and we therefore need to adjust our teacher recruitment accordingly, and this is a process which begins in November each year to ensure that we are in a position to attract the best possible teachers for the following academic year.

Although the weather has cooled down a little, we don't feel that it's yet cold enough to move to winter uniform. Unless there is a sudden chill, we anticipate that we will move to the winter uniform on 9 November, immediately after project week. It is therefore worth considering purchasing a blazer, if your children don't already have them, during the next two or three weeks.

We bade farewell to our Volleyball teams yesterday morning, as they were heading for the ACAMIS tournament in Hong Kong, and our rugby and netball teams are participating in a tournament at SAS Puxi on Saturday – we wish all the players in all these competitions well, and look forward to hearing of their endeavours next week.

Kind regards

Dinah Hawtree  
Head of Secondary