



## Letter from the Head 08/12/23

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**In this issue; Sixth form, GLT Concert, House and School Sport...**

Dear all,

It's been a very busy couple of weeks as we head towards the end of term.

Our Year 13 students have been receiving their mock exam papers back from their teachers and are starting to respond to the feedback they are being provided with. Knowing what you performed well in and knowing your most important areas for development will help all of our exam year group students plan their own independent revision over the crucial coming months. Outside of the classroom, our sixth form have been busy with their preparations for their 'Winter ball' this evening. They have used their entrepreneurial skills to good effect, capitalising on the cold weather with a number of hot chocolate sales events that have helped fund their ball. The set up for this evening took shape today, and the hall looked absolutely fantastic. I am sure they will have a great evening!

On a separate note, I am delighted to advise that three of our Oxbridge candidates have been successful in securing an interview with their preferred colleges - we wish them the very best.

Last Wednesday we celebrated all of those students who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Ninety of our Year 10 cohort collected their award and had the opportunity to showcase what they'd achieved through their involvement. It was lovely to see such large numbers receiving their well deserved awards, and we hope that many will choose to continue onto the Silver. A huge debt of thanks to Mrs Rowland for her ongoing efforts to provide these fantastic opportunities.

On Monday evening, we had the pleasure of attending the Greenshaw Learning Trust Christmas Concert, held at Cirencester church. GLT were represented by Five Acres, Yate Academy, Holmleigh Park, Blaise, Gloucester Academy, Henley Bank and, of Park House. For our 18 strong choir, this was their first time performing for the school in such a setting and all of them did incredibly well receiving rave reviews!

### **Sporting endeavours**

As per usual there has been lots of sporting involvement that I will summarise below;

- The Year 7 boys rugby team has started their careers at Park House incredibly well, and this week enjoyed strong wins over The Downs and St Barts.
- The Year 8 rugby team has recently played against both St Barts and Kennet, losing both narrowly but improving in each game and showing lots of promise.



- The Year 8 girls narrowly lost to Trinity in the district competition resulting in a 4th place finish. Very well done to all involved.
- The year 9 girls football team went one better finishing 3rd in the district after a 7-0 win in their final game!
- The Year 9 boys have continued their fine sporting term and have matched their football success with a strong showing in the county rugby competition, last week they comfortably beat Oratory School 54-0 in the quarter final but sadly succumbed to a strong Clares Court team in the semi final this afternoon 36-17. They now turn their attention to the 4th round of the national football cup against Brighton Hill on Tuesday.
- The Year 10 boys rugby team have also continued their fine form with close fought wins over Kennet, Forest School and Edgbarrow seeing them earn their place in the county cup final! The boys look forward to a trip to Reading Bluecoats on Tuesday afternoon to take on Windsor Boys'. We wish them all the very best of success.
- Our senior girls netball teams enjoyed some keenly contested fixtures with Barts and St Gabs last week. Our Year 10 girls played superbly in their win over St Barts, as did the Year 11 girls as they enjoyed a win over St Gabs. Our 6th form team missed out narrowly in their game versus St Gabs but played with great spirit and were a joy to watch!
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### **House competitions**

Earlier this week, we had the pleasure of sending out to you our winning Christmas card that came courtesy of Agnes B (8 Croft), please click [here](#) if you've not received it. House sports has been keenly fought over the last two weeks with rugby and football for the boys and girls respectively. To date we have seen hundreds of students participating and wins for;

Year 8 - Joseph girls and Chaffey boys

Year 9 - Chaffey girls and Albert boys

Year 10 - Albert girls and Chaffey boys

Sixth form - Joseph won the mixed event.

We have the Year 11s on Tuesday and 7s on Thursday to round off the competition and see where the House points will be heading! In addition to the sports, our House poetry competition has taken place in the background this week, and we look forward to the announcement of the winning piece early next week.

Current house totals below....





The highlight this week has to be the Christmas jumper day yesterday. Not only did students dazzle us with their fine range of Christmas jumpers, but students had the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas lunch along with their friends. One thousand lunches were served across the day and we are incredibly thankful to the kitchen team and Mr Bale for putting on such an enjoyable day.

As we head to the end of term, I would like to remind parents that the final day of term, **Friday 15th**, is a full school day and students return to school on **Wednesday 3rd January**.

To finish, I need to share some more sombre news. A popular member of our school community, Lucas Pottinger in Year 10 is currently very unwell, and in the care of Great Ormond Street Hospital as he awaits an operation. Whilst there, his parents are with him and therefore unable to work. As a school, we are supporting the efforts to offer some financial support to the family through this incredibly difficult time. If you are able to support this effort, please find the link to their fundraising page [here](#).

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. King', written in a cursive style.

Mr King  
Headteacher