

26 April 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a pleasant Easter Holiday. It has been delightful to enjoy the warmth and heat of this unprecedentedly hot Easter weekend.

On Easter Sunday, as our family and I ate our Easter lunch in the great outdoors, enjoying the heat of the day, we heard of the tragic events in Sri Lanka. It is with such horror that we see such events unfold and the horrendous loss of life. It is always made worse by the fact that atrocities such as the Sri Lankan and New Zealand attacks are focused on religious buildings; places of contemplation and worship.

The question we ask is why? I don't have the answer but what it is extremely important is that we all hold on to the values of tolerance and a generosity of spirit to all our human kind that our College extols. As a result the extremist will never win and their actions will disappear through a lack of oxygen supplied by hate and fear.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims of the atrocities at the weekend.

### **Farewell**

On the last day of the Easter term we said a sad farewell to Miss Robyn who has undertaken a new position as Deputy Head (Re-integration and Transition) at New Heights High School. Miss Robyn has been an exceptional asset to the school both academically and pastorally. She will be missed by the whole school community. We wish her every success.

### **Leavers' Service**

On the subject of leaving, we have confirmed that the Leavers' Service in our College Chapel will commence at 11.00 am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May followed by a reception for pupils and parents in the Mossley Vale Hall.

### **UCAS**

Students please note that May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline day to select the two Universities that you wish to attend.

Please ensure that both your first and second choice institutions are places that appeal and that you would feel happy at either. Too often on results day if a student hasn't achieved their first choice, they state that they didn't want to go to their second choice. My view is why did you apply there in the first instance? Please be considered in your decision making process.

## **Gladstone Scholars**

I am meeting with the Heads of House to discuss the Gladstone Scholars for the year 2019 – 2020. We will announce the names in next week's Newsletter. Following a period of observations as they undertake their roles and duties and subject to Year 12 ballot, the senior posts will be announced on the last day of term before we embark on Work Experience.

## **Public Examinations**

Public Examinations commence in earnest from the 20<sup>th</sup> May. However our linguists are already in action with French Orals completed on Wednesday and Spanish Orals the following week. This paper is probably one of the most difficult as one is actually confronted by the Examiner in a rigorous Q&A session in another language. Well done to all our linguists and indeed to all the Year 13 who seem to have undertaken an intensive revision programme over the Easter Holidays.

## **Activities**

Year 13 only have been granted study leave during activities. We have provided supervised study for those who feel that they would be best served staying in school. On Wednesday during Games, Year 13 are expected to either study in school or take part in Games.

If a Year 12 student is not in their appropriated activities period on Tuesday or Thursday they will be reprimanded which will affect their applications as Gladstone Scholars and their forthcoming UCAS applications. We will find it difficult to extol the virtues of an all-round student if they fail to endorse our activities programme. Absence from activities will be regarded as truancy which will result in a Friday Detention.

## **Matriculation to Year 13**

When reviewing matriculation to Year 13, absence from activities will be regarded as one of the measures that will be assessed. Failure to comply with our Sixth Form policy can result in Inclusion. Our activities programme is an excellent system to advance the character element of our Sixth Form programme.

Three D grades are the basic requirement, as well as a 95% attendance record.

### **Iphigenia in Aulis:** A message from Dr McNamara:

Tickets are now on sale for a production of a Greek Tragedy, performed by pupils from Years 9 - 12. Iphigenia in Aulis, a story of the political coming before the personal, is on Friday, 3rd May at 7.00pm in Mossley Vale Theatre.

Tickets, priced at £5, from the school office in advance, or on the night.

### **Music: Springtime Soirée:** A message from our Director of Music, Mr Bishop:

The Music Department is holding its annual Springtime Soirée on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm. Tickets will be on sale from the Upper and Prep School offices from Monday. Please note the change of venue for this year.

**Leavers' Dinner:** <http://racquetclubhotel.co.uk/>

The Year 13 Leavers' Dinner will be at the Racquet Club on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at a cost of £62.50 per head. This will be available to pay on Parent Pay by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. The cost includes venue hire, drinks/canapés Reception followed by a four course meal which includes drinks at your table. Please ensure that the money is paid by the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The dress code is Black Tie for gentlemen and Evening Dress or Cocktail Dress for the ladies.

The evening commences with a Drinks Reception in the Racquet Club's Ziba Bar from 7.30 – 8.30pm. For those parents wishing to join us between 7.30 - 8.30 pm in the Ziba Bar, a full cash bar will be available and the dress code is smart/casual. Following this, our students will enter their own private dining room for a formal dinner. We hope that your son or daughter can attend as it is always a wonderful evening in which we celebrate our time at the College.

We wish you and your family a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady  
**Head of Sixth Form**