

Dear Parents

We are looking forward to seeing all the boys on **Wednesday**, both new and old, after a very long summer, for their first day back at school. We are busily preparing for their arrival, including two inset days on Monday and Tuesday, before they return to us on Wednesday.

Here is the first bulletin of the academic year. For those of you who don't know how this works, it is our central form of communication, and will provide you with a handy guide and reminder of all that is going on in the Prep School. It starts with information which applies specifically to the year group, followed by information which applies to all boys. The final section includes links to the calendar, previous correspondence we have sent, and the What's On Guide. In other words, it should provide you with everything you need. We welcome feedback on how you think we are able to improve it, as we are keen it works for the community. We only ask that you read it carefully as there is always a great deal going on, and therefore a lot of information. A further bulletin will be sent out early next week.

We start with information about the Meet the Tutor and Information evenings which are happening in the first full week back.

Finally, a big welcome to new boys and new parents, as well as current boys and parents. I hope you have a brilliant term.

YEAR 3

Meet the Tutor & Information Evening for Parents of Y3-5 boys, Tues 12th September

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Tuesday 12th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 3, 4 and 5 tutors any more questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For

new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y3 Hungry Boys' Club

The Hungry Boys' Club is an after school cookery club where boys learn how to cook different recipes to bring home. Run by Mrs Carrington in the school dining halls, the club starts on Tuesday 3rd October and places are limited. For further information on how to sign your son up please see [here](#).

Y3-4 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y3 and Y4 boys. All of Y3 and 4 will have swimming in their first PE lessons so should bring their kits.

YEAR 4

Meet the Tutor & Information Evening for Parents of Y3-5 boys, Tues 12th September

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Tuesday 12th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 3, 4 and 5 tutors any more questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y3-4 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y3 and Y4 boys. All of Y3 and 4 will have swimming in their first PE lessons so should bring their kits.

YEAR 5

Meet the Tutor & Information Evening for Parents of Y3-5 boys, Tues 12th September

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Tuesday 12th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 3, 4 and 5 tutors any more questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y5-8 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y5-Y8 boys.

YEAR 6

Meet the Tutor and Information Evening for Parents of Y6-8 boys, Thurs 14th Sept

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Thursday 14th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 6, 7 and 8 tutors any questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent

opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y5-8 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y5-Y8 boys.

YEAR 7

Meet the Tutor and Information Evening for Parents of Y6-8 boys, Thurs 14th Sept

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Thursday 14th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 6, 7 and 8 tutors any questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y5-8 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y5-Y8 boys.

YEAR 8

Meet the Tutor and Information Evening for Parents of Y6-8 boys, Thurs 14th Sept

Hopefully you will have noticed in the School Calendar the event that is taking place from 6 - 8pm on the evening of Thursday 14th September in the Erskine May Hall in the Prep School. The emphasis of the evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet your son's tutor and see where your son's tutor group will be based for the year. You will also have the chance to meet with other parents and chat to members of the teaching staff as well as the Senior Leadership. It is a chance for you to ask the Year 6, 7 and 8 tutors any questions that are on your mind and to get to know them a bit better. Furthermore, it is an excellent opportunity for us to share with you some useful information that should enable us to work together to help your son start the year as smoothly and happily as possible. For new parents, the information will supplement what was shared at the evening that you may have attended back in June, with an emphasis being on practical information now that the boys are actually getting started. For current parents, it is a chance to recap the key pieces of information. There is no need to confirm attendance in advance but we hope to see as many of you there as possible for what we are sure will be a very beneficial event.

Y5-8 Games and PE Information - autumn term

Please see [here](#) some information regarding Games and PE in the autumn term for our Y5-Y8 boys.

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Useful tips to start the year off well

In the last few days of the summer break and in preparation for your son's first day at school could we please suggest that you

Label all sports equipment

Label all clothing and pencil cases etc.

Look at the menus with your son for the first few weeks back

Ask your son to revise his times tables ready for his first Maths lessons

Consider getting an expanding A4 wallet, labelled for each subject for loose sheets in bags

(For Bus boys) ask your son to familiarise himself with the name of the bus company, bus and bus stop he is getting on at (it is probably better to get the bus on the first day as boys will be escorted)

Your son should

Remember his games kit for the first day (Y5-8) including a gum shield if he has one

Ensure he has the correct equipment in his pencil case, including scissors, a glue stick, highlighter, ruler etc, plus spares

Know how he is getting home on the first day

Bring a water bottle containing water and labelled clearly (it does not need to be a regulation school water bottle) for lessons and games

Bring sun cream if it is really hot and sunny

Know where to put his games bag when he arrives in school on the first morning

Familiarise himself with our mobile phone policy (it should be switched off during the school day, unless he has permission from staff, and it should be labelled)

Go to bed earlier and get into the routine of getting up at school wake up time for several days beforehand, as most boys get into later sleep / waking routines during the summer

Pack a healthy snack or two for his first day

Speech and Drama 2017

We look forward to starting Speech and Drama lessons in the first full week back (w/c 11th Sept). Timetables will be available in next week's bulletin and on Firefly as usual. Many thanks to the few parents who emailed Miss Portsmouth regarding fixed slots following the previous [letter](#) dated 3rd July; your requests are being looked at and you will receive confirmation (if you haven't already) during the next week. Any further requests for fixed slots or any parents wishing to sign their son up for S&D lessons for this academic year should be sent to sportsmouth@bedfordschool.org.uk . We look forward to seeing the boys soon.

Instrumental Lessons

Just to remind parents that if they would like their son to have instrumental lessons then they need to complete and hand in a starter form.

East Midlands Rail

Can I please draw your attention to the public consultation [here](#) currently being conducted by the Department for Transport about the East Midland Rail franchise. Its main effect for us is to get rid of the fast 35 minute intercity services from Bedford (and other local stations eg Wellingborough, Luton, Luton Airport Parkway etc) into London, whilst increasing the number of seats and services available on the slower Thameslink. We thought that some of you may wish to respond to this consultation.

For the calendar please click [here](#)

This term's letters are also available to view in the Parents' section on the school website on the [Parents' Letters Page](#)

For details on all the concerts, exhibitions and lectures this term, please see the [What's On Page](#)