



MALVERN

COLLEGE

March 2009

Dear Parents

My letter to you is written on the last Sunday of term. It has been a lovely sunny day which started with an excellent service of readings and music for Passiontide including a stirring dramatic presentation featuring Rowland Stirling as The Centurion and Lottie Rugeroni as Mary Magdalene. We have had pupils involved in the finals of the Midlands Junior Chess League, Boys' Inter-House Hockey (following the Inter-House Football yesterday), a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition involving over 100 pupils over two days, a Choral Society rendition of Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man' and some croquet. Many have been out playing tennis and other games with their friends on the fields, while some have been in the Art Department which is always open on Sunday afternoons or in the Grundy Library working towards examinations which will be upon us early next term. Most of the spring flowers are out and some blossom has appeared on the trees. Malvern is at its best on such days and there is a happy and expectant air in College. Holidays are 'around the corner'.

Recent Academic and Related Successes

- *2009 Evans Schools' Short Story Writing Competition:* Warm congratulations to Poppy Donaldson whose short story, *The Gatekeeper*, was chosen along with twenty-one others for publication in this writing competition. The fact that there were over 500 schools participating and over 2,700 entries underlines the success of Poppy's feat.
- *World Mathematics Day:* Many of our students competed in an online competition comprising one-minute tests against other contestants around the world. At peak times during the day there were over 40,000 people competing and, during the course of the 24-hour competition, Malvern participants gave nearly 14,000 correct answers to problems posed. Vicky Moritz amassed our greatest total score of 760 points, but the main purpose of the day was to sharpen mathematical knowledge in a fun fashion.
- *Oxford University Latin Reading Competition:* All thirteen of our competitors read extremely well in front of over a hundred other contestants from top academic schools throughout the country. The judges who are all classics dons at Oxford singled out the following for special awards: Junior Latin Dialogue – 3rd Prize to Eleanor Hobson and Sophia Leonard; Junior Latin Verse – Commended to Abi Hefferan and Second Prize to William Law; Senior Latin Verse – Second Prize to Georgina Price, and First Prize to Anna Wagner.

Warm congratulations to all of the above on their outstanding success in one of the toughest academic competitions.

- *Commendations:* I wish to congratulate Stephanie Schöhl who has received eight commendations this term and Wulstan Nixon who has six to add to his six achieved last term; Vicky Moritz, Harriet Sale and Harriet Shuker have also been to the fore and Alex Engert has been awarded a distinction. Well done to them on their fine achievements.

- *The Lea-Smith Inter-House Reading Competition:* Well done to the following winners: Alastair Brookes (FY), Wulstan Nixon (Remove), Hebe Dickins (Hundred), Abi Hay (Lower Sixth) and Nina Price (Upper Sixth). In the overall House competition the runners-up were School House and the winners No. 3.
- *Debating:* Our pupils have been busy and productive in this craft. In the Three Counties Debating Competition for schools in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, the Malvern team of Laura Joyce and Hannah Campbell reached the final and were placed second and third respectively on the individual points list. Later on in the Regional Final of the Debating Matters Competition, our team of Ollie Marshall, Josh Wilkes, Hannah Campbell and Kathy Rogers were pipped at the post for the winners' position, though Hannah was named Best Speaker. We have also competed in the Oxford Schools Debating Competition. Out of 88 teams, Josh Wilkes and Alex Jupp came 40th, whilst Laura Joyce and Hannah Campbell were placed 11th, having won two of their rounds. As a school, Malvern considers debating to be a critically important part of an all-round education and we try to encourage as many pupils as possible to develop their skills and ability in this area.

The Arts

- *The Malvern Hills Decorative & Fine Arts Society Competition:* Many top Sixth Form students and other artists from Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire compete in this event and we were delighted that Rowland Stirling achieved a Highly Commended certificate and that Anja Vidmar won first prize for her work entitled Totems. This is a significant achievement for Anja, in particular, and she has earned the accolades of some of the top professional artists in the west of England and Wales.
- *Music:* Bethan Gauci, George Lacey and Andrew McDade took part in the Malvern Young Musicians' Competition and, having succeeded in the first round, are now through to the finals to be held in May. A number of musicians also entertained a large audience at the College's second Community Concert: a varied programme included a cello quartet featuring Chuck Low, Tony Lo, Isabella Petzinka and Stephanie Schöhl, singers Jennifer Simpson and Claire Fung, a oboe solo from Chantelle Hudson, a piano solo from George Lacey, music for two violins from Lilli Neumann and Sarah Kriegbaum and, finally, a barber shop quartet performed by Simon Eaton, George Lacey, Andrew McDade and Adam New. There have also been informal concerts and I was delighted to see seven pupils performing in their first ever concert at a recent Sunday event. My thanks go to the Chamber Choir, the Chamber Orchestra and the Jazz Band which have all reached great heights in several concerts recently. They are a huge credit to Malvern!

In the Inter-House Music Competition, No. 6 were placed third, No. 5 second and No. 8 were the winners. Category C (up to Grade 4) was won by Jonathan Betteridge, Category B (Grades 5 & 6) by Nathan King and Category A (Grade 7 and over) by Andy McDade and Sarah Kriegbaum.

- *Worcester Festival:* Congratulations to the following who won prizes: Hebe Dickins (Robert Vale Acting Trophy), Dani Williams and Daana Bolot (14 and Under Duo Acting Class), Vicky Jurewicz (14 and Under Solo Acting), Felix Deconinck (Solo Acting Open Comedy Class), Alex Jupp (Sonnet 13 and Over and Verse Speaking 16 and Under) and Sophia Storer (Verse Speaking 16 and Under and Sight Reading 14 and Under).

Sport

There have been a number of fine performances over the past month and what follows below is just a sample of that success:

- *Football:* The 1st Boys XI have had an outstanding season; recently a 7-0 victory over Wycliffe meant that the 1st XI were Champions of the Mercian League Southern Division. This took us to the final against Loughborough Grammar School and, after being 0-2 down at the end of the first half, two goals from the captain, Harry Sinclair, and Alex Magee, led to an exciting 2-2 draw.

With no further score in extra time, the game was taken to penalties and here we triumphed 4-2. In achieving this result, we became the Midlands Champions.

Other recent successes have included the U14A victory over Wycliffe by 10-3, an 8-2 win for the U14Bs also over Wycliffe, the U15As ending their season with a creditable 3-3 draw against Monmouth and the U15Bs finishing their season with a 7-2 win, also against Monmouth. On the whole, our teams have fared very well this season in this sport.

Congratulations to No. 1 on being winners of the Senior Inter-House Competition and to School House on winning the Junior Competition.

- *Netball:* Our netball teams have improved steadily through the course of the season. In matches against The Chase, the 1st team played with authority and athleticism winning 38-16, with Dani Close named Player of the Match. In subsequent games, Tori Barley has received this accolade, whilst captains Laura Dowdeswell and Laura Atkins were named top performers in the 2nd and 3rd teams. The 2nd team were also impressive in attack, and Anna Ross was singled out for mention in the aftermath of their 31-11 victory.

More recently, the U15A and B sides have beaten Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 14-11 and 22-2 respectively with Abi Hefferan, Tara Van Gruisen and Alice Pinfield receiving special mention.

The U14As attitude, communication and movement on the court has attracted praise and Becki Connell, Sofia Storer, Sarah Richardson, Jessica Coulman, Maitie Wright have all been 'mentioned in dispatches'. Kavita Purohit, Ellie Hobson, Julia James and Ellie Richardson have been singled out for their contribution to the U15 age division.

Congratulations to No. 4 on winning the Senior and Junior B Inter-House Competition and to No. 8 on winning the Junior A Competition.

- *The Ledger:* There was much excitement last Wednesday when Sam Baylis (No. 9) came running on to the Senior Turf in first place for the second successive year with Jamie Paterson (SH) in second place. Ros Harvey (No. 6) was the first girl home and the following pupils all won their Ledger caps: Sam Baylis, Jamie Paterson, Edward Davenhill, Alex Betteridge, Jannis Fischer, Harry Siviter, Harry Dunne, Tom Saxton and Hugo de Haan. School House won the boys' team event and No. 8 were the winners of the girls' competition. There were also some very strong performances from members of our staff. Well done to all who participated in this unique event which is so important and special in the life of Malvern College. In the Junior race, Vicky Moritz (No. 6) and Will Wright (No. 9) took the individual trophies, whilst the winning Houses were No. 3 and No. 2 respectively.
- *Cross Country:* In the Berrows cross-country match against RGS-AO, Bromsgrove and Wrekin, Sam Baylis won the race, with Jamie Paterson in second place. Ros Harvey was third in her race. The College also hosted the National Prep Schools' Cross Country Championships at the beginning of the month; some 700 runners from almost 50 Prep Schools were on our campus, along with their parents, supporters and coaches. This was a first-class event, well organised by our sports coaches and other members of our teaching and grounds staff, and helped by a detachment of about thirty pupils from the CCF.
- *Hockey:* In recent hockey fixtures, the 1st XI played a high-quality match against Warwick School and, after being 1-3 down at half time, we came back to draw the match 3-3. Paddy Henderson scored a goal and Tom Saxton capped an excellent Man of the Match performance with two outstanding goals. The U15s put in a very convincing performance against Christ's College, Brecon, running out 7-0 winners, with Matt Ramsay scoring a hat trick and Giles Gregory and Matt Saxton two goals each.

- *Girls' Football:* Our girls have had a really good season: a victory over Cheltenham Ladies' College a fortnight ago where we came back from a 0-1 deficit to win 2-1 is, perhaps, a highlight. Kavita Purohit led the team superbly and determined play from Mareike Weise, Harriet Schuker and Olivia Barnes led to this success. An unbeaten run of four games has recently come to an end at the hands of King's, Worcester, to whom we lost 0-4.
- *Fives:* In our matches against Marlborough and Winchester, the U15 and U14 teams achieved good victories by 113-77 and 94-90 respectively. Winchester are traditionally one of the strongest Fives schools in the country and Malvern had not beaten them at 1st Team level over the past fifteen years. It was, therefore, greatly to the credit of the current team, Stephen Coffey, Will Bishop, Dan Murray and Andy McDade that their run has finally been broken and, indeed, in an emphatic style with a 111-91 victory. The U16s nearly made it double cause for celebration but, unfortunately, Winchester just edged home in the Final Singles to win 101-97.

More recently in the Inter-House Girls' Fives competition, all four Houses selected a team and the winners were No. 3. Well done to them!

- *Fencing:* Lucy Henshall and Jack Wong finished third and fifth respectively in the Public Schools' Fencing Championships in the Junior Girls' Epée and the Junior Boys' Foil; both were knocked out by the eventual winners.
- *Rackets:* Recent fixtures against St Paul's, Rugby, Winchester and Clifton have seen us very much on top. In a fixture against St Paul's, our Junior Colts pairing of Will Vanston and Will Wright won a top class fixture 3-1. Against Winchester, all our senior teams won comfortably 3-0, whilst in the Rugby encounter, the Colts pairing of Arthur Wakeley and Odge Davey won a particularly good match 3-1. In the Clifton fixture, the 1sts, 2nds, Junior Colts and FY were all victorious. Apart from those already mentioned, Stephen Coffey, Jonty Hylands, Matt Saxton, Mark Jefferson, Tom Trotter, Fred Gardner and Chris Harwood have regularly attracted praise for their success in this sport.

Miscellaneous

- *Chapel Prefects:* I wish to thank the current Chapel Prefects and, in particular, Amy Chichester, the Senior Chapel Prefect, for what they have done for Malvern this year.

I'd also like to inform you of the process through which the Chapel Prefects for the year ahead have gained selection. Firstly, eighteen candidates were put forward by the staff and senior pupils for consideration for this office. Dr Lister, the Deputy Head, and I then interviewed all eighteen of these candidates. Secondly, after this, all candidates had to submit their Curriculum Vitae to me along with a Statement of Intent explaining what they believe is entailed or should be entailed in the role of a Chapel Prefect. Thirdly, there were further discussions with various members of staff and, finally, I called those who merited further consideration and explained to them what I expected of them. Briefly, this entails the following:

- o Setting a good example and acting with integrity
- o Anticipating and dealing with problems or issues in a considered fashion
- o Representing the College and being sensitive to the needs of all members of our community

There will be weekly duties to perform and the Chapel Prefects will have specific portfolios of responsibility, which still to be finalised.

There were some outstanding candidates this year and arriving at a final selection was a challenge but, ultimately, I have asked those listed below to serve Malvern in a special way over the course of the year ahead:

Sacristan:	Joann Ezeoba
Chapel Prefects: (in alphabetical order)	Labhaiosa Cromie Hugo de Haan Lottie Rugeroni Harry Sinclair

Senior Chapel Prefect: Henry Bridge

Congratulations to all of the above.

- *Heads of House:* Congratulations go, too, to these pupils who have been invited to be Heads of their Houses:

School House	Jamie Paterson
No. 1	Edward Davenill
No. 2	George Davies
No. 3	Hebe Nicholson
No. 4	Emma Hicks
No. 5	Simon Harwood
No. 6	Toni Gold
No. 7	Will Meredith
No. 8	Katherine Rogers
No. 9	Harry Zinopoulos
Ellerslie House	Amanda Budge

- *School Council:* The following were voted on to the School Council, another mechanism for Sixth Form leadership:

Dayo Ogundare (School House)
Tomi Belgore (No. 1)
Sebastian Cheshire (No. 1)
Gregory Kirchhoff (No. 1)
Quirin Lubke (No. 1)
Fred Gardner (No. 2)
Richard Hardy (No. 2)
Hermione Benest (No. 3)
Poppy Andrews (No. 4)
Daphne Li (No. 4)
Tom Dilley (No. 5)
Jackie Sze (No. 6)
Godwin Lui (No. 7)
Maria Henshall (No. 8)
Lanre Vigo (No. 9)

- *Parents' Forum:* A meeting of the Parents' Forum (formerly the Parents' Working Group) was held on Saturday 7 March. We welcomed three new members to the group: Chris Le Bas, representing House No. 8 alongside Jane James, and Andrew Cripwell and Virginia Williams, representing House No. 4. Jane Lawrence announced that she was stepping down from the group and would be replaced by Dawn Wood, who will represent No. 3.

Items discussed included developments to the curriculum in English Literature, security issues (dealt with elsewhere in this letter) and the greatly increased numbers involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

There was also a review of the ongoing development of the website. You may have seen the page featuring the new boarding house and the appointment of Sarah Angus as Ellerslie Housemistress. You may also be interested in having a look at the architect's 'fly through' which you can access via a link on the General Information page. Please note that several School Policies and term dates are now available for downloading from the website. Major events will now have their own pages which will have the facility to be updated immediately (for example, to show results of sporting fixtures). Many of these will have links on the home page. Each co-curricular activity will also have its own page.

There was a discussion in connection with the new design and content of the Red Book and Paul Godsland, Senior Master, has undertaken to review this.

Jamie Russell, Senior Housemaster, agreed to discuss with other Housems how best we might integrate new parents into the life of the College and the type of events that the College and parents could host to bring this group together, such as the 'Friends of Five' evenings currently run by Tom Newman in No. 5. I plan to host a Spring Drinks Party on Saturday 25 April for all current parents, 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. in The Grub. This is purely a social event and a separate 'e' invitation will follow. I announced that another event, a presentation designed to educate parents in connection with drugs, would be held on 29 September 2009. This will be run by Elizabeth Burton-Phillips, who lost a son to drug misuse.

In order to meet with more of our parents abroad, I will be visiting Germany during the period 18 – 21 May and hosting a series of evening receptions to which parents are warmly invited. I will be in Hamburg on Monday 18 May, Frankfurt on Tuesday 19 May and Munich on Wednesday 20 May. I will be accompanied by Sheila Jackson, our Registrar, and Martin Frayn, our Head of Sixth Form. Please do contact Sheila on srj@malcol.org if you would be interested in attending any of these events, and we can send you further details. The Chairman and I also plan to visit Hong Kong later in the year to meet with some of our parents there.

- *Half Term Activities:* Four school trips, involving about a hundred pupils, broadened the educational experience of the participants. Firstly, about forty pupils enjoyed a stimulating tour of South West Iceland. The highlight of the trip was a flight by light aircraft to the Westmann Islands to see how local people have coped with their huge volcanic eruption in 1973. The pupils saw the mid-Atlantic Ridge and many snowmelt waterfalls. Secondly, thirty-one Remove pupils went to Normandy and Paris visiting the Second World War landing beaches in Normandy, local cheese and cider farms, Disneyland and the magnificent architecture of the French capital.

Then the Annual CCF Winter Mountain Proficiency Course involved ten pupils, practising a range of skills from the use of crampons and ice axes to navigating in 'white out' conditions in sub-zero temperatures and building four-man snow holes. Lastly, twenty of our more enterprising skiers sharpened their skills in Europe.

- *Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme:* Over the past weekend, a hundred pupils from the Remove, plus twenty staff and senior pupils, took part in the Bronze practice expedition, the largest expedition the College has ever undertaken. Next weekend, following the end of term, about forty Sixth Form pupils will go on a Gold practice expedition, once again the largest expedition the College has ever mounted at that level. Our thanks and appreciation go to Mr Wastie and all of the staff involved.
- *CCF:* A team of nine cadets recently travelled to Swynnerton to take part in the March & Shoot Competition. This was a test not only of physical fitness and marksmanship, but working together as a team. The dedication and determination from newer cadets, as well as the expertise of the more experienced ones, took us to third position overall.

- *George Bartlett and his Jockey's Licence:* Congratulations to George on being awarded his Category A Jockey's Licence which allows him to race as an amateur on the flat or over hurdles. I understand that he has already been retained by a syndicate to ride a particular horse!
- *Security:* Some parents will have heard that we have had some problems with young people coming onto our campus on a handful of occasions over the past couple of terms. This has led to our summoning the police on more than one occasion and, naturally, instructions to pupils not to take matters into their own hands, but to report situations through a responsible adult in their Houses. Despite the obvious additional expense in making a new appointment, we have recently appointed a Resident Security Officer, Mr Glyn Hawkins, for our campus and, following a discussion with some senior pupils, we are giving thought to placing CCTV cameras judiciously around the College. Both the appointment of the Security Officer and further measures are a considered response to the desire to ensure that we limit problems in this area.
- *School Togs:* We have had some comments related to the service and availability of items at the shop; such comments have been both good and bad and the Bursar is due to meet with their management soon. If, therefore, you have any views on the shop, School Togs, please will you pass your comments to the Bursar as soon as possible.
- *Leavers' Ball:* As a gesture to current leavers from Malvern, I have decided that the College will pay for up to two free tickets per family this year on a one-off basis for those who are to attend the Ball. This offer is reflected on the ticket order form that you will receive in the End of Term Mailing and, if you have already paid for tickets, a refund will be given on your final bill which will be sent out in July. I have already spoken to the Upper Sixth in this regard and I hope that they will leave Malvern with a 'spring in their step'. Simultaneously, I addressed the issue of their ensuring that their behaviour is impeccable right through until the end of the academic year. I specifically alluded to the fact that they should not put themselves in circumstances which could entail their being sent home either temporarily or permanently at the most crucial time of their school career.

Happy Easter

May I end this letter by wishing you a joyful holiday period with your sons and daughters and a very happy Easter. The Summer Term lies before us with its many challenges, and I have encouraged those taking public examinations to spend three hours per week day in a disciplined and focussed fashion wrestling intellectually with the work before them and building the confidence they will need to maximise their potential in an increasingly competitive world. But everybody also needs a good break, so the balance is important!

My best wishes go to you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Antony Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal blue line.

Antony Clark
Headmaster