



September 2009

Dear Parents

I am writing to you after less than three weeks of the term to reflect, in an eclectic fashion, on some of the excitement and activities which have punctuated the first days of the academic year. I think you will realise that a letter such as this necessarily makes reference only to certain pupils, activities or issues and is not intended as a 'blow by blow' account of the term, but rather as an insight into some of the things which have caught the interest and imagination of Malvernians.

Over the past weekend, there was a reunion for the past students of No. 1 and also a Benefactors' Lunch, attended by some 227 Old Malvernians who have given generously towards the advancement of the school. They were greatly impressed by a preview of the Sports Complex which we can now indicate is due to be opened by HRH Prince Andrew on 16 October and by how sympathetic the architecture in the new No. 7 and Ellerslie Houses are to their surrounds.

Malvern remains an inspiring environment and both those who have been away from the College for many years as well as pupils new to us have commented on the buzz and sense of purpose which they encounter here – long may that last!

New Staff

We welcomed the following at the start of the academic year:

Sarah Angus: Sarah is the new Housemistress of Ellerslie. She has come to us from Trinity School, in Devon, where she was Housemistress, Head of the Sixth Form and a teacher of Economics. She took her degree at Cambridge where she was effectively the Senior Student in her College and she then worked in the City in banking for some six years before her first teaching appointment.

David Angus: David is Sarah's husband and was Director of Studies at Trinity School; he will oversee the timetabling, work as an Examinations Officer and assist our Director of Studies, Joe Gauci. He is, clearly, a highly talented person in his own right and will, doubtless, prove to be a key figure in Ellerslie too.

Salman Barakat: Salman is a teacher of Mathematics who has had an outstanding career both in Germany and in this country, culminating in the attainment of a First Class degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering at Imperial College, London. He is joining us after a spell in the German Army.

Elizabeth Charman: Elizabeth has joined our English Department in a part-time capacity. She attained a First Class in her English Language & Literature Honours degree from Aberdeen University and has taught at King's, Worcester, and Rugby Schools.

Edward Dowler: The Reverend Dr Edward Dowler has been a tutor and Vice-Principal at St Stephen's House, a theological college attached to Oxford University. He has joined our RS Department and is also our Assistant Chaplain, involved in the life and welfare of the entire school. There are few people who can claim to have a degree from each of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham and, with his English degree from Oxford, a Theology degree from Cambridge and a Ph.D. in Theology from Durham, he is one of them!

Elin Griffiths: Elin has joined our Economics Department; she took an Economics degree at Cambridge and will assist with netball and swimming in her first teaching appointment here.

Wade Hankins: Wade is a Mathematics teacher who has had seven years in the British Army recently. Not surprisingly, he is enthusiastic about outdoor activities and will, I am sure, prove a valuable asset to us.

Mark Hardinges: Mark is an OM who took his degree in Economics & Politics at Bath University, and has been a professional cricketer for the last ten years, playing for Gloucestershire. He has interests in several sporting fields.

Sophie Hardy: Sophie returns to the College, having spent a year teaching at a school in London. She is a biologist, who attained a First Class in her degree at King's College, London, in Biological Sciences. We welcome her back to Malvern.

Sarah Hearne: Sarah is a graduate of Durham University in English Literature. She has joined our English Department and coaches some hockey and assists with Debating and DofE.

Adam Hutsby: Adam took his Economics degree at the University of Nottingham and is assisting with several games and outdoor activities. He is in his first teaching situation.

Lindsay Kontarines: Lindsay has occupied a very senior position here before and is well known to Malvernians. She is, therefore, hardly a 'new teacher', but rather an old hand who will assist as a part-time chemist.

Sarvi Razavi: Sarvi has a B.Sc. Honours degree in Sport & PE and is an accomplished cricketer who has played with the England Development Squad. She has taught previously in Oxfordshire and has come to us with excellent overall sporting credentials.

Sarah Wastie: Sarah is a part-time biologist whose husband, Philip Wastie, is well known to us.

Richard Whitehead: Richard is Head of German; he is yet another teacher with a top academic pedigree, having obtained a First at Queen's College, Oxford, and an M.Phil., also from Oxford, before running his own business. Prior to that he was Head of German and an Assistant Boarding Master at Benenden School.

Iain Wilson: Iain is a Cambridge mathematician who has been lecturing in the School of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering in the British Army. He is, incidentally, also a qualified Flying Officer in the RAF.

I am delighted to welcome this exceptionally well qualified and outstanding group of teachers to Malvern, and I trust that they will be happy and fulfilled in this environment.

Public Examination Results

This year's IB results were very pleasing and on a par with last year's, which were our second best ever. Our candidates averaged 36.1 points, compared with the world average of just 29.6 points. Eighteen candidates scored at least 40 points, including Treesa Leung and Joanna Smith who scored 44 points out of a possible 45!

The A Level results were more or less in line with our expectations; fourteen candidates scored at least 3 or 4 A grades and Tom Knowles had the distinction of scoring top marks in his examination board on the Archaeology paper, which is part of Classical Civilisation.

At AS Level, the results were, similarly, in line with expectations, and our most outstanding result was Meredith Hao in Mathematics; she scored 100% in each of her six modules.

At GCSE and iGCSE Level, 58% of all grades were awarded at A* or A. The A* pass rate was 29%, which was significantly higher than our previous best ever and indicative of the 'Stretch and Challenge' initiatives which we are implementing for our most able students.

Against this successful backdrop, I can say with conviction that most parents and pupils simply want the best for their offspring and themselves in relation to their ability; in this respect, we are pleased that the academically most able have achieved rewarding results, but we are equally pleased that those who have found aspects of subjects challenging have, generally, also been rewarded. That is as it should be.

Activities Over The Summer

- The *Chamber Choir* gave three performances in Holland as part of a long weekend's visit. The choir was given standing ovations on each occasion and I received unsolicited letters from people who had attended, congratulating Malvern upon the high standards it had attained in every respect. My thanks go to Iain and Gwynn Sloan, Steve McDade and Diane Arthur, who led this expedition.
- All three sections of the CCF were represented over the summer in various activities. The RAF Camp took place in the Lake District. The Army Section went up to North Yorkshire and spent a week in Catterick, conducting a variety of different exercises. The Royal

Marines enjoyed a strenuous two-week course that combined adventure training and survival skills with the elite training of the Royal Marine Commandos. Several senior cadets were fortunate enough to attend the Cadet Leadership course at Frimley Park. This focussed on leadership training and is both mentally and physically demanding. I wish to thank Peter Scurfield, the CCF Contingent Commander, and all the other staff who guided our pupils over this time.

- Thirteen pupils went on a scuba diving expedition with Neil Willatt to Gozo. Everybody passed the Professional Association of Diving Instructors courses, which ranged from the Basic Open Water Divers' Course through the Advanced Divers' Course to the Rescue Divers' Course, depending upon previous experience.
- A pre-season *Rackets* tour to the Queen's Club in London ensured that our enthusiastic players have got off to a good start to the season. My thanks go to Tim Roberts and Mark Hardinges for leading this activity.
- *Young Malvern* was headed by Paul Godsland, and many staff and pupils made a significant contribution to the success of this event. Over five hundred children between the ages of eight and thirteen had the opportunity, in each of two weeks, to sharpen their skills as well as to have an enjoyable experience. Some thirty pupils were also involved as monitors and their commitment, along with those staff members, is most impressive.
- Clearly, there was a very large *building programme* which moved towards completion. Our contractors, Speller Metcalfe, have done very well to ensure that both No. 7 and Ellerslie Houses were handed over to us on time and within budget. In such a significant programme, there are bound to be some difficulties, and we have encountered problems with regard to the provision of IT services to some parts of Ellerslie at certain times. I can assure you that we are doing our best to deal with these difficulties.

You should have received, under separate cover, a letter concerning the opening of our Sports Complex on 16 October. We are delighted that HRH Prince Andrew has consented both to open Ellerslie and No. 7 and then to proceed to the Sports Complex for a similar formal unveiling of a plaque there. We have attracted a number of sports stars to a dinner on the evening of 16 October at which we will be raising funds towards a Sports Bursary and, once again, this is referred to in the letter which has been sent out by our Commercial Director, Allan Walker.

LAMDA Examinations

Congratulations go to the following on their success in the above:

Olivia O'Dwyer, Margarita Cesar and Zoï Sevastopulo (*Grade 4 with Merit*); Alastair Brookes (*Grade 5*); Charles Miller, Sophia Storer and Kate Wood (*Grade 5 with Merit*); Heili Schwarz-Schütte, Christian Schnittker, Harry Rose and Nikolaus Pohl (*Grade 6*); Isabel Eichwede, Ferdinand Stockmann and Jonathan Töpfer (*Grade 6 with Merit*); Doris Gong and Sharon Nanna (*Grade 6 with Distinction*); Bryony Logan (*Grade 7*); Anna Wagner (*Grade 7 with*

Merit); Joann Ezeoba (*Grade 7 with Distinction*); Katherine Aspinall (*Grade 8*); Alexandria Page, Ikemba Ihejiahi and Hermione Benest (*Grade 8 with Merit*).

Association Board of the Royal School of Music Examinations Results

The following are to be commended on achieving at Grade 5 or above:

Jerry Tao (*Grade 5*); Robert Nolan, Kirstie Wombwell and Diana Almazova (*Grade 5 with Merit*); Kate Arnold (*Grade 7*); Marcus Suen (*Grade 8*); Beth Lloyd, Natalie Wander and Andrew McDade (*Grade 8 with Merit*); Anna Wagner (*Grade 8 with Distinction*).

Swagger Stick

Congratulations to Jamie Paterson who was presented with a Swagger Stick by a Warrant Officer First Class Hearn of the Royal Marines. This is to mark the role of the senior pupil in the Malvern College CCF.

Sports Activities

I believe we have got off to a terrific start and I have been enormously impressed with the commitment and growing skill of so many of our pupils in this arena. We will continue to develop all our games in the year ahead, and there are many signs of strength in a variety of different areas.

- *Rugby*: The 1st XV had a very promising start against Bristol Cathedral School and ran out 42 - 7 winners, with three tries from Jack Nicholls and further tries by Marius Franc, Chris Brewer, Harry Sinclair and Alex Magee. In a subsequent game, we went down 3 - 8 to Dean Close at the conclusion of a hard-fought struggle. Our 2nd XV were beaten by Rendcomb College 1st XV, but not without an impressive fight back which saw us lose narrowly 18 - 24. The 2nd XV then beat Dean Close 10 – 0. The U 16A team beat Bristol Cathedral School 36 - 7, with Jamie Nicholls and Toby Hurdle each scoring two tries and, earlier in the week, our U 16 sevens team had reached the semi-final of the County tournament. Our U 16 As then lost 0 -10 to Dean Close, but the U 16 Bs won 55 – 0. Our other teams have started well, in particular our U 15 A team which beat Dean Close 52 – 8. Skill and commitment is evident at all levels.

Our new Head Coach, Nick Tisdale, who has had experience with the Worcester Warriors Elite Development Squad, has had a significant impact on our players this season, along with the other coaches.

- *Girls' Hockey*: An enthusiastic U 14 A team beat Pershore High School 5 – 0, with players of the match being Olivia Barnes and Harriet Darling. Our U 15 As lost 0 - 3 to Dean Close and the U 15 Bs 1– 2 with Sarah Richardson and Lydia Sharpe being named players of their respective matches, whilst both U 14 A and B teams also lost to Dean Close.

Our 1st and 2nd teams played Wrekin 1sts in several halves. Susannah Hunt and Poppy Andrews were our outstanding players.

Our Head Coach (for both boys and girls) is Mark Moss who last year was named the England Young Professional Coach of the Year; despite our early losses on the hockey pitch, the coaching and training has been first-class and also enjoyable!

- *Rackets:* Against Wellington College, our 1st Pair, Will Vanston and Arthur Wakeley, went down narrowly to the second best pair in England, but only after a great fight. Will Wright and Freddie Gardner, our 2nd Pair, won 3 – 0, and the Colts Pair, Tom Trotter and Mark Jefferson, lost 0 – 3.
- *Football:* In an early football fixture against Wolverhampton Grammar School, our A XI ran out 4 – 2 winners and, thereafter, more recently, the 1st XI lost 1 – 2 to Hulme Grammar School, Oldham, in the first round of the ISFA Cup. Despite our loss, this was a good performance and the opposition manager nominated Dominic Stanley and Odege Davey for the ISFA South of England trials, whilst also praising Victor Dhont and Alex Magee.
- *Girls' Football:* We had an A and a B team competing in the U 18 SouthWest Independent Schools' Girls' Football Tournament. Both teams did well, and our A team came up against Chilton Contello School, who had previously beaten Cheltenham Ladies' College, in the final. With the score at 0 – 0 at full time, the hero of the hour proved to be our goalkeeper, Olivia Barnes who, as an FY, was the youngest player on the pitch by a couple of years. Olivia calmly scored from the spot and then, taking up position in goal, saved the next penalty from Chilton Contello. Victory to the girls!
- *Cross-country:* Last Tuesday, the Junior Races resulted in a win for School House in the Remove boys' event and No. 5 in the FY boys' event. No. 4 triumphed in both girls' competitions. On Saturday in the Senior Relays, in the boys' race, Johnnie Betteridge established an impressive lead for No. 5 on the first leg and No. 5 looked certain to win until an excellent run on the last leg by Jameson Pepper took No. 9's B team into first place ahead of their A team which finished in second place. In the Senior Girls' competition No. 8 led from the start to the finish with a very good team effort.

In the Ferrets Race, Ben Novak Adzovic (No. 7) finished in a good time of 13 minutes 37 seconds, well ahead of Ben Cooke (No. 5). The No. 7 team were triumphant overall and took the Boys' Trophy. In the girls' event, Emily Humfress (No. 3) was first across the line a time of 15 minutes 11 seconds. But it was No. 4 who celebrated the team victory.

Swine Flu

I should mention that we have had, at various times, four cases of the H1N1 virus amongst our pupils over the past fortnight. All have been treated in isolation and none was very ill. Some with 'normal flu' were, in fact, considerably less comfortable than those with H1N1.

We continue to be alert to the prospect of the H1N1 virus developing and are conscious of our role in diminishing its impact wherever possible. Thank you for your role in assisting us in this matter – if your son or daughter is unwell with H1N1 or any other flu virus, he/she should not return to school until fit to do so.

Conclusion

You will not be surprised to learn that I have encouraged all of our pupils to be ambitious, but not over ambitious, and to tackle the year in a positive spirit. The boys and girls have been urged to work hard in all that they undertake, not only in the academic sphere, and I have urged them to be mature enough to recognise that, since success does not come without hard work, each individual owes it to himself/herself to persevere when life is not easy. I have outlined the critical importance of discipline and self-discipline in the achievement of great things, drawing on the example of the self-discipline of Nelson Mandela who, in the most adverse of circumstances and for so long, developed himself mentally (as a lawyer) and physically (through gym work). In doing so, he provides us with an example of the sort of person we should emulate.

Our students have also been encouraged to display kindness and generosity of spirit to one another. One may have all the intellectual strength and wisdom of an Einstein or a Solomon, all of the artistic strengths of a Picasso or the physical strengths of a Martin Johnson but, without humanity, one is not a whole person.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antony Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a long, thin, curved horizontal line that extends to the right.

Antony Clark
Headmaster