

Dear Parents

There is an air of buoyancy at Malvern following the **momentous week** we have all enjoyed. The visit of HRH, The Duke of York, was memorable on one level because we had a royal personality opening the new **No. 7** and **Ellerslie Houses** as well as the wonderful **new Sports Complex**. But his visit was additionally memorable in terms of his engagement with pupils and staff. Quite simply he could not have been more 'tuned in' to the pupils: his questions to them were perceptive and probing, he showed genuine interest and his sense of humour was ever-present. We were truly honoured to have Prince Andrew visiting Malvern.

The **Cricket Centre** was opened by Michael Vaughan who, likewise, displayed an excellent sense of humour, partly at the expense of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club in wishing them greater success now that they had the Malvern facility to share. Michael Vaughan is, of course, a Yorkshireman! He spoke to our cricketers with real empathy and, having encouraged them, put himself in the 'firing line' in a light-hearted net session. During the course of the evening, he joined some of the country's other **sporting legends**: Dame Kelly Holmes, the double Olympic champion; Jason Leonard, the most capped England rugby player; Graham Gooch, the scorer of the highest aggregate of runs for England; Peter Shilton, England's most capped footballer; and Rachel Walker, an Olympic hockey star, as well as our own Christina Boxer who, apart from being an Olympian, became the first British woman thirty years ago to break two minutes for the women's 800 metres. The television presenter, John Inverdale, hosted a round of *Any Sporting Questions* and wielded the gavel at an auction of sporting memorabilia to raise money towards a sports bursary for an individual from less fortunate circumstances to attend Malvern.

On Saturday, we hosted our own Prep School in a number of **indoor sporting events** in the morning, whilst on Sunday several prep schools joined in a Sports Hall competition which was, ultimately, won by S. Anselm's of Derbyshire. What a wonderful weekend it was!

During last week, we were also privileged to welcome to Malvern the former **Poet Laureate**, Sir Andrew Motion. In the course of a brilliantly rewarding evening, Professor Motion read extracts from his new anthology, *The Cinder Path*, explaining the background to each of his poems and answering questions with the greatest sensitivity. Sir Andrew was also able to spend time with pupils after the event, encouraging them in their writing in a most empathetic fashion. One person whom he engaged in conversation was **Felicity Blackburn**; we had heard the same day that Felicity had been praised by the world-famous Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, for her critique on Heaney's poem, *Limbo*. Seamus Heaney had written to Dr Holroyd, Felicity's English teacher, as follows: 'That is an extraordinary piece of work from a fourteen year old, deeply imagined, with real physical and intellectual purchase'. To attract such praise from one of the most eminent literary figures of all time is a remarkable achievement and worthy of the distinction which Felicity was awarded. In the same week Anna Llewellyn had won First Prize in the *Ted Hughes Young Poets' Award* run by Calderdale Libraries and the Elmet Trust. The prizes were in the 11-14

category and Josh Penrice is also to be congratulated on being runner-up. So, all in all, it was rather a heady week for those in a packed Big School who were interested in poetry.

I awarded **two further Distinctions** at a recent Chapel Assembly and these relate to a project undertaken during the summer holidays. In order to raise funds to put towards the work some of our IB students will be doing in Ghana, two girls in No. 6, Viktoria Voß and Sophie Ochoa-Neven du Mont, spent considerable time and energy at home planning an event which, in the upshot, raised approximately £3,500 towards the Malvern IB students' project. Even in a difficult economic climate, it just shows what can be done, and my warm congratulations go to Viktoria and Sophie.

Soon after leave out, the **House Singing Competition** was keenly contested and all of the Houses did extremely well, making the task of our external adjudicator difficult; in the upshot, however, School House won the competition with the Tims Cup for the runner-up going to No. 3. Our **Chamber Choir** has also been to the fore in performing at two local churches; a terrific amount of hard work has been put in by soloists Aaron King, George Lacey, Beth Lloyd, Eric Ma, Lottie Rugeroni, Harriet Sale and others, whilst in the course of an informal concert, Rebecca Kriegbaum, Isabella Petzinka, Stephanie Schöhl, Claire Fung, Beth Lloyd, Eric Ma, Lilli Neumann, Hannah Niemeyer and Harriet Sale were to the fore as **instrumentalists**.

In **debating** we have competed against Dulwich College, Eltham and Westminster Schools, as well as, separately, in the Taylor Trophy Junior Debating Competition and in the Eyres Monsell Competition. Those who have been mentioned in dispatches are Henry Bridge, Josh Wilkes, Philippa Vandome, Jonathan Killam, Will Law, Arthur Wakeley, Sam Goldblatt and Caroline Varga. The Best Speakers Award has gone on two of the occasions to Sam and Caroline – well done to them.

Twenty of our young **thespians** in the Remove performed their abridged version of *As You Like It* at the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford as part of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. Our production featured Belle Gallop as Rosalind, Jonathan Bray as Orlando and Charlie Buiscool as Touchstone. This was the first occasion for several of our pupils on a professional stage and all of the cast have been commended for their hard work and commitment. We will, hopefully, be treated to a re-staging of this production in the Summer Term possibly at an open air theatre venue beside the Entertainment Suite.

Whilst members of the Wheeler-Bennett Society and other intellectual groups within the school have engaged with visiting speakers and with internal debate, members of the **Aston Society**, our junior scholars' society, were taken to London to visit the Tate Modern and The Globe. I know from the discussion emanating from this trip that it was a most worthwhile and inspiring visit for them, not only because it was part of our commitment to stretch and challenge those who would benefit from such experiences.

Congratulations to Quentin Spottiswoode, Robert Nolan, Richard Hadamovsky and Richard Hardy who successfully completed the **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award** qualifying expedition over the leave out weekend, paddling their canoes in excess of 120 kilometres over the four days to put the icing on that section of their award.

We also had two teams competing in the **Military Skills and Pringle Competitions**. Our nine cadets in the Military Skills Competition were captained by William Morley and completed a number of theoretical and practical challenges. Despite a strong finish in the two and a half mile run with full assault equipment, we unfortunately lost to a strong team from Adams' Grammar School. Four RAF cadets also attended an intensive leadership course for junior NCOs; the

candidates all performed well, especially Wulstan Nixon who was declared the top cadet in a group of forty from four different schools.

Turning to **games**, I wish to comment briefly rather than at great length whilst, at the same time, alluding to some special features and some of those individuals who have been to the fore. In **girls' hockey**, all of our teams have won and lost a fair share of their matches, but the U 14 A team has excelled throughout the season and deserves special praise, in particular for winning the U 14 County Tournament finals. Players who have been mentioned for their excellent contributions at various levels are as follows: in the 1st XI, Poppy Donaldson, Charis Williams and Ella Cripwell; in the 2nd XI, Hebe Nicholson, Lottie Rugeroni, Tara Van Gruisen, Ellie Hobson and Hannah Pascoe; in the 3rd XI, Alex Perry, Sophie Davies and Emily Maggs; in the U 15 A, Annabelle Gallop, Rebecca Raby-Smith, Katherine Berry and Holly Makin; in the U 14 A team, Harriet Darling, Lydia Brand, Alice Patterson and Shi-Nan Zhang.

In **rugby**, it is the U 16 B team which has sparkled on several occasions, for example in beating Bromsgrove 60-15. Our U 15 As, on the other hand, had their year-long unbeaten run come to an end when they were beaten 3-46 by Bromsgrove, but bounced back to defeat RGS, Worcester 17-5. The 1st XV had a recent big win (50-5) over Haybridge High School but they narrowly lost to RGS, Worcester 0-5. The U 14 As have struggled against larger opponents, though the U 14 Bs have been most impressive on occasion. It is often a question at this level of the opposition having a couple of large players who are able to carry the day! I am pleased, however, with the commitment and attitude of our players and, under the tutelage of our Head Coach, Nick Tisdale, who has association with the Worcester Warriors Elite Development Squad, the prospects continue to improve with each weekend.

Our 1st **rackets** pair of Arthur Wakeley and Will Vanston have triumphed against Marlborough and Harrow, winning 4-0 in each case, but lost to Rugby. Odge Davey and Will Wright have done well as our 2nd Pair and our Junior Colts A, represented variously by Mark Jefferson, Tom Trotter and Chris Harwood, have also been doing well. Our rackets players have won approximately 70% of their games and this is a pleasing development as we build success and enjoyment in this sport.

The **golf** team is unbeaten, having successfully defeated Monmouth in the first round of the Independent Schools Golf Association Competition and then triumphing against Ellesmere. The captain, Josh Mansell, has been playing particularly well and we look forward to another match against St Edward's, Oxford soon.

Malvern hosted the U 14 and U 16 District **Netball** Tournaments and enjoyed considerable success. The U 16s won two of their matches and lost one, the Players of the Tournament being Susannah Hunt and Claire Fung; the U 14s were outstanding, winning all three of their matches very convincingly, netting 36 goals and conceding only 6. Emily Humfress and Holly Cox were the best players on show.

Our senior **lacrosse** girls took part in a Midlands eight-a-side tournament with the Universities of Loughborough, Birmingham and Nottingham. The 1st and 2nd teams of the respective universities were too strong for us, but Hermione Benest, Camilla Penrice and Laura Rust did well in our cause.

In **boys' football** fixtures against Repton, the A XI were beaten 3-2 whilst the B XI won 7-4 and, subsequently, have continued in this vein being unbeaten so far this season. Special congratulations go to Alex Magee and Victor Dhont on their selection for the ISFA South of England Squad.

In **girls' football**, we recently played in the U 17 National Six-a-Side Tournament and came second in our qualifying group but were edged out in the quarter finals by St Edward's, Croydon. Katya Berger, Clara Neuss and Olivia Barnes have done particularly well.

In **cross country**, the Intermediate Girls' team performed very well in the first round of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup and easily qualified for the regional round. Vicky Moritz finished in third place, with Rebecca Raby-Smith, Alys Marr, Lydia Sharpe, Amy Cooke and Emily Humfress packed in behind her in seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and fifteenth places. The girls continued their good form in the West Mercia League, taking second place in the girls' competition whilst, amongst our boys, Ben Novak and Ben Cooke finished strongly in their English Schools' Cross Country event.

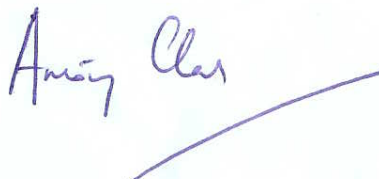
Last Saturday, Lucy Henshall represented Great Britain in **fencing** (Women's Epée) in the first international fencing tournament of the season, held in Portugal. Great Britain sent a team of twelve and Lucy had the distinction of finishing tenth in the tournament and being ranked the second highest out of the British team. Well done, Lucy!

We have had some pupils with **flu-related illnesses** in our Medical Centre and we expect them all to be discharged for half-term. Swabbing for H1N1 is no longer the order of the day, but Tamiflu has been on offer to those who have filled the criteria for the H1N1 virus. We continue to be vigilant in this area and I ask parents not to return boys and girls to us who display signs of influenza and/or other illnesses at the conclusion of half-term. Vaccinations for Swine Flu will be available on a gradual basis over the next months and our school doctor will send out information about this to parents.

Penultimately, I would like to draw to your attention the **Bulkeley-Evans Scholarship** awards which may be made to the pupils attending HMC schools who go on gap years after A Level/IB examinations. Some thirty awards ranging between £300 - £500 are available on an annual basis to those undertaking a specific project which would be to the benefit of a community and where the individual undertaking the project is in some financial need. We need to make application by March at the latest if we are to be successful, and early applications can be beneficial to the potential recipient.

Lastly, may I wish you a happy half-term with your sons and daughters.

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 long, horizontal blue line that extends to the right.

Antony Clark
Headmaster