



December 2009

Dear Parents

You will soon be receiving a large pack of material which forms the End of Term Mailing and you will be able to access material from that pack, should you wish to do so, on our website. The *Malvernian*, as well as the DVD which was made of the visit by The Duke of York, HRH Prince Andrew, to open the Sports Complex and the two new boarding houses, Ellerslie and No. 7, will also reach you soon. To minimise the delay in the case of those living abroad, your sons/daughters have been asked to bring a copy of *The Malvernian* home with them.

My letter to you is primarily geared to wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas. For many of us, the Christmas period marks not only an important religious festival, but it is a time of family re-grouping during which one has the opportunity to reflect on the privilege of association with those whom one may see less regularly than one would wish to. Mutual strength is derived from being together and reflecting on a world full of challenges and interest.

Cultural & Allied Matters

Music: Our musicians continue to bring great credit to Malvern and to enrich the lives of others in many different ways. Some three weeks ago, at a Community Concert, the third movement of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet was played by Wesley Chow (clarinet), Mavila Miller and Christian Peterseim (violins), Rupert Harris (viola) and Isabella Petzinka (cello). There were also solo items from Aaron King (flute), Anna Wagner (soprano) and, once again, Isabella Petzinka (again on the cello).

The last of these, as well as Sarah Kriegbaum, Philip Whitehead, Will Meredith, Katya Berger, Caroline Harms, Jackie Sze and Maddie Cubbon were some of the stars of a more recent concert, *Malvern's Got Talent*.

More recently, the Chapel Choir has excelled in Christmas carol services and I would like to pay particular tribute to Lottie Rugeroni and Will Meredith for their performance of *Morning Softly Awakens* at the Advent Carol Service. The Christmas Concert was spectacular: from the opening, with the Concert Band playing *Jamaican Rumba* right through the programme to the Orchestra's performance of Offenbach's *Can Can*, there was a vitality and enthusiasm which spoke eloquently of individual pupils' commitment to producing music of the very highest quality. A packed Big School also enjoyed the Chamber Orchestra's fine interpretation of Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 5* under Mr Steve McDade's compelling baton, whilst the Jazz Band, directed by Mr Stephen Spanyol, offered three exquisite pieces and the Chamber Choir delighted us with three items from their repertoire. We also were treated to the return of the No. 3 and School House songs from the House Singing Competition, *Lullaby* and *When You Say Nothing At All* respectively.

My warm thanks and congratulations go to Mr Iain Sloan, his colleagues and to all the performers for their high-quality performances and for their wonderful contribution to the development of music at Malvern.

Art: What is on display around the school and in our Lindsay Art & Technology Centre make a terrific impact on those of us who live with that degree of creativity all the time, as well as on visitors to the College. However, unlike attending a musical concert where one can show one's appreciation by applauding, it is rare for an individual to stand back and applaud a work of art. Having said that, I wish our artists whose pieces are on display to know that their work is greatly appreciated and valued.

Drama: Some ten days ago we treated to *The Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (Part One)* which was adapted by David Edgar from the Dickens novel. In a cast involving marginally less than a hundred pupils, it may be invidious to praise the role of some, but William Law, in the title role of *Nicholas Nickleby*, was quite outstanding. Well done, too, to Georgina Farmer (*Kate Nickleby*), Bryce Birkhead (*Mrs Nickleby*), Henry Bridge (*Ralph Nickleby*), Hugo de Haan (*Matthew Bupker*), Alexander Jupp (*Flunkey*), William Selby (*Newman Noggs*), Ed Davenhill (*Mr Squeers*), Sam Goldbatt (*Smike*), Abi Hefferan (*Mrs Squeers*) and Emma Hicks (*Fanny Squeers*). George Lacey, as Musical Director, along with the orchestra, made a huge contribution to the success of the production, as did lighting operators, Quentin Spottiswoode and Oli Pantelides. Mr Keith Packham and his staff deserve special praise for the success of the production which was originally produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1980. Well done and thank you, one and all!

Debating: Arthur Wakeley and Caroline Varga made a terrific impact in an extremely hard fought round of the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace. Competing against five other schools from the Midlands, our pair were clear winners and now go forward to the second round early in the New Year. This is the most prestigious of national debating competitions and, to make progress here, is an excellent achievement and the jewel in the crown of an fine term's debating both in the school and beyond it.

Sports Round Up

Some of the highlights of the season are listed below, but what follows is certainly not a 'blow by blow' account:

Girls' Hockey: Significant progress in skill levels and team work has been made over the course of this season at all levels. In our most recent fixtures, the 1st XI were held to a 1-1 draw by Wycliffe, with Poppy Andrews being named 'Best Player', whilst the 2nd XI beat RGS Worcester 3-0. Meanwhile, the 3rd XI took on Wycliffe's 2nd XI and were narrowly beaten 0-1. Our U 15As beat Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 8-0 with Maitie Wright being named 'Player of the Match', and our U 14As won 5-0 with Alice Paterson once again to the fore. On the same day, our Junior B teams played Wycliffe A teams which proved a little too strong. Perhaps our most promising team is the U 14A girls' team who did well in the regional round of the ISHA competition without making it through to the final.

The Hockey Awards for the season are:

Full Colours: Poppy Andrews.

Half Colours: Laura Dowdeswell, Hebe Nicholson, Bryce Birkhead, Tabitha Griffiths, Beth Lloyd, Charlotte Rugeroni, Hannah Pascoe, Laura Atkins, Aisha Bond.

Junior Colours:

Kate Wood, Sarah Richardson, Holly Makin, Kirsty Imm, Hayaka Amada, Alys Marr, Rebecca Connell, Rebecca Raby-Smith, Vicky James.

Team Award:

Harriet Darling, Alice Paterson, Kate Arnold, Shi-Nan Zhang, Kathryn Withnall, Darcey Jones, Emily Humfress, Annabelle Phillips, Holly Cox, Lydia Brand, Katie O'Rourke, Robyn Poulton, Natalie Kingdon, Olivia Barnes, Sibyl Beaumont, Maitie Wright, Henrietta Ross, Katherine Berry, Harriet Matthews, Clem Selby.

Rugby: The 1st XV ended with a last-gasp 17-16 victory over Wycliffe, aided by a conversion from Harry Sinclair on the final whistle, and a 3-13 defeat in a skilful match against Monkton Coombe. Well done to our 2nd XV, U 16A and U 16B, as well as our U 15 A teams on their victories over Monkton Coombe. We have just heard that the U 15A team has beaten Denstone College 12 – 5 and has progressed past the fifth round of the Daily Mail Vase. The U 14A XV have had a tough time and it is much to their credit that they rallied for their last match and can feel proud of a 0-0 draw with Monkton Coombe whilst the U 14B, having enjoyed much success this season, lost their last match of the term.

The Rugby Awards for the season are:

Full Colours: Arslan Arkallaev, George Davies, Jack Nicholls, Harry Sinclair, Harry Zinopolous.

Half Colours: Ratanon Apikasemsunt, Tomi Belgore, Charles Bridge, Dylan Burke, Edward Cooke*, Thomas Dilley, Marius Franc, Niccolo Genghini, Jae Hyun Lee*, Alistair Higgins*, Willoughby Jones, James Killick*, Laurence Odlum, Christopher Ogundare*, Alexander Philips, Carl Prest*, Kaan Sapanatan, Tom Saxton, Christopher Vos*. (* = Re-awarded).

Junior Colours: William Baker, Charles Buiskool*, Francis Burke*, Liam Charlton*, Benjamin Cooke, Daniel Garnett*, William Kitching, James Medcalf *, Benjamin Vos, Henry Salmon *. (* = Re-awarded).

Team Awards: Oli Warrilow, Simon McDonald, Kassra Gerami, James Crellin, Freddie Martin, Rory Hopkinson, Ben Donaldson, Rupert Harris, Akshay Bhandari, Hugh Armitage, Oli Greensted, David Gray, Jonas Butt.

Football: The A XI has continued their good form, most recently winning 4-0 against Dyson Perrins, whilst the B XI ended the term with a 7-1 win against the same school; four of those goals came from Alec Godsland.

In preparation for the new season, our top footballers are due to play in Spain over the Christmas break and we shall certainly look forward to very good results in the Lent Term ahead.

Girls' Football: The term ended triumphantly with a resounding 6-2 home win over St Clare's, Oxford. The girls were able to reverse a defeat earlier in the season and Mr Joe Gauci, their coach, is once again causing Sir Alec Ferguson to sleep uneasily at night.

Rackets: Our 1st Pair of Arthur Wakeley and Will Vanston continue to excel: for example, in matches against Radley and Cheltenham, they have been victorious (4-1 in each case). The two then competed in the final of the Pritchard Racket, the senior singles competition at Malvern. Will Vanston cruised into a 2-0 lead, but Arthur Wakeley then

fought back to win the next three games and, thus, the match in one of the best finals at Malvern in recent years. The FY A Pair of Oliver Greensted and Freddie Martin also deserve special praise for going through the season unbeaten until coming up against Radley in one of their last matches. The tournament at Queen's Club lies ahead and we wish our pairs every success as they compete at a national level at this event; we hope to see some silverware!

Cross Country: After finishing in third place in the English Schools West/Central Regional Cross Country Cup, our Intermediate girls were very pleased with their performance in extremely tough, heavy conditions in the final of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup held in Cornwall. Malvern came tenth last year and were placed seventh out of over five hundred schools from the whole of England in the Intermediate age group this year. What has been impressive throughout the season is the grouping of the girls; in this particular event, Rebecca Raby-Smith finished in 31st place, Vicky Moritz 32nd Lydia Sharpe 42nd, Alys Marr 46th, Amy Cooke 96th and Emily Humfress 104th. These girls, amongst others, have brought huge credit to Malvern and I congratulate them, along with their coach, Miss Christina Boxer, on their achievements.

Golf: Following a victory over Monmouth in the first round of the Independent Schools' Golf Association Competition, we came up against St Edward's, Oxford, and achieved a 2-1 victory. Well done to Josh Mansell and the others in the team.

Squash: In a match against Cheltenham College, Will Vanston's victory at No. 1 was decisive in our overall win.

Badminton: In friendly matches against Cheltenham and Abingdon, we won more games than we lost.

Oliver Townsend Eventer Challenge: Congratulations to Jo Gibb who came first in her class in the above event in a field of 200 entrants at Aintree!

Miscellaneous

Non-EEA Pupils: The latest advice from the UK Border Agency for all non-EEA pupils is that pupils must carry with them at all times a letter of consent from their parents (or legal guardians) agreeing to the child travelling to and from the UK, and setting out full contact details of the parents (or legal guardians). Pupils without consent letters run the risk of being detained on re-entry. Your Educational Guardian will be able to assist you in writing such a letter.

Mathematics: In the Senior Maths Challenge, our pupils in the Hundred and Sixth Form have scooped ten Gold Certificates. Even more prestigious than a Gold Certificate in this competition is the opportunity to compete in the subsequent international round. Congratulations to Rinako Shimada for achieving this distinction. Rinako was the top mathematician in the Lower Sixth, as well as in the school.

Anti-Bullying Week: The twentieth anniversary of the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of the Child coincided with this year's National Anti-Bullying Week. The principles which are important in all schools are the right to feel safe and valued and have been addressed in this year's theme of cyber-bullying. Sandy Schott, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator, along with others, have recently visited Houses in the evenings to conduct e-safety training in an attempt to draw attention to the risks that can be attached to the use of the internet and to underline the importance of individual pupils taking care to protect their personal details and to ensure that privacy settings are

well locked down. We have tried to draw specific attention to issues relating to bullying online and how external authorities are taking an increasingly strong line in dealing with this behaviour; indeed, an eighteen-year-old girl from the town of Malvern (not from Malvern College) is now serving a prison sentence as a result of cyber-bullying. The peer mentors and the Sixth Form Council were involved in considering the cyber-bullying theme and encouraged pupils to contact them in order to discuss how problems that may arise in our school should best be dealt with.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme: Mr Philip Wastie oversees the DofE activities and I am most impressed with the large number of pupils who participate in the programme which encapsulates the idea of an outward bound spirit with the notion of service to others. Last year we had as many as fifty pupils achieving a Gold Award, a number which we thought to be the equivalent of any school in the country. Congratulations to the following who have qualified within the last couple of weeks: Adam Flattery, Julia James, Augusta Wakeford and Hebe Morgan (at Bronze Level) and Stuart Monteith and Amélie von Kuhlberg (at Silver Level).

Green Issues: A meeting of pupils who were interested in being much more proactive in dealing with the practicalities associated with eco-friendliness has been held, and House representatives are being established. You may wish to know that the new developments on campus have taken 'eco-friendliness' into account in their construction in the employment of such features as solar panels, modern and efficient gas boilers, automatic lights, zonal controls and a Combined Heat & Power unit in the Sports Complex.

IT Services: In some respects, we have not had an easy term in this area. We recognize that IT services are critical to the smooth operation of the College and now that the region's main network exchange has been upgraded, we have the facility to enhance these services by having an even faster "pipe" to the worldwide internet. Work is in hand to upgrade the College's internet connection and, when completed, which I hope will be by the start of next term, we will have a faster and more reliable internet service.

Since the Spring, we have also been developing an intranet facility, the Malvern College Redbook, and this was launched at the beginning of the term. Whilst the initial phase of the Redbook development has been to offer new ways to access information for pupils and staff, there is also so much potential for the Redbook to bring all parts of the Malvern community (i.e. pupils, parents, staff and OMs) together. However, we know that it is a large-scale, critically important and evolving project which needs investment and clear management direction. Consequently, the development of the Redbook intranet will be included in an overall review of the College's ICT function, to be undertaken early in the New Year, to ensure that the College has the appropriate ICT systems and resources to support and further facilitate the College's operations as a whole.

Commemoration: Our 'Commem' takes place on Saturday 29 May. During the course of the morning there will be musical and dramatic activities, as well as a service in the Malvern Priory at which the Bishop of Worcester will preach. The prizes will be presented by Rebecca Stephens, MBE, the first British woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. It was also on 29 May many years ago that Hillary and Tenzing became the first people to reach the top of Everest, so there is a resonance in the issue of those dates being identical. This is a very important day in the life of Malvern and we will, this year, add a number of additional features to the weekend. Parents should make every effort to be here in Malvern for the Athletics Sports Day on the late afternoon of 28 May, as well as the musical concert on the same day, and all the events on 29 May which culminate in the Prize-Giving and lunch in the Houses.

Parents' Forum: Members of the Forum assembled for their termly meeting last Saturday, 5 December, in a brand new venue – the Studio in the Sports Complex. The Forum is another opportunity for parent representatives from each House to meet with senior members of College staff to discuss matters of mutual interest or concern – e.g. raising the profile of Malvern via improvements to its website. On this occasion, as well as discussing IT matters, the group looked at issues such as catering, uniform, membership of the sports facilities, discipline and conduct, scholarships, Oxbridge results and the house play programme. Parents raised queries about the arrangements for Commem, as well as school photographs, Young Enterprise, lighting on the campus, welcome packs for new pupils, internet access, the timetabling of music and sport and the provision of First Aid courses. If you are interested in contacting your House Representative for further information or to add an item to the agenda for the next meeting, please ask the relevant HouseM for their contact details. Arrangements are currently being made to appoint representatives from Ellerslie House and No. 6 (whose representative had resigned as their daughter was no longer a pupil at the College). The next meeting of the Forum will be held on Saturday 27 February.

Conclusion

May I end where I began by wishing you a blessed and holy Christmas and a relaxing holiday with your sons and daughters.

Antony Clark
Headmaster