

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM WEEK 2, 2ND MAY, 2025



Dear Parents

The first full week of the Summer Term has been both full and very summery indeed. As I write, the view outside is of Year 8 pupils working on their hurdling on the lawn and before we know it the term will whizz by and we will find ourselves at Sports Days! It was great to see so many at our Tea on the Lawn event yesterday afternoon and lovely to chat about how the year had been so far, with so many parents quite rightly proud of the progress their children had made over the course of this year, but equally wondering where the time had gone. We know that time never stands still and that 'Every Moment Matters' so it has been great to see all the varied elements of school life swing fully back into motion this week.

My highlight of the week was enjoying the Year 2 Concert, where not only were we treated to a huge range of fantastic musical performances but also a great insight into how the musicality of our younger pupils is developed alongside Miss Skinner - a well done and thank you to all involved. It was also great to see the cricket season commence with our first matches hinting at a great season ahead for both girls and boys. I mentioned last week that it was wonderful to see pétanque club out on the lawn and this week it was great to see a number of prep pupils stepping up to the 'oche' as part of the newly formed Darts Club Co-Curricular activity.

Having sat with them for lunch, it was clear that Year 4 very much enjoyed their trip to Norwich Synagogue and are also very excited about their upcoming residential trip to Horstead. The weather has certainly helped in terms of the ASA Camping Trips with Year 5 enjoying a wonderful night under canvas last Friday and Year 6 looking forward to their ASA camp experience this evening. The award for most excitement comes from Pre Prep, where we have been eagerly anticipating the hatching of chicks as part of their learning around life cycles. Our first 'arrival' came this morning, with another arriving as the day went on. I expect that they will be joined shortly by some friends to keep them company (perhaps even by the time I finish typing this) – it has been great to see such excitement and interest from all of the children.

We had two teams of four children competing last weekend for Town Close in the ERS School Race at Ipswich dry ski slope with over 300 competitors. Our Year 5-6 team of Beau, Jake, Rupert and Arthur performed superbly and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, with our Year 2-4 team of Percy, Arthur, Rae and Sophia going a step further and securing 1<sup>st</sup> place for Town Close for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. Well done to all involved and for flying the Town Close flag with such aplomb.

We also received some fantastic news that following our consultation last term on the future of our curriculum offer in Upper Prep; our subsequent application has been accepted by the Learning Skills Trust (LST) to offer the Pre Senior Baccalaureate (the PSB; alongside continuing with the Common Entrance in English and mathematics) to our pupils starting with Year 7 next year. This means that Town Close will have a genuine vehicle for ensuring that our curriculum offers the best possible education to prepare our young people for a bright future ahead. We also become part of a network of over 40 of the best Prep Schools in the country who have the PSB at their core and with this comes the opportunity to share best practice to improve upon our already excellent offer. Whilst we will commence with rolling this out from September, we are already making the most of the opportunities for training and professional development with staff signed up for courses both online and at a range of interesting places, including at Eton College and Legoland. We will share more details about how the PSB will feature in school life in due course once we prepare the timetable for September, but in the meantime you can find out more about the PSB here: [The Pre-Senior Baccalaureate – A 21st Century Education](#) and there is further information in our consultation presentation which we have previously shared.

I hope that you all enjoy a great bank holiday weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the children on Tuesday.

