

# DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL *for* GIRLS

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8th April 2011

Dear Parents

I am sure you will enjoy reading the major events about the end of last term and most of this in the pages of our Spring Newsletter. It has, as always, been an action-packed term with a number of highlights ranging from the Year 5 production of 'Yanomamo', to our 30 visitors from Lesotho. There were also a number of highlights at the end of term, notably the amazing production of 'Grease', the immensely moving day-long celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James' Bible, and the Sports Presentation Evening, details of which will have to wait until next term's Newsletter.

I hope all parents have received the letter from me with my news that I will be retiring at the end of the Summer term. As I have discovered a number of people haven't received the e-mail, I am quoting some of the text below:

"I have had a wonderful 13 years here at Durham High School and am conscious of the immense privilege of being able to serve such a fantastic school. The community spirit, the talent and the friendliness of the girls and the commitment of the staff all are without peer. I shall miss everyone very much indeed.

I shall be taking up the post of Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice of Theale and Englefield which is just outside Reading. My husband will be working with me in the parish and we expect to take up our new posts in October."

## **Leavers' Service**

May I then warmly invite parents to the Leavers' Service in the Cathedral on Wednesday 11th May at 2.30pm which the Upper Sixth have graciously agreed to share with me. I do hope some of you will want to come and join us in the Cathedral as we say thank you to God for all that the community of the High School has meant to us over the years. I hope the Junior Choir will contribute to that service as well as the Senior choirs. On that day, please note there will be no afternoon school for Foundation Stage and Infants as the rest of the school will be attending the service. If parents wish to take their younger daughters they would, of course, be warmly welcome. As all girls will be dismissed from the Cathedral there will be no extra-curricular activities or transport on that day.

## **Valuables and Mobile Phones**

All parents are reminded that valuables should not be brought into school. If it is essential that a girl has a valuable item for any reason, it should be given to a teacher for safe-keeping. It has been brought to our notice that a number of girls have iPhones or other expensive mobile phones and are bringing them to school. Please note this is absolutely against school policy; we cannot be responsible for valuable items of any sort. We would prefer that girls do not bring mobile phones into school at all; however, the rules are quite clear that girls below the Sixth Form who do need to bring a mobile phone into school should keep it locked in their locker during

the day. Sixth Formers are allowed to have mobile phones in school but they may only be used in the Sixth Form area.

### **School Shop Opening Times**

During the Easter holidays the School Shop will be open from 10.00am to 12noon on Tuesday 12th April, Tuesday 19th April and Wednesday 27th April.

### **Future Dates**

'A Midsummer Night's Ball'. If you have not yet bought your tickets for the Ball on Saturday 7th May please do so as soon as possible but at any rate by the 19th April.

The Parents and Friends' Quiz Night, which will also incorporate the AGM, will be at 7.00pm on Friday 20th May in the School Hall. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Open Day/Fun Day will be on Saturday 9th July from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. All girls in Years 7 and 8 are expected to attend and we hope many others from Senior House will also be there along with all the girls from Junior House.

### **Study Leave**

Year 11 and Lower Sixth girls go on study leave on Friday 13th May at the end of the school day and the Upper Sixth finish on Friday 27th May.

### **Staff News**

This term we have said goodbye to Jenifer Wakefield who has actually been involved with the High School for 35 years. Her daughter was a pupil and Mrs Wakefield herself has worked here for 31 years. She has taught Speech and Drama to generations of girls in both Junior and Senior House with enormous success and, more recently, has been involved in managing the School Shop. She will be greatly missed; we wish her every happiness in her retirement and know that she will want to keep in touch with us.

I am delighted to report that Mrs Maddison gave birth to a baby girl named Lucy Rose on Friday 1st April, weighing in at 6lbs 7ozs. Congratulations to the family on the birth of a baby daughter.

### **Next Term**

The Summer term begins on Tuesday 3rd May, the day after the May-Day Bank Holiday.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and joyful Eastertide.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Templeman  
Headmistress