

## Boarding Newsletter, Spring half term

**Tim Allen, Director of Boarding**

Dear Parents and Boarders,

We have reached the end of the first half term, and I certainly feel very proud of the many challenges our boarding community have overcome, be it contracting covid and getting through the recovery period without too much impact on their mental wellbeing to new boarders joining and throwing themselves into every activity and trip.

At the start of the term, we welcomed Miss Laura Turnbull into her new Senior Houseparent role and Mr Oakley Boocock into his new Assistant Houseparent role. I'm sure all connected with boarding and school would agree the positive impact they both continue to have is outstanding and their ability to step up into more senior roles has been remarkable.

Mr Malcolm Miller is very much a family man and has left boarding and the post of Deputy Director of Boarding at Sexey's School, to dedicate time to his young family. We understand that he intends to pursue a career in the independent sector and we wish him well with this.

Boarding continues to offer an enriching activity programme with boarding staff working together to offer one big boarding trip every weekend alongside our regular offerings of shopping / local area outings.

Bowling, indoor trampolining, toboggining down a dry ski slope, Church, escape rooms, cinema plus many in-house activities have been a real highlight.

Boarding numbers continue to increase for September 2022, with numerous boarding interviews and tours taking place each week. It's been great to show so many people around so far this term and give prospective parents the opportunity to see our boarding facilities and talk about our mixed age housing boarding model and how it really embraces our culture of one big family. One of our greatest strengths in boarding is just how well all our boarders interact and support each no matter what year group they are in.



Academic exam season is fast approaching and it's great to see so many years 11s and year 13s studying hard and accessing the many different platforms available, whether it's a teacher led booster session in school or by using 'My Tutor' or 'Impress' in boarding.

With exams comes the potential of stress. I would like to remind all parents, guardians, and pupils that our pastoral department will always be on hand to support everyone. The boarding team continue to support and link with both pastoral and academic departments to make sure we are all working together to support our boarders.

Both houses continue to develop with student led artwork being a popular theme. A gallery of student artwork will soon be on display throughout both boarding houses. I look forward to sharing some of these pictures with you.



Finally, and whilst we have a great boarding team, boarding at Sexey's is very much a team effort and I want to say a huge thanks to all the parents and guardians that continue to support the house staff, the health centre team who go above and beyond daily, the estates team who react non-stop to all maintenance issues and lastly the boarders who make boarding about everyone being together and having fun!

Next half term we will see a return of guest speakers as part of PSHRE programme, with a broad range of business, sport and wellbeing professionals joining us to inspire and challenge our boarding community.

We are delighted to offer a new bespoke boarding parents evening. Following the academic departments lead we will be offering all parents and guardian of our boarders the opportunity to discuss boarding with our house staff.

We are excited about some up-and-coming trips with more details to follow. We hope students will enjoy seeing Mamma Mia the musical at Bristol Theatre, supporting England v Barbarians Rugby at Twickenham, surfing the afternoon away at The Wave Bristol and once the sun is back with us, we will be heading back to Bournemouth for some fun at the beach.

I hope you all have a well-deserved half term break and I encourage you all do to something different and challenge yourselves!