

Boarding Newsletter, Autumn end of term

Tim Allen, Director of Boarding

Dear Parents and Boarders,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, we can look back at all the amazing achievements that have happened in boarding. Despite the many challenges all our boarders face living away from homes, family, or guardians we have all still come together as one boarding community.

I know I have said it many times before, but the sense of community that all our boarders and staff continue to create is without doubt one of our greatest strengths.



Boarding continues to grow in numbers, and we have welcomed many new boarders from different parts of the world, be it our influx of boarders from Bermuda or the boarders joining us from the Island of Sark, Senegal, the Seychelles, or Norway to name a few. We really are becoming a boarding school of choice both domestically and internationally, which can only help to enrich all the boarders lives whilst they are in our care. As a school we are certainly not sitting still in terms of recruitment and both myself and Mrs Cullen continue to travel and promote the school to everyone we can to drive the school and boarding forward and provide more opportunities to our community.

We look forward to seeing what both houses will offer in terms of trips in the new year, be it sailing or going to Bristol Wave, or I hear some potential skiing / snowboarding maybe on the horizon, but still with the regular shopping trips, theme park, football or the new local laser tag facility.



Both houses have again written their own specific termly updates, so please do enjoy reading the Lisbury and Macmillan news. We say goodbye to our amazing gap students Miss Neath and Miss Brown whose professionalism, work ethic, laughter, support and friendships will be hugely missed by all, they really had become integral in the boarding community. They will remain forever as part of the Sexey's journey, and we wish them well on their next steps and will welcome them back with open arms at any point in the future.



Just a few logistical points to finish, boarding reopens on Monday 2nd January at 6pm, please note this is a bank holiday so travel disruptions may be in place so please allow plenty of time for any train journeys.

At the start of the new term, we will be trialing a new dinner and prep arrangement. We will all eat and study as one community rather than the separate houses, as from our hugely successful feast night showed when we all join together it is a real strength. I look forward to seeing staff and boarders working together more as a community and supporting each other.

Have a fantastic Christmas Holidays, spend time with friends, family, eat loads and create more everlasting memories.

Macmillan House

Throughout the first term we have had a wide variation of weather, activities and trips. Some key highlights for our boarders were the Bruton Community Fireworks Night hosted by the school, which was fantastic to see so many of our local community present, many indoor 5-side football tournaments, Lisbury Cabaret, a trip to St. Mary's to watch Southampton succumb to the newly reformed Newcastle United team 4-1 and the great battle of the boarders at the local laser quest in Bruton.

We have continued the community outreach programme mentioned in last half terms newsletter and the gardening club has propagated plants, created Christmas wreaths and had onions and garlic in the ground already. Stay tuned with our updates on the Sexey's Boarding twitter page.

Our last weeks of term have been extremely busy with the World Cup on the screens in both houses, late night shopping at the Bruton Christmas markets, feast night, Bath Christmas markets and shopping trip, Stourhead Christmas lights trail, Christmas movies and obviously lots of packing for boarders to return home to their parents/guardians over the Christmas break.

The best gift of the holiday season is spending time with loved ones around the tree and table. Have a safe and merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Lisbury House

Lisbury has been busy this half of term. We came back and all was quite wintry on site with the clocks having changed it was dark and eerie especially with a return on Halloween and the only lights around were the pumpkins carved by Headteacher Mrs Cullen to welcome everyone back.

We soon got back into the swing of things and the first weekend back was soon upon us. We enjoyed a trip to the school field on Friday night for the annual fireworks evening which was a wonderful night. We managed to take all the boarders and we all enjoyed burgers and toffee apples. That was the start of the weekend which led to a lot of students making their way to Southampton to watch Southampton v Newcastle and although we were in the losing end you wouldn't know by the sound of them! They were all full of chatter and laughter and had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The following weekend saw Lisbury turn into Hogwarts whereby the boarders decided it was necessary to watch them all as it was a miserable Saturday weatherwise and why not! We teamed it with a bit of a 'bake off' and of course, Miss Cull won with her lotus brownies!

With December soon upon us we started making our gifts to sell at Bruton Christmas Market. We had homemade bird feeders and some handmade candles too in teacups and saucers. A great fundraiser for the school and a fun night out for the whole boarding community.

We had a gingerbread house making competition and a mixed year group won that so the year 7s were chuffed to have been invited to join the year 11s! They all managed to enjoy eating it all and they all felt honoured to have been judged by Mrs Cullen.

Boarders also enjoyed a laser quest trip, a Bath shopping trip and numerous trips to Tesco! Who would have thought they enjoyed supermarket shopping so much! It's been busy but enjoyable and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!