

# Boarding Newsletter, Spring Term 2023

**Tim Allen, Director of Boarding**

Dear Parents and Boarders,

As we settle back into School life and get back into the routine of boarding after I hope what was a restful and relaxing half term, I wanted to take some time to reflect on all things boarding, school, academics, prep, dinner, activities and staff changes.

Firstly, it's been great to welcome back Miss Turnbull to the boarding team after her brief move to Yeovil College, having her back and leading of weekend leave requests and activities is proving a real bonus. If you have any concerns over weekend plans do contact [tturnbull@sexeys.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:tturnbull@sexeys.somerset.sch.uk)

Delighted to also have Mr Bull back one day a week also, supporting the boarders with various trips out including the very popular gym session at Wincanton Sports Centre.

Our enrichment and activities programme continues to grow, and it's been amazing to see so many boarders sign up for horse riding, as well as those continuing to support out sports leaders programme, student first aid, personal education, wellbeing, mindfulness colouring and gardening club.

Weekend activities continue to grow with Bath Rugby proving very popular last weekend, it was great to see our boarders on the pitch supporting the players. I personally took some day pupils and one boarder to the National Tennis Centre for a charity tennis event with numerous world ranked tennis players so we really are as a school giving opportunities galore.

This weekend sees us going paintballing followed by Southampton v Tottenham next weekend.



Moving onto the academic's side and listening to staff, boarders and parents I have slightly adapted the prep and dinner routine which I hope has found a better balance for everyone. From my point of view, it's been great to see different staff engaging with different boarders and not so House related. Talking of food, it's been great to have our catering Manager Mrs Chilcott come and meet with the boarders on a monthly basis and her keenness to work with our boarding community to change the menus to suit everyone's needs and add new dishes when needed, I'm personally amazed we get steak so often.

Please could I remind parents to try and not contact their sons / daughters between 5.30pm - 7.45pm as we are trying to limit phone time during dinner and prep, your support is greatly appreciated, you of course can still contact staff if needed during these times.



Those boarders in year 11 have really jumped into the extra academic support with the earlier introduction of lesson 6 and I am hugely thankful to Mr Carpenter and Mr Dalzell for supporting the boarders.

Communication continues to be a key aspect for all concerned and senior houseparent's now have their own mobile phone numbers, please do get in contact with the house staff if you haven't received their numbers.

Parents are of course free to contact the houses at any point during the day, both houses have a matron and are both on duty from 8.30am - 3.40pm so if you have anything pressing that requires support, please do contact either Stacie in Lisbury or Lisa in Macmillan.

Last thing from me, and if I go back to my days of professional sport and the mindset of 'how you can make a difference by improving every aspect of yourself by 1%' the focus for the upcoming term is simple. Improve being on time by 1%, improve your academic focus by 1%, improve your communication by 1%, improve your behaviour by 1%, and already you're 4% better, simple easy gains to get maximum progress.

Please as ever continue to contact Mr Waring, Mrs Lewis, Mr Thayre and Miss Cull for any house related concerns or issues and I am also available as and when required.

I'm sure like myself and my team you will join me in congratulating the school as a whole at the wonderful Ofsted inspection judgement we received this week.