

From the Lower School
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September, 2007

Dear Parents,

It was very good to meet a large number of ‘new’ parents at the reception at Bloxham on Sunday. As I said to those I met, it has been good to see how well all the pupils have settled into the new routine after the long summer break. The Michaelmas Term is long and busy, and we are all looking forward to its events and activities.

It is my continued hope that you will not find my using e-mails as being impersonal, and will see it as an efficient way to keep in touch. As you know, Lower School weekly boarding in Park Close is looked after by Mr and Mrs Irvine, and if any parent would like to know more about this at any point during the term, please speak to me or to Nick or Nuala Irvine.

Your son’s or daughter’s tutor will play an important part in his or her school life, as the person who oversees their academic progress and general wellbeing. Our New Zealand gap year tutors, Mr David Gawith and Miss Corinna Howland will be with us until December. This term we have welcomed three new tutors to team; Mr John Ekers has joined us after a distinguished 15 years as housemaster of Egerton, which included being senior housemaster. Mr Dan Jordan, the new assistant director of music, replaces Mrs Bignell and will continue our strong links with the music department. Mr Chris Patrick, the Lower School Assistant, has taken on Mrs McCaffrey’s previous tutees.

The 2nd form have just had their ‘orders’ and will hopefully discuss these with you over the weekend, if not already! You will receive an emailed copy early next week. If there are any issues you would like to raise, please contact tutors or myself. The 1st form will receive their orders next week and I will invite 1form parents separately to come in and meet with the tutor to discuss these, and to explain the order system to you. The plan is that tutors will hope to see parents of 1f boarders on Friday 5th October between 5 and 7pm, and other 1f parents on Monday 8th October from 5pm onwards.

I trust that you have already found your way round the **Bloxham School Calendar**. In addition to that may I point you towards the school website at www.bloxhamschool.com for information and news. The school also has a dedicated telephone line you can phone on the day of sports fixtures to find out where they are taking place or if there have been any changes due to weather conditions etc. The **Sportline** number is clearly displayed in the calendar: 01295 724370. For ‘procedural’ information, the **Parents Handbook** will prove to be a very useful document to consult.

At this stage I would just like to highlight some of the dates and events which are important for Lower School pupils.

Fri 28th Sept – The lower school pupils will go to Burford and Stow-on-the Wold with the Geography department on a field trip. They will not wear school uniform, but their ‘own’ clothes. This should include a waterproof and a small bag/rucksack to carry their writing implements as directed by the Geography department. They will be supplied with a packed lunch from school.

Tue 2nd Oct – The whole lower school will go to Milton Keynes on a Theatre Trip to see “Slava’s Snow Show”, as per the letter from Mr Benn. This will be a late return, approximately 11pm. They will need to bring in ‘smart casual’ clothes to wear and will have time to get changed at school. They will have supper at 5.45pm and then depart at 6.15. I expect that they will be back near eleven o’clock – you may want them to take their mobile phones with them to let you know when they are on their way home – else you may contact me if on my mobile, as I will be in touch with them and have an eta for them. They will arrive back at the main entrance to the school.

Fri 5th Oct – We have a Whole School Eucharist in the parish church during our normal chapel time.

Sat 13th Oct – We have an OPEN MORNING, for which it would be very good to have a large number of the Lower School Pupils to act as guides. I shall be asking them nearer the time to check whether that fits in with your plans for that day...It would be from about 9.30am till 12.30.

Sun 14th Oct there is a mini hockey festival at Bloxham.

Thu 18th Oct – The Lower School Musicians participate in the “African Jigsaw” at Winchester House in Brackley.

Fri 19th Oct – Half Term begins for the Lower School at 6pm.

Mon 5th Nov – Lessons start after half term:

Tue 13th Nov – Lower School Music Concert in the Music Recital Room at 7pm

Thu 22nd Nov – Weekend Exeat begins at 4pm. (Back on Mon morning)

Fri 30th Nov – Whole School Eucharist in the parish church.

Thu 6th Dec – Non-Uniform Day in aid of the School Charity

Tue 11th Dec – Carols by candlelight in the chapel at 8pm (for those that would like to attend)

The Term ends on **Saturday, 15th December**, after the **School Carol Service**, which **Lower School pupils are expected to attend**. (Boarders will stay over on that Friday night – when they will have their Christmas party.) This is one of two Saturdays when ALL Lower School pupils should be in school, the other one being **Founderstide**, at the end of April.

Pupils register in the White Lion at 9.15am, before the start of the service at 10.00 and are then free to go after the service.

I include here the **Daily and weekly routine for the term:**

The school day begins with registration every morning Monday to Friday with registration at **08.20**. On Mondays and Tuesdays this will take place in W5, the games room, and on the other days it will occur with tutors in the tutor rooms.

Lower School assembly takes place at 08.20 on a Monday, with the Headmaster's assembly starting at 08.30 on a Tuesday morning. Wednesday to Friday mornings start with tutor periods.

If your child is unwell and not able to attend school on a particular day, or likely to be late, or needs to attend an appointment elsewhere – please inform GAS, preferably by email. (else on 07967 741953)

The 6 morning lessons start at 08.45, with break from 10.40 to 11.10 and lunch at 12.55 every day. During the lunch break it may be possible to attend an activity, relax in the White Lion, visit the Vallance Library or let off some steam on the games pitches, in the presence of a member of the Lower School staff. Registration takes place at 1.40pm, except on a Wednesday, when registration is at 1.30pm, in order to attend 'Pause for thought' at 1.45pm.

On Mondays and Thursdays the afternoon session starts with an hour and a half games session, devoted to the main sport for that term. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays there are three lessons starting at 2.00pm and finishing at 3.55pm.

It is then possible to do the following:

MONDAY

4.00pm – 5.00pm PREP

5.00pm – 6.00pm Netball for girls
Squash

TUESDAY

1.15pm Choir
4.10pm – 5.00pm Hockey (boys)
Cross Country Running
Tennis (Girls)

5.00pm – 6.00pm PREP

WEDNESDAY

4.10pm – 5.00pm Badminton
Cross Country Running
Environmental Group

5.00pm – 6.00pm PREP

THURSDAY

4.00pm – 5.00pm Boys hockey
5.00pm – 6.00pm Swimming

Girls all do PREP
PREP for those that did hockey

FRIDAY

1.20pm Fishskool

4.10pm – 5.10pm PREP

OR

4.10pm – 5.00pm Judo OR Drama OR LS Choir (this will require preps to be done/finished over the weekend)

5.15pm – 6.00pm CHAPEL

There will also be an opportunity for the 2f to get involved in the electronics club, and some of the more promising DT pupils will be invited to attend the DT club to work on a project which will be taken into account when the DT scholarships are awarded at the end of the Lent Term. There will also be opportunities to be involved in one off activities in the Science Department.

AT 6.00PM:

Day pupils go home: minibuses leave as soon as pupils all get there. (Please inform both the driver and GAS if there is any change to the norm) Parents pick up at agreed pick up points. If, for whatever reason, you need to pick up at any other time, please inform GAS with copy to tutor, preferably by email.

LOST PROPERTY

It is my usual plea at this time that all belongings should be named clearly. Please help us to encourage your child to look after their things and when something goes “missing”, to let us know sooner, rather than later. Mr Patrick will do his best to focus their minds at this end.

MUSIC

We have a large number of pupils receiving tuition for musical instruments – with the impressive extension to music school now complete, there is a room in the music school

where Lower School pupils may store their instruments (M6). Timetables for the rest of term have been published and displayed in both the Lower School and the Music School. Pupils are encouraged to make a note of these in their Calendars/Prep diaries.

WITH WINTER APPROACHING

With the weather starting to turn, it is advisable for pupils to start thinking about wearing their school jumpers, and when appropriate, a dark raincoat. It would also be advisable for them to have a bag for their books; to keep them together and DRY! Please name the bags. (and coats.)

GAMES FIXTURES

These are alluded to in the calendar, and the pupils will be given team sheets and instructions nearer the dates of the fixtures – there are a number of fixtures that do happen on weekends, these I will highlight in the hope that those pupils involved might be able to incorporate these into their usual weekend activities! The fixtures as I believe them to be, are attached at the end of this email.

I hope that you will not mind me again making use primarily of email to keep you informed of what is happening at school. ***To that end it would be very good if you could email me to let me know which email address(es) you would like me to use to keep you informed.***

With best wishes,

Georg Stindt

Lower School Boys Rugby Fixtures – Michaelmas 2007

Sat 22nd September	Princethorpe (home)
Mon 24 th September	New College (home)
Sat 29th September	Swanbourne (home)
Wed 3 rd October	Bilton Grange (home)
Sat 13th October	Oratory (away)
Mon 12 th November	Akely Wood (away)
Sat 17th November	Wellingborough (away)
Mon 19 th November	Cokethorpe (away)
Mon 26 th November	Beachborough (away)
Sat 8th December	St Edwards Cheltenham (away)

Please note the fixtures in bold type: occurring on a Saturday...
We are trying to negotiate some extra fixtures for a 'B' side

1st & 2nd Year Hockey Fixtures 2007

Monday 1st October - **CANCELLED**

U13 v Arnold Lodge Home **2.30pm**

Thursday 4th October

U13 & U12 v Beachborough Away **2.30pm**

Wednesday 10th October

U13 A v Ashfold Home 4.00pm

Sunday 14th October

Bloxham School U12 Mini Hockey Festival

9.30 arrive 10.00 Start followed by Sunday Lunch

Thursday 8th November

U13 & U12 v Rendcomb Home 2.30pm

Saturday 10th November (Extra Fixture not in Calendar)

U13 A & B v Solihull leave 9am Away 10.00 Start

Monday 12th November (Extra Fixture not in Calendar)

U13 A & B v Akeley Wood Home 2.15

Thursday 15th November

U13 A & B v Beachborough Home 2.30pm

Monday 19th November

U13A v Arnold Lodge Home 2.30pm

Saturday 1st December

U13 & U12 v Princethorpe Home 10.00