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WETHERBY

SENIOR SCHOOL

20th September 2019

Autumn Term Week 3



Dear Parents,

The Times Higher Education World Rankings were published recently and whilst it was a British university, Oxford, that topped the rankings for the fourth year running, there were strong showings from Cambridge and Imperial, but the rankings show a shift with universities in Europe, particularly Germany, Asia and Australia all making significant improvements. The breadth of opportunities available to the boys for Higher Education dwarf those that felt open to me when I was filling in my UCCA form many years ago, trying to cram my handwritten thoughts on Euripides into the Personal Statement box, and I am pleased that the boys in Year 13 are thinking global when planning the next step in their education. As well as applications to the US and UK, boys are considering applications to European universities as well. One of those European applications has already been successful and I am delighted that a member of Year 13 has had our first university offer, much earlier than I expected. This offer, which includes a scholarship, was made last week by the Università Bocconi in Milan. I will share more

information about the offers we hold later in the year when we have heard back from a few more institutions.

As part of the preparation we offer the boys, representatives from five US colleges visited the school on Wednesday evening and it was good to see so many of you there from Year 9 upwards. There were some familiar names – USC, Princeton – but it was also interesting to recognise the diversity that exists in the US. St John's College have a curriculum based on the great works of literature; students start with Homer and finish with works from the 20th Century. The reading list is on their website and makes for a fascinating read in itself. Well worth seeing how many you have ticked off.

Finally, thank you to all who attended the events for parents last week. I know the PTA are pleased with the number who have volunteered to work with them to support the school and I hope to see you at the PTA AGM on Monday evening, an opportunity to thank the outgoing committee and officially welcome the new. Last week finished with a great community occasion, the second Parents v Staff football game. The game was as hotly contested as last time with a win for the staff and the chat has already started about the third game in the series later this year.

I hope you all enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes, Seth



CALENDAR:

Monday 23rd:

Football U13 A/B/C/D WSS vs Radnor House (A) 14:30

Sixth Form Lecture - Positive Voice for HIV Education, Emma Cole, Francis

Holland, Regents Park 15:00

Tuesday 24th:

Rugby U154A WSS vs Eaton Square (A) 14.30

Sixth Form Information Evening for Parents of Year 11 boys, Hannah House 18:00-19:00

Wednesday 25th:

Football 1st XI WSS vs Radnor House (H) 14:30
Year 7 Parents' Evening, Hannah House 17:30-19:30

Thursday 26th:

Football U15 A/B WSS vs Radnor House (H) 14:30
European Day of Languages

Friday 27th:

MFL Assembly at Hinde Street Methodist Church 15:30-16:00
GCSE PE Boys Table Tennis, Hannah House Hall 16:00-17.00

Wetherby News:

Sports News - Congratulations to Harry O'Connell and Nelson Tobin for being selected for @ealingtfrugby U18s Elite Pathway Programme 🏉 the hard works begins now 🙌 #teamwetherby #wssrugby

News from Mrs Deedat - This week we had our first US Universities Panel event which was attended by over 80 people. Admissions Officers from a wide range of schools attended including:

Benjamin Baum, St John's College, Annapolis, Maryland
James Farrell, University of Southern California
Katie Behringer, Florida State University
Mike Provata-Carlone, Princeton University, New Jersey
Elizabeth Miller, Washington University in St Louis, Missouri

They discussed the merits of the US system, the importance of early preparation and financial implications. With five boys applying to the USA from the Upper Sixth, it is set to be an exciting few months!

MR SULLIVAN WRITES:

I have ordered 50 WSS 'Oddballs' hats which are available to staff, boys and parents. They are excellent quality and perfect for Games/Activities for the boys and indeed, fantastic for keeping warm whilst supporting the boys on the touchline at Wetherby Sports Grounds. The hats are part of a campaign to raise awareness about testicular cancer.

"The aim of the bobble hats is to get sport and schools teams across the UK wearing our bespoke, personalised bobble hats. We want to get teams talking about testicular cancer and

raise awareness, as at the moment it is still a taboo subject and many are uncomfortable talking about it. We are trying to change that and with entire squads and clubs wearing our bobble hats we feel it is a big step in the right direction.”

The hats retail at **£12** so if you would like to place an order, please let me know by emailing – james.sullivan@wetherbysenior.co.uk



Welcome to WSS PTA Autumn Term 2019

The WSS PTA will be hosting the AGM and all parents are invited to join us on September 23rd, 18:00 at Hannah House.

NOTICES:

On **Tuesday 8th October**, Rachela Leonello, our Wellbeing Coach, is giving a parent/guardian seminar titled, **How to Facilitate Peak Performance in our Children**. The talk will be in **Hannah House Hall**, from **6.15pm** until **7.30pm** and parents of boys from all year groups are very welcome.

If you would like to attend, **RSVP** to tessa.stewart@wetherbysenior.co.uk

Volunteers for Open Day on Saturday 5th October: The role of Open Day guide is an opportunity for boys to show off their school to prospective families on a key date in the school admissions calendar. Every year I receive emails from families commenting on how impressed they were with the Wetherby Senior boys they met, confirming my belief that the boys' role on Open Day is invaluable to its success.

If your son would like to volunteer as a guide, please email Mr Warner: henry.warner@wetherbysenior.co.uk



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