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Shrewsbury School

The Schools
Shrewsbury
SY3 7BA

June 2011

Dear Parents,

I hope very much that the half-term exeat has provided a welcome respite from the relentless routines of the school calendar and the opportunity for our numerous public examination candidates (c. 500) to put the finishing touches to their revision programmes, ready for the full heat of the exam season over the next few weeks.

During half-term we received the formal report from our ISI inspectors, who visited the school between 10th and 11th May. It was wonderful to have the verbal report confirmed. We have been graded 'Outstanding' in all categories. This wholehearted endorsement, coming so quickly on the heels of our Ofsted inspection (which identified our pastoral and boarding provision similarly 'Outstanding' in all areas), is a great tribute to the whole school community. I should like to pass on particular thanks to all those of you who have responded to the numerous questionnaires which have been imposed upon you over the course of the year, through the inspection processes and our own market research; to the pupils who have proved themselves excellent ambassadors when under interrogation by inspectors; and, most importantly, to Martin Cropper, our Director of Studies, who – immediately on return from honeymoon – had the unenviable task of choreographing the ISI inspection process.

Having been so closely observed from all quarters (and enthusiastically commended), we very much hope that next year we will be able to focus on the really important aspects of education - teaching and learning – without distraction from outside agencies.

Although much of the school fasti is routine, every so often events occur that are worthy of special mention. It was a great privilege, on Saturday 21st May, to be part of the Rigg's 150th anniversary celebrations. The chapel service, formal lunch for almost 200 and weekend of fun and frolics served to emphasise the importance and strength of the 'house' tradition at Shrewsbury. It was both humbling and moving to talk to Old Riggites about their time in the house, together with the values and experiences they gained from their time at Shrewsbury. Lest anyone should ever become cynical about the influence of house staff, time and time again I heard stories about how individuals had been inspired by tutors and the eleven Housemasters who have served Rigg's so well. I was also reminded about how much of what we enjoy as 'established' today, started as a 'leap of faith' over a century ago. I am most grateful to Matthew Mostyn, the current custodian of the Rigg's ethos, together with his team of helpers, for putting on a celebration to be proud of.

In a few weeks time, on Sunday 19th June, it will be the turn of Oldham's to commemorate their first century since the initiative of Basil Oldham to open Oldham's Hall in the halcyon days of 1911.

For now, may I take this opportunity to wish every success to our exam candidates and to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming a large number of you to Speech Day and our end-of-year celebrations in a few (hectically busy) weeks time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MKS', with a horizontal line underneath.

Notice

I should, perhaps, give you advance notice of slight changes to the Fasti for the next academic year. In the interests of giving all Salopians a break, we will be confirming all Coach Weekends as two nights away from school:

Friday (1.30pm) to Sunday (9.00pm) or Saturday (1.30pm) to Monday (9.00pm)

School and sporting activities on these weekends will be kept to a minimum.

The **Coach Weekend dates for 2011-12** are as follows:-

Michaelmas Term 2011

Friday 30th September – Sunday 2nd October

and

Friday 18th – Sunday 20th November

Lent Term 2012

Saturday 28th – Monday 30th January

and

Friday 9th – Sunday 11th March

Summer Term 2012

Saturday 5th – Monday 7th May (May Bank Holiday)

(no Coach Weekend after half term)