Happiness is the key to progress

FROM THE HEADMASTER ...

Dear Parents

As we hurtle into the half-term break at considerable speed, we can look back on a tremendously busy and happy half term. The children’s achievements are manifest in so much around the school and in their happy and ebullient manner. Our list of Year 8 Scholars is mightily impressive with over 50% of the year group in receipt of a scholarship or award. This is the result of hard work and commitment on the part of the pupils and the support and encouragement of parents and staff.

Boarding special events this term have been many and varied. On Wednesday evenings we have seen pancake bakeoffs, kite-making and kite-flying, the Holmwood Open golf experience and ‘I’m from Holmwood, get me out of here!’ Last night’s Titanic Evening was great fun with everyone dressed up in Edwardian garb and enjoying a meal based closely on the 2nd Class menu from the Titanic’s last day at sea, all before some ballroom dancing in the Jubilee Hall! A great night was had by all. My thanks to Mrs De Voy and the boarding team for all their commitment, energy and time.

I enjoyed dinner at Oundle earlier in the week at which I was able to discuss Holmwood’s academic developments which were received with much enthusiasm. Following my visit, I received a wonderful email from a former Holmwood pupil who was working at his desk in his house and looked out the window to see me walking by! He very warmly reminisced about his wonderful years at Holmwood. How lovely!

We wish our Year 8 CE candidates the very best as they enter their final revision period before taking their exams in the first week back. I am confident they will do very well indeed. Year 7s also prepare for their exams during the same period. Good luck to all.

Today’s Annual Inter-Element Swimming Gala went off with a splash today. The atmosphere in the pool was exciting as the children cheered the swimmers on. Well done to all involved and in particular to Mrs Jeffery and Mr Jeffries for all their hard work.

Next half term has a huge number of special Holmwood events and I look forward to seeing you at many of them. Have a super half-term break with the children and we’ll see you in June!

With best wishes

Alexander Mitchell
Headmaster

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 30/31 May
Yr4 Bushcraft Trip departs/returns

Monday 1 June
Yr4 Trip to France departs 8.30am term resumes
CE Exams and Trials begin (Yr 7 & 8)

Tuesday 2 June
9.00am-12.00pm Pre-Prep Reception Assessments for new pupils
Yr 5 Trip to Zoo
Yr4 Trip to France returns
7.30-9.00pm Cheese & Wine for Parents new to the Prep school

Thursday 4 June
9.00am-12.00pm Pre-Prep Reception Assessments for new pupils

Friday 5 June
Yr8 Trip to Thorpe Park (no boarding)
2.30pm Pre-Prep Summer Concert

Saturday 6 June
No school for Yr8
11.15am Academic Development/CE Information for Parents

Contacting Staff
If you need to contact staff at any time, please email

GOLDEN AWARDS

In recognition of their demonstration of one or all of the Golden Rules, the following children have received Golden Awards this week:

SCHOOL NEWS...

Babysitting available!
The Shadows are available for babysitting, at just £7 an hour. Please contact them for more information.
Holly 07468 303191
Aurora 07502 611487
Tom 07502 620361
Will 07502 599929

Year 3 Cheese & Wine
A quick reminder that the Cheese and Wine party for Year 3 parents to meet Prep school staff is on Tuesday 2 June from 7.30pm—9.00pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Social media
We reached 200 likes on Facebook, and over 340 on Twitter! Remember to keep watching and sharing.

GOLDEN AWARDS

Reception:
William E
Edward R
Ashe T-C

Year 1:
Sam P
James S
Sophie P

Year 2:
Rafe C
Jenson G

Year 3:
Flynn P
Poppy D-R
Rafa K
Lewis T
Britton F

WELL DONE!
**ELEMENT NEWS ...**

**AIR**

Our Element meeting this week consisted of a short video on looking after your brain to help our Year 7s & 8s as they approach their exams. There was then a tutor group quiz on what they had seen.

*Miss Godman*

**WATER**

This week in our Element meeting, we had a fun game of Pictionary. We wished a Happy Birthday to Archie B, and congratulated Mr Calow’s tutor group and Miss Swift’s tutor group for winning Junior and Senior stars this week.

*Archie B and Scarlett G*

**LAND**

This week in our Element meeting, we had fun demonstrating the three Cs between year groups and teamwork.

*Mr Earley*

**VIBES...**

**ASSEMBLY NEWS...**

Dr Ashwell gave a water-inspired assembly on the subject of 'pressure' on Tuesday with the help of Xen M.

*If I may just hold this tube of water upside down over your head for a moment…*
BOARDING...

**Nerf Gun Wars/Glass Painting**

We have had a fantastic week in boarding. On Monday, the Year 4s had a ‘Nerf Gun War’ and much fun was had by all, not least the staff! They also had the opportunity to learn glass painting and the results were beautiful.

**I’m from Holmwood, Get Me Out Of Here!**

Wednesday night saw the first ever ‘I’m from Holmwood, get me out of here’ challenge. 12 intrepid Year 7 and 8 pupils ventured deep into the dens, where they had to construct a shelter and face certain challenges. They had a supper of crocodile, buffalo and ostrich burgers and kangaroo meatballs. Challenges included putting your hand into covered container (worse than it sounds…) lighting a fire with a flint, a cotton wool ball and a tin can and tasting the world’s stinkiest fruit. We ended the evening by toasting marshmallows over a campfire.

**Titanic**

On Thursday, the Year 7 and 8 boarders set sail for our Summer term theme night. The theme was ‘Titanic’ and it went down well! The dress code was ‘what were you wearing when the ship went down’ and the costumes were amazing and inventive. Pupils were welcomed on board the ship by ‘Captain’ Wallace, who issued boarding cards and took part in a variety of activities. They played deck games, debated and decided which of them might earn a place on a lifeboat and were lifeboat designers, trying to manufacture a craft which might hold as many marbles as possible. They learned the possible reasons as to why the Titanic sank and experimented with holding their hand in water of the same temperature as the sea on that night.

After this, they were invited to dine in the second class dining room where they were offered the exact menu as served on the ship’s final night. Finally, they retired to the ballroom for dancing.

Many, many thanks to the staff involved for the fantastic array of activities.
5 Reasons why Fairy Tales are good for children

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." Albert Einstein

This week the press, and public, went into uproar over headlines claiming evolutionary biologist and writer Richard Dawkins thinks fairy tales are harmful to children. Nevertheless, in light of the conversation, we look at five reasons why fairy tales are in fact great for children...

1. They boost a child's imagination and cultural literacy
2. They teach us right from wrong
3. They develop critical thinking skills
4. They can help children deal with emotions themselves
5. Finally, they are great fun!

Whether it's for indirect moral lessons, improving their imaginations or because your child can't put that book down, reading fairy tales should be encouraged. Read them together, help your children invent their own and make sure they know can win against any wicked witch.

SAILING...

Nicky C and Christian T represented the school in the IAPS Sailing Regatta this week.

Here they are... ready for the off... Champagne conditions. Blue sky, force 2.

Safe ashore. All 4 races completed. Considering they have never sailed together before, the boys did great. 25th out of 45 boats overall with best result 19th in third race. Both smiling...
**Trip to Daws Hall Nature Reserve**

Year 1 had a wet but fantastic day at Daws Hall this week. They had great fun exploring habitats, observing bees, pond and stream dipping, mini beast hunting and observing small mammals and moths before releasing them. They then went on a camouflage trail and spied on the ducks from a bird hide.

“This was the best day ever!”

Issy A
YEAR 3…

Trip to Layer Marney Tower

YEAR 2…

VE Day Celebrations
**ART...**

**Scholarship Art Exhibition**

Our Scholarship Art Exhibition is now open for viewing. The work is being presented in the Talbot Room until the end of term.

The work on display is by the pupils who were considered for an art scholarship or an all-rounder scholarship to their senior school.

![Art pieces](image1.jpg)

**FRENCH...**

4.2 worked on a stop gap animation in their French lesson this week to consolidate their learning on introducing and presenting people (or animals!)

![French class](image2.jpg)
TEAM OF THE WEEK

The Team of the Week is the U11A Rounders
WELL DONE!

For up-to-date match fixtures and cancellations, please visit the Sports Fixtures page of the school website.

Congratulations to the U11A Rounders team who came 2nd at Felsted this week.