

Wednesday 9 July 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## End of Year Communication 2024-25

As we reach the end of this academic year, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all most sincerely for your partnership, support and kindness throughout the past twelve months. It has been a true privilege to serve as Head of Prep and Pre-Prep in what has been a rich and rewarding first year - one of both continuity and change, of listening and learning, and of setting the course for the years ahead.

One of the greatest privileges of this role has been getting to know the boys - to see them learn, grow, and flourish in the classroom, on the sports pitches, on stage, in assemblies and across every area of school life. Each day they inspire us with their curiosity, their humour, their resilience and their kindness. Supporting their development and championing their potential is what drives all that we do.

A key highlight of this year has been the strength of partnership between home and school. Your support at concerts, plays, exhibitions, sporting fixtures, parent information evenings and class assemblies has been simply wonderful. Whether through Parent Voice, informal conversations or written feedback, your engagement has enriched our thinking and reminded us of the collective strength of this community. On behalf of all the staff, I would also like to express our heartfelt thanks for the generous gifts, cards and kind words shared with us at the end of term - your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated and never taken for granted.

Additionally, we would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the following Parent Voice committee members for their continued support this academic year:

Ms Gauri Kasbekar 6NT, Mrs Rachna Mehta 6SA, Mrs Nina Saurymper 6MN, Mrs Aklima Rahman 5DK, Mrs Rupa Sachdev 5EM, Mrs Laura Swimer 5EN, Dr Azmat Qureshi 4SH, Mr Shahilan Kathirgamanathan 4DS, Mrs Jaime Cohen 4MJ and 1SS, Mrs Rupa Shah 3BG, Mrs Anna Binstock 3NA, Ms Romana Dookhun-Sun 3TP, Mrs Rakhee Nagpal Chopra 2JP, Mr Ata-Ul-Shaafi Khokhar 2HP, Dr Anushen Theivendra 1NP, Mrs Nikita Morgan RL and Mrs Sheena Tharshan RP.

This year has also been a time of reflection, ambition and, at times, challenge. As a new Head, I have learned a great deal - about the rhythm of the school year, the distinctiveness of Habs Boys, and the hopes and aspirations of our pupils, staff and families. I have been challenged, inspired, and reminded daily of the immense responsibility and joy that this role brings. Not every decision has been perfect, but we have held fast to the principle of *falling forwards* - recognising that with each step, even when missteps occur, we move forward with purpose, always seeking to act in the best interests of the boys.



The pace of change has, at times, felt considerable - and I know that some decisions may not have been immediately understood or universally welcomed. But I want to acknowledge and thank you for the trust you have shown. Your support has made all the difference. Nowhere was this more evident than in the success of our ISI inspection this year, where we were delighted to receive such positive feedback. Of note was the recognition of the significant strength in our literacy provision - a direct outcome of some of the carefully considered changes introduced over the past year. These results reaffirm that we are on the right path - building a culture of sustained excellence, high standards, and ambition for every boy.

Looking ahead, I'm pleased to share that weekly swimming will return to the timetable for all year groups from September. This decision reflects our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and responds to feedback from parents and staff alike. To accommodate this, we will be adjusting the structure of our Forest School and outdoor learning provision. We remain committed to the value of outdoor education and are working to ensure that this next iteration of the programme continues to nurture creativity, confidence, and connection with the natural world.

We are also making changes to improve our communication systems. From the new academic year, the Habs App will be our primary platform for day-to-day information, and a single email inbox and telephone number will serve both Prep and Pre-Prep. These changes - as outlined in our routine reminders letter - are designed to provide greater clarity, consistency, and ease of access for parents and carers.

As ever, we say farewell to our Year 6 boys with pride and affection. They have been fine role models and contributors to the life of the Prep School, and we know they will take all they have gained with them into their next chapter in the Senior School. At the same time, we look forward with great anticipation to welcoming new families at 4+, 7+ and through occasional places. We are excited to share in the next stage of their journey.

A final and very special thank you must go to our Parent Guild. Their tireless efforts, generosity of spirit, and commitment to our school have had a tangible impact this year. From community events to behind-the-scenes support, they have contributed so much to the life of the school, and I hope you will join me in offering them our heartfelt thanks.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, restful and sun-filled summer.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Michelle Best  
**Head of Prep and Pre-Prep**