

Dear Parents,

It's been another interesting and full few weeks as we now approach the half term break. Lots of excellent work has been done across the years and there has been terrific engagement in the many and varied activities.

Next week we are looking forward to the production of our play, being staged this year in the Drama Studio, across a number of days. The staging is terrific and the pupils have put a huge amount of effort into the rehearsals, which I'm sure will bear fruit in some terrific performances.

The House competition has also been very exciting. This week saw the culmination of the House singing competition. This is one of the best competitions requiring younger boys to work with, be conducted by, and organised by sixth formers, demonstrating some of the best attributes of the House system. We have also seen lots of boys involved in both House chess and House badminton. The new system of eight Houses is having the desired effect in encouraging maximum participation, and I do hope your sons have been involved in the competitions so far.

Sport has been continuing strongly during the last few weeks. We have managed to play rugby against some tough opposition, and have also been involved in a number of cross country and basketball competitions.

You can also read in the newsletter about the latest from the Music department, as well as the great performances of our dancers. This edition of the newsletter also has a write up on the role of the School Council where a number of boys are very actively involved. Not only have they influenced change within the school, but they've also helped to raise over £10,000 since the Council was re-founded in 2015.

You'll be pleased to know that the building works are coming on well, as is the fundraising for the new building. If you have not yet contributed and would like to do so, the easiest way is through [ParentPay](#). The old building has completely gone and next week the piling of the foundations for the new will begin. It will be very exciting once this stage is complete and we then start to see the steel frame of the building going up.

School finishes next week on Thursday for all boys except Year 11 who will be in School on Friday on a special programme. Important dates are listed below and I would draw your attention to the parents' consultations on 22nd February and 2nd March when we will be finishing at 1.00pm, slightly earlier than previously published. There will be no lunch available on these two days.

I wish everyone a restful half term holiday.

Yours,

Mr M D Gascoigne

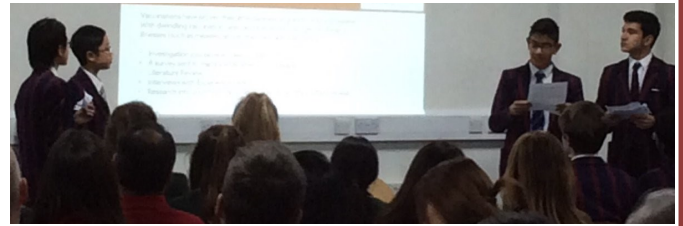
IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 4 February	School Play: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> 2.30 pm and 7 pm
6 February to 9 February	School Play: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> at 7 pm
Friday 10 February	Prof. Development Day: no boys in School except Y11
Monday 20 February	Boys start back after Half Term, at normal 8.30 start
Wednesday 22 February	Y7 Parents' Consultations: School finishes at 1 pm
Thursday 2 March	Y8 Parents' Consultations: School finishes at 1 pm
Friday 7 April	Break up for Easter holidays

BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS

On Wednesday 18th January, 16 Year 9 pupils travelled to Surbiton High School to give their presentations regarding different aspects of British Human Rights. After two months of hard work and having travelled to Queen Mary's University for an induction day in November, the pupils in their groups of four had five minutes to

the standards of their work and the extensive efforts they put in between November and January, on a project that was entirely completed outside of lesson



present their dissertation from their chosen topic, which was followed by five minutes of questions from the audience for all groups. The quality of work from the Tiffin groups, as well as the sixteen Surbiton High School girls was outstanding and their efforts were plain to see. All pupils were awarded with a certificate for their participation by the British Institute of Human Rights, who marked the groups' work, and there were also four prizes on offer; one for the audience favourite, one for best dissertation methodology, one for best presentation on the night and one for best argument. Tiffin groups won two of these prizes, the best dissertation methodology and the best presentation on the night, but all involved deserved great praise for

time. The best methodology on dissertations was awarded to Eyeol Abebaw-Mesfin, Arjan Madaher, Oscar Pearson and Sebastian Pereira, while the best presented research project went to Manik Aggarwal, Darshan Kumaresan, Joseph Manley and Mukund Pandey. It was great to see so many parents attending the presentation evening too; some very difficult questions were posed to the groups and this really added to the atmosphere of the evening.

Tiffin Groups	Project Title
Eyoel Abebaw-Mesfin Arjan Madaher Oscar Pearson Sebastian Pereira	Should the Bill of Rights replace the Human Rights Act?
Bhargava Govardhana Vishal Kumar Theo McDermott-Roberts Pratik Ramkumar	Should the Government be allowed to limit prisoners' human rights?
Noor Elsheikh Brennan Goh Martin He Aniket Paul	Should parents be allowed to deny vaccinations for their children?
Manik Aggarwal Darshan Kumaresan Joseph Manley Mukund Pandey	Should the government be allowed to observe, access or restrict online data without permission?

POLITICS TRIP

On Friday 13th January, the Politics Department took its annual trip to Westminster. 20 Year 12 students visited Parliament, toured Whitehall and stopped by the UK Supreme Court. At Parliament, we marvelled at the ornate design of the House of Lords; watched the back and forth of a Commons debate and discussed a range of voting systems in a session run by Parliament Education Service staff. Next we walked past the many government departments on Whitehall. Naturally we stopped at Downing Street and we arrived just in time to catch a glimpse of Theresa May welcoming the New Zealand Prime Minister to Number 10. Our last port of call was the UK Supreme Court, where the boys took a look inside Court No.1, which was the venue for the recent appeal 'Article 50' case. With the judiciary, executive and legislature all covered, we headed home.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Six boys from Years 10 and 11 represented Tiffin in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking competition at St Paul's School. This was the first time for a number of

years that Tiffin had participated in this competition and our success can be partly attributed to two preceding events. The first was the re-invigoration of Tiffin's Monday lunchtime Debating Society by sixth formers Angelo Umashangar and Ujaval Dhingra and their enthusiasm to enter several debating competitions of different styles and for different age groups. The second was the Tiffin House public speaking competition; another remarkable event which this year saw 90 boys deliver speeches on an unimaginable variety of topics from 'Philosophy and Pooh' to pet snakes which helped identify some of Tiffin's most talented speakers.



The competition ran from 5pm to 9pm and saw Tiffin's speakers take on the different roles of chair, presenter and questioner as they grappled with the awkward pre-determined topics. At the end of the evening, although Putney High School won the team event, Tiffin took home two of the three individual prizes: the three judges chose Freddie Maguire as the best Chair and Manuj Mishra as the best questioner. All six competitors spoke with tremendous maturity and represented Tiffin exceptionally well.

MUSIC NEWS

The House Singing competition took place last night in the Sports Hall with guest adjudicator, Paul Brough, who taught conducting and academic studies at the Royal Academy of Music. More details will follow in the next newsletter but here are the results in brief:

Solo (Alto, Tenor , Bass) - Tristan McElderry (KM)

Partsong - Raleigh

Solo (Treble) - Milo Morrod (CG)

Unison Song - Scott

Conductor's Baton - Edwin Jarratt Barnham (S)



Come and Sing: Mozart Requiem with the Tiffin Boys' Choir and Tiffin Oratorio, Saturday 25th February

St Luke's Church, Gibbon Road, Kingston, KT2 5TA

Fundraising in aid of tour bursaries for the Tiffin Boys' Choir tour

Tickets £15, U18 free

Register your interest here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/roGANpMWMVnyvqw62>

HOUSE COMPETITION UPDATE

This half-term the house badminton and house chess competitions have concluded.

The Senior House chess competition, the first since the creation of eight houses, involved 48 Sixth Form boys who played through lunch and then with considerable intensity after school until long past 5pm. The fiercest competition was on board one where Shiv Kapila (KM), Edwin Jarratt Barnham (S), Jim Tse (DW) and Maxi Purewall (D) all winning and losing at least one match against the other three while fighting for the top four places.

The Senior competition was won by Drake but Kingsley Montgomery had done enough in the Junior competitions to retain their overall chess title.

The Senior Badminton competition was also of a very high quality and was again won by Drake who were unbeaten in both pairs and amassed the maximum 294 points; school players David Tam and Greg Tucker made a particularly impressive first pair. Drake also won the overall competition with only half a point ahead of Darwin Wilberforce in second and Raleigh in third place.

After six completed competitions in the house championship the standings are very close indeed; seven of the eight houses could lie in third place after the next competition. Raleigh, who now have a small but significant lead overall, are the only house where this is not the case.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council consists of 40 boys who are elected by their form or year group to collectively represent the views of the student body to the Senior Leadership Teams. They meet every Thursday in the JLT during break and have debated, amended and voted on over 50 motions since October 2015 when the council was formed in its current structure. They also support the School's fund raising for charity and decide which charities to support: well over £10,000 has been raised for a variety of local and global charities by this council. The council also determines which boys and staff should be given Jack Petchey awards.

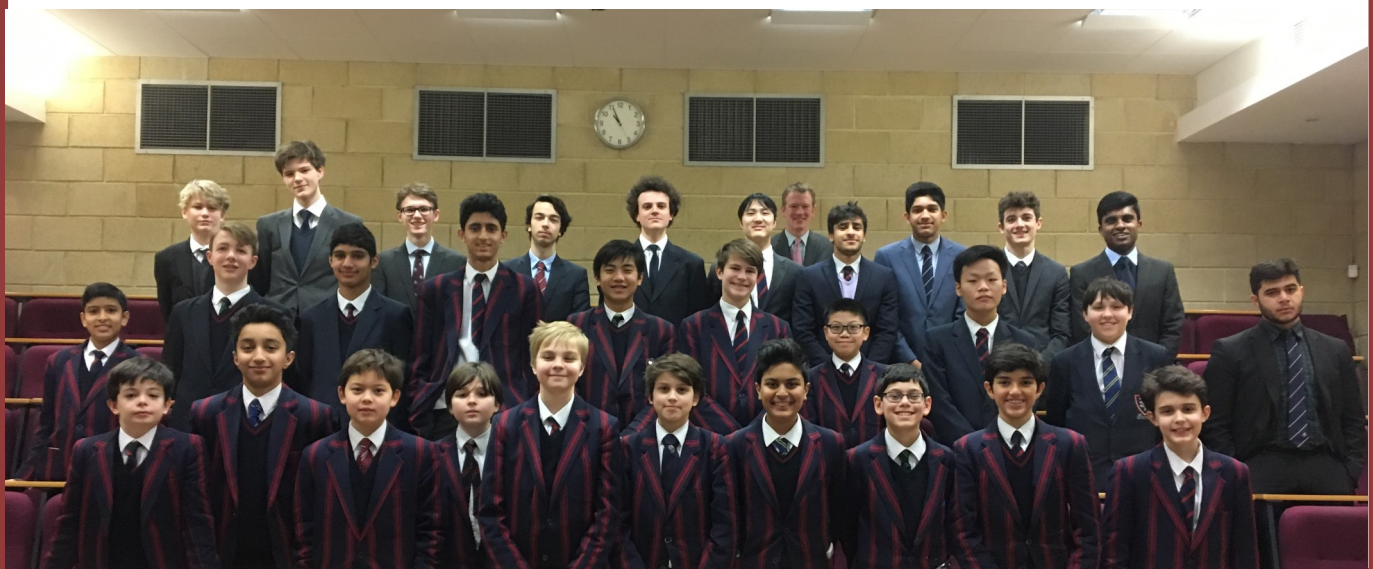
The council has been very well served by its secretary, Sebastian Tyrrell, who has held the position from the outset in October 2015. This year the council has also elected chair: Josh Kim, and the secretaries of the Charities and Jack Petchey committees: Leonardo Zingler Herrero and Shiv Kapila respectively. Under their leadership the council has effected significant change including:

- recommending the installation of the picnic tables in front of the

Roberts Building.

- advising on the design and location of the new water fountains.
- advising on the means by which the school transitioned to a system of eight houses.
- pushing for repairs of lockers, toilet locks and LRC computers and working to reduce ongoing damage to property.
- recommending that an IT room, supervised by prefects, should be open for collaborative working every day during lunch.
- recommending a large number of other small changes that have taken effect in the canteen, playground and LRC

The council continues to challenge and advise the SLT in a robust and helpful way on a number of other continually evolving policies such as mobile technologies and uniform. The vast majority of motions passed have influenced change and it is a testament to the maturity of the council that they have tended to vote down motions that are unrealistic and pass carefully considered motions where positive change is really possible. Boys are encouraged to raise motions and should in the first instance contact their form or year groups council representative.



RUGBY REPORT

Tiffin rugby has suffered from the usual post Christmas bout of inclement weather, forcing us to cancel 15 fixtures against RGS High Wycombe and John Fisher. However it was excellent to see 60 boys in year 7 raring to play before a last minute pitch inspection denied them their opportunity. Hopefully those boys can get playing opportunities before the end of the season.



Man of the match Will Sharp converts his own try v John Fisher

Luke Harden flies high in the lineout v John Fisher



The 1st and 2nd XV have had two fixtures each since the last report with the 1st XV beating ACS Cobham on a cold Wednesday afternoon, showing great character to

Gavin Griffiths strolls over for his 3rd try in two games



come back from a 14-0 deficit to win 41-28. Gavin Griffiths had the pick of the scores, seeming to embrace his new position at outside centre. The 2nd XV had a hard fought victory against Glyn School winning 10-5.

A tough Saturday for Tiffin against top rugby school, John Fisher, on the last weekend of January saw some hard games. The best performances came from the U14A team and the U16A team who both had narrow losses and will be chomping at the bit for revenge next year. The 2nd XV struggled with availability and faced a strong and powerful Fisher XV. The 1st XV however had a very strong performance and after a tough first half, came back admirably to go down 41 – 29. Promising performances to take us into the last couple of games and into the 7s season.

THE KNOLE RUN

Despite a change of transport (the old white minibus did not like the snow) the nine-strong team made the icy slopes of Knole Park in time for the start of the senior (open race) Sevenoaks Knole run. Year 8 boys, Jack Hartrey, Matthew O'Donovan, Alistair Brendon and Luis Bullinger survived the slips and falls to place in the top 250 in over 400 entries against sixth form athletes, an impressive feat. George Ne-



I -R George Neville White, Chris McDonald, Humphrey Allen, Alistair Brendon, Eric Williams, Luis Bullinger, Matthew O'Donovan, Jack Hartrey, all surrounding Captain Tom Jackson.

ville White showed his metal and proved to be one of the finds of the season, finishing just ahead of this year's supreme Captain, Tom Jackson. Vice Captain, Chris McDonald, ran superbly for a top half finish in his debut at the 9K event. Humphrey Allen forged the way on the first lap to finish in the top 100. The ever resplendent Year 10 Eric Williams took advantage of Humphrey's great lead out and was, yet again, the first Tiffinian home in 70th place.

The team result places us 19th School in the country in Senior races, not bad for a team of nearly half Year 8s. This performance places us rightly near the top of the national standings.

SURREY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following boys represented the Borough in the Surrey County Championships.

Seniors:

An exclusively Tiffin team were 4th. Aaron Bruce, Arthur Morris, Humphrey Allen and Ferdie Krammer beat seven other boroughs in scoring well for Kingston.

Inters :

Eric Williams fared well against athletes, one year his senior, placing over half way up the field.

Juniors:

Tom Armstrong Alistair Brendon, Joe Murphy, Euan Sinclair and Matthew O'Donovan, all Year 8, were 8th against strong Year 9 opposition.

Haberdashers' Askes' Goater Cup

A young cross country team went to this frozen lakeside venue and placed in the top 10 in the south east. Humphrey Al-

len (Senior) opened our account with Joseph Parkinson, Will Murphy, Tom Armstrong and Alistair Brendon all clocking good times and Chris McDonald closed out the team with a speedy final leg.

The B team were started by Captain Tom Jackson who ran well over the first leg of the race. He was followed by Luke Sale and Mathew O'Donovan who both ran speedy times. The more senior athletes, George Birch, Max McGarrigle and the unstoppable Joe Brown also had a good day.

DANCE NEWS

On Monday 12th December 2016 Tiffin Dancers qualified to represent Kingston upon Thames for the second time at London Youth Games at the Copper Box on Wednesday 8th March 2017. Huge congratulations to all the Year 9 dancers who were involved.



YEAR 9 BASKETBALL

On Sunday 29th January 2017, the Y9 basketball team played in the London Hoops Tournament at ACS Cobham, usually open to clubs only, so as a school we were incredibly fortunate to be invited.

They played two games: one against the Surrey Rams who won 28–19 and the other against Woking Blackhawks who won 24–18. The boys should be hugely proud of these scores, bearing in mind they were competing against clubs and to date they have only played at a school level. They were able to hold their own against a strong opposition and in both games took the lead. Playing in the tournament has also been really helpful in identifying the areas we need to work on.

Following this, and demonstrating their progress and development, the boys used it to advantage when they played against the Howard of Effingham School. Using defence to create offensive opportunities, they were able to steal or deflect the ball allowing them to score resulting in an overall victory of 41-11.

We now look toward to the first round of the London Youth Games against Lampton School.

Steve Shepherd, Year 9 Basketball coach



On Wednesday 18th January Year 9 and 10 dancers performed at the IGNITE dance festival at Richmond College Theatre (see photos). It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase their growing skills to a wider audience in a professional setting. Well done to all the dancers.

