

Dear All,

Another hectic term draws to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children, parents and all the staff for putting so much in to the Repton Community.

This has been a hugely successful term in all respects with many and varied achievements, lots of endeavour and plenty of teamwork. I am delighted that we are all pulling together to make The Orchard a good place to be. I am equally as proud that as a community we recognise that there are others that need our understanding, guidance and support to make a real success of their time at Repton and that we are all doing our bit to help them.

The boys end the year in very good spirits. Most have completed public examinations this term and there has been a real sense of purpose in the house. The reports show how hard your sons have been working to prepare themselves for these crucial qualifications. Sadly we say goodbye to an outstanding Upper Sixth who have led so well this year, contributed to many areas of school life in the last five years and all have an exciting future ahead of them at university or on gap years. The B Block have settled in well and are starting to make their mark – they look to be a talented and well balanced mix - and the Lower Sixth are readying themselves to lead the House next term. The House is in good order and I am looking forward to welcoming twelve new boys into the B Block in September as well as four into the L6th.

Academics

Many congratulations to the following Orchardians who were awarded prizes at Speech Day this year:

F.G. Flight	Sir John Port & Head Prefect Prize
G.C. Fearn	Politics Prize & Mark Julian Smith Cup
T.A.T. Fane-Saunders	Clay R.S. Prize & Mervyn Hill Journalism Prize
Z. Fang	Senior Mathematics Prize
J.H. Markham	Daler Rowney Painting Prize
L.A. Watton	U6th P.E. Prize
G.N. Moss	Lower School Headmaster's Prize
A.D. Hastewell	Burt Mathematics Prize & Alexander Physics Prize
A. Hibell	A Block P.E. Prize
B. Nevill	Lower School Headmaster's Prize
R. Saunders	A Block Biology Prize & D.T. Prize
M.D. Cork-Keeling	Lawrence Lord RS Prize
G.W. Gould	Lower School Headmaster's Prize
J.M. Johnson	B Block Classical Civilisation Prize
D.E. Williams	Popular Music Prize

Greg Fearn, Leo Watton, Tom Walsh, Alasdair Hastewell , Ben Nevill and Rowan Saunders all scored straight 1s for effort in there end-of-term reports which is a tremendous achievement; well done!

House Staff

As the year comes to an end I must take this opportunity to thank my fantastic staff team in The Orchard namely: Matron, Ian Settington, John Sentance, Ian Pollock, Clifford Dammers and Anthony Giles not forgetting our chef Karl Pezzuti and the rest of the support staff. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to John Sentance who joins The Mitre and I know you will all join me in thanking him for all he has done and wishing him the very best with all those girls! Of course 'every cloud has a silver lining'; JCS' replacement will be James Wilton who will be taking over as Head of English as well as Tutoring in the house. Next year, therefore, I am planning the following tutoring structure: B Block with Ian Settington, A Block with Anthony Giles, O Block with Clifford Dammers and Ian Pollock and James Wilton as Sixth Form Academic tutors.

Leavers

This year our only leavers are those boys in the Upper Sixth. Last night we all celebrated the end of the year with a wonderful House Supper and said our farewells to this fantastic group of young men. They all have so much to look forward to. We are going to miss them; throughout their five years (only two in some cases) in The Orchard they have been an outstanding and talented group of pupils who have led the house in so many ways. They all have my very best wishes for August and for the next stage in their lives; do please stay in touch.

Next Term

It has been a pleasure working with Frank Flight this year as Head of House and Head of School: over the course of 5 years Frank has given so much to The Orchard in all aspects of school life but especially, for Rachel and I, he has been a support; he has such enthusiasm and although all his efforts were focused on his A-levels he still found the time and energy to devote to The Orchard – thank you. Greg Fearn and Declan Blackwood have been excellent deputies and genuine ‘house-men’, ably supported by the prefects: Jon Arnold, Freddie Greatrex, Matt Hodges, Will Garrett and Leo Watton - they have all my thanks for their hard-work and devotion over the last year. Leadership in the house looks strong for next year too. Tom Green has been selected to be Head of House with Myles Rawlings and Calvert Hyde-Barker assisting him as deputies. Andrew Bushby, Jack Edwards and Luke Avery have been appointed prefects - congratulations and good luck!

Some dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 31 st August:	New L6 pupils arrive 2.00 pm New B Block pupils arrive 4.30 pm Boarders due back by 8.00 pm
Thursday 1 st September:	Day boys sign in by 8.25 am
Thursday 13 th September:	Science Priory Presentation to Repton community, 400 Hall, 7.30 pm
Sunday 18 th September:	Morning Service for all new pupils and their parents, 10.15 am Preacher: The Chaplain followed by coffee in Pears School, 11.00 am
Saturday 8th October:	The Orchard Charity Dinner – tickets available from AJS
Friday 14 th October:	B Block Parents’ Meeting, Pears School, 4.00 pm Half-term begins, 4.30 pm
Sunday 30 th October:	Half-term ends, Boarders return 8.00 pm
Monday 1 st November:	Day boys sign in by 8.25 am
Saturday 5 th November:	Sale of Work
Sunday 13 th November:	Remembrance Sunday: Morning Service 10.05 am
Wed 16 th – Sat 19 th November:	The Repton Mysteries, 400 Hall, 7.30 pm
Sunday 4 th December:	Service for Parents, Staff and Parish, 6.30 pm followed by reception in the Library
Friday 9 th December:	House Suppers

Finally, thanks to all members of the House, Tutors, Matron and parents for your support this year. I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday with your families and my best wishes to those waiting for exam results.

All best wishes,

Anton & Rachel Smith