

SCHOOL HOUSE

LENT TERM 2010

Dear Parents,

As ever the Lent term has been a very busy one and it seems that this year, even allowing for the bad weather early on, we have packed more than ever into a few short weeks.

Academic work is, of course, at the centre of what we do and with all of the top three year groups facing public examinations next term I would urge you to go through reports carefully with your sons in an attempt to pick out and act upon any specific advice given by subject

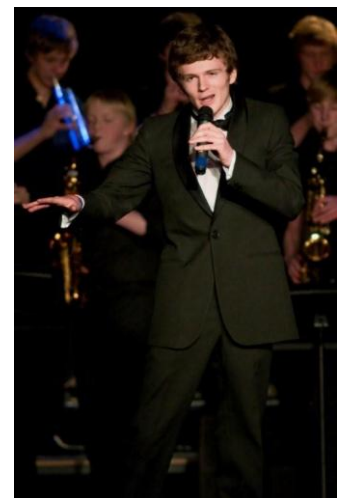


teachers. It is also absolutely vital that those coming back to take examinations follow a regular, structured revision programme over the Easter break.

In the House music competitions, although we did not bring home any silverware this year I was more than happy with the performances of the boys in the Unison and Harmony competitions. The whole house effort which resulted in an excellent rendition of the well-known Petula Clark hit, 'Downtown', received many positive comments from neutral onlookers. In the Harmony our very talented small group sang the traditional 'Down To The River To Pray' with great soul and produced a really superb performance in a competition where the standard was consistently very high. Other House members produced fine performances in the individual music and singing competitions.

Once again School House played a very important role in the success of the Charity Cabaret. As well as several key performances almost the entire technical support and stage management was provided by our boys. In many ways this is just as crucial as the efforts of the performers themselves yet the dedication and attention to detail required often goes unnoticed, except by those involved. Hayden Ball deserves particular mention here, as he has become an absolutely key man on the technical side in all Repton productions.

Many of you will have followed the progress of the school's U18 and U15 football teams to their respective ISFA finals. Although both campaigns ultimately ended in defeat they provided hundreds of Reptonians with interest and excitement throughout the last two terms – and two memorable final evenings. We in School House were proud of our members involved in these squads at both levels and it was good to see so many of the boys supporting their friends with such warmth.



Having won the senior football title last term we were aware that our defence of this term's 'big one' on the sporting side – the senior hockey competition - was going to be tough. That was made even more obvious when we lost our captain to injury two days before the semi-final. Nevertheless for both juniors and seniors to reach the semi-finals was a good effort. In

fives, too, both seniors and juniors went out at the semi-final stage. We came runners-up in badminton and once again I was pleased with the efforts of the House in the annual steeplechase, with the Juniors coming an excellent second and the seniors fourth.



In all competitions, it seems, School House is 'there or thereabouts' giving everything a good shot and that is what matters. However, as the boys (and probably some of you!) are now tired of hearing me say, I am more concerned about the way that we compete than winning, whatever the competition. It is, to my mind, absolutely vital that the boys learn the importance of self-control and dignity in competition, whether in victory or defeat. Given that virtually every week our television screens are filled with examples of unsporting behaviour or even blatant cheating it is vital that we insist on high standards here.

On the subject of standards may I reiterate my call at the end of last term for your assistance on certain matters? In particular I am concerned about two things; the way the boys use their free time and their appearance.

On the first subject I hope that you will join me in ensuring that no Games Consoles (eg Wii, X-box, Playstation 3) are brought to the House. Computer games played on laptops already steal too much of the boys' time and, particularly in the summer exam term, I want to discourage games played on the TV. Also I have noticed increasing numbers of youngsters watching movies on DVD which are classified as '18 certificate'. Please can I ask that you monitor this and, in particular, do not allow boys to bring these films to school, even if they are sixth formers? Also, whatever your sons might tell you, 'dongles', allowing mobile and unfiltered access to the internet, contravene the school's policy on computers. Please do not provide them.

Secondly, appearance. Once again this term I have had to ask certain boys to get their hair cut and I would appreciate it if you could ensure that when they return after Easter they are all reasonably well-groomed. Hair should simply be of a reasonable length and appropriate colour. Can I also ask that the school rules regarding shoes (black or dark brown, polished leather) are observed?

May we take this opportunity to wish you a happy and restful Easter break? Next term begins on Monday 19th April and boarders should return by 8.00 pm.



With all good wishes and thanks for your support,

Frank and Lyn Watson