



ABINGDON

From Dr Chris Burnand: Master of Scholars

25 April 2022

Dear Parents

### Scholars' Summer Term Programme

We hope you enjoyed the Easter break as we write to you with news of a busy Summer term of scholars' events. With the brightening weather and loosening of Covid restrictions, it's great to be able to get back to a normal run of talks, trips and dinners, and also to welcome you to join some of these, too.

Our first event of term (Friday 6 May) is the evening of the scholars' dinner which will follow talks by two OAs. These distinguished (and recent) ex-scholars are both currently involved in postgraduate research. Thomas Kelly, who is doing doctoral research at Peterhouse, Cambridge on ancient mathematics will be speaking on 'Collecting and Interpreting data in Ancient Science'. Archie Williams, a history student at Wolfson College, Oxford, will be speaking on 'The Salcombe Cannon Hoard and the Mysterious Migrating Mint of Marrakech'. As ever it is compulsory for all scholars to attend these talks (which will begin at 6pm and end at 7.30pm), though the dinner itself is restricted to those scholars who have already been signed up for it by their parents, and whom Dr Burnand will soon be emailing directly. The dinner should be over at 9.00-9.15pm.

On Monday 13 June, the 4th Year Academic Scholars will be going on a trip to London, to have a guided tour of the Wallace Collection, alongside a workshop on portraits. This will be followed by a visit to the British Museum. Mr Jamison will be writing to you with more details before half term.

Our final Roysse Society Lecture of the year will be held in the Amey Theatre at 5.30pm on Thursday 30 June, and will be given by Alex Smith, the managing director of Volkswagen UK. An OA himself, we look forward to Alex talking about his career to date, alongside the electrification of cars, and the future of motoring. With the rising cost of fuel and our increasing awareness of climate change, this talk promises to end this year's lecture series on a highly topical note. This event will be compulsory for students in 3rd Year, 4th Year and the Lower Sixth; 5th Year and Upper Sixth will also be very welcome to join, but there is no obligation for them. Parents are warmly invited to attend, too.

Also, later this term, we will be launching the summer projects for current 3rd and 4th Year scholars in the normal fashion. All these students will be asked to research a short presentation on a subject of their choice over the summer which they will then deliver to the other scholars in their year group in the early part of the Michaelmas Term. Some will then go on to give them again at the scholars' presentation evening on the occasion of the Middle School Scholars' dinner later that term.

Around half term, Mr Jamison will be writing to 5th Year Academic Scholars to outline the requirements for the STEP programme (Summer Term Extension Project) which is now in its third year. This is an optional, inter-disciplinary research based project which we encourage the students to undertake after they have

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completed their public examinations. We hope the scholars will seize this opportunity, and there will be generous rewards for the best ones!

Please look out in the coming weeks for the next edition of the Middle School Scholars' Newsletter, written by the 3rd Year Academic Scholars about their trip in the Lent Term to Bletchley Park. The last edition will be published at the end of this term, and will involve the 4th Years reflecting on their trip to London.

Although we have speakers in place for this term, we continue to be very grateful for any suggestions for other good speakers: if anyone has further names/contacts for next year please do get in touch with one of us.

Yours sincerely,

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