



Thursday 21st April 2016

Dear Parents,

With the Greek Easter being so late this year, this term has been one of the longest the school has ever known. Pupils and staff are certainly ready for a break before the final, short term begins on Monday 9th May. Spare a thought for, and wish good luck to, our public exam candidates who will not have this break given the IGCSE exams start during the holidays on Tuesday 3rd May!

Speech and Prize-giving Evening

On Friday 17th June we have our annual Speech and Prize-giving Evening to mark the end of the school year. This year's guest of honour will be Professor Andreas Stephan of the School of Law at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Professor Stephan has experienced a rapid ascent through academia given his leading expertise on UK and European Competition Law – legislation that safeguards the public against corporate price-fixing and anti-competitive practice. Frequently called upon for his opinion in the British media, and in addition to his teaching duties, Professor Stephan also acts as an undergraduate admissions officer for UEA. He is an ex-pupil of our school and was, I am happy to recall, in my first ever Economics A-Level class here at St. Lawrence College.

School uniform

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that from the start of the next school year, our school's uniform code tightens up. From the start of the 2016-2017 school year only St. Lawrence College items of clothing will be permitted. This will be explained in greater detail in a school uniform policy to be released next term, but I felt it best to remind parents now, to give maximum time to organise uniform for pupils should that be necessary. As you know, there is a large selection of clothing available in the uniform shop situated in the administrative building of the school.

A term that delivered Inspiration from teaching and learning

A huge amount has happened during this term and far too much to recount to you here. But I must state how impressed I have been over and over again by the events, the achievements, the attitudes and most of all the learning that I have witnessed throughout the school over this term. It is all too easy to become downcast or resigned to a pessimistic view of the future given the daily news, national and global. My antidote has been and will continue to be observing great educators at work and children progressing apace in their learning, whatever their age and whatever their level. This term teachers have worked especially hard upon self-reflection, receiving expert training on how to help their pupils stop and think about the quality of their learning and even how they learn. I see the result of this training emerging as highly motivated children being taught by innovative teaching staff. And it is wonderful.

Have a very relaxing Easter break wherever and however you intend to pass these days.

Phil Holden
Headmaster