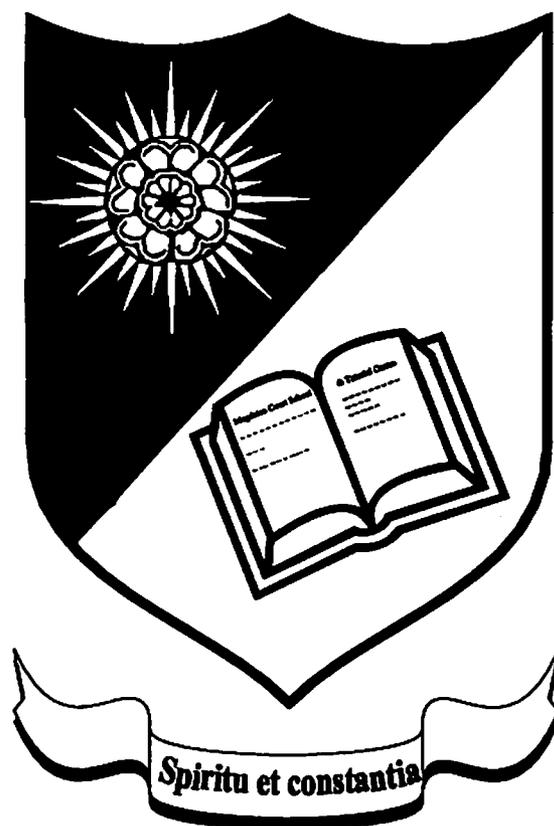


Magdalen Court School



Headmaster's Letter

July 2015

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for all the magnificent support that you have given this past very exciting twelve months at Magdalen Court.

As you know we are endeavouring to join the prestigious Independent School's Association and to this end we have had inspections, advisory visits and many discussions about preparing our very successful school for the next decade. The Jenner Family Trust have been deeply involved in this process and over the summer a makeover of the school grounds is scheduled to take place. Two all-weather AstroTurf courts will be created on the current front lawn to replace our tired former tennis courts and car parking space will be increased even though it will now be separated from the house.

We are working hard on meeting the challenges of the Independent Schools Association. Improving our paper work trail and adopting appropriate recording methods to match the revitalised policy documents are all keeping the management busy.

Also, at the beginning of next term, the results of our annual external examinations of our pupils by GL Assessments will be available for parents. This, together with our termly recording of National Curriculum levels, should give us all a better picture of where our pupils lie with respect to national standards. Generally the school's GCSE results are something to be very proud of but we want to ensure that there is greater clarity of all students' progress lower down the school, so that pupils and parents are sure of their child's targets for learning.

Our outdoor pursuits programme is to be envied by most small schools and an enormous amount of work goes into making so many opportunities available to so many pupils. Our sporting and extracurricular activities are something to be proud of and are a part of the fixed curriculum for our school.

Thanks to the efforts of Alice Jenner and James Lovering, we have for the first time taken part in the annual Exeter University Primary Olympics, where we represented Germany in the competition with all Year 5 and 6 in attendance.

A big change facing all pupils in England and Wales is the revitalisation of GCSEs which in about two years' time, will see the A* to G system for exam passes being replaced by grades 1 to 9 (much as it was when some of the teachers did their 'O' levels). In many subjects, the specifications are being written to make them of a higher academic standard and for most it is an examination with no controlled assessments.

This summer term is always a pleasant time and importantly, is the stimulus for many life long memories. The Dawlish camp, which gives children of various age groups a taste of camping under canvas, PGL camp in North Devon an opportunity for the more adventurous to try various activities, cycling, Public Services Open Day, the Police Life Skills visit the Sister's termly presentation, Sports Day, Speech Day and The School Play Annie, involve taking children from

their normal routine, often asking them to work as a team and learn skills which are outside of the normal range of reading, writing and maths.

With our ethos of encouraging everyone to take part which benefits almost all of the children, and they will have memories to relate to their children in due course. Although we await this year's public examination results with a mixture of confidence and trepidation, for some of the pupils, the confidence and experience gained from these other activities are equally valuable, developing their confidence, conduct and public speaking skills.

I am always sincere when I wish you all a very pleasant summer holiday, as I know that life for most Mums and Dads in August is as it was in February !

A number of children will be with us over the vacation in either the Holiday Club or the Music Club. For the rest, I look forward to seeing you all in September for the start of another exciting term and indeed a new chapter in our children's lives.

Yours sincerely,

JG Bushrod

Headmaster