

Dear Parents,

This academic year has been overshadowed by Kate Mehighan's death from cancer on 16th November 2007.

The fortitude shown by her parents and sister Claire, deserve our utmost respect. We all wish Claire every good fortune with her GCSE's when the results are announced in August.

I have never been prouder of a group of school children than those who took part in Kate's Celebration Service. They were utterly magnificent. This tragic event has put all our other triumphs and tribulations into perspective this year.

On the final day of the school term, we dedicated a bench and planted a pink and copper cherry tree in the school grounds to Kate's memory: we were delighted that Claire, Lesley, Michael, her Grandparents and approx. 100 children and staff were able to attend.

We hope that our children will use 'Kate's corner' as a place of contemplation: somewhere to sit and think when the going gets tough or when life seems to present more problems than answers. Hopefully, long after this generation of pupils have become adults, the tree will still provide a shady and tranquil spot.

The Summer term is always hectic and now with pupils as young as twelve involved in GCSE's, as well as our usual A/S & A level examinations, it has been a very busy term for most of the secondary age range at Magdalen Court School. Early entry subjects for years 8 & 9 have included modules of Applied Science, Chemistry & Physics as well as complete GCSE's in Art, Photography, Statistics, Health and Social Care, Childcare, Graphic Design and of course Expressive Arts.

In addition to many of these subjects, some of our year 10 pupils are also taking early Mathematics and Science GCSE's. Also, Food Technology GCSE will have its first full set of pupils with more than a dozen taking this subject from September.

We all know how motivating, focussing and successful this pattern of early entries has been, but of importance too, is that the number of A*, A and B grades has been improving significantly and we hope that the students can maintain this progress when this year's results arrive. Good luck everyone !

Alongside the academic aspects of school, the outdoor education programme has seen both Mr Jenner junior and the pupils in full swing.

What joy and sense of achievement have accrued thanks to the incredible range of opportunities that are available at our school. Recently, pupils have enjoyed : the Exmoor Challenge, Ten Tors, French Trip, Dawlish Warren Camps, PGL trip to Ross-on-Wye, Great West Run, Running Club, Devon County Show, Cycling, Rock Climbing, Kayaking, Swimming Gala, Sports Day, Duke of Edinburgh Hikes and Sailing. In between all this, Mr & Mrs Jenner Junior successfully completed the Edinburgh Marathon. Very impressive indeed.

Following our successful OFSTED inspection, we have also become an approved, registered centre for both Oxford & Cambridge Universities(Oxbridge) with a series of admission tests to applicants such as ELAT (English Literature), BMAT (Bio Medical), TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) and STEP,(Sixth Term Maths Exam Papers).

The growing reputation of our school, our experience and well qualified staff have been noted.

Unfortunately, the term saw Mr Anbany's departure and we have appointed a new full time and experienced member of staff to replace him. We also have a new 'A' level Politics teacher and have further strengthened our Language and Arts team.

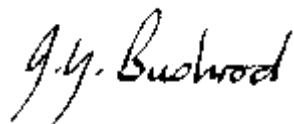
Mrs S McLoughlin, has been an enormous asset to the school following Mrs Bates' accident at Christmas and we bid au revoir to her until she returns later in the Autumn term from Kuwait where her son works and a new grandchild is due.

Adding to the strength of the school, Mr Power, whose enthusiastic and successful approach to his subject areas have impressed us all, is using his other qualifications on our behalf as a School councillor. Some pupils need a channel for their personal concerns and a trained, sympathetic listener is a real asset to them.

The end of term saw Speech Day and Ocean Commotion incredibly well supported, much to the delight of the children. A keen interest was also shown in the Shaldon Wildlife Trust's visit and might stimulate a trip to their small, but fascinating zoo.

Mr & Mrs Llewelyn once again worked wonders with the School Play and the choir : The children's instrumental jazz band was great fun too ! Such lovely memories to take away into the Summer Vacation. Thank you all who took part, (in all capacities), a super end to a remarkable year.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. G. Budwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

MAGDALEN COURT SCHOOL

Headmaster's Letter

July 2008