



From The Headmaster's Study

July 2018

Dear Parent

I hope that your son has begun to enjoy a thoroughly deserved summer break after playing his part in another vibrant, energetic and high-achieving Hampton year. However, it is no surprise that many Hamptonians are not ready to put their feet up just yet, as around 250 boys and 50 staff are heading out on School trips, tours and visits over the next few weeks. Their destinations are as varied as Namibia, the USA, Mexico, Lanzarote and Edinburgh, along with the less obvious delights of Colchester! We wish our travelling parties well and look forward to hearing about their adventures in due course. I always enjoy going back to my History-teaching roots on the Fourth Year trip to Berlin and this year's visit to that remarkable city was as fascinating as ever. The German capital's historical and cultural highlights will hopefully have been as memorable for the boys as the euphoric atmosphere we experienced in the *Fanmeile Berlin* while watching England beat Sweden in their World Cup quarter-final match! If only the same magic had lasted into the second half and extra time against Croatia a few days hence.

I trust that by now the summer edition of *News from Hampton* (NfH) has arrived home, courtesy of blazer post, providing an insight into some of the activities and events of the last term. For those encountering a hiccup with your postal service, you can find an online copy of the latest edition of NfH linked [here](#).

Our boys' achievements never fail to fill our termly magazine's pages with an array of impressive headlines, but I should like to take this opportunity to highlight the Hamptonians by whom so much good community work is done throughout the School year. One of our fundamental aims as a School is to inculcate a genuine sense of social responsibility in our boys, as their developing awareness of the benefits of partnership with those around us results in so many mutual benefits. It is a source of great joy to see boys from across our Year Groups embracing opportunities to help others, whether through Form Charity activities, offering academic support to local primary and secondary school pupils, playing concerts for nearby elderly residents, or assisting on trips for local children. By way of one recent example, a group of our senior boys recently accompanied children with special needs from the Marjory Kinnon School in Bedford on their summer trip to Legoland – the fun and enjoyment had by all was heart-warming to see.

Another group of Hamptonians making a real difference beyond our School gates is the *Genocide80Twenty* pupil group, which has gained national recognition in recent years for its campaigning work on genocide awareness, under **Mr Andy Lawrence's** leadership. 2018 marks the 23rd anniversary of the massacre of 8372 adults and young people in Srebrenica and to bring this act of genocide to the public's awareness, boys in the group spent hours this term individually naming 8372 memorial cards. These cards were sent to schools and groups across the UK and were placed on every seat at a national commemoration event held at the Guildhall on 11 July. **Chris Gilmour** and **Fergus McWilliams** of the Lower Sixth spoke powerfully and persuasively to an audience of 800 people at this important occasion.

The final week of term also saw our Chess First Team play in the U19 National Championships, held at Uppingham School. Over 100 teams from schools across the UK competed for the title this year and Hampton was one of 16 schools to reach the finals. Our team prevailed against opponents from University College School, Wilson's School and Brighton College to secure joint third place after losing at the semi-final stage to the eventual winners, Reading School.



In the Performing Arts, our musicians and dramatists have provided a wealth of entertainment this term. The Lower School summer performances of *The Ramayana*, staged jointly with LEH, and written and directed by **Mrs Laura Moore** from our Drama Department, gave audiences memorable evenings of colour and fun. Congratulations to all the boys involved and to colleagues from the Drama, English, Art, Biology, Music and RS Departments on a magnificent production.

Hampton musicians have also been exceptionally active over recent weeks. Our talented Brass Quintet was chosen to appear in the 'lunchtime series' at the Royal Albert Hall, where they serenaded diners at the Verdi restaurant. The Brass Band played at the *National Festival of Music for Youth* at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and many of the same musicians provided wonderful entertainment at the annual *Jazz in the Park* event in nearby Bushy Park. As ever, a rousing Summer Concert displayed the wide-ranging musical talents of boys across the School, providing an impressive end to the year's programme. Our musicians will be continuing to hone their skills throughout the holiday period, with the School Choir currently on tour in Barcelona. I am sure that they will have relished the experience of performing in the breathtaking surroundings of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. Meanwhile, our 40-strong male voice choir *Voices of Lions* will be heading to the Edinburgh Fringe in August for their sixth consecutive appearance at the festival.

In Sport, a number of our athletes have excelled this season, with Gold Medals at the Middlesex County Championships for Juniors **Louis Middleton**, **Neo Sukhraj-Hammerl** and **Antonio Polleri** as well as Intermediates **Matthew Collingridge** and **Sam Southall**. We shall be cheering on Louis, Matthew and Sam as they compete for Middlesex in the English Schools Athletics Association Championships in Birmingham. Meanwhile, congratulations are due to a couple of our gifted First Year athletes, **Hayden Christian** and **Kieran Bouwmeester-Reid**, both of whom broke School, Borough and County records this season.

In Cricket, our strong and talented U16s squad added the T20 King's Cup to the trophy cabinet after victories over St Paul's School, King's College School and Dulwich College. The U14As reached the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup and the U15As reached the quarter-final of the Surrey Cup.

On the water, two Hampton crews competed at the 2018 Henley Royal Regatta. A newly formed Quad qualified for the Fawley Challenge Cup and put in a superb performance before losing narrowly to York City Rowing Club. A tough draw for the 1st VIII in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup on Wednesday, saw them bow out to Eton College, who were eventual losing finalists on Sunday. A special mention must go to **Mr Neil Double**, who has stepped down from his post as 1st VIII coach after Henley. Neil has led our crews and many individual oarsmen to national and international successes over recent years. I know that I am speaking for generations of Hampton rowers in paying tribute to his dedication and passionate commitment to the Boat Club. I am pleased to say that he will continue to coach junior crews at Hampton.

As you are already aware, the closing weeks of the Summer Term were not straightforward ones for our School. The sad passing of our Head of Keyboard Studies, **Mr Alan Jones**, has been an upsetting experience for current and former pupils and staff, but it was a source of great comfort that we were able to celebrate Mr Jones's musical brilliance and Hampton legacy during our final Assembly. **Mr Mark Nicholson** read a moving tribute by Mr Jones's closest Common Room colleagues and we listened to one of his favourite pieces of music, Rachmaninov's *Vocalise*, performed beautifully and poignantly by Upper Sixth leaver, **Joel Banerjee**, and our Head of Strings, **Miss Liz van Ments**.



HAMPTON SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S STUDY

During the same assembly, I also took the opportunity to thank your sons and my colleagues wholeheartedly for their exemplary response to the serious matter about which I wrote to you on 25 June. While the last two weeks of the Summer Term have been unusually challenging ones for our School, this period has also given me some of the most uplifting and proudest feelings I have experienced during my 11 years here. It has always been clear to me that you really learn about the cohesiveness of a community or organisation, about how meaningful and resonant its ethos actually is, when things are difficult and people instinctively react by rallying round rather than doing the opposite. I cannot thank everyone enough for the many kind messages and expressions of support we have received from parents, boys, staff and alumni.

In closing, I hope that you will join me in expressing gratitude to the members of the Common Room who have so successfully shepherded our multi-talented boys through the past academic year. Some colleagues are retiring or moving on to new roles this summer and further details are provided in the second attachment to this email.

We bid a warm farewell to our departing Upper Sixth Formers, who are about to start the exciting next phase of their lives. It will be a pleasure to see them and our current Fifth Years on their respective A Level/Pre-U and I/GCSE results' days in August and I hope they will receive the good news they are seeking. In any event, they and we can look back fondly on a splendid and thoroughly enjoyable 2017-18 School year at Hampton.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and restful summer break. My only sadness is that I am not signing off this end-of-term letter in hope/anticipation of an England victory in Sunday's World Cup Final. We shall just have to wait for Football to come home in 2022 instead!

With kind regards and best wishes

Yours sincerely

Kevin Knibbs
Headmaster