



July 2015

Dear Parent

In writing these words upon my return from being fortunate enough to participate in an excellent History Department visit to Berlin (one of 13 trips this summer, involving 399 boys and 57 staff), I am once again aware that the end of an academic year brings with it contrasting feelings: admiration for the marvellous achievements of Hamptonians since we began last September, coupled with sadness as we say a fond farewell to our departing Upper Sixth Formers. This year's group of senior pupils has truly excelled and their commitment to the ethos of the School has set a splendid example for the younger boys following in their footsteps. I salute their collective and individual contributions while knowing, as they embark upon the next stage of their lives, that they will continue to display the intelligence, fortitude and kindness which have characterised their time at Hampton.

The personal qualities we seek to inculcate in Hampton boys was just one of the areas touched upon in the recent SchoolPulse parental survey. I shall be sending you a summary of the outcomes early next term once they have been finalised by RS Academics, but I must take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this important exercise. It is gratifying that the initial findings presented to us just before the end of term were so overwhelmingly positive, but there were also some very useful insights into how you feel we might improve and enhance the School still further. In doing so, we shall continue to endeavour to fulfil our fundamental aim of nurturing grounded, self-assured and convivial young men, who are rightly ambitious yet also display an innate sense of decency and a desire to support others along the way.

The end of term means we say goodbye to a number of members of the Common Room and you will find further details in the attached information sheet, along with news of those who will be joining the staff in September 2015. I should like, however, to pay particular tribute to two of our longest-serving teachers, John Orr (Senior Mathematician) and Patrick Talbot (Director of Careers & UCAS), who have each loyally devoted the past 39 years to our School community and whose unstinting dedication, compassion and good humour have enriched the lives of so many Hamptonians. I am sure you will join me in wishing these admirable gentlemen a peaceful and relaxing time in retirement and we also hope for future happiness for our other departing colleagues.

Our Summer Term has been typically full to the gunwales with activity, not least because of the number of public examinations undertaken by boys in the Middle and Upper School. I have been impressed with the calm, proportionate and mature way in which they have approached these challenges and we are hopeful that the results achieved in August will reflect their ability, hard work and commitment. Beyond the demands of the examination hall, our boys have also found time to achieve great things across the full range of curriculum subjects and co-curricular activities. You can catch up on some of the main stories and events in the latest edition of *News from Hampton*, which should have arrived home by blazer-post last week. Alternatively, a copy of this newsletter can be accessed online [here](#).



There is growing national concern that the Arts and creative subjects are being squeezed out of schools by curriculum and funding changes, but at Hampton they are alive and well. We believe strongly that a cultural education plays an integral role in the all-round development of our pupils, boosting their confidence, emotional literacy and self-awareness as well as providing enormous satisfaction and pleasure. Many of you will know that earlier this term we invited students and residents from across Richmond Borough to our first Public Arts Festival, intended to showcase the diverse and exciting career prospects offered by the creative industries. Grateful thanks are due to our parents, alumni and friends from the Arts world, who contributed brilliantly to this event and inspired their audiences, young and old, with stories of their own career paths. Meanwhile, our current musicians and dramatists have delighted audiences throughout the year and the cultural life of the School seems richer than ever: the end-of-term Summer Concert once again highlighted a wealth of musical talent as did the recent Rock Concert, which showcased bands and individual performers from every Year Group. Our choir is currently touring Northern Italy (including a performance at St Mark's, Venice) and our celebrated male voice choir, *Voices of Lions*, will make their third appearance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.

At Hampton we do not allow the examination season to preclude our boys from benefitting from the balance offered by healthy involvement in Summer Term sport and we have witnessed some superb achievements since Easter. The National Schools' Regatta produced seven medals for the Boat Club, with the four senior Vllls performing strongly in winning three of these honours and our younger crews showing great promise as well. The J15 squad deserves particular mention for their outstanding season, which resulted in an array of gold medals at the Bedford, Star and Marlow Regattas. At Henley Royal Regatta last week the Second VIII achieved a rare accolade for a school crew in qualifying for the Temple Challenge Cup; the First VIII upset the form book by beating Shrewsbury before succumbing to eventual Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup finalists Westminster.

Our cricketers have also had a fruitful time with pride of place going to the Under 13A squad, whose pair of victories in the Middlesex Cup and the Colet Court 6-a-side tournament represented just reward for a very fine season. Equally importantly, over 150 cricket matches were played this term across all Year Groups and levels of ability – it has been a great pleasure to watch from the boundary as our boys have played with such enthusiasm, zest and sportsmanship. In Athletics, I am delighted to report that we enjoyed our best Richmond Schools' Athletics Championships for some time, winning four out of the five boys' trophies available. As a result, 25 Hamptonians were selected for the Richmond Borough team at the Middlesex Championships and Sam Collingridge (Shot Put) and Zak Wort (1500m) will represent Middlesex at the upcoming English Schools' Championships in Gateshead.



HAMPTON SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S STUDY

I wish you and your families an enjoyable, relaxing and revitalizing summer break. We can look forward with anticipation to a similarly fulfilling 2015-16 at Hampton given the talent, camaraderie and *joie de vivre* that I see from your sons on a daily basis. They remain a great source of inspiration to me and my Common Room colleagues and we shall certainly do everything we can to encourage them at every turn. As we say adieu to our leavers, we shall warmly welcome the next generation of Hamptonians in September. I am more convinced than ever that these lucky boys will be joining as uplifting, joyful and humbling a school community as you will find anywhere.

With grateful thanks, as ever, for your continuing support and generous personal encouragement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kevin Knibbs". Below the signature is a long, thin, curved line.

**Kevin Knibbs**  
**Headmaster**