



From The Headmaster's Study

December 2017

Dear Parent

Last Friday lunchtime saw the traditional mass exodus of happy Hamptonians keen for the Christmas celebrations to begin in earnest – their excited chatter as they meandered down the School driveway suggested that nearby *Nando's* branches were about to benefit accordingly! There was also a palpable sense of fulfilment and achievement as we reached the end of a typically high octane yet rewarding Autumn Term.

The last two weeks of term have certainly contained plenty of seasonal spirit, beginning with two Christmas Concerts that showcased the outstanding level of musicianship we are fortunate enough to enjoy within our ranks. Among many highlights, I am sure that anyone who saw the whole First Year performing on the Hammond Theatre stage will have found the choir's exuberant sound as uplifting as I did. The School community was in equally good voice when boys, parents, alumni and friends gathered for the annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Hampton. As always, readings and hymns in this peaceful and reflective setting provided the perfect opportunity for some end-of-year contemplation and set a splendid tone for the festive period to come.

A fundamental aspect of the Hampton ethos is the importance we place here upon our boys displaying a real sense of social responsibility. It has thus been a particular delight to see Hamptonians giving of their time so freely over recent weeks in support of the local community. The Chamber Choir serenaded visitors at Hampton Court Palace and our male-voice choir, *Voices of Lions*, helped to raise over £1800 for the Down's Syndrome Association with their performance at the Langdon Down Centre in Teddington. Beyond these musical activities, I should also like to commend the boys who assisted at the recent Senior Citizens Christmas Party run jointly by Hampton and LEH, as well as offering sincere thanks also to all School families who donated to the Hounslow Community FoodBox Appeal.

We want Hamptonians to aim for personal success while supporting those around them throughout their lives, so it has been gratifying to learn of the campaigning work on behalf of refugees by alumnus James Ingram (OH 2016), currently in his second year studying Politics and International Relations at Bath University. James was an active member of Hampton's *Genocide80Twenty* group during his time here and his campaigning on behalf of the dispossessed and persecuted has clearly continued. Persuasive arguments put forward by James and fellow students have led the university to provide three full scholarships to refugees, commencing in the next academic year. James has a bright future ahead of him and we look forward to watching how his career path develops.

Hearing about the experiences of former pupils is truly inspiring for current Hamptonians and a number of our alumni have kindly returned this term to offer career advice and share their experiences. It was a particular pleasure to welcome back Adam Hunt (OH 2008), for whom the editorship of the *Hampton Sports Chronicle* was an early step on his road to becoming a broadcaster and newsreader on Sky Sports. Adam even had the foresight to ensure that the footage he brought back with him to enthuse aspiring sports journalists, featured him reporting from the Emirates Stadium!



On a related subject, I am pleased to report that the building of our new Sixth Form Study & Careers Centre is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion in October 2018. The steel edifice is now in place and the internal 'pod' structure will begin to take shape during the Spring Term. We shall continue to provide updates via the website and the @HamptonSchool twitter feed, but in the meantime, some of the latest photos and a fly-through video may be viewed [here](#). We are enormously grateful for the patience and support shown by boys, parents and staff during these important building works, but please do not hesitate to contact Mr King (Bursar) or Mr Woods (Assistant Head) if you have any queries about the project.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back many of last year's Upper Sixth for Senior Prizegiving in mid-November. Listening to them reminisce and reflect during the film that provided the centerpiece of a memorable evening, two comments especially resonated. One recent leaver observed, *'looking back, you really realise how good you had it'*, while another felt that *'life at Hampton has given me everything that I need to be the person I want to be.'* I wonder whether there is anything any parent would be more delighted to hear at the end of their child's time at school. As Headmaster, I found it immensely heart-warming to hear these sentiments about boys' experiences expressed so fulsomely, although they also served as a timely reminder of the ephemeral nature of Hampton life. I am sure that your sons, in common with most young men of their age, see their schooldays as stretching far ahead, yet this precious time passes quickly and opportunities can all too easily slip by. Please can I encourage you, therefore, to join my colleagues and me in ensuring that your son takes full advantage of everything that is on offer at Hampton, inside and outside the classroom? It is most unlikely that he will ever again have such a range of opportunities so easily accessible to him. It is self-evident that a nourishing range of interests is a prerequisite of a healthy, joyful and well-balanced life, so we want all Hamptonians to develop interests and passions here at School that will sustain them for many years beyond.

Happily, there is a wealth of evidence that your sons are enjoying extremely full and purposeful lives at our School and a glance through the latest edition of *News from Hampton* will bear testimony to this. If the sometimes-erratic Christmas (blazer) post has not seen a hard copy reach home yet, the online version is linked [here](#) for your interest and information.

As ever, our sportsmen were heavily occupied throughout the Autumn Term. In football, an impressive 285 football fixtures were played, involving all teams from the U12Fs to the 1st XI. In the English Schools Football Association (ESFA) tournaments, several Hampton sides have progressed to the last 16 in their respective competitions and we wish them luck in the remaining rounds next term. Four boys have made it through to the end-of-term ISFA National squad training camps: Sami Omaar, Thomas Banks and Oliver Burke (all U15s), and Alex Dinan (U14). Hampton's rugby players have also performed well since September, including in both the U18 and U15 RFU Schools' Cup competitions. While the 1st XV sadly missed out to a formidable Whitgift School side in the London and South East regional final, our U15As have won through to the national phase and will face Marlborough College in January for a place in the quarter finals. At county level, our U16s and U15s won their respective Middlesex Cup finals, while the U13s won the Middlesex Shield. Notable individual rugby achievements include Louis Lynagh's selection for the England U17 training squad and Dan Barley's (OH 2015) Oxford University Blue in the recent rugby Varsity Match at Twickenham.

On the water, 646 junior rowing crews from 44 clubs and schools attended the Hampton Small Boats



HAMPTON SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S STUDY

Head; river conditions and the weather were superb. Hampton's 89 crews performed well, with victory for Matthew Hamilton and Tom Cross in the Junior Men's Pairs. Hampton finished a creditable third place in the J15 Coxed Quad category, and overall 19 Hampton crews finished in the top ten in their respective categories. As always, the event was exceptionally well organised by our Boat Club staff, pupils and parents and they deserve heartfelt thanks for their efforts. Individual rowing accolades go to Oli Woodall and Tom Cross, who have been invited to participate in the GB Junior Team winter training camp in Spain.

Hampton's cross-country runners were once again overall boys' champions at the Richmond Borough Cross Country Championships held in Richmond Park, winning the U19 and U17 team races, placing second in the U15 competition and finishing third in the U13 races. Sam Southall won the U17 race, with Hamptonians filling the first four places. Nine of our boys will consequently represent Richmond in the Middlesex Championships at Harrow School at the end of January.

In the Performing Arts, preparations for the Lower School musical – *Oliver!* – are progressing well, with Hampton boys and girls from Waldegrave School thoroughly enjoying their rehearsals. We can look forward with anticipation to their performances on 6-7 February 2018. Our younger boys can certainly draw inspiration from the joint Hampton-LEH senior musical – *Anything Goes!* – staged at LEH in October. Anyone who was lucky enough to see this production will know that the standard was remarkably high, with many Hamptonians contributing marvellously as musicians, actors and dancers.

In closing, I should like to take this personal opportunity to wish all Hampton families a very happy and restful Christmas season. This year we have produced an online Christmas greeting and I invite you to [click here](#) to enjoy it on the School's YouTube channel. I hope that you will enjoy viewing this excellent Hampton-based example of the festive spirit! I am sure that you also wish to join me in offering warm season's greetings to my colleagues and in doing so thank them for their dedicated, caring and expert support for your sons.

With best wishes for a highly successful 2018 for all Hamptonians and their loved ones.

Kind regards

Kevin Knibbs
Headmaster