



Michaelmas 2018
Issue 13

Senior News

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Dear Parents and Guardians

In the final assembly of term this morning, I referred to the mantra of Simon Guillebaud based on the lessons learnt from his 20 years of living in war-torn Burundi. He distilled his lessons into 3 words: 'LIVE, TOGETHER, GRATEFULLY'.

- i. **Live:** Embrace the adventure of living rather than settling for the safety of existing.
- ii. **Together:** Value relationships. We need each other. Certainly, we can do more, go further, and have more fun... together. As the African proverb says: "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

- iii. **Gratefully:** Live gratefully; it makes each of us much more pleasant people to be around, because we will bring life and energy to the party rather than sucking it out of the room.

As the term finally draws to a close, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. As we spend time with family and friends, I would encourage each of us to 'LIVE, TOGETHER, GRATEFULLY'.

All the very best



Jonathan Shaw
Head King's Ely Senior



ELY CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir achieved a publicity hat-trick in the national papers this week, appearing in The Times, The Telegraph, and The Guardian in these fabulous photos taken by Geoff Robinson from a drone above the octagon. The girl and boy choristers are looking forward to a few days off before returning for the Christmas stayover. This is always the most magical time, with lots of wonderful music and the thrill of waking up on Christmas morning surrounded by close friends.

Sarah MacDonald - Director of Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir



Friday 7 December 2018 **The Guardian**

National



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEOFF ROBINSON

Singing for their breakfast Ely's girls' choir, the UK's only female residential senior school cathedral choir, practise for Christmas services on the roof by the Octagon yesterday. The girls rehearse four mornings a week before school.

News

Friday 7 December 2018 *The Daily Telegraph*



Hitting the high notes The girls' choir from Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire enjoys morning practice on the cathedral roof in preparation for Christmas services. The girls are all members of King's Ely school and aged between 13 and 18.

THE TIMES | Friday, December 7, 2018

News



Ding dong merrily up high Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir prepares for its Christmas services by holding singing practice on the roof of the 52-metre-tall Lantern Tower



VISIT BY JONATHAN LAYFIELD



Politics students were incredibly lucky to be able to listen to talk to and ask questions of Mr Jonathan Layfield, who came into school to speak to us. Mr Layfield recounted his different positions across the Middle East and how he got to work for the Foreign Office. Every politics student asked at least one question on select committees, a specific area of politics that Mr Layfield addressed. Questions included “How effective are select committees and are they the best form of scrutiny?” and “which departmental committee is the most effective or does it depend on the people involved?”. Mr Layfield’s answers were highly informative, providing interesting information like Yvette Cooper believing that she had more power as chair of the Home Affairs committee than she did in cabinet. Overall, it was a highly engaging and interesting conversation, filled with personal stories such as an experience in war-torn Iraq and we are incredibly grateful to Mr Layfield for coming in and speaking to us.

Felix Hawes - Year 13 Student



A BIG THANKYOU

A huge thank you to all students and staff this term who have led our worship during the Michaelmas term. We have been treated to drama, singing, music, reading and poetry, which has enriched our spiritual lives. As always I am grateful to the students for organising the seating, stewarding, serving and acting as crucifer and acolytes. As Christmas approaches we are reminded that Christmas is about making a journey. On one level we celebrate God's faithfulness in coming in search of us and that God will not rest until his creation is healed, until people are at peace with one another and that human affairs are conducted with justice. On another level, in the birth of the Christ Child we celebrate the fulfilment of our search for God, for he alone can satisfy the restlessness of the human spirit. He is the human face of God, the almighty, ineffable, eternal God expressed in human form. God loves us so much that he came among us to show us how to live in peace. In Jesus we see a human life lived to the full, a living sign of what we have in us to become.

Ely Cathedral Girl's Choir and the boy choristers will be singing over the period despite school being closed. And here are just some of the services and concerts that they will be involved with.

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER

Evensong | 17.30 sung by Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir featuring *Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'*

SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER

Hark! the Herald | 19.30 A memorable evening of traditional Christmas carols and seasonal music.

**SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER**

Carol Service (I) sung by the Cathedral Choirs | 18:00

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service (I) sung by *The Ely Imps* | Midday

Crib Service (II) sung by the Boy Choristers | 15:00

Carol Service (II) sung by the Cathedral Choirs | 18:00

Midnight Mass | 23.30

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sung Eucharist sung by the Cathedral Choir | 10:30

Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir | 16:00

SUNDAY 6 JANUARY

Sung Eucharist for The Feast of the Epiphany | 10:30

SUNDAY 13 JANUARY

Epiphanytide 16:00

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2019.

Rev'd Dr Ros Lane - Chaplain and KEJ RS teacher King's Ely

01353 653105



KES BOULDERING SQUAD

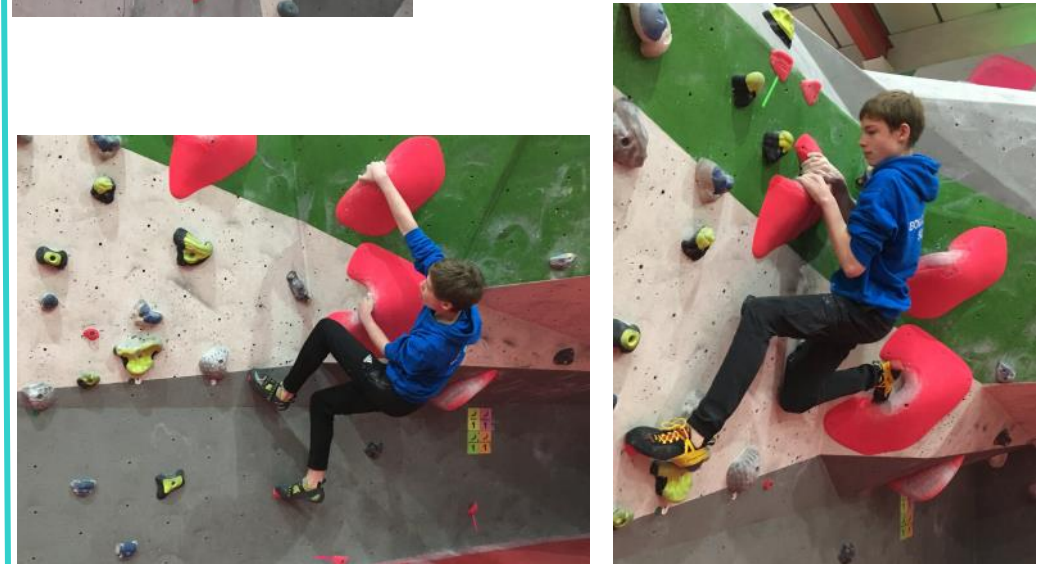
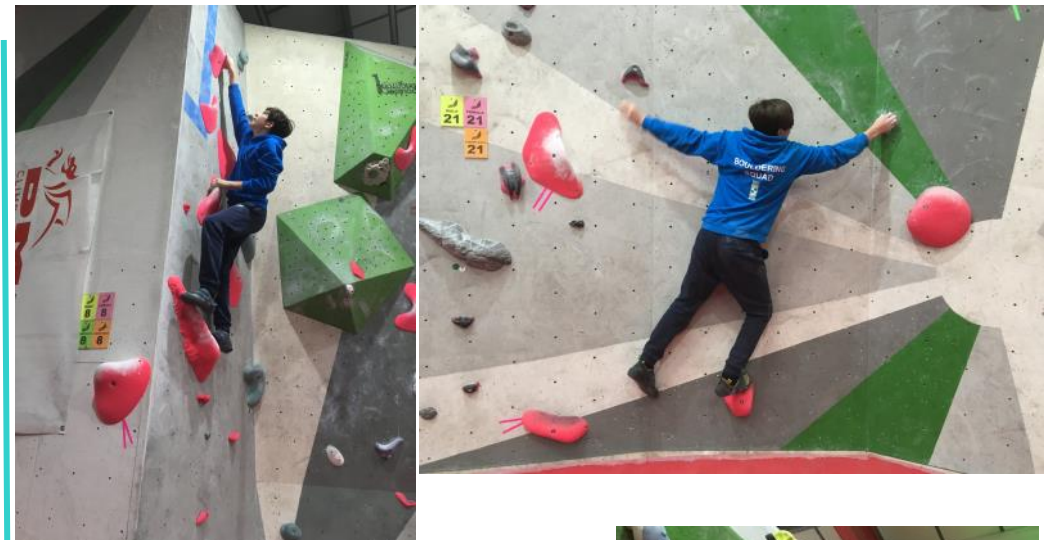
The penultimate KES Bouldering Squad competition took place at Boulder Brighton on Saturday, forming round 2 of the Blokfest League and the fourth competition for this season. The centre was packed and crowded with a buzzing atmosphere and once again a set of fantastic problems created by the Blokfest team.

The boys displayed great aptitude at adapting to the routes and have come a long way in their dynamic movement skills over the past few months. The Arcteryx Picadilly showcase problem really highlighting how well the boys can watch and learn from other climbers as they threw themselves up the climb.

Well done to the squad members for some impressive scores on a hard set – Tom Biggs 140 points, Ben Biggs 145 points and Rhys Phillips 105 points.

We're looking forward to having the squad back together again for the final competition of this term – taking place on Friday 14 December at Highball in Norwich.

Sophie Cheng - Director of Outdoor Education



UNITED IN DIVERSITY AT KING'S, WELL ON THE WAY

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Our Erasmus + project *United in Diversity* is well on the way and lots of activity has been taking place during this term, 25 students are benefitting from this opportunity and working collaboratively with our partners in La Reunion and Spain.

At the moment, students have designed our project logo, pictured above, taken part in a Skype session, been given expert ICT advice by Mr Hawes and are currently working on interactive, digital presentations exploring the idea of Britishness and Heritage; all in French and Spanish!

The French Erasmus group was also inspired by a video from our counterparts in La Reunion, link below, and are also working on a video about King's in French as part of the project.

Similarly, following the festive spirit, all students are sending festive videos, wishing, Merry Christmas, Joyeaux Noel and Feliz Navidad to each other.

We also have our very own FaceBook and Twitter accounts, which we encourage all families to follow and visit to get a day to day flavour of what is going on!

We cannot wait for the Lent term when our students will visit La Reunion and Spain as part of this project project.

On behalf of the Erasmus + team at King's Ely: Joyeaux Noel and Feliz Navidad.

Meet Emilie and Lucie from La Reunion: <http://youtu.be/0cdp0vpW9Ik>



Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/united_an?s=09



Follow us on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/unitedindiversityErasmus>



Esmeralda Salgado - Head of MFL & Spanish



HILL HOUSE CELEBRATES THE FESTIVE SEASON

The girls of Hill House have been delighted to continue their established Christmas traditions: dancing and being almost absurdly competitive over festive decorations and gingerbread houses! The tree baubles were decorated to a superbly high standard this year, with entries ranging from The Grinch to depictions of classical Grecian statues. A wonderful evening was spent decorating our two trees whilst merrily munching mince pies and ice cream accompanied by the soothing vocals of Michael Buble's Christmas collection!

We were pleased to welcome fellow boarders from Wendreda, Hereward Hall and School House to our Christmas rave last Saturday. Stella had masterminded a (very loud for this Housemistress!) playlist that had everyone dancing but the highlight of the evening was the infamous "doughnut on a string" game. Betsy the Labrador kindly ensured that there was no mess by hoovering up bits of sugar-coated patisserie that had inevitably landed on the floor.



Mr Pennington arrived on Tuesday to judge the aforementioned baubles and gingerbread houses. The tension was palpable as the girls delivered persuasive arguments as to why their entries should be victorious. Baubles had even mysteriously migrated to more advantageous positions on the tree during the course of the day! After lengthy deliberations, Mr Pennington awarded first prize to Pim and Ilaria's bauble whilst Rahera's "Chelsea FC vs Everton FC" gingerbread creation emerged victorious. Charges that this was a cynically-motivated and targeted approach (Mr Pennington is allegedly **the** Everton fan...surely there is only one?) are still being investigated in House!

My sincere thanks both to Mr Pennington for his time and patience and indeed to all of the girls: their energy and enthusiasm have been delightfully infectious all term. Hill House wishes all of the newsletter's readers a very Merry Christmas.

Charlotte Newman - Housemistress Hill House



WITHBURGA CAKE SALE



Withburga House organised a charity cake sale on Wednesday. The girls got busy baking cakes, cookies and biscuits and sold them at two locations; in the quad outside the day houses and in the OP. Congratulations to all the Withburga bakers for raising an impressive £107.41 for the school charities.

Sharon Jackson - Housemistress Withburga, Teacher of History, Government & Politics



BEBRAS COMPUTING CHALLENGE

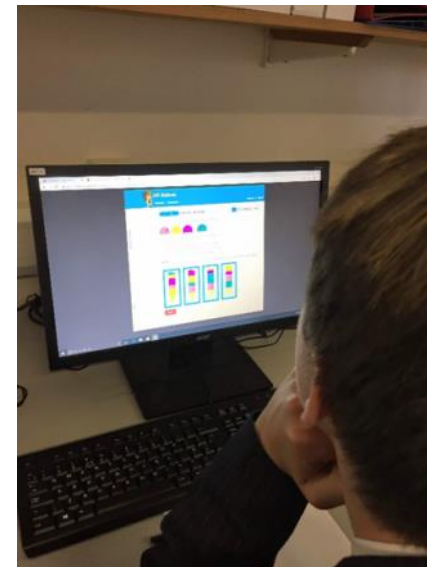
Last month 144 KES students took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge. This comprised of Intermediates in Year 9, Seniors in Year 10 and 11 and Elite in Year 12 and Year 13 age categories.

Our school results were better on average in all age categories both in Cambridgeshire and nationally again this year. Well done to everyone who has taken part.

21 students from KES were in the best 10% in the country and have got through to the next round, The Oxford Computing Challenge. This competition will take place in March.

Best in school for Intermediate in Year 9 was Elliot Bord, for Seniors in Year 10 and Year 11, Matthew Chaudhry and for the Elite category in Year 12 and Year 13 was Henry Zheng.

Marc Hawes - Director of ICT Systems, Head of ICT & Computing



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Nick Huntington, Director of Drama and Theatre, took on this musical 10 years ago as Actor in Residence. When asked how he felt about this production compared with his previous one, his reply was, effectively, “That was then, this is now.”

This production was “now” in no uncertain terms. The huge screen at the back of the stage, flanked by two smaller screens at the sides, were frequently used to depict real contemporary news, complete with newsreaders and rolling headlines and footage of noisy, rioting mobs with heavy-handed police, fires and destruction.

In the musical, Jesus was placed in his rightful historical context (1st century Palestine under Roman occupation) where he was adopted by some led by Simon Zealotes as a potential figurehead for uprising. Freddie Bowles in his padded gilet adopted an impressively aggressive, thuggish stance, referencing the violence of the modern far right, whilst also providing the Zealots’ rationale for liberation.



The Roman governor of Judaea, Pontius Pilate, played by Alfie Peckham, was a tall, leather-coated, threatening figure in Nazi-style military costume. This production was concerned to emphasise the cruelty of a cruel story, but the horrifying violence was never gratuitous. Again, context is all. The Sanhedrin council were here satirically portrayed in scarlet robes and bald, tattooed skull caps. Caiaphas, the High Priest, and Annas were played, and sung, very successfully by Joshua Jackson and Emily Hamilton-Bing (in this counter tenor role).

Extremely efficient, technically faultless, scene changes carried us with headlong momentum as one dramatic situation was replaced by another. Francesca Bisson as Mary Magdalene was superb. Her musicality and her acting complemented each other in her utterly convincing characterisation. As it was, it was hard to believe that it was a student production, such was the quality of the show. John-Paul (Jesus) gained in stature as the drama progressed: his awareness of having started on something he gradually realised he could not deliver or properly understand was sensitively portrayed.



The Disciples (including two girls to update the historically male group)) showed uncomprehending affection for their leader from the outset. King Herod, played by Jamie Layfield, revelled in his role. Dressed in a shimmering gold catsuit, he gyrated and posed while his bevy of gold-sequined dancers charlestoned their way in perfect synchronicity and high spirits behind him. The dancers, captained by Victoria Davis, were wonderful throughout the show, acting while dancing, never flagging, often funny, sometimes raunchy, always eye-catching and perfectly disciplined. Congratulations to them and to the choreographer Natasha Hobbs.

Finally, to the anti-hero, Judas Iscariot. Charismatic in his dreadlocks and leather, with lithe, sinuous movement, Alex was a perfect foil to Jesus and, as is the way of such things since story-telling began, was in danger of upstaging the hero. This was a key part of the musical's original, and to many shocking, conception. He was a towering presence on the stage and his suicidal hanging was another example of the terrifying realism of this production.

The acting by John Paul Gilbey throughout the second half, building up to and including the crucifixion, was a moving and powerful experience. The cross, designed by Patrick Carberry, was undertaken by the Design and Engineering department. It was strong but not massive, and the logistics of its construction and its rising securely into position must have taken some doing. The final image was of the utterly vulnerable human corpse of Jesus whose flesh was further emphasised by the black clothing of his disciples bearing him away from a now jet-black stage. It was an emotionally powerful ending that satisfied and spoke where words could not.

All praise to a totally committed cast too many to mention individually but who acted their hearts out as disciples, reporters, crowds, mobsters, merchants, even angels (in the ironic "Superstar"). Everyone involved in this collaborative production - including crew, backstage, coaching, musicians, costumes, props - ALL contributed to a spectacular and gripping event.

Charlotte Dean





CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



ROWING

The boat club wrapped up for Christmas with its annual Christmas pudding race. 26 Year 9-13 pupils took to the windy river and raced in 2 x 400 metre races; With Team Grinch and Team Bauballs racing. Team Grinch won 2-0 over very close races to take home the Christmas pudding! It was a great way to end 2018.

Craig Ward - Head of Rowing



RUGBY

On Saturday, we had 3 home fixtures against Woodbridge.

The U14A team won their game comfortably in a game that had to be managed due to the opposition having low numbers. The boys still enjoyed the game and after a pleasing season, a big thank you to Patrick Green for managing the game so well.

The U15A team put in a fine performance winning 30-0. The team had lost the same fixture in September by 30 points so it was great to see them gain a convincing win. The boys played superbly and were delighted with their victory.

The 1st XV won 31-10 in front of a big crowd down on Campus. The boys were brilliant throughout, showing good game management along with scoring some outstanding tries. They were all delighted to finish the season with a winning performance and were rewarded with some donuts and Irn Bru in the changing rooms after.

Jim Thompson - Director of Sport

Year 9 Rugby

U14B

It was a challenging term in the for the U14 Bs. The boys were slow starters to each game and found themselves always chasing a lead, always coming back strongly in the second half of games and showing integrity right till the end. There were many positives to take from the fixtures we played; Oliver Sainsbury never gave up with his endless energy, Sam Wright's pace caused many problems against the opposition, Finlay Hall showed great leadership moving forward. However, the Player of the season is someone who was resilient, never afraid to put in tackles, showed great perseverance and was creative moving forward. The player of the year is Arthur Lauze.

Mr Mathie and Mr Currie

U14A

King's Ely Under 14A started the season with a bang with three successive victories, two big victories over Culford and Wisbech, but the most impressive was the hard fought victory over Bishop's Stortford.

Understandably confidence was high at this point and we were then hit by a tough run of games against Wymondham, Wellingborough and Gresham's. It was this run of games that was the most impressive of the season for the group. Every single player stood up to the challenge and fought for every ball and their performances in being very competitive against three very strong sides were something to be proud of.

Although the season ended with more losses than wins the players made huge strides in their performances and played with great heart throughout. There are too many performances to name them all but George Nearney and Connor Henry were constant threats with 7 and 6 tries respectively, Connor Marshall kicked brilliantly and should probably do more of it, Bertie Whymark led the team by example and Ben Collier was incisive in his running and outstanding in defence. However, one player really stood out for the way he rallied the boys, worked as hard as anyone at all times, stole ball, ran lines and scored tries and that is our player of the season, Daniel Kember.

Mr Green

Year 10 Rugby

U15B

On paper, it would appear the U15B team did not have the best of seasons with 3 losses and 2 cancellations.

However, as we've alluded to in the new culture this year, success is measured by the quality of learning, not just the result. A number of players pushed themselves into 'A' team selection, and succeeded in that environment. Others were happy with the comfort of the Bs and that was OK too, especially when they are wearing smiles on their faces.

The three games that were played were competitive, against strong opposition in Bishops Stortford, The Leys, and Gresham's. There were standout performances in those games from Tom Sidebottom and Ben Tong but my player of the season was a constant threat in attack along with being an outstanding leader, and for that reason Will Smith has to be my Player of the Season.

Well done to all the boys who represented the Bs this year. I hope you continue progressing your rugby and representing the school in future.

Mr Blake

U15A

The Under 15A team have had an indifferent season putting in some good performances without getting as many wins as they would have liked. The boys have been led superbly by Harry Hall and with Gabriel Boon and Tom Whiteside showed strong leadership throughout. The forwards have improved throughout the season and are now the first players to every ruck and this is testament to their work rate and effort. The skill the boys have is excellent and far superior to other teams but has not always paid off. There have been a number of injuries this year but the boys have really rallied around all the players and continued to enjoy their rugby. Well done to all the under 15 boys involved this year and look forward to seeing their rugby journey throughout the school.

The player of the season has been a standout performer all year. He makes the team tick and has the potential to play 1st XV rugby next year. The player of the season is Harry Hall.

Mr Meddle



Year 11

U16A

The U16A team have had a challenging year and finished with only two wins. Even though we didn't win many games, the boys always worked hard to improve and enjoyed themselves at training.

The boys had close losses against Culford and Bishop's Stortford followed by a 45-21 win over rivals Wisbech. We then pushed Framlingham close along with another close loss to Culford. We then finished the term with a 47-10 win over Woodbridge, which included a fine Billy McGrath hat-trick. The boys should be proud of the way they have kept together and I hope all who are staying at the school will continue to play rugby next year. William Taylor, Freddie Bowles and Oliver Mottram have had strong seasons in the pack with Billy McGrath and Mackenzie Pilkington being standout performers in the back.

The player of the season has been impressive all year and I expect him to develop into a fine back rower / centre over the years to come. The player of the season is Billy McGrath.

1st XV

The 1st XV have had a positive year with results being much improved from previous years. We started the season with a loss to Culford then beat Woodbridge in the last play of the game by 31-24 through an outstanding length of the field try by Tommy Hutchinson. We then had close losses to rivals Wisbech and Wellingborough along with a draw against Wymondham. This time last year, we were losing these games comfortably so it shows how much the team have improved since last season. The boys also played the game at pace and at a high tempo, which was great to watch.

After a tough game against Framlingham, we finished the season with two outstanding wins against RHS by 50-5 followed by beating Woodbridge in the last game of the season by 31-10. The boys were delighted to finish with a win and fully deserved to after all the hard work they have put in throughout the season. The 2nd half performance against Woodbridge was some of the best rugby I have seen the boys play in 2 years, which was great to see.

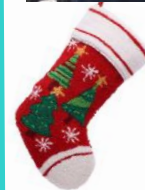
The Year 12 boys who have played this year have managed the step up to 1st XV rugby really well and I expect them to all be standout players this time next year. The Year 13 boys should be proud of the way they have achieved in the King's Ely rugby shirt and I was delighted for them that they could finish their rugby careers at the school with a win. Captain Michael Poole has shown strong leadership and I appreciate all his efforts with the team this term.

For the player of the season, this man always gave everything for the team, tackled everything that moved and just did everything he could on and off the pitch to make the team better. The player of the season is James Hazelwood.



Regardless of any scoreboards, well done to all the teams & coaches this term. You can be very proud of the effort and dedication that you have put in over the season.

Also thank you to all the parents, friends and staff who have come to support the rugby teams this year. It is always very much appreciated.



- U14B player of the season - Arthur Lauze.**
- U14A player of the season - Daniel Kember**
- U15B player of the season – Will Smith**
- U15A player of the season – Harry Hall**
- U16 player of the year - Billy McGrath**
- 1st XV player of year - James Hazelwood**

Jim Thompson - Director of Sport

REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARIES



Friday 14 December	12:15	Term ends
Sunday 06 January 2019	14:00	Boarding Houses Open
Monday 07 January 2019	08:25	Lent term begins

A reminder to all pupils to make sure you have the correct uniform for the start of term. In particular, please make sure you return with school games kit, including the tracksuit.

