



RANBY HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1

1st September 2008

Welcome

Welcome to the start of the new term. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break and that the children are ready for the challenges which lie ahead this term. I am certainly looking forward to my new role in the school. A special welcome to all of our new children and their parents; we hope that you settle quickly and that your association with the school is a happy one.

David Sibson
Headmaster

Staff News

We welcome several new members of staff to the community this term, two of whom will be living on the campus with their families. **Mr and Mrs Pymm** join us as Boarding Boys' Houseparents; Mr Pymm will also take up a new role at the school as Director of Sport, as well as teacher of Year 5 Geography. **Mr Levings** has moved, with his family, from South Africa; he will be teaching mathematics to Years 5 to 7, Boys' Games and assisting in the form tutoring of Form 6R.

Joining us for the Autumn Term as Head of Art is **Mrs Mills**, who will be teaching all pupils in the Prep School. **Mrs Price** returns to Ranby House after an absence of two years to teach English to Years 7 and 8. The school also welcomes two new staff who will be teaching Girls' PE as a job share: **Mrs Rodgers** will be working on Mondays and Thursdays and **Mrs Parker** will be working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Together they will be teaching the majority of girls' PE, as well as Junior Games to Years 3 and 4 and Pre-Prep PE to Years 1 and 2.

I wish all our new staff a very warm welcome. I hope that parents have an opportunity to meet with them in the near future.

Several existing members of staff are starting new roles within the school. **Mr Foulds** steps into my former shoes as Acting Deputy Head for the Autumn Term. **Mr Searle** takes over as Head of Boarding; he will also be spending more time in the classroom as the Year 7 and Year 8

Common Entrance history teacher. **Mrs Richardson** takes over the running of the science department; **Mrs Wilkinson** will be Head of English for Years 7 and 8; and **Mrs Baker** will oversee the Religious Studies department.

In the Pre-Prep we welcome back **Mrs Martland** after her maternity leave. She will be continuing her role as Nursery Nurse in Key Stage 1, sharing the role with **Mrs Hobbs**.

Congratulations to **Mr and Mrs Byfield** whose baby boy, Luke Lyndon, was born on 10th July, a brother for Finn.

In the Catering department, we welcome back **Mrs Stevenson** as the new Deputy Catering Manager and congratulate **Mrs Davis** on her appointment as Kitchen Supervisor.

Contacting Staff

Continuing to improve the communication between school and home, we are introducing some new e-mail software (and new e-mail addresses) for staff this term. This enables parents to contact staff more easily, as all e-mail addresses are of a generic nature, as follows: <firstinitial.surname@ranbyhouseschool.co.uk>. Thus as well as contacting me at headmaster@ranbyhouseschool.co.uk, it is also possible to use the following e-mail address: d.sibson@ranbyhouseschool.co.uk.

There will remain some exceptions, especially those e-mail addresses which are already established, such as that for the office: office@ranbyhouseschool.co.uk. We will inform you once all the new contact details have been finalised.

Boarding Matters

We would be grateful if the parents and guardians of boarding boys would note that their first point of staff contact in the Boys' House will be Mr and Mrs Pymm; their direct number is 01777 714390. Parents wishing to contact their sons should continue to ring the Boarding House on 01777 714394.

Summer Holidays

The school has continued to be a hive of activity over the holidays. For the first two weeks a group of students from France were at Ranby for a residential language school. Many Ranbians were also in school for the Activity Weeks and for the Socius Sports Rugby Camp, all of which were well-attended and enjoyable.

Calendar

Please note the following change to the published calendar: on Monday 13th October, the Chess matches against S. Anselm's are away and not home as stated. The time shown (3.15pm) is the time of departure from Ranby. An additional event in the calendar is an Under 11 Boys' and Girls' Bassetlaw Cross Country Fixture at 4.00pm in King's Park, Retford.

All forthcoming school events and sports fixtures are listed in the termly calendar, a copy of which should have been posted to you early in the summer holidays.

Pupil Absence

Unplanned absence (e.g. illness): the staff in the school office would be most grateful if you could inform them as soon as possible if your child is not coming into school for whatever reason. Please also remind your child to sign in/out at the office if they arrive late or leave before 5.10pm.

Pupils' Appearance

I would be very grateful if parents could help to support the school's rules about appearance by ensuring that children are reminded of the following requirements. No jewellery may be worn at school, although girls may wear stud earrings. Boys' hair should be short and sensibly cut, and certainly off the collar at the back. If girls have long hair, it should be tied back with a hair accessory which matches school uniform.

Combs: all pupils in the Prep School should have a comb or hairbrush in school to ensure that their hair is brushed and tidy, especially after showering after Games.

Belts: boys, especially those in the senior years, are encouraged to wear belts to ensure their trousers stay up and therefore their shirts remain tucked-in.

Personal Belongings

It always amazes me how many belongings remain unclaimed after the end of term kit check. Can I therefore request that all items which are brought into school are clearly named. The lost property bin in the staff room has trebled in size since last year: your help in keeping the contents to a minimum this term will be much appreciated!

Sports Kit should be labelled on the outside with the labels provided through the school office. This new system, which was introduced at the start of the last academic year, has proved very successful.

Music Examination Results

Congratulations to all the pupils who performed successfully in their music exams last term. Results were published and sent to parents during the summer holidays. The overall pass rate for practical exams was one hundred percent, with seventy-seven percent of Ranbians achieving Merits or Distinctions. Well done, everybody – and thanks to Mrs White and her team.

Commissioning of New Headmaster

Parents and pupils are most welcome to attend the special Eucharist Service of Commissioning for the new Headmaster at 10.45am on Sunday 14th September in the Chapel. The Provost of Woodard Schools, The Revd Canon Brendan Clover, will be presiding at the service. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary if you are planning to attend so that we can ensure that seats are available.



RPG Diamond Jubilee Project

Congratulations to the Ranby Parents Group who have been working hard towards their target for marking the school's anniversary by funding an AstroTurf surface for the current tennis court area. A total of £36,000 has been raised so far. Further details on how to donate to the project will be available in the RPG start of term newsletter.

And Finally...

Finally I wish every pupil a happy and successful term. Please find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the latest edition of 'Focus on Ranby' which

is a reminder of some of the many events which took place in the summer term.