



Mark Lascelles
Head Master
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Dear Parent,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome the pupils back this week and to see the School's buildings and grounds repopulated. There was a wonderful buzz in assembly this morning and the Memorial Hall was full. I hope that you all enjoyed the summer holidays and that your sons and daughters are excited as the new academic year begins. I would like to welcome new parents to the Dauntsey's community and I hope that you will take the opportunity to attend a number of events during the year - fixtures, concerts, drama productions, Mercers' Lectures (the latest Mercers' Lecture Programme is a varied and interesting series; full details can be found on the website) and so on. I do urge you to engage with the DSPA who will provide you with opportunities to meet other parents.

It has been a super summer for the School with a whole host of activities and, of course, Public Examination results. I was very pleased with the results at both A and GCSE Level, where so many pupils exceeded their expectations. Last year's Upper Sixth were a wonderful year group and just under 75% A*-B grades was a fitting reward for them. 127 pupils or Old Dauntseians applied to university this year, with 85% taking up places at their chosen institutions. Exeter and Bath were the most popular, closely followed by Southampton, Birmingham, Nottingham and UCL; 70% of the places were at Russell Group or Times Top 15 universities. Elsewhere, Art Foundation and Performing Arts Courses have been popular, places have been taken up in Hong Kong and the USA, while one leaver is heading off to join the Merchant Navy, and others have Gap Years teaching in Australia, completing ski seasons and almost certainly lying on the sunny beaches of South East Asia!

There were a number of school trips over the summer. Back in July, a group of Lower Sixth pupils visited Nightingale's Orphanage in Romania, for nine days, in order to run an activity week for street children. They had raised around £14,000, before travelling out there, and experienced a challenging yet hugely rewarding week. The School's Tall Ship, the Jolie Brise, visited Scotland, Norway, the Faroe Isles and Iceland where they met up with Sam Moore and his group who were trekking across Iceland in their 4 x 4's. Meanwhile in the last ten days, the 1st XI Girls' Hockey Team fared well in their pre-season tournament in Cardiff, twenty Sixth Formers completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions in wet and very windy conditions in Wales, and a group of Third Formers returned from their Dinghy Adventure on the Isle of Wight.

Over the course of this week, we have welcomed 174 new pupils, 78 of whom have joined our boarding community. We are almost perfectly balanced as a co-educational establishment too, with the girls just edging ahead at 50.2%.

We also welcome a number of new teachers to the School and our new Bursar, Will Ethelston.

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| Mr Walker | Director of Drama |
| Mr Benedict | Head of EAL |
| Mrs Syms | Head of Chemistry |
| Miss Hillier | Head of Religious Studies |

Mr Cornish and Mr Kersley join the Biology and Chemistry departments

Mr Bell Teacher of Geography

Mrs Hoadley, Miss Lees and Mrs Blackburn join the Maths department

Mrs Rigby Teacher of Drama
Miss Sampson Teacher of English (one term)
Mr James Teacher of Learning Support

Mr Biles-Liddell Musician in Residence
Miss Major GAT Drama and Dance
Miss LeCamp French Language Assistant
Miss Grundbrecher German Language Assistant

Turning to future dates: on Friday 27th September we have the Inter-House Cross-Country Competition and Minor Sports Festival. It a very enjoyable occasion for spectators and there is also an opportunity for parents to take part in the cross-country run! A barbecue will round off the morning before everyone departs for the Exeat Weekend. Boarders should return to their houses after 6 pm on Sunday evening or before 8.15 am on Monday morning.

In the assembly this morning, I quoted Barbara Hillary, who was the first African-American woman to reach the North and South Poles, at the age of 75 and 79 respectively. She has written the forward to a new book "Explorers" and describes the qualities that an explorer needs: *A driving curiosity, a thirst for discovery and a desire to test the limits of our minds, bodies and the world around us.* These words could have been written for schools too and I hope that a few pupils will remember them, even if it is only briefly!

I look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the term and please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

With my best wishes,



Mark Lascelles
Head Master