

Hough House Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The first half term of 2016 has been full of activity with school exams, House Competitions Chinese New Year Celebrations.

We welcome Aaron Adams to the boarding house this term, Aaron was formally a day pupil and we hope he enjoys his time in Hough. We are extremely sorry to see Petcharat leaving us at the end of this term. Petcharat has been with the school for nearly five years, he has made a major contribution to the boarding house volunteering for many House Competitions. Petcharat has represented the school in the 1st XI football team and also the U16 ISFA England Team and will be missed by all his housemates in Hough. Petcharat leaves us to return to Thailand for college and play professional Football. We wish him every success.

As you are aware, the School and Boarding were inspected by ISI for 3 days in January. This was an inspection for compliance to National Minimum Standards. We would like to thank all of the 40 boys who were directly involved and interviewed by the Inspectors. You will be pleased to know that the Boarding Houses were completely compliant as judged against all the National Minimum Standard for Boarding. The complementary comments we received is a true reflection of all the wonderful students who live at Hough House and in particular their motivation towards academic work and dedication to the wider life of the School. We are both very proud of your son/s and feel privileged to know each and every one of them. The full report can be viewed on the school website <http://www.brentwoodschool.co.uk/Inspection-Report-Boarding>

This term we have continued our very popular takeaway events in the form of TGI Fridays which like the Takeaway & Chat evenings in the Michaelmas term are a great opportunity for the boys to discuss any aspects of boarding with us. Many suggestions for improvements or requests have hopefully helped to make the boarding house more comfortable.

We would like to thank all the boys for their patience whilst the refurbishment of our downstairs WC's and Boot Room are being carried out. Hopefully this work will be completed over the Spring break and all will be fully functioning ready for when the boys return next term.

This term has been particularly busy with House Competitions. Well done to all the boys who took part.

Junior Squash

Simon, Adrian, Leo Li and Yegor. The opposition were tough competition but all the boys played well and tried hard.

Middles Squash

Leonid, Aliaksei, Naum and Jack all competed well again against strong competition. Well done to Naum for winning some of his games

Senior Squash

Nikita, Marius and Greg who achieved a very creditable 3rd place competing against some of the school's top squash players

Middles Whist

Well done to Leonid Belov and Tobias Cooper who practiced and were beginning to master the game.

Junior and Middles Public Speaking

Well done to all the boys who took part in this challenging competition. Leonid, Naum, Issac, Leo Li, Aaron and Yegor – the juniors spoke about the interesting subject of "what would you do with a time machine".

Senior Public Speaking

Well done to Tom Raffan who together with JQ from Mill Hill gained 2nd place"!

Senior Table Tennis

Well done to Howard, Vincent, Nikita and Marius who won this event with a fine team performance.

Lip Sync

Rodi and Leonid enjoyed themselves in what is new House competition this year.

Chinese New Year was celebrated by the boarders this year on the evening of Monday 8th February. As always the evening was a fantastic success with fabulous entertainment and chinese food. Well done to Winston who together with Maris from Mill Hill played The Brave Song; well done to Rodi who played Hit the Road Jack and St James Infirmary with Anina; well done again to Winston for a solo performance on the trombone of Tokyo Ghoul which was a warm up performance before the renowned dance performance by the boys – well done to Howard, James, Vincent, Wayne and Franco who performed yet another fantastic dance to entertain all our guests.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our U6th IB students much luck in the forthcoming examinations which start in early May also the 5th and U6th form who are taking GCSE's and A level examinations later in the term. We are sure that all boys will be very busy with last minute revision during the Easter break and during their study leave which commences next term.

Last week the boys organised fundraising for Charity Week and we are pleased to report that School House raised close to £1000. The boys ran a tuck shop and many cookies and donuts were sold in the cricket pavilion the girls of Mill Hill sold Hot Dogs. There was a very impressive effort on behalf of all the boarders who helped to sell the items throughout the week in their break and lunchtimes.

We would like to draw your attention to the arrangements during the examination period next term and details of this have been sent to you separately if it applies to your son. A copy of these arrangements is attached.

May Bank holiday weekend is from 5pm Friday 29th April until Monday 2nd May – the boarding house is closed to all boarders with the exception of U6th IB students.

Please could we ask all parents to inform us if your son returns to boarding with any medication. Boarders are not permitted to keep medicines in their rooms other than that which is known to the nursing staff. If your son receives medical treatment whilst at home would you please provide a doctors letter for the nursing staff.

We are always seeking ways in which to improve our provision. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us. houghhouse@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

All of the staff at Hough House remain committed to making your son's time with us productive and as memorable as possible and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to welcoming your son/s back to Hough House between 6-9pm on Sunday 17th April.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Phil & Chris Rees

Housemaster & Housemistress (Hough House)

TRINITY TERM DATES

Sunday 17th April Boarders return between 6pm – 9pm

Tuesday 19th April School House photos

Friday 29th April Boarders depart by 5pm for May Bank Holiday (with exception of U6th IB students)

Monday 2nd May Boarders return between 6pm – 9pm

Friday 27th May Half term starts – boarders depart by 5pm

Sunday 5th June Boarders return between 6pm – 9pm

Friday 5th July End of year