



HOUGH HOUSE DECEMBER 2015



Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term we offered our warmest welcome to 9 new Hough House students from around the world. Welcome to Yegor, Adrian, Leo, Naum, Leonid, Aliaksei, Chris, Maxim, and Michelangelo who joined us in September and are just completing their first term in boarding. All these new boys have settled into boarding life very well and have already developed excellent friendships in the House. We also welcomed back our returning boarders from the annual summer break. Sadly we said goodbye to Bradley who has left boarding to return to live with his family at home locally.

We ended this term with a flourish of festive celebrations! Christmas Shopping at Lakeside – all the boys keen to buy their Secret Santa gifts and this was closely followed by the arrival of our Christmas tree for the Common Room, the annual school Carol Service in Brentwood Cathedral and our Boarders Christmas Supper.

This year Mill Hill, the girl's boarding house, hosted the Christmas Supper and we were delighted that the Chairman of Governors, Mr Colin Finch and his wife were able to attend. This traditional festive evening was enjoyed by all the boarders, the Headmaster, the Senior Management Team and other invited guests. Once again we enjoyed a fun packed itinerary of jolly Christmas carols led by Mr David Taylor. Well done to Howard Kong our Head of House who delivered a superb speech on behalf of the Hough boys.

Throughout this term we have enjoyed a host of other social events. At the end of the first week of term we organised a Quiz Evening with the girls from Mill Hill - this was a fun evening – tricky questions followed by takeaway Pizza! This social evening encourages all the new boarders to get to know their "house mates" and get to know not only the other Hough boys but the girls of Mill Hill.

There is no better way to start to enjoy the ethos of boarding than our annual weekend away to Alton Towers. The journey up to Stoke on Trent in the two coaches and our overnight stay at the lovely Alton Towers Hotel is eagerly awaited by the boarders every year. Many scary rides were endured and a lot of extremely large stuffed toy animals occupied the seats in the coach on the way home. As other years, this was a truly great weekend for both the boys and staff.

All the boarders worked incredibly hard during the first three weeks of term practising for the House Music competition. We are proud of how much effort they put into their performance, A special well done to Rodi Donhue-Hibberd, Greg Harding and Winston Mo for all their hard work, sadly we were unable to steal a fourth win of the Unison Cup this year - there is always next year!

Twenty four boys took part in our Cinema trip to see the latest James Bond film, Spectre which was a most enjoyable evening in November. With the new Star Wars film being released this month and another cinema trip already being planned to see the new release, we organised a Star Wars Weekend just before the end of term – attempting to see all six previous films in advance of our trip – much KFC and pizza was consumed.

We also held a theatre trip to see The Lion King in London and this was enjoyed by 15 boys. Next term will see the regular Karting Trip when all the boys will, yet again, try to beat Mr Rees (who seems to get the fastest car every year!)

We value the boarders' views enormously and throughout this term we have been hosting the boys in small groups for Takeaway & Chat evenings which have been very enjoyable and a great way for us to get to know the boys and find out their lives, likes, dislikes and views on boarding. This information is invaluable for us to improve their boarding experience and many improvements have been made as a result of their requests. We would like to take this opportunity to invite parents to comment on their son's boarding experience and let us know if there is any way you feel we could improve. If you have any comments please email us on houghhouse@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

All the boarders have been working extremely hard at their academic studies and many have completed interim tests of mocks this term with some very promising results. We encourage the boys in all aspects of school life and the numerous clubs, societies and sporting opportunities available at the school and admire their achievements.

Well done to all the boys who have participated in House competitions this term.

- Chess: Well done to Yegor, Leo, Adrian, Simon and Tobias for a 1st place in Junior Chess. Rodi, Chris and Bradley represented School House in Senior Chess and Rustem, Leonid, Tobias and Naum were 3rd in Middles Chess. School House achieved a very commendable overall 3rd Place
- Swimming: James Wong won the senior freestyle and the Senior freestyle team was overall 1st Place. The overall placing for Senior swimming was 5th. Well done to all those who Swam for the House.
- Football: The senior team of Petch, Peitro, George, James Fox, Tom, Donald and Bradley achieved a fantastic 2nd place.
- Badminton: Fantastic result achieving a 1st place overall! Well done to Leo, Adrian, Simon And Yegor who were 3rd in the junior competition. Aliaksei, Leonid and Terrance achieved 1st in the middles competition and Howard, Wayne and Nikita also 1st in the Senior competition.
- Whist: Well done to Adrian, Simon, Yegor and Leo for their great efforts in the Junior section of this competition.

Chinese New Year will soon be upon us and we plan to celebrate this again in style on Monday 8th February 2016. Preparations are already underway for performances to meet the amazing standard of last years' dance and musical performances!

Could we respectfully remind parents not to send your son to the boarding house with any type of medicines other than those prescribed by a doctor. If you son is seen by their doctor over the holiday period and prescribed medicine please inform Mrs Rees. **Students are not allowed to keep medicines in their bedroom other than herbal remedies.** This is especially important for overseas students as medicines which have the dosage written in a foreign language could, if taken incorrectly by another student cause medical problems. Should the school doctor need to prescribe drugs and was unaware that other medicines were being taken, could be potentially very dangerous.

We would also like to remind all parents and Guardians that it is very important that the school and boarding houses are made aware of any change of address, telephone numbers or email addresses so that we can keep our contact details accurate.

We look forward to welcoming your son/s back to Hough House on Tuesday 5th January between 6-9pm. Please see below the future term dates.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Phil & Chris Rees

Housemaster & Housemistress
(Hough House) Boarding

Lent Term 2016

Tuesday 5th January – boarders return between 6pm – 9pm
Wednesday 6th January – start of term
Sunday 17th January – Karting Trip
Friday 22nd January – Cinema Trip to see Star Wars
Monday 8th February – Chinese New Year
Friday 12th February – start of half term
Sunday 21st February – boarders return between 6pm – 9pm
Thursday 24th march – end of term

Trinity Term 2016

Sunday 17th April – boarders return between 6pm – 9pm
Monday 18th April – start of term
Friday 29th April – May Bank Holiday starts
(ONLY U6th IB students may remain in the boarding house)
Monday 2nd May – Boarders return between 6pm – 9pm
Friday 27th May – Half term starts
Sunday 5th June – Half term ends – boarders return between 6pm – 9pm
Tuesday 5th July – Term ends at 12.30pm

When returning to school after a term or half-term break it should be noted that the boarding house opens at **6.00 p.m.** on the evening before the day that school restarts and students are expected to have returned by **9pm**. Parents or Guardians must make appropriate travel arrangements to ensure that boarders return at the appropriate time. Any boarder arriving before this time may find the building locked and would, therefore, not be able to gain access.