



7th July 2016

Dear All,

We made it!

I know we have drained most of you of your ability to clap in recent weeks but will not apologise for the feast that these remarkable children have served you. Aren't they amazing?

I would like to reiterate the sentiments I attempted to express at Speech Day; namely a huge thank you to parents, pupils and staff for the monumental progress we have made in such a short period of time.

Pupil numbers will be up by nearly 40% in the 12 months to September and so we can reasonably assume that, collectively, we are doing something right here. A successful education cannot be measured solely in certification and requires the full participation of the three elements; Home, School and Child; when the three come together in harmony it is a powerful force indeed. The results can be seen all around us, all day, every day. But don't tell too many people please, we actually revel in being Sidmouth's best kept secret - and I don't want our lovely pool to get too crowded either!

We cannot afford to take anything for granted however and know that appearance is something which has vexed a number of you this year (the pupils' appearance, not mine I hope!) That being the case, in response to popular demand, we are going to adopt a tighter adherence to our uniform policy next term as well as revert to the hair tied up policy which was relaxed, coincidentally prior to the explosive infestation of nits which has plagued us ever since. I know it's not your child and that it is everyone else's that harvests these pests but if you could please play along anyway and help us by ensuring your child's flowing locks are secured with hair bands which are compliant with the Handbook - feel free to blame me for the impingement on their civil liberty to see the World through a tangled bush, whilst sporting purple streaks and a large gold plated medallion. I don't mind being the bad guy as long as I can continue to rely on your support in preparing these children for the rest of life's adventure, post SJS.

None of this year's many achievements would have been possible without such an amazing staff and I know you will join me in wishing them a fabulous and well deserved Summer vacation. Similarly I know that our staff cannot believe how lucky they are to work with such supportive and open-minded parents and children and would want me to wish you all a fabulous break, wherever that might be.

On a personal note I would like to thank you for the support you have given me this year, my first full year as your Head and for making mine the best job in town. Collectively we can achieve even more next year and I'm already looking forward to seeing just how far your fabulous children can go.

For those leaving, forget it. You'll always have a bit of St John's in you and we'll always have a piece of you here. As the recently departed Glen Frey said of the Hotel California: 'You can check out anytime you want, but you can never leave'!

Now rest!

Mike