

November and December



Halloween monsters.



A Christmas Carol.



Watch your step!



Group hug on the dance floor.



Gracefully done.



Christmas bite, big mouthful.



Braving the cold yet again and singing carols.



After Mini Olympics, Christmas Lunch.

Caterham School Boarding December 2009

We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year



AT THE END OF A LONG AND UNUSUAL TERM OUR BOARDING COMMUNITY SAYS A FOND FAREWELL TO MARK WALLACE

This is always the longest and hardest term of the academic year and as I look back there is so much that has been achieved since the beginning of September when we started with our induction programme for new boarders. I am pleased to report that all of the new pupils have settled in well into our boarding community and the majority of them have become involved in a wide range of School and boarding activities. At the end of this long term we are all looking forward to our Christmas Boarding Activities and the holiday!

We have organised a range of weekend activities during the course of the term – the trip to Bluewater Shopping Centre is always very popular. The boarders continue to make good academic progress and in particular we were delighted with the fact that six of our Fifth Year boarders have gained Sixth Form Scholarships as a result of the examinations in November. Congratulations go to Olivia Bailey, Andrew Hilman, Kevin Ip, Eve Lian, Galina Pekarskaya and Chris Wong.

For a large proportion of this term our normal routines have been interrupted by the outbreak of flu with many boarders being looked after in the Health Centre. I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of both our nursing staff and matrons during this period of time. On a personal note this has been an unusual term for me as I had a total hip replacement operation at the beginning of October and after a good recovery have only just returned to work. I would like to thank my Boarding Senior Management Team for all the extra work that they took on in my absence.

VALETE MARK WALLACE

At the end of this term we say a fond farewell to Mark Wallace and his family as he takes up his new position in January as Deputy Head of Kingston Grammar School – a well deserved promotion.

Mark was appointed to teach Mathematics at Caterham School in September 1995 and from the start he became actively involved in all aspects of School life. Mark is a very talented hockey player and during his time at Caterham he captained Oxted Hockey Club 1stXI in the National League – he also still on occasions turns out for the Oxted Veterans! His coaching skills, enthusiasm for the sport and motivation of players have had a major impact on the success and development of hockey at Caterham.

Undoubtedly Mark's greatest legacy to Caterham has been his contribution and dedication to boarding. Mark first started in boarding as a Boarding Tutor and from 1998 onwards he has been the Housemaster of both Townsend and Viney Houses and since 2003 the Head of Boys' Boarding. In addition to his boarding responsibilities he has been a member of the Sixth Form Team for the last three years.

Mark's calm personality and relationship with the senior pupils has contributed greatly to the ethos of boarding at Caterham as one based on mutual trust and respect. The boarders under his care have always felt that he listened to their views, cared about their welfare and development and was always fair when having to deal with any disciplinary actions. As a member of my Boarding Senior Management Team his contribution and input have been invaluable. He has been instrumental in developing many of the initiatives that have evolved in boarding such as the newsletter, coaching sessions in badminton, basketball and football, the activities weekends and not forgetting the very popular annual Paintballing trip. Over the last six years I have been privileged to have had three highly dedicated Heads of Houses, Mrs Quinton, Mr. Van and Mr. Wallace working with me – it has been a unique team and the Ofsted Boarding Award of Outstanding is a testimony to both them and all of the boarding staff.

We have also benefited from the contribution of Mark's family and I would like to thank Cathriona for her help and support in boarding. We have enjoyed the pattering of young feet along the corridors and were all delighted with the birth of Rory in August. Mark we will all miss you and I would like to thank you not only for your contribution to boarding but for your friendship and personal support to me over the years. We wish you and your family every success in the future.

In January we are looking forward to welcoming Nick Mills and his family into our boarding community as he takes up his post as Head of Viney. Finally on behalf of all of the Boarding Staff I would like to wish you an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Jim Seymour
Senior Teacher and Head of Boarding



Zachary, Cathriona, Mark, Mai and new member of the Wallace family, Rory.



Jim Seymour with Mark Wallace, newly appointed Deputy Head of Kingston Grammar School.