



CATERHAM SCHOOL

22 September 2011

To all Senior School Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians

A common concern I hear about from parents and guardians is the distribution of details for upcoming fixtures. The system at present is for us to put team sheets up on the sports notice board and we then rely on the pupils to check the board, and note down the necessary details. While we still believe that this process helps pupils to become more independent and take responsibility for their own lives, we recognise that the system is not always 100% reliable. With modern technology so advanced now, I have been looking at ways we can share the information with you through the internet and I am delighted to announce that I think I have found it.

For the past three weeks I have been trialing the excellent www.schoolssports.com for putting the rugby team sheets on. It seems to have worked very well so far, with the rugby staff now fully used to using the system. Whilst the teams will still be on the notice board and we still expect the pupils to check the details carefully, this site will provide a useful back up for parents and guardians. To view a team sheet, please go to the site, search for Caterham School, select your sport, choose the team, then you will be presented with that team's list of fixtures. If you see a blue person icon next to the fixture, this shows that a team sheet has been produced for that match. Click on the icon and the team sheet will appear.

The site also offers other excellent services. It has each team's fixture list on there, it keeps team stats and I have also asked the team captains to write match reports after each game. The site also allows photographs and videos to be uploaded. I am hoping that the site will develop into an exciting and useful place where pupils and parents can gain access to the information that they want and need.

While we are up and running with rugby already, we are also in the process of rolling out the system for our other sports. Please check the site regularly as we should be fully operational within the next few weeks.

I would appreciate your feedback on the site so please e-mail me your thoughts.

Whilst I have your attention, may I also tell you that the U12A match scheduled for Saturday 24 September has been cancelled as Worth cannot raise a team.

Whilst on the subject of late changes, I would like to assure you that changes to fixtures only happen due to circumstances beyond our control. We realise that changes to start times and venues may scupper family plans and we do not do it lightly. For example the U13A and B matches on Tuesday were put back to a 3.45pm kick off (it should have been 2.30pm kick off) as Christ's Hospital informed me just three days before the match that their pupils could

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not be released from lessons until 2.30pm. Very frustrating for us, and no doubt very frustrating for the boys and parents involved.

Another unfortunate event occurred on Tuesday night at a swimming gala. The Skinners coach that the swimmers travelled on arrived twenty minutes late to pick up the squad (caught in school pick-up traffic), the coach then got stuck in traffic in Whyteleafe, and then could not find anywhere to park near the pool at Warlingham School. This resulted in the squad being late and missing the first races. I am aware that this has happened in the past so we will have to review whether it is feasible for us to attend this event. In instances like this we would appreciate your patience as sometimes things are simply outside of our control.

Finally, can I please stress that we do all that we can to make sure sport is a success at Caterham. Our staff give so much of their time and commitment to school sport and it would be hugely appreciated if they could rely upon the support and gratitude of parents and guardians whenever possible. However, if you do have concerns about sport at Caterham, please get in contact with me and I would be happy to discuss them with you.

With thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Clarke
Director of Sport
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