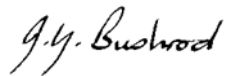


Magdalen Court School

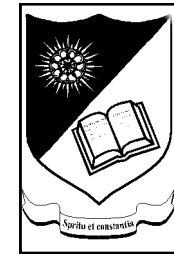
Thank you too for your support at Prize Giving and at Mary Poppins. I also wish to thank Mrs Wrightson in particular, as well as all the staff and pupils, who have worked so hard both on stage and behind the scenes. It's great also to welcome Mr Will Power back to help us with the microphones and lighting.

Next year we should see a really impressive beginning with discussions in hand to consider some progressive options. Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday, 3 September.

Have a most pleasant summer.
Very best wishes



J. Bushrod



Headmaster's Letter

July 2014

Dear Parents

As always at Magdalen Court, the Summer Term seems to begin and then end again in the blink of an eye.

Academically, of course, this is the period during which GCSE, 'A' level and Cambridge Technical examinations are assessed. This represents the time of year when staff and older pupils are working their hardest, focussing intensely and revising for examinations. This is followed by the long wait until August, all of which take their toll. The teachers should of course be used to it, but in reality we tend to become very eager for the pupils in our care and, in a similar way to parents, we do a lot of worrying in their stead. We do hope that all of you involved in examinations have been able to do your very best. We are pleased to be a mixed ability school and it is important that children achieve the highest grades they can.

Aside from examinations, it has also been an enormously busy period. Mrs Cafaro and the children have produced a wonderful video about Magdalen Court to exchange via the internet with our Spanish pen pals at "IES Julio Verne" in the town of Bargas. Not only has this been great fun but it has also been very interesting for our pupils to learn about the cultural differences in Spain and it has been excellent for their language skills. Thank you all.

Four French pupils have also spent time with us this term and they have interacted very pleasantly with everyone. They have made many friends as well as giving us a presentation about their lives in Lille and Nice and their education system.

We have also been pleased to see again our Sicilian student, Stefania, this year. She is an excellent role model for our academic students and hopes to return again next year to take her ESL examination. Some of our younger pupils were very concerned that Stefania lives close to a volcano and experiences regular earthquakes. Her response that no one thinks about it and she feels that there is no point in worrying about something you cannot change created a surprise for the pupils who were very interested in this philosophical approach.

I am sure that the members of the School party heading for Sri Lanka are going to have one of the most memorable learning experiences of their lives next week. To mix with people who have different beliefs, philosophies and lives helps all of our children to improve their perspective and understanding of others.

Our Kuwaiti, Libyan and Saudi Arabian students, too, have brought their very pleasant selves and family values to our School along with an insight into non-European cultures and beliefs. For most of our foreign pupils the important language to learn and use well is, of course, English.

Please help your children to become habitual readers. Twenty minutes a day every day makes an important contribution to their comprehension skills and also their ability to express themselves. Continuing the habit after eleven years of age is often a challenge and might explain why many people in our society reach a plateau of a relatively low reading age. Mrs Cafaro, Mrs Wrightson and your local library can give you lots of advice on suitable reading books for stretching skills appropriately whilst still being entertained.