

11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Parents

Where has the half-term sunshine disappeared to? I do hope you enjoyed a good break, although I know that for many senior pupils it was a time of revision for public examinations. The school has certainly been quieter this week as girls have had their 'heads down' in the Sports Hall; I have been very impressed by the serious and diligent manner in which the vast majority have approached their end of year examinations – well done girls!

I am delighted to report that interest expressed in the 'Cambodia 2012' expedition has exceeded our expectations. Currently, 37 pupils have committed which will mean there will be three teams of Gateways girls heading east. The experience will undoubtedly prove to be life changing for those taking part.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> May I had the pleasure of an invitation to the Royal Concert given by our young pupils in Littlegates. It was a truly regal occasion. The children performed with confidence and had clearly worked hard to learn the music, the songs and their lines. As the music got louder and faster their smiles got wider – a lovely, entertaining afternoon.

I have continued my programme of visiting other schools with a recent visit to the school of one of Gateways' governors. Westholme School in Blackburn. This is to be followed with a visit to Rose Court next week. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Gibbons, the new Principal of GSAL, to Gateways.

On Wednesday, we welcomed our new Upper 3 parents for a familiarisation meeting ahead of the new girl's afternoon next week. This was an opportunity for staff to introduce themselves, give an outline of life in the High School and answer any queries. We are now looking forward to welcoming the girls on the 16<sup>th</sup> June for their first afternoon in High School.

The Prep Residential visits to Marsett in the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbria and Cranedale were all a huge success. Upper 1 took part in a teddy bear rescue at Marsett as they discovered the house bears had been 'kidnapped'. They also discovered another bear as they walked behind a waterfall! Inevitably the girls would not leave this bear behind and it will become the class merit bear. Lower 2 and Upper 2 maintained the Cumbria and Cranedale traditions, coming home tired, dirty and straight into their half term holidays.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> May, we said farewell to the Upper Sixth pupils at the leavers barbeque. It was a pleasant occasion, twinged with a little sadness.

In the Times Educational Supplement next week, there will be an article founded on 'Gateways girls and the making of a green menu. Our fame in this area is obviously spreading.

This afternoon the pupils in Lower 2 were visited by the Earl and Countess of Harewood. The pupils had invited them to Gateways to help them with a study they are undertaking all about the village. The girls certainly had a lot of questions for their guests.

There is a busy weekend ahead; on Saturday, Middle School pupils are participating in their first Mock Trials in Bradford which should be a very interesting event, as should the Knaresborough Bed Race - another first for the school. Enjoy an afternoon in Knaresborough on Saturday supporting the girls, the parade begins at 1.30pm and the race at 3.00pm along the river.

I look forward to seeing you all at the FOG Ball on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, for what promises to be a wonderful evening; the marquee has panoramic views over Harewood House and is in an idyllic setting. For the football fans amongst you, there will be a large screen TV! We visited Harewood on Wednesday to make our plans for Prizegiving on Exhibition Day – it should be a wonderful end to the year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Y Wilkinson  
Headmistress