



# InForm

## NEWSLETTER

### Headmaster's message to students



In these unprecedented times, I am directing the focus of my half termly address to our students. I send you all my warmest greetings and very best wishes in the true spirit of our school motto: "Nemo sibi nascitur!" The school is far too quiet without you and, strange as this may sound

to you all – I miss you hugely - as do my staff!

Today we had planned to arrange a whole school photograph. I felt it had been far too long since the school had gathered for a commemoration of the whole school body and mark our shared identity as Parmiterians – young and not so young any more. That, like much else, will have to wait (although it will not be forgotten) until we are back together again – which we will be.

There is so much to celebrate. The pizza orders are on hold for the Senior Hockey ladies as well as our victorious Year 10 and Senior Basketball gentlemen (who I never had a chance to congratulate in person) as we will mark your achievements – never fear. And I have a host of colleagues who are all lining up to sing the praises and celebrate the achievements of so many of you across all Year Groups and across all areas of whole school curricular and extra-curricular life.

At present we cannot say for sure when we will meet again. Our current planning is based on the premise that the school will not be open before May half term. Your teachers will be asked to set work in two chunks – the first couple of weeks and the last couple of weeks of next half term. In the middle week I will be setting you all a project to commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War II which we were set to mark anyway, as a whole school, during the week leading up to the Bank Holiday on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Whilst you are all in my thoughts at this time, I do want to take the opportunity of sending a special message to all the students in Years 11 and 13. I did try to see all of you on your last day in school during lesson time but I appreciate that, on the day, many of you were already off school and it was impossible (for obvious reasons) to bring you all together in an assembly. I will repeat what I said at the time – we will be coming together again, I promise you. Whether it's June, July, August or September – I WILL be opening the school on two separate occasions exclusively for your Year groups so that you can do all that annoying shirt-signing and bouncy-castle-jumping shenanigans that I hate so passionately and you all absolutely love. But I don't want it to be with a few of you or even a few of your staff – I want the whole Year group and all your teachers and support staff together so we can have a proper party to celebrate your time at this school. After all, we're not going anywhere soon on holiday and you can hang up your muddy boots if you were Glastonbury or Reading Festival bound!

As I also said, and I am now addressing every student, right now is not the time for celebration.

VE day was five years in the waiting. The out pouring of emotion in May 1945 came after a national trial far greater than what we are currently experiencing – however, the grief felt by those who have already lost loved ones to this insidious virus is no less real and devastating as the grief felt by those in the last World War. Now is the time to fully appreciate the meaning of our motto: Nemo sibi nascitur. It is the time to think about what we can do to support and look after our family members; your parents, carers, friends and loved ones. Acts of kindness and consideration should be at the forefront of all our minds. We are all in this together. We are all vulnerable but we can also all be a source of real strength and comfort for others. Remember that word I first used in my assemblies when I started at Parmiter's – Humility?

Covid 19 sends a clear message to us all about any grandiose thoughts one might have regarding human superiority. As countries right across the globe are discovering, it cannot be defeated by any one individual but only through the social actions of us all working together. Like you, any words I can think of can never fully express my deep gratitude to all those on the health service front line. And yet, as the poet Milton says: "They also serve who only stand and wait". We all have our duty at this time to stay at home in support of the Health Service and prevent the spread of the virus, to perform those acts of kindness and consideration for our friends and family and last but not least to attend to our individual development and learning as best we can.

And on that note... you didn't expect your Headmaster to avoid all mention of work did you? I would like to add a few words about home learning and what you can do at this time. I am aware of all the work being set through Show My Homework from my colleagues but I do urge you all, in whatever Year Group you are currently placed – to take control of your learning. Please do not just do work because you are being told to by teachers or your parents and carers. Do the work because you take pride in yourself and you have faith in your ability to learn... and because you want to become an even better person than the one you are today. See this time not as "wasted" or "boring" or "pointless" but as an opportunity not just to help and support others but to learn and practise something new and want to challenge yourself. As the author and explorer Matt Dickinson said at our Senior Prize Giving in 2018, "You are here not because you did what you were told, you are here because you did what you did not have to do." That is the secret of every successful person in life.

And so I conclude with my best wishes and of course the very best wishes from all your teachers and the whole staff body at Parmiter's. You are our future and the very reason it is so important to fight this virus and also why we do what we do for your school. Take care – and look after yourselves, your friends and your families. You and they are worth it.

## From the Chairman

It is all too easy sometimes to mistake a temporary problem for a crisis. But we can all agree that what we are going through now is the real McCoy. And while the unprecedented measures now in place at the behest of the government, with the approval of parliament, have had to be implemented at break-neck speed, Michael Jones and his senior team have gone about it calmly, sensitively and with equanimity. They have been magnificent, as have all the staff – teaching and non-teaching - you the parents and carers and those we are about as a school, the students. I know too that Mr Jones has been totally committed to keeping everyone informed and in reassuring students and parents. He has said that when this is all over, and it will be, the end of time at Parmiter's, whether moving on after Year 11 or Year 13, will be marked in the appropriate and time-honoured Parmiter's way at the earliest opportunity.

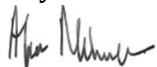
Chris Partridge (Chairman of the Academy Trust), Jackie Glossop (Chairman of the Foundation) and I have marvelled at the way Mr Jones and his team have gone about their duties and responsibilities over the past few weeks.

As a school, we are not of course alone. The Head has kept in close touch with his fellow Heads, while Chris Partridge and I have been in contact with governors. We are all in the same boat; our motto of *nemo sibi nascitur* has never been more apt.

Today is in fact the end of the winter term, when Chris Partridge, Jackie Glossop and I would have been wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday. With so much uncertainty that might seem out of tune with the times.

Nevertheless, we do send you our warmest wishes for a happy Easter, the time of renewal after the gloom of winter, with bursting buds and warm sunshine ahead of us. And Coronavirus consigned to the dustbin of history.

Stay safe and fit



A Mehmet, Chairman of Governors

**The Orwell Youth Prize** may just be the perfect project for you! It's open to years 9-13 and the rules are simple. Write in any form you want on the theme 'The Future We Want' - up to 1000 words, Years 9-11; up to 1500 words, Years 12-13. And the best thing about it is that any student who submits a draft by May 6<sup>th</sup> will get typed feedback from either an OUP editor or a Masters Degree student! All details on the link below. **Please share this with all your friend and student networks.**

Mr Callanan

Delivery Director

<https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-youth-prize/>

## News

### Staffing

Leaving us at the end of this term are: Mr Powell (Geography), Mrs Meadows (English) and Mr Reaney (Physics). We wish these colleagues all the very best as they move on in their careers and thank them for their work at Parmiter's over the years.

In their place, we welcome Mrs Everitt (Geography), Mr Dawson (English) and Mr McLaughlin (Physics)

Allocation of teaching will be as follows:

- ◇ Mr Powell's classes to be taught by Mrs Everitt
- ◇ Mrs Meadows classes to be taught by Mr Dawson, except Year 11 who will be overseen by Mrs Murray and Ms Absalom.
- ◇ Mr Reaney's classes to be taught by Mr McLaughlin.

### From the Finance Department .....

#### Buses

If your child uses the school bus, please make sure that you have cancelled your standing order.

#### Leavers Hoodies - Year 11 and Year 13

The deadline for ordering Leavers' Hoodies has been extended to Monday 6 April. Please make sure that you have placed your order by the end of the day on Monday. It is important that you complete and return the Order Form detailing size and colour. Alternatively email these details to [b.grieves@parmiters.herts.sch.uk](mailto:b.grieves@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

#### Year 11 Yearbook

Yearbooks can be ordered throughout the Easter break until Monday 20 April

Hoodies and Yearbooks should be purchased on Wisepay.

#### Trips

Information relating to trips, enforced cancellations or postponement, refunds etc will be dealt with in due course on a trip by trip basis. We will do our best to update you as soon as the information is available.

Any queries may be directed to [finance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

## House News

A new House competition to be announced soon!



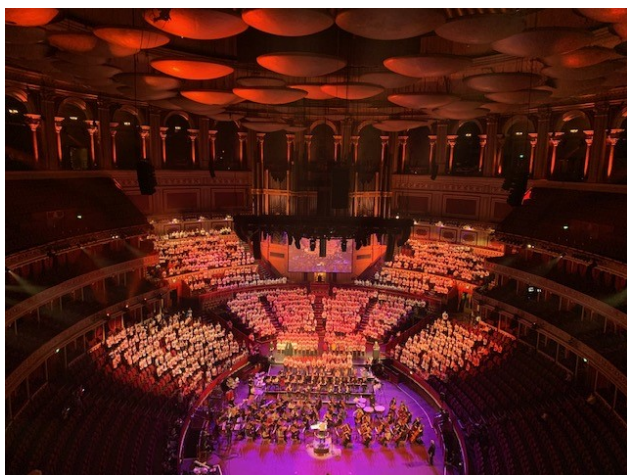
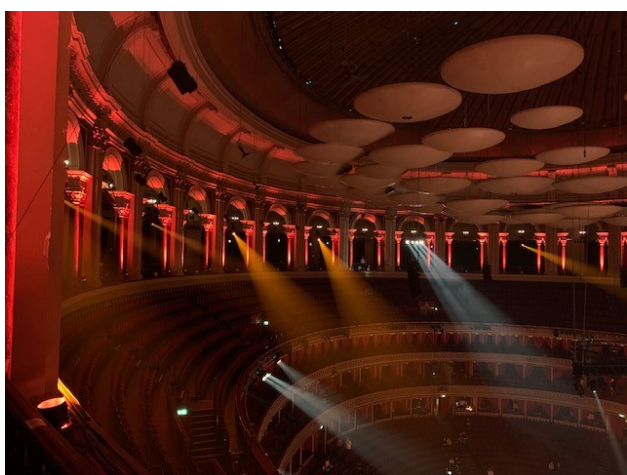
## Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2020



Parmiter's choir was delighted to take part in the biennial Hertfordshire Schools' Gala on Sunday 8 March. Dr Tyack and Mr Bates had prepared the choir in the preceding weeks and they joined numerous other schools, primary and secondary, to perform a magnificent selection of music to a packed Royal Albert Hall.

There were individual performances of dance and theatre and soloists sang alongside the masses in the inaugural performance of 'I am Alban' - the story of St Alban, written by Anne Dudley (music) and Ian McMillan (words) especially for the gala.

It was fantastic to see our students taking part in the gala and for them to have the opportunity to perform in such a prestigious venue. We hope to be able to do it all again in two year's time!



## Parents' Association

Staff connected with the PA social app: [parent.classlist.com](https://parent.classlist.com)



**Parmiters School Parents Association Group Page**



**@parmiterspa**



**PA@parmiters.herts.sch.uk**

The Parents Association would like to thank our dedicated school staff who have continued to work under our current incredibly difficult circumstances. They are doing an amazing job looking after the children of key workers during the day, setting work for students at home and thinking of creative ways to engage with them. We are truly grateful for the work they are doing on behalf of our children.

Our message to all parents, students and school staff is stay well, look out for each other in these exceptionally challenging times and keep smiling.

## Sports Round Up

### National Hockey Finals, Tuesday 3 March

The long-awaited day finally dawned and the girls arrived at Reading Hockey Club raring to go. Throughout the day they performed exceptionally well, playing their 4 matches tenaciously and in good spirit. They drew 2 games and lost 2. The team was loyally supported by over 70 fellow Parmiter's student players who were in full voice! A special mention must be made to Gaby Holland and Eliza Peters who were representing Parmiter's for the last time, Abi Holland who played beyond her years and Rhianna Wood as the youngest member of the team.



### Senior Basketball

After a somewhat inconsistent season, the senior basketball team managed to qualify for the plate final versus St George's School last month. Commitment issues meant we only had eight boys available for the game, five Year 11s and two Year 13s, so we knew it was going to be a tough match despite having already beaten St George's during the regular season. After a slow start which saw St George's jump to a 10 point lead, the boys changed the defence and gradually worked their way back into the game. At half time Parmiter's held the lead, despite having to rest 6' 7" Dylan Joshi for most of the first two quarters. This lead was extended to 19 points in the third quarter,

thanks to the free scoring of captain, Cieran Barry and Welsh international, Nathan Thomas, some strong rebounding from Oscar Roach and Brendan Roberts and the tenacious defence of Joel Peters and Luis Lopez. In fourth quarter, St George's started to do something they had failed to do for the entire game – hit their 3 point shots and, as the boys tired and Dylan and Cieran were fouled out, St George's staged a spirited come back, taking the lead with just under 3 minutes to go. As the tension grew, the team raised their game one final time, playing some excellent defence and, in the final minute, decisive free throw shooting from Nathan and Joel saw Parmiter's

over the line, winning by the closest of margins, 74 – 73. Congratulations to all the boys who played in the final and thank you to the boys who represented the school throughout the season, many of which leave us this year having played for the past seven years. We hope they continue to play and enjoy their basketball in the years to come.

### Football

The Year 7B footballers continued their fine run in this year's National Cup with a hard fought quarter final victory over Grey Coat School from Richmond. Despite conceding an early goal as a result of a well worked corner from Grey Court, the boys battled with passion and desire to turn the game on its head with 2 goals before half time. It was our turn to benefit from a set piece with some excellent attacking and a calm finish from Tobi Biobaku at the back post. The second goal followed shortly after with some patient build up play in midfield before a precise pass set Yoosuf Lalchan through on goal who made no mistake by Calmly slotting past the on rushing goalkeeper.

Grey Court had the better of the second half and it came down to Parmiter's goalkeeper William Denning to deny the opposition with three outstanding saves. Grey Court eventually broke through with a well worked team goal to level the game at 2-2. Despite chances at both ends during the extra time period, there were no further goals and the match was to be decided on penalties.

After 5 penalties each, the score was 4-4 and into sudden death. Following the Grey Court player hitting the post, earlier goal scorer Tobi stepped up to calmly drill the ball home and send the team into a jubilant celebration.

The semi final against Whitgift was due to take place during this period of lockdown and although we hope this game will be played in the summer term, the boys should be incredibly proud of their achievements to get to the last 4 in the country.

