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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

We are just coming to the end of the first half of term of the academic year and time seems to have flown by, probably helped by the most welcome (and unusually) good weather we have had for much of the term.

### Academic matters

It has been a busy time for all. We have had a high number of “Early Applicants” – those A2 students who wish to study at Oxbridge or to take medicine as a degree (for example) who must take special aptitude tests; Dr Drew has been working particularly hard with our students in this regard. We are hopeful that from this year’s cohort we will have a good number of Oxbridge offers, although in truth it is not only very difficult to get in but the goalposts are not exactly stationary. We will give our candidates the best possible preparation including some practice interviews in the coming weeks with senior staff here and external helpers. There are practice interview sessions on Monday and Tuesday of half term. We hope that students will use the half term break to get up to date with all their academic work including their EPQs!

### Other events

We held our Annual Hostess Evening on 15<sup>th</sup> October, an evening when all our host families are invited into College for an informal discussion with staff regarding the students in their care. This was a well-supported, happy and most valuable evening and our thanks go to all those involved. In addition to a recent “ice-breaking event” at the Spice and Ice restaurant, the Student Committee have a lunchtime concert organised for Wednesday this week and plan to mark the end of half term with a traditional style Halloween Evening on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### College Development

Since the start of term, the Student Common Room area has been upgraded and looks much better. We intend to repaint the cafeteria (the Student Committee were heavily involved in the discussions) and as many corridor areas around College as we can over the half term break. It is our intent to keep on refurbishing and improving our facilities and the classroom environment when we can; we have begun discussions at Council level about the next major capital project for the College which is very exciting. More on this at the end of term I hope.

### Activities

You might like to know that we have more societies and activities on offer for our students than ever before, and we encourage as many of them to be involved in them as it broadens their horizons and are good fun. Please “encourage”.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to College on Monday morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Please note that we do not finish term until Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you for keeping to published term dates.

With all good wishes,

Mark Eagers  
**Principal**