

February 2010

Dear Parents,

We are already in the month of February and a third of the term has passed. There has been a flurry of activity with Sixth Form students sitting a range of 'A' Level modular examinations and Year 11 having completed their GCSE mock examinations. The results of the latter are being compiled and will be forwarded to parents before the Year 11 parents' consultation evening which will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

January also saw a record number of junior school children sitting the entrance assessments for entry to Year 7 in September. Despite the recession there has been a significant increase in the number of applications such that, on the day of the assessments, extra space had to be found to accommodate all of the candidates. They are now anxiously waiting to discover the outcome of the whole process.

The start of the year will be remembered as one scarred by the terrible events in Haiti. Images of crumbled buildings, of people being pulled from the wreckage of their homes, of destitute survivors appealing for basic necessities have moved many to action. DC students and parents have responded magnificently to the appeal for aid, and we have already raised more than AED 45,000. A cheque for this sum was recently presented to representatives of Medecins Sans Frontieres, an organisation in the front line of efforts to bring relief to the people of Haiti and one with which the College has a long-standing association. The appeal for financial support is an on-going one so if you still wish to contribute please do so.

World Food Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January was a resounding success with dishes traditional of cuisine from around the world consumed. Needless to say very little was left and nearly AED 6,000 was raised to support an orphanage in Pakistan.

For the first time in more than twenty years the entire school gathered on the playing fields for a whole-school photograph. It was an impressive sight to see the serried ranks of students and staff lined up. The finished product will, I am sure, be well worth purchasing as a record of each pupil's time at DC, something to look back on when they have their own children, some of them perhaps attending DC itself. I sincerely hope that another twenty years will not elapse before the next photograph is taken.

During the last year we have been considering the school uniform and in particular the design of the girls' shirt. This was one of the issues that emerged most prominently from the consultations that took place last year. In consultation with the College's uniform suppliers a new tailored shirt for the girls, designed to be worn outside the trousers or skirt, has been produced and will be on sale towards the end of the spring term. It will be available for girls throughout the school. There is no deadline for phasing out use of the existing design of shirt; this can continue to be worn until normal wear and tear requires it to be replaced or your daughter outgrows her shirt. In line with the views expressed by the boys there has been no change in the design of their shirt; should a different consensus emerge in the future then we shall be happy to consider changes here as well.

A reminder of some forthcoming events:

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 Consultation Evening (5.00 p.m.)
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 Consultation/Options Evening (5.00 p.m.)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February – DC U12 boys invitational football tournament
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 13 Consultation Evening (5.00 p.m.)
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March – DC Rugby 10s Tournament
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March – School production of 'Evita'

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 12 Consultation Evening (5.00 p.m.)
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Inter-house Athletics Championship (9.00 – 1.00 p.m.)
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 10 Consultation Evening (5.00 p.m.)
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Spring Concert (7.00 p.m.)

We should like all students to attend the consultation evenings with their parents and encourage them to do so.

The FDC is organising an exciting programme of events for the remainder of the academic year. Details of the programme will be circulated to you shortly. Your support of their efforts is always much appreciated.

For various reasons, more often than not beyond our control, some parents fail to receive a copy of the various electronic communications that are sent out by the school. If you should hear that someone has not received a copy of the e-bulletin or this newsletter, please let them know that a copy of all general communications such as this one can usually be found in the 'Newsletters & e-bulletins' section of the College website.

Just in case it had not yet registered, the school will be closed for 'half term' during the week of 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February inclusive. School will resume at the normal time on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Yours sincerely,

Carlo Ferrario  
Headmaster