



Aldenham

founded 1597

End of term letter – Easter 2008

Dear Parents

As I write to you the very full Lent term has just come to a close with an exceptional evening of performances by AS and A2 students in the new School theatre. The fact that event had to take place out of term in no way deterred a very supportive audience of parents, friends and, most importantly fellow pupils from attending and supporting their peers. They enjoyed being part of a team effort which is certainly something which is highly prized at Aldenham. Pupils supporting one another is a sign of real strength in the school and something which I know the pupils themselves greatly appreciate.

As the theatre project has now been completed and the building is very much in use I wanted to be able to report on the exceptional support given to the project by parents, friends of the school and former pupils. You will recall that when we began the rebuilding work in the theatre just 12 months ago the governors explained that although the cost of the new theatre could be met by planned spending, any support that could be given to the project especially in sponsorship of new items within the building would allow further development projects to move ahead more rapidly. I am therefore delighted that we received almost £300,000 in donations for the building including the sponsorship of every one of the seats in the theatre. My thanks and those of the governors go to all those parents who were able to support us in this way.

As a result of this, within the next two months we will begin work on the major renovations within the Kennedy's house building which will enable Martineau's pupils to be accommodated very well there as both day pupils and boarders by September. Some parents have raised concerns about the use of the zebra crossing by younger pupils and I would offer the following comments. Firstly, there is no reason why Martineau's children should in general use the crossing more frequently than at present during the school day – all their lessons will continue to take place on the main school site. Secondly, we are continuing to lobby the local authority to further enhance the traffic calming measures at that point and have suggestions for them to consider actively to which we hope they will respond.

The next stage of major development for the school will be a dedicated Sixth form centre, but in the meantime it has been very good this term to have been able to revive the life of the Sixth form building adjacent to the music school. Sixth form students are able to have lunch there and boarders have use of the building for a Sixth form club on Wednesdays and Friday evenings. This was just one of the many parts of school life that was warmly commended by the Ofsted inspectors of boarding who visited the school in early March. Clearly news of an Ofsted inspection, even a regular scheduled visit such as this one, can cause anxiety amongst staff, but I was delighted that all involved in boarding especially the Deputy Head and the four boarding housemasters viewed this as an opportunity for our very successful boarding to be properly assessed and prepared us exceptionally well for the inspection.

James Fowler MA (Oxon)
Headmaster

Aldenham School
Elstree
Hertfordshire
WD6 3AJ

Telephone
+44 (0) 1923 959122

Facsimile
+44 (0) 1923 854410

Email
head@aldenham.com

Website
www.aldenham.com

The outcome of the inspection which I will be able to share with you in full when it has been published over the next two months was extremely favourable and there were no recommendations for improvement. I know that one key factor in that was the support indicated for our boarding by those pupils and parents who were approached by the inspection team for their opinions.

At the end of this term we say farewell in Mrs Sarah Durham who has taught Classics for four years. We thank her for her work and welcome her successor as Teacher in charge of Classics – Miss Anna Addinall, a Cambridge graduate, who has until this term been teaching at St Leonards-Mayfield School in Sussex.

May I remind you that next term we have two days (out of only three in the School year) when we require all pupils to be in school on a Saturday. The Open Day will be on Saturday June 14th and Visitation Day on Saturday June 28th. Please note these and other important dates for next term from the list below.

Over the next few weeks the Governors will be involved in confirming the school budget for the next year and working hard to ensure that the school continues to develop in many ways. Since we are all acutely aware of the need for budgeting in our lives it would be right at this stage to indicate to you the likely fee levels for September 2008. I am happy to be able to confirm to you that the main fee increase will be less than 6% for the next year. We will of course be writing to you with further details next term, but I hope that this indication is helpful.

May I remind you of one matter of importance concerning our medical centre which is that the purpose of the centre is to care for those boarders who are ill or for those day pupils who become ill or injured during the course of the school day. You should not send your child into school if they are unwell and would please ask that if you are asked to collect your child from the centre that you aim to do so within a reasonable timeframe. I hope that this is a rare occurrence and that normally things run smoothly.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very enjoyable Easter holiday.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J C Fowler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J C Fowler

Key dates for the Summer Term 2008

Beginning of term:	Tues 15 th April (Boarders return by 9 p.m. on Mon 14 th April)
Dance Show:	Fri 25 th , Mon 28 th , Tues 29 th April (Tickets available from School Office)
Study leave for Y12 pupils :	Thurs 15 th May to Fri 6 th June inclusive,
Study leave for Y11 and Y13 pupils:	From Mon 2 nd June onwards
Half term:	Sat 24 th May to Sun 1 st June inclusive
Internal exams for Y7-10:	Mon 2 nd June to Fri 6 th June
Open Day:	Sat 14 th June
Martineau's drama production:	Fri 20 th and Sat 21 st June
Visitation Day:	Sat 28 th June
ASPA Ball:	Fri 4 th July
End of term:	Fri 4 th July