

March 2007



HOWARD OF
EFFINGHAM
SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Friends

"Bringing out the best"

This edition of Ship's Log gives a 'snapshot' of life at the Howard. I think upon reading it you will agree with me that it indicates, yet again, that this has been a particularly busy term and that it amply illustrates the diversity of opportunity that exists.

Thanks to the commitment of staff many special events have again happened in this busy term, including yet another musical production. Such a production seems to bring the school together in a very special way, involving as it does many staff and students. This year's production of 'Anything Goes' was an outstanding success and our second to be staged in a professional theatre. Like other extra-curricular events which regularly enhance the life of the school, this production was very demanding on the time of over-stretched teachers but without a doubt it contributed so much to the special ethos of the Howard and brought out much of that which is best within the school. I am indebted to all my colleagues who contribute so much in this aspect and thus enable us to be such a vibrant and successful school.

However, within this very positive atmosphere, one major concern I continue to have is over admissions. The latter part of this term has been dominated by attempting to get to grips with the new Local Authority Admissions Policy. As well as being massively oversubscribed with applications for Howard Year 7 places for September 2007 (a record 320 first preferences for 240 places) there have been some significant changes to the Admissions Policy. The greatest casualties seem to be among the communities of East and West Horsley. Traditionally, the Howard has been the local secondary school for these two villages. However, this year only those Horsley children with an older sibling attending the Howard have been offered places. I think we can all imagine how devastating this is for a large number of families, particularly when there had been no fore-warning of this outcome. While the Admissions Policy and its implementation is the responsibility of the Local Authority, I believe I speak for all at the Howard when I say we have every sympathy with those who have been disappointed. Such a traumatic issue wrenches at the very heart of a local community. We wish all disappointed parents and children a speedy resolution in this deeply troubling matter. They are very much in our thoughts as we finish this term.

Despite such concerns, I wish you all a peaceful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher



Science



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