



Principal's Report September 2011

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and what, I hope, will be an exciting and rewarding year for all of our pupils.

Whilst the majority of Grosvenor pupils looked forward to a nice long holiday on 30th June, our senior rugby players prepared for a very different type of vacation. Between 27th July and 13th August, 35 pupils and 4 members of staff made the trip of a lifetime to South Africa, allowing the boys to compete against some of the top schoolboy teams there.

At home, A Level and GCSE results days at the end of August brought outstanding success. At A Level 85% of students attained 3 A*-C grades or better, with 50% of all entries achieving A*-A grades and 46 pupils achieving 3 grades A*/A or better. All of these figures are our best ever by a significant margin and demonstrate the considerable improvement in our results over the last few years. The school is now recognised as one of the highest achieving schools in the country with excellent value added scores when compared to UK schools with similar ability pupils. The recent success, I feel, is a credit to the hard work and determination of the pupils and parents as well as the commitment and professionalism of all the teaching and non-teaching staff. Our 3 Oxbridge candidates Jessica Hills, Ashleigh Marshall and Darren Bell successfully secured their places to study Law, Natural Sciences and Medicine, at St Hilda's Oxford, Sidney Sussex Cambridge and Magdalene Cambridge respectively. Darren Bell, Lewis Murphy, Chris Wallace, Orla Weir and Andrew Fulton all achieved 4A*/A grades. At GCSE 96% of pupils obtained 5 A*-C grades with 92% achieving an impressive 7 A*-C tally.

On 14th September we both reflected on past, and anticipated future success stories, when 17 former pupils returned to school to share their advice and experiences of 3rd level education with current sixth formers, as part of our 'Higher Education Afternoon'.

On the extra-curricular and co-curricular front hundreds of pupils continue to enjoy the vast array of clubs and societies on offer. A number of pupils have been travelling the globe during September. 8 Grosvenor pupils competed in the UK School Games in Sheffield, with Chloe Lopez Colclough winning a bronze medal as part of the Northern Ireland Girls' Sabre Team. During the following week, at the Youth Commonwealth Games, sixth former, Daniel Stewart, also representing Northern Ireland, was placed 10th out of 60 in the Criterion Cycling event - another phenomenal achievement. During the course of the month 1G, R, S, V, E and N all experienced the legendary 'First Form Residential' on the north coast for 3 days each. Finally, the German Department and students embarked on another successful visit to their exchange partners in Lippstadt.

As September draws to a close, our attentions now turn to the annual 'Prize Day' celebrations. We very much look forward to seeing you - friends, parents and former pupils - on Wednesday 12th October, in Queen's University's Whitla Hall, where the ceremony begins at 1.30pm - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS SLIGHTLY EARLIER THAN NORMAL.