

BOARDING NEWS

WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER

ISSUE 1

Introduction

It gives me great delight to introduce our first ever Boarding News after a successful pilot version was created for Durham House last year. This termly letter will aim to give a flavour of the activities and events that our boarding community have enjoyed. This term has been no exception and there have been a plethora of options for all year groups to get involved in the diverse life at Hockerill. It was a pleasure to see so many long distance parents and family members at the Boarders' Open Weekend earlier this month. Please do follow our Boarding Twitter account which can be accessed from the Boarding section of the College website. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing the boarding community in the New Year.

Natalie Pierrejean Head of Boarding

NOTICES

Term Dates and Timings for Lent Term 2017

Thursday 5 January - Boarders Return (Senior Houses open from 1400hrs. Return before 2000hrs) (Junior Houses open from 1800hrs. Return before 2000hrs) Early House: Thames	Friday 10/Sunday 19 February - Half Term Holiday 1600hrs Friday 10 February (Returns from 1800 - 2000hrs Sunday 19 February) Early House: Rochester Late House: Winchester
Friday 6 January - Term Commences	Saturday 11/Sunday 12 March - Exeat Weekend 1600hrs Friday 10 March (Returns from 1800 - 2000hrs Sunday 12 March)
Saturday 21/Sunday 22 January - Exeat Weekend 1600hrs Friday 20 January (Returns from 1800 - 2000hrs Sunday 22 January)	Wednesday 29 March - End of term 1300hrs Wednesday 29 March Late House: Roding

Rochester Notices

Notices

Congratulations to the following girls on being selected to represent the House in the following roles;

House Captain: Faye Crawford

Deputy House Captain: Renata González Chong

Prefects: Audrey Lam and Ana De Solis

Sports Captains: Elysia Benson Gaunt and Olivia Philpott

The girls will undertake their Mock Exams from 9th to 14th January 2017. I hope that they use their time during the Christmas holiday to revise and rest.

Please can we remind you that it is important that we are informed if your daughter will be leaving College earlier or later than planned. Please can you send emails to

Rochesterhouse@hockerill.herts.sch.uk. Emails that are of a more sensitive nature can be sent to me directly at **hillcoat-hyden@hockerill.com.**

During the House photo that was taken this term there was a gust of wind which left everybody's hair in the air or covering faces. It has therefore been agreed that we will organise to have the photo taken again later in the year.

Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde, Head of Rochester House

Under 15's Rugby Match

On Saturday the 3rd of December Hockerill's U15 rugby team played away at Bancrofts. The game was extremely close and featured tries from both Matt Ige and Theo Clark. Despite the unavailability of quite a few starting players the team really pulled together to deliver a good game of Rugby matching the strong opposition and in the process making some good plays and tackles resulting in a Hockerill victory which all the parents that came to watch and the players could enjoy. Especially Mrs Faiers whose husband is a teacher at the school! A week later the team went on to win the cup semi-final putting them in a great position to enjoy some more Rugby after returning in January from the Christmas holidays. Well done boys!

Theo Clark, Durham House

Year 11 Formal

On Friday the 4th of November, Rochester House and the Year 11 boys from Durham and Thames had their first formal. At the beginning of the evening, the year group gathered together in the refectory with their plus ones, exceeding the record number of day students to be invited by their boarding friends to a formal. A delicious three course meal, prepared by the talented chefs of Hockerill was well enjoyed amongst the happy atmosphere of the room. This was then followed by two of Hockerill's most talented violinists, Jade Rutter and Karen Isaacs, playing 'Bach's double violin concerto in D minor'. Coming towards the end of the evening, the boys were accompanied back down to Rochester with the girls for what was a very cramped yet lively social, with music, dancing and singing! Ellie Bonnett, one of the Year 11 girls from Rochester House said "the whole evening was very enjoyable and I look forward to more socials to come." Unfortunately, it was farewell to the boys and an early night for Rochester, gearing up for Saturday school the next morning.

Faye Crawford, Rochester House Captain

Boarders' Annual Talent Show

We had the Boarders' Annual Talent Show on Saturday the 26th November, we were really delighted to see the different acts that were performed this year. I performed my original song called 'Gun to my head' as shown in the photo. I then made a wonderful duet performance of 'A Thousand years' by Christina Perri with Renata Gonzalez from year 11, the performance also had a piano accompaniment by a weekly boarder Tracy Fu. Outstanding musical performances came from Celestya Riva on the Piano, Olmo Gordon on the Cello and Kelsey Au Yeung, Theo Chan and Kei See on the Violin.

Leon Somsouthi, Durham House



Boarders' Open Weekend



Roding Gym

As the Christmas holidays get closer, and thoughts turn to Christmas pudding and turkey, in Roding everyone is already making their New Year's resolution to keep fit! Exercise is very important to us, and both the Year 12 and 13s find it to be a great distraction from studying and the approaching mock exams. Whilst everything from Zumba classes to Yoga has always been very popular, for a long time we have been discussing the option to build a gym. This term we have finally managed to make this a reality, and everyone is very excited to put it to good use! The construction of the long anticipated gym is well underway, and there is currently a discussion about what equipment to buy, and how much membership will cost. A committee of girls will control gym membership, and we are hoping it will be very popular and well used. The only concern we do have is whether the Roding spider population will move into the gym over the cold winter months – as this could cause a serious decline in interested members!.

Murren Richards, Roding House

Boarders Sport

Since the start of term girls from Rochester and Roding have been attending Zumba sessions once a week during Boarders Sport. An instructor from outside College has taught us a variety of moves and dances from Reggae to Salsa. The music is loud and up lifting and all the girls thoroughly enjoy themselves and have fun whilst burning off a few calories. Zumba is a privilege to us and is an amazing extra-curricular activity that we can all participate in and benefit from. We are all very excited and looking forward to our next Zumba session.

Olivia Philpott, Rochester House Sports Captain



WEEKEND PROGRAMME

Events for the Lent Term:

The weekend programme offers a wide variety of activities to suit the varying interests of the students. Students are encouraged to take part in as many activities as possible.

7/8 January

The Hockerill New Year's Resolution on-site Boot Camp
Westfields (Stratford) Sales Shopping

14/15 January

Clay Modelling Session
Indoor Golf

28/29 January

Chinese New Year Themed Evening
"Vertigo" - Climbing Wall

4/5 February

Valentine's Disco
Chocolate Making Session

25/26 February

Quiz Night
The Ultimate Spy Experience

4/5 March

Boarders' Classical Concert
Spa Afternoon

18/19 March

Archery Taster Session
Rope Runners - High Ropes

25/26 March

Boarders' Annual Easter Dinner
Easter egg hunt

Boarding Life - Canterbury

On the first half term of the year, Liam, Max, Alvaro and I went to the cinema to watch Doctor Strange which was great fun. The reason we got to go to the cinema was because we worked really hard in: helping around the boarding house. This includes keeping our rooms/lockers tidy, having outstanding prep and being polite to not just members of staff in the boarding house but also to our friends, other adults and the staff who cook our delicious meals every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner and therefore got boarders of the half-term. Being boarder of the half-term is a massive achievement because lots of people look up to you and it makes them want to be like you. When I heard that the boarding house was choosing four people to be boarders of the half-term, I tried my very hardest to get it because I knew that my hard work would be reflected on me. Many people seem to know you and therefore ask for help.

Kai Roberts, Canterbury House

Winchester's New Recruits

We are pleased to announce the welcome addition of our house chickens! Animated debates and votes have taken place to decide their names, the final outcome being; Diamond, Chickpea, Tikka, Omelette, Speedy, Doris and Batty. Hopefully Tikka and Omelette won't get a complex about their destiny! We've loved having them with us, they have had a large number of visitors since their arrival during half term, and the day boarders in particular have embraced morning chicken duty! They are excellent layers and Amber Mays has been taking full advantage of this, the smell of brownies is often wafting through the house!

Mrs Corrigan, Head of Winchester House



Football Tournament

The football tournament was great. I remember the special night when the whole house united to have an exciting kick around. The tournament was introduced by Arber Lisha and Toby Small they sorted out Teams. The aim of the game was to have fun there were no scores recorded. Unfortunately some people had to miss it but all of the boys who came enjoyed it.

The highlights of the tournament were when: Joseph kicked the ball from the halfway line to Jibrán and scored; when Rio single handedly did a skill run past a whole team and scored a goal; when Toby, Iyanu and Max all dribbled the ball to attempt a goal and when Gaberiel saved a shot from Tito. The reason this was so fun is because no one argued and everyone played fair with one another. I have never seen the house so connected and happy. I am so glad to be a part of it.

Ayo Shobowale, Canterbury House Captain

Winchester Fundraising

The year 10's have coordinated Winchester fundraising efforts this year. In October they held an ever popular bake sale, raising over £300 for the Girl Effect and Grove Cottage. Tracy Fu and Amber Mays, along with some assistance raised over £100 at the Hockerill Christmas Market selling brownies, cakes, sweet bags and candy canes. Next year the girls intend to host a film night for the whole boarding community and sell Winchester hoodies, the charities these will benefit are yet to be decided.

Mrs Corrigan, Head of Winchester House

Contact the Elderly Charity

On Sunday 11th December Hanna Pregun Y13, Sophie Ahlemeyer, Johanna Benecke and Theo Chan in Y12, 4 Roding girls, attended a 'Contact the Elderly' Christmas Party in Stansted with a view to Roding hosting Sunday afternoon tea parties for the elderly in 2017. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came back with some great ideas on how to entertain the lovely 8 Ladies and 1 very sprightly Gentleman; and are very much looking forward to welcoming them to Roding.

Mrs Kheng, Head of Senior Girls Boarding, Roding House

Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club Fireworks

On Saturday 5th November, we went to see the Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club fireworks. When we arrived we went in and there were a few rides, a bbq and a candy stall. We went straight to the bbq stall and grabbed some burgers. They were very nice! There was music playing in the background and there was a lovely atmosphere. Then the lights went off and the fireworks started. They were very exciting and we could see them clearly and they were very close! We had a fun time although it was too cold! I was wearing four layers and a coat and still, I was cold. My hands were freezing and I felt like my fingers were going to fall off! That's why we bought a hot chocolate and it did the trick. After the fireworks we stayed for a few minutes listening to the music and then we left and returned back to house, where we immediately made some tea and watched a movie. It was a good evening.

Renata González Chong, Deputy House Captain, Rochester House

Durham Christmas Meal



My First Term as a Boarding Student

My first term was amazing and fun. There are lots of people supporting me and helping/guiding me. On the first day, I was so excited. I wasn't even nervous! That's how I have felt for this whole term excited and always sure of myself. Of course, I had my insecurities, but loads of people had my back. Somebody I would really like to thank is, Miss Benton. She always checks up on me and is really nice to me. I want to thank everybody for ensuring I had an amazing term. Thanks!!

Lydia Byrne, Winchester House

Mental Health Talk by Dick Moore

On Thursday the 10th of November Dick Moore came into school to talk to the year about mental health issues, specifically those in adolescents. He started off his presentation by playing music as a slide show of photos were projected at the front of the hall. Later on he then went to explain why he became a mental health instructor; his story really moved everyone and had some close to tears. I feel this talk was very helpful as it reassured many members of our year that, it's normal to be stressed, normal for boys to cry. Hopefully everyone has taken away some vital information that they can apply to their everyday lives in order to avoid any of the mental health issues mentioned.

Abigail Dixon, Rochester House