



The second half of the autumn term is traditionally the time of year when I interview each member of Year 11 to hear their ideas about what they would like to be doing when they are 25. It is always fascinating to hear the range of interests and aspirations and a real pleasure to spend some time with each pupil. I look forward to sharing insights from this autumn's interviews with Year 11 parents at the Sixth Form and Beyond Evening on 16 November.

University offers are now beginning to be received by pupils in Year 13. Experience has shown that it is important for pupils to hold a realistic insurance offer, wherever possible, to keep their options open in the summer, especially given the increased competition again this year for university places. This advice applies to the IB Diploma as well as those studying A Level. It is also worth highlighting that pupils will wish to consider carefully whether or not to defer entry until 2012 in the light of recent announcements about the changing cost of university tuition fees. It is not yet clear whether deferred entry candidates will be exempt from the new fee levels expected in 2012. Anyone seeking further advice here is welcome to contact Dr Galliver, who oversees the UCAS process.

Looking ahead to the rest of the term, there are several events which parents might be interested to attend, including the annual 'We Will Remember Them' Lecture at 7.30 pm on Monday 8 November, in the David Russell Theatre. Dr Andrew Robertshaw, TV historian and curator of the Royal Logistics Corps Museum, will present *The First World War in Colour*.

This year's Remembrance Day Concert, at 8.00 pm on Sunday 14 November features the London Mozart Players and The Portsmouth Grammar School Chamber Choir, conducted by Mr Cleary. The programme includes Howard Goodall's beautiful requiem *Eternal Light* and the premiere of composer Tansy Davies' exciting new work *As with voices and with tears*, specially commissioned for this concert. A pre-concert interview between Tansy Davies and Stephen Pritchard from *The Observer* will also take place in school at 6.30 pm.

The School Carol Service, will take place at 2.15 pm on Friday 10 December at St Thomas's Cathedral. All parents are welcome.

We have enjoyed some excellent preview performances from *Sweet Charity* this week, which is being staged at the Kings Theatre from Thursday 25-Saturday 27 November. The cast will also be performing at the Kings with Jack Edwards, who plays Herman in the West End version, in support of Children in Need on 19 November. It promises to be a highly entertaining production with well-known numbers *Rhythm of Life*, *If They Could See Me Now* and *Big Spender* already drawing in large audiences. I hope to see you there!

Yours sincerely

