



Early congratulations are also due to Year 13 IB student George Graham, who has won a competition organised by the Psychology Press at the British Psychological Society Conference in London, and to the Senior Mathematics Team who won their regional heat held at INTECH, coming first out of 25 teams and narrowly pipping Peter Symonds to the post. They progress to the national final in London later this term.

I would be reluctant to put any kind of dampener on such a bright start to 2011, but we have also been reflecting in our beginning of term services on the importance of being able to embrace those moments when things do not go quite as well as hoped, and the lessons we can learn from the mistakes we all make from time to time. It has been a theme inspired by an essay by former pupil Rear Admiral Ron Holley and his imaginative gift to the school of the beautiful maplewood bassoon he learned to play relatively late in life. If you would like to hear more you can listen to a podcast of my New Year address on the school website.

We are, as ever, grateful to parents for support in minimising requests for absence in term time by ensuring that family holidays and attendance at events such as the Isle of Wight Festival take place outside of normal school time.

Our term dates are published well in advance for this reason. The school will, however, be observing the Royal Wedding due to take place on Friday 29 April as an extension to the May Bank Holiday weekend. Normal teaching will otherwise take place from 26-28 April at the beginning of the Easter term.

There is much to look forward to in the term ahead. All events are highlighted in our weekly electronic newsletter, PGS Preview, circulated to parents by email, as well as on the school website and in the Yellow Book. I do hope that you will be able to join us for some of the talks, concerts and other events taking place this term, and in the meantime wish you all a very happy new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. King'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.