



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message

The month of June brings with it many things. Not only is it the month when public exams start to draw to a close and mark the beginning of the last half-term of the academic year, but this year also sees the British and Irish Lions rugby union team take on one of the ultimate sporting challenges in the New Zealand All Blacks. The All Blacks are a sporting phenomenon. In terms of elite sport, they are arguably the most successful team of all time. In their nearly 150 year history, they have won over 80% of their games. Yet, compared to the likes of England, they have very few players and even less money. How have they managed to achieve so much? Upon watching a documentary about New Zealand rugby this week, the answer became clear: team spirit. The players all talked about the sense of community they had built, the relationships they had formed, and the lengths they were willing to go to for each other. They understood and valued their identity as rugby players, but it was grounded in the pride of being a New Zealander and representing their great rugby history. It struck me that this is key to success. Structures and processes are hugely important, but it is ultimately what you are willing to do for others as a result of that shared sense of being that pushes you to the highest level in team sport. It is true of communities anywhere, including schools. It is working together, where we are absolutely committed to each other's success, that will drive this school forward.

Trip to Normandy

Bright and early on the morning of Friday 2nd June, a group of thirty seven students and four staff set off for Normandy in France. Arriving by the evening, the group had time to relax in the beautiful grounds of Chateau du Molay and swim in the outdoor pool. There was a strong focus on history during the trip as the group visited the famous Bayeux tapestry as well as paying their respects at the WWII American cemetery which overlooks the D-Day landing beach. The students also had the chance to experience the sights and smells of a local market and learnt about making goat's cheese at a local farm. They even got to try their own hand at cooking some typical French dishes during an afternoon cooking workshop. The fourth and final day was spent with Mickey Mouse at Disneyland Paris, a great experience enjoyed by all. Overall, the trip was a huge success and we hope to run many more like it in the future.



THA General Election

To mark this year's General Election, students at The Hurlingham Academy have also been engaging in politics by holding our own General Election. Groups of students have spent the last few weeks campaigning, representing one of Labour, Conservative, Green and Liberal Democrat parties.



Passionate debates have raged across the school on which party has the best policies to take the country forward. This week, party representatives Luisa and Akail (Green), Tylisha (Labour), Katie (Liberal Democrats) and Kayza (Conservative) have been speaking in year group assemblies to convince the school to vote for their party. The level of engagement from students across the school has been absolutely fantastic, and in the end Labour took home a landslide victory! Many thanks to Nour, Angel, and Elissavet for their roles as election officials, and to Dr Sanderson for all her work in organising the event.



House Basketball Competition



Key dates for week beginning June 12th

| Description | Date | Time |
|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| Year 10 Latymer Trip | 14.06.17 | 10.00-16.00 |



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