



## Mr Wilson's Weekly Message

This week we have been honoured to have been joined by a group of 70 students from Suzhou Lida Middle School in China. Out of all of the schools in Hammersmith and Fulham, we are delighted that they chose to come to The Hurlingham Academy. It has been, I hope, a mutually enriching experience; certainly from our point of view, we have loved learning from the Chinese students' diligent attitude to learning, and particularly their prowess in maths and science. As staff, we have enjoyed exchanging views with their teachers about the differences between education in the United Kingdom and China.

Why are cultural exchanges such as these so engaging? The reason is that we, as humans, have an innate curiosity to learn about the world around us. Experiences such as this, expose sets of values and practices that were previously unknown, and our brains are wired to find this fascinating. However, psychological research also shows that we need a safe environment in order to feel comfortable exercising this curiosity, where there is structure in place to challenge ourselves without feeling overwhelmed. That is what we will strive to do next week with our Cultural Capital trips. The whole of Key Stage 3 will be out at London's major landmarks, in small groups with members of staff. A great opportunity to exercise our natural curiosity.

**Please note that on Thursday 13th July school will finish at 13.45pm.**

## Year 9 Graduation

On Wednesday 5th July, Year 9 participated in a graduation ceremony to mark their official completion of Key Stage 3. The event involved speeches from the Principal, Ms Venegas, Mr Cheetham and the form tutors, who reflected on the achievements of the year group. Big congratulations to Year 9, a large number of whom graduated with the top grade of Distinction. For those who did not graduate due to attendance or attainment issues, you will need to work hard and ensure you are in school to make sure that you move on to Key Stage 4 with the rest of your peers.



## Visit from Suzhou Lida Middle School

This week, we were delighted to be joined in school by staff and students from Suzhou Lida Middle School in China. 70 students were visiting us for a week, and they got involved in all aspects of school life; students participated in line-up, attended lessons and engaged in sport after school. We feel honoured to have been chosen by Suzhou Lida for this experience, which we hope has been mutually enriching. Certainly, it has been invaluable for our students to engage and exchange with students from a very different educational context. We are also very proud of our students for the efforts they made to accommodate our visitors and make them feel as welcome as possible. We hope that our visitors had a fantastic time, and for now we say to them 'Zaijian'!



## House Rowing

Tuesday lunchtime saw possibly the most exciting House Rowing event of the year to date, with incredible levels of enthusiasm, support and competition in the gym—as well as impressive displays of strength and stamina! Needless to say, it was our most prolific combined score total since we started earlier this year. A combined total of 28,589m was rowed today at lunch time, meaning we smashed our previous record by over 4,000m! Unitas once again led the way...



## Key dates for week beginning July 10th

Description	Date	Time
Cultural Capital Trips	10.07-11.07.17	8.30-14.30
House Dropdown Day 1	12.07.17	8.30-15.25
House Dropdown Day 2 ( <b>school finishes early for students</b> )	13.07.17	8.30- <b>13.45</b>
Sports Day	14.07.17	8.30-15.25



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