



Dear All

As frosty January draws to a close, the school is buzzing with the potential of the new year.

We returned at the start of term to watch, through the windows of Mrs Harris' History room, a collapsed Cedar Building slowly being dismantled and removed. After a surprise on day one of the mock exams when the contractors suddenly started to break up the concrete raft, we relocated the exams and Upper Five and Upper Six completed these important preparations successfully.

We were very pleased to welcome 16 girls from other schools on Entrance Test day to join our own Lower Three girls. I have had a lovely time this week interviewing these girls in preparation to sending out offers for next September and I expect to welcome a very strong year group after the summer. It was good to welcome a number of girls for 13+ and 16+ entry too. One thing that was great to hear was the number of girls, and parents, who told me that they had heard about Westfield through their friends. We have recently reviewed our referral discount for parents who help us to recruit new pupils so please do have a look at that and spread the word; a recommendation from a friend or colleague is worth so much more than a glossy advert.

The colder weather brought a little flurry of snow to Westfield which was accompanied by great excitement, especially in Junior House. Although there wasn't quite enough to build a decent snow sculpture we nevertheless had a lot of snow angels and sliding fun in the playground and grounds. This month I also enjoyed attending the Junior House debating club's first debate. After seeing their excitement when learning about Parliamentary debates last year, Mrs Dean started debating with a group of Upper One girls who brought their carefully crafted arguments to Coach House Hall in front of the whole of Key Stage Two. The motion, 'This house believes that cats make better pets than dogs', was narrowly defeated after a great debate.

In Senior House the 'little sisters' of Upper Three decided to say thank you to their 'big sisters' by organising a pizza and movie night after school. There was great excitement and fun was had by all. Later that same week our Drama captains organised a fun disco to raise funds for this term's production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet" at a professional theatre. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, do make sure you pop over to Northern Stage's website to reserve your seats <https://www.northernstage.co.uk/event/return-to-the-forbidden-planet>

Finally I just wanted to remind parents in Senior House that girls should be dropped off and collected at the end of the drive at the Oakfield Road or Elmfield Road entrance at the start and end of the school day. You will have had an email explaining that we have had a number of near misses as cars are trying to go against the flow of traffic, particularly when they are travelling too fast on-site. It is only a short walk along the path from the drop off point to the front door.

Kind regards

Mr Neil Walker
Headmaster