

From the Headmaster



More House School  
Farnham, Surrey

**Our Ref: HMOT/Parents1211**

December, 2011

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and productive term.

We have, temporarily, said goodbye to our builders who have been permanently here for eight years. They have finished the work around Main House by paving the former gravel terrace which is a huge improvement. The builders will, I hope, be back again next term. These building works have been caused by two constant factors: the growth of the school and our desire to support learning by offering it in the best possible environment. Although I am not expecting a massive increase in numbers, we do still need to address departmental demands, which are all curriculum related. You know that we are hoping to start work on the School of Engineering this year, but we also need more space for Humanities, a better Sixth Form Centre, more bedrooms for boarders and mundane things which affect each boy such as bag storage facilities. The More House Foundation has sent out appeal letters to over sixty funders, but, in these straitened times, it is not easy as they all have so many calls on their limited funds. Ella Cattell will be again asking if you have any connections to help us "get a foot in a door".

We said a temporary goodbye to Nicola Borman, who has gone on maternity leave, and welcomed Susan Impey into the English department. There will be at least three other replacements of staff who are expecting babies in the next few months, but all of them are ensuring a smooth transfer and boys will hardly notice the change!

Sue Shaw is, as most of you know, retiring at the end of the year. We advertised widely and although there were many worthy applications for the post, none seemed to be quite right. I was pleased, therefore, when Jon Hetherington asked if he might take over as Deputy Head (Boarding) in September. He will move in with his wife and children in August. I have not yet appointed a new Head of Sixth Form, but will do so in the New Year.

At last Eliad Msuya and Zamina Karua from Tanzania have arrived. You will remember that there were visa problems that prevented them from joining us for Founder's Day, so it is good that they are here for the Carol Service, even though they might have found the weather more to their liking in the summer. Thanks to your kindness and your sons' endeavours, £12,400 was raised through the Sponsored Walk for our Tanzanian and other charity projects.

You have also helped, through the work of the Friends of More House at the Christmas Fayre and raffle to contribute £2,500 to the projects agreed with the Friends Committee which are focusing on the installation of outdoor fitness equipment for use during break times, PE lessons and Occupational Therapy. In addition, the funds will also be used as a contribution towards the construction of an outdoor classroom for use by Drama, PE and Branching Out as a link between academic learning and

the surrounding environment. I am most grateful to Geraldine Gwynn and her committee members for all their hard work. The coffee morning they organised was well attended and I hope these will become a regular feature.

We are working to keep costs as low as possible so this letter and the end of term Review is coming to you by hand. A new website is being constructed for us and this will enable much more communication with you to be done electronically which will, itself, be a saving. You might also be able to make payment through it for trips and, possibly, school fees. I will keep you informed about these developments.

Drama and Music have flourished, many of you saw “Peter Pan” and “Christmas by Candlelight” and will be attending the Carol Service and there have been Bandstand lunchtime concerts recently with hand bells and brass.

The large sixth form has settled in. The enrichment programme designed to broaden their experience and knowledge has been very successful and more are thinking widely about career and university choices. Many parents have helped this by giving assembly talks to all the Senior School which have been stimulating and useful. Subjects covered have ranged from law, pharmaceutical industry and engineering to hypnotherapy, research and entrepreneurship. Amongst other things, the sixth form has also embarked on research challenges, learnt about interview techniques during their visit to a telecommunications head office, attended Surrey Safe Drive – Stay Alive event and purchased a new mobile Tuck Shop.

Over fifty students from Y9 to LVI at the moment have shown an interest in going to Tanzania in two years’ time with Mr Johnson under the World Challenge. This is an exciting new venture for the school.

Next term we will be running a minibus to the station at 4-30 and 5-30. The later bus is predominantly for older boys to attend revision classes. They will have priority but otherwise it is on ‘first come first served’ basis. If you want your son to travel on the later bus, please contact Lara Mann, our Administrative Assistant, on [lmann@morehouseschool.co.uk](mailto:lmann@morehouseschool.co.uk)

May I thank the many parents who wrote appreciative letters about the way we coped with “The Incident” in November. It was very kind of you, but it is your sons and the police who deserve the thanks. Both were magnificent.

The School Office will be closed from noon on 22<sup>nd</sup> December until normal hours on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

So the term is over. A new term and a new year are around the corner. Just a short pause for breath and off we will go again! May Gerry and I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Huggett  
Headmaster