

As ever, the year has been full of some individual achievements and community successes. The magnificent list of scholars reflects the achievements of our Year 8 pupils. Over 65% won awards – a good number of them academic. The CE candidates also did well: Common Entrance is still a genuine hurdle to be cleared. And they all cleared it admirably!

While we can study their achievements on paper, I, personally, am more impressed by their growth as people whose presence would enhance any community. We live in an age where some would try to measure success and happiness but we can never put enough value on character and integrity. At the inaugural Leavers' Dinner, I enjoyed the company of mature and responsible young ladies and gentlemen and they were very good company. As we look back at the opportunities that the children have had – appearing in the 'Old Time Music Hall', the Poetry Evening, Years 4 and 5's Greek Myths. Taking part in concerts galore, performing and reading in assembly here in the cathedral, playing in some great sporting moments, working for local charities. The list is endless and impressive. The final two years of prep school are so important and influential in shaping that character and integrity in a genuinely supportive environment.

We continue to offer a wide range of extra curricular activities and clubs ranging from traditional chess to the newly formed rock band. General Knowledge however, continues to be a major strength of the school and William Futcher a year young in the junior section of the SATIPS General Knowledge competition just missed achieving Honours by one point coming 14<sup>th</sup> out approximately 1500 entrants. While in the Senior section Edward Worsdell was a Prize Winner coming 6<sup>th</sup> out of about 900 entrants.

Our results across the board in sport, continue to be impressive. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket team had a 100% success record, and as far as I can see this is the first time that this has been achieved in the last 10 years. In athletics, seven girls represented Prebendal at the County Championships, three of which got to the finals. While in the boys, Harry Dry and George Parker both reached the National Preparatory School finals in Birmingham where they acquitted themselves very well.

The girls teams also did very well this year, in particular the U11 team and U10 teams had a successful term in winning a majority of their rounders matches.

Prebendal continues to be at the forefront of musical excellence. The House Singing competition, the Individual Music Festival the ever increasing number of exam entries, so much so that we had to have two examiners this term. The multitude of informal and formal concerts all bear testimony to the dedication of the children and staff to this important area of school life. I am sometimes asked whether the time spent on music inhibits academic achievement, but I firmly believe that the skills associated with learning an instrument and the teamwork involved in ensembles actually have a positive impact on the whole of a child's education including adding real value to their work in the classroom.

The Cathedral Choir has been in magnificent voice this year and when we hosted the Choir Schools Conference in May many of those who attended commented on and the world class singing that takes place here in the Cathedral on a daily basis.

Boarding remains very much at the heart of all that we do here. The children here are very much in a home from home situation. As many of you know, Wednesday nights, are 'fun flexi boarding' nights, which proved to be incredibly popular, so much so that one pupil suggested we run them for their parents as well! Boarding is such an essential element in developing self-confidence and self-reliance.

A busy, fun packed and productive year for all!