

THE HIVE

Issue 12 • 10th December 2021

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MR SILK

Mr Silk looks back on a very successful term and what plans are in store for the school for 2022 and beyond..

Of course, we seek much more than normality, but what has been so delightful as the term has gone on is the increasing sense of normality that has been brought on by a yearning for the things that a great school should do.

Not only are we starting to reach a reasonable size, with a huge amount of interest to follow, but we are beginning to engage once again with our community and to have collegiate events like the Bonfire Night, Remembrance Service, a wonderful Service of Nine Lessons and Carols to end the term and even a Murder Mystery event in our hallowed halls.

It has certainly been great to see our school family interact more readily with our closest friends in the Parish Council, the OSBs, the School Trust and the village more widely and it is merely the sign of things to come.

For me, in my first term as Head, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our excellent staff team, our eclectic mix of students and all those who support the school. I have equally enjoyed living in such a wonderful village as St Bees. There is certainly something truly special about driving over St Bees Head and seeing below you the green fields of the school and the golf course, and the ancient buildings of the school and St Bees Priory.

After 13 years setting up schools abroad I already feel that I am truly coming home. I am delighted to say we

have also managed to set up a governance committee which we have labelled the Local Advisory Council. The Chair of the Trust, Mark George, has kindly agreed to lead this body. I have quickly developed the firm belief that we have a *duty* to continue Archbishop Grindal's legacy and ensure this august institution is successful not just now but in the long-term future.

In January, the school will welcome back 80 students; with the interest being shown thus far, we are confident we will score a century by next September and continue to bat on for the double and then triple tonne thereafter. The school will always be a good melting pot of local Cumbrians and international students and a balanced mix of day, boarding and weekly-boarding students.

We already have students from Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Kazakhstan, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the Ukraine and in January we add mainland Chinese for the first time. In spite of the barriers put in place by the Covid pandemic we continue to build our links with our 3 schools in China and we look forward to the day when we can start up student and staff exchanges with our Chinese sister schools.

We are doing everything we can to build our Global Campus project, with which students will be able to move seamlessly between China and the UK. We also have a charity school in Cambodia - all very exciting indeed and as the world increasingly opens up once again we will be able to build upon the opportunities our connections present.

In the meantime, we will continue to ensure that our



School re-opens
Wednesday 5th
January 2022



Chinese New Year Celebration
Tuesday 1st
February 2022



Season's Greetings
Have a break over the next three weeks - the HIVE will be back on Friday 7th January



students are intellectually enlightened, achieve the results they need to move onto the next stage, and develop their skills in sport, music, art and drama, alongside developing their character, manners and all-round confidence.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year and inviting you to further events such as our singing competition, the school play and other theatrical events, an Easter Fair and many more.

It leaves me to wish you all a peaceful break and prosperous New Year and also say a particular thank you to my superb Senior Leadership Team of Andrew Keep, Laurence Gribble and Ceara Fisher for the excellent support they provide. God bless you all.

- Mr Robin Silk, Headmaster

"WE HAVE A DUTY TO CONTINUE ARCHBISHOP GRINDAL'S LEGACY"