



9th July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It hardly seems possible that the academic year has almost past in its entirety and that we are now entering our final two weeks. As I suspected when I last wrote, this term has continued to be as busy as ever and hardly a day seems to have gone past without something significant happening.

With Year 6 pupils having just returned from Normandy, a period of five weeks when residential trips have been coming and going comes to an end. In addition to the Year 6 trip, Year 5 have been to Norfolk while Year 7 and 8 undertook adventurous activities in North Wales.

Alongside these have been day visits to Legoland (Y6), Flitwick Leisure Centre (Y5 and Y6), *Wicked* (KS3), the Houses of Parliament (Y8) and Lifepath (Y5). There have also been events within school such as cycling (Y6), an Enterprise Day (Y6), Safari Stu (Y5), first aid training (Y8), Forest School (Y5), internet safety by Bedfordshire Police, and a talk by Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP followed by questions and answers (Y8).

Sporting activities this term have included Kwik Cricket competitions, athletics matches, catch-up swimming and Quadkids while our sports leaders have continued to support events for younger pupils attending other schools.

As always, the musical life of the school has been much in evidence. As a consequence, we were treated to both a lovely evening of music by soloists at the Recital and a magnificent Summer Concert which culminated with the Choir singing a selection from *The Greatest Showman*. Both these occasions showcased the wealth of talent that exists in the school and that has been helped to flourish. I am often fortunate in being able to present certificates to those who have passed their exams on an instrument or with their voice. Success at Grade 5 is far from unusual, but to witness a pupil gain Grade 6 while still at middle school is a really special accomplishment; congratulations are, therefore, due to Amelie Pay who achieved this with her fabulous singing.

None of the above would take place without the great commitment and dedication of the staff at Alban. I continue to commend them for the immense effort they have made in providing so many opportunities for the pupils at the school.

Of course, learning in the classroom has continued to be the central focus of the school. The summer term brought this all into focus with key assessments taking place. Early in May, Year 6 sat the KS2 SATs. A week of test papers covering different aspects of English and mathematics, this is a taxing time for the pupils. However, as always, they rose to the challenge of the task and engaged with the process that does them great credit. Immediately after this, Years 7 and 8 underwent assessments in English and mathematics.



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School Manager: Mrs Margaret Dawson AAT DSBM

Assistant Headteacher: Mr Karl Campion BA(Hons)
Assistant Headteacher: Miss Lyndsey Pinel BEd(Hons)

Registered Office & Address: Alban Church of England Academy, Silver Street, Great Barford Bedfordshire MK44 3HZ
Telephone: 01234 870735 Email: alban@albanacademy.org Website: www.albanacademy.org



For many years now we have entered a good number of our KS3 pupils into the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. This year was no exception and about 90 of our pupils sat the 2018 paper. Congratulations go to the following whose performance gained them certificates:

Bronze	Y7: Molly Bowers; Leah Clark; Alex Darlow; Danny Francis Y8: Jasmine Birch; Daniel Chandler; Joshua Garnett; Henry Irwin
Silver	Y7: Ethan Fannon; Lucie Murray Y8: Charlie Beeton; Chris Brodie; Jake Brooks; Archie Carlow Higgs; Evie Murdoch; Noah Page
Gold	Y8: Megan Dyson; Ned Nicholson

Ned's performance was of particular note gaining him entry into the next stage, the Junior Kangaroo (long story!). After a further hour long, Ned achieved a very good score which placed him comfortably in the top 25% and earned him a Certificate of Merit – well done, Ned!

The Friends of Alban have continued to give superb levels of support to the school in all it does such as providing refreshments at the Concert. In addition, they have continued to organise events like the Crazy Evening of Summer Fun and this week's disco. A great many thanks are due to this deeply committed group who work tirelessly to ensure that our pupils have the best of opportunities right through to the close of the school.

Just over a week ago, former pupils came back to school to attend a reunion disco, look around the buildings or, in many cases, both. Along with the memories that were recounted there were constant comments about how important Alban had been to them even if this wasn't recognised at the time. Both events were great occasions and I will hold fondly my many meetings with names from the past for many years to come.

Once again with thanks to the wonderful Friends of Alban, the final 'farewell' event takes place this coming Friday evening. A wonderful evening of music and fireworks is programmed on the playing field between 7.00 and 10.00pm with gates being opened at 6.00pm to allow for picnic spots to be identified and organised. Tickets are still available at £9 for adults and £1 for children; do come along and join us for what promises to be a very special evening.

Our final week promises to be as hectic with events taking place nearly every day. As I hope you will have learnt from Mrs Higgins letter, Monday 16th will be our Sports Day. This will be taking place at Bedford International Athletics Stadium with all pupils being transported to and from school during the normal times of the day. Please feel free to come and join us at any point during the event.

On Thursday 19th, the whole school will be on our final celebratory day trips with Years 5 and 6 visiting Whipsnade Zoo, and Years 7 and 8 going to Wicksteed Park. Our great thanks again go to the Friends of Alban who are funding these trips.

With all our pupils being 'leavers', at least in some sense, we have felt it important



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for each year group to have its own Leavers' Assembly. On Wednesday 18th these will take place for Year 5 (10.00am), Year 6 (11.00am) and Year 7 (2.00pm); please do come along at the appropriate time if you are able. The Year 8 Leavers' Assembly will be at 10.45am on the last day of term, Friday 20th.

On a personal note, I retire as Alban closes which seems a fitting step after 26 years at the school. It has been a huge privilege to have been part of such a fabulous school and to have an involvement in the development of so many wonderful young people. While not without its challenges, leading Alban through this final year has been a great honour and incredibly special, not least thanks to the support of everyone associated with the school: colleagues, governors, parents, pupils and many others. I thank you all immensely and wish you every happiness and success for the future, wherever this may be.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Chipperton
Headteacher



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