



Dear Parents,

The Elephant's Out Of The Room

So here I am on Sunday June 25th home alone having just taken by wife to Waterloo Station on her way to see our new grandson Theodore (and thank you for all the good wishes received!), having the time to reflect on the announcement made by me to the boys at their assembly after Mass on June 21st (and there was an audible gasp to be heard in the room) and at the same time via Clarion by Anne Marie Fox, our Chair of Governors, to you as parents. For the last few years, the elephant in the room in discussions with parents has been the question of how long was left in my tenure at the school. As you would expect my wife and I have been working towards this very question for a time – and both colleagues and governors have been aware of our intentions for a little while. Staff appointments and the disposition of staff have partly been in preparation for this eventuality over the last three years and the governors are already well ahead in the process of seeking my successor. A recruitment consultant already is appointed (a company with which I worked when as Chair of Governors we were looking to appoint a Head in Ilford) and a great deal of the paper work is prepared and strategies agreed.

Obviously there is ample time for more to be said and doubtless written, but for the moment let me repeat a little of what I said to the boys on 21st June. Both my wife Sarah and I do not want to leave them – or indeed the school – it has been our privilege that generations of parents over the last eighty-seven terms have entrusted us with the opportunity to have a little input into their children's upbringing. It is wonderful to work and to have worked with so many talented colleagues, trustees and governors who have shared the vision and added their own passions into making the school into the place that it is. But time waits for no man. In 1988 at the age of 36 when I started as Head I was around the age of many of the Loyola dads. Now, as Theo has clearly shown, I am the age of a grandfather, and the entire enterprise of moving home, re-establishing ourselves in a new location and commencing a new life should not wait too long. My family have shared me with Loyola as an extended family and it is time to give them my full attention!

Loyola is a community of interrelating people, not just one person, and the adventure of finding a new figurehead and leader will be exciting and I am certain successful. In the meantime Terms 88, 89 and 90 beckon and I assure you of the intention of making the most of them!

Recent Events

Where to start? I think probably Sports Day, as this was an example of the collegiate sharing of a vision mentioned in the last paragraph. For me, the range and diversity of activities and events, which allowed



participation by record numbers of pupils, made it the best sports day I have known. The enjoyment of the children was palpable, the participation of parents in both supporting the boys during events, actually taking part in events and in valuable cases helping to run events added to the sense of community and the commitment of the staff was wholehearted. Congratulations to all concerned and thank you Ollie and especially Neil Bleasdale for state of the art organisation.

Second to be highlighted must be the P.T.A. Summer Barbecue, another example of the extended Loyola community involving families from throughout the school and a number of past families coming back. Many individuals contributed and it is invidious to highlight some and not others. However Lucas Foreman's, Luca Bettis's and Teddy Manders's Mums were both movers and shakers of the event over several weeks and I take this opportunity to thank them. As the website shows, a net profit of £2350 was made.

The most moving event was a Special Assembly organised by Mrs Foster with the School Council who in the wake of the recent traumatic events in Manchester, London Bridge and The Grenfell Tower pointed out the roles of the heroes – fire fighters, police officers and ordinary members of the public in coming to the aid of the victims as a sign of how the human spirit always prevails and good overwhelms evil; and how the existence of so many heroes should reassure us. Mrs Foster also highlighted the religious diversity within our own school and how we esteem each other's differences whilst retaining our common identity as members of this school. It was very powerful and the boys filed out in silence after listening to that anthem of hope: *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

Many parents attended the Secondary School Fair organised and co-ordinated by Mrs Brown. It was a great success clearly valued by both the families and schools present probably attracting more parents than ever before. Former parents Mr and Mrs Leith also proved invaluable to Mrs Brown on the evening, for which much thanks.

On the night of the Fair I was delighted for the second year running to share with Mr Paulo Duran, Head of St Edmund's College, distribution of awards to members of the Shelia Ferrari Dyslexia Unit and was especially pleased that amongst the recipients was a member of our own school.

Mrs Brown's versatility was shown in that the two days preceding the Fair were taken up by four performances of the Rudiments play *The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan*, which she presented with Mrs Butler. All the characteristics of these productions were in abundance: boys in dresses, voices in falsetto, rapid costume change, excellent character acting, much vocalising, effective dance, a seeming cast of millions, obvious enjoyment from all the cast and a particularly heart stopping sung solo to ratchet up the emotion. This really was a collective achievement and if I mentioned one member of the cast, I would have to mention all! So congratulations everybody!

Mrs Anthony led a successful class Pre-Prep outing to Ray Park; I took a hardy group of Rudiments boys on one of the hottest days of the year to Hampton Court; Patrick Marshall, Massimo Giordano and Eric Otohwo accompanied Mrs Tidmarsh and me to represent the school at the Diocesan Centenary Mass for Schools at Brentwood Cathedral; William and Jamael Laniyan and Thierno Diallo represented the school playing their string instruments in the Come and Play Afternoon at Bancroft's; Pre-Preps 1 and 2



beautifully celebrated the Feasts of Saints Anthony and Ignatius with Fathers Michael O’Kane and Michael Bossy respectively; Reception 2 received their house badges with pride and Rudiments received talks on cyber security and general safety whilst Prep were addressed on the subject of fire safety.

Each year the school partakes in the UK Junior Maths Challenge that is aimed for pupils up to the age of 14. Awards are given in Gold, Silver and Bronze categories to the top mathematicians in the country. We are delighted that awards were given to boys in Figures and Rudiments and especially proud that Joe Garfield and Shanuggan Sivalkunalan (both internal Hume Scholars, by the way) who received Golds.

I am writing prior to the last week of the month with half of Elements awaiting their trip to the British Museum; Reception 2 poised to lead their first Mass of the year; Perform Theatre standing by to lead a theatre workshop on Alice in Wonderland; Rudiments enjoying their excursion to Normandy; Elements journeying to the Epping Forest Field Centre and the commencement of the post-report parent teacher meetings. **Please note confirmation that I shall be away from school from Tuesday afternoon (27th) until Friday morning (30th) inspecting another school. I shall be available in my office for parents from 5.00 p.m. on Monday 26th June. I shall not be available on 27th, but am happy to arrange appointments at other times via the school office.**

Forthcoming Events for July

Monday 3 rd July	Luca Satilmis on work experience Interviews to appoint Public Officers for 2016/17 during the day Under 11 5 a side tournament – all day Governors’ Meeting – 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 4 th July	Interviews to appoint Public Officers for 2015/16 during the day Showcase Instrumental Concert 3.30 p.m. Parents of pupils involved will be Clarion Called. No schola after school
Wednesday 5 ^h July	First Communion Commemoration Mass led by Prep with Fr Wallace 10.45 a.m. Rehearsal for concert from 2.00 p.m. No choir after school End of year Instrumental and Choral Concert including whole Choir, string ensemble and soloists 7.00 p.m
Thursday 6 th July	Rudiments visiting Apple Store in Stratford



	Showcase choral concert [and some instruments] 3.30 p.m. (details to be Clarioned)
Friday 7 th July	St Ignatius Day Celebration- whole school Art/Craft Day Rudiments Leavers' Dinner with staff and their families from 6.30 p.m.
Monday 10 th July	Sports Awards Assembly 8.45 a.m. Key Stage 2 Poetry Recital (Prep – Rudiments) from 10.00 a.m.: parents welcome EYFS and Key Stage 1 Poetry Recital (Kindergarten-Pre-Preps) from 2.00 p.m.: parents welcome
Tuesday 11 th July	Figures trip to National Gallery (this replaces scheduled trip to St Paul's on 7 th following advice that in present security climate iconic religious centres in London should be avoided by school trips) Academy 7.00 p.m. This is our formal end of year award evening. Boys in all classes from Pre-Prep II receive book token awards in the respective subjects in which they came first in the end of year exams. The exam results of the entire class are measured to discern who the top three academic achievers in the class are. Boys who have made the most measured progress over the year are awarded progress prizes and there are a small number of other awards for service to the school. I deliver my annual report which will also reflect on aspects of my headship as a whole, as does the Head Boy. This year our guest of honour is Gianni Fennings, former Loyola pupil now at New Hall with an offer to read History at Cambridge University. Also at Academy, the Rudiments Leavers are presented, their new schools are announced and they receive their Leavers' Certificate and Leavers' Tie. The identity of the new Head Boy and Deputy also will be announced.
Wednesday 12 th July	Rudiments Leavers' Mass with Fr Waller from 10.30 a.m. Rudiments leave at 12.00 p.m
Thursday 13 th July	Familiarisation Morning – all boys spend the morning in their new classes with their new teachers. Secondary transfer meeting for Figures parents 7.00 p.m.
Friday 14 th July	Elements Tennis Gala (9.00a.m.-12.00p.m.) Figures to Laser Mayhem Farewell Assembly: 2.15 p.m.



Term ends 3.15 p.m.

Birthdays

Happy July birthdays to:

Finley Harvey, Oliver Whitby, Hayden Smith, Maximilian Huang, , Josh Mackaill, Zakir Ali, Patrick Marshall, Murad Yagci, Ethan Ash, Jonathan Nana, James Buckley, Finlay Martin, Louie Marshall, , Luca Nardi, Kian Sikander, Hassan Ahmed, Fintan Wood, Ehan Sikander, Albie Tillbrook, Aarav Pansutra and Dylan Cheema.

... and happy August birthdays to:

Harry Appleton, Paul Murphy, Maximilian Pitton, Aaron Huang, Harry Webster, , Christian Cartlidge-Rainford, Raymond Ezihe, Luca Funedda, Sonny Perring, Jesse Fryatt, Moyo Salami, James Sullivan, Aryan Patel, Samir and Zayed Yaqub, and Rishen Patel.

Finally

One again the end of another school year, I would like to express my thanks to the pupils for their commitment, to the parents for their support, to the staff and governors for their professionalism and dedication and to my family for their love. To our school leavers, I wish success and a bright future. To all, I wish a restful and fruitful summer break.

With all good wishes,

P.G.M. Nicholson