



FOREMARKE HALL

REPTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Year 7 and 8 Information Evening 2018 – A summary

Introduction (Lucy Kelly – Assistant Head, Pastoral)

First of all, I must apologise on behalf of Mr Relton for his absence this evening. He is disappointed that he is not able to be here to meet with you all, but is currently visiting Mount Kelly, meeting with Mark Semmence who will be taking over from Alastair Land to become the next Headmaster of Repton School later on this year. Together they will be discussing and planning for the future success of both Foremarke and Repton.

I am, however delighted to be able to welcome two senior members of Repton staff here this evening. Mr Tim Collins (Director of Admissions) and Mr Tim Owen (Deputy Head, Academic) will be available to speak with you later on.

Tonight provides an ideal opportunity for all those in Years 7 and 8 to have a detailed insight into the life of your sons and daughters at this stage in their Foremarke education and career. We welcome a number of new families to Foremarke at this time and hope that you will all enjoy your time with us over the next year or two.

We hope to enlighten everyone into expectations and desired outcomes and aspirations, as well as to reveal the perceived mysteries of Common Entrance and Scholarships. We will mention some future possibilities, before introducing the Heads of Department of Sport and Creative Arts subjects, and the opportunity to join us for a drink and to chat with my colleagues on specific Year 7 and 8 questions.

Two additional factors which we would like to draw your attention to are BOARDING and the important decision about CHOICE OF SENIOR SCHOOLS.

Setting the Scene

- This is Week 4
- For Year 8 pupils it is 28 weeks to go before CE & less before Scholarships

What do we aim to achieve in Years 7 & 8?

- Happiness
- The best possible preparation for senior schools
- Productive
- Fulfilling
- Successful

Year Group Heads:

Head of Year 8 – Simon Owen

Head of Year 7 – Rachel Newham

What can you expect of us?

- Emphasising the importance of choices, teaching that all actions have consequences
- Preparing revision guidance for examinations
- Planning an even better Y8 post-examination programme

What do we expect from the children?

- Learn to listen, listen to learn
- Be helpful and caring
- Be honest with themselves and others
- Be prepared to make mistakes
- Focus on The Foremarke Code (CARE)

What can you, as parents do?

- Listen to your child
- Talk to us
- Praise and encourage your child
- Monitor prep & use the prep diary
- Encourage commitment
- Understand that we see mistakes as a learning opportunity

By the time our pupils reach the end of Year 8 we hope that they will be well on the way to developing a set of learning, social and personal skills that can be identified on our 'Developing Skills' sheets (available via the school website).

Together we hope to foster the qualities that we as a school see as vital to the success of our children :

- Motivation
- Persistence
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Risk Taking
- Flexibility

Common Entrance (Paula Bushby - Assistant Head, Academic)

We are working with your children, not only to teach them the content that they need to have covered for exams, but more importantly to develop the skills and attributes that they need to become successful learners for the rest of their education - and beyond.

You will already be familiar with our 'Learning Powers', which are used throughout the school. They appear as a page in the pupils' prep diaries and are a regular topic for discussion in Form time, PSHCE lessons and Assemblies. You may also be familiar with the development of learning skills which appear on our 'Developing Skills' sheets. These documents are available on the 'Parents' area of the school website.

Background

The Common Entrance examinations are used in many independent schools for assessing pupils when they transfer to their senior schools. They were established in 1904 and remain a challenging set of examinations that go a very long way towards preparing pupils for GCSE courses and beyond.

The syllabuses are devised, and regularly monitored, by the Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) and constitute a 2 year course. The papers are set by examiners appointed by the ISEB, but **they are marked by the senior school** with which your child is registered. The subjects included are Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, Geography, History, RS and Latin.

Our close relationship with the Classics department at Repton has meant that we have been able to develop a specialist 'Classical Studies' course which focuses on the non-linguistic aspects of the CE Latin syllabus, and leads very well into the 'Classical Civilizations' course at Repton. This course is now very well established and is proving to be a popular and successful course from our perspective, allowing the vast majority of our senior pupils to study classics, and also from that of Repton. Interestingly, it is also becoming increasingly recognised and welcomed by other schools too.

A number of these subjects have different levels of paper for which your child can be entered. These will be decided, in consultation with you, by your child's subject teachers who will provide you with further details about these in the coming months.

The ISEB website has general information for parents about the Common Entrance course and it is also possible to access resources via this website. More specific information about individual subjects may be found in our Curriculum Document which is available via the parents' information area on our school website.

Examination Dates

Can be found on the ISEB website: www.iseb.co.uk. For this year's Year 8 they are:

Speaking & Listening Exams:	Monday 13 th – Saturday 18 th May 2019
Written Exams:	Tuesday 4 th – Friday 7 th June 2019

Issuing of results

Senior Schools deliver results to us and to parents, but the pupils will receive their results from the Headmaster. If there are any issues regarding pupils not being accepted to their first choice school, we aim to resolve these before the pupils receive their results. However, this is extremely rare and much more usual is for 100% of our Year 8 pupils to gain a place into their first choice school.

Special Educational Needs

Some pupils have entitlement to different access arrangements in examinations such as extra time, a scribe or a reader. If this is the case, these entitlements will apply to CE exams.

Scholarship and Scholars

Potential Scholars and Scholars

Some pupils will sit for academic scholarships to their senior school and we spend a great deal of time discussing which of our pupils will be best served by following a scholarship course. We have a class of 'Potential Scholars' in Year 7, who, depending on how they cope with the demands of this course, may, or may not progress into the Scholarship class in Year 8. The course is based on the CE syllabus, but the assessment process is very different and requires a different skills set. The qualities that we look for in a potential scholar include high levels of:

- Academic ability and potential
- Effort
- Motivation
- Emotional maturity
- Flair
- Independent thinking
- Curiosity
- Confidence
- Resilience
- Global awareness

Many senior schools, including Repton, use their own papers for Academic Scholarship assessment. For the current 8S, many of you will be sitting the newly developed Repton Scholarship which will be held on 7th – 10th May 2019. The exams are sat at, and marked by, the senior school.

Each senior school has their own requirements, process of assessment and timings. These will be advised by the senior schools themselves and subject teachers will ensure that pupils are properly prepared for them.

Many of our pupils sit for Sport and Creative Arts scholarships to their senior schools, and information regarding these is included later in this document. These scholarship assessments are usually held during the Michaelmas term and in the early part of the Lent term, although again there is some variation between schools. Repton have introduced new dates which have come into effect for this academic year. There will be an expectation that a pupil with an award will contribute fully to the life of the School in that area

Senior Schools

We have a tremendous school immediately available, in Repton, but it may not be right for every child and indeed the team there is keen that the choice of Repton should be based upon its qualities not necessarily on its convenience. We strongly request that you keep us informed about future senior schools for your child. We do not assume that all of our pupils will progress to Repton, and it is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child is registered with a senior school. This is especially important if a pupil is to be entered for a scholarship, as we would want to make sure that it is appropriate for them and that they are properly prepared. Should you need any advice regarding senior school choices, please do make an appointment to have a chat with the Headmaster.

Similarly, we are very happy to offer, particularly to those undergoing scholarship assessment, interview practice prior to the real event. It can help enormously.

For Common Entrance candidates, the deadline for entry with ISEB is always 1st March. When entering pupils for Common Entrance, a first choice of senior school is required to be given, so we ask please that you aim to have your child registered with their senior school by this date at the very latest. Any changes made to entries after this date may incur a fee.

Boarding (Lucy Kelly – Assistant Head, Pastoral)

We would also like to express the immense value prior to leaving and as part of our preparation of your sons and daughters for senior school life, of boarding. Here, within a known, secure and happy environment, we would suggest that all Year 7 and 8 pupils have at least one term's boarding. It teaches such important life lessons of becoming more independent and self-reliant; it teaches them to manage their own space, time and equipment and to live side-by-side with others - all significant life-skills, which once engaged and appreciated will help to develop the strongest of characters and personality, ready for senior school life and beyond, whether one intends to be a day pupil or boarder at your next school. Mr Casey or myself are very happy to talk to you regarding this splendid opportunity. Please do consider the benefits prior to moving to the senior school world.

Sport and Creative Arts Scholarships to Repton School (Paula Bushby – Assistant Head, Academic)

Sport and Creative Arts awards are made by Repton in the following disciplines: Art, Design & Technology, Drama, Music and Sport. All candidates for these awards will be nominated by the Heads of Department here at Foremarke.

The examinations/assessments currently take place over a number of days during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, with each Repton Department assessing their own candidates and making their recommendations to a senior panel who will make the final decisions. In addition, all candidates have an interview with a member of the Repton Senior Management Team.

Sport – Sam Mansfield (Director of Sport)

The Foremarke PE/Games staff hold discussions throughout the Summer Term of Year 7 to identify potential scholars. They will follow the criteria outlined by Repton and will consider pupils who they believe will go on to Repton to make a contribution at the forefront of senior first teams, immediately or in the future. Invitations to apply for the Repton Sports scholarships are sent to parents by letter at the end of the Summer Term.

Boys and girls will be considered for Sport scholarships if they are playing in first teams and taking a lead a year early at Foremarke, playing at the forefront of age group squads and who are considered to show the potential to represent regional squads and above in the future. In addition to sporting ability, pupils must show application and an exemplary

attitude towards their games. Awards are available in the focus sports which are football, hockey, netball, swimming, tennis and cricket. To support their application children will be expected to produce a CV/portfolio.

The scholarship assessment will take place in October at Repton where the boys and girls will spend a day being assessed in two/three major Repton sports, plus a fitness and agility session. In addition, they will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Management Team. Assessments are alongside children from other schools on the day.

Music – Susan Bloor (Director of Music)

Pupils of a suitable standard are selected by the Director of Music and have an initial assessment with a member of the Repton Music Department during the Repton Music School Open Day - this takes place in the Michaelmas term of Year 8. The initial assessment requirements: 1 piece per instrument plus scales, aural tests and sight reading in line with the current grade. Mr Walker (Director of Music, Repton School) will also take an interest in the current level of theory and a child's ability to sing.

During the Scholarship assessments later on in the term, scholarship candidates are expected to perform 2 contrasting pieces – 1st study (approximate standard grade 4-5 although potential is a key factor), 1 piece – 2nd study, 1 piece 3rd and any more instruments played/voice. Scales, sight reading / sight singing and aural tests relevant to the current grade are also included on each instrument.

The Director of Music writes a supporting report based on the commitment to musical life at Foremarke. Music Scholars are expected to be enthusiastically involved in ensemble playing and choral music at school (they are encouraged to sing in the Chapel Choir at Repton) and there is an expectation that they will take GCSE Music. Potential, endeavour, embracing music and indeed setting an example of a high standard of performance and loyalty to his/her ensemble is what we are looking for in a music scholar, attaining grade exams alone is insufficient.

Occasionally scholarships are awarded for one instrument or, in the case of Choral Scholarships, Voice. Organ Scholarships are also available.

The 2018 initial assessments for Year 8 are on THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER during the Repton Music School Open Day.

Drama – John Whitmore (Head of Drama)

Pupils who are interested in Drama scholarships are invited to apply in the first half of the summer term and those that are successful meet once a week in the second half of the summer term and the first half of the Michaelmas term in order to prepare them for November scholarship assessments. On the day of the Scholarship, they take part in improvisation workshops, perform their prepared speech, which is supplied by Repton, and have an interview with staff to talk about their drama career to date. The key quality that a potential drama scholar must have is an ability to think quickly on his/her feet. The other

thing that they must have is an abundance of talent, a passion for drama and the theatre, and a determination to make a significant contribution to drama and theatre at their senior school.

Art – Rachel Casey (Head of Art)

Art and Design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables pupils to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives.

To become an Art scholar, a pupil would fundamentally show a passion for the Arts, an ability to be self-motivated, independent, a genuine interest in Art galleries and an understanding of the concepts behind the artist's work. They must also be prepared to work at home on their portfolio, and allowing themselves to take risks with ideas and techniques is crucial to their success.

After selection in the summer term of Year 7, potential Art Scholars are provided a separate curriculum which will introduce them to new and challenging techniques and media. This will provide the basis of their personal portfolio. They will work on a large sketchbook and extend pieces through all the different media of drawing, painting, printing, ceramics and textiles. This will also give them time to plan and prepare for the interview part of their assessment. Their work is then assessed by the Head of Art at Repton in January. They will also have a short practical exam and an interview with both the Head of Department and a member of the Senior Management Team.

Art scholarships are 'open' scholarships and children from all over the country can enter, and do. The standard of work required is extremely high. As with most subjects, children develop their interest and skills at different ages and it is unlikely that most of today's successful, practicing artists and designers were producing the high standard of work at the age of 12 or 13 that today's scholars do.

Design & Technology – John Davis (Head of Design & Technology)

Candidates will be selected by the Summer half term in Year 7 so that there is time for them to go home and discuss with parents the implications of taking on this commitment, especially if they have other potential commitments in their Year 8 such as Music and Sport that may overload their commitments in any school week.

As a rule, up to six candidates may be selected for Repton and a limited number of other deserving candidates going to other schools that also offer a D&T Scholarship. It is in everyone's interest to keep the selected group relatively small and manageable to ensure a high quality outcome.

Criteria looked for in a candidate include: a genuine interest in the subject, above-average creative abilities along with a competence in the workshop, highly self-motivated due to the

nature of the work, be capable of working independently, be able to select the correct tools and most suitable materials to complete a project, possess good lateral thinking skills and to have good graphics skills. The design folio does include quite a lot of text and notation as well as drawings and research material.

The D&T Scholarship emphasis is on 'Product Design' and a supporting design folio must also be presented which will count for the majority of the marks. The expected standard is high and most candidates would be expected to achieve an overall standard equivalent to a good GCSE level. Practical work should be of an original design and be completed to a 'shop bought quality' finish.

There is only a relatively short time in which to complete the work for a Repton presentation which takes place in early January. This will also include both a written and practical exam. Candidates to other schools may well get a lot longer, coinciding with their CE exams date.

If a candidate is successful in gaining an award then they will be expected to take D&T up to GCSE level at Repton as a condition of accepting the award.

C B Fry Scholarship

In addition, Repton also offer an all-rounder award, known as the **C B Fry Scholarship**. This assessment is taken during the Lent Term of Year 7. The C B Fry Award is a boarding award so the recipient must be going on to board at Repton, even if they are currently a day pupil. The children are assessed academically and athletically, and can offer either music or art for assessment. Very importantly, they are also assessed in teamworking and leadership qualities. The Foremarke Headmaster, may recommend up to 3 pupils for this scholarship and it is widely recognised as a prestigious award.

N.B. Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded in open competition, with the overall standard of candidates being extremely high. The pupils who are selected for nomination are done so according to the specifications provided by Repton and on merit. All are considered very carefully, but at the end of the day we must select a limited number, and put forward those pupils who we feel best meet the criteria and who, based on experience, are most likely to gain awards.

To Conclude:

Common sense

Aim high

Respect and encourage others

Enjoy and appreciate what you have