



15th June 2009

Parents of boys in Maltese Cross

Dear Parents

I am writing to you with the news that Maltese Cross house will close at the end of this term. Mr & Mrs Hoffman want to devote more time to family life, the house is the smallest in population of all the boy houses, and we find we can fit our boy population into Pelican, Spread Eagle, and Mitre Fleur de Lys. A process will now begin to enable boys in the house to move to the house of their choice. We hope that friendship groups will be able to stay together.

Closing a house is never easy, but I believe the boys can be happily assimilated into other houses, and there are strong developmental and economic reasons for doing what we are doing. You will know that it is my aim to upgrade all the houses in the Square so that they match Rose and Pelican and enable us to compete with other boarding establishments. With a house free we shall be able to invest in refurbishment and when we succeed in renovating Maltese Cross we shall have a fine house into which we can decant other houses while they too are renovated.

All this is essentially positive and exciting, but I know a number of boys will miss the guidance and support of Mr Hoffman and his team and I hope the placing of boys in new houses (Fergus Livingstone will co-ordinate this) can be achieved without distress.

Best wishes
Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Winkley
Headmaster