



5 July 2025

Dear all,

I was interviewing a candidate for a senior role recently. They were asked to summarise what they thought of the ethos of the College. Proving, impressively, that they had accessed the video archive pages of the website, they commented on the fact that it was clearly a place that cared about its staff, particularly those who had served the College for many years. That in turn, they said, was evidence of what must be a kind and caring community. It was a good answer.

It was a pertinent answer too. This term started with great sadness as we mourned the death of Max Horsey, so long an Electronics don at Radley and, since 'retirement' (was ever a word used less appropriately?) the founder, doyen, guru, and inspiration of the Radley Video Unit. Generations of Radleians know just how much he cared about them and their filming; he set many on their path to professional success and provided many more with mentorship and guidance during their time. One of his stars, Arthur Davie-Thornhill (E, 2018), who has kindly worked for us this term in the aftermath of Max's death has, with the rest of the group, produced a film which tells you much about Max but much about Radley too.

It is fitting that one of the major prizes of the year - the Simon Molyneux prize (awarded each year to the boy who simply makes the most of his time at the College without ceremony or fuss) went to one of the leading lights in the Video Unit. Max would have appreciated that.

The College Prizes for 2025 were awarded to:

Senior Prefect Prize	William Pillar
Outstanding Contribution to the College	Wallace Chan
Richards Gold Medal for Academia	Luke Chalmers
Wade Prize for Leadership	Digby Eliot
HAC Prize for Courage	Ed Read
Simon Molyneux Prize for Commitment	Isaac Aldred
Hector Scott Russell Chalice for Performing Arts	Kit Carlisle

Congratulations to them and to the many prize-winners from all year-groups.

I want to thank the outgoing Pups and Prefects. I say to them as they start their year that they do not realise how much they set the tone and how much their advice to us is useful. This year's group has been no different and I pay a particular tribute to the Senior Four: William Pillar (Senior Prefect); Nicholas Squire (Second Prefect); Luke Chalmers (Senior Academic Prefect) and Angus

Lowrie (Senior Co-Curricular Prefect)) and, in turn, welcome their successors: respectively Ben De Laszlo, Rory Honey, DingDing Zhou and Jovan Samuel.

The Senior Prefect failed in his attempt to accompany me to victory in the College Pairs croquet tournament; we bowed out at the quarter-final stage. I mention that not so much to point out his or my relative weakness at the sport but rather because it is an example of what I talk about as typical of the College at its best: three things. A sense of community as dons, operational staff, family members and boys enjoy the tournament. A sense of engagement as the numbers involved are huge. A sense of quality as our best players won the National Schools Title earlier in term.

For Croquet, read Debating. Huge numbers attended debates throughout the year. More and more were involved in the inter-social competitions. And we are National ESU debating champions for the second successive year. Or Rowing: a great atmosphere at Henley this week as Old Radleians, past parents, parents, boys and staff gathered to cheer on the VIII as they started their campaign. RCBC is probably the largest school rowing club in the country. And there were national titles for the J14.1 and 2nd VIII at the National Schools' Regatta. For croquet, rowing, debating, read countless other things. Community; engagement; success.

I am sure that all the boys sitting public exams are relieved that the term is over and I wish them all the very best for August. As ever, Tutors, Heads of Department and Form masters are on hand to help the 6.2s as needed on results day and beyond. The boys have worked hard and I know that they will be grateful to the dons for all those extra sessions and marking that they provide, as well as, of course, the consistent help and support throughout the course. It is all too easy, perhaps, to highlight the obvious headline successes and forget that the most important work is done in the routine of the day-to-day. I hope the boys found time to say the requisite thank yous and if they didn't, then letters and emails can still be sent!

Which leads me to a real highlight of the term. A parent approached me on the boundary a couple of weeks ago and described an experience he had had when picking up his son at the end of term. He had been late and few people were around . . . but he encountered a member of the maintenance staff in the entrance of his son's Social. The member of staff was beaming and when asked why he was so happy, showed the parent a hand-written letter he had received from a senior boy thanking him on behalf of the whole Social for all he did. It is a small thing. But it matters.

And the second highlight? Last Sunday, we had the final concert of term (and in passing I want to pay tribute at the end of the year to the Music Department for having achieved all that they have without their own building) in Chapel. The concert itself was wonderful, with the farewell performances of two of our finest 6.2 soloists and the guitar quartet who reached a second successive national final earlier in the year. But, given the orchestra were in Chapel, the Precentor and Chaplain thought it best that they also be used to accompany the chapel service we traditionally have on that Sunday – Songs of Praise. Seven favourite hymns were belted out with the singing just outweighing the orchestra (I think) for volume. One of the new Pups was talking to me this week and described the service as 'cool'. I agree.

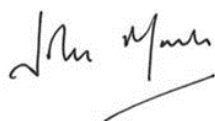
There have been many other headlines. For teams: rackets, golf, robotics succeeding at a national level. For individuals: national recognition in Maths, Rugby, Theatre, Sailing, Polo and Euroformula racing. There have been the internal moments too: the Milligan Cup, the Wharton

Piano Prize, the Shell Play, countless visiting speakers, a debate with West Point cadets etc. Every day seems to bring a new success.

We say farewell, of course, to a number of dons as well as the boys. Particular mentions are due to the two leaving Tutors (Matt Glendon-Doyle in K and Ali Hakimi in L) who go on to Deputy Headships at Ampleforth and Rugby respectively, and to Mark Jewell who retires after twenty-six years of service in the Economics and Politics Departments (and the football club, where he has been a staunch advocate of the game and a supporter of the right Premier League team). And, of course, to 'Wags' who has coached cricket at Radley for 40 years. It was touching, but no surprise, to see so many of his former charges (some of them very distinguished cricketers) return for a match to mark his time. The word legend is over-used. 'Wags' is a legend. To them, and to all departing dons, we wish all the best and thank them for their years of dedication to Radley.

It has been a busy term with the launch of our new Strategic Plan and the announcement of Radley Schools Group. I have been very pleased with the reaction from all connected with the College and am grateful for the trust placed in us by the whole community. We are also pleased with the way in which our work is being recognised: to win the 'Giving Back' category in the annual Muddy Stilettos education awards is just one example, highlighting the success and national impact of our partnership work. It is a challenging time for the sector and we hope we can play our part both in securing the long-term success of Radley and ensuring that the value and values of charitable independent education thrive further afield. Exciting times.

Of course, this time last year we were just beginning to get used to the new Government and the looming threat of VAT. I wanted to make a particular point as I finish this letter of thanking you all for your support and the sacrifices you make to send your sons to Radley. We do not take that lightly. In the context of that sacrifice and challenge, however, we should also remember to be confident in what we do: you in investing in, and us in providing, the very best sort of education. We continue to believe strongly, as the strategic plan makes clear, in what we are and what we stand for. As another year-group of Radleians leaves, another arrives . . . and so the tradition continues. And the class of 2025 – indeed all the year-groups – have yet again proved what is possible when they are guided, encouraged, inspired (and occasionally cajoled) by a dedicated and talented staff. We wish them well as they move on to their next stage and we look back with pride on what they have achieved and who they have become. It has been another great year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Moule', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

John Moule
Warden