

Wargrave House News

Lent Term Review



What's inside?

- The incredible charitable efforts of the Rowathon
- Academic achievements
- Sporting highlights

Key dates for Summer Term 2024: Please note that the whole house is expected to stay in for those events marked with an asterix

Monday 15th April Term begins for all boarders. House open from 9am for all those returning from long haul flights. 6pm arrival for all else. Whole house to return by 9pm.

Tuesday 16th April New Term begins for all HM Assembly, All Saints Church

Saturday 20th April * Wargrave Crew competition *

Saturday 4th May (usual Saturday with fixtures) exeat begins c.2pm – all boarders return by 9pm
Monday 6th May

Monday 13th May Y11 study leave starts

Friday 17th May U6th last day of school celebration and U6th study leave starts

Friday 24th May Y9 GCSE Options Meeting (14.45-16.15) Half term begins for all else 14.15

Friday 24th May to Sunday 2nd June Half Term. Arrival in house from 6pm, all return by 9pm.

19th June Y12 Team building and futures day/dinner

Friday 28th June Sports Day*

Saturday 29th June – Speech Day*

Thursday 15th August – A Level results available from 8am

Thursday 22nd August – GCSE results available from 8am

Academic:

Assessment and mocks have been the main theme of the term for Y11s and 13s as they gear up for public exams, whilst the rest of the school have been grinding through various GCSE and A level units.

The Year 9s are starting to turn their attention to their thoughts for GCSE option choices – cue lots of considered conversations with Mr Roberts. Y9 parents, please be reminded of the GCSE options meeting on Friday 24th May, which will give you an opportunity to talk to heads of department about what is on offer as well as to acquaint yourself with course specifications.

Happily, the Upper Sixth have had plenty of university offers trickle in having all got their UCAS applications in on time. It is excellent for them to have a material goal to set their sights on in the coming months, which are going to be pretty grueling with revision taking its toll.

Derren Lai has been working hard on his pre-medicine application preparation course and Dan Sasao has been working with Mr Wood on the 'competitive universities programme'.

Praise marks League Table 2023/2024 as it stands * Leading three pupils for the house yearly competition.			
Year	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
9	Ollie Davidson	Wilbur Lewis	Peter Chen
10	Jack Evans	William Johnston	Marcus Ho
11	Brooke Haycock	Ian Tam	Will Bligh
12	Derren Lai	Sam Watson	Paddy Cooper
13	Toby Wheatley	Kenneth Yau	Kachi Edet

* 1 point for a piece of praise, two points for a show hsm (where tied, the fewer sanction points makes the difference in placing)

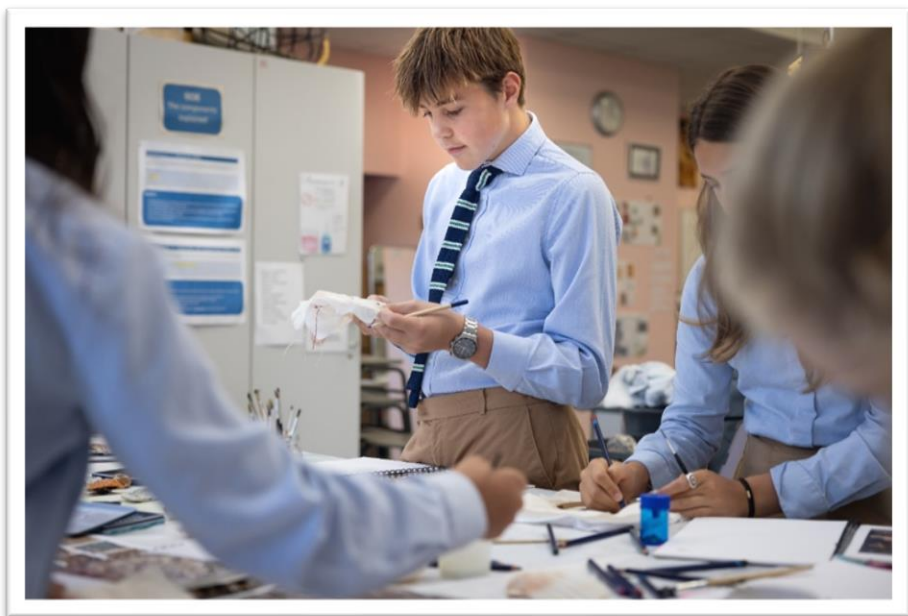
There were some excellent results in the recent Y11 and Y13 mock exams, which bode well for the public exam period.

Most notably:

- Ian Tam – 8.73 (highest scoring boy in the year)
- Max Doyle – 7.50
- Toby Wheatley – A*, A, A
- Ivan Wong – A*, A*, A, B
- Bob Zhao – A*, A*, A, A

Ivan Wong scored a Silver Medal in Round 1 of the Physics Olympiad award, which was a very difficult competition.

The careers pinnacle of the term was the excellently organised Futures Convention on 1st March. My thanks to those of you who attended with your sons. I was on duty, so could not pop down, but plenty of them came back buzzing about potential career pathways and lots of them have learned the tricks of the trade already by coming back laden with corporate merchandise ranging from tote bags to pens and water bottles.



For Year 12 next term, the real focus is on getting personal statements out of the blocks and to start considering university applications, once they have their firmed up predicted grades (or UCAS grades) following the important summer internal exam week which commences on Monday 17th June. Please be reminded of the wealth of resources that are available on UniFrog, a platform that your sons will be very familiar with from various PSHE sessions and Futures clinics with Miss Gordon. Do get them to show you.



Sporting Success

Whilst lots of boys continue to chum through cricket 1:1s, Quins development squad, and their own club sports, Lent term is mostly about the hockey and football pitch. Happily, the Wargravians continue to enjoy many successes here.

Notable mentions must go to the following:

Finn Hill (Y13) and Luca Dumas (Y13) and Paddy Cooper (Y12) and Dan Hammond (Y12) all of whom have become solid members of the 1st XI hockey team. Jack Greig has played intermittently for the 1st XI when his training and fixture schedule at Tunbridge Wells Men's rugby club allows. They have been part of a very successful team who reached the regional semi-finals of the National Cup competition where they narrowly lost to Bradfield, as well as losing a close first round match to RGS Guildford in the Independent Schools Hockey Plate. Finn, Luca and Jack all earned full colours and have represented the 1st XI in three consecutive seasons, which is an impressive feat. Paddy and Dan earned half colours.

Sean Foster and Will Steed have both had regular run outs for the 1st XI. Sean earned his full colours, and Will his half colours.

Harvey Nolan is an integral member of the U15As hockey team, and Wilbur Lewis, Zac Bonehill and Will McLean are all regulars in the U14A hockey team.

Will McLean has been selected for the Harlequins development squad and has started fortnightly training for them on Monday evenings.

Spencer Gill and Brooke Haycock competed at the Sussex Cross Country Championships back in January

In this final week of term, all of the following have travelled to Rosslyn Park to compete in the prestigious 7s tournament. It has been really fantastic to see their faces beamed onto the TV in the common room via the YouTube live link:



Freddie Jones, Ed Nolan, Will Coleman, Elliot Freeborough, Will Plimsoll and Harvey Nolan. Special mention to Harvey for playing up an age bracket.

Particular mention for sporting success must go to Jack Greig who has earned his Triple Stag having achieved full colours in all three major sports. This is huge and rare achievement, so very well done, Jack!











Wargrave House Rowathon

With our house concert and shared house dinner all bundled into Michaelmas Term, The Rowathon took on extra prowess as the central house event of this term. It is always an incredibly galvanising and special affair, but it goes without saying that we are completely and utterly blown away by the generosity shown from yourselves and extended family and friends this year. At final count, the total, including Gift Aid, stood at a remarkable: £15,023.64.

As you will know from previous communications the cause this year was particularly dear to the hearts of many Wargravians since we were raising money for St Peter and St James Hospice who gave Patrick Nolan (father to Ed and Harvey) some peace and respite in the final weeks of his illness. To have everyone respond to the call with such earnestness was truly humbling. Wendy Agate from the hospice came to speak to the boys just last week and she was ever so grateful. The cost of providing the intricate care that they do is stratospheric, and she explained many of the fantastic things it could be used for ranging from single room care to syringe drivers to bereavement counselling for those who have lost loved ones. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. I say this every year, but I am always amazed at the generosity of the parents and friends of Wargrave House who just seem to find ways to astound and impress us every year. I do not envy next year's committee who have a phenomenal total to chase.

My particular thanks go to the senior boys for running the event. Jack Greig, Will Steed, Luca Dumas and Tom Burn really drove the day and night forwards. It is great for the lower years to be able to see such leadership from above and to know what to emulate one day. All were pretty exhausted by the end, but it showed the house at its united best, once again. See a few snaps below:

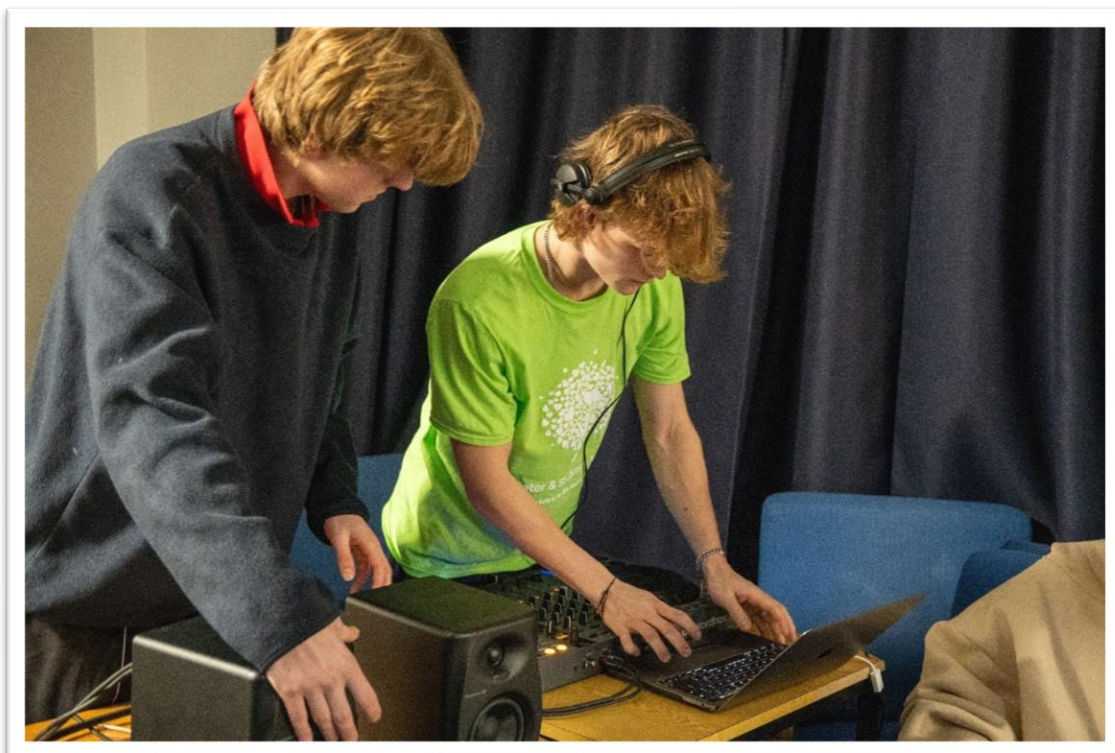
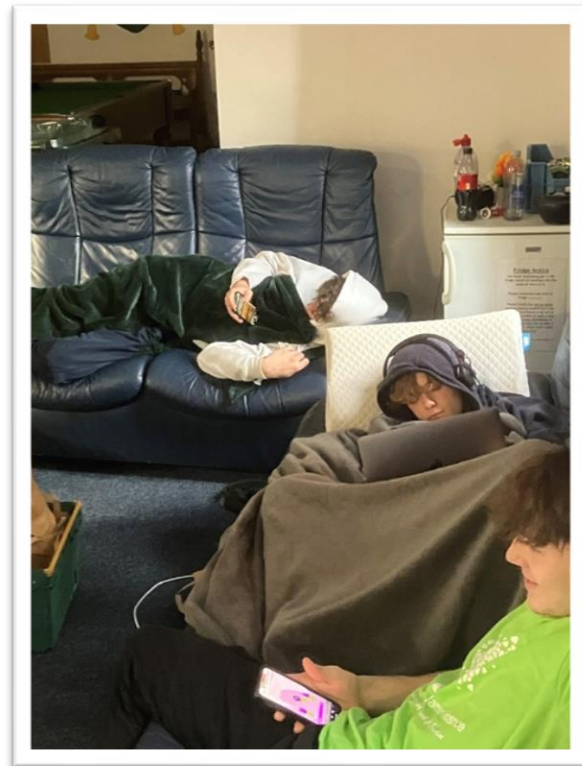
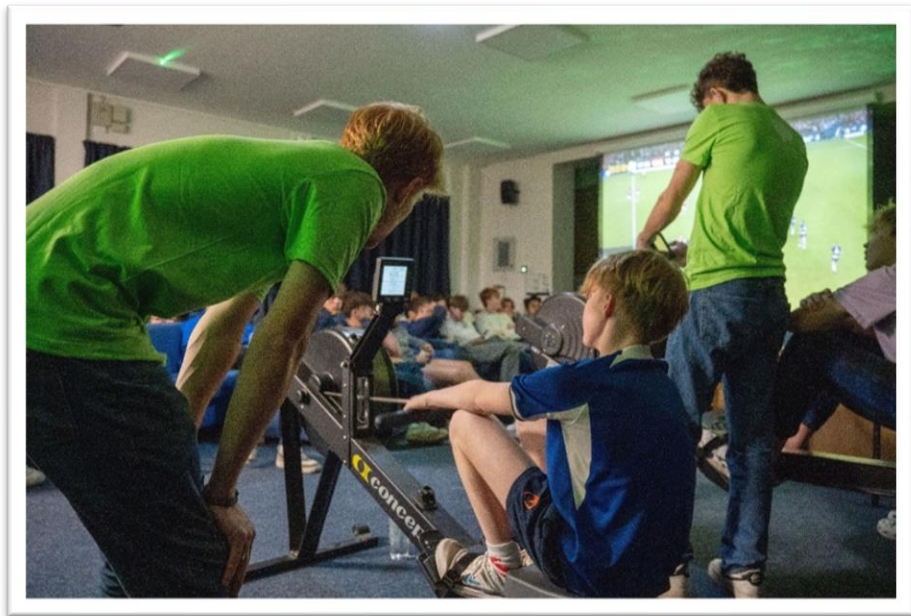




A reminder of some stats:

Year group winners:

- Year 9 - Mclean, Will - 2501m
- Year 10 - Dodard, Timothee - 2419m
- Year 11 - Freeborough, Elliot - 2662m
- Year 12 - Cruttenden, Theo - 2672m
- Year 13 - Steed, Will - 2664m
- Staff and Overall Winner - **Mr J Roberts** with a whopping **2823m**
- Total raised for charity - £12,572 (w/o Gift Aid)!



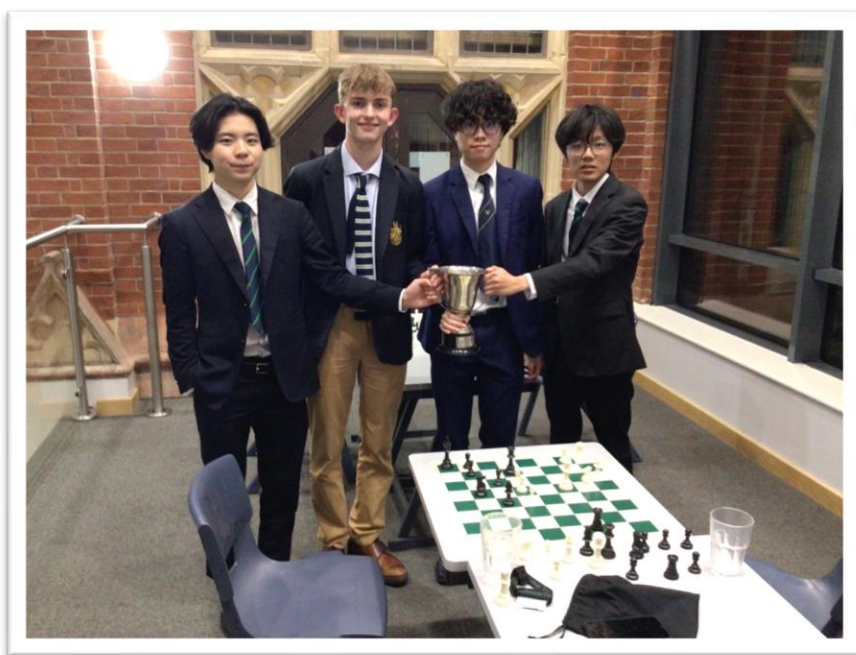




Interhouse competitions

It is always great that the Lent Term brings with it plenty of interhouse competitions on top of the usual sporting ones. It seems to get busier and busier and this last week has been a burst of Wargrave green energy ranging from the chessboard to the hockey astro to the pool.

As always, these events are played out with perhaps even more competitiveness than inter-school fixtures and we picked up plenty of silverware on the way. It was announced in the end of term HM Assmebly that we currently sit in first place in the interhouse competition for the boys' houses. I don't want to jinx anything for the Summer Term, but it might just well be that the cup which we won in 2022, but alluded us in 2023, could be back where it belongs in the Wargrave trophy cabinet come Speech Day. Who knows?!











The interhouse A Cappella competition rounded off the term. Singing with no music is always rather exposing and my thanks go to Mr J Roberts for gathering a contingent of boys to prepare *'I want it that way'* by The Backstreet Boys. It is always a great event and I'm really proud of the 14 boys who pushed themselves out of their comfort zone for this event. and thank you also to Mr Laverack for lending his musical ear too.

Not satisfied with being the Wargrave staff lead, Mr Roberts also co-compered the event with Mr Breslin (what a talented tutor team we have in Wargrave). His brother – actor Lewes Roberts – also judged the performance. So much hard work went on behind the scenes to make the evening a fantastic success. It was also an opportunity to support a local charity which is very close to Mr Roberts' heart - The Big Give Arts For Impact campaign. This is just for one week only and every single pound donated is matched by The Big Give.

This campaign will support a programme called Voices From The Edges to create opportunities for children and young people to access music.

If you watched and enjoyed the event on the live-stream that I distributed and feel you can make a donation, he, I and the house would very much appreciate it. Just click here:

<https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002SEUPuAAP>

A quick rundown in table form of all the interhouse competitions is as follows:



Event	Placing
Chess	1 st
Y9 football	3 rd
Y9 hockey	3 rd
Y9 basketball	3 rd
Y10 football	4 th
Y10 hockey	3 rd
Y10 basketball	1 st
Senior football	1 st
Senior hockey	1 st
Junior water polo	3 rd
Senior water polo	3 rd

Service

Plenty of Y11s have started to finalise sections of their Silver DofE award and they have their sights firmly set on the expedition season during Summer Term having spent a weekend planning their route and how best to prepare for the arduous ordeal.

CCF continues to tick on nicely with weapons handling sessions, navy boat identification challenges and the like. The

following three Year 11s recently completed their CCF Cadet Force Instructional Techniques course and will be promoted to the rank of LCpl – Brooke Haycock, Will Plimsoll and Max Doyle. The course has been running every week since September, so this promotion is a testament to their long, hard work through the winter months here.

Sam Watson (Y12) and a selection of the Royal Navy cadets visited HMS Puncher when it docked at Sovereign Harbour in February and had a great day out. He has recently also been promoted to Royal Navy Section Second Hand given the leadership qualities he has shown in Wednesday sessions. Well done, Sam.

Monty remains incredibly well-walked by a range of Wargrave boys. He comes back sandy, wet and exhausted on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon (he is in demand). My thanks here to Ben Perry, Theo Cruttenden, Will Coleman, Will Plimsoll and Max Doyle.

In the RAF section, Ian Tam has now both completed leading cadet, methods of instruction and the advanced training syllabus and so is promoted to Instructor Cadet status.



Creatives and the arts

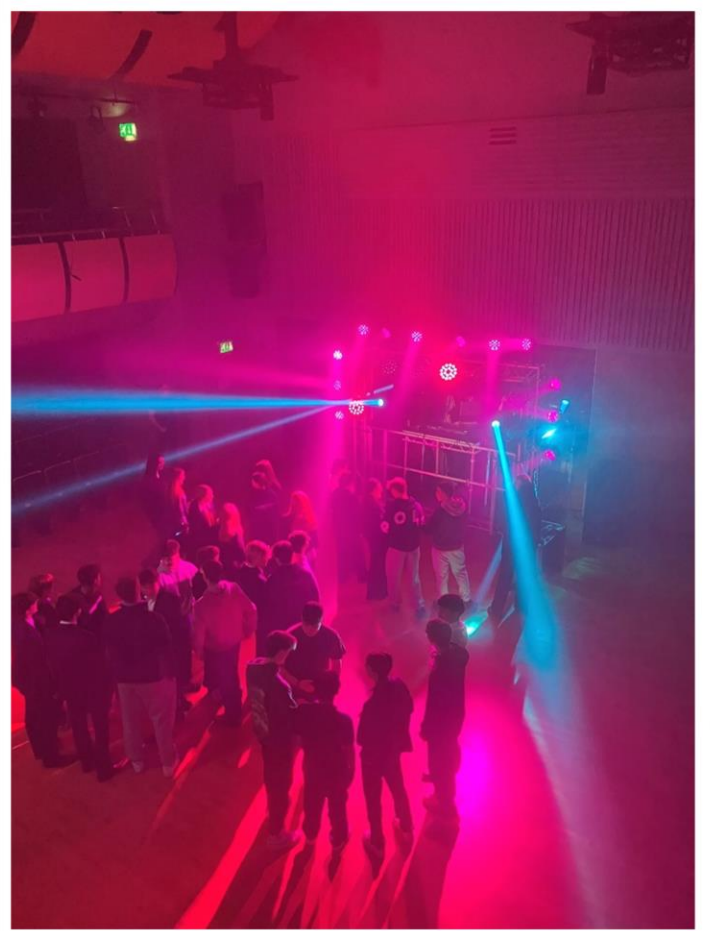
There have been some excellent informal concerts in the Birley Centre, with both Aman Shah and Ian Tam performing on the piano and voice respectively.

Ian Tam and Jack Evans continue to be regular attendees at Tuesday night Singer-Songwriter workshops, and Ian gave a particularly impressive performance at the composers' concert in early March. A most enjoyable evening.

Tom Burn was also one of the lead performers in the flag-ship EBCSoundLab held in the Birley centre in early March showing off his prowess on the DJ decks. The set-up was akin to a club/rave night and was like nothing I've ever seen before at the College. He was highly commended for his skill by the international DJ star 'Mandidextrous' who headlined the evening.

Toby Wheatley completed a very successful Artistic EPQ presentation in February which I was really disappointed not to be able to attend, and Charlie Goffin continues to plough through his Gold Arts Award with real purpose.

Jack Evans continues to shine on the stage and has completed a Shakespeare workshop to hone his skills in the work of The Bard, and he also performed his A Level drama piece to a live audience in mid March.





Final thought for the term

As ever, this period of the calendar has been jam-packed and it feels like we squeeze as much as we do in a 16-week Michaelmas Term into a very condensed 10-week one. The boys have risen to the challenge admirably, as always.

As I write this, I am mindful that 2/5th of Wargrave house are not going to have the same restful Easter break as I intend to have, since they are gearing up for public exams. This is going to take a lot of perseverance and resilience. Indeed, the College Chaplain took that as his Lenten theme in the end of term service using the metaphor of the changeable British weather to remind us that we have to go through the rainy days and the April Showers before we emerge into sunnier days.

For those in Y11 and Y13, the task in hand of revision necessarily dictates that they will spend an inordinate amount of time on a screen. However, one thing that I have challenged the house to a few times this term is a bit of a digital detox – see the infographic and link below that I have shared with the boys. As wondrous as technology is, we speak a lot with the boys about sleep hygiene, minimising screen-time and mindfulness. We can all be victim to being sucked into the vortex of a screen and the monotonous dangers of 'doom scrolling'. I have to tell myself to put the phone aside when I've locked the house up at past 11pm. With the sun starting to make a bit more of an appearance and the longer days and shorter nights definitely around the corner, it seems as good a time as any to put the screen away, get outside for some good old-fashioned fun and to reconnect with the world around us and those near and dear to us. On that note, I'm going to turn the computer off now, put the email out of office on, and take Monty for a good old yomp on the downs.



[Denzel Washington on Social Media \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Both Jenni and I wish you all a very happy and relaxing holiday with your sons and we look forward to welcoming the boys back on April 15th for all that the wonderful Summer Term has to throw at us.

Have a fantastic Easter!

All the best,

Tim