



10th March, 2010

Dear Parents,

As most of you will know by now from the 1st April, 2010 I will be taking over the running of the Equestrian Centre at Queen Mary's School. In fact many of you know me already either because I have been teaching your daughter riding at Queen Mary's over the last couple of years or I know your children as members of the Pony Club.

My aims are to manage the stables in a safe but enjoyable manner, with the emphasis being on the girls not just enjoying their riding but also experiencing the many different aspects involved in the equestrian field. In addition we will be taking part in competitions; these will vary in standards from beginners to the more experienced girls. These competitions will take place against other schools such as Queen Margaret's, Ripon Grammar etc, and hopefully send out selected teams to such activities as The Harrogate Ladies College show jumping event at the Yorkshire Show Ground in September. Consequently this will create a feeling of pride in being part of a successful establishment.

Once we have settled down, some extra horse care sessions may be added. Call me 'old fashioned' if you like, but I know that to become a true horseman you need to understand the ins and outs of stable management and to be able to get your hands dirty even before you get on a horse. With this in mind I have already been in touch with Pony Club headquarters with a view to Queen Mary's becoming a Pony Club centre.

Lessons will carry on much as before with riding at lunch time and late afternoons. I intend to restrict the numbers to 6 in each class. As you will see from the price list below; we have managed to reduce the cost of lessons to £190.00 a term, covering a minimum of 30 lessons a year (probably more if the weather is kind to us). For the very nervous rider, beginner, or more advanced riders who require some personal attention, I intend to be able to offer some half hour private lessons within that overall charge.

Many of you bring your own ponies/horses to Queen Mary's and this I would still like to encourage. In the past there has been some confusion on livery prices, subsequently, I have tried to make this clear and straightforward. I am extremely grateful to all of you who have allowed your ponies/horses to be ridden by others in the lessons and you will note that if you continue to allow this we shall offer you a reduced livery rate.

Once Pam has moved her horses from the school we will be a little short of replacements to start with. This in no way will affect the beginning of our riding term. A number of parents have already kindly donated the use of their ponies/horses. However, if any of you know of any suitable horses/ponies (preferably with tack) which are available for loan and can be used for lessons, please let me know.

Valerie Cornes and Kelly Aire will continue to work at the Equestrian Centre. Need I say any more! They are both really excited at our new aims and I personally know that they are both of real value to the school.

My contact telephone number is: 07740 508462.

Any thoughts or ideas for the future will be gratefully appreciated. Give me a ring or email me on r.blane@queenmarys.org and we will talk them through.

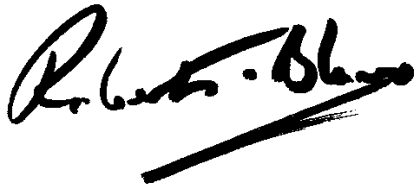
Prices per week

Grass livery including hay as required	£50
Stabled livery including hay and feed – full time	£95
Stabled livery Monday – Friday	£80
Stabled livery including hay and feed ponies 14 hands and under	£75

£15.00 per week deducted from livery cost if your horse/pony is allowed to be used for other lessons.

Lessons per term (min 30 per year) £190.00

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Blane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Robert Blane B.H.S.I.
QMS Riding Manager