

## WAY FORWARD AGREEMENT – SHORT SUMMARY

These Rule changes are brought about as a result of the historic agreement between the College and the Society, which SOF members will be asked to ratify at the AGM on 29 March. Details of the agreement have already been published to members, so what follows is a short recap.

The essence of the agreement, apart from formalising an overall desire on both sides to achieve closer co-operation, is to:

- Recognise the generous offer from the College to fund the operational costs of the Society
- Ensure that all OFs, both in the future and importantly retrospectively, become automatically, without payment, full and equal members of the Society, thus bringing into the fold those who never joined, or whose membership expired years ago. At the same time, remove the old twenty-year rule under which members since 1994 have had a time-limited entitlement to have the Yearbook delivered to them
- Provide the Society with an effective operational base within the College
- Confirm the Society's continued independence

One of the many beneficial results of this agreement is that the SOF's Life Membership Fund, the income from which has been used to fund the Society's operating costs, can be deployed for other purposes. It is anticipated that these will include the creation of a scholarship fund to help attract financially needy pupils to the College, and will provide further financial support for the Framlingham College Improvements Fund, the vehicle (operated by the SOF trustees) through which charitable donations provide the College with ever-better facilities. One immediate beneficial result has been the decision by the trustees to make a further grant of £120,000 to the College's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal.

All who have been involved in reaching the agreement with the College, which is very much in line with what is happening in comparable Societies, are confident that this represents an exciting opportunity for a significant reinvigoration of the Society, engaging more of the young leavers and more of the girls. It is to be hoped that all OFs will wish to be part of this new order.