

Regina at home

Mr Parker: Is that you, Regina? Why do you come home so late from school today?

Regina: Hi, Dad. Phew! Today was orientation day. I had volunteered to help the new year 7 students settle into Queen Mary's. I was with them all afternoon, and I'm worn out. They had so many questions! How was your day, Dad?

Mr Parker: Busy. Chemistry seems to be a very popular subject this year, and I have three very big year 12 classes. Darcy Fitzwilliam is in one of my classes. He's actually very good at chemistry. I have not seen him for a while here at home. He used to come around here all the time...did you two have an argument?

Regina: Dad! I never want to hear Darcy's name again. He's got a new girlfriend already and that's that. I don't want to talk about it, OK?

Mr Parker: Oh... right. Sorry! Tell me about the orientation day.

Regina: Well, first I explained the school rules, and I stressed our strict policy against bullying. They had many questions about the rules – I guess they don't want to get into any trouble in the first week. They wanted to know who the demanding teachers were, who gave a lot of homework, and who were more easy-going. Actually Dad, can I ask you something? Do the students at your school think that you are a strict teacher?

Mr Parker: Yes, I think they do. I'm strict but fair. Year 12 chemistry is a demanding subject, and students need to work hard if they want to get good marks. I support them as much as I can, but in the end it's up to them, of course. They have to put in the hours.

Regina: I told the new students about the after-school clubs, and they had a million questions about them. Is there a drama club, is there a French club? Yes and yes. What about science and cookery clubs? Yes and no. Then they asked about the sports activities, and I encouraged them to join the rugby club.

Mr Parker: You're always on the lookout for new talent for your All-Girls team, aren't you?

Regina: Of course! The All-Girls is the best rugby team at this level around here at the moment, and we want to keep it that way.

Mr Parker: I don't think all girls are as keen on playing rugby as you are, Regina. It can get a little rough, can't it? Remember when you broke your nose?

Regina: Nonsense! Rugby is a lot of fun. If you follow the rules, it's quite safe. That nose thing was just an accident. Anyway, the main reason I'm so late is because of this girl, Samantha. She wanted to chat about our school uniform, making friends, form teachers, everything, really. I felt a bit sorry for her. I think she was bullied at her old school.

Mr Parker: Keep an eye on her for a while. Go and wash your hands now. Dinner is nearly ready.