



Waterfront

Issue 3 - Winter 2008

New Junior Houses to Open



Welcome to the third edition of Waterfront



As you will see, we haven't been resting on our laurels since the last edition.

I am delighted to announce some exciting new developments at the Royal Hospital School. Our two new Junior Houses for Years 7 and 8 are taking shape, another newly refurbished house, Hawke, has been officially opened and the new Music School is now complete, making our musical facilities some of the best in the country.

Despite this investment and development in what is the structure of this fine School, one thing remains the same - our pupils who continue to achieve so much and impress all those who meet them. Please come and visit us, experience the community spirit for yourself and meet some of the pupils and staff that make up this unique school.

Howard Blackett MA Oxon

In September 2009 we will be opening two new Junior Houses - Drake for 11-12 year old (Years 7 and 8) boarding and day boys and Blake for 11-12 year old (Years 7 and 8) boarding and day girls.

The aim of these Junior Houses is to provide a caring, well-managed environment that will help pupils to progress easily from primary to secondary school. The routine and pastoral care will be based on the Prep School model focusing specifically upon the needs of pupils in years 7 and 8.

Boys in Drake will be under the care of experienced Housemaster, Mr. Mike Barraclough and the girls in Blake under Housemistress, Mrs. Joanna Hewitt who was formerly at Ipswich High School for Girls and Holmwood House Prep School. A resident matron will have responsibility for the domestic organisation in the house and a personal Tutor will mentor the academic progression, extra curricular involvement and social development of the pupils.

We have recognised that our younger pupils may not want to board full time and a more flexible

approach to boarding will enable parents to see more of their children while pupils can enjoy all the wonderful opportunities associated with a boarding education. The Junior Houses will have a flexi-boarding dormitory with 12 beds that parents will be able to book for their children on a first-come-first-served basis. Weekly boarding will also be available but our full-time boarders will continue to enjoy a comprehensive programme of evening and weekend activities.

Day pupils in Junior Houses will have their own sports lockers with changing facilities and showers, plus a locker for books and other belongings in the house. The extensive social spaces including a day room, games rooms and quiet rooms will be for both day pupils and boarders encouraging complete integration. There will be timetabled prep sessions and activities in the afternoons for both boarders and day pupils and day pupils will be encouraged to stay in school until 6pm.

At the end of the Michaelmas Term, Year 8 parents will be sent information about the Senior Houses

with advice on how to choose the most appropriate house for their child. New houses will then be allocated to pupils by the Summer Term prior to moving to Year 9 in September.

We are very excited about the new Junior Houses and believe that by providing these superb facilities and dedicated pastoral care for our younger pupils, they will find the transition to the senior part of the school an easier process. This also means that everyone is "new" in Year 9, whether they have moved up from the Junior Houses or joined the School from Prep School.



Inside...

Healthy Increase in Pupil Numbers **Page 2**

Investing in Boarding **Page 2**

First Sea Lord Visits School **Page 3**

Excellent Examination Results **Page 3**

Help For Heroes **Page 4**

Healthy increase in Pupil Numbers



Term started in September 2008 with 158 new pupils bringing the school roll up to 680. In 2006, day pupils were first admitted, and now there are 68 day boys and girls at the School. The ratio of boys and girls in the School continues to be around 57% boys and 43% girls and the number of pupils in the sixth form is 220. Applications for 2009 and beyond are buoyant with pupils registering for places as far ahead as 2019.

Band Tour USA July 2008

The School band is made up of 70 boys and girls and in July they had the amazing opportunity to travel and perform in the USA. They travelled to Boston, New York, Washington DC, Williamsburg and enjoyed a whirlwind visit to Philadelphia. They played six successful concerts: two in Boston; Mystic Seaport; Central Park, New York; The Navy Memorial, Washington DC; and Colonial Williamsburg, where they played to 500 hundred people.

The pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially performing on Independence Day, amongst the buzz of New York's Central Park. As well as delighting the crowds they sold over one hundred CDs featuring past performances.



Investing in Boarding

Despite economic downturn and the credit crunch, boarding is more popular than ever. It seems that more and more parents are convinced of the value of a boarding education, with the Independent Schools Council reporting a growth in boarding numbers in April this year, the fastest since 2003.

In line with this trend, there has been an increase in expenditure by independent schools on new or refurbished boarding accommodation and facilities.

The austere boarding of yesteryear is long gone. Today's parents are not only more discerning, they quite rightly expect the accommodation to match the price they are paying and

Howe House, to which the girls contributed their own ideas, was officially opened in May 2008 by National Director of the Boarding Schools Association Hilary Moriarty, who was "bowled over" by the results.

Attitudes to boarding have changed as well. Parents who previously would not have dreamt of sending their children away to school are buying



it's all about the "wow" factor; wireless internet access throughout, plasma screen TVs, common rooms with a dance floor for weekend parties, snooker tables or walls splashed with modern art and photograph montages of pupils enjoying themselves.

The pressure is on for boarding schools to meet these demands and at the Royal Hospital School we are rising to the challenge. With more than 600 boarders making up 90% of the total school population, an £18 million development programme is well underway. To date this has included the building of a £3.5million Music School, two new Junior Houses and the complete refurbishment of our boarding and day houses. Old-style dormitories are being replaced and the common room areas updated and improved to the highest of standards.

into it now. The modern day pressure of careers, frequent relocations or posts abroad have revolutionised the family dynamic, but the ease of communication via mobile phone and email has made the prospect of separation from our children a great deal easier. Add to that the comfortable surroundings and a "home from home" ambience and it is easy to see why boarding has become a very attractive option.

Creating the right environment for boarding pupils is not just about the living space. With close pastoral care, every child feels nurtured, supported and encouraged. Within this strong community, unique to boarding schools, pupils form lifelong friendships, gain the confidence to be independent and ultimately are inspired to achieve their personal best.

Parents Sailing Regatta



We are very lucky to be surrounded by water – the River Stour, Alton Water Reservoir and the River Orwell - and our pupils can make the most of all these wonderful Suffolk waterways by learning to sail. Those who wish, can cruise the estuaries “Swallows and Amazons” style in the School’s own fleet of Cornish Shrimpers.

On an uncommonly sunny day in October, 18 pupils and 14 parents took part in a dinghy race on Alton Water organised by the Parents Association (RHSPA). The conditions were perfect with a southerly force 2. There were great performances from Robert Moritz and Christian Proctor holding off a strong ‘senior’ duo, of Mr Mayhew and Mr Engelmann. Other performances of note were Peter Holbrook’s first race in a 4.7 laser, Sophia Deisch’s excellent helming of a laser 2000 in the last race and some very competitive racing between the Tuppen family in their RS200s. All in all, a great afternoon’s racing.

First Sea Lord Visits School

First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Jonathon Band KCB ADC, visited the School on Friday 17 October. Sir Jonathon joined the Royal Navy in 1967 and commanded Her Majesty’s Ships *Soberton*, *Phoebe*, *Norfolk* and *Illustrious*. As an Admiral, he served as Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and was appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in 2006. He is also President of the Royal Navy Volunteer Band Association and the Royal Navy Rugby Union.



After a full tour of the School, including the new Music School, Sir Jonathon officially opened newly refurbished Hawke House; home to 60 day and boarding boys aged 11 to 17 years.

In the afternoon, all 680 pupils were involved in a traditional ceremonial parade inspected by the First Sea Lord. Afterwards he said, “I am extremely impressed with the turn out, level of self discipline and leadership qualities of these young people. Their parents must be very proud indeed”.

That evening the First Sea Lord completed his visit as Guest of Honour at the School’s Trafalgar Night Dinner commemorating 75 years of the School at Holbrook; a spectacular celebration. The 320 guests were amazed when 34 Ships of the Line (chocolate, brandy snap and truffle puddings shaped like Ships of the Fleet) were paraded



around the tables to the sound of cannon fire and gunpowder flashes creating a re-enactment of the Battle of Trafalgar. The £3000 raised during the evening went towards the School’s Olympia Fund. The event was also attended by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE, who was the first man to perform a single-handed circumnavigation of the globe in 1969, and Lady Fieldhouse of Gosport, widow of the late Admiral of the Fleet, Lord John Feildhouse of Gosport.

Excellent Examination Results



Our 2008 GCSE results exceeded all expectation with 50% A* and A grades overall and 54% of pupils gaining more than 5 A* and A grades. Lindsay Cullen, Jacob Campbell and Alice Evans deserve special congratulations for their performances as they not only gained A* grades but they each received a letter from the examination board, Edexcel congratulating them on achieving some of the best scores in the country.

This year’s Upper Sixth achieved an 86.4% A-C pass rate with notable successes in English, History, Politics, Geography and RE. A total of 72 A grades were gained amongst the 88 pupils taking their A Levels.

The efforts of fourteen pupils - Matthew Evans, Alice Lambert, Eleanor Purves, Ed Tovell, Charles Clark, Lucy Du Port, Jessica Fergusson, Joshua Harris, Katrina Henderson, Matthew Jones, Emily Masson, Nicholas Morrissey, Jan Schimmel and Frederick Wootton - have been praised by the Headmaster and staff, as each gained at least three straight A grades.



Sporting Events come to The Royal Hospital School

We have 96 acres of sports fields overlooking the River Stour, kept in great order by our dedicated team of groundsmen; and we're not the only ones that think so - the School has played host to some major regional sporting events this summer and autumn.

Minor Counties Cricket

The Minor Counties Cricket Festival was organised by former Essex player and Zimbabwe coach, Mr Don Topley - now Head of Sporting Development at the Royal Hospital School. The festival, held over two weeks, involved 16 minor county teams at U12 and U11 age groups. Players included talented Suffolk cricketers, Joshua Allday and Drew Felstead who joined the School in Year 7 in September.



Rugby Sevens

The annual Suffolk Youth Sevens Competition took place on the Royal Hospital Schools' nine immaculate pitches on a lovely autumnal day in September. Now in its third year, 57

teams from 12 clubs, from U13s to U17s, took part in what is believed to be the biggest rugby community event in the country. The organiser and Suffolk Youth Chairman, Mr Ross Cowie, commented "I cannot thank the Royal Hospital School enough for their help in this totally self-funding event. Their groundsmen even went round taking the dew off the grass before we started!"

Suffolk Schools' X-Country

This turned out to be the largest ever cross country event in the county with over 2,400 runners involved. At its previous venue, the event has been held over two days but master in charge, Mr Les Thompson was confident it would be feasible in a single day "...and it clearly was! Our own runners performed well, with Georgia Tindale (U12) finishing 3rd in the Minor Girls' race and Ben Moore (U14) winning the Junior Boys' race. 32 of our runners made it through to the Suffolk County Championships at the Royal Hospital School on Saturday 6th December".

School Band Plays at 'Help For Heroes'

On the 20th September, the Royal Hospital School band played before the 'Help for Heroes' Rugby match at Twickenham, the home of English rugby. Watched by a 52,000 strong crowd including the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, they performed Jerusalem and the National Anthem, whilst *Blake*, the first band formed on Facebook, sang along.

Legends of Rugby including Lawrence Dallaglio, Scott Gibbs, Martin Johnson, Jonah Lomu and Will Greenwood,

turned out in a unique show of support for 'Help for Heroes' and the extraordinary men and women of our Armed Forces. The match raised over £1 million to help support servicemen and women wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It was an amazing opportunity for the boys and girls aged 11-18, who described the experience as "awesome". Roger Jones, Band Master, remarked, "their performance exceeded all expectations and made me very proud indeed".



Dates for the Diary 2008/09

Tuesday 25th November	Planetarium Show for Year 8
Friday 28th November	CCF RAF section air experience flying
Friday 28th November	Sports Scholarship Pre-selection Day
Saturday 29th November	House singing competition
Sunday 30th November - 19:30	Jazz Concert*
Saturday 5th December - 19:30	Holbrook Choral Society and Royal Hospital School Choir Christmas Concert*
Monday 8th December	Choir to sing at the Admiralty Carol Service, St Martin-in-the-Fields, London
Tuesday 9th December	Choir to sing at St Mary Le Tower Church, Ipswich
Saturday 13th December	School Carol Service
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday 17th January	Entrance Examinations
Saturday 24th January	Scholarships Day
Saturday 9th May	Open Morning
Saturday 13th June	New Pupil Welcome Afternoon (Years 7-11)
22-24th June	6th Form Induction

* There will be a nominal entrance fee for these events and tickets can be purchased in advance on request

Year 7 Activity Weekend

At the start of the school year, all year 7 girls and boys headed to the Mersea Island Youth Centre for a weekend of adventure. They camped under canvas and took part in a wide range of activities including: caving, mountain biking,

high ropes, zip wires, rock climbing and leadership tasks. The aim of the trip was to enable the pupils to challenge themselves individually, and get to know each other as a year group.



Who we are...

Set in 200 acres of stunning Suffolk countryside overlooking the River Stour, the Royal Hospital School is an independent co-educational full boarding and day school for pupils aged 11-18.

As a seven-day-a-week boarding school for over 600 boarders, the accommodation and amenities are superb. As well as encouraging pupils to develop academic excellence and to enjoy the rich programme of music and drama, the School offers outstanding facilities for sports and sailing and a continuous

and eclectic mix of extra curricular activities. The 'house system' (6 boys' and 4 girls' houses, and an Upper Sixth house) provides a supportive and caring community in which each pupil can thrive. With each house well equipped with recreational facilities, there is a happy and lively atmosphere where friendships develop and independence is fostered.

For more information, please contact: Sue Toner, Admissions Officer, The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2RX. Tel: 01473 326210 admissions@royalhospitalschool.org

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