



Waterfront

Issue 4 - Spring 2009

New Music School Open

Dr John Rutter CBE, described as 'the most successful and well-known composer of choral music in recent British history', opened the new £3.6million Reade Music School in December. The opening was attended by 150 guests including local dignitaries, eminent members of the music world, governors, supporters of the School and the architects, surveyors and building firm involved in the Music School's creation.

Welcome to the fourth edition of Waterfront



Dr John Rutter CBE unveils the commemorative plaque.

State-of-the-Art

Making music has always been an important part of everyday life at the Royal Hospital School and now even more than ever with the opening of a state-of-the-art Music School housing a 200-seat recital hall, 18 practice and specialist rooms, a technical suite and rock room. Director of Music, Peter Crompton says "pupils and staff alike are buzzing with excitement about the high-tech building which as well as providing a spectacular home for academic and practical music tuition, offers an outstanding venue for concerts and performances, extending the School's musical enthusiasm into the local community".

During his visit John Rutter said "the new Reade Music School is magnificent; one of the finest music facilities I have ever seen, with a splendid recital hall and an abundance of well-designed practice rooms and classrooms.

It will make a perfect home for the flourishing musical activities of this marvellous school".

School Carol Concert

In the afternoon, the School Carol Concert was attended by around 1300 pupils, parents and guests in the cathedral-proportioned Chapel. John Rutter went on to say "It was a joy and privilege to spend a day being part of the Royal Hospital School community. First, a rehearsal with what must be one of the largest, finest and most committed choirs I have ever found in a school; next, the very pleasant task of declaring a splendid new Music School open for business. After lunch a carol service in the packed chapel which made the hairs on every neck bristle with excitement as massed voices supported by the mighty organ joined together in singing the great Christmas hymns, then, catching you unawares, quiet and tender moments in the readings and



carols to bring a happy tear to the eye. Finally, the Chaplain's blessing to send those hundreds of parents and children home to celebrate their own family Christmas. A classic and perfect day".



It's been a very exciting year for everyone at the Royal Hospital School and the astute amongst you may notice a certain musical theme to this edition of Waterfront. The opening of the new music school has certainly created a real "buzz" around the School and everyone is genuinely excited about this new facility and the opportunities it offers our pupils. We are very proud of our young musicians and their talent is much admired wherever they perform. To have received an invitation to join the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall by world renowned composer John Rutter is the ultimate compliment.

Whether talented musically, academically, artistically or in a particular sport, our aim is to find each and every pupil's particular flair, nurture it and bring it to the fore. By the time they leave the School, my hope is that pupils will have experienced a wealth of challenges and achieved more than he or she had probably dreamed possible.

Please do come and visit us, meet some of the teachers and pupils and experience the unique atmosphere here, first hand. I look forward to meeting you.

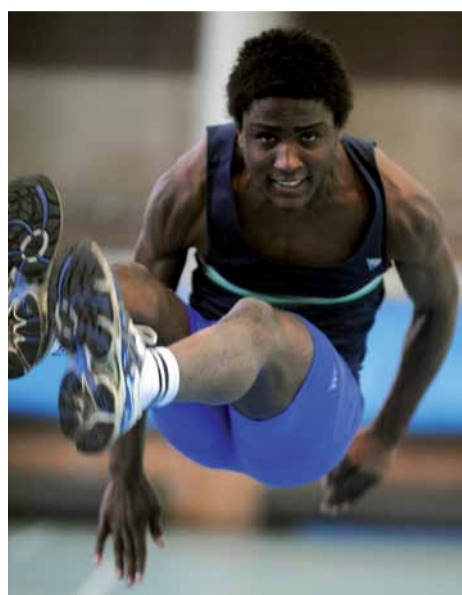
Howard Blackett MA Oxon
Headmaster

2012 Olympic Hopefuls

Year 11 pupil, Jonathan Illori, has been picked out as a possible triple jumper for the 2012 Olympics. His story was documented in the local newspaper after he gained a bronze medal in the South of England Athletics Association Championships where he jumped 13.93 metres – a personal best. He is incredibly committed and with the support of the School, his brother and sister (also at the School) and his friends there is every chance he will make it to London 2012.



Year 9 pupil, Charlotte Shelley, has also been making a name for herself at the Athletics Association Championships. Charlotte competed in the High Jump and managed a remarkable 1.60 metres. Paul Hardman, Director of Sport, said "this was a fantastic jump and although not her personal best, good enough to take first place. Taking the gold in this championship is impressive and what is even more impressive is the fact that this is the second year running that she has



taken the medal. In 2008 she jumped 1.55 metres to win the title". Charlotte is probably too young for 2012 but there's always 2016.

Gala Concert raises £4,900

The Community Action Team, led by Barry Hocking, maths teacher, comprises of volunteer pupils that help with fundraising projects, work in the local community and deal with recycling and green issues. In February, the Team organised a Charity Gala Concert which was held in the Chapel to help raise money for Help for Heroes and two local charities; Ipswich Mencap and the Woolverstone Project.

More than 450 guests attended the Concert, which involved pupils from the School along with the Holbrook Music Society and the evening raised

an amazing £4,900. The range of music was varied; from sacred and secular vocal to classical and jazz instrumental. Members of the Chapel Choir, gave an outstanding performance as did the School band and orchestra. Jill Barton, a guest at the Concert and Community Development Officer at Babergh District Council, commented, "...a fantastic display of talent; we were overwhelmed with the skills of the young people". For more information about concerts at the Royal Hospital School contact the Music School on: music@royalhospitalschool.org or 01473 326222

Cello Masterclass

The School was delighted to welcome renowned cellist, Richard Jenkinson and international pianist, Benjamin Frith, to the Burns Recital Hall at the end of January. Jenkinson, a charismatic and world renowned cellist, who plays with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Frith who was once described as 'Prodigy of Prodigies' were visiting the School to hold a masterclass in front of 200 students and teachers.

Year 12 cellist, Tim Mac, and Year 11 pianist, Elizabeth Watling, were chosen to join the two musicians and were offered invaluable advice. Tim said, "The masterclass helped me in several ways; Richard Jenkinson taught me how to put much more emotion into my playing, with the phrasing of the piece I played, he taught me technical skills like using longer bow strokes and he also gave me an insight into the mind of a master cellist". At the end of the evening, Richard and Benjamin gave a superb concert.



The winners - the Green Team.

Ready Steady Cook

Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed an entertaining and informative "Ready, Steady, Cook"-style event hosted by a professional chef from Chartwells, the School's caterers. Two teams competed in front of an audience of nearly 200, to produce a balanced, nutritious and tasty meal in just 15 minutes. Before the competition, pupils were asked questions to get them thinking about what they eat and how they would use the ingredients available to the two teams.

In the Red corner was 'celebrity chef' Mr Paul McCaffery (Assistant Director of Music), assisted by Adam Hunkin and Annie Fenton, and on the Green Team, 'celebrity chef' Mrs Helen Evans (Head of Curriculum Support) accompanied by Harry Court and Molly Shoesmith.

The timer was set, the countdown began, the music was loud and Darren, the chef, kept up a continuous commentary as the teams started their cooking and delicious smells filled the room.

The Red Team served up pan-fried chicken fillet and pasta in a ragu sauce with steamed spinach. The Green Team created a chick pea, spinach and coriander balti with Bombay potatoes and steamed pilau rice.

Ten lucky pupils were chosen as tasters but the final verdict was left to a vote by all the year 7 and 8 pupils.

The Green Team and Mrs Evans took the title and proved that you can prepare a healthy and nutritious meal in 15 minutes! But was it tasty? The food disappeared faster than you can say 'carbohydrates'.



School Choir to Perform at the Royal Albert Hall

The 130 strong Choir, made up of boys and girls of all ages obviously made a very big impact on John Rutter during the Carol Concert. He has subsequently invited the whole choir to accompany the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the 'John Rutter Christmas Celebration' at the Royal Albert Hall on 12 December 2009 - a wonderful accolade and a great opportunity for the pupils involved. A full capacity audience at the Albert Hall reaches an amazing 5500 and the School has made a block booking to ensure parents and friends of the School are able to come and see the choir perform. For tickets and more information go to tickets.royalalberthall.com

Pupils come face-to-face with Royal Marine Elite

Pupils at the Royal Hospital School got down and dirty with the Royal Marine Commandos during a 'Meet the Marines' week held at the School in March.

The four-day event, led by the 25-strong Royal Marine Commando Display Team, used the School's

facilities including the 96 acres of playing fields and cross-country course, the assault course, indoor swimming pool, rifle range and nearby Alton Water Reservoir where the School keeps their fleet of 40 dinghies. Almost 500 14-18 year olds from a variety of schools and colleges across the region joined the

Royal Hospital School pupils. Some are completing Public Services Courses, designed to prepare them for a career in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines while others, such as those at the Royal Hospital School are part of the Combined Cadet Force which exists to promote and develop the qualities of responsibility, leadership, self reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance.

Participants took part in a wide range of activities, including abseiling, wall climbing and survival instruction, along with other physical challenges aimed at highlighting some of the career opportunities offered by the Royal Navy's elite fighting force. At the end of each day the Commandos provided a thrilling display by abseiling down the School's iconic clock tower and a demonstration of non-armed combat.



Prep Schools join in for Science Week

The Science department marked National Science Week (9-13 March) with a series of events, lectures and workshops that ran throughout the week.

The Science Museum outreach team entertained and informed with shows entitled 'It takes Guts' and 'High Voltage'. In the first of these shows, Year 8 discovered through a series of hilarious and disgusting demonstrations, how we digest our food. Our own 11 and 12 year olds were joined by visiting pupils from Orwell Park and Barnardiston Prep Schools.

The highlight of the "High Voltage" show was maths teacher, Mr Cuddihy, being given a shock of several thousand volts but luckily living to tell the tale!

On Wednesday, James Piercy of The Royal Institution: Science for Schools Programme, captivated pupils with a lecture entitled 'Music to your Ears', which dealt with the physics of music.

On Thursday the science teaching staff rounded off the week's activities with a bang or two as they entertained willing participants, with a range of weird and wonderful scientific phenomena that held the audience spellbound!

Helping the Transition from Primary to Secondary Education

Two new Junior Houses will open this September for 11 and 12 year olds at the Royal Hospital School: Drake for Year 7 and 8 boys and Blake for Year 7 and 8 girls. These Houses will be home for both day and boarding pupils, with the focus on younger pupils and more flexible day and boarding options.

The Junior Houses have been specifically created to aid the transition from a primary education to secondary at Year 9. Andrew Evans, Head of Lower School, explains the underpinning philosophy, "Our aim is to develop a hunger and motivation for learning as well as teaching values

for later life, instilling confidence and assisting each and every pupil's personal development outside of the classroom. This is a unique period in a child's school life and we place great importance on the foundations laid at this time". Boys in Drake will be under the care of experienced Housemaster, Mr. Mike Barraclough and Mrs. Joanna Hewitt, who was formerly at Ipswich High School for Girls and Holmwood House Prep School, will be Housemistress of Blake. A resident matron will look after domestic needs and personal Tutors will mentor the academic progress, extra-curricular activity and social development of the pupils.

Flexible Boarding Option

Younger pupils will be able to opt for flexible weekly or ad hoc boarding, enabling a balance whereby the pupils can enjoy all the advantages of boarding while parents are able to see more of their children. The School promotes total integration of day and boarding pupils; both will have timetabled prep sessions and day pupils will be encouraged to stay in School until 6pm, when they can make the most of all the extra-curricular activities available. At the end of the day bus transport is provided for day pupils and boarders can go on to enjoy

a comprehensive programme of activities and recreation.

Headmaster, Howard Blackett, says, "the new Junior Houses will provide dedicated pastoral care, tailored academic guidance and a comfortable, friendly environment for our younger pupils which means that the transition to the senior part of the school will be an easy process. This also means that everyone is "new" to their Senior Houses in Year 9, whether they have moved up from the Junior Houses or joined the School after Common Entrance from Prep School".





School Play is a Family Affair

The Dramatic Society staged the *Winslow Boy* on the 26 and 27 March. The play, written by Terence Rattigan, is inspired by an actual event which took place in 1908 when a boy was expelled from a Naval College for stealing a postal order. The story is based on the father's fight to clear his son's name and the effect it had on all those involved. The event set a legal precedent at the time: the case of Stonhurst College alumnus George Archer-Shee.

Year 11 pupils, and twins, Buffy (playing Grace Winslow – the mother) and Jemima (playing Catherine Winslow – the sister) Watling are 'keeping it in the family' as their late grandfather, Jack Watling, played Dickie Winslow in the 1948 film adaptation of the *Winslow Boy*. At the time The Sunday Times called it, "one of the best British films of the year, with a background... beautifully precise as to period, class and place". Also starring were George Rennison, Bryony Kelly, William Wood, Charles Lambert, Angus Wyatt,

Lindsey Wood, Nathan Lewis, Tim Mac, William Rich and James Pendle in a mixed age group cast.

The play was expertly produced and directed by Simon Warr, drama and classics teacher, who was joined on this occasion by Giles Watling, Jemima and Buffy's father. He too is an actor and is probably most well-known for the role of Oswald in Carla Lane's 'Bread'. He kindly spent many hours assisting Simon in the direction of this production.

U15 Cricket Tour to Sri Lanka

The U15 Cricket Team left for Sri Lanka on Tuesday 2 April and their two week tour included 7 matches against school and club teams in the south of the island.

Having been warned, from the outset, that this was 'going to be tough' by Don Topley, master in charge of cricket and tour organiser, the team was not disheartened by drawing one match, losing five and abandoning one due to a tropical downpour! The boys were honoured to be able to play at three test venues; Asgiriya in Kandy, the SCC and Premadasa in Colombo, they were photographed with the Sri Lankan 20/20 squad, including Muralitharan and Sangakkara, they had lunch at the Cricket Club café in Colombo and they experienced playing in a cricket-mad nation. Most of the wickets were matted and many of the outfielders were overgrown and far from the manicured games fields the boys were used to - but they rose to the

challenge of less than perfect pitches and sauna-like weather conditions. "Champagne Moments" included Ben Allday's (Suffolk U14) maiden century, Reece Topley's (South of England U15) prevalent wicket taking and Matt Drury's (also South of England U15) impressive straight driving and tidy wicket-keeping.

Of course, it was far more than a cricket tour - it was a cultural experience that made a lasting impression on everyone involved. During rest days there was the opportunity to tour the wondrous sights and soak-up the unique ambience of this beautifully chaotic island. The team kept in touch with home via a blog on the school website and as well as recounting their experiences and sending messages home, the results and highlights of each cricket match were posted. To read more select the Cricket Tour to Sri Lanka link at www.royalhospitalschool.org



Dates for the Diary 2009

Saturday 2nd May 7.45pm	The Band of the Royal Hospital School in concert*
Sunday 3rd May	Community Action Team Garden Party
Friday 15th May	Annual Lower Sixth Form Dinner, Guest Speaker David Sheepshanks
Saturday 16th May 7.45pm	The Royal Hospital School Chapel Choir Annual Summer Concert*
Saturday 16th May	Equestrian team compete at Royal Windsor Horse Show
27 & 28th May	Visit us at the Suffolk Show Stand 640
Sunday 31st May	Parents Association Hog Roast at Holbrook House
Sunday 7th June	Charity Summer Fete
Friday 12th June	Sunset Ceremony and CCF Guest Night Dinner
Saturday 13th June 7.30pm	Requiem – Verdi, The Holbrook Choral Society and Orchestra with Music Scholars*
Saturday 13th June	Sailing Regatta – Stokes Bay
Saturday 13th June	New Pupils Welcome Day
Friday 19th June	Fashion Show
Sunday 21st June	New Lower Sixth Induction Week starts
Saturday 27th June	Prize-giving and Commemoration Day with Sir Robin Knox Johnston
Wednesday 1st July	Suffolk Schools Sailing Regatta
Saturday 5th September	New pupils return
Sunday 6th September	Boarders return
Monday 7th September	Day pupils return
Saturday 27th September	Hosting the Suffolk Sevens Tournament

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

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: Susan Lewis, Admissions Officer, The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2RX. Tel: 01473 326210 admissions@royalhospitalschool.org

Who's Who

Headmaster: Howard Blackett MA Oxon
Headmaster's PA: Ann January
Admissions Officer: Susan Lewis
Bursar: David Charlton
Bursar's Secretary: Maggie Cross
Marketing Director: Sophie Braybrooke

Waterfront is Written and Published by The Royal Hospital School.

Edited, Designed and Produced by dsd-education.com