



Waterfront

Issue 5 - Autumn 2009

Its all go for the Juniors!

The feet of the sixty new, year 7 pupils who started the Royal Hospital School this September have hardly touched the ground!



Upon arrival, trunks and suitcases, hockey sticks and ipods were unloaded by fretting parents. Once settled in their Houses all the new pupils went to the Chapel where the Headmaster and Chaplain did their best to placate worried mothers and fathers and reassure the new youngsters that this was the start of a great new adventure and that they were certainly not doing it alone.

After all parents had been dispatched, it was down to the tasks

of preparation for School, from uniform fitting and medicals to talks on food, buddies, music and sport. On Saturday evening the boarders in Blake and Drake joined up for a BBQ and quiz followed by a trip to the beach at Aldeburgh the next day.

Monday morning came and getting to grips with where classrooms were located and who teaches what, kept the new pupils on their toes. Armed with campus maps, timetables and classmates, most seemed to arrive at the correct place and on time, a feat

not often achieved by new teachers! The Activities Fair allowed them to choose how their spare time was going to be spent; with activities such as chess club, crafts, science fiction club, geo club, felt making, horse riding, 5-a-side football, swimming, badminton, choir, band, and junior debating there was something for everyone.

In week two, junior sailing started with Year 7 pupils learning to sail in the School's fleet of Optimists. This involved a whole week of intensive sailing tuition to RYA Level 2, although the more experienced sailors among them had a chance to try out some of the other craft available in the School boat yard at Alton Water Reservoir.

During the second weekend of term, the Year 7 pupils went to Mersea Island for an adventure training weekend involving mountain biking, abseiling, climbing, high ropes, problem solving, orienteering, assault course, team building, camp craft, aerial runway and an "It's a



Knockout" competition. A perfect opportunity for the year group to really bond and a highlight of the pupils' first year!



Welcome to the fifth edition of Waterfront



It's the beginning of the new academic year and things have started off positively here at the Royal Hospital School. I am delighted to let you know that 174 new pupils arrived this September, the largest number for at least a decade. 76 joined our new junior houses, Drake and Blake; both houses were renovated last year and they now provide our year 7 and 8 pupils with fantastic accommodation.

We achieved some excellent examination results over the summer with an A* to C pass rate at GCSE of 94% with 38% A* and A grades. At A Level the A/B pass rate was 65% and eleven pupils gained 3 straight A grades or better. This is a reflection of the hard work put in by pupils and staff.

The School continues to be a hive of activity and by reading on you can find out more about what we have been up to. In short, I can conclude by simply saying that RHS continues to thrive – it remains a remarkable and unique school.

Howard Blackett MA Oxon
Headmaster



New Instructor for Equestrian Team



Twins awarded 21 A*s and 2 As in their GCSEs

Twin sisters, Emily and Lucy Nutt, 16, achieved remarkable results in their GCSEs this summer. Lucy gained 11 A*s and an A in Advanced Maths, which is the highest grade awarded in this subject and Emily got 10 A*s and an A in French, in which she was one mark off an A*.

The girls are both boarders in Cornwallis House and as well as their success in the classroom they are keen members of the Army section of the Combined Cadet Force, qualified lifeguards and enthusiastic equestrian, swimming and netball team members. During the holidays they return to their home in Muscat, Oman where they enjoy the social 'whirlwind' of the expat lifestyle.

On the day that the examination results came out Emily and Lucy were overseas and they rang the School to find out how they had done. Lucy spoke to Dr Allday, Director of Studies, first and Emily recounts the moment, "Lucy had written her subjects down on a piece of paper so that she could write the grade next to each one. I noticed that she wrote nothing down at all on the paper during that telephone conversation which meant only one thing – she had the same grade in everything but to get top marks in every paper is pretty amazing. She deserved it; she worked so hard." Now in the sixth form, the girls are each taking four A Levels. Emily hopes to go to Oxford and Lucy to Cambridge.

The Headmaster congratulated the girls on their achievement and said, "I am immensely proud of what Emily and Lucy have achieved. Since joining us in Year 7 as 11 year olds they have developed into independent, articulate and confident young ladies with an enthusiasm for life and I have every faith in them being successful in their Oxbridge applications".

The Equestrian Team has a new training base with competition coaching at Bylam Livery Stables, Chelmondiston, just 3 miles from the School, under the instruction of experienced horsewoman, Caroline Colwill NDHS BHS&I.

Caroline has been working with horses for over 18 years. She studied equestrian studies at Hartpury College in Gloucester and in 2002 opened her own livery yard in Chelmondiston, where she also produces young horses and re-schools. Caroline is also an equestrian journalist and consultant for the East Anglian Daily Times. Training with Caroline takes place

This term alone the equestrian team are competing in the following:

- 13 September**
Eventer Trails, Poplar Park
- 19 September**
UK Riders Challenge, unaffiliated Show Jumping, Boyton Hall
- 20 September**
Cross Country, Colne Valley
- 27 September**
Triathlon, St Felix School
- 3 October**
Eventer Trials, Lime Kiln
- 4 October**
Indoor Showjumping, Wix
- 11 October**
Inter School Eventer Trial, Towerlands
- 1 November**
Indoor Showjumping, Wix
- 7 November**
Indoor Dressage, Wix
- 7 December**
Indoor Showjumping, Wix



during games and activities sessions for team members with their own horses. Day pupils can arrange for parents to transport their horses or ponies to Bylam for these sessions, while a number of boarders make use of the full livery services.



During the Spring term training goes up a level as the team starts preparation for Her Majesty's Services Team jumping competitions at Royal Windsor Horse Show in May.



Athletics Team

Both the girls and boys under 14's athletics teams gave an outstanding performance at the County Finals at Northgate Athletics Track, Ipswich, in June earning the title of County Schools Champions.

The first round of the Championships was held at the Royal Hospital School where both teams were placed 1st. In the second round the girls' team won and the boys were third place.

Individual highlights in the finals included the boys' captain, Rupert Powell with a very comfortable win in the 300m, Cameron Cullen in the hurdles, Ben Moore in the high jump with a height of 165cm and, girls' captain, Charlotte Shelley in the 200m

and high jump. Five members of the squad compete for Anglian Schools and Charlotte Shelley and Rupert Powell have gone through to the National Qualifiers.

Team captains, Powell and Shelley said, "Our success is largely due to the closeness of the team; we all support each other and with the opportunity to do athletics at least three times a week at School we train regularly as a group".

Runway Fashion

This year's fashion show captivated the audience with over 110 outfits, including those created by pupils who have gained places at the London School of Fashion. Models walked the 60ft runway with a back-drop of smoke, movie projections, dry ice and snow. A team of sixth form pupils coordinated the show under the direction of textiles teacher, Debbie Hitchen and the models' hair was professionally styled by Ipswich based, WS Hairdressing Academy.

The first half of the show included work by junior pupils: brightly coloured corsets, silk tops and skirts and crazy shapes inspired by the 'fruits' movement in Tokyo. There were also entries from two open competitions entitled 'Recycle' and 'Pure White'. The former, proved that fashion need not be expensive while the 'Pure White' section tested creativity as entries had to be made out of two metres of plain white fabric.

The second half featured GCSE artwork and highlights were Jess Langford's glowing skirt, Ella Walker's giant coloured skirt, Saffron Creasey-Levine's retro mini-dress and Gabrielle

Ind's innovative Quality Street wrapper dress. The pinnacle of the evening was undoubtedly the individual collections all of which were excellent, but Tyler Butler's bottle top creation, Mia Creasey-Levine's evening gown and Alice Du Port's gorgeous mint green dress were particularly memorable. Emma Hesling's collection was vibrant and extravagant and Henry Petrides' was weird and wonderful.

But the talent in the show was not only found in the designers; the catwalk models were both male and female, all ages and all different shapes and sizes; and they all looked fabulous.

The professionalism of the show was the result of commitment and immense effort from everyone involved, from the committee to the team behind the scenes.



Tuck Shop goes Fairtrade

With children increasingly aware of world issues the pupils' café/tuck shop, the 'Trafalgar Rooms' has started to stock a range of Fairtrade products. As well as the old favourites, pupils now have a choice of Fairtrade and/or organic goodies as 50% of the lines on sale are sourced from a leading supplier of Fairtrade products, Peros. Not only are they good for the planet and produced naturally but they are better for their health.

Treats include the number one Fairtrade coffee brand, Café Direct in the coffee machines, organic cereal bars, Divine chocolate, Natural Beverage Company juices and sustainable 'farmers' crisps amongst others.

The Headmaster says "I think the new lines will go down well with our pupils. In my experience young people today are much more aware of the world around them and the ethical issues involved in global trade".



Top Young Cricketers assemble at RHS

While England's cricketers were winning the Ashes Series this summer, over 300 eleven and twelve year old county cricketers flocked to the School for two county cricket events.

The annual Minor Counties U12 Cricket Competition, sponsored by the Ipswich Building Society, was won by Norfolk who defeated Lincolnshire in the final. The other participating counties were Cumbria, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cleveland, Cambridgeshire and host county Suffolk, who finished in sixth place having lost to Cambridgeshire on the final's day.

In the tenth year of the Minor Counties U11 Festival, Norfolk U11s performed extremely well by winning two and dominating their single draw, whilst Pembrokeshire and Cumbria looked impressive too. Also participating were North Essex District,

Cleveland, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Bedfordshire and Suffolk.

Organiser of the events, master in charge of cricket at the Royal Hospital School and former professional cricketer, Don Topley said, "RHS continues to be an

excellent venue for such festivals and the talent on show at ages 11 and 12 is fantastic to see.

Undoubtedly, our events have become a part of the county's youth cricketing calendar which help develop these cricketers both, on and off the pitch".



Dinghy Racing on Lake Garda

Four RHS sailors competed in the RS500 Europeans at Lake Garda in August under the experienced guidance of Director of Sailing, Andrew Nutton who transported all the boats, kit and crew mascot, his black working cocker spaniel "Jarvis", all the way from School to Northern Italy.

This was the boys', Robert Moritz and Christian Proctor in boat 746 and Arthur Howard and Cameron Talbott in boat 747, third time competing together but the first time at this level amongst 500 competitors.

The week started slowly as the lack of wind meant that sailing was abandoned but the next morning broke with an ominous whistling as the wind arrived with a vengeance. The fleet launched into a solid 15 knots gusting 20, which

unfortunately, proved too much for boat 747. As the week went on there were some ups and downs with Arthur and Cameron finishing consistently within the high teens to low twenties and boat 746 earning a very respectable 17th in some very testing conditions on the last day. At the end of an exhilarating, yet exhausting, regatta boat 747 finished 23rd and 746 at 25th and a wonderful experience was had by the boys and their families who came to support them, in this stunning location.



Topley Caps a Dream Summer

Fifteen year old, Reece Topley has been selected for England U15s following some superb performances at county and regional level.

The 6ft 6" tall left arm pace bowler was selected whilst playing for the London and East (South) at the U15 Regional Festival; known as the Bunbury's, where 56 of the UK's best young cricketers compete at regional level.

During the festival, which is covered by Sky Sports, Topley was provided with a camera and asked to do a video diary which became known as 'Reece Cam'. The resulting 12-minute programme about Reece and his Bunbury experiences was broadcast during the Headingly Ashes Test Match on Sky Sports. The teenager has become quite experienced with the media; he made the national headlines in early June when Kevin Pietersen hit a ball off his bowling only to accidentally smash it back at Reece's ear and put him in Leicester hospital!

Reece's dream came true on the final night of the 5-day festival when he was presented with his England cap, by ECB Managing

Director, David Collier at a dinner attended by over 300 people, including Derek Underwood, Mark Butcher, Mickey Stewart, John Barclay and David Graveney.



Devizes to Westminster

The Royal Hospital School has a long tradition of competing in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race and has notched up some impressive results over the years. This year saw another brilliant performance; the Junior Ladies Team Trophy was won by Anastasia Simmons and Fiona Adie and Lucy Bird and Kim Griffiths. The HMS Alacrity McKaig Cup, which is awarded to the fastest CCF crews, was won by the combined force of Will Jones and Ollie Batty; Alex Minshall and Chris Myatt; and Jeremy Smith and Will Bakewell.



In total, eight crews took part in this arduous competition with a further two from outside the School. These were two old boys, Eddie Adie and Joe Lyons, and two very keen policemen who were coached in the run up to the event by veteran competitors and team coaches at the Royal Hospital School, Lee Menday and Les Thompson. Suffolk Police's Pc Peter Hurry, a firearms trainer, and his friend Steve Foster, an inspector with the Civil Nuclear Police, requested the help of our

resident experts in their endeavour to complete the Canoeists Everest and raise money for Help for Heroes

The Devizes to Westminster race is a severe test of skill and stamina, with the teams having to navigate 125 miles of water and 77 lock gates, which meant that they were forced to carry their boats along the way. Starting from the small market town of Devizes in Wiltshire the route initially meanders along the Kennet and Avon canal for 52 miles before joining the River Thames. On the final day there was a mass start at 5.00am on the tidal section of the Thames with heads-down all the way to Westminster where the crews were greeted with cheers and applause from a huge crowd of well-wishers.

Dates for the Diary 2009/10

Saturday 10th October, 7.30pm
Wednesday 14th October

Friday 16th October

Sunday 25th October, 7.30pm

Wednesday 4th November, 6.30pm

Saturday 7th November

Sunday 8th November, 10.15am

Saturday 14th November, 9.30am

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November

Sunday 29th November, 8.00pm

Saturday 5th December, 7.30pm

Monday 7th December, 1.30pm

Thursday 10th December

Friday 11th December, 2.30pm

Saturday 12th December

Sunday 10th January

Recital in the Burns Recital Hall
Choir to perform at Annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's cathedral
Divisions and start of Half Term break
Royal Marines Band Concert in Assembly Hall*
Sixth Form Information Evening
School Fireworks Display
Service of Remembrance and Divisions
Open Morning
Drama Festival
Jazz Concert in the Assembly Hall*
Christmas Concert with Holbrook Choral Society in the Chapel*
Lunchtime Concert
Christmas Lunch and "Own Clothes Charity Day"
Carol Service and end of term
Choir to perform with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at John Rutter's Celebrate
Christmas Concert, Royal Albert Hall
Term starts

*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