



Waterfront

Issue 7 - Autumn 2010

Record number of pupils at RHS



New Year 7 pupils

This September, 163 new pupils joined the school; 81 into Drake and Blake Junior Houses, 38 into the Senior Houses and 44 in the Sixth Form. This means that we have started the new academic year with just under 700 pupils and the highest number in the School for at least 20 years.

The mix of pupils has changed over this period with girls now making up 40% of pupils and there are around 140 day pupils in the school. The Royal Hospital School, however, remains a full boarding school in

both its ethos and operation; with over 80% of pupils boarding full time, excellent pastoral care and a strong community feeling.

Welcome to the Seventh Edition of Waterfront



We start this new academic year with the highest pupil numbers in twenty years, a record number of As and A*s at both A Level and GCSE and an outstanding ISI Report.

According to the Independent School Inspectors, "the high quality of pastoral care and the commitment of the staff ensure a happy and fulfilling educational experience". The inspection took place in March and was conducted by an experienced team of Heads and teachers from other ISC (Independent School's Council) accredited schools across the country.

The report went on to say that "Pupils have outstandingly well-developed personal qualities: they are ready to become active, responsible citizens who will contribute to society in a positive manner, exercise good judgment and show tolerance, courtesy and respect for others. They are friendly, confident and

outgoing and loyal to their house and school. The school very successfully fulfils its aims concerning the development of values and personal qualities."

On the subject of academic standards it states that "standards are high. Pupils are well educated in accordance with the school's aims. They are articulate, confident and capable of independent thought. Results in GCSE and A Level examinations over the last three years, for which nationally comparable data is available, have been high". This year saw record-highs with 22 pupils gaining three straight As or more at A2 level and 45% of all GCSE papers were graded A*/A.

Despite these commendable accolades we will not be sitting on our laurels. I am committed to ensuring that we build on these recent successes and excellent academic results and that we do all we can to ensure that our pupils at all levels reach their full potential, particularly in the classroom.

As you will see from this edition of Waterfront not only is The Royal Hospital School in excellent shape but it continues to provide a superb all round education for pupils in a wonderful setting in the south Suffolk countryside.

**Howard Blackett MA (Oxon)
Headmaster**



'Diamonds are Forever'

On Friday 28 May, 230 parents and guests donned their black tie and finery, with a touch of sparkle, for RHS's first fundraising ball in aid of the School's Annual Fund.

Guests enjoyed the last of the evening sunshine on the Terrace drinking cocktails to the sounds of The Gershwin Gang. The Dining Hall was transformed with glitz and glamour and the outstanding Corps of Drums, led by Sam Kester, performed before dinner. After a delicious four course meal, the auction was expertly conducted by Mr Jaspar Corbett, parent and ITV's 'face of wine'.

The auction and raffle raised in the region of £12,000 for the School's Annual Fund which has been created to provide resources and facilities that

cannot be financed through routine expenditure. The highest bid items included an evening with the City of London Police Tactical Fire Unit (kindly donated by Mr Patrick Rice, Commander of the City of London Police), a week holiday in a Luxury Villa in Plettenburg Bay, South Africa, (kindly donated by Dr and Mrs Rossouw), and two VIP tickets to the England vs Australia Rugby International at Twickenham (kindly arranged by the Headmaster's brother, His Honour Judge Jeff Blackett).

The auction was followed by energetic dancing to *Quince* in the Jellicoe Room. The School would like to thank all those who supported this first event by way of auction prizes, donations, organisational assistance and coming on the night).

RHS Riders at Windsor



RHS riders competed in Her Majesty's Services Team Cup at the 2010 Royal Windsor Horse Show alongside teams of adults from the RAF, Navy, Household Cavalry and other armed services. Only two other schools competed in the class this year.

Three teams with mixed ages entered under the guidance of team trainer, Caroline Colwill. Two were placed a very respectable 20th and 25th overall and the highlight of the event was the parade in front of The Queen. All the horses behaved extremely well and the salute was well demonstrated by the pupils.

Opi sailor, Freddie, ranked 3rd in Britain

Year 7 pupil, Freddie Grogono, 12, is ranked 3rd in Britain after competing at the third and final International Optimist Class Association (IOCA) UK national ranking event at Rutland Water in October. This event determines national ranking which is the sole basis of selection into Optimist National Squads.

313 young sailors aged between 10 and 15 years old, battled it out at the Volvo Musto Optimist End of Season Championships in what started out as testing sailing conditions. 17 knot winds, gusting to 20 knots, on the first day gave way to near perfect conditions on the Sunday.

Director of Sailing Andrew Nutton said, "Freddie's achievements show a young man with true sporting talent. His performance at this year's Nationals and last weekend's End of Season Championships was nothing short of remarkable".

Freddie and his brother Oliver (15) joined RHS in September as sailing scholars and both are part of the progressive junior team racing squad. The boys benefit from the outstanding sailing provision at RHS as



well as expert coaching and specialised teaching techniques such as video and GPs tracking technology.

Oliver Grogono is representing his country in the Optimist World Championships in Malaysia during the Christmas break and Freddie continues to build on his excellent performances at national level by focusing on a position in next year's GBR World Team.

Dandelion Time

'Dandelion Time' was an exciting and ambitious production that saw the whole of Year 7 and 8 either on stage or helping back stage with costumes, lights, sound, hair and make-up – that's 150 pupils in all!

It was a feast for the eyes as the audience was treated to spectacular costumes and magical sets. They were taken on a whirlwind journey to the fantasy world behind the clock face where lead characters endeavoured to rescue Father Time and save the world from destruction.

For many, the Sea Cucumbers stirring rendition of 'You can't eat a cucumber'



in the exotic *Beneath the Ocean* scene was a highlight but there were so many high points to this production that it is difficult to pick out one character or scene above another. Some scenes were developed by the pupils themselves, demonstrating their writing skills and comic talent. Main attractions included the hilarious goblin characters, the amazing street dancing and the characters from Planet Pluto.

Mrs Melanie Bloor-Black, Head of Drama and director of *Dandelion Time* said, "This was a very successful production on so many levels. The pupils achieved so much more than they ever thought possible and the audience was entertained by a high end junior production"

Dandelion Time was written by Patricia Wood, directed by Mrs. Melanie Bloor-Black, and performed on the 23 and 24 June 2010.

The World is Your Classroom

Pupils at the Royal Hospital School benefit hugely from experiential learning, and during the summer holidays they were given the possibility through a cultural and band trip to the West Coast of the United States. The trip was organised by Geography teacher, Mr Rob Mann, who firmly believes in his mantra that "the World is your Classroom" and during his time at the school he has provided over 500 pupils with the opportunity of learning through travel.



The band playing on the deck of the Star of India

This was the ultimate 'road trip'; starting in Las Vegas (Nevada) and ending in San Francisco (California), combining breathtaking physical landscapes with vibrant city cultures.

Day 1 Viva Las Vegas

Elvis loved Vegas and RHS did too; straight from the airport to the bright lights of the Strip. As pupils watched the spectacular dancing musical fountains at the Hotel Bellagio, it was clear this was a place like no other.



Day 2 You can't Beat It

In the US no day could go by without some form of record breaker and on this day pupils visited the highest concrete dam in the Western Hemisphere, standing at more than 725 feet above the Colorado River.

Day 3 The Grand Canyon Overture

This astounding place overwhelmed, with no photograph or description able to truly convey the enormity of it. The snaking Colorado River 3000 feet below, the geological timeline of layered strata and the incredible light left many speechless as the sense of awe and inspiration transcended the group.



Day 4 Rawhide

This was cowboy day starting with a classic American breakfast at a Route 66 diner followed by an impromptu stop at a US style car boot sale for some mementos. After a visit to Oak Creek Canyon the group enjoyed a wholesome cowboy feast at Rawhide.

Day 5 Road to Yuma

They travelled through the cactus-laden Sonoran desert, skirting the Mexican border to the Pacific Ocean, and San Diego; a city with a warm Californian climate, rich Spanish heritage and long Naval tradition.

Day 6 The Battle for Midway and Free Willy

The cultural group supported the band at their first concert aboard the distinguished USS Midway Aircraft carrier. They then went on to the cultural heart of historic San Diego. The afternoon and evening destination was Sea World to view the amazing Sea Lion, Dolphin and Orca Displays.

Day 7 Pirates of the Caribbean and Hollywood

The group were special guests of the San Diego Maritime Museum on the historic waterfront. As they toured the

"Star of India", and the "Surprise", the school band's rendition of *Holbrook* echoed out across the harbour. Afterwards it was on to Hollywood and a fascinating tour of the Golden Mile and Beverley Hills.

Day 8 Universal Studios

At the Universal Studios theme park the band performed on the Blues Brothers Stage and afterwards the group took the Studio Tour through epic movie sets; including fire and water stunt action and 4D movie effects.

Day 9 Disneyland

The Cultural group supported the band's performances in the land of Walt Disney before planning their routes around the park for their fair share of adrenalin rushes.

Day 10 Baywatch

Destination Malibu for a walk on the boardwalk and dip in the Pacific.

Day 11 Don't go chasing Waterfalls

After all the 'man-made' excesses that the USA has to offer, it was back to nature with a visit to Yosemite with its wonderful waterfalls, giant sequoia trees and impressive rock structures.

Day 12 Surfin' USA

A day of slides and rides as the group relaxed in the sunshine or lounged in the lazy river. Energy levels restored it was on to San Francisco.

Day 13 San Francisco

The day started with a rooftop breakfast enjoying far reaching views across the city. From Pier 39 they boarded the 'Rocket Boat' for an exhilarating, and slightly wet jet-propelled speed boat thrill ride around the harbour.

Day 14 Chinatown and Convoy

The final day involved a visit to Golden Gate Park with its landscaped gardens and a well-attended band concert. Dinner in Chinatown was followed by a final big surprise - a fleet of eight stretch-limousines to ferry the whole group around the streets of San Francisco and over the Golden Gate Bridge.

Day 15 Leaving on a Jet Plane

Some final retail therapy in Macy's department store before flying home from a fun-packed cultural extravaganza.

Pat Smiles (Matron), who accompanied the group, said "we travelled 2,345 miles, visited six cities, met some great people, ate to excess, and had a good laugh on the way. What more could you ask for?"



Distinction for Olivia

Young organist, Olivia Peacock, 12, gained a Distinction at Grade 5 with a score of 140/150.

Olivia, who also plays the piano to Grade 6, the bassoon and violin and sings with the chapel choir and various other ensembles, took up the organ under the guidance of Peter Crompton, Director of Music, just 12 months ago. He said, "Many young people fail to discover the exciting repertoire which exists for the "King of Instruments", but Olivia has a wonderful chance at the Royal Hospital School as she learns on one of the finest organs in the country".

The Grand 4 Manual in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital School was installed in 1933 by famed organ builders, Hill, Norman and Beard, and was designed by, the then organist to Her Majesty the Queen, Sir Stanley Roper.

Mathematical Mastermind

In April pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in the National Junior Maths Challenge and the outstanding performance of Sean Cuddihy, 13, put him through to the next round; the Maths Olympiad.



Sean took the Maths Olympiad test in June; sitting with A Level candidates in the Assembly Hall. The results arrived in September and he was awarded a Distinction and Bronze medal, placing him in the top 25% of all Olympiad participants.

Sean joined the Royal Hospital School as an academic scholar in September 2008 from Holbrook Primary School. He hopes to compete in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in this forthcoming year.



Team RHS takes the plunge



On Saturday 19 June a team of enthusiastic pupils, parents and staff took part in the British Gas Great East Swim 2010. In its second year, the event was part of the Great Swim series and involved a 1 mile open water swim at neighbouring Alton Water Reservoir. A record 3000 competitors took part.

Teacher Lee Menday, who competed in the event in 2009 passed on his training tips and tactics in the run up to the event and RHS pupils were joined by a group of elite and olympic swimmers in a training session in the school pool.

On the day, the conditions could not have been worse with gusts of 30mph, rain and enough chop to make anyone seasick! The course was therefore shortened in the afternoon which made final positions impossible to determine. Notable swims were made by Freddie Fergusson (28:17), James Rae (28:26), Ella Walker (28:35), Rhys Evans (29:27), Matt Davidson-Brett (29:47) and Katie Rae (30:36).

Pupils

Cameron Allen
Lynsey Choules
Matt Davidson-Brett
Ali Evans
Rhys Evans
Freddie Ferguson
Jade Hope
Annie Murrison
James Rae
Katie Rae
Sophie Roman
Ella Walker

Parents

Mr Bryn Ager
Mrs Trudy Cullen
Mrs Melissa Dowell
Mrs Anne Gould
Mrs Laura Hall
Mr Tim Jones
Mr Bob Mannion
Mrs Claire Minshall
Mr Tim Minshall
Mr Peter Rae
Mrs Zoe Sharman

Staff

Mr Darren Abbott
Mrs Wendy Abbott
Mrs Sophie Braybrooke
Miss Emma Cook
Mr James Cullen

Dates for the Diary 2010

Sunday 21 November	Ipswich Musicians Union Big Band Jazz Concert 7.30pm, Assembly Hall*
Monday 22 November	Junior Lunchtime Concert 1.30pm, Burns Recital Hall
Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 December	Junior Dance Production "Winter Wonderland" 7pm
Saturday 4 December	Christmas Concert with Holbrook Music Society and the Royal Hospital School Chapel Choir 7.30pm, Chapel*
Monday 6 December	Choir perform at the Admiralty Carol Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields
Friday 10 December	Choir perform with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Rutter 7.30pm, Regent Theatre, Ipswich*
Saturday 11 December	Carol Service 2.30pm and End of Term
Wednesday 5 January	Boarders Return
Thursday 6 January	Term Starts
Saturday 22 January	Entrance Examinations
Saturday 28 January	Scholarships Day
Sunday 29 January	Suffolk Concert Band, 7.30pm *Burns Recital Hall
Saturday 5 February	Charity Gala Concert, 7.30pm Chapel
Saturday 26 February	Organ Recital by Paul McCaffery, 7.30pm Chapel
Saturday 5 March	Scholar's Concert, 7.30pm Burns Recital Hall
Wednesday 16 March	Recital by Katie Peacock (soprano) and Christian White (piano) 7.30pm Burns Recital Hall
Saturday 26 March	Band Concert, 7.30pm Burns Recital Hall
Sunday 27 March	Divisions and Chapel 11am

*There will be a nominal entrance fee for these events and tickets can be purchased from www.rhscommunity.co.uk

Powerful Women through History



Recent leaver, Lindsay Cullen gained a well-earned A* grade in her Art A Level as a result of her project looking at powerful women and how they are portrayed throughout art history. She studied Marie Antoinette and local painter, Gainsborough through to portraits of the Queen and politicians.

Lindsay's study culminated in a beautifully produced book of photographs including portraits of Lady Thatcher; former Minister for the East of England, Barbara Follett; parent, governor of the School and Barrister Elisabeth Todd QC.



Sixth Form Induction

110 new Sixth Formers enjoyed a day hosted by Anglia Adventures as part of their three day Induction Programme this September.

The aim was to help new pupils integrate with their peers who had moved up to the sixth form after GCSEs. Together they were presented with a range of dynamic team work and problem solving tasks designed to get them thinking and working together.

Sarah Godfrey, Head of Sixth Form, said "the induction programme is an important aspect of the new academic year. Alongside these team building challenges, the pupils benefit from a study skills seminar, and workshops designed to develop communication and leadership.

We try to make settling in as easy as possible for those joining the school for A Levels, so that they quickly



become part of the RHS community, with new friends and the opportunity to enjoy new experiences".

Anglia Adventures provides quality learning experiences for schools, corporate groups and individuals, involving a range of challenging outdoor sports under the expert guidance of experience instructors. Anglia Adventures has also supported the RHS Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and CCF Field Days.

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, 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.

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 PA: Maggie Cross
Communications Director: Sophie Braybrooke

Waterfront is Written and Published by The Royal Hospital School.

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