



# Waterfront

Issue 9 - Autumn 2011

## A visit from the Duke

**HRH The Duke of York visited RHS in June this year in his capacity as the School's 'Official Visitor'. He was keen to see developments since his last visit in October 2006.**

We have been very fortunate to have benefited from the generous support of our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital and this support has enabled the School to go through an £18 million, five-year development programme. This has included the refurbishment of the boarding houses and the building of a music school that would rival any in the country. It is these developments that the Duke was keen to see on a normal working day.

The Duke's tour included the music school and a short recital by some of the School's outstanding musicians, a visit to a girls' boarding house, the new day house and to meet some lower school pupils in their new facilities. He was also able to view some of the art and design examination pieces on display in the school's exhibition atrium.

As the School approaches its Tercentenary Celebrations, we hope to welcome HRH The Duke of York to take part in some of the RHS 300 programme of events planned in 2012/2013.



## Welcome to the Ninth Edition of Waterfront

I am pleased to announce that we start the new academic year with an intake of 170 new pupils and a roll of just over 700 - the largest the School has been for at least 20 years! This is a reflection of the outstanding progress the Royal Hospital School has made in so many different respects over the past few years.

These are shifting times and preparing our pupils for life after school has become more vital than ever. I place a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that pupils at the Royal Hospital School understand the importance of decency, honesty, loyalty, respect, humility, self sacrifice and service and that their education is

underpinned by a very strong and clear set of values.

I hope that you will come and visit us soon. I can guarantee that you will be impressed by all that you see and, most importantly, the pupils you meet.



## Record Exam Results

The GCSE results this summer are the best on record with 52% of all papers graded A\* or A. Laura Brown and Harriet Pope both achieved 11 A\* grades and Aislin Barraclough achieved 10 A\*s.

At A level, 22 candidates achieved the equivalent of 3 A grades or better. Anastasiya Pachyna achieved 5 A\* grades and is now at Cambridge University reading Natural Sciences and she is joined at Cambridge by Chris Myatt who achieved 3 A\* grades and is reading Computer Sciences. There was a double celebration for twins Lucy and Emily Nutt who both achieved 3 A grades respectively securing places at Oxford University to read Geography and Bristol University to read English Literature.

Despite the problems reported in the press with admission to university this year, almost every pupil leaving RHS gained a place at a university of their choice. This is a result of the excellent advice our pupils received during the application stage of the process and the help they received following results day in mid August.

## Pupils help out with Optua Games

Around 300 people visited the School on 30 June to take part in Optua's annual fun sports event for people with disabilities. The RHS Optua Games is organised every year by Suffolk-based disability charity Optua together with the Royal Hospital School's Community Action Team, headed by Mr Barry Hocking.

Twenty teams of people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities competed in a series of



fun outdoor events, such as ball games, welly-throwing and skittles. The School's Community Action Team and all of Year 11 who had recently finished their GCSE examinations helped out on the day. Mr Hocking said, "We have been hosting the Optua games here at the Royal Hospital School for 9 years now; not only are we able to offer the use of our extensive sports facilities, but our pupils gain so much from helping out. It is a wonderful experience for them to work with people who are trying their very best to achieve independence despite their disabilities".

# Champions on the Water



Alton Water Reservoir, adjacent to the School and where the RHS fleet is kept, played host to the annual Suffolk Water Sports Association Schools' Regatta in June. Representatives from 28 schools across the county competed in 3 fleets; Fast Handicap, Slow Handicap and the Topper fleet.

RHS entered 38 pupils ranging from 11 to 18 years and 29 boats across the three fleets. The Fast Fleet included 29ers, RS500s, RS200s, Lasers and Topaz, the Slow Fleet was the largest fleet racing with 52 boats, including a mixture of 12 RS Teras and RS Fevas from the School. The only single class fleet racing was for the Toppers.

The day started with a fresh north westerly and the racing proved to be spirited from the start. The RHS Fast Fleet was ever-competitive and GBR sailor, Oliver Grogono, 14, hit the front of the Topper fleet in the first race and didn't really look back. In the Slow Handicap Alex Slatter, Luke Bailey and Freddie Grogono pushed each other hard alongside a stronger-than-

predicted performance from our less experienced crews. RHS came away with the top honours in all three of the fleets; Freddie Grogono, 12, won the Slow Handicap, Oliver Grogono the Topper Class and Nik Grujic 17, the Fast. As well as winning all the fleets we secured the Suffolk Water Sports Association Team Championship Shield.

More recently, national honours were gained at the RS Tera Inland National Championships also at Alton Water. On the 10th and 11th September, 72 young sailors from all over the country took to the water on a weekend that saw some killer gusts at the tail end of Hurricane Katrina. RHS performed exceptionally well; Freddie Grogono beat the World Champion winning the Pro rig fleet, his brother, Oliver was ranked 3rd and Alex Slatter was placed a very respectable sixth. The Royal Hospital School also took the team trophy from Hayling Island Sailing Club by two points placing our Junior Sailing squad one of the strongest in the country.



# Distinctions in Drama



**Creativity and imagination are fostered through the performing arts at RHS and the introduction of individual speech and drama lessons alongside curriculum drama and school productions has been a resounding success.**

Forty nine pupils were entered for the Trinity Guildhall examinations in March and 33 achieved Distinction with the remaining gaining high Merits.

The examiner could not give the work more praise and felt that RHS would soon become a centre of excellence for Suffolk. She also approached the exam board for a recording of the

senior work as examples of work of Distinction to be distributed nationally.

Emily Shelley achieved an outstanding full marks (60/60) in one of her Grade 8 examinations which holds the equivalent UCAS points as an A\* at A Level. She also got 93% in her Solo Acting examination.

The lessons are taught by specialist drama teacher, Stewart Turner and the number of pupils electing to take these lessons has increased each term. He says "We have set high standards for ourselves with the results in March and I hope to build on this in November with the LAMDA exams."

# Kenyan Connections



**In June this year, Mrs Deborah Boyd-Moss Headmistress of Pembroke House, one of the top IAPS Prep Schools in Kenya, invited RHS to their Ndume Prep Schools Sevens' Tournament.**

This is a major sporting event attracting prep and junior schools across Kenya, Tanzania and further afield and parents travel long distances to enjoy the rugby – and the social scene.

RHS was one of ten schools, including Stowe, Shrewsbury, Roedean, Oundle, Culford,

Kingswood, Pangbourne, Sedbergh and Westonbirt, who were invited to meet parents and talk to them about boarding in the UK.

This flourishing relationship with Pembroke House has developed further with an invitation to send two RHS hockey coaches to run a pre-season training camp in January.

Michael Edwards and Brendan Tait from Tanzania and Siana Douglas Hamilton from Nairobi have recently joined us and we hope more pupils from Kenyan Prep Schools will join them in the near future.

# Budding Rugby Players the Stars of the Future

Toby Buckland, 12, has been selected for The School of Rugby (SoR) programme which aims to identify and develop young players and athletes who have the potential to play at the elite levels of rugby in England. The School of Rugby will provide him with a route into the England Rugby Academy system through the Elite Player Development Group (EPDG) and an opportunity to go on to represent Eastern Counties age group squads. Toby, together with two other Year 8 boys, Sam Cantelo and Francois Rossouw, has also been put forward for the Prep School Barbarians.

Ben Kelland joins the U14s Northampton Saints Elite Player Development Group this season following a gruelling three-point trial selection. He was captain of the U13As last season and played for the Midlands Independent Schools Barbarians U13s.

Toby Eaton was part of the U14s Northampton Saints Elite Player Development Group last season and is also the only boy from East Anglia representing the Independent Schools Barbarian U14s 'The Lambs'.

Paul Hardman, Director of Sport said, "The opportunity to train and play at a higher level is very important for these boys. Saints Academy and the SoR are excellent vehicles to develop the playing skills of rugby players in our area. It is especially important at junior level as these boys then become role models for others to follow."



# Record Numbers Enter Open Water Swim

**52 pupils, teachers and parents took part in this year's Great East Swim at Alton Water which attracted more than 2,400 participants and 12,000 spectators.**

The day before the event, Maarten van der Weijden, the 27 year old, 6ft 7ins Dutchman who took Gold in the 2008 Olympics 10km Open Water

event, visited RHS. He gave tips on open water swimming and challenged some of the best swimmers to a race in the School pool.

There was a particularly outstanding swim by Cora Gercek who was placed 29th overall with a time of 24 minutes and 29 seconds.



# Riding High

The equestrian team have seen some highlights at every level under the expert instruction of team-trainer, Caroline Colwill.

Senior riders, Alice Dryden, Sophie Ainsworth, Holly Spurr and Ollie Ainsworth competed at the National Schools Show Jumping Finals and were placed 13th overall.

Locally, both the senior and junior teams entered numerous inter-school show jumping competitions and one day events collecting abundant rosettes and placings, and many pupils qualified for the National Finals. These events helped to prepare the riders for the highlight of their year, The Royal Windsor Horse Show.



This is the 4th year that RHS has entered a team into The Services Team Cup at The Royal Windsor Horse Show. Although they were not placed this year, they paraded in front of Her Majesty the Queen beautifully turned out with a perfect salute. With 30 teams, three abreast and large crowds it is a challenging environment.

Chloe Tribe, Milly Ainsworth, Ollie Ainsworth and Sophie Ainsworth entered the Inter-School Show Jumping also at Royal Windsor in its first year, finishing 9th out of 27 teams.

As well as all this competitive riding, some pupils enjoyed a more adventurous and somewhat rustic time on horseback with the first Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition.



## Corps of Drums Entertain Officers Mess

The Royal Hospital School Corps of Drums performed at a Charity Dinner and musical soiree in aid of an Afghan School, at the Officers Mess at Wattisham Air Base on Friday 1 July.

The Corps of Drums (Richard Pooley, Jack Rennison, Angus Beaton, James Yarde and Sebastian Starling) and Piper, Monty Beaton, performed a Mess Beatings Ceremony prior to the dinner.



## Young Thespian gets his break



**Russell Farrer, 14, played the lead role in the musical 'Oliver' at The Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage, Hertfordshire this summer.**

He has been involved in both whole school and junior productions, he takes speech and drama lessons and has chosen drama as a GCSE option.

Russell joined the acting, singing and dancing group Theatre Train aged 6 through which he had the chance to perform at The Dury Lane Theatre giving him his first taste of the stage.

Russell's 'break' came this summer when he successfully auditioned for Oliver at the Gordon Craig Theatre. His performance went down extremely well and he hopes to continue 'walking the boards' in the future.

## Dates for the Diary 2011/12

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday 2 October        | Divisions with Captain Jerry Kydd RN, 11am Harvest Festival  |
| Wednesday 12 October    | Choir at the Annual National Service for Seafarers, St Paul's Cathedral  |
| Thursday 13 October     | SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING for Entry to the Sixth Form in September 2012 or 2013, 6pm  |
| Friday 14 October       | Divisions with Cdr Paul Jones RH, 2.30pm Half Term begins  |
| Monday 31 October       | School Resumes   |
| Tuesday 1 November      | Sixth Form Drama performance 'Shakespeare for Schools', Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, 6.30pm  |
| Saturday 5 & 6 November | The Royal Hospital School will be at the INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOW, Battersea <a href="http://www.schoolsshow.com">www.schoolsshow.com</a> , 10am-5pm |
| Saturday 12 November    | OPEN MORNING for prospective pupils including tours of the School with a pupil and an opportunity to speak to members of staff, 9am                  |
| Sunday 13 November      | Remembrance Day Parade with Cmdre John Keegan, 11am Service of Remembrance   |
| Friday 25 November      | JUNIOR SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PRE-SELECTION DAY for pupils currently in Years 6 for entry into Year 7 in September 2012, 9am                             |
| Thursday 1 December     | Junior Drama Production: Winter Wonderland, 2pm and 7pm  |
| Saturday 3 December     | Suffolk Schools Cross Country Competition at RHS Holbrook Music Society and Royal Hospital School Choir Christmas Concert, 7.30pm                    |
| Monday 5 December       | Choir to sing at the Admiralty Carol Service at St Martins-in-the-Fields, London, 6.30pm   |
| Saturday 10 December    | Carol Service, 2.30pm<br>Term Ends   |
| Monday 9 January        | Term Starts  |
| Saturday 21 January     | ENTRANCE EXAM for entry to the School in September 2012 (not Common Entrance or GCSE candidates)   |
| Saturday 28 January     | SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENT DAY (academic, sport, sailing, music and art) for entry to the School in September 2012                                       |

## 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.

Every pupil has the opportunity to enjoy his or her interests, discover new passions, and develop important values for life.

**For more information, please contact: The Admissions Office, The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2RX. Tel: 01473 326210 [admissions@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:admissions@royalhospitalschool.org)**

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 extra curricular activities.

### Who's Who

**Headmaster:** Howard Blackett MA Oxon  
**Headmaster's PA:** Ann January  
**Admissions Officer:** Susan Lewis and Kate Evers  
**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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