

Boarders 2003/4



At Christmas we said goodbye to three of our gappers, Miss Joudi, the Year 3 classroom assistant, Miss Fairbrass and Mr Clarke; though fortunately not to Mr Ropitini, who had become seemingly indispensable to the Boarding House and thankfully decided that he could not do without us quite yet either. We were very sorry to see our Boarding Matron leave. Mrs Kaye had had a long connection with the school, as the parent of four Vinehall pupils, and for the past six years as matron. We will miss her gentle, caring nature, her patience and her good humour. The following term saw the arrival of our new matron Mrs Mac, as well as Mrs Brown and gappers Mr Gumbley, Miss Rawson and Miss Johnson; they settled quickly, and proved very positive additions to the Boarding House team.



As usual, the boarders crammed lots of activities and outings into an already busy year. We took the Congress Theatre by storm one night when the whole House danced in the aisles to the surprisingly authentic sounds of Voulez Vous, the Abba look-alike band. In addition there were theatre and cinema trips to London, Tunbridge Wells, Beddewbury School and Rye, one of the highlights being seeing David Chaplin starring as a dashing Max de Winter in "Rebecca". Other outings included Brighton Sealife Centre, the Medieval Fair at Michelham Priory, eating chips and skimming stones on the beach at Hastings, the Tower of London, the amazing "Duck Tours" on the River Thames, Arena Pursuits and Knockhatch Adventure Park. All kinds of activities took place on site, including minibeast hunts, sweet-making sessions, discos, Mr Butcher's famous water slide, toasting marshmallows on camp fires in the gully, creating dream-catchers, learning the tricks of the trade from a circus school, and of course Mr Ropitini's flamboyant talent shows.



All of our year 8 boarders were involved in the school production of "Oklahoma!" in the summer term, and there was much fun to be had, mixed with a great deal of hard graft. There were tears from many of us after the performance on their last day at Vinehall. However, we know that for most of them it was not a final farewell, and look forward to hearing all about their new lives when they call in to see us from time to time in the coming year.
Alison Marris



The Vinehall Boarders' Musical Soiree

On Sunday 24th January, the Vinehall boarders put on an entertaining soiree of music, dance and drama. This was a mini talent show, put together during the course of a Sunday afternoon, with contributions from over 30 children. Musicals were represented by excerpts from *Oliver*, *Chicago* and *My Fair Lady* and various children put together their own skits and sketches, ranging from Star Wars to Murder on the Dance Floor. Sam Gilbert entertained us all on the piano and Katherine Rogers, Molly Buchanan, Natalya Chapman, Charlie Mursell and Ginny Maclean put together a very professional and funny press conference rag from *Chicago*. Isobel Wingrad, Victoria Reid, Sophie Orr, Lucy Wylie Carrick, Pink Chutrakul and Nub Thavisin were also excellent as a hapless ballet class. Arun Sau was very funny, as well, as the poor patient, who gets more than he bargained for when he goes to the doctor's surgery!



Well done to all of you for your enthusiasm - who knows, there may be another Vinehall Boarders' 'Thing' sometime soon!

EYB

Food, Fashion & Fine Arts

2003/4

Saturday afternoon activity for boarders



Summer Term Trip to London

Michaelmas Term

The senior girls have been kept busy with a variety of activities and certainly they have learnt much and laughed a great deal! The highlight of the term was the outing to Michelham Priory during their Medieval Festival. Apart from enjoying a perfect Autumn day in a splendid environment, the girls were entertained by period dancing, a display of ancient musical instruments (some even had a go at playing a Hurdy-Gurdy), viewing stalls of medieval wares and experiencing the art of rolling a beeswax candle. Chocolate cookie making was a favourite and Mrs Robinson was able to sample some too.

Joining the junior boarders at Tenterden Leisure Centre proved popular and a shopping visit to Battle when each person had to choose and secretly buy a present for another, were equally enjoyable. Christmas was an apt time to learn to make a rich fruit cake and each girl made a mini cake and decorated it with marzipan, icing sugar decorations and of course a ribbon! Table decorations were made for the end of term disco with holly, ivy and cones collected from the gardens.

Lent Term

We started the term with a meeting to decide the activities to be undertaken this term. Then we made some cornflake chocolate cakes sprinkled with mini smarties. Mr Hooper enjoyed them too with his tea!

Mrs Perry came to talk about colours and clothes and we now know which colours suit us. We have also had a manicure session when we were taught about nail and hand care. We had fun decorating the dining hall ready for the Easter disco. We made a variety of posters to adorn the walls and create an Easter atmosphere.

Summer Term

We planted sweet pea seeds in preparation for the plant sale in aid of our Rwanda project. They grew very well on Mrs Shepherd's window sill. We found flowers in the garden to make a laminated place mat. The highlight of the term was a trip to London when we visited The Tate Modern and went shopping in Convent Garden. The street performers were entertaining! After an exhausting day, we returned to school, tired but happy.

It has certainly been a fun-packed year of activities and we have learnt lots too!
S Shepherd



Crossing the Millennium Bridge



Fine Food



Nail Care



Fine Art



Seed Planting

