



English Speaking Board 2003/4



English Speaking Board examinations

Every year the children seem to excel in ESB exams and this year was no exception. ESB exams can be a very daunting experience and each candidate has to prepare a speech, recite a poem and perfect a reading script. A useful lesson in life is learnt that no time is lost that is spent in preparation. Perhaps the hardest and most testing part is the question and answer section when the candidate has to respond to questions from the floor. This can be nerve-racking but at the same time entertaining. Alex Archer was talking about saddles and he certainly had everyone on the edge of their seats, certainly a favourite for Mrs Gearey! Mr Yeats Brown will have long lasting memories of Calum Bowie's ferret which seemed to make himself at home in the classroom! In individual exams the seniors achieved a record number of distinctions and merits despite the new slightly tighter marking scheme.

The juniors (Year 4) learn to organise themselves when taking junior grade 2. Choosing a topic for their speech is sometimes difficult, however it is easy for some. Rabbits seemed to be a popular choice this year - a good decision since the examiner adored rabbits. She was particularly smitten by Louise Stockdale's Fluffy! We had a visit too by Archie Todd's chickens who were impeccably behaved! We heard all about Naples from William Orr and had fun with Lance Bassett's paper planes. Posters were particularly impressive this year. More than half of the children achieved distinctions and many credits were awarded - again an improvement on last year's results.

In the group categories Year 3 classes performed in a polished and professional way demonstrating definite team work within the groups. Both classes are to be congratulated on earning distinctions and much is down to the expert coaching of Mrs Radford and Dr Jarratt, aided by Mr Ropotini. Year 5 also performed their programmes with energy and flair. Mrs Gearey's group (5H) were awarded a distinction for their fine performance, 5R and 5I commendable merits.

