

Head's Report

2003/4



Julie Robinson

Mrs Robinson read English Language and Literature at the University of Birmingham and went on to Westminster College, Oxford, where she trained as a teacher, completing a PGCE in English with drama up to secondary level. She served a thorough Prep School apprenticeship at Ardingly College, taking on the roles of Head of English, Director of Studies, Head of Boarding and then Head of Ardingly Prep School in 1998. Mrs Robinson became Head of Vinehall in the Summer of 2002.

Our Scholarship list for this year is a long and impressive one and our Year 8 pupils have won places at a range of prestigious public schools. The Class of 2004 ended with a wonderful haul of prizes and accolades including two CE subject prizes, an 11+ prize and top position in the national Townsend-Warner History Competition. We enjoyed huge success in the UK Junior Maths Challenge competition and our pupils were outstanding at the Sevenoaks Classics Day. The list of their successes goes on and on and can only be detailed fully on the web pages of our school archive. Please do visit the website to see fuller reports.

Michaelmas 2003 was the term of Brundibar, when our musicians performed with Chetham's Music School in Rye. The sponsored walk raised funds that contributed to our £ 5,685 total for Rwanda this year. Our boarding inspection led to an outstanding report which is available for parents to read. Miss Dunn's ballerinas performed *The Selfish Giant* and our gymnasts took part in the IAPS competition. Soccer, rugby, netball, swimming and hockey matches dominated the sporting calendar and there was a range of day trips and field studies. The children performed in a piano evening and a percussion evening. Our annual Carol Service at Salehurst showcased the choir and the Junior Christmas Entertainment was *Alice in Wonderland*. The Senior play was *The Tales of King Arthur*.

In the Lent term, rugby, netball and swimming continued. There was cross-country and GISGAGymnastics. Seven of our boys won places in the County hockey team and two played for the South East England team. The scholarship season began. It was the term of the French Exchange for Year 7 and Science Week for the whole school. The GK final in the theatre was like our very own University Challenge. There was a brass evening and then we all crushed into the theatre for the House Music Competition and term ended with the Year 5 play, *The Wizard of Oz*.

The Summer term saw a confirmation service at Salehurst and First Communion for Catholics here at school. Our girls' and boys' teams performed wonderfully well in the IAPS swimming championships. As scholarships ended, CE began for Year 8 and then ESB. It was the term of rounders, tennis, cricket, swimming and athletics. We enjoyed an orchestral concert and great success in The Associated Board music examinations. Year 8 went to the Lake District and Year 6 went to camp. There were super art displays and an art and technology evening. Sports Day was followed by Vines Day with its fete (a great success despite the weather) and *Oklahoma!*, a musical and dramatic triumph.

The term ended with Prize-giving, celebrating our prizewinners and wishing the leavers well.

