



Head's Report

2007



Our weekly e-newsletter, *Vinelines*, is now fully established with a readership of in excess of three hundred. It amazes me how easily we fill the editorial space with news of the achievements of Vinehall pupils on a weekly basis. Prep school years (and pre-prep years, too) should be full of opportunity and action and it is wonderful to see how our youngsters throw themselves into so much that Vinehall life has to offer.

Intellectual development is important and teaching and learning must be central to school life. Our pupils focus on academic work as they prepare for all-important CE or scholarship examinations in Year 8. At the same time, it is our place as parents and school staff to support the development of the whole child in preparation for later life.

It was a successful year for our pupils academically, with seven scholarships won in a scholarship class of thirteen. Our youngsters stood out in national history, general knowledge, poetry-writing and mathematics competitions as well as entrance exams and Vinehall pupils earned top scholarships to an impressive range of public schools including Tonbridge, Benenden, Winchester and King's, Canterbury.

There was success in 11+ entrance, too, and four move to competitive grammar schools this year. In order to support those pupils who take pre-tests or who need to demonstrate potential at age 11, we have introduced verbal reasoning into the English curriculum and now run extra sessions to support preparation for examinations.

We are proud that Vinehall pupils were noted for their academic strength by several senior schools who awarded 'best paper' prizes or commented on the quality of examination scripts.

For some, making the grade for their chosen senior school was a challenge and we were delighted to be able to celebrate 100% success at Common Entrance yet again this year. Thanks to the dedication of teaching staff who regularly give extra time to revision and extra teaching sessions, and hard working perseverance on the part of pupils, our Year 8 cohort came through their final year feeling successful and able to face formal public examinations and equipped for the academic challenges of the next phase of their education.

Vinehall is, as ever, committed to a broad curriculum which combines breadth with creativity. The children rise to many challenges.

J. Robinson

