

# Head's Report

2007/8



This year has been dominated by 70th anniversary celebrations and we also chose 2008 as the year to launch our Vinehall Foundation, linking the past with today and looking to the future. Through the Foundation we have created fully funded Award places for pupils normally unable to benefit from a Vinehall education or contribute to the Vinehall community. We have also set about building a new all-weather surface on the Cornfield pitch which will support the outdoor play and sporting activities of all Vinehall pupils and will have lights for the dark evenings. Our Foundation Chairman's report is on page 12.

It has been an inspection year, too. The new boarding staff proved themselves 'outstanding' in January and we ensured that our paperwork was in order for the inspection. The inspectors undertook a thorough audit of school policies and practices, interviewed children, analysed questionnaires from parents and observed teaching in order to compose a full and detailed report about all areas of Vinehall teaching and learning. The report is available on [www.isi.net](http://www.isi.net). We are extremely proud to have done the School justice and to have been judged outstanding in so many areas. Vinehall is certainly in very good heart in its seventieth year.

#### Comments from the children:

*It's smart, kind, fun*

*Magnificent!*

*Happy, caring*

*Everyone looks out for each other*

*Academic sporty and musical*

*The best school*

*Friendly*

*People are always kind to each other*

#### Comments from the inspectors:

*Pupils receive exceptionally good care and the school's aims of identifying and nurturing talent, developing a sense of self and contributing to the community and the wider world are consistently met*

*Imaginative, forward-looking planning combines with sound financial and educational practice*

*The quality of education is extremely high*

*First class pastoral care*

*Skilful teaching was seen in all departments*

*Boarding is of an excellent quality. Boarders and parents alike are unanimous in reporting that the family atmosphere and friendliness in the boarding house make it an exceptionally happy place*

We celebrate, again, a bumper year of scholarships (23 awards from a Year 8 of 52 pupils). We have strengthened our inclusive approach to the Arts and sports and have witnessed superb performances from our impressively talented pupils in sports, creative arts, music and performing arts.

This magazine celebrates the many and varied achievements of our pupils. I am grateful to a dedicated and professional team of staff who commit themselves to long hours, genuinely caring for their pupils and upholding very high standards in order to ensure that Vinehall helps all our children to become the best that they can be.

*The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is outstanding*

What we are most proud of is the strength of the Vinehall ethos in spiritual, moral, social and cultural areas. Our children are positive, enthusiastic learners and always, keen to 'have a go'. Vinehall is a caring community where we all aim 'to do our best for the benefit of others' and this is as true in 2008 as it was in 1938.

*J. Robinson*