



# Head's Report 2009

Vinehall has a highly respected academic record and I thank our teaching team alongside our talented pupils for another excellent year of academic progress all-round, including a clean sweep at CE and eighteen scholarships at 13+ this year. We are keen to promote a sense of success in our children, whatever their starting point, and the sense of achievement that they display upon receiving their results is a pleasure to behold!

The tradition of outstanding drama and productions continues under the expert guidance of Mrs Gearey, Mrs Hoffmann and the Pre-Prep staff. This year's dramatic innovation was the Year 6 Shakespeare project, an English project leading into a Shakespeare production and making *The Bard* a feature of our educational landscape.

Vinehall lives to the sound of music and Mrs Harmer revived Year group concerts in 2008-9 with impressive results. It seems that every Year group is an orchestra and a choir just waiting to perform! The Gearey/Harmer production of *Carousel* rounded-off the summer term superbly.

We have enjoyed the outdoors with a wide range of sporting activities and outdoor pursuits ranging from boarders' sledging and water-sliding to the new living willow storytelling area outside Pre-Prep. This year, we opened a breathtaking new sporting facility, our Cornfield Astro, and this has already had a beneficial effect on our hockey training. We are grateful to the generous donations of all who supported The Vinehall Foundation in making this wonderful new sporting resource possible.

We encourage our children to develop as whole people and so communication and social skills are high priorities. It has been a bumper year for English Speaking Board results and we were proud of the positive way in which our pupils interacted with children from a range of East Sussex schools when we participated in the East Sussex County Council and Temple Grove Trust educational partnership project, 'Flying High' this year.

You will read of the exploits of Vinehall children in these pages and enjoy a flavour of Vinehall life in our new dvd prospectus. Our magazine includes a special feature about boarding so that readers can appreciate why our children enjoy so much the 'work hard, play hard' world of increasing independence and responsibility that comes with the boarding experience at Vinehall.



*J. Robinson*