

Vinehall Memories



Alastair Mavor was at Vinehall between 1997 and 2002. He won a drama scholarship to Tonbridge School, where he studied politics, history and geography at A-level. Since finishing at Tonbridge, he has run two London marathons raising nearly £20,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis trust, as well as appearing in several professional theatre productions. He is currently working on the development of a new play with Hannah Gordon and Julian Glover before joining up with the Peter Hall Company this summer. He has a place to read history at Nottingham University from September.

Alastair Mavor

*"We all have our time machines. Some take us back, they're called memories. Some take us forward, they're called dreams".
(Jeremy Irons)*

The class erupts into laughter. Mr Hudspeth puts his head in his hands in despair before looking up and calmly explaining to the confused-looking boy to my right that it was a comet and not in fact a helicopter that flew over the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Unforgettable. Equally memorable was the moment when Mr Whitehead did his notorious pencil case dance; along with the occasion that Mr Butcher showed us all how rugby tackling should be done by dump-tackling Mr Butler on his first day!

In truth, though, I think what I remember most fondly about Vinehall is the huge wealth of opportunities I had at my fingertips; and I don't just mean from an academic perspective. Vinehall gave me my first chance to venture onto the stage, sing in a choir, play competitive sport, speak in front of an audience and, perhaps most importantly, develop a set of friendships which will hopefully last a lifetime.

The period between 7 and 13 is such an impressionable one. We are constantly learning about who we are and how we fit into this enormous world that runs tirelessly around us. For me, Vinehall strikes the perfect balance, guiding us to what is there and at the same time allowing us to explore what is for us and what is not. It is through this discovery that dreams are formed. And it's our responsibility to go out and live them.