



Vinehall School

## END OF YEAR REVIEW 2007/08

from the Heads of Department

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Parents will be aware that Vinehall is celebrating another year of academic success. Our Year 8 pupils have achieved spectacular results with collection of 23 scholarships to public schools and the Common Entrance candidates again achieved an impressive number of A grades. The following won scholarships to their public schools:

Alexander Archer	Lancing College	Art Scholarship
Annie Caffyn	Benenden School	Drama Exhibition
Andrew Overall	Hurstpierpoint	Academic Exhibition
		All Rounder Award
		Music Scholarship
Robert Flett	Eastbourne College	Sport Exhibition
William Furlong	Lancing College*	Sport Scholarship
Oliver Giles	Tonbridge School	Academic Scholarship
Joshua Huntington-Rainey	Sherborne	Academic Exhibition
		Music Exhibition
Charles Killick	Brighton College	Art Exhibition
Sigrid Koerner	King's, Canterbury	Art Exhibition
Claire Macfadyen	Sevenoaks School	Major Music Scholarship
		Academic Scholarship
Samuel Piper	Cranbrook	Academic Scholarship
Edward Rogers	Eastbourne College	Major Music Scholarship
		Academic Scholarship
		Forbes Wastie Award
Edward Sparkes	Lancing College	Headmaster's Award
James Wardle	Lancing College	Academic Scholarship
		Headmaster's Award
Felix Wells	St Bede's	Art Exhibition
Charles Williamson	Eastbourne College	Art Scholarship

\*Awarded but not taken up

The following pupils secured places at their respective schools on the strength of their academic scholarship papers:

William Furlong (Tonbridge), William Orr (Oundle School), Alexander Pugh (Tonbridge), Archie Todd (King's, Canterbury), Arthur Walsh (Wellington College), Roberta Whittaker (Eastbourne College), Charles Williamson (Eastbourne College)

This year's 13+ leavers go to the following schools: Benenden School, Bethany School, Brighton College, Cranbrook School, Downe House, Eastbourne College, Hurstpierpoint, King's School, (Canterbury), Lancing College, St Leonard's School Mayfield, Millfield School, Oundle, Sevenoaks School, Sherborne School, St Bede's, The International School of Toulouse, Tonbridge School and Wellington College as well as senior schools in France, Mexico and Spain.

Last year's leavers presented the School with a beautiful sundial and that now sits on a plinth in pride of place in the de Beer garden. We are grateful to this year's leavers for the three teak benches that they have donated to school and new hymn books for our Children's Chapel. All of these gifts will be well-used and much appreciated.

## **ART**

It has been a busy and successful year in the Art Department. Five pupils have gained Art scholarships and exhibition awards. Children from across the school have been engaged in cross-curricular projects with maths, history and Design Technology. Many of them have been attending art club to develop their creativity and art skills.

The Art Scholars' Exhibition was a rewarding way of celebrating all the hard work in the preparation for their art scholarships. The standard of work was very high, showing maturity and a wide range of media demonstrating that the children had worked very hard to produce excellent portfolios of work and sketchbooks.

The Arts festival week in the Pre-prep was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vinehall. During that week we accommodated Year 2 for Art lessons following their observational drawings around the school.

Mrs Quelli Coles continues running pottery club on Mondays which many children have attended enthusiastically.

The end of year was celebrated in a whole school art exhibition. The standard of work was very high showing skills in a wide range of media.

Vinehall hosted local primary schools for two days of creative activities with professional artists for Gifted and Talented children. Collectively we are planning to extend this experience with local schools in the future.

## **BOARDING**

This has been a very happy and busy year for the boarders. The Caithness family moved into the newly constructed houseparents' flat in the centre of the boarding house, and set about organising a wide variety of activities and trips for weekends. Ofsted came to visit for two days in January, and awarded our boarding provision a rare "Outstanding"; commenting on the family atmosphere and the cheerful, active children. Highlights for the boarders this year included the annual dorm decs competition; team games (fort, dodge ball and red barrel); opportunities for music or dancing; the arrival of the new boarders' hoodie; and the introduction of late evening toast!

Both staff and boarders were sad to say goodbye to Mr. Craig Hudspeth when he left the Boarding House at Christmas together with the gap year students Mr. Gunning, Miss Welsh, and Miss Stapleton. There will be more tears when Mr. Reid moves on this summer. Our gap students are a vital part of the boarding house, and the boarders get to know them very well. In January we welcomed our new gap year students Mr. Davies, Mr. Walter, Miss Hanley and Miss Davis and in February our new school nurse, Sister Victoria Barwick took over from Sister Kate Mannion.

## CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

The school community is happy to support a number of local and international charities through various events across the school year. The Charity Committee is active in selecting which charities the school should support and the total raised by the school for charity so far this year is £11,724.89 and does not include money raised at the Anniversary Ball or Vines Day Fete.

EVENT	IN AID OF	AMOUNT £
SPONSORED WALK	RWANDA - LAWRENCE BARHAM MEMORIAL TRUST	3,946.60
FOV RWANDA CHRISTMAS FAIR	RWANDA - LAWRENCE BARHAM MEMORIAL TRUST	5,000.00
NON-UNIFORM DAYS	FELLOWSHIP OF ST NICHOLAS	230.63
NON-UNIFORM DAY	ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE	255.50
CAROL SERVICE	HELP THE AGED	547.54
CAROL SERVICE	ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE	600.00
PLAY COLLECTION	DEMELZA HOSPICE	425.63
JNR DORM COLLECTION	RWANDA - LAWRENCE BARHAM MEMORIAL TRUST	22.40
DORM DECORATIONS	CANCER RESEARCH	94.74
BADGES	ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE	122.87
NON-UNIFORM DAY	NCH	223.90
NON-UNIFORM DAY	INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS	255.08

In keeping with our aim to foster links with the local community we have welcomed Sedlescombe Primary School to Vinehall for a poetry workshop and pond-dipping, we have held an art workshop for gifted and talented children from local schools, and we invited local schools to watch a special performance of *Calamity Jane*.

## CLASSICS

Mrs Cooper's first year as Head of Classics has been a busy and rewarding one and Madame Powell has joined the department to lend her invaluable support. Pupils made a number of visits to local Roman sites this year whilst in November Vinehall played host to a meeting of local Classics teachers and 8L benefited from a fascinating lesson given by a "guest speaker," teacher, historian and author Paul Tweddle. In the Lent term all three Year 5 classes enjoyed preparing entries of creative writing or artwork for this year's national "Minimus" competition on the theme of "The Cyclops." Year 8 pupils achieved some very good Common Entrance and scholarship grades, most notably Alexander Pugh who gained A grades at Tonbridge in his Greek and two Latin papers. He has been awarded the Vinehall Classics Prize this year for this outstanding achievement. It has been an exciting year for the Classics Department and there are many ideas in the pipeline for next year too.

## DRAMA

In the Michaelmas term the traditional tale of *Hansel and Gretel* was retold in pantomime verse with new twists to the story and seven brilliant songs. The whole of Year 4 really worked well together and there were many outstanding performances, especially Max Bevacqua as Spencer the cat, Cordelia Brown as the witch and Arla Critchley as the narrator. There was great support from the Year 3 chorus.

*Scary Play* by Judith Johnson ran for 50 minutes without an interval and was originally a National Theatre Connections Youth Theatre project. It contained a chorus of horrific clowns and bloodthirsty vampires which Year 7 and 8 really got their teeth into! The Year 8 cast was brilliantly led with a powerful performance from Charles Killick.

The Lent term brought the world stage premiere of *Voices of Children* by Michael Morpurgo. This was a shorter version of Michael Morpurgo's radio series on the history of childhood from the middle ages up till now. It was a very challenging ensemble production which was performed by 6H and was led by Isabelle Powell, who had the challenge of countless costume changes to go with each period of history that was dramatised. The evening was completed by the musical play *Jeremy and the Thinking Machine*, about a young boy who didn't know how to think. Form 6B and 6D played the main roles and they were supported by 6H as a chorus.

The summer musical was *Calamity Jane*, which was originally a Warner Bros film starring Doris Day. This included outstanding performances from Claire Macfadyen, who sang the role beautifully and Joshua Huntington-Rainey as Wild Bill Hickock, and a dazzling performance from Annie Caffyn as Katie Brown. It was a perfect choice for this cohort because it contained innumerable opportunities for wild west shenanigans!

### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

Year 8 made electronic Christmas cards before their final art and technology project, animating an impressionist painting. Some of the finished work went on display in the front hall. Year 7 produced a piece of jewellery based on a seaside theme, the enamelling and powder coating giving some professional effects which were shown off in vacuum formed packaging. Acrylic clocks in Year 6 and newspaper chairs in Year 5 were perennial favourites and successful as ever. There were also some imaginative ideas for the Year 6 cam models where a simple mechanism was used to animate the children's inventions. Year 4 have enjoyed making looms and weaving and also managed to make 'Angel Delight' to prove that gears really do speed things up!

Wood turning continues to be very popular and some excellent work was presented in assemblies. The new metal turning lathe has been an instant hit with interesting bottle stoppers being turned and basic engineering skills acquired. A display in the front hall allowed a wider audience for the children's work.

### **ENGLISH**

It has been a very creative summer term in the English department! Year 5 children have been inspired by reading 'Swallows and Amazons' to visit the school pond, create their own nautical log books and make detailed plans for a full scale sailing expedition. Year 6 pupils have been intrigued by a Victorian mystery story which has led them into further exploration of the life and work of Charles Dickens. The Year 8 children gained some excellent grades in the CE examinations and were treated to a trip to 'Billy Elliott' as a reward for their efforts.

Public speaking has also been high on the agenda and Vinehall pupils did themselves proud once again this year with an exceptionally high number of Year 4 and Year 7 candidates achieving Distinctions for their individual presentations in English Speaking Board examinations.

There is exciting news for boarders at Vinehall because September will see the launch of the Vinehall Boarders' Bookshop. Working in partnership with Barnetts Bookshop in Wadhurst, the bookshop will be open from 4-8pm every Friday in the Front Hall. Boarders will be able to purchase books from stock or take advantage of the book ordering system offered by Barnetts.

## **FRENCH**

This year has seen many developments in the French department. The whiteboards, introduced last year, are a welcome addition to our classroom resources. With direct links to the world wide web and the department's IT, our children now have many opportunities to develop their language skills and to work independently at school and at home. They applied these skills to good effect in the new single Common Entrance paper which was introduced this year to replace Paper I and Paper II. Our Year 8 pupils coped admirably with the challenges of this paper. Well done, Year 8! Your skills will stand you in good stead as you move onto your new schools and to GCSE.

The Year 7s also had a move from school, albeit a temporary one, when they spent a week at Le Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy in March. They thoroughly enjoyed the activities, the visit to Bayeux and Arramanches and the whole château experience. The children had the opportunity to listen to and use French for real communication – all instruction for the activities and in the dining room were in French so they quickly became accustomed to it. We look forward to our visit next March. That visit will take place without Madame Consul who leaves Vinehall after six years excellent teaching. We wish her well as she moves to her new school in Kazakhstan as Head of Department. We welcome Estelle Taylor-Langley to the team. As a pupil Estelle was very happy during her time here so she is much looking forward to taking up her position on the other side of the desk.

Finally, our thanks to you, the parents, for your support during the year. A number have asked for computer games that the children can do during the holidays. Whilst they all need a good rest, if they do want to play French games then please look on the website (pupil page) where this summer's revision lists are still to be found. Bonnes Vacances!

## **GEOGRAPHY**

This summer saw the first testing of the new CE syllabus with some encouraging results. We hosted the District 3 geography meeting for local geography teachers including a trip to see the flood defences at Robertsbridge. We had some excellent scholarship results as well as CE results.

The Lake District Trip was another success and we are looking to raise the profile of the department next term by having the Geography Game Show to visit.

## **GK COMPETITION**

The annual GK competition was as hotly contested as ever. The daily questions set by each subject on a rotating weekly basis at junior, middle and senior level, provide a stimulating challenge for the children and the 'grand finale' is a genuine fingers on buzzers affair in the theatre with each of the four house teams consisting of a junior, middle and senior. The winning team for the second year running was Ashton, comprising William Orr, Jasper Piper and Benedict Meehan. Archie Todd was awarded the GK prize after many years of representing his house in the competition.

## **GOLF**

The quality of the golf course improves year by year as the ground staff battle to curtail the activities of the moles on the fairways and apply an abundance of 'tfc' to the greens. We have had an excellent golf year with both Parent and Child Competitions over-subscribed, the summer term golf tuition places snapped up within the first two days of being advertised and although slightly damp conditions prevailed the Early birds on June 21<sup>st</sup> teed off at 5.30a.m., played some quality golf then breakfasted at 7.30a.m. I am hoping that 2009 will let us catch the sun rise. This has

become a popular fixture on our calendar and was won this year by Mr. Sloan with Archie Todd and Julian Serra.

Julian and Archie also represented the school at the Kentish Prep Schools competition at Hythe with 3 other pairings: Dominic Williamson & Peter Dunn, James McNeilly & William Collier and Henry Clark & Oliver Campbell. This was especially good experience for the younger boys. The conditions were testing with a strong wind off the sea and the usual treacherous rough. Wellesley House A won with 36 points.

## **HISTORY**

It has been a busy and eventful year for the history department. Visits have included Canterbury Cathedral, National Portrait Gallery, Churchill's War Rooms and Pevensey, as well as the Year 7 trip to France which took in the Bayeux Tapestry and 'Gold' beach at Arramanches. Common entrance and scholarship results have been of a consistently high standard and it is pleasing to note the high profile that history continues to hold in this, the school's 70<sup>th</sup> year. Congratulations especially to Annie Caffyn who won the Benenden History Prize as a result of her CE performance. Claire Macfadyen was our highest placed entry in the Townsend Warner Competition.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Two key features in our school calendar are the two mathematics challenges in November and April. The Primary Mathematics Challenge for Years 5 and 6 was taken by more than 108,000 pupils from a little over 2,880 schools across the country. It is full of searching questions and is always a good test of knowledge, logic and strategy. This year our pupils achieved 6 Gold, 10 Silver and 20 Bronze certificates.

On return from the Easter vacation our top set in Years 8, 7 and 6 plus a number of strong CE candidates took the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge along with 240,000 pupils across the country. Our tally of 11 Gold, 10 Silver and 13 Bronze awards was terrific news. Well done to all the successful pupils.

As well as achieving Best in School, Andrew Everall qualified for the Junior Olympiad which consists of a two-hour paper of more in-depth mathematical problems to which there two sections: Section A requires answers only whereas full written solutions are required for Section B. For some pupils this may be an unfamiliar exercise and an enjoyable introduction to this kind of mathematical activity.

## **MUSIC**

The music department has had another very busy and successful year. The Michaelmas term began with the Prep Schools' Orchestral Day, held this year at Holmewood House, followed by the Lancing Piano Day and the Eastbourne Choral Day. Back at Vinehall, Years 3 and 4 were working hard for their production of Hansel & Gretel. The term culminated in the annual carol service at Salehurst Church and visits to St Michael's Hospice and Five Villages Oast, events that we all look forward to.

During the Lent term the music department hosted IAPS auditions. Our musicians were all successful and are looking forward to their summer orchestral courses. Mr Mitchell's brass players performed at the Brass Evening and took part in the Hastings Music Festival. Four musicians were awarded major scholarships to their chosen schools. The term finished on a high with the whole school assembled in the theatre for the finals of the Inter-House Music Competition, adjudicated by Mr Force of Eastbourne College.

In the Summer term many of our instrumentalists participated in the spectacular Orchestral Concert and a small group had a most enjoyable time at the Lancing Chamber Music Day. Seniors spent much of the second half of term practising for the musical, Calamity Jane. The brass ensemble and band performed at the fete on Vines Day, and were much appreciated.

### **MUSIC SOCIETY**

The Nineteenth Season has seen some remarkable performances by some very talented musicians. The London Concertante started the year with some lovely performances of well-known chamber works including Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. The stunning young Serbian pianist Aleksandar Madzar entertained a rapt audience with his interpretation of Beethoven's Diabelli Variations and three leading French musicians, Phillippe Cassard (piano), Anne Gastinel (cello) and David Grimal (violin) performed piano trios by Haydn, Ravel and Schubert.

The popular Irish pianist, Finghin Collins returned with some of his musical friends to perform a blisteringly exciting 'Trout' Quintet by Schubert (his Albert Hall Prom debut is in August) and we heard the young violinist Matthew Trusler. His performance of works by Brahms, Prokofiev, Grieg and Gershwin drew great praise from the audience. The young Anglo-Irish Carducci String Quartet performed works by Haydn, Vaughan Williams and Beethoven and the final Picnic and Pimms concert was by the Classical Opera Company. Their A-Z of Mozart Opera went down as well as the Pimms!

Many thanks to all our sponsors and also to all the staff at Vinehall who help the concerts run so smoothly. This year I am particularly grateful to Claire Macfadyen who bravely undertook to turn the pages for one of our concerts. She did this calmly and efficiently!

### **PSHE**

PSHE lessons have given children the opportunity to discuss whole school issues such as the rewards and sanctions system and issues for School Council. Pupils have discussed bullying and friendships, considered the nature of responsibility and leadership and Year 7 pupils have been guided to apply for the role of prefect. The police have visited each term and a highlight was when the Forensic Scenes of Crime Officer talked to Year 8. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural wellbeing of the children was recognised as excellent in the school's inspection report.

Pupils in Year 6 and above have completed their Personal Records of Achievement, which enable them to record and reflect on their good copies, credits, effort and exam grades and to set targets for improvement. The scheme will allow information for their shields to be collated at the end of each term; this will be a return to the original concept of the shields, where they were an ongoing record of the pupils' progress throughout the school.

### **RS**

There have been three RS outings this year. Year 3 visited Mountfield Church to learn about how churches have been used through the ages, and to look at its stained-glass windows and religious artefacts. Year 5 visited Canterbury, where they had a tour of the cathedral, learned more about its history and saw the very spot where Thomas Becket was murdered over 800 years ago. Year 6 went on an outing to the magnificent marble and limestone Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in London – the largest Hindu temple outside India. Year 6 were taken aback by its beauty and splendour, and fascinated by the service they observed there.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

School Council agreed that the proposed change in drill system was a good one; they suggested that two red drills should equal a detention but that yellow drills should be for poor organisation and dealt with by the form teacher. This year we have seen the adoption of House Teddies and at the request of School Council, new lockers will have keypad locks when they are replaced. Anti-bullying measures including an alert box and an email system have been successfully introduced. An overseas boarders' representative has been voted on to the School Council and Food Committee and was highlighted as an example of good practice in the school's inspection report.

### **SCIENCE**

The science department has had a successful year. Over 70% of our CE candidates achieved A or B grades and we are very proud of the effort they put in to achieving this. Annie Caffyn received the Benenden School science prize and Andrew Everall the school science prize for his scholarship science papers to Hurst. A group of Y6 pupils went on a Lancing College to take part in their annual science challenge for prep schools and back in October Year 7 went on the popular Isle of Wight trip.

Elsewhere we have been very busy with chickens, successfully hatching out two batches of eggs. This has aroused a lot of interest as well as giving some of the boarders a new responsibility. A small group of gardeners were active this term producing several very well laid out beds, often mixing flowers with edible crops.

### **TOWNSEND WARNER HISTORY COMPETITION**

As usual, Vinehall entered a team for this highly competitive annual inter-prep school history competition. There were around 800 candidates from all the leading prep schools. Vinehall was, once again, listed as one of the best schools entering the competition.

Thirteen candidates did well enough in the tricky general knowledge paper to go through to the second round of the top 200 entries. Here a difficult but entertaining two hour essay paper was undertaken. Congratulations therefore go to all the team who did so well in displaying and communicating their historical knowledge!

Special congratulations go to our top two entries this year, who came in the top 50 and received certificates and book tokens: Alexander Pugh (25<sup>th</sup>) and Claire Macfadyen (24<sup>th</sup>). Well done!

### **YEAR 6 CAMP**

Year 6 children joined us for an enjoyable weekend at the annual camp at Tanner Farm. This is a much loved feature of the school year and a chance for the children to enjoy playing in the woods and swimming in the river. The winning tribe this year were the girls in Drake and William Collier was awarded the camping bowl, chosen by staff as someone who entered into the full spirit of the weekend and gained greatly from the experience.