

Tanbridge House Review

Summer 2008

Issue 6



Dear Reader

I very much hope you enjoy reading the positive and successful news from our very busy and productive Summer Term. I now look forward to our next stage of exciting developments as we continue working towards making Tanbridge an 'outstanding' school.

Jules White, Headteacher

West Side Story

On Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July seventy students took to the stage at Crawley's Hawth Theatre to perform Tanbridge House School's own unique version of West Side Story.

The stage was alight with a bright and energetic cast of students, complemented by a spectacular set designed and built by the Design and Technology department. The performance was accompanied by the school band, made up of students, staff, parents and ex-students, making the production a real community affair.

The show had its own twenty-first century twist on Robbins and Laurents classic romantic tragedy. The once fifties styled gangs. The Jets and The Sharks, were updated to reflect today's 'noughties' culture while maintaining the original narrative and themes.

Mrs Maria Williams, the musical's artistic director, commented that: "On stage students looked like professionals and gained experiences far beyond dance, drama and music. Several students commented that the show has been fun to produce and "a great opportunity."

Tom Dodd, who played The Shark's leader Bernardo, said "that playing the part of a main character has really built my confidence and apart from being fun and getting to practise my dance skills, I've also learnt to help motivate others."



Charity Update

Tanbridge House School students and staff have raised an amazing £9980 for charity since September 2007!

Plus, two hundred bags were filled by Tanbridge students and staff in support of this year's Cancer Research 'Donation Station' appeal.

Dream Jobs for Tanbridge Students

Jules White, has initiated a new and exciting programme at Tanbridge House School, which offers students from Years 7, 8 and 9 the opportunity to sample their dream job.

Aided by Billingshurst-based media company PMW, the school launched the Ambassadors Programme this term and two students from each participating year were chosen to act as ambassadors for the school as they stepped out of the classroom and into their ideal workplace.

Jules White explains more; "Unlike work experience, our ambassadors have the incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with some of the top people in their field and venture out into the most exciting of work places. The experience will no doubt inspire them when choosing the right career for the future."



Easter Sailing Adventure



Jenny Vallens, Scott King, Liam Eccarius and Matthew Hirons had the fantastic experience over the Spring Break of a four day sailing adventure, run by the Ocean Youth Trust.

Despite the strong winds at times a large part of the voyage was spent sailing in the Solent which included a visit to Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

Various sailing manoeuvres such as tacking, helming, helping with navigation and of course cooking meals for 17 crew members were enjoyed by all!



Horsham District Twinning Association - 2008, Language Competition

Year 9 students, Hannah Taaffe, Carly Greenfield, Matt Laker, Tom Norris and Adam Hockley won this annual competition against other local schools by producing a video in French all about sport. I would like to congratulate the team for all their hard work and for writing the winning script.

Mr Osmond
Head of Modern Languages

Normandy Trip 2008

Forty-four students accompanied by Mr Osmond, Miss Dawson, Mr Garrett, Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Ferran set out for the Château du Molay in Normandy for a four day residential trip.

Upon arrival students were introduced to the rescue horses, which are housed at the Château. They were told that the horses 'are a little nervous'. The student who observed that 'they would not be any good at rescuing people if they're nervous' shall remain anonymous.

Whilst in Normandy, the group visited the 360 degree cinema at Arromanches and D-day beaches, the American war cemetery, the Bayeux Tapestry, Mont St. Michel and the ever-popular goats' cheese farm.

Evening entertainment took the form of karaoke, a disco, bowling and the second annual Tanbridge Talent Show, which was won by Matt Davies, Tom Whiting and Haydn Davies for their rendition of 'The JCB Song'. They were rewarded with the prestigious Mont St. Michel face cloths.

The group were complimented on several occasions for their good behaviour, and the students were excellent company throughout.



Striving to be a "Rights, Respecting School"

Along with ten of our feeder schools in West Horsham, we are committed to achieving level one of the UNICEF 'Rights, Respecting School Award'.

The award is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It requires children to be aware of their rights but more importantly it emphasises that children also need to understand that every right comes with a personal responsibility.

We believe this award will build upon our positive learning environment and contribute to our quest to become an outstanding school.



Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On 9th June talented Year 8 students; Jo Dulieu, Isabelle Parker, Tristan Scragg & Pete Hammond took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Brighton University. The students were given two challenges in the chemistry labs and the Tanbridge team competed against sixteen other schools in Sussex and were the first team to complete the Salters' Forensic Challenge.



Mathematics News

In May four of our Gifted and Talented Mathematicians, Jack Carter, Sophie Bartlett, Peter Hammond and Cansel Gucbilek took part in the UK Maths Challenge. The students took part in six different challenges ranging from a sequencing event to a relay race. Schools across Sussex took part and the Tanbridge Team came an impressive tenth. Congratulations!

One hundred of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Challenge. Ten students were awarded Gold certificates, nineteen Silver and thirty-one Bronze. This is a fantastic achievement!

Year 9 students participated in their own "Apprentice" Mathematics project. The students had to choose a flag and produce a design and scaled drawing of their flag to be painted onto a house.

The project culminated in the finalists presenting their project to Mr Jules White in a boardroom situation.

Mr White said, "What I liked most about this particular project was how this interesting task, one which the students enjoyed working together on, was also linked to putting into practice the use of practical maths skills."



Curriculum Enrichment Week July 2008

The aim of this programme is to offer activities that widen the learning experiences of our students. A particular focus this year was the school's specialist subject areas of Science, Maths and Computing.

It was a fantastic week packed full of a variety of exciting and challenging activities for every student; on offer this year we had an adventurous residential activity camp for the week in Ashdown Forest, a trip to Barcelona, solving a crime using forensic science, circus skills, team building, producing and performing an urban version of Romeo and Juliet, investigating and debating the theme of Human Rights and Fair Trade, sculpture in clay and with willow, creating rockets and preparing space food ...!

SUMMARY OF SPECIALISM

This year has been very exciting in terms of really seeing the true impact of our Specialist School Status. In November we were inspected by Ofsted and to our delight, were told that the specialism is having, "a very good impact on the whole school." This is due to all the hard work and dedication of the Specialist School team.

We have seen an allotment coming to fruition in Science, as well as a 'Solving a Crime Day' for the primaries; Who did poison the fish?! A question was posed to a Year 7 tutor group, Is Chocolate Good for Us? Apparently so, if it's dark chocolate! In Maths our Gifted & Talented students have taken part in national competitions as well as our primaries having inspiring master classes. ICT continues to be developed throughout the school and the Music Department is being refurbished over the holidays with the most up to date technology. In lessons students are learning how to use animation and create their own advertisements. Our links within our community continue to be strong within ICT, with master classes being regularly held on site.

Our work within the Horsham community has been so rewarding; seeing people who never thought they would be part of the education scene going to college and gaining qualifications. We continue to hold ICT training to support local businesses and the voluntary sector. I am delighted with the way the school has become a Specialist School in Science, Mathematics and Computing and look forward to next year which promises to be as innovative and inspiring as this year.

Rachel Joseph
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Cultural Mathematics Day

On Thursday 10th July we held a cultural mathematics day, in order to raise student awareness of the plight Malawi is facing due to deforestation.

Many students took part in a range of activities relating to Malawi and mathematics. Students were given the opportunity to enter a national competition that has a first prize of a trip to Malawi!

Throughout the week themed assemblies were run, which were introduced by some of our GCSE Music students playing African drums.

A fantastic array of African food was also available for students to try in the canteen which had been especially decorated and where African music was also being played creating a fantastic atmosphere.

A scheme has been launched at school to raise money by collecting tin foil, which can be sold to raise funds for replanting trees in Malawi.



Geography Update

Year 10 Geography students visited Birling Gap and Seven Sisters country Park to study cliff retreat and erosion processes. They completed fieldwork by measuring beach profiles and looking at features they had previously studied in the classroom.

It was fantastic for the students to bring the theory into practice, which helped their understanding.

Year 7 students have looked at the microclimate around the school, measuring differences in temperatures and the factors affecting them.

Sporting Success

Tanbridge House School's amazing sportsmen and sportswomen are continually growing in achievements and the number of sports being represented. So much so that during July a special Sports Awards evening was held at Tanbridge, sponsored by Horsham Junior Baseball Club, to celebrate the success and acknowledge the achievements of over forty students who have competed at school, county, district, national and international events this year.

Sport is a very important aspect of Tanbridge and was celebrated in a variety of special school events during Summer 2008: 'Enable Me' took place in July to raise awareness of how people with disabilities participate in sport; on 18th July Tanbridge held a traditional Sports Day at Broadbridge Heath and on Monday 21st July, Be Active Day was launched to promote the enjoyment that can be achieved through leading a physically active and healthy lifestyle.

National schools first aid competition

The Regional rounds for St John Ambulance nationwide schools' first aid competition, which offers a fun way for 7 to 15 year olds to learn a life long skill, took place on 6th June.

Tanbridge House School's first aid team competed and took first, third and fourth places between schools from Sussex, Kent and Essex.

The Tanbridge team were sporting their new T-shirts, purchased for the competition by their new Sponsors, Novo Nordisk, whose generosity also enabled Tanbridge House to purchase three adult and two baby resuscitation dolls.



2008 Tanbridge House School Prom

Over two hundred leaving Year 11 students attended the Tanbridge House School Prom held this year at the stunning Felbridge Hotel. All the students looked fantastic and arrived in a variety of vehicles including an open top bus, a route master, army tank, "Italian Job style" in a convoy of five vintage minis, numerous limos and exclusive cars.

The evening was a huge success and hotel manager Stuart Noble said: "I must say the pupils behaved themselves impeccably and are a credit to the school."



Work Experience

Year 10 students completed a successful week of Work Experience during May. Occupations ranged from a soccer coach to a scientist, air traffic controller to animal carer, immigration officer to IT technician, carpenter to class-room assistant to name but a few.

A big highlight for teachers is being able to visit students during their week. All agreed that it is so rewarding to see students blossoming in the workplace and taking responsibility for themselves.



Shakespeare Schools Festival

After the huge success of Midsummer Night's Dream three years ago, this term Year 8 students have auditioned and begun rehearsing for October's performance of The Taming of the Shrew as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, being performed in Leatherhead.

Look out for further information in the new term!

School Safety Zone

Over the holiday period, West Sussex County Council are implementing a School Safety Zone outside the school. School Safety Zones aim to improve child safety and increase the feeling of safety outside the school gate. School Safety Zones involve a mix of 20mph advisory speed limits during pick up and drop off times as well as road markings near to the school gate to warn drivers to be more cautious in the school vicinity. This is part of a countywide initiative to improve safety for children on their way to and from school.

Writing Competition

Jade Barnett, Year 7 student at Tanbridge House School, was thrilled to be awarded a prize in the recent reading and writing competition run in conjunction with Refugee Week 2008. The competition was open to Sussex school children and organised by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team.

Students were invited to read a book about refugees or asylum seekers and to write a response in the form of a diary entry, a newspaper article or a film storyboard. Jade chose to write a diary entry.



ARMY INSIGHT COURSES

Congratulations to the following students who survived a week's residential army training this term:

Jess Caswell, Charlotte Kingdon, Sian Lewis at Gosport Barracks. Harry Balfour, Tom Carvell, Liam Eccarius, Tom Utting at Folkestone Barracks, James Hatton, Matthew Hirons, Adam La Roche at Longmoor Camp

The week provides students with a realistic insight into Army life and is not for the faint-hearted: there's plenty of hard work and physical training, not forgetting an over-night outdoor exercise. There's no let-up with 'Army life', it's a 24 hour day experience.

All students had truly fantastic feedback from their Course Officers and they should be very proud of all their achievements.



West Sussex Children's Book Award

This project gives secondary schools the opportunity to work with their feeder primary schools; to read & enjoy shortlisted books and to vote for their favourites. The result is then counted to arrive at the winner of the West Sussex Children's Book Award.

This year Tanbridge House students were delighted to be invited to participate in the short listing process for the 2008/2009 award. The Schools Library service provided copies of fourteen titles for the group to dip into and decide which books they thought should be shortlisted.

After heated discussion the students decided on the 9 titles to make up the shortlist for next year's award.

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