

# Tanbridge House Review

Autumn 2008

Issue 7



## Dear Reader

As I reach the end of my first year as Headteacher of Tanbridge House School I would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support. It has been an amazing year and Tanbridge has much to celebrate.

In January 2008 I arrived with the goal of Tanbridge House School becoming an outstanding school. Important steps have been taken to ensure this vision becomes a reality.

In August, Tanbridge received its best ever GCSE results and the constant drive towards academic standards will continue, as will our emphasis on care, courtesy and respect.

I am confident that new classroom practices and continued curriculum developments will allow all Tanbridge House students to fulfil their potential.

Jules White, Headteacher

## Tanbridge House School recognised at the 2008 Education Business Awards

Tanbridge House School was one of only 50 schools from across the country recognised for outstanding achievement at the annual Education Business Awards held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Tanbridge House School, along with just four other senior schools, was nominated for the Specialist School & Academy Award for its excellent 2008 GCSE examination results. In August Tanbridge students received their best ever GCSE results with 75% gaining a record 5 or more A\*-C grades.

Jules White said "the recognition given to Tanbridge at the Education Business Awards highlights the real progress Tanbridge House School is continuing to make."



## Horsham Schools Unite To become 'Rights, Respecting Schools'

Eleven Horsham schools are working together to achieve UNICEF's popular 'Rights, Respecting Schools Award'.

The award focuses on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others, whoever they are and wherever they are from. It also encourages the students to consider children worldwide, preparing them to be active citizens within their community and the wider world.



Sally Hawes from Tanbridge House School said: "As part of our quest to become a Rights, Respecting School we have replaced our old school rules with agreed charters. These focus on rights and responsibilities and give our students a clear framework for taking responsibility, as well as encouraging mutual respect within a positive learning environment."

During November schools across Horsham celebrated the Rights of the Child with assemblies, projects, special rights days and competitions.

## Teacher's Pet

Tanbridge House School was delighted to welcome Julian Peters from Arthur Lodge Veterinary Surgery to Tanbridge on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to talk to Year 7 students on how to look after weird and wonderful animals and the possibilities open to them in future careers working with animals.

Jules White, Headteacher, said "Tanbridge House School was more than happy to host this special assembly as part of the school's very wide and varied PSHE programme. It helped to support the school's transition arrangements for students coming from Year 6 into Year 7 and gave the students a wonderful opportunity of coming face to face with unusual pets".

During the assembly students were able to touch and hold some of the exotic animals including a tarantula, a snake, a giant tortoise as well as a skunk and a rather large bullfrog.



## The Taming of the Shrew

As part of the Shakespeare School's Festival, a group of Year 9 students performed a fresh and exciting interpretation of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Leatherhead Theatre on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Tanbridge chose *The Taming of the Shrew* because it allowed the cast to explore culturally relevant themes and issues in an inventive and engaging way. The students' approach was bright, dynamic and original, using dance alongside physical and stylised theatre.

The Tanbridge production received rapturous applause from the audience and an outstanding appraisal from the festival's Professional Director Ms McCrea, who commented: "This fresh and exciting interpretation is one which should be performed again and again".

Following the success of *West Side Story*, we are delighted to announce the Performing Arts Department will be staging *'Sweeney Todd'* at The Capitol Theatre in Horsham from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.



## History Matters

The History trip with Year 9 students to the World War One battlefields was an attempt to give our students an understanding of what life was like in World War One trenches. As well as the battlefields, the Ypres museums, the cemeteries containing the graves of 100,000 from all sides of the conflict and Tyne Cott Cemetery were visited. Many students were moved by the words of Second Lieutenant Arthur Conway Young: "Sacrificed to the fallacy that war can end war".



## Year 7 History

It was a pleasure to give Year 7 students the opportunity to experience some 'hands-on' history during a trip in October to Battle Abbey to reenact the famous Battle of Hastings.

*S Head, Teacher of History*



## Street Theatre

Year 10 Drama GCSE students from Tanbridge took to the streets this Christmas to entertain the Christmas shoppers.

The students, who have been studying Street Theatre were given this exciting opportunity by Horsham Town Centre Management.

Student Ryan Jones commented, "I was nervous about performing in front of the whole of Horsham, but as the adrenaline kicked in it was great".

# Specialist School Update

## Year 5 Science Day at Tanbridge

On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 a very excited group of Year 5 students from Castlewood Primary School visited Tanbridge for a workshop about "Chemical Changes".

For most of the children it was their first time in a 'proper' science lab. "It was exciting, big and we sat on funny chairs" said Alice Hobday 'Year 5'.

The Castlewood students were amazed as liquid changed colour and fascinated at the chemistry behind this. The climax of their afternoon was a demonstration creating a foam snake, which in one child's words was "awesome!".



## Year 6 Girls Maths Workshops at Tanbridge

A small group of lucky Year 6 girls from Castlewood were invited to attend twilight sessions at Tanbridge to extend their maths knowledge. In their most recent session they had great fun altering a digital photograph using tessellating shapes. Emily Hayms: "I really enjoyed working at Tanbridge, it was great fun!".

## Numeracy Day

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 was the 314<sup>th</sup> day of the year, which also happened to be the first three digits of the number Pi.

To celebrate, Tanbridge House School held a "Pi Numeracy Day". Students participated across the curriculum in a activities to celebrate all things circular.



This term has seen the Specialism going from strength to strength. Our community of learners has really benefitted from the new ICT "Zones" in Mathematics and ICT. This has resulted in Science using new technology to produce creative and exciting lessons.

Mathematics has seen the Gifted and Talented students being entered for national competitions such as the Jaguar Challenge. This term ICT has been focusing on our teachers using the whiteboards creatively and inter-actively.

We have enjoyed having Year 5 and Year 6 students coming on site from our partner primary schools. ICT offered a magical musical experience which the students found "awesome" and "really exciting". In Mathematics students have been learning challenging ways to use ICT in Maths.

## Sussex Star Shares his Experiences

Tanbridge House School is committed to providing the best possible education for all its students. In the same way as special provision is made for those with learning difficulties, Tanbridge has in place an interesting programme which stretches its more able students.

This term has seen the introduction of special events to inspire the most talented students and on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, ex-England and current Sussex Cricket player James Kirtley came to Tanbridge House School.

James gave an inspiring talk to Gifted and Talented Physical Education students about his experiences in elite and international sport. He focused on topics such as diet, training and the psychological impact of playing at such a high level and students were encouraged to ask questions that could improve their own future developments in their sports.

Head of PE at Tanbridge House School, Karen Atkins, said: "The students were very grateful for the experience they gained from meeting an elite sports performer".



## Celebrating Success

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Tanbridge House School was delighted to hold an evening of celebration to congratulate all students who left in June 2008 on their fantastic GCSE results.

Parents, along with staff, governors and guests enjoyed the occasion and opportunity to applaud the former students. Guest speaker Rob Gauntlett, chosen by National Geographic Magazine as Adventurer of the Year 2008, gave an inspiring speech, encouraging other young people to believe they can succeed in their ambitions and that anything is possible.



*Delighted Students in August 2008 collecting their GCSE results*

## Building links with our Parents

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Tanbridge hosted the initial meeting of Parent Forum, the aim of which is for parents and the school to work together to further support students.

This initial meeting was a great success, with many ideas being raised such as how best to inform parents on using the school website, including the virtual learning environment and involving parents in supporting school events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009. For further information please email Peter Marshallsay, Assistant Headteacher, PMarshallsay@ths.uk.net.

Tanbridge House School wishes to thank the West Sussex County Times for allowing us to use their photographs.

For up to date local news visit the West Sussex County Times website, [www.wscountytimes.co.uk](http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk)

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## Author Visit

Tanbridge House School was fortunate to host a visit on 4<sup>th</sup> November by the author and illustrator Alex Milway. Alex's book "Mousehunter" is one of the short listed titles for this year's West Sussex Children's Book Award. Tanbridge is working with Arunside, Castlewood, and Saint John's schools on this award and students were thrilled to meet the author.

Students listened enthralled to Alex talking about "Mousehunter" and its sequel "The curse of Mousebeard". The students had the opportunity to ask Alex questions including queries about the inspiration for the different types of mice in the books and whether any of the characters are based on his friends and family!



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