

# Tanbridge House Review

Summer 2009

Issue 9



As we draw to the end of the academic year I am delighted to look back at the successes and achievements of our whole school community. First and foremost, students have committed themselves fully to all aspects of Tanbridge House School life. Our KS3 results already reflect our growing academic culture and we expect to see similar achievements when our GCSE results are published in August.

Extra curricular highlights have included sporting successes, ranging from basketball to cricket and of course our wonderful performances at Rock Challenge, The Spring Concert and Sweeney Todd.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support and to save a line for my superb staff who continue to deliver at the highest level to the students in our care.

Jules White, Headteacher

## Be the Boss

The 'Be the Boss' initiative gave Tanbridge House students an insight into how Swan Walk Shopping Centre is run.

Year 9 students were asked to complete an extensive application form for their chosen position at Swan Walk, which was followed with interviews by Swan Walk Centre Manager, Gill Buchanan.

The aim was to give students key interview techniques that could help them to gain their dream job in the future.

Eight Year 9 students were chosen to take over the roles of Centre Manager, Operations Manager, Operations Supervisor and Centre Administrator for a day and to find out what being the boss at a busy shopping centre is really like.

"I am so glad our students seized this fantastic opportunity," said Jules White, Headteacher "It's taught our youngsters some valuable life skills they can take with them when applying for jobs in the future."



## A Theatrical Delight

With atmospheric lighting and minimalist set, superb cast, and talented musicians, Stephen Sondheim's **SWEENEY TODD - DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET**, performed by Tanbridge House School at the Horsham's Capitol during June and July, offered a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Tanbridge House production was a resounding success worthy of a West End stage. The cast performed admirably. Sweeney Todd was played with suitable sombreness by Laurence Baker while his partner in crime, Mrs Lovett, played by Keri Harding, kept goading him on with her superbly strong voice to the fore.

Love interest was suitably portrayed by Oliver Dodd and Michelle Walder with a challenging duet. Mr Fogg, played by Ryan Jones, was set upon by the Bedlam Girls, bringing him to a suitable demise; their eerie moans bringing shivers to the spine.

The large chorus was very disciplined and tight, their contemporary costumes with red and purple face masks to match worked well against the misty openness of the stage.

All in all, a faultless performance by a well rehearsed enthusiastic cast where team spirit was obviously paramount.

Terry Swoffer (Community Review)

## Specialist School Update

We have had a fantastic third year as a Specialist Science, Mathematics and Computing College and have seen our specialist departments continue to grow and have impact across the whole school.

ICT is a particular feature at Tanbridge House School and is significantly impacting on teaching and learning. From September 2009 Microsoft Office 2007 will be embedded across the school and we have also invested heavily in the latest Macromedia software, CS4 'Creative Suite' Master Collection, which is industry standard. Students will therefore be leaving Tanbridge House School with the most up to date ICT skills to suit any post 16 study or employment situation!

Ms R Joseph (Senior Assistant Headteacher)



## Eco Conference

Ten Eco Reps from Years 8, 9 and 10 were selected to attend the 2nd Annual Green Conference at Roffey Park on 6 July.

They were introduced to Viridors' new 15 million pound state of the art

recycling facility which opened to the public on Wednesday 15 July and watched a video on how it will be sorting and recycling waste from all over West Sussex. You can look forward to receiving some special bins later in the year in Horsham with blue lids where all waste that can be recycled goes into the one bin.

The state of the art Materials Recycling Facility not only sorts the waste, it has infra red light detectors so it can identify and sort different types of plastics and will aim to recycle 95% of West Sussex waste.

The Environment Agency highlighted the different types of flooding that occurs, how to prepare an emergency flood pack and how dangerous it can be to walk or drive in flood water. It only takes 60 cm of water to float a car and 15 cm of moving flood water can knock you off your feet!

'Elementus' the low carbon energy assessors got the Eco Reps to estimate how much energy different appliances use, even when they are on stand by mode and showed them the huge savings that can be made from just converting to energy saving light bulbs. A very informative day was had by all.

Richard Renaut, Facilities Manager - Roffey Park Institute, commented, "... highly impressed with the environmental knowledge shown by the students from Tanbridge."

Miss S Sweet and the Eco Reps

## Salter's Festival

On Monday 8 June, four students from Year 8 were given the opportunity to experience working in a University Chemistry laboratory. As part of the Salter's Festival of Chemistry, Keri Harding, Sam Garside, Matt Kimber and



Callum Giblett all took part competing against schools from all over Sussex. They worked methodically, safely and as part of a team and in doing so completed both the morning and afternoon investigations in record time.

These opened ended practical tasks allowed our gifted and very able students to explore and analyse ideas independently as well as experience and consider science options as a future career path.

Miss H Turley

## GSUS Live

During the first two weeks of May all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to experience Religious Studies in a very different environment.

The GSUS bus, one of only two such vehicles in the country, with a four year waiting list, is a mobile classroom that visits schools addressing a range of spiritual and moral issues. The hi-tech, mobile classroom has at its core a fully-functioning multimedia computer suite.

Each session, led by a specialist presenter, starts with a 3-D video sequence, for which every student is provided with a pair of special glasses. During each session the students explore the themes of forgiveness, fear and rejection by facing a new "virtual reality friend" who needs their support.

The bus is provided by COUNTIES, a UK-based Christian charity, which exists to provide churches and schools with resources that aim to make religion understandable and relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Mr A Thorpe, Leader of R.E.



## "Euro Day"



On 1 July, ten Year 7 students spent the day at Southwater Juniors working as "assistant teachers".

Lauren Brown, Harry Cherrill, Rhiannon Fitzgerald, James Hamlin, David King, Natassia King, Kirsty Kingsbury, Sean Roberts, James Skett and Kerrie Slope helped teach Spanish to Year 6 students as part of Southwater's annual "Euro Day".

The Year 7 students were praised for their enthusiasm and hard work by the staff at Southwater Juniors and were quite simply exceptional teaching assistants to Miss Stone.

## Easter Sailing Adventure

Jenny Vallens, Scott King and Tristan Scragg had the fantastic experience over the Easter holidays of a 5 day sailing adventure aboard the "John Laing" accompanied by Mr Butler.

The "John Laing" is a 72ft yacht owned by the Ocean Youth Trust South, an adventure under sail training charity which takes young people in the south of England sailing.

The Tanbridge House students and the rest of the crew (9 students from other schools) plus adult staff, after a safety briefing, enjoyed four hours of sailing from Southampton to Cowes, the "capital" of the yachting world and our first stopover.

On the second and third days we sailed past The Needles to Poole and Weymouth in Dorset. This involved practising various sailing manoeuvres such as tacking the boat through the wind as well as helming, helping with the navigation and of course cooking the meals for 17 people!

On the fourth day we sailed back to the Isle of Wight and once moored in Yarmouth spent time exploring the town before a fast sail back to Southampton on the final day.

The crew were presented with certificates showing that they had been a valued part of a team, the places they had visited, and that they had sailed 180 sea miles.

Mr R Butler



## Tanbridge Ambassador Programme continues to impress

Tanbridge House School's Ambassador Programme is in full swing with students from Years 7, 8 and 9 experiencing the unique opportunity to find out more about their dream career.

The students, who were asked to outline what they hoped to get from the programme, have so far experienced a variety of 'dream careers' this term. From becoming a photographer, a chef, a marine biologist and a sports therapist.



"The Ambassador Programme is designed to get students thinking early about their future careers," said Headteacher, Jules White, "... there are so many young people who have not thought about or planned a career route meaning they can face job dissatisfaction later in life, which we are aiming to eliminate. Our students are making the most of these once in a lifetime opportunities."



## Students attempt World Record radio advertisement!

Last month a world record attempt began after a long process of workshops and script writing.

The record attempt is thanks to radio commercial production company Airforce, whose Managing Director, John Calvert has had the dream of creating the advertisement for some time. John commented, "Attempting to create a world record radio advert has been a dream of mine for years and partnering with Tanbridge House School has been a great opportunity. Children are key listeners of the radio and it's great to be able to expand their knowledge about the industry and help them create the perfect script for this very special project."

A few weeks ago John attended Tanbridge and explained the amazing project to the students and to ask them to think of ideas as to what message they would like the radio advert to convey. With such a fantastic opportunity the response was phenomenal and after much deliberation it was decided that ten lucky students were to present their ideas in a workshop to John.

Throughout the workshop it was clear that many of the students were unhappy about how today's society can sometimes stereotype teenagers; the winning script incorporated this theme and was created by Year 8 student, Tristan Smith who based his script around the dreams of young people and why today's society shouldn't always judge a book by its cover.

Two days of recording have now taken place with over a hundred Year 8 students having been recorded.

Jules White, Headteacher, said: "This project has really enthused the students, being able to see behind the scenes of a radio commercial gives them an insight in an area they might not previously have thought much about. "



## Sports Awards Evening

The Tanbridge House School Sports Awards Evening was introduced in 2008 and is now held annually to recognise the sporting achievements and successes of Tanbridge House students and this year was sponsored by The Printed Word and Horsham Karate.

Paul Dollner from Chelsea Football Club was our guest speaker and spoke about perseverance, dedication and achieving sporting goals.

Over seventy students received prizes and the Sports Personality of the Year was voted for on the night (following a short DVD of 7 nominees) and awarded to Francesca Vincent, pictured here.



## Congratulations

Laura Brown has qualified to represent Sussex at the National Schools Athletics Championships. We wish her every success!

## Fundraising to support Year 10 student Leo Apostol - has had a massive boost from CTS Horsham

Leo Apostol a Year 10 student suffering from cerebral palsy, has limited movement on his left side plus communication and speech problems. Leo receives over 20 hours of support each week whilst at school and to help Leo with his communication difficulties students, staff and community partners have been fundraising to purchase a specialist communication aid for Leo to allow him to communicate with much greater ease, both to aid his learning and to help him socialise.



The specialised communication aid from Dynavox which Leo needs costs about £4000. Leo recently trialled the aid for just three days and in that short time the difference it made to him was incredible.

Tanbridge House School has been overwhelmed by the amazing response from Neal Grayston, Managing Director of Class Technology Systems Limited in Horsham. Jules White, Headteacher approached CTS to find a supplier for the specialised communication aid for Leo and upon hearing why the aid was needed Neal Grayston immediately offered £1000 towards the cost. The generosity of CTS has kick started fundraising for the aid and both Tanbridge and Leo's family cannot thank Class Technology Systems Limited enough.

Further fundraising continues with support from Sodexo and Barclays Bank. For up to date details and to follow the fundraising progress please visit the school website.

## Margot's Garden

Richard Hillery, horticultural expert and co-director of Margot's Garden recently worked with Year 7 students from the school's gardening club to add a further raised allotment to the school's vegetable garden.

The gardening club was established a year ago as an after school club for those interested in gardening and is run by Miss Edwards, Leader of Science.

Richard Hillery said, "The students learnt various techniques from how to sow seeds, to using the correct compost, applying the appropriate amount of feed and water, and about the overall care needed to grow the vegetables."

Miss Edwards said, "... having a new organic vegetable bed added to our allotment is helping the students to discover biology from a fun and interesting angle."



## Charity Update

Tanbridge House School are committed to raising money and awareness for local, national and international charities.

We thrive each year to continue to raise funds for good causes with innovative ideas and projects.

At the time of going to press and prior to the sponsored walk money being collected, the students and staff have raised a staggering £8690.61 this year.

For full details of which charities the money has gone to and ongoing fundraising details please

visit the Tanbridge House School website.

[www.tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk](http://www.tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk)

## Sponsored Walk

Friday 3 July saw over 1000 Tanbridge House School students and staff, participate in a sponsored walk. Mr Marshallsay (Assistant Headteacher) organized the walk which left Tanbridge House School following footpaths and bridleways to the Downs Link and on to Slinfold.

The walk was in aid of two local charities, The Springboard House Project (which provides play facilities for young people with disabilities and special needs) and the Chestnut Tree Hospice (a place where parents and siblings of children with life-limiting conditions can have some quality time together).

Staff and students, through sponsorship, are hoping to raise in the region of £10,000 towards these two local charities. For ongoing information about this event please go to the Tanbridge House School website.



## Prom Fashion

Year 11 students Laura Drazek and Tom Slaughter, through their year-book entries, won their prom outfits.

Laura received a voucher for her prom dress from Epiphany and Tom received a voucher for his prom suit from Dickies.

Mrs Pinington, Leader of Year 11 said, "The Year 11 students had fun whilst devising their entries and the chance of winning their prom dress/suit, for which we have to thank Epiphany and Dickies, was a fabulous added bonus."



## Gifted & Talented

The Gifted and Talented programme has seen an interesting year, with many different projects taking place. Year 8 students led their year group in an inter-tutor group competition, raising almost £400 for charity.

A group of Year 9 students attended a debate at Christ's Hospital, and several students contributed when proceedings were opened to the floor. We hope to make this a regular trip for our budding public speakers.

Many students have attended enrichment courses on a huge variety of topics, and feedback remains positive.

If you have any queries about the Gifted and Talented programme at Tanbridge House School please contact: [bdawson@ths.uk.net](mailto:bdawson@ths.uk.net).

Miss B Dawson  
Gifted & Talented  
Co-ordinator

## 2009 Prom

Over 200 Year 11 students enjoyed a warm balmy evening at their leaving prom, on Friday 26 June at the Felbridge Hotel in East Grinstead, which proved to be a fantastic venue for this very special event.

The girls looked stunning in their ball gowns and the boys also looked wonderful.

This year's Prom Queen was Kelly Matthews and Prom King, Ben Ganesh.

It was great fun watching everyone arrive in an array of interesting and fun vehicles from a fire engine to a 20 seater yellow Hummer.

A magnificent evening was had by one and all.



## Year 10 Work Experience

During May our Year 10 students had a taste of the world of work as they embarked on a week's work experience. As usual, our students excelled themselves, taking on a variety of different roles, including chemist, adventure organiser, nature worker, teaching assistant, retail assistant worker, vet, builder, office worker, air traffic controller, museum assistant, chef, engineer, gardener, animal carer, nursery assistant, sporting assistant, golfer, hairdresser, mechanic, footballer, care assistant ..

Reports from employers and visiting teachers were outstanding with so many students nominated as a 'Star of Work Experience' that their achievements are to be celebrated in a special assembly. Our students have been fantastic ambassadors for the school both in the local area and beyond and they should be very proud.



## Winning author visits Tanbridge

Tanbridge was fortunate enough to host the award ceremony for the prestigious West Sussex Children's Book Award. The author Lauren St John, who came heads above her rivals, gave an enthralling talk to the 50 students who participated in the Book Award from Tanbridge House School, Arunside Primary, Castlewood Primary and St John's Catholic Primary.

Lauren St John received the accolade for her novel, 'The White Giraffe' that was one of nine books eagerly read and debated by students from schools across the County.

The students were captivated by Lauren's talk and indeed one student said it had inspired her to become an author herself!

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