

# Tanbridge House Review

Autumn 2009

Issue 10



At what seems to be lightning pace another year is close to drawing to an end.

I am pleased to be able to look back with real pride at our achievements. Tanbridge House continues to be at the heart of our community, providing excellent learning and extra curricular opportunities for students and the wider public.

Our growing popularity - the school is virtually full to capacity - reflects our academic achievements and most importantly an excellent culture and ethos right across the school. Please read on to find out more!

Thanks again for your support.

Jules White, Headteacher

## 2009 GCSE Awards Evening

Thursday 3 December 2009

After a record breaking academic performance Tanbridge House School was delighted to hold an evening to celebrate the special achievements of Year 11 students who left in June 2009 and to present all 2009 Year 11's with their GCSE certificates.

Headteacher Jules White said, "These wonderful GCSE results for Tanbridge House School reflect the hard work of our students and staff. They also underline our commitment to providing every student with a relevant curriculum, high quality teaching and rigorous support to ensure that every student achieves their personal best."

Awards Evening was made even more special by an inspirational talk from Guest Speaker, Sally Kettle, first woman to row across the Atlantic twice! With no rowing experience and certainly no sea-going experience, Sally took to the oars in her ocean rowing boat with courage and determination facing 40ft waves, gale force winds and shark attacks.



## Tanbridge Goes Pop!

GCSE work of Tanbridge House School's Year 10 and 11 students from Summer 2009 is on display at the Capitol Horsham until Monday 11 January 2010.

Students developed colourful canvases and sketchbooks by studying the 1960's British and American Pop Art movement.

Using the theme 'Icons and Idols' or 'Colour' the students researched many works including those of Peter Blake, Peter Philips, Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi, Andy Warhol and Roy Liechtenstein.

The acrylic paintings on canvas were completed by the GCSE Art students as part of their 10 hour exam in April 2009.

M Hyde, Leader of Art



## Specialist School Round-Up

We are now in our fourth year as a specialist college and we really are seeing the impact of our hard work across all areas of the school community.

The innovative use of ICT has become fundamental to improving learning and teaching in every classroom in every subject. ICT suites can be found across the school and every subject area benefits from new ICT technology, such as interactive whiteboards and visualisers.

Science enrichment activities have blossomed this year, providing stimulating learning experiences outside of science lessons. We regularly welcome 25 students each week to Science Club, in which students engage in practical activities such as making slime to fire writing! Whilst too cold to work outside in the science allotment, the Eco-Reps have made some fantastic signs for the vegetable beds, in a cross-curricular project with the Technology department. We are aiming to ensure that all year groups have the opportunity to participate in a science related trip throughout the course of the year, and our Year 8 students have enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum in London. This was organised in collaboration with the Geography department, helping the students to make links between subjects. Our gifted and talented and more able students will also be given the opportunity to extend their understanding of Astronomy when they visit Greenwich Observatory later this term.

In October, 80 Year 6 students and their parents were welcomed to THS to try taster lessons in Science, Maths and ICT. This was a resounding success, with parents and students alike learning new skills. Many parents enjoyed the opportunity to have fun with their children, who found the whole experience incredibly exciting. Some even commented on how stimulating the lessons were compared to their school days and they wished that they could attend THS themselves!

Our links with the local community continue to grow. Our Primary feeder schools will all be attending Science investigative work and Maths and ICT gifted and talented sessions throughout the year. The BT Hothouse project has helped to embed the RRSa principles.

The Science department is currently liaising with Novartis, Ceres Power and UCL to help engage our students with local scientists and organisations so that they get a real feel for scientific career opportunities.



V Edwards, Assistant Headteacher / Leader of Science & Specialist School Coordinator

## Sporting Success



Tanbridge House School has proved their superb sporting abilities in an amazing week where three teams have excelled at county and national level.

The Under 16 girls' football team won their National Cup game to progress to the last 32 in the country, the boys junior swimming team qualified for the National Finals for the top 16 schools in the country while the senior gymnastics squad rounded off a magical two days with gold at the county competition.

Karen Atkins, Leader of PE said, "We are really pleased for all those involved, it goes to show that all their hard work was worth it and the whole school are really proud of them all. They are very able sports people and we wish them continued luck and success."

K Atkins, Leader of PE

## Year 11 Football

Congratulations to the current Year 11 Football team for making the Sussex Cup Final.

There have been some outstanding individual performances, however it has been playing as a team that has brought them success this year. Knocking out the holders, Hove Park in the 1/4 finals as well as St. Bedes, Thomas Bennett, and Ifield has given the boys great confidence for the Final against Warden Park which will be played some time in May possibly at the Broadfield Stadium in Crawley.

As a result of their success this year, the team will be representing Tanbridge House and Sussex as one of two sides in the last 32 of the country, in a National Competition sponsored by the RAF. We wish them the best of luck in the New Year.

# Feeling Hot!

Working in partnership with BT during this term to enhance student learning experiences through the BT Global Hothouse challenge, 80 Year 10 students through a series of challenging scenarios. From learning and developing distinct presentation skills to having timed 'panic' sessions, the students had the opportunity to learn new communication, planning and team building skills.

The winning Tanbridge House School team was invited to participate in the regional finals, held at Tanbridge House School on 3 December 2009, joined by Stewards School - Harlow, Carshalton High School For Girls - Carshalton and John Warner School - Hoddesdon.

All schools faced new challenges, from working with students from other schools, to solving the 'Lego' challenge within five minutes.

The regional final culminated in a series of timed presentations to students and teachers from all four schools.

The Stewards School - Harlow had an exceptionally well planned and concise delivery and Tanbridge House School produced an excellent presentation, entitled - "How would you support and develop the access to reliable information in a deprived Indian town or village?" which was clear, well planned and delivered with professional skill.

A further challenge that breached the unknown for most students was the live video link to partner schools in America. All students found this an interesting experience. It is not every day you communicate real time to an American teacher!

Our thanks go to BT for organising and delivering such a special event and we look forward to the next BT exciting challenge.

A special thanks go to Judith Harding (BT and Tanbridge House School Parent Governor) whose initial expression of interest made this all possible.

S Harding, Assistant Headteacher/ICT



## Christmas Concert

The festive season got off to a great start with the annual Christmas Concert.

The audience was treated to very entertaining performances from the junior and senior school orchestras, the school concert band, the jazz ensemble, the brass ensemble and all the school choirs. These were interspersed with seasonal readings given by students from all year groups. One of the highlights was seeing the variety of fancy dress costumes donned by the students for the second half of the concert; everything from Christmas fairies to gangsters.

The concert was performed on two consecutive evenings to an audience of family and friends along with some especially invited senior citizens. There was also an extra morning performance for students from local primary schools that gave the young people a taste of the way Tanbridge House makes wonderful music!



## UNICEF 'Rights, Respect & Responsibility' Conference

On 10 November 2009 seven schools in West Horsham held a mini conference at Tanbridge House School to share ideas on 'Rights, Respect and Responsibility' (Triple 'R').

The West Horsham Schools, including Tanbridge House, Arunside, Shelley, Southwater Juniors, Castlewood, St Mary's and visitors St Andrews from Nuthurst, joined in with a variety of activities, designed to help them understand about children's universal rights and the responsibilities that go alongside these.

All the schools have now established agreed charters of Rights and Responsibilities in place of their school rules. Children as young as 5 and as old as 16 are now using these charters to help establish a rights, respecting ethos and achieve the level 1 UNICEF, 'Rights, Respecting School' award. Trafalgar School in Horsham should be congratulated as they have already met the criteria and achieved level 1 in July. Other schools in the West Horsham pilot hope to follow in their footsteps to gain this prestigious award in the near future.

Sally Hawes from Tanbridge House, coordinator of the conference said, "It was inspiring to observe the students from Year 5 working in teams with our students in Year 9. By combining ideas from different age groups the children were able to develop their skills, opinions and self-confidence. It was a very worthwhile conference and one which we hope to repeat on a much grander scale next time!"

S Hawes, Senior Leader/Inclusion



## Les Miserables

Following the huge success of Sweeney Todd in 2009, Tanbridge House School will be staging the ever-popular musical 'Les Miserables' from 22 to 24 June 2010 at the Capitol Theatre. With memorable songs and a heart-wrenching story, the production promises to be our best yet.

On Saturday 5 December we welcomed more than one hundred students to our audition workshop. This was a fantastic day and the level of talent and enthusiasm shown by all was truly impressive.

All this made deciding the final cast a very difficult task!

We now look forward to beginning rehearsals, and look forward to seeing you at the Capitol in June.



## Congratulations!

Six students have passed the complete young life saver award and four have passed level 3 of the same award.

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)

# Charity Matters

This year we have begun fundraising for some very worthy causes. Alice Bennett and Michelle Walder, two key Year 11 students, are helping to organise a range of innovative and diverse fundraising activities.

During October we held a non-uniform day to complete the fundraising for Leo and shortly afterwards were delighted to be able to buy the life changing communication aid Leo had been waiting for. The purchase of this specialist device from Dynavox was only made possible through the generosity of Class Technology Limited in Horsham, Sodexo, Barclays Bank, Hays Education and Tanbridge House School students and staff.

In December 2009 money raised through the Year 7 Bazaar in conjunction with a non-uniform day went towards a playground project at the Queen Elizabeth II School in Horsham.

## Forthcoming Charity Event

Tanbridge House School and Christ's Hospital present, *The Rwanda Project*.

On Friday 26 & Saturday 27 February at The Christ's Hospital Theatre from 7.30pm. Supporting the work of UNICEF and Save the Children in Rwanda.

"A Patch of Earth" by Kitty Felde is a national premier; taking up the themes of ethnic cleansing and contemporary responsibility for genocide.

Followed by a Fashion Show reflecting the work of Christ's Hospital and Tanbridge House School students, influenced by African themes and with their own original ethical fashion solutions.

Be moved, informed and entertained; eyes and ears dazzled by an evening of drama, gospel, African drums, dance and glorious fashions.

Tickets available from the Christ's Hospital Box Office: 01403 247434, email: [boxoffice@christs-hospital.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@christs-hospital.org.uk).



Between September 2008 and July 2009 Tanbridge House School raised an amazing £11,000 for charity. Donations were given to the Springboard Project; Chestnut Tree Hospice; Great Ormond Street; Comic Relief; RSPCA; Multiple Sclerosis; NSPCC; Rett Syndrome; Cancer Relief; Sussex Air Ambulance; CLIC Sargeant; CHASE; Royal Marsden.

P Marshallsay  
Assistant Headteacher

## Well Done Show Jumpers!

Tanbridge House Students, Lara Bedford, Nicola Powell, Emily Bennett, Kyle Bedford and William Funnell recently turned their love of horse riding into a fundraising activity by taking part in a jumping competition to raise money for The Gambia Horse Trust which supports horses in the Gambia.

## Healthy School Status

Tanbridge House School is delighted to have gained Healthy Schools Status.

The award presented by Maggie South (West Sussex Healthy Schools Co-ordinator) indicates the commitment the school, staff and students have towards enhancing the health, emotional well-being and personal development of their communities.

The award not only focuses on the importance of Healthy Eating but also includes work delivered in PSHE programmes and support from counsellors and nurses within Tanbridge House School.

The Tanbridge House School Eco group, School Council and Student Voice contribute to the schools environment and personal development. The extensive extra curricular activities and in school Physical Education lessons provide fitness opportunities for all students and the importance of a healthier lifestyle.



## No Jacket Required

On Friday 6 November three lucky students were given the experience of a lifetime as they helped the definitive Phil Collins tribute band, No Jacket Required, prepare for a VIP gig at the Hawth Theatre in Crawley.

Callum Poulton, Lawrence Mayne and Josh Plumbley who are all Year 11 students, were selected to partake in this out of school experience to help broaden their minds about possible future career paths.

Thousands of teenagers watch programmes like X-Factor or Britain's Got Talent and many have secret dreams to work in the entertainment industry just like their idols. No Jacket Required and Tanbridge School wanted to open a door into the competitive world of entertainment and show the Tanbridge House students just what goes on behind the scenes at a big music event. What's more the students proved how studying hard at subjects such as Science, Maths & IT can really help to gain employment in the entertainment industry.

Callum who has always shown a flare for design work in school took on the role of assistant lighting designer and helped the technical crew plot spotlight angles and laser effects. Lawrence who is renowned for his musical abilities, worked closely with the band and sound engineers setting up the instruments and microphone cables on the stage. Josh who is one of the most organised Year 11 students at Tanbridge House, took on the role of event coordinator helping prepare the VIP room, catering and tickets.



Jules White, Headteacher, said: "We have been running the extended work experience Ambassador programme for nearly three years now. The concept of broadening our students' minds by showing them jobs that they might not originally have thought of really motivates them in school and offers them unique experiences which will help them with their career choices in the future. The students had a fantastic time with No Jacket Required and the experience gave them an insight into what it means to work in the entertainment industry."

Tanbridge House School are delighted with the new bus shelters installed this term; providing not only protection from the elements but also a safe place for students to wait to be collected, as they have been situated close to the Main School building.

Keith Gardner, Premises Manager, would like to thank parents and carers for the safe way they are using the school site when picking up and dropping off students.



& finally ....

# Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Tanbridge House School, Farthings Hill, Guildford Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1SR

Headteacher: Mr Jules White, BA (Hons)

Tel: 01403 263628 Fax: 01403 211830 email: [office@ths.uk.net](mailto:office@ths.uk.net) web: [www.tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk](http://www.tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk)

