

# Tanbridge House Review

Spring 2007



## Dear Reader

Welcome to issue 2.

The first issue received incredibly positive reviews, so much so that we have been asked to send future copies further a field into our Business and Voluntary Community. If you have feedback, further suggestions or would like a copy to be sent, for example, to your place of work please contact Clare Phillips at the school. We are very proud of the academic achievements of our students

but also believe that there is more to growing up than examination results. We therefore know you will particularly enjoy reading about the many opportunities that our students have had to successfully apply their ideas, skills and enthusiasm beyond the classroom and the bell at 3.25pm.

Maureen Johnson, Headteacher



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Tanbridge House School is pleased to announce that it has been awarded Investors in People. This is the nationally recognised quality standard for organisations which value their people, are serious about how everyone communicates with each other and provides increased commitment to training and developing its employees.

“We are delighted to receive this significant award. Gaining it is a real achievement. To be successful each department has had to prove separately it is working at a high standard. This award demonstrates our aim of continuous improvement.”

Headteacher, Maureen Johnson.



*Tanbridge House School Staff receiving training on administering epi pens*

## Declan Wins Logo Competition



Tanbridge House School student, Declan Norton, Year 10 student, won “Design a Brand Image for Horsham”. The competition was open to students from all Horsham schools and during the autumn 60 entries went on public display.

Declan who also won the “People’s Vote” for his design was delighted to have won and says the landmarks of Horsham had been the inspiration behind his design.

“This award means we are building on our success as an organisation that provides excellent art and technology opportunities for its students and we really hope Horsham enjoys this new, bold and modern logo.” Maureen Johnson, Headteacher.

## Brighton Science Festival

Celebrity scientist Jonathan Hare, BBC Presenter from Rough Science, visited Tanbridge House School on Monday 22 January as part of this year’s Brighton Science Festival.

Jonathan gave a short talk to some fortunate students in years 7, 8 and 9 about what electricity is and then threw the students the challenge of making electricity from a potato, a nail and some pencil lead.

To the students’ amazement this turned out to be possible! The potato batteries produced enough electricity for just one potato to power a calculator, and a string of them produced enough voltage to power an LED. When all the potato batteries in the science lab were strung together they even powered a radio. Thomas Collyer, Year 8 student, “I enjoyed meeting the people from the Brighton Science Festival, they were fun and amusing”.



## EDITORIAL TEAM UPDATE

The Tanbridge House School Editorial Team is involved in a variety of exciting projects. In February, the team benefited from a workshop, for students with an interest in journalism, to learn more about the skills required to be a multi-media reporter in the 21st century. As a result of the workshop students now have the opportunity to create their own news stories and feed them directly to the County Times.

### Rt Hon, Francis Maude – Interview

We were really pleased to be invited to the House of Commons to interview our local MP, Francis Maude. Harley Tamplin, Lauren Dempster and I went with Mrs Phillips. After going through “airport security” we were taken to his office, which is in what was the original Scotland Yard building, our nerves soon passed as Francis Maude was so down to earth and welcoming.

Francis Maude was keen to answer our questions; we started by asking him why he had chosen to become a politician, he said his father had been a MP, so we assume this was an influence on his later career choice. We went on to ask him why young people should be interested in politics, as well as questions about his own children and education. The NHS seemed to be an area that he felt very strongly about and like us, he had his own horror story to tell, he wanted us to know that not only is there pressure for Horsham to have it's own hospital but also, he said “We are fighting to keep existing hospitals in West Sussex open”.  
Kathryn Moll, Year 10



### Hold the Front Page

In February, four members of the Tanbridge Editorial Team were chosen to present the results of the West Sussex County Times questionnaire, carried out by Tanbridge students and parents last term. The presentation gave us the opportunity to visit the County Times headquarters in Horsham and to improve our knowledge of journalism.

Jonathan Gellert, Megan O'Rahilly, Emma Locke and I had expected to show our Powerpoint presentation to two or three people, so we were surprised to find such a large group of senior members of the County Times staff eagerly waiting for us. Due to the hard work of the whole Editorial Team the presentation was a success and we all felt good about ourselves afterwards and Gary Shipton the Editor, gave us a bonus unexpected tour of the building. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit, it was a very valuable experience.  
Harley Tamplin, 10NHO



Jonathan Gellert - Year 9 and Emma Locke - Year 10 take time to interview PC Andy Skinner on his crime prevention tips for “The Zebra”.

### TES Newsday Competition

Tanbridge House School enjoyed a thoroughly rewarding day when it took part in this year's Times Education Supplement Newsday 2007 competition. The editorial team had the task of producing a newspaper in a day; they worked really hard and put to good use all their newly learned skills to produce their newspaper “The Zebra” on the 14 March and experienced the excitement of working in a “live newsroom”.



### Performing Arts

Magic, music and magnificence! Three words to describe the shows that were performed for primary schools around Horsham by Year 10 Performing Arts students throughout this term.

The Performing Arts students jumped at the chance to revisit their old primary schools. However, they soon realised this would be no stroll down memory lane. The students had to target a specific primary age group and create a piece that they would enjoy.

All the audiences seemed fascinated and content with the pieces performed and rewarded the Tanbridge students with loud applause and also a few cries from young children! Who wouldn't be afraid of a Year 10 Tanbridge student dressed in drag?

Matthew Taafee, Year 10

### Student Voice

Since being a member of Student Voice I have worked on many projects. The main one has been with a school in Selsey, Manhood Community College.

We looked at the strong points within their school and decided which ones would work at Tanbridge. We then took those and tailored them to help our school.

To help us empower these decisions with more force we split our group into two smaller teams. Teaching and Learning and Pastoral.

Teaching and Learning have just finished their project. We created lesson guides. These have been created as a partnership between teacher and student and are to highlight how students believe a lesson should be run and what students should be bringing to each lesson.

The Pastoral team have been working on a card that will be issued to each student containing important contact details and direct contact to pastoral assistants.

Student Voice has been a fantastic chance and I have really enjoy working with different students and teachers. It has brought some brilliant opportunities.  
Sophie Bartlett, Year 8

## LECT Study Visit to Jamaica, 12 – 17 February 2007

Mrs Pienaar was fortunate to be selected as one of a team of 10 teachers from across the country to visit Jamaica during February. This study visit was funded by The League of Exchange for Commonwealth Teachers. The shared focus of the visit was looking at Raising Boys' Achievement. The visit enabled the team to observe different strategies used to improve the engagement of boys. These strategies will be shared with staff at Tanbridge as part of the school's involvement in the National Education Breakthrough Programme in Raising Boys' Achievement.

The team spent their week at Ocho Rios High School. The school has to accommodate over 2000 students in a very limited space and is therefore operating on a shift system. The first shift is from 6.50 am – 11.50 am, with the afternoon shift running from 12.00 – 5.00 pm.

"It was an amazing opportunity to visit this beautiful island. Everywhere we went we were received with open arms in true Jamaican style. This study visit has allowed me to engage in very useful conversations about education, not just with the locals but also with the team members. I found the de-brief at the end of each day incredibly valuable in shaping ideas to be used in my own teaching. Watching the sun set over the clear blue Caribbean sea, whilst sipping an ice cold drink obviously helped!"

Suzanne Pienaar, AST Teacher



## Specialist School Update

We are now a term and a half into our Specialist College Status and are delighted that through the Specialist School business links this issue of 'The Tanbridge Review' will be sent to over 200 local companies. Each of the Specialist areas has been working hard so the students and our local community feel the impact of our specialism. We have picked out just a few events to keep you updated.

During February and March primary students from Southwater, Greenway, Castlewood, Arunside and Shelley visited Tanbridge House School to work on a 'Round the World' Mathematics Project.

The ICT department are carrying out a survey targeting Year 9 girls. It will explore the attitudes girls have towards GCSE IT as an option or future career choice.

A new exciting project is underway at the Y Centre in Horsham. Areas have been identified within the Y Centre where residents' artwork can be displayed. The Art Project is a fantastic opportunity for residents to gain new skills, build confidence, promote creativity and team work and explore issues such as having a healthy life through painting. This is a constructive ongoing community project being funded by Tanbridge House School through the Specialist School.

The initial six images will be on display in late spring.

Students as well as our wider community are truly benefiting from us being a Specialist Science, Mathematics & Computing College.



## The West Sussex Children's Book Award 2006-2007

Tanbridge House School welcomed children's author Philip Ridley to the Learning Resource Centre for the morning on Wednesday 17 January when students from Tanbridge House School, Castlewood Primary School, Arunside Primary School, Southwater Junior School and St John's Catholic Primary School had an opportunity to ask Philip Ridley questions about his latest book "Zip's Apollo", one of the nominations for this year's West Sussex Children's Book Award.

Students from Tanbridge together with the visiting primary schools chose "Wolf Brother" by Michelle Paver as their favourite from this year's

10 nominations, unfortunately they and Philip Ridley were disappointed on 1 March, World Book Day 2007, when the overall winner of this year's award was announced and "Spilled Water" by Sally Grindley came out on top.



## Ice Skating Success

Kirsty Richardson, Year 9, who recently wowed audiences and judges at the UK's most prestigious skating competition, British Novice Figure Skating Championship, finished third and received the bronze medal. Kirsty has been recognised by national coaches to become one of the nation's top skaters, and dreams of representing Great Britain at the Winter Olympics.

"A huge congratulations to Kirsty, a terrific achievement and we are all very proud of your success".

Charlotte Broughton



## U16 Girls Football

The U16 football team has gone unbeaten this term, with excellent wins over Millais, Oathall and Warden Park Schools and have qualified for the quarter finals of the Sussex League Cup.



## U16 Hockey League

The Tanbridge House School U16 Hockey Team has gone unbeaten throughout the Hockey season and has won the Mid and North Area U16 Hockey B League.

## Enterprising Y10 Students Face 'The Dragon's Den'

Very exciting and innovative things have been happening at Tanbridge House School as Year 10 students have been working together to invent their own original marketing products. This exciting project, involving all students in Year 10, has been co-ordinated by the school's careers leader Mrs Smale and outside speakers, such as our Chair of Governors Mr Bill 'Richard Branson' Wilkinson, giving an interesting and informative presentation on how to run a successful business and persuade others to finance and purchase their products.

During the last few weeks, students have been involved in a range of activities ranging from team building, creativity tasks, financial and cost planning as well as preparing to present their ideas before an audience for evaluation. Groups will be short listed for the final round of the competition with lucrative prizes for the winning team and runners up.



## Visiting Heads

On Wednesday 7 March Tanbridge House School's ICT Suite, was chosen to host a training day for the implementation of a new area prospectus and learning plan for Senior Education providers across West Sussex. The Learning Skills Council (LSC) organised this exciting initiative at Tanbridge, because we are leading one of the local authority's Gateway bids, for a new specialised ICT diploma.



## Charity Update

Since September 2006, Tanbridge House School students have given £5600 to Charity!

The Year 7 students got Tanbridge House School's fundraising efforts off to a fantastic start when they raised £390 for Great Ormond Street in September. Since then students have raised over £1150 for Children in Need, in the tenth year of supporting Jeans 4 Genes £1198 was raised and in December students discovered a taste for numbers when the Tanbridge House School number crunchers raised over £780 for the NSPCC. The Year 7 students who are supporting the RSPCA raised £450 through their Christmas Bazaar. Donations at the Christmas Concert together with the sale of Valentine Roses have enabled Tanbridge to raise £550 for the Sussex Snowdrop Trust, a unique charity that provides support for local children with life threatening and terminal illnesses. Students are also delighted to be giving £500 each to Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Everyman Charity and on World Aids Day £94 was collected.



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