

Woodard Voice

Issue 5 December 2015



Sharing news of development and achievement from schools throughout the Woodard group, issue 5 of Woodard Voice brings together stories of celebration from 2015, together with individual school highlights from another successful year.

Welcome to this Christmas Edition of the Woodard Voice

The genesis of this edition was an invitation issued to each of the Heads of our schools to draw out one memory of 2015 to share with each other and with the whole Woodard family. So here you have a summary of these memories, a celebration of 2015, from Woodard academies, independent schools and maintained sector affiliates.

Woodard has traditionally been reluctant to boast about the performance of its schools and its pupils but there is so much good news that we want everyone to be able to share it. I hope that reading this wide variety of responses will encourage you to feel good about the educational family to which you belong.

The most important event for the Woodard family as a whole has been the launch of the Hub School Programme, which is funded and facilitated by the Corporation; here is an opportunity for every member of staff and every pupil to benefit, just visit the website and follow the links and you will find many worthwhile opportunities for teachers and pupils.

The Corporation's Board, Executive and Staff join me in wishing all our readers the peace and joy of the Christ child and a successful and fruitful year in 2016.

Tom Fremantle
Chairman



Abbots Bromley: Abbots Bromley School & International College Get 'State of the Art'

Abbots Bromley School and International College is proud to be one of the first schools to trial ClaaS, through SMART's UK managed service partners. The school is providing its diverse student base and staff with a state-of-the-art facility incorporating Smart technology, available for teaching and learning, as well as facilitating international links.



Image: students have live conference links with their agents, enabling them to give feedback on their Abbots Bromley experiences so far.

Alderley Edge School For Girls: Excellent ISI Inspection Success Celebrated



Having been fortunate to gain excellent in all the categories for the ISI Inspection, Alderley Edge School for Girls held a fun day for all its pupils and students, allowing them just to have fun and enjoy each other's company.

The older and younger girls all worked beautifully together and genuinely enjoyed the day, simply but effectively.

Headmistress, Susan Goff said: "It reminded us that we are indeed a family, and all had our part to play in achieving the ISI judgement. Therefore, it was fitting that we all shared in the celebration – from delicious home-made ice creams from the local ice cream parlour (who moved in for the day) to the inflatable assault course, which was equally enjoyed by pupils and staff!"

Ardingly College: Team Placed Sixth in the Cruiser Class at Bridgestone World Solar Challenge

Ardingly College celebrated the achievement of being the first European school to enter and complete the World Solar Challenge - a 3,000km race across Australia. After six gruelling days in a solar car - designed and built by a team of more than 100 school pupils over the last three years, five students covered the course from Darwin to Adelaide, earning sixth place in their class.

The drivers faced many hazards on their trip, including stability problems, a mechanical fire and being pulled-over by the police.

The Ardingly team balanced A Level and IB studies whilst building "a phenomenal feat of engineering".



The modified Lotus 7 chassis was fitted with a custom-built composite shell and 24% efficient Silicon Photovoltaic solar panels.

Ardingly's Head of Science, project supervisor Dr Andrew Spiers, said: "The task brought industry into the classroom, involving pupils in green technologies, design and manufacture".



Bishop Stopford School, Kettering: Golden Anniversary Roses Planted at Bishop Stopford to Mark 50th Year

Bishop Stopford's most significant memory of the year has been its 50th anniversary celebration service. Students from across the school contributed in a multitude of ways in a celebratory act of worship, reminding the school of its wonderful diversity, the gifts God has given to each and every student, and the unifying effect that gathering for worship has on the whole community, regardless of age, ability or status.

Reflection was made on the school's past together, with its dreams of what the future may be, and remembrance given to the school's overt value and practice of faith over the years, without which, Bishop Stopford would be a much poorer place today.



The Cathedral School Llandaff: A Level Results Award - Cathedral School with First-Rate Academic Reputation

The highlight of 2015 for Cathedral School Llandaff has been the publication of its very first set of A Level results in August. With 85% A*-B grades achieved, the school ranked within the top four schools in Wales for A Level results; and with places being taken at Cambridge, Imperial, King's, Manchester, Bristol and many other top universities, there was much to celebrate.

The 27 students in the school's first cohort have been the focus of a great deal of planning and care, and they responded with terrific diligence and ambition. The Sixth Form has thus not only added immeasurably to the spirit of the school but has also established for itself a first rate academic reputation. Laus Deo!



Crompton House Cofe School: The Leon Ashton 3G Pitch



Karl Newell, Headteacher at Crompton House writes: "I declare the Leon Ashton 3G pitch open. After five years of more ups and downs than the Pennine Way, which runs just five miles from my school, the words of Paul Scholes were music to my ears. When the government dropped our BSF plans in 2010, we realised that what we most needed to do was replace our "all weather" football pitch, which was far too muddy in the wet Oldham winters, and in the wet Oldham summers as well. Our Chair of Governors led a team that raised money for the best 3G pitch in Greater Manchester. The sun shone, the Brass Band played and 1300 pupils cheered wildly. Now for the technology block..."



Denstone College: Denstonians Sleep Out to Raise Funds for Salvation Army



A fabulous memory for the Denstone community was the night when 70 Denstonians slept out in makeshift cardboard shelters around the school grounds in order to raise money for charity.

Following a thought provoking and inspiring talk by Mark of the Salvation Army, who himself was once homeless, pupils slept rough and deprived themselves of all home comforts. Sixth Former, Will Morgan, spoke for the school when he said: "in sleeping without a bed, home comforts and electronic devices, we truly experienced sacrifice. In doing so, we have raised both money and awareness about the contentious issue of homelessness and we understand more about those with no choice." This was another true community effort in the spirit of Denstone College.

Denstone College Preparatory School: Harvest Festival Hampers Created and Donated at Denstone Prep

Pupils, families, and friends at Denstone College Preparatory School continued an age old tradition dating back to pagan times with events marking the Harvest Festival. Celebrations were held with those in attendance giving thanks for the harvest and making donations of goods. Three large hampers of food and fruit were created which, it was decided, would be donated. Whilst celebrations of a successful harvest are worldwide, the hampers were donated locally by PP1 pupils Rosie and Tom and PP2 pupils Emily and Bruce visiting Kirk House Residential Nursing and Care Home on Balance Street, Uttoxeter to donate the hampers and speak to some of the residents who were amazed and immensely grateful for the fruits of their labour.



Ellesmere College: Shooting Success for Pupils

Brendan Wignall, Headmaster at Ellesmere College tells us that: "Ellesmere has a long history of competitive shooting and has, after a relative lull, only re-entered Bisley four years ago. Last year the College Shooting Team finished fifth in the Ashburton, our best ever position.

This year – just before term ended – I was faced with presenting the very large shield for the Arthur Clarke Schools long range rifle competition, which might be regarded as the Queens Club Tournament prior to Wimbledon in tennis terms. In the first week of the holidays, I was delighted to hear that we had followed up the Arthur Clarke victory by winning the Ashburton Shield.



The Ashburton is one of the oldest sporting competitions in existence – it pre-dates the Calcutta Cup, for example – and it was a great thrill to be able to meet the College shooting team in the car park on their return".



Exeter Cathedral School:

New Denmisch Simulated Bells at Exeter Cathedral School

In May, the Dean of Exeter, The Very Reverend Johnathan Draper, blessed the newly installed Denmisch Bells in their new location at Exeter Cathedral School.

The Headmaster and his wife, Stephen and Catherine Yeo, who are both ringers, were keen to ring and the computerised bell ringing facility was met with much enthusiasm by the School Bell Ringing Club, which now practices with them regularly on Thursday afternoons. Pupils, staff, parents and the local Guild of Devonshire Ringers, are making good use of this facility.



King's College: Setting Up a New School in India

King's College has been working in partnership with a group of developers based in the city of Rohtak, just north of Delhi, to establish a new international school in the city. The school, which will open in August 2016, will be called King's College, India.

Brad Sailes, an old boy of King's, has been appointed new Head. Building and development of the site are well-advanced and the response to initial publicity in India has been excellent. There is clearly an appetite for British-style education in the country. The school will follow Common Entrance, GCSE and A Level programmes. The experience will be modelled closely on the education provided by King's Hall and King's College, with some tweaks for the local context: pupils will study Sanskrit instead of Latin, for example.

The new school will offer wonderful opportunities for exchanges of pupils and staff and will raise the profile of King's in a region of over one billion people and whose rate of growth is expected to exceed that of China's next year.



King's Hall School, Taunton:

A Birthday Treat for All at King's Hall School



This year King's Hall School had a wonderful day in the summer when two events combined in childhood bliss. There was the retirement of Mr Coupland, after 34 years, a favourite amongst staff, parents and children, as well as celebrating ten years of our magical Forest School based in the school's wondrous woods. So, on a glorious summer day when children and parents were revelling amongst the trees, the jingle of an ice-cream van suddenly rang out. Younger children scurried from the roundhouses, tunnels and hollows of the woods, whilst the older ones drifted away from their impromptu games of cricket to follow the sound. And there, next to his beloved 1st XI cricket square, was Mr Coupland marshalling the ice-cream van which was on the verge of dishing out a surprise treat from him to all the children on his 60th birthday. A special moment for all concerned.



King's Rochester:

Sell-out Performance Described as 'Best School Production' by RADA Technical Director

News from King's Rochester begins with over a third of the Senior School appearing on stage or in the technical crew for sell-out performances of *Les Misérables* in the Lent term, with the Technical Director of RADA describing it as the best school production he could remember.

While in the New Year, pupils, staff, and parents gathered in prayer and meditation in the Lady Chapel on 2nd January to remember the death of a much-loved pupil in 2014.

And in June, five bishops, one Senior Provost and forty priests processing in Rochester Cathedral at a packed service, celebrated school chaplaincy in bidding farewell to Fr John Thackray and welcoming Fr Stephen Padfield.



Kings Priory School:

Matthew Dunlop, a Year 13 Student from Kings Priory School Offers Woodard Voice His Highlights of the Year

"For Kings Priory School, our academic excellence is something which we treasure greatly. Being recognised for our excellent progress by Ofsted was obviously a key memory that summarised the hard work we, as a school, have put in over the last few years. Across the school, teachers and students were praised for their dedication, not only to their subjects but also to each other. The Ofsted report was a clear indicator that we are moving in the correct unified direction. At Kings Priory School our goals are ambitious but achievable and 2015 was a vital stepping stone in the process of growing as a community towards a prosperous future."



King Solomon International Business School:

KSIBS Celebrates Matriculation Ceremony



2015 has been the inaugural year of King Solomon International Business School and, to celebrate, a wonderful Matriculation Ceremony was held at the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham in September. The ceremony, set to become an annual event, was created in the spirit of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and welcomed the first cohort of students to the new school.

The day was marked with special guest speeches, including the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and Bishop David Carr - one of the school's esteemed patrons, as well as with blessings for all the students.

Students, dressed in their matriculation gowns and sashes, sang with staff, trustees, parents and governors, and proudly held the flag of King Solomon International Business School whilst exiting the ceremony to the sound of rapturous applause.

Photographs taken in the beautiful gardens have been included in a special commemorative souvenir, which all the children received. It was a historical day for KSIBS, marking the opening of the exciting school and creating a beautiful memory for 2015.



Lancing College: Joy and Optimism at Lancing Founder's Day

Dominic Oliver, Head Master, explains: "Founder's Day at Lancing summed up innumerable happy memories of the school year just passed and invoked excitements to come too. The traditional service, prize-giving and speeches invited reflection on all that there is to celebrate in the lives of our pupils. Our chief guest, William Fiennes, spoke particularly inspiringly of his work as a writer and as founder of the charity 'First Story', an organisation dedicated to giving deprived young people a voice. There was food and drink aplenty, music, drama and - most importantly of all - a sense of joy and young lives illuminated with optimism. The fairy lights on the big wheel and carousel (imported only for one day, alas) topped it all off beautifully".



Lancing Preparatory School at Hove: A Year of Outstanding Success



Lancing College Prep at Hove achieved a clean sweep of the highest possible grades awarded by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

The centrality of the school's ethos was singled out for particular praise:

"[The pupils] are confident and self-aware, yet mindful of others' needs. The Christian values of care and respect for others inherent in the school's foundation, are cornerstones of the of the school's pastoral care."

This came as no surprise to Alan Laurent, the Head Master of Lancing College Prep at Hove, who said: "The report proves that we attain outstanding levels of achievement and academic success without diminishing our central mission to provide a happy, tolerant, and fulfilling education for every individual in our school family".

Lancing Preparatory School at Worthing: Dramatic Production Success for New Woodard School Member

As the newest member of the Lancing College family, Lancing College Prep at Worthing has enjoyed a memorable year, and has forged a happy and hardworking team of staff, children and parents, who have shared many successes and much joy.

For Heather Beeby, Headmistress, the greatest moment was the whole school production of Oh Rats! - a musical based on the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

"While it was ambitious to invite four year olds onto the stage with thirteen year olds, the results were amazing! The musical was performed in the school's refurbished hall, giving the feeling of a huge celebration, not only of music and drama but of a young school which is taking great strides forward."



The Littlehampton Academy:

Successful Sports Day Seen as Turning Point at The Littlehampton Academy, as Principal Marianne Gentilli Explains

"Sports Day 2015 at The Littlehampton Academy was so much fun. Picture the scene ...a staff tug of war... showing team work, the ability to pull together, laugh, fall over and enjoy the weather.

The event was performed twice to even up the score, and was cheered on by the whole academy!

The Sports Day was considered a turning point. "We couldn't have done this a year ago" someone said ...and the best thing... when students were dismissed, not a speck of litter anywhere..."



Queen Mary's School: Summer Brings Ninetieth Anniversary Celebrations for Queen Mary's School



Queen Mary's School, North Yorkshire, had a particularly special celebration this summer as it moved into its 90th Year.

When the girls' school opened its doors at Duncombe Park on 5th May 1925, there were only 23 girls on roll but as the pupil numbers doubled within the first year, everyone knew it was going to be something special.

In order to celebrate this momentous occasion, the Old Girls' Association invited former pupils and staff back to the school to reconnect and reminisce about their time spent at Duncombe and Baldersby Park. With over 100 people attending, the dining room was full of love and laughter followed by the opportunity to look around the school. It was a wonderful day and showed that the connection amongst QM girls remains forever strong.

St Augustine Academy: New Academy, New Buildings, and a Bright Future

'Officially' celebrating its 21st century facilities in February, St Augustine Academy invited visitors from far-and-wide to join them.

The students helped to celebrate the occasion and since then have enjoyed an environment that inspires them to think, to enjoy learning and to achieve.

Fast becoming the school of choice in Maidstone, St Augustine Academy also regularly receives comments from prospective parents about its calm atmosphere and positive and caring ethos.

We've enjoyed 2015!



St James' School: Becomes First 2-18 School to Launch Golf Academy

In October 2014, St James', Grimsby became the first 2 to 18 school in the country to launch its own golf academy. The school entered into this exciting new partnership with Laceby Manor Golf Club to run the programme. Pupils receive weekly tuition from Laceby Manor's golf professional Adam Bell, and there are long-term plans to enter teams into national competitions. This is all part of Headmaster, John Price's plans to increase the opportunities available to pupils at St James'.

As part of the Golf Academy, Dr Price also now has two Golf Scholars in the school who benefit from additional one-to-one coaching sessions at the club along with free club membership.



St Olave's Grammar School: Prizes at St Olave's from Student of the Year 2015 Competition



St Olave's has swept the board in the prestigious new Student of the Year 2015 competition, with Jeevan Ravindran taking the star prize as overall winner.

Four of our students were also awarded the top prizes as subject winners for English, Business and Society, Modern Languages and Science.

The Awards Ceremony was hosted by BBC journalist and Mastermind presenter, John Humphrys.

The competition is the idea of Tim Campbell MBE, winner of the first series of The Apprentice. It seeks to recognise talent, reward hard work and celebrate success. These accomplishments came on the back of another outstanding year of public examination successes where a record 54 students gained places at the universities of Cambridge, Oxford or medical school.

St Peter's Academy: The Final of the UKMT Team Mathematics Challenge

On the 22nd June, St Peter's Academy was proud to send four of its Gifted and Talented students to the National Finals of the Team Mathematics Challenge - run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. The highly prestigious event was held in London, and the team competed against 80 other schools from across the country who had each won their regional finals.

During the final, the team was challenged to work out 'cross numbers' in a crossword style grid, a maths 'shuttle' and relay race, before finally being tasked with designing a poster to bring mathematical concepts to life.

Of the 1,700 teams who entered Team Mathematics Challenge, the team from St Peter's Academy finished in the top 50, making St Peter's Academy amongst the top 5% of schools in the country.



Pictured: Olivia Jackson aged 11, Tom Hollins aged 14, John Baber aged 12, Lucy Brough aged 13



St Saviour's & St Olave's: Community Spirit

Of 2015, Catherine May, Headteacher of St Saviour's & St Olave's School in Bermondsey, South East London writes: "Perhaps my most memorable moment of the year was in March, when I received a call from the head of a local primary school, and I was astonished by what she said. Builders had discovered an unexploded Second World War bomb near her school and they needed to evacuate everyone - immediately! Of course, we offered to help and twenty minutes later, the whole primary school arrived on our doorstep! Lessons for our students carried on as normal, whilst we organised accommodation and food for an additional 200+ people, and helped contact parents of the evacuees. I am extremely proud of how our community worked together to support our neighbours in their time of need. St Saviour's & St Olave's School is a wonderful, strong, diverse and inclusive community, and we will always be willing to help and support others."



St Wilfrid's CofE Academy: Charitable Efforts at Food Bank Rewarded with £5K+ Donation



At St Wilfrid's, a selected group of Year 7 students, were privileged to be part of the grand opening of Blackburn Foodbank's new premises, back in March.

Special guest Carl Fogarty was there to cut the ribbon, held by a group of St Wilfrid's students who had been raising money for the local organisation. Each student had taken on the 'Enterprise Challenge' as part of Learning for Life, where they started with just £1. They each raised over £85, with some even raising up to £325!

The total amount donated was £5,038.31!

The students were also given a behind-the-scenes tour of the warehouse and offices. It was a well-deserved treat for these aspiring young students from the academy.

The Peterborough School: Over £13,000 Raised for Worthy Causes This Year

Community spirit is no more evident than in the school's charitable work, which this year has supported a number of worthy causes, including the Peterborough Area Down's Syndrome Group (PADSG) - raising over £13,000 in total.

The school's Appeals Day in March broke all records with over £3,800 being raised in just one day from the exchange of small change. On the day, pupils and staff joined Headteacher, Adrian Meadows, on the cycling challenge with special mention to Georgia Bullard, who cycled 85 miles in just under four and a half hours for charity, finishing the event at over 35 miles per hour! The school was delighted to present a cheque to PADSG for £8,344 towards speech and language projects. Mr Meadows pays tribute to the pupils, parents and staff for their hard work and immense generosity.





**Woodard Voice is published regularly.
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