



AUTUMN 2014

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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It's official – we're open!



The Island Free School was officially opened on 8th October 2014 by the Island's MP, Mr Andrew Turner. The uplifting ceremony was attended by staff, students, Governors, press, and members of the local community.

Pictured above: Andrew Turner MP being interviewed by our student radio team at our official opening.

Below: Year 7 pupils on a 10 mile hike to win their expedition badges.

Guests entered the hall to piano music played by talented pupils, Cameron and Ted. The Head of Year 7, Mr Peace, welcomed everyone, announcing that: "This is a really momentous occasion for us – and the Isle of Wight."

Mr Turner MP then gave a talk. "I remember when the Island Free School was a twinkle in the eye of the visionary founders... look how far it has come!" he said. "As a former teacher, I know the basic principles of what makes a good school – and I feel that it's good here. This is a small, intimate school where every student will be known to every teacher, and it will allow every student to reach their full potential."

He added: "I wish you all the very best of luck."

Pupils then spoke eloquently about their experiences of the school. One student referred to it as her "second home", while another reported that "not one second is boring". One girl said: "If students have dreams, then the teachers will help you to fulfil your dreams."

Mr Boyd, Headmaster, thanked the students and added: "We've made an outstanding start and there's so much in the pipeline." With the help of Mr Turner, he unveiled a perspex plaque to commemorate the school's official opening.

As guests left, they were thanked by Mr Boyd and the senior team. "It's such a pleasure to show people around," he said. "As you can see, we've got so much to offer families on the Island!"



Students at our school are taking part in exciting and challenging activities, in preparation for starting the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Year 9... See page 2

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of **Salve!** It's wonderful to see our students settling in so well, as they embark on the next phase of their education. My staff and I have been working hard to ensure that each child receives an outstanding academic education, and that our music provision and extra curricular activities are equally high quality. We will remain focused on ensuring that every aspect of school life fulfils our motto and is *nulli secundus* – second to none.



Mr Boyd,
Headmaster



Get involved!

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in becoming a parent governor. After half term, we will share some information on each candidate, and parents will be able to vote for their representatives.

There are lots of other ways to get involved with our school, ranging from running a club, to baking cakes for events - please get in touch to find out more.

Thank you for your support!

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The happy hike around the Isle of Wight

Students were surprised when they were told to 'take a hike' in their first week. But as pupil **Flynn Terry** explains, this led to an amazing adventure to remember...

On Friday 12th September 2014, the whole of Year 7 and all the staff were dropped off at various locations around the countryside on the Isle of Wight. The challenge was to navigate a route and support each other on a 10 mile hike back to school before the end of the day. It was our first 'pre' Duke of Edinburgh Award challenge and we were excited but didn't know what to expect. Each tutor group was dropped off in a different place somewhere on the Island and shown their starting point on a map. We all took turns to try and direct our group back to school.

We had to use the map reading skills we had learnt earlier on that week in Geography to navigate ourselves along

the route that Mr Boyd had set out for us. Every hour we had to send our coordinates on the map back to the school office via a mobile phone.

It was really difficult for us all (including the teachers) but using teamwork skills we successfully completed this really challenging task. If anyone started flagging, we'd tell jokes – then the student would burst out laughing or walk off quickly to get away!

Sample Year 7 joke

Q. What do clouds wear under their trousers?

A. Thunderwear!

At the end of the hike everyone got a bronze expedition badge (for participation), which we all now wear on our jumpers. The next step will be to get a silver badge (for organisation) and then a gold badge (for independence).

The hike was a great success and we can't wait for the silver challenge. Bring it on!



Coming soon

Students will get the chance to earn their silver expedition badge in the Summer term and are working with their mentors to plan a hike and overnight camp. Mr Peace, Head of Year 7, says: "It will be a real challenge – and a lot of fun."



At The Island Free School, we're keen to play our part in the local community, explains Year 7 student **Max Shallice-Palmer**...

The Island Free School has so much to offer the local area and we are committed to taking part in initiatives that the whole community will benefit from.

Loaning out teachers

We are lucky to have lots of very experienced specialist teachers, and so our school has promised to support local primary schools with teachers who can enhance learning at Key Stage 2. Most of our teachers now spend a couple of hours a week in local primary schools. Head of English, Ms White, says: "I thoroughly enjoy my time with Year 6, helping to boost writing skills and giving students a taster of the high academic standards that we expect at The Island Free School."

Sharing our sports facilities

On top of this, we have wonderful facilities at Rew Valley Sports Centre. The Council could not afford to keep it open but we have taken over the running of the sports hall, playing field and astroturf, to ensure that this vital community resource remains open. Head of PE & Enrichment, Mr Malkin (pictured right), explains: "This gives us brilliant facilities and also the community

and St Francis Primary School can continue to use these outstanding resources."

Being part of the Evacuation Plan

Being an integral part of Ventnor's Evacuation Plan is another way that we intend to do our bit. Our Site Manager, Mr Little explains that: "If a major emergency happens in Ventnor, for example a landslip or flooding, then our school will let the community use Rew Valley as an emergency shelter".

Working with the Town Council

Similarly, our involvement in the 'Our Place!' initiative should benefit everyone. Ventnor Town Council can apply for money from the Government for community projects and Headmaster Mr Boyd says that the school is keen to help. "We are going to organise a summer fete on the school field for the whole of Ventnor, with a marquee, music and all kinds of activities, to bring the whole town together", he says.

"We look forward to developing further links, and embedding our school into the heart of the community, in the months and years ahead."



NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP



THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Year 6 Open Day.

If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Email: admin@theislandfreeschool.org



GROOVY GIGAJAM

By **Charlotte Vickers** 7BW

The Island Free School has purchased Gigajam, a rock based music tuition programme which can be accessed at school and at home. Head of Music, Mrs Riches, explains: "Gigajam is an interactive midi-based system to learn instruments including the guitar, bass, drums and keyboard. Students can work at their own pace, doing online lessons and analysing how well they are doing. You can build up your own portfolio to pass graded exams. The whole point is to help pupils learn to play at a certain standard and ultimately form their own bands".



OPEN SESAME!

By **Millie Rees** 7RW

Our school has a treasure chest and students have to figure out a series of clues so that they can unlock the combination padlock and win a prize. On 8th October, the treasure chest was finally opened by Year 7 pupil Kimberley Keates.

The devilish puzzle was set by Mr Jones (Head of Science) and Mr Williams (Head of Maths) and confounded pupils for three weeks until Kimberley was able to crack it.

The puzzle read: "Evolutionary biologist Richard and ever so Ernest Marie, born average scientists or the key to success."

Kimberley cleverly worked out that she needed to find out when three scientists (Richard Dawkins, Ernest Rutherford and Marie Curie) were born and calculate the average of their dates of birth to find the four digit code. Try doing it yourself (the answer is at the bottom of the article). Kimberley won a radio controlled helicopter with a mounted camera.

The next puzzle will be set by Head of Geography, Mrs Walker. Good luck everyone!

Answer: 1893.



BADGE ALERT!

Pupils will be taking part in events later in the term to raise money for local charities and get their bronze volunteering badges... watch this space.

FUN END TO THE DAY

By **Holly Bealby** 7DS

We have an 'enrichment hour' at the end of every day and can choose from varied activities including Drama, Dance, Science and lots of Sports. This extra hour is unique to us and gives us a chance to try something new and get to know the staff outside lessons.

One day a week involves learning a musical instrument of our choice because we are a music specialist school (the trumpet is popular). Other activities include: Photography, Drama, Rugby, Art and Flight club (where you get to fly model planes).

• If you have any ideas about clubs that you would like the school to organise then please tell Mr Malkin or Mrs Herridge.