



FEBRUARY 2015

# SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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Medusa  
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we've  
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## Another high note for the school

On Thursday 11th December 2014, The Island Free School hosted a candlelit carol service at Holy Trinity Church in Ventnor.

The service was a huge success with over 350 people including friends, family and members of the community filling up the historic pews. Reverend Hugh Wright described it as "the largest congregation at the Church in living memory."

The evening began with mince pies and mulled wine at the school, while the music scholars performed Christmas classics. We then moved on to the church, where the school choir sang a beautiful rendition of Catherine Walker's 'Winter Solstice'. This was followed by readings from Mr Boyd, pupils, governors and parents, interspersed with carols. The newly formed Boys' Choir gave a fantastic rendition of Gaudete, a sacred medieval Christmas song.

Special mentions must be given to Oliver Glanville for his vocal solo 'Walking in the Air' and to Ted Henly for his trumpet solo 'Vois-tu La Neige Qui Brille' ('Have you seen the glistening snow?'). Both soloists were outstanding and brought the congregation to their feet.

Headmaster Mr Boyd would like to thank everyone who attended this special celebration: "This was a wonderful evening, with some remarkable performances, rounding off an outstanding first term for the school. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!"

By **Rachelle Blunden** and  
**Elizabeth Wardle**



Quick Q&A with star soloist **Oliver Glanville**

**What was it like singing your solo in front of so many people?**

I was really scared! No one actually thought I was shaking, but I was - I was actually shaking too fast for anyone to notice!

**'Walking in the Air'... that's a famously tricky piece, isn't it?**

Yes! It took a month to learn. The hardest parts were the timing and the high notes.

**How do you think your performance went?**

It sounded strange to me, when I heard a recording of it, but Mrs Riches tells me that it always sounds strange when you listen to yourself. I did go a little bit wrong on the timing... but I don't think anyone noticed!

**Oliver – it was a triumph. Congratulations!**

### Food for thought

When Head of History Mrs Boyd asked students to create a model castle for their homework project, she was expecting the results to be good, but not good enough to eat! Here, Max Henley shows off his edible motte and bailey. "It was a piece of cake", joked Max.



# WELCOME

Welcome to another action packed term! We're already well underway, working hard, winning trophies, planning trips and rehearsing for Alice in Wonderland. We have so much talent within this small school, as my staff and I are discovering on a daily basis. For example, one pupil is a gifted goal-keeper, and another has an encyclopaedic knowledge of aviation. We really do believe that every one of our students is special! Have a great term, everyone.

Steph Boyd

Mr Boyd,  
Headmaster



theislandfreeschool.org  
admin@theislandfreeschool.org  
01983 857641

## Stay in touch

Keep up to date with what's going on via our Facebook page, Twitter feed and website.

We've just put a Google calendar on the website to help you plan ahead. Visit [theislandfreeschool.org/calendar/](http://theislandfreeschool.org/calendar/)

Our next Parent Mentor meetings will be held on 23rd-25th March.

See you there!

Daisy Fiave



## Snakes alive!

Our school recently visited Brading Roman Villa for a tour and an artefact handling activity where we learnt about daily life in the Roman times. One of the highlights was hearing about the mosaics, which are among the best in the world, and feature

Medusa's head in the centre. Student Holly Bealby said: "We heard about Medusa and how the goddess Athena was jealous of her beauty and turned her into an ugly woman with snakes for hair. Whenever she looked at anyone, they would turn to stone."



## Fruitful day

On Thursday 11th December, our second RE 'drop down day' took place, reports **Ellena Frost...**

The day was based around learning about Christianity with lots of fun and exciting activities, including making a Christingle. The orange symbolises the world, the red ribbon is the blood of Christ, and the sweets are the fruits of the Earth and the four seasons. The candle represents Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

We also had a competition to rewrite the Christmas story in under 100 words.

Here is the winning entry by Cameron Tarry, aged 12:

"I was briefed. Despite having done this so many times, this one time was special. I arose like a butterfly over the silky night sky, to alert the kings from the east. They stared at me with all my might, my power, and the shepherds looked on in awe as my face lit up a sleepy Bethlehem. I sent a beam, a dazzling ray of light, down to the stable, where the Saviour was to be born. I lit the light of God. I am the Holy Star."

## Wonderful Wonderland



Our trip to Winter Wonderland was 'amazing', says student **Taniesha Moore...**

Everyone wanted to go to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park – but there were only 12 places available. To stand a chance of going, you had to have at least one reward card, 100% attendance, and no detentions. So many students qualified for a place that they picked 12 from a hat. I was amazed when I got a place!

We went up before Christmas and it was really, really exciting. There were rows of food stalls, gift stalls, and loads of rides including a ghost train, a fun house, a huge rollercoaster and a big wheel. The Ice Kingdom was wonderful with sculptures including a castle, a life sized tree and Cinderella's carriage. We even went down an ice slide. The trip was enjoyed by all of us.





## Get on the ball

All the girls and boys who take rugby as an enrichment option were recently called into Mr Malkin's classroom to be given some very exciting news. We are being given the chance to go and see Bath Rugby Club (who are the 'Man United of rugby!') play Northampton Saints on 21st February. Not only that – we'll get to train with Bath for two whole hours! There are 40 spaces which cost £35 each – it's first come, first served, so book your place now for this huge opportunity.

By **Max Henley** and **Oliver Clow**

## Try-umphant

On Saturday 6th December, our Year 7 boys' rugby team played Ryde School on our home turf. This was a very cold morning, which made ball handling hard. Fumbles in the first few minutes led to tries for both sides with Ryde edging ahead by a conversion. However aggressive defence and decisive attacks saw us pull clear to 19 -7 by half time.

In the second half, Ryde played a faster game which allowed them to break through our front line defence. Only some excellent cover defence by full back Alfie Price kept the visitors out.

As the second half progressed, our forwards (Elliot Stewart, Cameron Tarry, Tobi Wright, Ben Orton and Jacob Harvey) put in a hard shift and began to dominate rucks and mauls allowing the centres to pass out wide to score several unopposed tries.

We won convincingly 31-7 – our first win as a rugby team.

Both teams then returned to The Island Free School for a cooked lunch and a tour of the site. This included a music practice in our drum room, which rivaled the volume of Mr Boyd's cheering during the match.

By **Cameron Tarry**



## Goooooal!

On 3rd December, our Year 7 boys' football team won the Island indoor football tournament hosted by Carisbrooke College. This included teams from all the Island secondary schools.

We won our first four games, lost a tense match against Cowes Enterprise College, and held Medina College to a goalless draw.

We now move onto Portsmouth and will play Hampshire. If we win, we'll go onto the nationals at Derby.

Our girls' team also played in a tournament, and although they didn't win, they put in maximum effort. Star player Maisie Backshall said: "We worked as a team and got a draw against Medina College. I think we did quite well considering it was our first match together."

Well done, everyone!

By **Cameron Tarry**

## Slam dunk

On Thursday 4th December, our Year 7 mixed basketball team won the under 12 Isle of Wight Championship, hosted by Carisbrooke College. There were seven teams and our school put in a fantastic performance winning five out of six games. Congratulations to our incredible players and thank you to Carisbrooke College for their hospitality.

Our top assister, Jack Evans, commented: "We passed well together and our movement was good. Next time, we'll work on keeping possession."

By **Max Henley**





# NUNTIUS

## THE NEWS ROUND-UP



Helena Bonham  
Carter as the Red  
Queen in Tim  
Burton's Alice in  
Wonderland

### IT'S SHOWTIME!

**D**uring drama enrichment, Mrs Steele has been working on Alice in Wonderland with our super-talented students. They've all been practising really hard to put on a show – so don't miss it on 20th and 21st March. By Ollie Clow

Handy Latin phrase

**NIL SATIS NISI  
OPTIMUM**

*Nothing but the best  
is good enough.*



### ACTING UP

**A**ll our students are stars – but on 6th May 2015, 30 of them will get a chance to prove it when they train with the cast of the hit show, Matilda the Musical. After their session, they'll get to watch the production, which is the hottest ticket in town. This picture shows some of our students on a recent trip to the capital. We'll see you again soon, London!

### RUNNING SCARED?

**M**r Malkin has devised a long distance challenge to help our keep fitness levels flying high. Known as 'the Bonnie Challenge' it's a steep run up to the top of St Boniface Down (which is the highest point on the Island) and then back down again. The winning times will be recorded on a roll of honour and set as a target for future pupils to beat at an annual event. Phew – tiring just thinking about it!



### OPEN AND SHUT CASE

**E**very term, Headmaster Mr Boyd sets us a new challenge. He buys a prize to put in our treasure chest, which sits in the hallway. Clues are available for students to help them crack the code, which will open the lock on the chest.

On Friday 9th January, after two months of hard work puzzling away at break times, Daisy Wylds finally worked it out after solving some tricky Sudoku clues. She was 'ecstatic' when she opened the chest to reveal a Kobo reader (a device that you can download books onto). Congratulations, Daisy – a great achievement!

By Ellena Tanisha

