



MARCH 2015

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

Premier
day in
Bath
>PAGE 2



Flower
powered
theatre
>PAGE 3



Mmmm...
what's for
lunch?
>PAGE 4



Maximum effort for minimalist music

Following weeks of hard work, over 40 students put on a concert of minimalist music, at a special assembly attended by the entire school. The theme was 'The 2nd Law: Isolated System' by Muse, and groups of pupils played their own performances of this minimalist classic.



Thomas Watson, left, and Louis Hutchings

The track is an example of how minimalism can cross into the rock world, in perhaps an unexpected way. It's from Muse's 2012 album, 'The 2nd Law', and featured in the film 'World War Z'.

The students from across the houses performed their pieces at the assembly.

They had rehearsed together, and turned several individual pieces into one stunning performance.

The concert featured some students who had never played an instrument before – and others who are experienced musicians. The talent of each and every student shone through.

Students have been assessed on these pieces for their performance skills, and in a subsequent written task demonstrated their understanding of minimalism as a style of music.

Next half term, every tutor group will form their own orchestra, so bring on the Beethoven!
By **Lizzie Wardle**

'GOOD LUCK'

This March, many students will be taking part in the Isle of Wight Music Drama and Dance Festival. Our Head of Music, Mrs Riches, gives us the inside story...



Quick Q&A with
Mrs Riches

What is the purpose of the festival?

It's a competitive festival, and the focus is on constructive criticism and the opportunity to compete against other people your own age. A lot of our students will be entering, including the string group, choir, and some soloists.

What would it mean to win the festival?

Well, it's not about winning, it's about taking part, and gaining the experience of performing in a different environment... but it would be nice to have a few winners!

We're a music specialist school – how does that make us distinctive?

We're committed to having music in the timetable so that proper progress can be made. Plus we've invested in instruments, offer group teaching to all students, and encourage everyone to explore a range of different styles through workshops and opportunities like this festival. Good luck everyone!

By **Ellena Frost**

WELCOME

This isn't a school where time stands still! While the students are busy excelling in and out of the classroom, we're preparing for the new wave of Year 7s, who will be joining us in September. We had a huge number of applications for school places – matched by an extraordinary number of job applications from teachers who want to join our expanding team. Alongside this, we're working closely with our construction company on the final plans for the permanent site. I look forward to providing further updates over the coming weeks.

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're continually updating the Google calendar on the website to help you plan ahead. Visit theislandfreeschool.org/calendar/

This month we've got the music festival, lots of sports events and formal assessments coming up. Our next Parent Mentor meetings will be held on 23rd-25th March.

See you there!



Earlier this term, 16 pupils from our school went to Smallbrook Stadium for an awesome opportunity - our very first Hockey match. 16 of Ryde School's best hockey players were awaiting us. They were trained, they had played more matches, but did this deter us..? No, no it didn't. We were confident that we would play to the best of our ability and do the school proud.

Our first team consisted of Tom Watson, Harry Broadhead, Jack Evans, Max Henley, Ben Orton, Cameron Tarry, Ivan Britton and Bede Revert. The second team was Ethan Thomas, Louis Hutchings, Leo Walters, Harrison Brooke, Theo King, Max Shallice-

Palmer, Oliver Clow and Tom Crews.

Both games showed how well Ryde could play. They came in fast and dangerous. Despite our best efforts, we lost. The first team lost 8-0 and the second team lost 2-1. The goal for the Free School was scored by Ivan.

After that Mr Boyd did one of his inspiring talks and then we walked to the dining room. It wasn't very far, which was a relief for the tired players. The cook cooked up delicious sausages, chips and beans. It was incredibly tasty. Thanks once again to Ryde School for their excellent hospitality!

By **Cameron Tarry** and **Oliver Clow**



Run for it!

In February, seven students from our school participated in the Island Cross Country Championships held at Christ the King College.

Representing our school were Masie Witty, Olivia Allsopp, Lily Gagen, Kara Hogg, Fay Murry-Smith, Mia Basile and Mia Gerty.

We were astounded by the results: out of 100 entrants, Masie Witty came 1st, Mia Basile came 2nd, Kara Hogg came 7th and Mia Gerty came 9th.

Mia Basile (pictured), who has won one of the school's first gold physical badges for her outstanding effort in sport, commented: "I feel super proud."

By **Rebecca Gear** and **Taniesha Moore**



Bath time

Despite some questionable map reading, 40 of our rugby players arrived in Bath on Saturday 21st February for a day full of premiership fun. The day started with a two hour training session delivered by coaches from Bath Rugby, working on passing skills and learning a few new match tricks.

Next we had a Q&A with England tighthead prop, David Wilson. "Who was the scariest team you have played against?" asked Louis Hutchings. Answer: "the All Blacks!"

We then watched the premiership clash against Northampton Saints. Despite a 21-13 defeat for Bath Rugby, all students thoroughly enjoyed their day.

By **Miss Newnham**



Our original cover versions

Our students were asked to design an album cover using photography and computer wizardry. Ms Travers, who set the creative project, said: "The standard was amazing."

Watch me!



We're all really excited about the forthcoming production of Alice in Wonderland, and the students have been hard at work learning lines, making shadow puppets, and improvising with giant flowers. Carrie Mowat (pictured) stars as Alice. Don't miss this!



Yo ho ho

In English, we're doing a topic about smugglers. We are turning the staff into smugglers and using our imagination to come up with character portraits that entertain the reader. For instance, some people have come up with funny names like: Perilous Peace, Black Beard Boyd and Malicious Malkin (pictured). The purpose is to not only learn about local history and develop our creative writing, but to write informative texts for given audiences. Watch out for the results on our notice boards!

By Rebecca Gear and Taniesha Moore.

A fresh look at history

History's hotting up, thanks to our Kerboodle tests! These take place every half term and assess our understanding of a topic we've studied. All the houses compete to see who will come top – and Flavi is currently the top of the league table. We've just been tested on William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England, after learning all about castles, the feudal system, and the trials and tribulations of his reign. The next test is about medicine and health in the Middle Ages. Competition between the houses is getting serious.

By Rachelle Blunden



Lettuce was used to make sleeping potions in the Middle Ages

NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP



MORE PLEASE!

Our lovely dinner ladies, Mandy and Carol, have now been with us for over a term. Students love the new menu of hot dinners and over half the students have a hot meal every day. A typical week includes roast dinners, Italian, Moroccan and Indian themed dishes, ending with a favourite for everyone – Fish and Chip Friday!

STAR STUDENT SPECIAL



NOTEWORTHY

We pick 12 students with musical potential every year – and give them outstanding musical and mentoring opportunities. Trumpeter and percussionist **Callum Outhwaite** is one of our Music Scholars. "I'm very happy to have the chance to help others through music", says Callum, "and also I get individual tuition with my new instrument, the drums."

By **Oliver Clow**



A FEW OF OUR SPORTS STARS

Theo King (left) – won the 'one to watch award' at his local pony club. Theo is talented in show jumping and cross-country.

Fay Murray Smith – as reported in the local press Fay has entered her first Trampolining competition and came a very respectable 8th.

Tammy Nicholls – won first place in the Isle of Wight Dressage competition for her age group.

Mia Gerty (left) – continues to do amazingly well in all Tennis competitions.

GOOD SHOW

"I'm **Ella Upson** but I show jump under the name of Beanie Upson. I've had great success with my ponies Oakapple Montana and Peter, and now I look forward to jumping in bigger classes and hopefully beating my brother. Show jumping and horses are the love of my life!"

Handy Latin phrase

**BARBA NON FACIT
PHILOSOPHUM**

*A beard doesn't make
one a philosopher.*

JOYFUL JEWISH DAY

On the last day of term we held our third RE Drop Down Day, and this time the focus was on Judaism. We were fortunate to be visited by Mr and Mrs Alexander and Mr Lawrence from the Isle of Wight Jewish Society who spoke to the children about the Shabbat (Sabbath) and the history of the Jewish people.

We also learnt about the Jewish Calendar, which is a lunar calendar that involves having a leap month every few years. Then we were taught the song and dance to Hava Negila (Let

us rejoice), which was a lot of fun for all involved.

The ladies in the kitchen provided a Kosher inspired lunch, which was very tasty. In the afternoon we learnt about the rights and responsibilities that come with the Bar and Bat Mitzvah coming of age rituals, and made Mezuzahs that contained Hebrew scrolls. We finished the day together in the hall, looking



at the photographs that had been taken, and shared what we had learnt. It was a very exciting and enjoyable day and we look forward to learning about the Passover in March.

By **Rebecca Gertz**