



MAY 2015

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

Sir... is that you?

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We've all got festival fever

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Students in Wonderland

Passers-by might have seen an eerie green glow through the school's windows, or heard cries of 'off with her head', and wondered what was going on. Inside, the intrigue continued, as the school was transformed into an amazing Wonderland for our first ever dramatic production, at the end of March.

A cast of 35 took on Lewis Carroll's classic tale of Alice in Wonderland to mark the 150th anniversary of the original publication. Performed in a promenade style, the first half took the audience on a journey around the school, up and down corridors into different spaces. They found classrooms transformed into gardens, a tea party, and the Queen of Hearts' croquet grounds. All of this was made possible by having nine different Alices.

There were themed refreshments in the interval before we settled into the hall for the second half, which saw Alice travel through



the looking glass on a quest to become a queen in a giant game of chess.

Drama teacher Mrs Steele commented: "The performance was an absolute triumph. The students displayed a professionalism far beyond their years and performed with energy and focus. They took the production

and made it their own. Everyone should feel very proud."

We will now start work on a production for the Shakespeare Schools Festival which will be performed at Medina Theatre in the Autumn Term.

By **Lizzie Wardle**



THE 'PHENOMENAL' ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE

An impressive number of our students – 80 in total – entered a Royal Institute of British Architects' competition to design a mobile shop. The adjudicators of the Young Designers Competition described the standard as "phenomenal", shortlisting six of our students, and giving a further 12 'special mention' certificates. A huge well done to the shortlisted students: Jasmine Scott, Kara Hogg, Lydia Bryant, Charlotte Vickers, Ella Painter and Fay Murray-Smith. Ella is pictured here with her shop that sells everything you need to make

jumpers (inspired by our brilliant knitting club?).

Also congratulations to the certificate winners: Lucy Bayliss, Shanti Mayne, Maddy Powell-Smith, Trudi Boyns, Ella Gregory, Taylor Millard, Ella Whittington, Bede Revert, Cameron Tarry, Tom Watson, Joseph Marsh and Amber Newman.

Their designs will be exhibited at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes on Friday 1st May, when the winners will be announced. Keep your fingers crossed for our budding architects of the future! By **Taniesha Moore**

WELCOME

What an extraordinary Spring term! We achieved so much that I am at a loss as to where to start. Personal highlights must include the wonderful Alice in Wonderland, the inaugural Bonnie challenge and our sporting achievements in rugby and cross country. However my enduring memory will be of the whole school performing Adele's 'Someone Like You' as part of the Island Music, Dance and Drama Festival. Well done everyone.

Coming up, we've got lots more planned, including the trip to Rome, Sports Day and our first ever Summer Show. I hope you all have a happy, productive term.



Mr Boyd,
Headmaster



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The only way is up



Our students spent a sunny afternoon competing in an inter-house cross country event, The Bonnie Challenge. They tackled the steep incline of Ventnor Downs and ended in a glorious home straight, with views over the Island's magnificent coastline. Rubeum was victorious overall.



Our school uniform – for one day only

On 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as characters from our favourite books. We had Where's Wally?, Peter Pan and even our own Harry Potter team! We all enjoyed it, especially seeing

Mr Williams dressed as Prince Charming. Everyone made a donation towards new books for the school, and we were pleased to raise £89.90. Thank you!

By **Lizzie Wardle**



Go girls!

Our girls' rugby teams travelled to Basingstoke on 5th March, for our first ever competitive tournament. We worked tirelessly to tackle the other Hampshire schools, despite some of our girls being thrown across the pitch as we battled older, more experienced teams. We earned a well-deserved third place for team A and eleventh place for team B. Miss Newnham who attended the trip said: "I am so incredibly proud of our girls, they played brilliantly and it was a fantastic effort all round."

By **Ellena Frost**



Go boys!

At 6am on 10th March, 15 "raring and ready to go" students set out for an inter-schools rugby competition on the mainland.

We won our first games against Test Valley School, Hampshire Collegiate School and Brookfields School. Then we faced John Hanson and Westgate Schools who both beat us. However our final match against Kings' School was a strong victory with 4 tries to 0. Overall we came fifth out of 24 teams in total. Mr Malkin commented: "This was an astonishing performance – well done, lads".

By **Oliver Clow**



Our glorious girls

On 10th March, 15 of our girls travelled to Ryde School for an inter-schools netball tournament. Each team played four matches, with our A-team winning two matches and B-Team winning one match by an outstanding 10-1. Despite just four practice sessions, the girls played phenomenally, and placed third overall.

By **Ellena Frost**



Festival fever

When you see us in bands, or in an orchestra, or singing our hearts out in front of hundreds of people, it's hard to believe that many of us didn't play an instrument until we came here, or sing a note in public. And now, we're winning prizes...

Music plays a very important role at The Island Free School, where every student plays at least one instrument (and gets to try many more). At the recent Isle of Wight Music, Dance and Drama Festival, we were delighted to show everyone how much we've learnt during our two terms at the school, by entering a number of the competitive classes. We were even happier when we walked away with some impressive silverware to display around the school!

On Friday 13th March the whole of Year 7 performed Adele's 'Someone Like You' – it was hard to fit all 125 of us on the stage! Most of us were in the choir, plus we were accompanied by 8 cellos and 20 violins. To everyone's excitement, we were awarded first place in the Making Music category.

Other highlights for us included:

- **The vocal solo classes** - Bede Revert, Charlie Walford and Megan Rasmussen were placed in the top three.
- **The choral class** - the school choir sung (and signed) Bob Chilcott's 'Can you hear me?'. This piece is written from the perspective of a deaf child and includes sign language in the chorus. We also sang 'Winter

Solstice' by Katherine Lucas. The adjudicator had some lovely things to say about our performance and we came second.

- **Rock and pop day** - Molly Packer won her class performing 'Defying Gravity' from the musical 'Wicked'.
- **The drama duologue class** - Ella Gregory and Millie Jackman secured third place medals; other students were placed fourth, fifth and sixth.
- **The Brass classes** – in these hotly contested categories, Ted Henly gained a first place, while Amber Newman and Jessica Mudge both received seconds.
- **Solo piano** – Alfie Price won, Cameron Tarry came second, with Polly Whitfield third. Caitlin Calder, Louis Hutchings, Shanti Mayne, Lydia Bryant and Mia Gerty also deserve a special mention for their fantastic performances.

Ms Steele commented: "Mrs Riches and I are so proud of our talented students, and it was wonderful to see everyone taking part with such exuberance. You conquered any nerves and showed the Island what confident, mature performers you are – congratulations!"

By **Cameron Tarry**

Hold the homepage!

On the 19th March, 20 of our students took part in the BBC's School Report News Day.

More than 30,000 pupils from around the UK turned their classrooms into newsrooms as they took up the challenge to set the news agenda for the day.

The day started at 8.30am and went through to 4pm, with live reports from 1pm to 2pm. The art room was our main office/newsroom. Groups of students were given different responsibilities, so we had editors, writers, presenters, audio reporters, TV reporters, written reporters and photographers.

Writers typed out stories to be checked by the editors and then read out by our presenters. Our amazing photographers collected images for the stories and accompanying power point presentation. Subjects covered ranged from toxic smog to school dinners.

Well done to all the students and teachers who participated in this event. We all had a good time and you can see the great results on our website at theislandfreeschool.org/our-bbc-news-report/

By **Rachelle Blunden**



Extra, extra – read all about it...

A recent government report has urged schools to go 'the extra-curricular mile' and adds that no school should be judged outstanding by Ofsted unless it offers an excellent range of activities.

At our school, we're ahead of the curve. All students take part in an extra-curricular hour at the end of each school day. We

have just chosen our summer enrichment options which range from traditional sports to rowing, fencing, coding and Minecraft.

Mr Boyd commented: "We believe that all children should be entitled to a full range of opportunities, to help them develop as individuals."

By **Charles Jackman**

NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP

DA DA DA
DUUUUM



TAKE THE FIFTH

Later this term, each of the houses will be performing the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, as part of our ongoing musical inter-house competition. It's been great practising together in houses – and this piece is really noisy and fun!

By **Lizzie Wardle** and **Cameron Tarry**

ALPHA BEATS

We think that our school band, Alpha Beats, is the Next Big Thing. They're contemporary, talented... and very cool. **Rachelle Blunden** interviewed the band members Oliver Glanville, Cameron Tarry, Eli Tucker, Ted Henley and Megan Rasmussen...

How did you start the band?

It all began one afternoon at Oliver's house. We got together and discovered that we are all good at different instruments... and then it kind of evolved from there.

Tell us about your first gig?

It was for the school Christmas quiz (see picture above). After people heard us, we got asked to do more.

Is being in a band all about riding in stretch limos and posing in sunglasses?

No! We have to practice a lot in the music shed – which isn't so glamorous. We normally do 30 minutes before form time. It's very challenging, especially if we have a gig, because then we have to practice twice as much, and that's tiring.

Tell us about the band's name?

We've started off as Alpha Beats because the name reflects who we are as a band... but this is only temporary. We're now thinking up a new name. When we decide what it is, we're sure the word will get around quickly!

Pictured (top) from left to right: Eli Tucker (drums), singers Oliver Glanville and Megan Rasmussen, Ted Henly (trumpet) and Cameron Tarry (piano).



WIZARD TRIP

Last term's reward trip saw 10 students travel to the Harry Potter Studio Tour at the famous Warner Bros studios in Hertfordshire. The students, picked from a lottery of those with 100% attendance, spent the day exploring the sets of the films, learning how to cast spells and saw the newly opened platform 9 3/4. Mrs Steele commented: "It was spell-binding!"

WE DIG IT

At Eco Club we've been hard at work landscaping our lovely school playing fields at Rew Valley. Mr Peace said: "We are busy planting over 400 trees including Rowan, Hazel, Oak and Silver Birch. We will create new hedgerows – and hope that a variety of wildlife will then make the hedge their home."

Ananya commented: "It's fun and we've been learning a lot."

Our thanks go to the Woodland Trust who kindly donated the trees.

By **Taniesha Moore**



WALKING ON AIR

Ten pupils were given the opportunity to explore the workings of a full sized hovercraft, thanks to Hovertravel.

They took a private trip out into the Solent where the pilot performed 'doughnuts' where he switched off the engines to teach the boys how a hovercraft floats, even with the

skirt deflated!

Back on land, the engineers gave the boys a tour of the hovercraft. Head of Science, Mr Jones, described it as "a wonderful experience for the boys, who loved every minute". Hovertravel celebrates their 50th anniversary this year – happy half century!

Handy Latin phrase

VELOCIOUS QUAM
ASPARAGI CONQUANTUR

'Faster than you can cook asparagus' – the command issued by the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar when he wanted his troops to hurry up.