



JUNE 2015

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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Left to right: Cameron Tarry, Charlie Walford and Oliver Glanville



Saxophone success!

This school is bursting with musical talent – and the success of three young saxophonists is proof of how far we’ve come since the start of Year 7.

Charlie Walford, Cameron Tarry and Oliver Glanville had never played the saxophone when they started at our school. But after just six months, our budding sax stars were taking their Grade One - and they all gained Distinction, which is an exceptional achievement. This week, the talented trio will take their Grade Two, just two months after their success at Grade One!

They are to be closely followed by 33 other students who are all taking their Grade One exams this week after learning their

instrument for just nine months. Others will be taking higher grades. A further group of students will be taking their exams at the end of term. We’ve got super talented violinists, cellists, pianists, drummers and trumpeters. Good luck to you all!

Mrs Riches, Head of Music, commented: “This is a fantastic achievement. We have set ourselves the highest possible standards –

and everyone has risen to the challenge. I’d like to thank the students and our peripatetic instrumental staff for all their hard work, dedication and sheer enthusiasm. Many of the children came to our school having never played an instrument before, and now they’re taking prestigious, internationally recognised qualifications. Everyone should be so proud of our students’ outstanding progress.”

ROMAN FEAST

We’ve been studying the Colosseum and students have been making some amazing models for their history homework. Well done to Molly Packer for her Colosseum cake. “The standard was exceptional but Molly’s was the icing on the cake,” commented Mrs Boyd. 84 of our students will soon be looking at the real thing, as we’re heading to Rome at the beginning of June for our first school trip abroad. Ciao Italia!



WELCOME

As half term approaches, there is a palpable air of excitement around the school. After the half term break, 84 pupils will be flying off to Italy. Others will go on a hiking and camping expedition for their silver expedition badge. This will also include a water sports day and a trip to London to visit the Globe Theatre. Staff are working hard on the last minute details to ensure that all our pupils have a memorable week. We look forward to hearing about their adventures on their return.

Mr Boyd,
Headmaster




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Jewish day

In our latest 'RE drop down day' we studied the Jewish Feast of Passover, when Jews remember their release from slavery in Egypt. We learnt about the story of Moses, and studied the Ten Plagues that Jews believe were sent by God. Activities included making a Seder plate and trying traditional Jewish food. We also created a short radio programme and painted a scene from the story of Moses. We are looking forward to the next RE drop down day, which will be all about Islam. By **Max Thompson**



Theo King

Appetising new options

We all look forward to the extra-curricular hour, at the end of each day – and this term there are some great new options, including sugarcraft, magic with Huxley the magician, bowling at Ventnor Bowling Club, and rowing on Shanklin sea front.

My favourite is fencing taught by 'Coach Nick'. Fencing is a fun, exciting sport - it is simple and cheap to start with, and keeps your body and brain active. With a range of activities using foam and plastic swords, it's a winner with all of us!

Other activities to choose from are classic summer sports such as rounders with Mr Malkin; tennis at Ventnor Tennis Club with lovely Linda; and golf with Mr Peace at Ventnor Golf Club.

By **Callum Cotton**

FORE!!



Our super sporty leaders

We're a sporty school – and some of our students love sport so much that they're mentoring others and helping primary school children to learn and enjoy a range of athletic activities.

As part of our 'young sports leaders' enrichment programme, ten of our students have been working with St Francis Primary School.

Our leaders took a group of enthusiastic children through challenging but fun activities to improve their agility and speed, such as relay races, stuck in the mud, tag and

slaloming through cones.

Well done to Jack Evans, Harvey Callieu, Harvey Cox, Ben Orton, Max Henley, Jake Wade, Jacob Harvey, Joe Marsh, Liam Gales and Ollie Clow.

Jake admits that he was "nervous at first" but enjoyed the whole experience. Max took part because he loves sport and was keen to learn how to teach it. "I might even want to become a PE teacher one day", he says. "I hope the children enjoyed it - because it looked like they did!"

By **Jack Evans** and **Harvey Callieu**



Left to right:
Jake Wade,
Jack Evans,
Max Henley,
Harvey Callieu

Fab four

We were recently visited by the Cassia String Quartet – four very talented young musicians who have been winning prestigious awards for their playing.



Tory and Amy on violin, Laurie on viola, and Joshua on the cello really inspired us to aim high when they came to our school, and played a mixture of Mozart, Guns N' Roses and folk. We were able to ask questions and chat to the quartet and a few students are now taking up the viola (which is usually much less popular than the violin).

String player Elliott Stewart commented: "I found it very interesting and I especially

enjoyed learning about the way that they worked together as a group and how each of the instruments complemented each other."

The quartet then gave a concert at St Catherine's Church in Ventnor with a fantastic programme of Mozart, Bridge and Brahms.

Head of Music Mrs Riches said: "The students have not stopped talking about their time with this amazing quartet!"

By **Harvey Callieu**

Our exciting school plans



Jake Wade and Max Shallice-Palmer

Subject to planning, a brand new school is being built for us opposite St Francis Primary School in Upper Ventnor. We have all had the opportunity to look at the plans and we're really excited about the amazing new facilities.

After questioning a number of students, here are some of the things that we are most looking forward to:

- ✓ The new dance studio.
- ✓ A much bigger hall and dining room.
- ✓ A larger Gigajam music room.
- ✓ A new and improved music storage area.
- ✓ A brand new ICT room.
- ✓ An entire room for growing plants.
- ✓ Amazing new changing rooms.
- ✓ A second floor!

I interviewed students Jake Wade and Max Shallice-Palmer about the plans. Jake said: "It will be mega and even better than our current site!" Max said: "It'll be bigger and better and have even more facilities for us to enjoy. I am looking forward to the larger music rooms and being able to use all the practice rooms". They both described the contemporary design as "modern and futuristic".

The school is now in the final stages of choosing wall colours and flooring. We can't wait until it's ready for us to move in!

By **Jack Dollery**

An inspector calls...



On Tuesday 28th April we had a very important visitor - Jeff Hart, an education adviser from the Department for Education.

After a full day looking around, talking to everyone, listening in on lessons, and even eating lunch with us, he gave our school some fantastic feedback.

Mr Hart has been making regular checks on our school in the run up to our first full Ofsted report which will take place next year. We have passed all preliminary inspections with flying colours.

Now it was our turn to ask the questions...

What's your job like?

"I enjoy visiting schools and working with the children and staff. It's very interesting - every day is different and I feel very privileged."

What have you enjoyed about your visit to the Island?

"Apart from visiting The Island Free School, I enjoyed my hotel and the nice food."

How did you become a Department for Education adviser?

"I was a teacher, then a senior teacher, then an inspector, then a chief inspector... and then a DfE adviser."

We look forward to seeing Mr Hart again next year! By **Jack Dollery** and **Jack Evans**



Novel ways of learning

We have all been working hard to make our reading as good as possible. Mr Peace and Miss Stubbings have created a fantastic programme to improve our reading age, no matter what stage we're at.

Some students get one to one reading support on a daily basis. Others are given the opportunity to read in a group. Plus we

all do paired reading and silent reading. We're lucky to have several parents coming in to read with us on a regular basis.

We have all noticed how much our reading and confidence is improving, and we love the chance to get help with new words.

By **Max Thompson**

NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP



PAINT OFF

This term, the whole school has been drawing and painting down at Ventnor seafront. On Sunday 3rd May, Viridis students took part in "The Great Island Free School Paint Off". It took place on the Esplanade between 10am-4pm. Some of us felt nervous while others were excited.

The day was packed with fun activities including using water colours, oil pastels and photography. We sat down on the steps to draw the harbour and the cliffs behind the beach. The weather was sunny, although it was so windy that we lost a few paintings!

We really enjoyed the beautiful views and being able to have time to take photos and enjoy the lovely landscapes. Some of our work was displayed at the Winter Gardens as part of the Isle of Arts Festival.

By **Kirsty Angus**



MATILDA FUN

On 6th May, 30 of us had a fantastic day in London when went on a special trip to see Matilda the Musical.

Before the performance, we participated in a workshop run by The Royal Shakespeare Company. This explored the characters and storyline of Matilda and gave us a great insight into how the musical was created.

The production itself was outstanding and it was inspiring for us to watch performers the same age as us. There were so many clever uses of set, choreography and song, with the final rendition of 'Revolting Children' being a definite high point.

Leah-Louisa Peace commented: "My favourite part was the workshop, because the lady who took it was so energetic, but I really enjoyed the entire day."

By **Jack Evans**

Handy Latin phrase

**MAGISTER
MUNDI SUM!**

*'I am the Master
of the Universe!'*

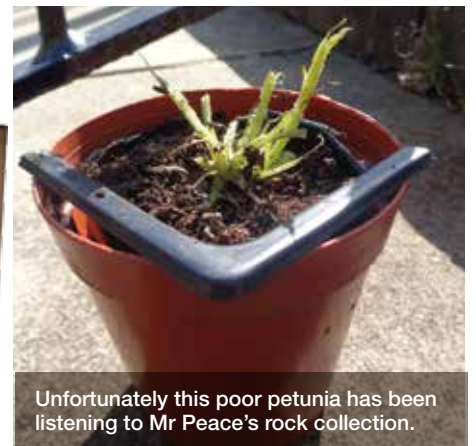
TREASURE CHEST MYSTERY

It has now been four weeks since the English department set their Skellig based puzzle to unlock the Island Treasure Chest. Pupils are still working hard to discover the four digit code that will open the chest so that they can claim the hidden treasure inside.

Can you solve the puzzle?
See Mr Boyd for the clues...

SUMMER SHOW

Come and join in the fun at our first ever Summer Show, which will be held in the school grounds on **Thursday 23rd July**. Everyone is busy growing plants, vegetables and flowers for the competitive classes – and we've got a top tip from Mrs Riches to maximise your plants' potential. "Playing classical music has been proven to boost the speed that they grow", she says. "The New Scientist has been doing a study on how South Korea use music in their rice fields to speed up growth and yield output... and would you believe it? Beethoven is best – particularly the Moonlight Sonata!"



Unfortunately this poor petunia has been listening to Mr Peace's rock collection.

RIBA AWARDS



Charlotte Vickers and Ella Painter

We pretty much swept the board at the recent Young Designers competition held by The Royal Institute of British Architects. The Island branch asked students to design a mobile shop. Nearly 400 pupils entered – and 80 were from our school!

We won 18 awards in the 11-13 age group. Six students were presented with awards at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes – and have been invited to a design workshop at Quay Arts in June.

The winners are:

- **1st Prize** Jasmine Scott's Sweet Kiss Bakery.
- **Joint 2nd Prize** Lydia Bryant's Thirst Aid and Ella Painter's Woolly Jumper.
- **3rd Prize** Kara Hogg's Hoggy Café.

Commendations were awarded to Fay Murray-Smith for Love Fruit and Charlotte Vickers for Scent from Heaven. 12 more students were given Special Mention certificates. Congratulations, everyone!

By **Jack Dollery**