



JULY 2015

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL



2014-2015

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Welcoming our new students

The past year has flown by and so it's hard to believe that we're about to welcome our second intake of students. As part of our preparations, we hosted two Transition Days in early July to give Year 6 pupils a taster of what life will be like at our very special school.

We started with our infamous treasure chest challenge. Mr Boyd set a fiendishly tricky puzzle... but it wasn't tough enough for Riley Horrix, who opened the chest to reveal an iPod.

Students met their mentors and experienced a range of lessons with activities including writing Latin postcards, making pop-up volcano cards, and dressing up as superheroes in Drama. They also tried playing a range of musical instruments (everyone plays an instrument at our school). In the evening, parents came in to



All our students enjoyed singing with a gospel choir

meet the mentors.

On Friday, the ACM London Gospel Choir visited the school – which was an inspiring and uplifting experience. One of the songs we performed was 'Best Day of my Life' by American Authors. The new students – and our current Year 7s – each had a brilliant session, and then we all got together for the grand finale. Mr Boyd commented: "Hearing the entire school sing together was momentous. We're very grateful to the choir, who've sung with Robbie Williams, Russell Watson... and now us!"

We also ran a series of PE activities, ably



The Year 6 students loved trying new instruments led by our Year 7 sports leaders.

Everyone went home, happy and exhausted! Mrs Steele commented: "I'm so impressed with the enthusiasm and positivity of our new students. We can't wait to welcome everyone back to the school in September."



BELLA ROMA!

On 2nd June, 84 of our students flew off on amazing expedition to Rome. It was wonderful to explore all the beautiful sights, including the Colosseum, then cool down with an Italian gelato... yum!

Another highlight was exploring the streets of Pompeii. We saw Caecilius' house (who we have been studying in Latin) and casts of people who died when Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD79. A few of us also climbed to the top of Mount Vesuvius. There was a great view into the crater and over the Bay of Naples. "It felt amazing to be on a volcano," commented Amy Hodgins.

By Jack Dollery, Harvey Cox and Jack Evans

WELCOME

As our amazing first year draws to a close, we should all look back with real pride at everything we have achieved.

To our staff and governors I offer my heartfelt thanks for your hard work and dedication in delivering on our promise of an outstanding education.

To our parents, I offer my thanks for entrusting us with your children's education and for the extraordinary level of support you have given us.

To our incredible pupils, thanks for your enthusiasm and commitment to developing the ethos of our school.



Mr Boyd,
Headmaster



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Max Henley in action



High achievers

On 16th June, we sent a team to Sandown Bay Academy to compete in an Island athletics tournament against eight other schools.

We were delighted to win over half the events. Max Henley managed to bag three first places for the 80 metre sprint, the 150 metre sprint and the relay race (along with Harvey Callieu, Harvey Cox and Ollie Clow). Shanti Mayne, Mia Basile and Maisie Witty all won two races each.

Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone else who took part. Also a big thank you to Sandown Bay for organising such a great day.

By **Harvey Callieu**



Footie fun

On 12th June we held an inter-house football tournament. We played five minute bursts of five-a-side football – and if you lost, you were knocked out. The final match was a tensely fought game between Rubeum and Viridis – and Rubeum won.

Ethan Thomas from Rubeum commented: "It was intense, as we realised it was going to be tough to get first place. But we did it, thanks to good teamwork!"

By **Harvey Cox**



Howzat!


Congratulations to our U13 girls' cricket team, who are the Island champions following a resounding victory against Christ the King at Newclose cricket ground.

We elected to field first and skittled Christ the King out for a modest 42. When it was our turn to bat, we had a shaky start, but quickly picked up the pace. Jessica Mudge and Ella Whittington went on to score the winning runs with seven overs to spare.


By **Jack Evans**

Horse power



 We recently took part in the Inter-Schools Dressage competition at Godshill. Our first dressage team - Tammy Nicholls, Kirsty Angus, Ella Upson and Theo King - achieved wonderful individual scores with great feedback from the judges.

Miss Allman commented: "The students worked incredibly hard and were beautifully turned out. Well done and a big thank you to the Mums, Dads and Great Aunties for their support and bringing the ponies!"

 On Friday 26th June, Kirsty Angus and Ella Upson represented our school at an Inter-Schools Show Jumping Competition at Kennerley Farm in Godshill. We had to perform two clear rounds and then a jump off against the clock. Both girls and ponies had lovely rounds, even though the course had some tricky turns and corners. Thank you to Karen Beagly for organising this event.

By **Kirsty Angus**

We are the Island champions at...

★ Basketball ★ Cross country ★ Boys' five a side football ★ U13 girls' cricket



Awesome Activities Week



Day 1 - Survival skills

Activities week in June kicked off with a two day hiking and camping adventure. We began by learning the following skills:

Fire making: We collected dry leaves and tree branches and learnt how to start fires with matches.

Knots and pioneering: We learnt how to tie different types of knots and made carts out of wood and rope, before racing them in the playground.

Team skills: We played lots of different games to learn the new skills we would need to survive over the next few days.

Cooking: We learnt how to cook with a packable stove and made pasta with sauce.

Map planning: We split into three groups and planned routes for our hike to Bembridge.

Tent building: We learnt how to put up the tents.

Day 2 - Camping

We set off on our hike. At Yaverland car park we had a well deserved ice cream and then walked into Bembridge over Culver Downs.

When we got to the camp, we set up our tents and cooked our dinner – it actually tasted quite nice! We then played games and had hot chocolate around the camp fire. It was a very tiring but great day!



Day 3 - Wild watersports

After waking up from a great night's sleep in our tents (yes, really!) we enjoyed a day of activities at Tackt-Isle Adventures in Bembridge. We took part in three different activities including kayaking, kite flying and segwaying. We all had a great day – thank you Tackt-Isle!

Day 4 - Hello London

We were really excited to visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, as we have studied it in History but most of us had never seen it. We walked up the spiral staircase, sat in the seats, and explored the fascinating theatre which opened in 1997 (it's a reconstruction of the original Globe, built in 1599). There's no roof, because they wanted to let as much light in as possible for when they performed at night.

We got to stand right up next to the stage and then headed over to the hall where we performed a section of Hamlet, which we will be studying next year.

We then visited the Museum of London, which we really enjoyed.

Day 5 - Relax and recovery!

What a week!

We were all successful in gaining our Pre Duke of Edinburgh silver expedition badges. We plan to go for gold in Year 8.

By **Kirsty Angus, Charlotte Wade & Harvey Callieu**



A testing time for students

Huge congratulations to all our Year 7 pupils who have now completed their first ever end of year exam week.

The pupils sat formal exams in all baccalaureate subjects (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Latin) and have completed moderated practical exams in all creative subjects. All written exams have now been sent off for external marking and moderation.

The exams were conducted under GCSE exam conditions and we have been delighted by the studious attitude

displayed by all pupils in the run up to, and completion of the exam season.

Mr Boyd commented: "I am, once again, amazed by the outstanding maturity and pride shown by our pupils. They have all revised hard for these exams, highlighting just how important their education is to them."

He added: "Ensuring that all exams are now externally marked and moderated is of equal importance as this will demonstrate the extraordinary progress that our students have made this year."

NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP



Callie Hitchcock with her IOW inspired beach cake.

EDIBLE ART

This term, students have been working on a Sea to Sky project in Art. For their homework, they were asked to make a 3D seascape using techniques including paint or collage. A number of pupils got creative in the kitchen and made some wonderful seascapes using cake... we're calling them 'cakescapes!' Well done, everyone.

By **Mrs Travers**



ENDING TERM ON A HIGH NOTE

Thirty students took musical instrument exams in June – and we are proud to announce a 100% success rate with 16 children achieving a distinction!

Mrs Riches said: "Many pupils had only been playing their instruments for nine months, so to excel at Grade 1 is phenomenal. The effort put in by students at home and in their musical extra-curricular hour has been outstanding. Also a big thanks to our dedicated peripatetic team, who have made this all possible."

Special mention must go to the following students:

- ★ **Shanti Mayne** (Grade 4 trumpet)
 - ★ **Lydia Bryant** (Grade 4 trumpet)
 - ★ **Rowan Bevan** (Grade 3 trombone)
 - ★ **Jessica Mudge** (Grade 3 flute)
 - ★ **Ella Painter** (Grade 3 drums)
 - ★ **Cameron Tarry** (Grade 2 saxophone)
 - ★ **Oliver Glanville** (Grade 2 saxophone)
 - ★ **Charlie Walford** (Grade 2 saxophone)
 - ★ **Joseph Marsh** (Grade 2 saxophone)
- By **Jack Evans**

HAMLET

We're busy planning a new production of Hamlet, which will be set in the Victorian era to give the Shakespearean classic a bit of a twist. We'll be performing the play in November as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, which is the UK's largest youth drama festival.

By **Harvey Callieu**



Handy Latin phrase

HANNIBAL AD PORTAS!

'Hannibal is at the gates!'
Hannibal led devastating attacks against the Roman empire and this would be used as a threat by parents to get their children to eat their dinner/go to bed/ behave like good Romans.



FOCUS ON ISLAM

We recently held our fifth RE Drop Down Day where we participated in activities based on the five pillars of Islam:

- Faith
- Prayer
- Giving zakat (support of the needy)
- Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- The pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime for those who are able to make the journey.

We learnt about Islamic weddings, and looked at artefacts, art and architecture. It was also interesting to find out how Muslims pray. First, they wash their face, hands, feet and body. Then they pray facing Makkah. It was a very informative and enjoyable day. By **Max Thompson**



WHEELY GOOD!

All Year 7 pupils were given an insight into the work of engineers at the RAF and BAE Systems by three very energetic scientists called Ben, Bug and Shannon.

The children were captivated by the demonstrations that included lasers, virtual

reality glasses, and using pedal power to light up a jacket (pictured). The show was rounded off with a fantastic demonstration of a Rubens' tube, where students watched flames dance to music in time with the beat.

By **Mr Jones**