



OCTOBER 2015

# SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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High flyers: Ted Henly (left) and Oliver Glanville at Flight Club, one of the extra-curricular options.



## A flying start

We welcomed our second intake of Year 7 students to The Island Free School this September – and we’re delighted to report that they are settling in fantastically, while the Year 8s are proving to be excellent mentors.

Mrs Steele, Head of Year 7, commented: “The atmosphere around the school is very positive and upbeat. Our pupils are already proving that they can work hard and achieve outstanding results, while benefiting from all the musical, creative and sporting opportunities on offer.”

The year started with a hike across the Island, giving students and staff an excellent opportunity to get to know each other (see page 2). Pupils are now studying academic subjects, including Latin, playing new instruments and enjoying the extra-curricular hour at the end of every day, where they have the opportunity to learn skills including computer coding, golf, and model plane making.

### ‘My first week’

Year 8’s Rachelle Blunden (left) interviewed Year 7’s Hope Wheeler (right) about her first week at The Island Free School...

**How was your first day at the school?** Amazing, it was very exciting! I was a bit nervous but that feeling quickly went.

**Who is your form tutor?** Miss Allcock, who’s very friendly and high-spirited.

**What has been your favourite lesson this week?** I love Latin because in my old school we didn’t learn languages.

Then Hope turned the tables on Rachelle...

**What’s it like now with the new Year 7s at school?**

It seems more crowded but most of the Year 7s are lovely and lots of Year 8s have made friends with them already.

# WELCOME

Welcome to all our Year 7 pupils and welcome back to our Year 8s. The year began exceptionally well with the annual school hike in which Year 7 pupils were guided back to school by fellow Year 8 tutees.

All staff and students are now settling into the rigours of school life.

Our music scholars have just enjoyed a trip to the opera and looking forward to the rest of this half term, we are preparing for a hockey tournament and planning RE days focusing on Christianity and Hinduism.

Have a great term.

*Steph Boyd*  
Mr Boyd,  
Headmaster



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Another string to their bow: Hannah Kerley (left) and Dulcie Wendes.

## Take note

We're a music specialist school and every student plays an instrument here. Each Year 7 pupil has been given a new instrument to learn over the next two years, with options including the trumpet, flute, cello, violin and saxophone. Students are able to take their instrument home so that they can practice as often as possible. We are also encouraged to form groups and bands.

Alana Wilson, who has just started on the clarinet, says: "I'm enjoying the challenge of playing a new instrument. I have played the violin before but this is very different!"

By **Alana Wilson, Tamara Niccolls, Libby Sargent** and **Eloise Male**



## Howzat

Earlier this term, ten boys from our school cricket team went to Ventnor Cricket Club to experience some expert training from three professional coaches.

We learnt different shots such as the pull shot and the offside shot. We also took part in catching and batting drills to improve our skills.

Year 8's Ben Orton commented: "The whole day was really fun and enjoyable, and we think that it will help to improve our teamwork in future games."

By **Ben Orton, Max Shallice-Palmer** and **Jack Evans**

# Take a hike!

On Friday 11th September, we were split into tutor groups and then dispatched on buses to mystery destinations for 'The Hike 2015'. We had no idea where we were going – and some of the teachers didn't either!

Each group was given a map, a compass and a camera, we then had to find our way back to school in time to catch the buses at the end of the day. Students took turns in leading their group and taking photos along the journey.

The routes varied in length, covering up to 13 miles, and they all seemed a long, long, long way from school! Luckily, nearly everyone completed the hike and avoided the 'minibus of shame'!

It was a very fun day, seeing wildlife everywhere and beautiful views. The walking was exhausting, but we can't wait for the next hike! Mr Malkin's tutor group got back first and won the house competition for the fastest walk. Mr Malkin commented: "My group are so fit – they would have run it, if I'd have let them!"

By **Jessica Bird, Tarot Brookes-Shipp** and **Lily Groves**

Way to go: Mr Milton's group walked from Blackwater to Ventnor.







## Teachers in the hot seat

We're delighted to welcome nine new teachers to the school this year and four support staff. Here, the students quiz two of the new recruits on everything from first day nerves to roast potatoes.

**Miss Allcock**, our new Teacher of Drama and English

**Where did you live before?** Hinckley in Leicestershire.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** Watching students grow in confidence across the years, which you can really see as a drama teacher.

**What is your favourite subject (apart from Drama)?** English, because I love reading books. I really enjoy teaching English here because it allows me to get to know my students in another subject.

**What do you like most about living on the Island?** I can see the sea from my living room, and it makes me smile whenever I see it!

**How old were you when you moved to the Island?** I moved to the Island just before school started this year, however I used to come here on holidays every summer as a child.

**What made you want to become a teacher?** I loved school and wanted to be able to experience that every day, but from the other side of the desk! I love building relationships with students and helping them to make progress.

**What do you miss most from Leicestershire?** My Mum's cooking and my Dad's roast potatoes. I also really miss my puppy Woody, who's a border collie, and my sister Alice.

**Which teacher is your best friend?** Miss Cave [the new teacher of DT and Art], because she has helped me settle into Island life. She's also really funny!

By **Harvey Callieu** and **Alex Wood**

**Mr Pointing**, our new Teacher of English

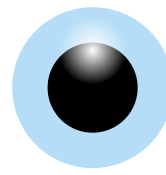
**What's it like starting at a new school?** I was nervous at first, but all the staff and children have been really welcoming, and that has made it easier! There is an excellent learning atmosphere here – and as I'm new too, we're all learning together.

**Why did you choose to be an English teacher?** I love everything to do with books and poetry. I loved school and was inspired by Mrs Steele [Head of Year 7] and Mr Balch [Teacher of Music], who used to teach me!

**How would you describe your experiences here so far?** Very good - I love turning up to school every morning.

**What activity or experience have you enjoyed the most?** It has to be the hike!

By **Jack Evans**



**ALERT!** Keep your eyes peeled for more interviews with our new teachers in the next issue.

Pan-tastic: Mandy cooks up a lamb stew.



## Food, glorious food!

We love the food at The Island Free School – and now we've gone all high tech with a new fingerprint payment method. This means that Mrs Steele can now sit and eat, instead of crossing us off on a list to say that we've been fed!

Thanks to our brilliant cooks, we tuck into tasty, healthy food every day and always look forward to lunchtime.

By **Natasha Lord** and **Nadia Barton Ahmad**



Just desserts: James Walker's Island cake was commended by staff and students.

## Cakework

Last year, an exciting trend for 'cakework' (cake homework) swept the school – and we're pleased to announce that it's back! Our new Year 7s have got a lot to live up to, but they proved that they could step up to the plate when they created edible Islands for a Geography assignment. After marking the creations, the staff did their bit, helping to eat the projects. Keep up the good work everyone! **Miss Allcock**

# NUNTIUS

## THE NEWS ROUND-UP



### AWESOME OPERA

Earlier this term, 40 of our students enjoyed a trip to The Royal Opera House in London to see 'The Marriage Of Figaro' by Mozart at a schools-only matinée.

The production lasted over three hours and kept students enthralled with the stunning set pieces and costumes - as well as the powerful music, of course! One music scholar commented: "It was totally awesome plus there were two ice cream breaks".

Mrs Riches said: "The students enjoyed a wonderful chance to watch an Opera at one of the most famous Opera Houses in the world. They behaved impeccably and were excellent ambassadors for The Island Free School's music department".



### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

To prepare for the arrival of the new Year 7s, we had to find creative ways to accommodate 125 extra pupils on our current site.

There are now three brand-new classrooms on the far side of the tunnel, which are used for English, Maths, Science and Geography as well as tutor rooms for three groups.

Students have commented that they like the new building because of the beautiful views over Ventnor and the Downs. Learning Support Assistant Ms Szilagyi told us: "The new classrooms are very spacious and well equipped. And they're a rather fetching shade of green, too!"

By **Max Thompson**



### UP POMPEII

Most students start with no experience of Latin – and then quickly develop their skills in the ancient language over several sessions every week. Students study the Cambridge Latin Course where they learn all about the family of Caecilius (a real person who lived and died in Pompeii).

Mrs Peace has taught Latin here since the school opened and was joined this year by Miss Kerley, who also teaches French and English.

Mrs Peace commented: "We study how the Romans lived, worked and played. In May we'll be running a trip to Italy so that many of the Year 7s can see Pompeii and Rome for themselves."

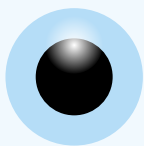
By **Ollie Clow**

**SALVE AMICUM\***

\*Hello mate



This bronze bust is thought to be Caecilius – it was found in Pompeii at Caecilius' house.



**ALERT!** We will soon be opening our own little shop at school to sell essentials such as gum shields. Please support us!



Streets ahead: our students exploring Pompeii last year.