



DECEMBER 2015

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Shakespeare sensation



© Cris Jackman photography

Congratulations to all our students who were involved in the spectacular production of Hamlet for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Twenty-nine of our pupils took to the stage at Medina Theatre, as part of the largest youth drama festival in the world.

The Year 8 pupils performed a 30 minute interpretation of Hamlet, based around a vaudeville circus, to reflect the theme of illusion. They performed with exceptional maturity and had the audience on the edge of their seats as Ophelia (played by Ananya Wright) plunged to her death.

Mrs Steele, Head of Drama and Year 7, said: "There were so many moments of brilliance. The students were so committed to telling the story and understanding the meaning behind the words – it took my breath away."

They were ably supported by a backstage

crew and other students took control of the sound effects and lighting. Mrs Steele would like to thank everyone who helped them, including Miss Allcock, Amanda Gregory, Alicia Peace and Cris Jackman.

"I'm immensely proud of our students," commented Headmaster Mr Boyd. "This was your moment to shine – and you were dazzling. We're fortunate to have such talented students at our school who excel at everything from cricket to cake making. Borrowing from Shakespeare, my message to every one of you is this: 'Be not afraid of greatness'."



Look who came for tea...

Many of our students have a flair for baking – so you can imagine the excitement when the Queen of Cakes, Mary Berry, came to town. A few lucky cooks were given the chance to meet her at Ventnor's cake emporium, At Sarah's House. Our students showed her photos of their tasty creations, which were judged to be 'very good' by The Great British Bake Off star. She also gave them her recipe for success – carry on baking!

WELCOME

Welcome to the December edition of *Salve!* I must begin by thanking all of the staff, governors, parents and pupils who supported our amazing Open Day in October. Over 700 Year 6 pupils and their families visited us to find out what makes our school so special.

Looking forward, we have lots of events coming up before the end of term. One of the highlights will be our Carol Service and the pupils are already hard at work rehearsing. Students who didn't play an instrument before they joined us will be performing in public, for the very first time. It will be a momentous time for them – and hopefully enjoyable for everyone. We'll soon provide you with information on how to reserve your tickets. I do hope that you will be able to join us.

Steph Boyd

Mr Boyd,
Headmaster



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Sixth sense

Over the past few weeks, Year 8s have visited Sixth Forms around the Island, touring around Ryde Academy, Sandown Bay Academy and The Island Innovation Sixth Form. The students had the opportunity to ask about the subjects on offer and what it would be like to study there, and discussed their future goals. Ella Upson said: "It was a really valuable experience."

By Oliver Clow, Jack Dollery and
Tammy Niccolls

Here come the girls!



On the fast track to success

Our students braved mud and rain to battle their way to success at a recent **inter-schools cross-country championship**, held at Medina College. Well done to all the 32 runners who took part – and congratulations to the following teams who won medals for their performances in the relays:

First place for our Year 7 Girls - Maddie Morgan-Huws, Hannah Kerley, Emmeline Breach and Eloise Atkey.

Second place for our Year Girls 8 - Mia Basile, Ruby Samson, Kara Hogg and Maisie Witty.

Second place for our Year 8 Boys - Max Henley, Harvey Callieu, Thomas Crews and Harvey Cox.

"I am incredibly proud of all of our superb runners", commented PE Teacher Mr Milton. "Everyone tried their hardest and they were a credit to the school. It was a fantastic achievement to gain a Gold and two Silvers!"



Game on!

Friday 13th is unlucky for some – but not our girls, who put in an excellent performance at the **Hampshire U14 Girls Hockey Championships** on Friday 13th November. Sixteen of our girls travelled to Southampton for the event, where they were up against some of the strongest teams in the county.

Despite being up to two years' younger than many of the other players, our Year 7s and 8s performed incredibly well, earning draws against some of the strongest independent schools in Hampshire, including last year's finalists. For many of the girls this was their first chance to play in a competitive situation. Hockey coach Mr Milton said: "I am genuinely excited about the potential in our team".



Pitch perfect

Our girls played in their first ever **U13 football** game – and stormed to victory against Ryde Academy. The team of Year 7s and 8s had never played together before, but started as they meant to go on, with Eloise Atkey scoring the opening goal within the first couple of minutes.

The girls kept the pressure up, and just before half time, a well worked move by Maisie Witty and Eloise led to a crafty second goal by Ella Whittington. After half time, Eloise slammed the ball into the net again, giving us a 3-1 victory.

PE Teacher Mr McAllister said: "This was a superb performance from the girls and a really promising start to the league."



Top gymnast Harry Owen prepares to flip over four of our 'volunteers'.

Flippin' amazing!

We're a sporty school – and so it was with much enthusiasm that we welcomed Olympic hopeful Harry Owen, who put us through our paces in the sports hall. Gymnast Harry is the Welsh National Champion and came to us in his role as an ambassador for Sports for Champions. This is a great charity that supports young athletes so that they can become tomorrow's champions.

Harry led the students through a range of exercises, including press-ups, sumo squats, burpees, star jumps and leg drives – and then it was the teachers' turn! He then gave a wonderful talk about what it's like being a professional athlete and the dedication required to meet your goals. A highpoint was when he showed us that he could back flip over Mr McCallister and Lenny Collins, and front flip over four others!

After the fitness challenge, the athlete returned to school with us, where he was interviewed by our Radio Club. It was a brilliant, inspirational day, in which Year 7 raised an incredible £1,360 for the charity.

By **Charlie Hatch** and **Rufus Whitfield**

Teachers in the hot seat

Miss Cave, our new Design and Technology teacher



How did you feel on the first day of school? I was so excited! Everyone was really friendly and willing to help.

What do you think of the houses? Well, my favourite house is obviously Caesitas. But I love them all!

Do you enjoy working at a music specialist school? I think it's fantastic and I love the fact that you can walk around the school and hear pupils playing the piano. It's also great that the teachers can learn an instrument too – I'm learning the cello.

What's the best thing about our school? I teach all of the students, so I will get to know each and every one of you.

By **Rachelle Blunden**, **Alana Wilson** and **Hope Wheeler**

Mr. Teague, our new Science teacher

What do you think of our school so far? I love it here, and the students are extremely friendly.

What has made the biggest impression on you? I'm very impressed with the standard of behaviour, and the fact that students are excited about learning.

Are you enjoying the Enrichment sessions?

Yes – I really enjoyed leading the Rowing Club and Forensic Science Club, and now I'm having fun playing the clarinet with the Year 8 Girls' Woodwind Group.

By **Jake Wade** and **Max Thompson**



From Ganesh to Good Samaritans: our RE Day



Charles Jackman with his model of an elephant – Ganesh, the Hindu god, has an elephant's head.

Year 7 scoop

Every half term, we have an RE Drop-down Day, which enables us to study a particular religion in depth. Year 7s recently enjoyed a day focusing around Christianity, which started with Mr Boyd giving an assembly on the story of the Good Samaritan. We then did lots of activities based around being a good neighbour, before attending our Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity Church. During the service we sang, listened to readings, and the choir performed with a lovely solo by Meredith Smith. Afterwards, donations of food were taken to the Food Bank in Ventnor to help people less fortunate than us. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

By **Charlie Hatch** and **Rufus Whitfield**



Lorna Selby and her friend strike a pose to emulate Ganesh, who has four arms.

Year 8 exclusive

The focus for Year 8s was Hinduism, which we learnt about through studying Ganesh, one of the best known Hindu deities. Ganesh has an elephant head, and is revered as a remover of obstacles. Through music and drama, we also learnt about the Hindu creation story and found out about life in India. In the afternoon, we spent an enjoyable time with our mentors making colourful elephants from milk bottles. Lucy Townend said: "Making the elephants was the best part of the day – we got to cover them in coloured tissue and sparkles!"

By **Rachelle Blunden**

• At our next RE Drop-down Day in December, students will learn about the religious festivals of Christmas and Diwali (the ancient Hindu festival of lights).

NUNTIUS

THE NEWS ROUND-UP



THANK YOU

A big thank you to The Elderberries who visited our school to present a very generous cheque to our music scholars. The group, who sing 1960s songs, had staged a variety show to commemorate the life of Barry Brooke, a popular local singer and performer who died in 2014. All proceeds from the show were donated to our school, to fund Music Scholarships in Mr Brooke's memory. The event raised the incredible sum of £1,600, which will pay for music lessons for four students, for a whole year. Mrs Riches, Head of Music, commented: "We are very touched by this donation, which means so much to us all."



RUNAWAY SUCCESS

There's no stopping two of our Year 8 students who took part in the Junior Great South Run 2015. This is an annual 2.5km race around Portsmouth and the competition is tough. Maisie Witty (right) did brilliantly, coming in 16th place with a time of 9.19 and Ella Whittington (left), who was running in her first ever race, came in 60th position with a very respectable time of 11.20. Well done, girls!



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



On Remembrance Day, our entire school congregated in Holy Trinity church to pay our respects to the men, women, boys and girls who have lost their lives in conflict. We sang two hymns, Jerusalem and Abide With Me, and listened to poetry readings. After the two minute silence at 11am, Ted Henley played The Last Post, which was a moving end to the service.



MONSIEUR MASCOT

Have you met our mascot from France? He's being looked after by students in our French Enrichment Club. Our cuddly new friend is called Ulysse and he arrived bearing letters and pressies from our partner school in Beynat in the Limousin region. Ulysse is only with us for a month before we need to say 'au revoir' and 'bon voyage' as he continues on his travels to a school in Canada.

By Miss Kerley



HIGH ACHIEVERS

On Saturday 17th October, we were delighted to welcome visitors to our Open Day for Year 6 students and their families. Fun activities were on offer, including rock climbing, being interviewed by the School Radio team, and sampling food in the French café. Guests were also entertained by the pop-up concerts that took place around the school and the grounds.

Neck and neck in the style stakes: left to right, Poppy Roberts, Kc-Leigh Phillips, Sienna Walters.



GIRLS IN THE SNOOD

It's getting chilly – but our girls in the Knitting Club are ready for whatever the season brings, with their cosy knitted snoods. They've handmade their own winter warmers and now everyone wants one! Mrs Walker commented: "I'm delighted with their progress and the snoods are sensational!"

Handy Latin phrase
**LUCEAT LUX
VESTRA**
*Let your light
shine*