

ROSSALL SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Monday
8th February 2010



Headmaster

Though the Junior School pyjama day provided the most memorable images for the week, probably the biggest news was the huge application for places in year 7, reflected in the large numbers who came to the school on Saturday to try the Entrance exam and seek to qualify for a chance to attempt a scholarship. Perhaps some of the crowd were also seeking places at other schools, but there was a lot of interest and we shall have some tough decisions to make. There is more work to be done : it seems manifestly foolish that there is a bus which leaves Cleveleys every day to ferry boys and girls to a school forty minutes away, when a five minute journey would get them to a school which, as we have seen, appears at the top of the GCSE League Tables!

The other big news was my decision to appoint Katie Lee to Head the Junior School when Simon James leaves. We had hoped to make an internal appointment because the situation at Rossall is complicated and the relation between all parts of the campus is important: an outsider might take a long time to work out the picture and identify the issues. This is a good move for Mrs Lee and for the school, and the appointment will enable us to make the handover with a minimum of fuss. The next appointment to make is a new Foundation Director to succeed Simon Jackson. We have had expressions of interest from a number of highly qualified candidates. The work of the Foundation is beginning to get moving and we must organize the funding for the new Astroturf where we hope to begin work in June.

Anyone running a school will have as his aim the intention of making the school better tomorrow than it is today. Here is a list of things I would want to do if I could. Please don't run away if you don't like them: they won't happen without consultation. And you may be able to help with some of them. None of them, incidentally, concern fish : that has to wait for the second phase of the plan.

1. How are we going to get children to make a decent noise in chapel? I heard some year 5 children rehearsing in the Museum Theatre last week: they made as much noise as half a Chapel. Good schools sing much louder than we do. And we're a good school....
2. How are we going to get more children opting for the IB? The IB diploma is a wonderful qualification; it teaches some valuable skills and it is marketable all over the world. We have been teaching it for twelve years: we are market leaders. But local pupils won't look at it. They are missing a wonderful chance.
3. What should we do about Saturday morning school? Schools like us do Saturday morning school: boarding schools with some day children. It would make more sense of our weekends (ISC children already have Saturday morning lessons); it would give us more space for games and activities. I know lots of parents are very keen on it: you would get more for your money (we wouldn't put the fees up).
4. How are we going to get parents more involved (and more parents involved) in how the school runs, so that we are better able to serve their children? I have just been to Leeds to see my daughter in a production at the University of The Marriage of Figaro. It's added to a huge list of things I've watched her in----musicals, lacrosse matches, chapel services, plays, house events. How do we build that culture of support?

That's quite enough nagging: but I wanted to let you know that though the school is going well and numbers are good and hopes are high and pupils in general want to stay and we win matches and the place feels wonderful (we've just filmed the last two days for the DVD which should be available in April, and experienced film-makers shared my enthusiasm for the place) there is more we can do to make it the sort of school it ought to be and that I know it can be. And in the week in which my older son became a Headmaster, and of a school 1200 years older than Rossall, I suppose I wanted to demonstrate that aspiration, wanting to do things better, isn't just the prerogative of the younger generation!

There will be a short intermission. Enjoy the break; our reports and grade cards tell you whether your children can be allowed a few extra hours in bed over the holidays!

Dr Stephen Winkley
Headmaster

**SPORTS
ROUND UP**

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 1st February 2010

Wednesday 3rd February

1st XI Boys hockey –v– Bolton GS won 2.1
 1st XI Boys hockey –v– Royal Grammar School Lancaster won 2.1
 1st IV Fives –v– Sedbergh won 88. 54
 2nd IV Fives –v– Sedbergh won 94. 50

Saturday 6th February

U16 Boys Hockey –v– Kings Macc. drew 1.1
 U15 Boys Hockey –v– Kings Macc. won 4.0
 U14 Boys Hockey –v– Kings Macc. won 2.0
 U13 Boys Hockey –v– Kings Macc. won 3.0

1st XI ladies hockey –v– Blackburn won 5.2
 U15 XI ladies hockey –v– Stonyhurst lost 0.5

Sunday 7th February

U15 IV Fives –v– Sedbergh lost 85 . 91
 U14 IV Fives –v– Sedbergh lost 50 . 94

Events	Week 5	
Mon 8 th Feb	12.15 pm 1.00 pm 3.00 pm	Depart Y8 Theatre trip to Bolton ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ – return 5 pm Dining Hall Committee meeting JS Swimming –v– St Pius (h)
Tues 9 th Feb	1.45 pm 6.30 pm	U16 North West Boys’ Hockey Regional Cup Senior & MS Rossall Hockey, practice 1 Socratics – cancelled
Wed 10 th Feb	1.00 pm 4.00 pm 6.30 pm	1 st XI Boys’ Hockey League –v– King George V, Bury (a) Senior & MS Rossall Hockey, practice 2 Theatre Society rehearsal
Thurs 11 th Feb	3.00 pm 6.00 pm	Depart Y9/10 History/RS Trip to Holland ISC Chinese New Year Party
Fri 12 th Feb	12.30 pm	Half Term starts