

Campus Enjoys World of Difference

The sights and tastes of over 30 different countries came together at Rossall when students staged a week-long international festival of food, culture and costume to illustrate the diversity on campus.

We are home to boarders and day pupils representing 35 countries, and decked the campus with flags of all nations represented, whilst a vast catering operation produced traditional dishes with everything from Chinese and Vietnamese to German and Togolese on the dining hall menu. There were also British staple dishes such as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and all of the 650 students plus staff made a point of sampling the global menu.

The highlight of the week was a national costume day, involving all students. There were also displays of traditional art and crafts related to each country represented and world music across the campus.

The festival was the brainchild of a group of overseas boarding pupils who wanted everyone on campus to realise the global nature of the school's population and increase their understanding of the cultural differences and similarities of all nations. The event was so successful that next year's is already in the planning stage and the School's headmaster, Dr Stephen Winkley, believes it will be even bigger than this year's effort. He said: "When I first came here I was struck by the remarkable diversity of this school, but also of the cohesion that exists on campus, despite the number of nationalities represented, so the students' international extravaganza has simply reflected the cosmopolitan nature of Rossall and it's been immense fun, bringing even more vibrancy through the music, costume and food than we normally have. The students are to be applauded for their organisational skills."

As one of only six schools in the UK with a dedicated international study centre for overseas pupils Rossall has always had a strong overseas boarding contingent. For twelve years the School has been one of the UK's pioneers for the study of the International Baccalaureate Diploma, which primarily attracted overseas students, but has now become a study preference for English pupils also. This year English pupils contributed to an increase in the School's overall success rate by returning some of the highest pass rates recorded by the International Baccalaureate Organisation across 115 countries worldwide, which helped increase Rossall's averages by 10%.