

ROSSALL SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Monday
5th July 2010



Headmaster

From his cockpit the pilot gets a pretty clear view of the flight and is probably the first person to know if the aeroplane is unlikely to make it to the landing point! Though he can see his instruments---the key performance indicators---and the manual---the Inspection Report---he has no access to the passengers and only the sounds of boozy singing or of terrified screaming reach through the thick door. He knows a bit about turbulence (there are predictably turbulent times in schools) but gets no warnings of bird strikes or of sabotage. As he comes in to land at the end of a long year--the plane, in case you hadn't noticed, is being expertly piloted by his Deputy---he muses on the triumphs and disasters of the flight and wonders how much of them to inflict on his listeners. This is your Captain speaking: what an interesting flight it's been! On your left and slightly forward, if you can see through the smoke, are the IB results, and a little further away, those two remarkable peaks are the A level and GCSE results which are very impressive....

One peak was certainly the event concerning banners and standards on Tuesday. A good crowd, lusty singing, fine music, superbly orchestrated banners, a respectable march-past, and the visit of the Queen's representative, the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Shuttleworth. I've had some splendid fan mail : one chap wrote that it was the best he'd seen the school in over fifty years. Congratulations to everyone involved, especially the marchers and the drillers. I had doubted whether we could put up a strong public performance, and I was wrong. Some of our CCF personnel are even now rehearsing for a march down Pall Mall and a visit to the Queen which is nothing less than they deserve.

I am looking forward to having our new Director of Marketing on board, and she will be in a position to address some of the issues some of you are kind enough to write to me about: some kind of Parents' Association (in hand), the Website, and the vexed issue of does the Headmaster like day children and does he want them at the school. I don't need to answer this one: some of our best pupils are local day children, some of our best contributors are day children, day children get proportionately more involved in the school than boarders, day children fill our teams, speak English, eat the potatoes they are offered, and do most of the singing in Chapel. I love them. I would make, not for the first time, two points. First, this is a miles better school for day children because of the boarding culture. They can stay late, they can come in on Saturday and Sunday, they will always find people here, boarders and adults. We value the day children, and they get better value. Second, the people who keep us financially afloat are the boarders. If we are to do the things we want to do---Astroturf, new Sports Centre, renovating the school houses, developing the indoor cricket nets---we have to be secure financially. We ensure this by recruiting boarders. Next term our boarding numbers will be at full capacity for the first time in many years. My Director of Marketing can then devote some attention to telling local residents what a wonderful school this is.

And of course we now know how wonderful it is because the Inspectors have told us. I know there are people who choose schools on the basis of examination results because they assume that if child X goes to a school where 88% of the A level grades are A or B that child will automatically do the same. When I worked at Winchester twenty years ago I watched children who would have shone at many other schools sink without trace because we expected all our children to be clever and interested. We have clever children, we have interested children at Rossall, but we make no assumptions and we have a very broad intake. Will our recruitment success make us less charitable : I hope not. But I can confidently predict that within two years Rossall will be the school of choice in this part of Lancashire. Watch this space.

My co-pilot tells me we are landing shortly and passengers have other destinations : Indeed, in my wing mirror I can see parachutes descending (this metaphor doesn't work perfectly), as pupils head off early to Malawi, on the Choir Tour, and to destinations worldwide. Some will still be on the plane when we land on Friday. We wish a safe onward journey to all our Leavers: they won't get a chance to fly with us again (!), but they may remember us when their children reach an age to undertake education (by the way, I hope lots of you saw the year 6 PYP exhibition : it was magnificent). Good luck and good wishes to you all; thank you for reading thus far; and, if God continues to be good, I shall hope to be with you when we rev the engines again in September.

Dr Stephen Winkley
Headmaster

Events	Week 11	
Mon 5 th July	3.00 pm	Return, Years 7 & 8 trip from IOM Depart, Choir tour Dof E Silver Practice / assessment (1) Cadet 150 London Years 11-13 cricket trip to Old Trafford (T20 Cup)
Tues 6 th July	4.00 pm	Dof E Silver Practice / assessment (1) Cadet 150 London U13 & U14 Rounders –v– Hodgson (h)
Wed 7 th July		Dof E Silver Practice / assessment (2) Cadet 150 London
Thurs 8 th July	7.30 pm	Dof E Silver Practice / assessment (2) Cricket Dinner in Pavilion
Fri 9 th July	12.30 pm	Dof E Silver Practice / assessment (2) End of term
Sat 10 th July		Summer School starts Depart Army Section Summer Camp, Wathgill, North Yorkshire
Sun 11 th July		Return, Choir tour Return, Army Section Summer Camp, Wathgill, North Yorkshire
Sat 17 th July		Devon OR Lunch, Widecombe
Mon 2 nd August		Nursery Activity Week
Thurs 19 th August		A-level results announced
Tues 24 th August		GCSE results announced