

ROSSALL SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Monday
8th March 2010



Headmaster

The social highlight of last week was dinner with most of the Houseparents. There were other highlights too, especially the musical performances of individual pupils on Sunday afternoon. Arts week will give us a further chance to enjoy what our musicians have to offer. I am away at an Agents' workshop at the end of the week : it's a form of speed-dating! Every twenty minutes another Agent---Georgian, Russian, Chinese, German, Indian--- shows up at the Rossall desk and I attempt to tell them why we are a school they should invest in. It's getting easier, though we are not there yet. Anyway, my evening with Houseparents. They are central to the sort of school I'm used to. They are at the centre of all decisions about children, central figures for the children they look after and for their parents. Any Housemaster can carry two or perhaps three deeply irritating sets of parents, just as any Headmaster can bear no more than ten (I already have ten, and will let you know when there's a vacancy!). Of course, for many parents, and for many children, the houseparent is an essential feature of the fabric but unlikely, especially in the case of day children, to be a significant part of the child's unspoken mental furniture. For a boarder in a house-based school the houseparent is enormously important. I keep stressing that the houseparent (and I include the Head of the Middle School, Jane Cross) is the first port of call for parents: not the Registrar, not the Deputy Head, delightful though they both are. Anyway, on Friday evening they were able to relax. My first Headmaster used to encourage parents and children to talk freely with Housemasters. "They've heard everything, these men!" he used to claim. I remember subversively briefing boys I knew well to talk freely to their Housemaster about bizarre invented issues they would certainly not have heard of before. Was everything simply more fun in 1970? Hands up if you can remember!

Less fun is the era of competitive advertising and poaching of pupils. There are some outstanding practitioners on the Fylde. A Rossall parent showed me a letter from a local head who claimed his school was the premier school on the Fylde coast, "the school of choice" for those looking for private education. This terrible tosh should be strangled at birth. Just as the Guardian welcomes copies of those dreadful Christmas tediograms in which we boast about our triumphs and those of our children, I would welcome sight of any fatuous claims to persuade you to abandon Rossall ("jewel of the Fylde coast, and the school of choice for the discriminating parent").

March is the most important time in the examination calendar. If you don't know it by the end of this term the chances are you will never know it. The April holiday is short and perhaps examinees shouldn't see it as a holiday at all!

It's an important time of the year for Budgets and for Appointments. Bursarial staff are working long hours to produce papers for the big Council meeting in two weeks when we lay out our hopes and plans for 2010-2011. Meanwhile new maintenance staff, guided by our new Estates Manager, are getting to grips with a new approach to maintenance. I am told this will include getting the Library to a bearable temperature (I was embarrassed that the heating had broken down for the year 7 evening on Thursday, but it certainly meant we all got through the business pretty quickly!). And we have appointments to make: a new Librarian, a Mathematician, a Housemistress in Rose, a Housemaster in Lugard, and a Foundation Director. Exciting times.

I spoke to the school at assembly about what time the school day finishes for non-boarders. The answer is, in general, 5:20. The education we provide here is holistic : we reach parts that other schools (though premier, no doubt, and schools of choice) cannot reach. Please encourage your children to make the most of what we offer.

The fish are telling me it's time to start feeding them again. Perhaps the winter is over.

Dr Stephen Winkley
Headmaster

**SPORTS
ROUND UP**

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 1st MARCH 2010

David Trapnell has had a great weekend. He won the Under 14 Epee event at the North West Qualifying Competition for the British Youth Championships on Saturday and came 2nd in the Under 14 Foil on Sunday. He will now fence in the British Youth Championships in Sheffield on 1st – 3rd May 2010 at the English Institute of Sport. This is the largest and most prestigious Youth Fencing competition in Britain. All the participants have to qualify for the event through regional events and so he will be joining the very best British Fencers for the finals in May.

Saturday 6th March

1st XI Football –v– Stonyhurst lost 5.0

2nd XI Football –v– Stonyhurst lost 4.1

1st XI Ladies Hockey –v– Morecambe lost 0.6

Events	Week 8	
Mon 8 th March	12.30 pm 1.00 pm 6.30 pm 8.30 pm	Music @ Lunchtime, Jazz Band in Dining Hall Student Council Art Department Open Evening Arts Week Quiz, Sumner Library
Tues 9 th March	12.30 pm 4.00 pm 7.00 pm 8.30 pm	Music @ Lunchtime, Junior Choir, Dining Hall MS Girls' Table tennis MS Boys' Badminton Y8 presents 'Playing Around', Museum Theatre Music @ Twilight, Y11 Musicians in Chapel
Wed 10 th March	2.00 pm 4.00 pm 6.30 pm 7.00 pm 8.30 pm	GCSE AQA Modern World Student Conference, Manchester Y8 presents 'Playing Around', Museum Theatre Rossall Hockey Competition, Round 2 Theatre Society rehearsal Y8 presents 'Playing Around', Museum Theatre Music @ Twilight, Andrew Keeling & Stuart Corrie
Thurs 11 th March	12.30 pm 4.00 pm 7.00 pm 8.30 pm	Music @ Lunchtime, Senior Chamber Choir in Dining Hall Raconte Moi MFL presents, Big School 1 st IV Fives v OR Junior School Concert, Museum Theatre Music @ Twilight, 6 th Form Musicians, Chapel
Fri 12 th March	1.00 – 5.00 pm 2.30 pm 8.00 pm	AJIS Hockey (Liverpool College) Infant Concert Museum service The Farrell Society presents '1000 yrs of English Literature', Sumner Library
Sat 13 th March	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am 12.00 noon 2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Fylde Rugby 7's U12, U13 XI Boys' hockey –v– Kings Macclesfield (a) U15 XI Boys' hockey –v– Kings Macclesfield (h) U13 National IV Fives Championship, St Pauls (a) U14 Boys' hockey –v– Kings Macclesfield (a) U16 XI Boys' hockey –v– Kings Macclesfield (h) 1 st XI Ladies' hockey –v– Lytham 3 (h) Rossall Footlights, dress rehearsal, Big School Rossall Footlights, Big School
Sun 14 th March	9.00 am 10.00 am 1.30 pm	ISC trip to Rydal / Ambleside U13 National Fives Championships, St Pauls (a) Junior Boys' House hockey Senior Boys' House football