

Rossall North of England Champions



Rossall U14s Boys: Front row (left to right): Harley Taylor, Jaden Farmer, Harry Southern, Louis Weir, Will Parker, Josh Landmann, Michael Morrison, Scott Hume, Stephen Kane.

Back row (left to right): Thadeus Dean, George Briscoe, Jack Morrison, Cameron Ronson, Luke Williams, Giles Hayton and Frasier Forster.

Although losing out by the narrowest margin in the quarter final of the English National Hockey Championships 2-1 to Trent College, the U-14's boys' team from Rossall School still managed to finish the season as Lancashire, North West and North of England Champions, rounding off an excellent campaign which saw them scoring 100 goals and conceding only ten.

Prior to the national quarter finals, Rossall's U-14's travelled to Manchester's Commonwealth Stadium to take on and beat St Peter's, York 1-0 in the North of England Championship; a score line that did not reflect Rossall's total dominance of the game from start to finish. They entered the game after a run of 13 straight victories, including a 10-0 demolition of local rivals King Edward & Queen Mary's, Lytham.

In other age groups, Rossall's U-16 boys' hockey team finished the season as Lancashire champions, whilst the

School's first XI finished a close second to Merchant Taylors of Crosby in the Lancashire County League. There was better news though for Rossall's U-18 girls' hockey team who also finished the season as winners of the Lancashire Ladies U-19 Cup, the first time in the Cup's 15 year history. Their victory capped off one of the most successful seasons in many years for the Fleetwood school and indicates a strengthening of the sport on campus.

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A Word From The Head



The Christmas holiday was short – much too short – and it seems a very long time since September. I have enjoyed the extraordinary cheerfulness and stamina of the Rossall population. There is a quite remarkable coherence – despite the wide range of nationalities – in Rossallians' moral response to human situations, and I have been impressed at the number of times they have transmitted to me the message that there was something happening in school of which they disapproved and could I please take action.

My experience, of course, overlaps with that of the pupils in social and formal ways (it was wonderful to be part of the choir in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, for example) but while teachers are teaching and pupils are winning matches, Heads are dealing with strategy (How should our houses be organised? Is the day the right shape for all we want to do? Should we all be teaching on Saturday mornings? Which house shall we refurbish next? How can we refashion the Astroturf to reflect the very high quality of hockey we are playing? What great new building is our biggest need? How selective should we be in dealing with foreign applicants?). Heads are also, notionally, the embodiment of the school's aspirations, not in the sense that the school wants to be overweight and short-sighted, but in the sense that I can speak for the school, whether at the Cambridge Union, where I spoke a week ago, on Lancashire local radio, or in Hong Kong when I attended a recruitment fair in mid March or at a gathering of agents from all over the world in Solihull.

Our job, our mission, remains constant: to go on making the school better. The Bursar plays a huge part in this, as you will know, and so do the movers and shakers in Common Room, and all the other helpers the school employs. And the point of it all?? I can see that whenever I look out of the windows of my vast study. Living on the campus in the presence of our children remains a constant privilege.

Stephen Winkley, Headmaster

Rossall School is Fifth Element In Quest For Olympic Gold



From left - Stuart Mason, Pentathlon GB World Class Development Programme Manager with athletes Alex Shaw, Steve Mason, Katie Shaw and Rossall School's Director of Sport, Katie Lee.

Rossall School has become the fifth element in Great Britain's quest for Olympic gold in 2012 and 2016 by being chosen as one of the country's key training bases for British Olympic Pentathletes.

The discovery of the 160-acre campus, with its varied range of sports facilities, has been pure gold for Pentathlon GB, the governing body for Britain's Modern Pentathlon, and it's a find that could see the school eventually becoming a national centre of excellence for Pentathlon...and the Fylde Coast, a lure for Britain's top athletes.

Rossall has celebrated its appointment with a few high fives of its own, but it is Britain's young Pentathletes that have most to be happy about, as they now have a base that will, for the first time, enable them to train for four of the five disciplines in one location – horse riding being the only element of the five discipline event to be practised away from the school. On campus, athletes will hone their skills in pistol shooting, fencing, swimming and distance running, with the School's facilities at the squad's disposal every day of the week.

Pentathlon GB's World Class Pathway Manager, Stuart Mason is the man responsible for ensuring that the youngsters at Rossall School get the best training facilities and coaching to enable them to bring home the medals for Team GB. Says Stuart: "I'm delighted to have such high quality facilities for our athletes here in the North West in one location. Our arrangement with the school gives us first class facilities, the shooting range for example is of an international size and standard, and so far its proving to be extremely popular with the athletes on our development programme, because it makes their lives easier and we notice the benefits in their development. The school benefits also and as part of the arrangement, its own pupils receive tuition each week from our world class Pentathlon coaches, which is great for them and could result in Rossall unearthing some future Olympians.

"Pentathlon GB's experiences at the school are all positive, which points the way for the campus developing into a national centre of excellence for the sport. Whilst this is not guaranteed, it is a strong possibility, which would be fantastic news for the school and its pupils and a great fillip for the region."

Rossall School Director of Sport, Katie Lee sees the potential for Rossall as a national centre. She comments: "For our school to be chosen as the training camp for an Olympic event is a tremendous honour, but now Pentathlon GB have experienced the facilities, the chance that we could become a nationally recognised centre is a step nearer and that's even more exciting for the school and its pupils. It will also be a tremendous boost for the school's profile in the UK and also in overseas markets."

The arrangement with Pentathlon GB will run until the 2012 Olympics, with an option to renew the deal for the 2016 games.

Rossall Encourages Women in Science



Four pupils from Rossall School took part in the prestigious national competition, "Top of the Bench" for 14-16 year old students at Loughborough University which is run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Out of 30 schools from around the country Rossall School came an impressive 9th.

Following a successful run of local heats, Rossall was selected to participate in the final, which included a short test of factual chemical knowledge and a practical chemical problem solving team exercise.

A highlight of the day was a Science in Sport lecture given by former Olympic high jumper, Geoff Parsons.

The pupils from Rossall were Swie Joo Liem, Lucinda Ross, Olivia O'Neill and Rebecca Rimmer (all pictured left).



Boarding School is First in Britain to go for Keyless Boarding House



Senior Boarders Ulrich Hansen (left) and Simon Thun test out the new technology in Pelican House

One of Britain's leading boarding schools has become the first in the country to lock its doors and throw away the keys!

Rossall School is the only UK boarding school to switch to technology to keep its pupils safe and secure by installing the country's first electronic keyless entry system in a recently refurbished boarding house on its 160-acre campus, which is home to around 600 boarding and day pupils and a permanent boarding population of around 300 pupils and teachers. The new computer-controlled system, which dispenses with the need for conventional locks and keys, works with electronic data cards and sensors placed next to points of exit and entry.

Commenting on the new system, Rossall School's headmaster, Dr Stephen Winkley said: "We're delighted to be the first school in Britain to adopt such technology and it is already proving popular with staff and students in particular, who are always quick to embrace new technology. Having such a large campus and a resident population equivalent to a small village means

that security issues are paramount and we are always looking to improve our systems to ensure that our school remains a safe and secure environment for our children. This system gives us peace of mind and is proving more efficient than conventional locks and keys. For a start, it is impossible for a door to be left open inadvertently by a member of staff or a pupil; therefore we know that our perimeter security has been stiffened a great deal. The additional benefits allowing us to monitor movement and location of children are also extremely important, particularly in the event of fires or other threats to safety on campus, because in such cases we will know exactly how many people are in a particular building at any time, thereby enabling more effective evacuation. Of course, such instances are very rare, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be prepared."

In addition to major security benefits, the smart card technology employed in the system enables security cards to store other data, which allows students to use cards in the school's campus shop and also in its dining room, recording all transactions as part of a move to make Rossall the country's first cash free campus. In time, it is planned that students will also be able to present the cards in the School's on site international restaurant, Mondo Café, which is another pioneering venture in UK education, bringing a commercial restaurant operation onto the campus, exclusively for pupils, parents, teachers and visitors. With a programme of building refurbishment planned for Rossall's 165-year-old campus, the new security system will be rolled out to other areas of the School as an integral part of each phase of building development.

The Hidden Legends of Lytham

Discovering Food and Urban Legends has been a topic on the pupils minds in class 11C in the International Study Centre in recent weeks. A Ghost Walk preceded by a tasty three-course meal in the Sparling restaurant in the nearby coastal town, Lytham, proved that not only did British Food taste good but that even quiet, leafy towns have their dark sides!

Led by Miss Allen, ISC teacher and Fortiana collector, with help from Sandra Allen, the archivist of Lytham Hall, the students walked around Lytham hearing the local urban legends and blood-soaked histories of this town. They visited Lytham Hall gates where they learnt about the 'bloody hand' and then, through dark streets and woods, made their way to murder sites, haunted houses, graveyards – all the while keeping a careful watch out for the 'Beast of Lytham'. Unfortunately the Beast failed to appear but all the students had a wonderful time and enjoyed scaring themselves while they were hunting ghosts!

Rossall North of England champions *continued.....*

In the final games of the boys' season against KEQM School, Lytham, Rossall boys U-12A team won 5-1, the U-12B won 10-0 and the U-13/U14s ran out 6-0 winners.

Commenting on this season's successes, Rossall's Director of Sport, Katie Lee said: "This year has been remarkable in terms of performances from boys and girls in all age groups. The children have worked extremely hard, but many also have displayed real natural talent. Our girls and boys have sent a message to all other schools this season, which says that Rossall is stronger than ever in competition and we're already looking forward to next season to see if we can go all the way to the national finals in more than one age group. I don't know if we'll do it, but the generation of players we have here at the moment are so gifted I doubt we'll have a better opportunity."

Try Hard With a Vengeance



U11 Rugby Team with coach Mr Condon

There was no need to tell our junior rugby team to keep trying, because it was a habit they found hard to kick all season!

Under the guidance of junior school teacher and former Fylde RUFC scrum half, Mr Condon, our under elevens rugby team bagged the 2009 Malsis North of England Prep Schools Sevens Championship and the WH Budge Memorial Sevens trophy, now in its 32nd year at Rossall; beating many of the region's strongest rugby schools in the process. And, in the North West Independent Schools 12-a-side competition, we played thirteen 'A' team fixtures to reach the final, losing only narrowly to Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Until the final, the team had been undefeated all season in 12-a-side matches, gaining wins over teams such as Birkenhead, Kirkham, King's Macclesfield and Merchant Taylors.

Before lifting the Malsis trophy there were resounding victories against Malsis (25-5), Elleray (35-5) and Stoneyhurst (25-5) in the group stages, before a 15-10 defeat of Ampleforth in the semi final and a strong 28-12 win in the final against Cudnall Manor. The Budge victories came against King Edward's (35-0), Lyndon Prep (35-0) and Westholme (35-0) in the group, followed by 21-0 win over Altrincham Prep in the semi-final before a showdown with Kirkham in the final, which saw Rossall in imperious form, winning 35-5 to lift the trophy.

Commenting on the successes, Lawrence Condon said: "Our success this year is down to the whole-hearted enthusiasm of the boys and a fantastic team spirit, which has brought them through the toughest challenges. We've defeated teams by large

margins this year and that indicates that in addition to team spirit we also have some really talented and committed boys, which bodes well for senior rugby at Rossall for many years to come."



Collecting the money at the Junior School Cake Sale

Painting the 160-acre campus red!

In aid of this year's Comic Relief, Rossall School celebrated with schools around the country by holding a red non-uniform day in aid of the 24-year old charity.

The Junior School organised a fantastic cake sale, and together with proceeds from non-uniform day, the entire school managed to raise £931.06 which was donated to the charity.



Red is the colour in the Senior School

Grandparents Afternoon



On a Spring afternoon in April the Rossall Infant and Junior School invited the children's Grandparents to visit the school. Each child greeted their Grandparents at the entrance with a huge grin and plenty of hugs. It was a joy to see such excitement in the children's faces. The children showed off their school work, preceded by stops at various posters and photos of trips they had embarked on in the corridor. Grandparents listened intently and examined what the children had been working so hard on and they were all immensely proud of their little ones.

Rossall Celebrates with Family and Friends all over the World



Parading around the School Square with the Chinese Dragon

The Chinese New Year was seen in "in style" at Rossall International Study Centre this year. The nearby local town of Preston also joined in celebrations and hosted the famous Chinese State Circus at the town's popular entertainment venue, the Guild Hall, to which a group of Rossall students attended and witnessed the breathtaking performances.

Rossall's ISC hosted a wonderful Chinese New Year party for all to enjoy. Food was delivered by a local Chinese restaurant and everyone enjoyed a traditional Chinese feast. The students organised their own disco, playing traditional Chinese music along with modern dance music to suit all tastes. The highlight of the evening was a Chinese dragon dance around the school square. The students also received lucky money red envelopes and fortune cookies to give them good luck for the forthcoming year – the year of the Ox.