

Devonport
High School
For Boys

2015

DHSB Magazine

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As you can probably imagine, a huge amount of work from a lot of dedicated people goes into a project such as this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have helped make such a fantastic end product.

Joe Weeks, for helping us in the planning and editing processes.

Emily Parker, who contributed an article about Enrichment Week and assisted with the editing process.

Robert Waddy, who wrote about the work of our Peer Mentoring team.

Alfie Carlisle, who provided an excellent article on the new Learning Commons.

Jonathan Stoecker, who wrote a fantastic review of the Ten Tors Challenge.

James Walker, who has written a great review of DHSB sports day.

The Smeaton House Captains, Alex Diamond-Rivlin and Vikram Thirupathirajan, who gave us a brilliant overview of their houses' activities this year.

The Ford Park Cemetery Trust, who put together the exhibition on the history of the school.

Mrs Pearson and the International Links team, for providing such fantastic information on their activities this year.

Our School Captain, Vikram Thirupathirajan, for giving us an overview of the school year.

The new Head Teacher, Mr Roberts, for summing up a productive and successful year

Mr Shahin, who has helped us format the magazine in a way which looks both appealing and professional.



Devonport High School For Boys

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2015 edition of the Devonport High School for Boys Magazine. This project takes place every year, celebrating some of the many great things that have taken place in DHSB over the last 12 months. This year has seen so many fantastic events, achievements and changes, and we plan to showcase as many of these as possible in the magazine.

It is such a privilege to be able to put together this magazine and see all that has happened this year. Whether it be the fantastic house events, the transformation in the old school library or the brilliant array of writing on the Devonport Spectator website, there are so many things for DHSB to be proud of.

This year has been the first for some people, and as such we feel it only fitting to welcome on board our new staff and, of course our new students. We hope that you find the DHSB community as welcoming and as friendly as so many others have before you.

Though it was the first year for some, it was also the last for others, most notably Mr Earley. Having been headteacher since 2008, Mr Earley has implemented some major changes in the school, including the construction of the food technology building, the continued investment in technology and modern resources, and the outstanding Ofsted rating the school obtained and he will be remembered for his great commitment and contribution to the school. We wish him well in his new post.

So as we wave goodbye to 2015, let us take the time to rejoice, reconsider and give ourselves a massive pat on the back; well done Devonport! We welcome you to read this magazine and see for yourself what a brilliant year the school has had.

The Editors:

Billy Kingdon and Tom Cooper



Changes Around The School

DHSB is always changing, and this year has been no exception. Perhaps the greatest transformation has been in the old library. What was once a collection of dusty books is now a clean, modern Learning Commons. The school has not, however, been working solely on the Learning Commons. This year, money has been spent improving access around the school, with the installation of a new lift to give better access to first floor classrooms. Old banisters have been superseded by modern, safe replacements. The changing rooms have been brought up to date, giving a much better impression to visiting sports teams. As always, the programme of painting and decorating has kept the school looking tidy and professional, with particular effort being paid to the science block this year.





But not all improvement works have related directly to the structure of the building. The school has invested in sixty new Chromebooks in the Learning Commons and has been carefully recycling old computers to provide sixth formers with their own private computer area. Though computers are not necessarily what everyone wants, nobody can deny their absolute dominance in the modern world and the absolute necessity for computer literacy in the modern workplace. The only way we can advance is to move with the times, and this is exactly what we are doing.

Fortunately (or possibly unfortunately, depending on your view) textbooks have not been confined to the history books just yet. With all of the changes to education taking place at the moment, so many of the courses have changed. With this change comes the necessity for new materials, which is exactly what the school has continued to invest in. New books can be seen in most of the departments, replacing tattered or damaged resources.

The New Learning Commons

When Mr Forte joined the DHSB Community in 2014, I'm sure very few people could have predicted the transformations that would occur in such a short time. Subtle changes began to happen and become the norm. Traditional desktop - computers were phased out in favour of lighter, more up-to-date Chromebook laptops, and an easy-to-understand set of guidelines was put in place describing how students could use the new space.

Building work began towards the end of the summer term last year. These works consisted of the extension of the top 'mezzanine' floor to make it an entirely separate zone. The upstairs part lends itself to be a quiet study area, while downstairs is generally busier, with many students coming to try out our wide range of technology.

Amongst the Learning Commons team, we like to use the phrase 'much more than meets the eye'. We modelled our floorplan on this - instead of having shelves upon shelves of books, we moved them out of the way, allowing for more space for our users to relax and get on with work. Don't worry, though - we still keep our most popular titles on show!

The idea that we have phased out books is simply not true. If a student can't find what they are looking for they can let us know; we can search our extensive archive or even get the title ordered in via next-day delivery.

On top of this, we've tried to make everything more dynamic. You'll notice that very few of our assets are static; the first floor is completely modular, meaning that all the desks and screens are on wheels and can slot together to form any setup imaginable! This means that even though the building work is finished, we're still changing every day. We are excited to see how students embrace the new space - come and enjoy it!



International Links



As I am sure you are all aware, DHSB has a large and successful international links programme, organised by Mrs Pearson. Like so many other things within the school, the programme has triumphed once again this year.

Busy is the word for DHSB; there is always something going on! This year has seen visits from teachers around the globe. We have hosted guests from Zimbabwe, South Africa, France and, of course, our partner school Shining Stars in Nepal.

Many will remember the terrible earthquake that hit Nepal earlier in the year, but for some this was far more personal. Jeevnath, from Shining Stars, visited just a few days after the earthquake hit his home city. This put a very different emphasis on his visit, though in true DHSB spirit we set about raising as much money as possible to help with the tragedy.

More recently we have seen teachers from South Africa and Zimbabwe. I had the pleasure of meeting two teachers who were so keen to enhance the lives of their pupils in as many ways as possible. We spoke about topics ranging from work ethic and respect to the use of technology in classrooms. A full interview with Xolelwa and Nick can be found on the Devonport Spectator website. These visits really do offer a massive amount to both the pupils and teachers of all schools involved, no matter where in the world.

Teachers from DHSB were away from home during their half-term, visiting schools across the globe, looking for interesting and innovative ways to enhance and improve learning within our school.

Zimasa School, Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa is located at the southernmost tip of Africa, and Cape Town is in the far west of the country. It is the third most populated city in South Africa, and is where the National Parliament is based. It has been recognised as one of the most multicultural cities in the world, as most of the population of the Western Cape live there, as well as many migrants and expatriates. Everyone we met spoke English, as well as at least one other language - mostly Afrikaans or Xhosa, although it could be any of the ten official languages.

The most important part of our trip was being able to meet everyone and strengthen our partnership. We were so impressed by how the school uses the resources they have in a creative and successful way in order to give their students a diverse and fulfilling education. This exchange has allowed all of us to reflect on our different teaching practices, education systems and lives in general, which has inspired teachers in both countries to implement new ideas and approach learning with a different perspective.

By Mrs Marsh and Mrs Pearson

Shining Stars School, Kathmandu, Nepal

The capital city of Kathmandu stands 4,600 ft. high in the valley of central Nepal.

Kathmandu is part of three districts Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur, and has the highest population density in the country.

Kathmandu was devastated by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April 2015, and as soon as we landed in Kathmandu we became quickly aware that there were some initial problems, both with earthquake damage and a fuel crisis in Kathmandu.

The school timing is from 8:45am to 3:30pm and runs from Nursery through to grade 6. The students' age group is from 3 to 16 years old. There are short breaks in summer to celebrate Dashain and Tihar, important festivals for the Nepali people.

We were shown around the school, starting from the infant class to the year 6 classes. We were immediately impressed by the pupils' use of language and their polite and warm manner. We had several conversations with the Head Teacher, Jeevnath Aryal, and his colleagues and various student groups from the Head Girl and Boy and House Captains through to the oldest senior year.



By Miss Randles and Ms Burdon

2015 - A Year Of Sport

This year has been fantastic for sport at DHSB. We are particularly proud of the variety of different sports we have achieved in, not to mention the staggering number of participants who made that success possible.



Football

The under-12s had an excellent year and became the Plymouth School champions. The under-15s also saw success: they were quarter-finalists for the National Cup. The 1st XI team were the league winners this year and were undefeated all season. They also came runners-up in the Cup competition. Congratulations to all three teams!

Rugby

Like football, there was a fantastic year for the rugby team at our school. The

under-12s were the West Devon runners-up. The under-13s were the Devon champions, and were semi-finalists at a national competition called the Rosslyn Park 7s. The under-14s were also extremely successful and were the Devon champions. Well done to all three teams.

Basketball

Basketball was also extremely impressive this year, with the under-13, under-14, under-15 and under-16 teams all emerging victorious and coming first in the Plymouth area. The under-12 team also put forward a very respectable performance, and came second in the Plymouth area. A fantastic achievement by all age groups.

Hockey

The under-16 team had some excellent matches and came out on top of the other Plymouth Schools.

Badminton

Badminton had a notably successful season, with both the under-14 and under-16 teams coming second in the Devon championships, which is a fantastic achievement.



Other Sporting Activities

The school also ran several sports tours this year, with the under-13 rugby team going to Bath and Gloucester. The under-14 and under-15 football team went to Barcelona, and the under-14 hockey team played in a tournament for their age group. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On top of numerous clubs, there was a ski trip to Italy, house competitions in football, table tennis, basketball and 'Ultimate Frisbee'. Also on offer was a diverse range of additional activities including climbing, American football club, and a trip to Old Trafford.



DHSB Badminton Tournament

On Thursday 19th November 2015, our school hosted a badminton tournament, inviting along players from Devonport High School for Girls. The event featured 10 boys from our school, and 10 girls from the girls' school. The subtle difference to normal school competitions was that our players would be partnering students from DHSB, not playing against them. There were many fantastic and close games, which were a thrill to watch, and showed real potential for the future for all of our players. One of the players commented on the event: "It was a really good experience to play with another school, and it was very well organised."

Congratulations to all who took part, especially to Luke Oakarr, George Teague and Oliver Briggs who, alongside their partners, took third, second and first place respectively. All players were exceptionally mature and extremely sporting; they all put in a lot of effort. It is always a privilege to run events where the students are so mature and enjoy themselves; we definitely plan to run similar tournaments again!

Sports Day

1000 students. 100 teachers. 30 events. 30 winners. 1 champion. This was Sports Day 2015. After much delay and a lot of bad weather, Sports Day went ahead in September - two months later than its initial scheduling in July! Nonetheless, all had a great day, and the number of competitors rose in comparison to last year.



The races started at around 10:00am, with competitors taking part in the 200- and 400-metre races. But at around 11:00am, it started to drizzle, and faces began to look a little worried, especially that of Mr Orkney! However, the weather was kind and the rain eased off, leaving us a glorious day to enjoy. The events came thick and fast, with 1500m, 100m and 800m all flying by in quick succession. Also running were the field events: long jump, high jump and triple jump. It was a historic day for the high jump as Newton's Ayrton Sneyd broke the school record jump by 1cm.

While most of us sat down for lunch it was time for some athletes to come out onto the track for the remaining events of the day. These flew by very quickly, including a record broken in the U12 100m by Smeaton's James Cunningham, who ran almost one second faster than the previous record. The comical side of the whole event was left to the end with the teachers versus students 4x100m relay. The winning team was made up of Mr Carpenter, Mr Bunney, Mr Manley and Mr Norris, although it was not such a good race for the other staff team, made up of Mr Strang, Mrs Lilley, Mr Knab and Mr Orkney, as they were disqualified; something to do with starting before everyone else! This was the last event that day, but other events took place the next day: the discus, shotput and javelin, all of which generated fierce competition amongst competitors. All of the events were great fun for athletes and spectators.

But now to the results. The winners of each of the events collected their medals in assembly, with 2nd and 3rd place students being awarded certificates. The winners of each of the years follow: year 8 - Smeaton; year 9 - Newton; year 10 - Edison; and year 11 - Smeaton. Priestley also won the year 7 competition, although their scores did not go towards the overall result. The overall winners for DHSB sports day 2015 were Smeaton, with over 900 points! Many thanks to all the staff and teachers that made this possible, especially to the PE department once again for getting the event off the ground.

Peer Mentoring



What we often get asked is who the Peer Mentors are and what they do. As we take such an important role in the school, it is vital that everyone is aware.

We are a group of older students that help students with any problems, whether social or emotional. On some Friday mornings, we go into the PHSEEC lessons of Year 7 and Year 8 and help to teach them about how to make the right choices early on. We support the younger years at many events including:

- The Year 7 induction day, familiarisation day and information evening. Many peer mentors come in a day early from their summer holidays to support the year sevens in their induction.
- We help run the year seven common room, where younger students can come and socialise with each other away from their form rooms. This enables the students to socialise with students from different houses as well as their own.
- Year seven tea parties, at which the year seven parents can meet each other and the key people that will be involved in their son's journey through the school.
- Open evening - we guide prospective parents and students around the school.

We are always willing to help any student with any problem they have, whether this be on the bus, with peers in their form, older students or teachers. We are here for any students to come to us with a problem, and we can either sort it out ourselves or direct the student to someone who can. We have already hosted and helped out at several key events this year, and, as always, we are open to feedback - we would love to hear from you.

The Ten Tors Challenge



It's early morning, the helicopters swoop down through the fog and the mist, several thousand teenagers stand on the hill outside Okehampton camp, parents try to spot their son or daughter among the hoards of adolescents, then artillery guns go off and so do we. Despite being told not to run down the hill on the previous day, various teams begin to run as if they are in the Olympics, competing in the one hundred metre sprint. We, the forty-five mile A team representing DHSB, instead walked at a steady pace to avoid losing each other as various teams cut across us to go to whatever tor they sought to reach first. As soon as we got to the bottom of the hill we immediately began to have to climb up the other side. The ground was wet and squelchy underfoot, providing a difficult surface to walk quickly on especially uphill carrying our reasonably heavy rucksacks. Had we not trained for this event weeks beforehand then I would've probably just given up there and then. Fortunately, the training we received had been superb and so the first hill was no trouble.

Time passed and soon we were walking through tufty grass which at every opportunity would try to snap your ankle if you weren't paying attention to where you were putting your feet. Eventually we reached a red pole, as we had anticipated, and all of a sudden the mist lifted a little, revealing a team in matching kit behind us. Quickening our pace, we managed to lose them in the fog again, which somewhat raised our dampened spirits, which were already being hit by the terrible weather. After reaching a wall and hand railing it for thirty minutes or so we reached our next checkpoint, possibly our third one, although at the time I wasn't counting too much as I had been more focused on eating, walking and following the wall rather than what our target was.



Soon we approached the most southern part of our route and we all felt like we had only a few more miles to go before we would be stopping at our eighth tor. A quick glance at the map and the route plan indicated that we were only just approaching our fifth tor and that actually we had quite a long way to go still. This realisation was followed by a feeling of despair, which was quickly removed by eating a large packet of sweets.

At three o'clock or so, or maybe later, we reached Peat Cott. Deciding we would have a break we sat down by the path and ate our sandwiches or whatever we had or felt like having for lunch, which for some was just a large bar of chocolate. Suddenly from the path below us, we saw the fifty-five team

coming towards us which raised team morale quite a lot. They also sat down and we had a conversation about how each group's walks were going so far. The break was then abruptly ended by a man on the checkpoint who pointed out we had been sitting in the same spot for far too long and we should probably think about walking at some point. As a result we got up and left, wishing the other team good luck.

Three or so painful, wet and tiring hours later we passed our seventh checkpoint and came to a steep hill which would lead us to our eighth tor where we would have to stop for the night. It was already getting quite dark and it was becoming quite hard to see where we were going, so after a lengthy discussion we actually decided to stay at the bottom of the hill. We then set up our tents, cooked and ate our 'boil in the bag' meals and quite soon after collapsed into our sleeping bags, hoping to get a good amount of rest before having to wake up early in the morning.

At four thirty the next morning, we woke up, ate our breakfast and got ready to leave for five thirty. One of the other teams realised we had got up, so they also prepared to leave but by that time we were halfway up a hill by then in thick fog which was so dense that we had to be careful not to leave anyone behind, as we would not have found them again if we had lost them.

As we approached the finish line the only thing I could think about was having a nice hot shower and a pasty from the canteen. It turned out we had finished first on our route and were the second forty five mile team to finish out of all of the other teams. The rest of the teams from DHSB finished

only a number of minutes behind us, putting in fantastic effort. The reason we managed to finish so quickly I believe, was mostly down to the wonderful training and support we received from the school and its staff.

Without it we may have had a much harder time and would maybe not have been able to take part in the event at all. Throughout our training, we had learnt to navigate, set up tents, cook and work as a team and in the end everything came together to enable us to complete the forty-five mile Ten Tors and have a pretty good time while doing it. All I can say now is that I cannot wait to do it all over again next year!



The DHSB House Groups

DHSB recently moved to a house group orientated system for many aspects of the school. This not only provides great opportunities for student leadership, competition and such like, but creates a real sense of community and belonging within the school. Smeaton house captains Vikram Thiruputhirajan and Alex Diamond-Rivlin shared some of the brilliant things their house has achieved this year.

Smeaton's Success

This year has been fantastic for Smeaton. The community spirit of the house was displayed yet again by things as simple as attending community duties, keeping behaviour to a high standard and coming to school with a 'ready to learn' attitude. This was taken further through ideas such as 'Smeatonopoly', and a high amount of people representing DHSB in sport.



The 'Smurf for Smeaton' charity event raised £80 for the British Heart Foundation, the Summer Fete raised over £200 for house funds and the house raised £500 for St Luke's Hospice through the school's mufti days. A big thank you to charity captains Monica Mekhael and Max Beaton for organising these. We also performed extremely well in sport, with the house winning the overall cup for Sports Day 2015. The support for the athletes by their house peers was unparalleled, leading to Years 8 and 11 coming first in their respective years and Years 9 and 10 coming second. This success was also partly due to the management of the teams by Sports Captain, Andrew Helliwell.



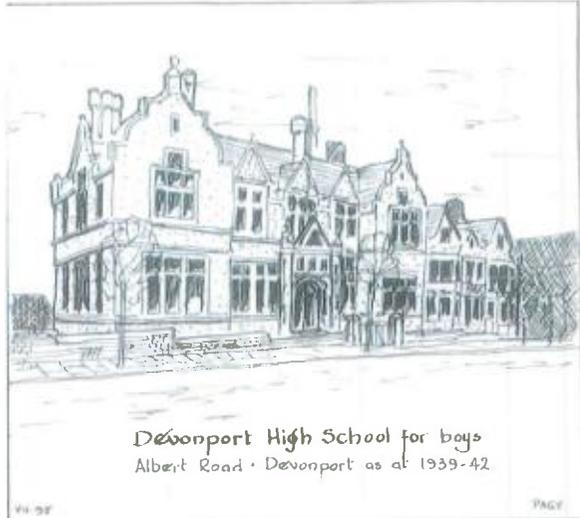
Congratulations to our sixth form too for performing excellently in their GCSEs and AS Levels. We wish you the best of luck in your forthcoming challenges in May 2016. Thank you to all of those in Smeaton who brought our school forward with pride by taking the opportunity to be respectful to their peers and teachers who work hard to ensure the success of our learning. We are also grateful for the efforts of the House Captains, Sport Captains, Charity Captains and Voice Captain. Special thanks to Mr Berryman and Mrs Corboy for supporting this leadership team. Finally, good luck to the new House Captains and Vice House Captains!

The History of DHSB

Earlier this year the Ford Park Cemetery Trust put together an exhibition on the early days of DHSB. We decided to go and see what we could find out; what we discovered was fascinating.

The exhibition featured several historic items from the school. One cabinet was filled with previous uniforms of the school, which interestingly featured a school cap, though fashionable it was not! Surprisingly the logo on the blazer has changed very little, though it was made from the scratchiest, most irritating and uncomfortable of materials; thank goodness for polyester!

What some will not realise is that the school did not start out on its current site. It was, in fact, positioned in a large building on Albert Road until the evacuation of the school during the Second World War. The school was based in Penzance during the war, due to the air raids on Plymouth. In 1945 the school returned to the city and moved into the old military hospital, where it has been ever since. Unfortunately, little is known about the original site, though it is most likely that it was hit in the blitz.



Fascinatingly it has been the case that this magazine has been printed nearly every year since the 1920's. Speech day, it seems, has formed an integral part of the school's history since the school's inception and every year, with almost religious dedication, a magazine was put together for the event. The role of putting this together was handed over to the students by the second headmaster, Mr Tresender, meaning that there is a record of what the students thought as far back as the late 20s. One copy, which we found in the exhibition, featured as the guest of honour Nancy Astor, who of course went on to be the first woman to take up a seat in parliament.

For those interested, the whole exhibition will be coming to the school in the New Year. This will be a fascinating opportunity for students to learn about what has happened since 1896, and will hopefully be enjoyed by all.



Devonport Spectator

As many of you will be aware, 2015 has seen the return of the Devonport Spectator. The project, set up approximately five years ago, encourages students of all ages to try their hand at journalism and have their work appreciated by the wider school community. This year the transition to a website has made it easier than ever for students to voice their opinions.

We are keen to see as many students involved as possible. After a slow start, we have amassed several regular contributors aided by guest writers, but we're on the lookout for many more. For those that are interested, we hold weekly informal meetings to discuss ideas and techniques and offer support to our writers.

We work hard to ensure that everything sent to us is published; we do not agree with censorship of ideas and opinions, however we do help writers to edit their articles and make them as good as possible. We are proud of our motto: "By the students, for the students," and are keen for as many opinions as possible to be voiced.

To find out more, please visit our website: devonportspectator.co.uk. In the meantime, here are some extracts of articles published over the last few months for you to enjoy.

Jeremy Corbyn - A New Direction for Labour, by Megan Robins

The labour elections which have resulted in Jeremy Corbyn becoming the next figurehead have been a hot topic in the past couple of weeks. There has been great debate as to whether he is what Labour needs to take them on the journey to success or on the road to failure.

Many consider Corbyn to be a disastrous happening in the Labour party and some have even gone to the lengths of saying he is a "national security threat;" but this is simply not the case. Even though his policy on nuclear warfare is controversial to many as he suggests that we get rid of all our nuclear weapons and stop funding for the Trident programme, we actually spend billions on these weapons per year without ever using them. It is also against his morality and political mindset so the fact that he is standing by this policy is highly commendable as it shows he has an iron will and will uphold the choices he makes. Whilst still in school, Corbyn joined Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) so this shows that he is committed to his views and not just a populus pleaser. Britain needs a strong leader and Corbyn has the potential to be this person. (You can read the full article on our website!)

We are always keen to have a good debate on the Spectator, and in true spirit here is the counter argument.

SPECTATOR
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Jeremy Corbyn - Leading Labour to Failure Since Saturday, by Billy Kingdon

Labour has finally voted, and for anyone with a brain it's bad news...

Jeremy Corbyn has become a household name over the last few months, and now he is to lead the opposition party to its already decided downfall. Whether you have heard of him because of his completely unrealistic promises to abolish tuition fees with money raised from cracking down on tax evasion, or seen one of the many videos of him speaking of his "friends in Hamas," I am sure you have enough sanity to see that Labour has just committed political suicide.

This final piece of literary showcasing is from one of our year 11 contributors and shows what a diverse range of text we have on the website; enjoy!



The War That Defined A Nation, by Archie Breare

This year marks 150 years since the end of the bloodiest conflict ever fought by the United States of America; the war that has made Abraham Lincoln one of the most famous presidents of the USA ever. A conflict which claimed more American lives than Vietnam, the American Revolution, WW1 and WW2 combined. A war in which there were 680,000 to 800,000 American dead, wounded or

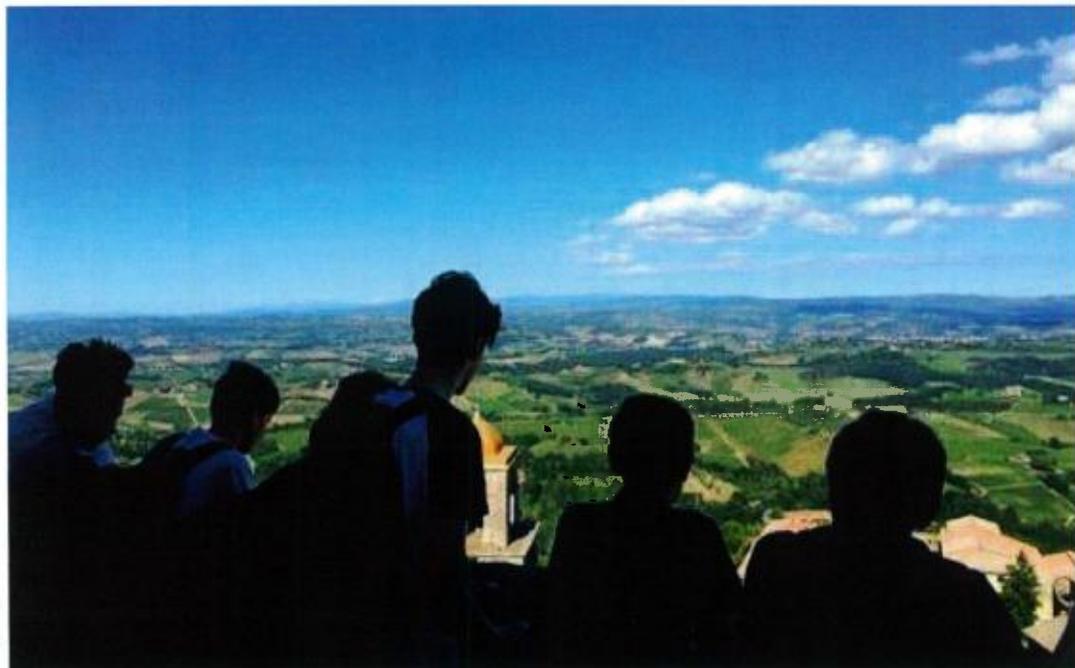
missing. We in Britain don't tend to learn much about this war as we had very little to do with it, but now it is coming back into the spotlight as one of its most lasting symbols is coming under scrutiny. This war is the American civil war.

Curriculum Enrichment Week - June 2015

Between Monday 22nd June and Friday 26th June this year, Curriculum Enrichment Week took place at Devonport High School for Boys, with over 700 students getting involved. Thanks to the work of 70 members of staff, the week was able to run smoothly and successfully. A special thank you has to go to Mrs Rasmussen, Mr Coombes and Mrs Donnelly for organising everything so well. An enormous range of activities were on offer for students, including 6 residentials and 71 different daily activities, giving an excellent opportunity to try something new.



Amongst the residentials that took place were a cultural trip to Tuscany and a trip to Barcelona. The year 7 Bushcraft trip was also very successful, giving students a unique experience in learning how to survive in the wild. One year 7 student summed up the Bushcraft residential as 'challenging, inspiring and a great way to spend the week' and another felt they had 'learnt a lot about the wilderness' as well as new practical skills.



As an alternative to residentials, some students took part in a variety of different sporting activities which were available during the week. Some of the indoor sports activities which took place included basketball, fencing, martial arts and climbing, as well as other outdoor activities such as cycling, golf, skiing at John Nike Leisure Centre and karting. Other exciting sports, which many were experiencing for the first time, included tree surfing, surfing, and a range of watersports at the Mount Batten Centre. Some students even trained as powerboat drivers! Students were also given the chance to learn how to scuba dive, which gained them a useful qualification as well as an enjoyable week.

In addition to sports, many people took part in the unique learning opportunities afforded by day trips. Students went to the Maritime Experience and Fleet Air Arm Museum, where they were able to see and learn about planes and boats. Another trip which proved to be very popular was to Paignton Zoo, which enabled students to experience wildlife whilst enjoying the day with their friends.

One of the reasons Curriculum Enrichment Week is so valuable to us as students is that it provides us with the opportunity to learn new skills which we may not have the chance to learn in the classroom. Many students developed their art and media skills through graffiti art, photography and ceramics workshops, as well as media days. Some other life skills taught included cooking, motor vehicle maintenance, team building on an army activity day and angling. Furthermore, some students carried out work experience for the week, giving them an opportunity to see what the working environment is like in a particular field they may be interested in.



GCSE and A Level Results



It is definitely fair to say that 2015 was another year of successful GCSE and A-Level results for our school.

Year 13 had an impressive overall pass rate of 96%, with 59% A*-B grades.

Mrs Davidson, our Assistant Head Post-16, was delighted on the day: *"I wholly expect the majority of our students to take up their university places with these super results. Although they are judged for their university entry on their grades, we are proud of them for so much more. In this cohort of leavers are young people who will make a difference to our society. They are so capable, ambitious and globally aware. I am delighted that so many of the students here this morning are resourceful and spirited and able to move forward with confidence and a fresh and innovative approach to their lives. They are a joy to work with! They'll be remembered fondly for so much more than their exam results."*

Many students confirmed university places, including three students who took up places at Oxford and Cambridge, and a further five who are studying Medicine or Dentistry.

The GCSE results were also extremely good. The year 11s had an overall pass rate of 92%, with 41% achieving A* or A grades.

On results day many students enrolled in our sixth form, and will continue their learning with the school for a further two years, taking A-Levels.

Mr Roberts was extremely happy with the results: *"We are delighted for our boys who can take their next steps with confidence."*

All that remains to be said is a massive thank you to all the teachers, the senior leadership team, Mr Martin, Mrs Moreton, and the subject ambassadors for all of the work they have done to help the students. Another great set of results; well done to everyone involved.



Curriculum Challenge Week

It is fair to say that our school Curriculum Enrichment Week is always a thoroughly enjoyable time, but what sets our school apart from others is that we have a second week in November, which also offers up a host of different activities outside of the scope of the usual curriculum.

The wide range of activities offered for the week is something the school has always excelled at, and this year was no exception. In school there were a huge mix of activities: we had mask and mosaic making, construction of bridges with spaghetti, exciting and explosive chemistry practicals, interesting investigations in biology, animation workshops, sessions on the Holocaust from the history department and multi-sports on our state-of-the-art AstroTurf.

There were some excellent opportunities outside of school: students were able to go on a sports tour to London, a trip to St Ives for A-Level Media Students, a visit to the aquarium and a field trip to Dartmoor for GCSE Geography students. Year 11 are to be congratulated, as during this week they had their mock exams. This week has given them an experience they need to tackle their real exams in May and they approached it with maturity; good luck to all of them.

Year 12 and 13 had opportunities for work experience placements during this week. This was an opportunity to gauge which profession they might like to pursue in the future. Students have been working alongside dentists, doctors, nuclear engineers, opticians, teachers and many more professions, throughout the local area. An opportunity such as this can be invaluable yet it is something which many schools are not offering. Year 13 also had the option to engage in practice interviews, which will help them to prepare for their futures.

This week is always an enjoyable and enriching experience for those involved, and this year was no exception. Students conducted themselves well, teachers put in a huge amount of effort and as a result everything ran fantastically, and the students gained a great deal from the experience.



Thoughts From The School Captain

2015 has been busy. And what better way to end the year than by celebrating the new successes: Mr Roberts, our new headteacher, and Mrs Edwards, our new assistant headteacher. Being involved in the recruitment for these two roles was truly exciting for both me and the house captains involved. Many thanks to Ali Awan, Lucy Irving and James Grigg, with whom I worked during the recruitment process.

I was also pleased to work with the charity captains in supporting Derriford Hospital's Children and Cancer Service. Being part of something that contributed to the wider society was definitely rewarding. On a school level, attending governors' meetings as a student governor allowed me to contribute to the regular development of DHSB.

A large focus, however, was to help maintain DHSB's existing standards. This would have been impossible without support from the prefect team. Their reliability whilst doing break

and lunchtime duties helped ensure a safe environment. In the case of a rare behavioural incident, the maturity shown by prefects was always commended by staff. Special gratitude to those who dealt with such situations: Henry Wilson, James Hardy and Tom Kelly.

The prefects' teamwork was noticed too. It was satisfying to hear many compliments about the great work done by prefects during school events from both staff and parents. The support I received from Mrs Nicholson, Mr Martin, Miss Kerswell, Mr Adams and all other teachers whilst planning for these events was also something I greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Mr Mitchell. His support in guiding both the prefects and me in all aspects throughout the year was unparalleled. Finally, many thanks to the house captains and Ms Davidson for their help. Regularly meeting them helped to refine an already-strong prefect team. In particular, house captains Jack Williams, Lewis Wollington and Tom Cahill must be commended for their leadership in many important school events.

I am sure 2016 will be brilliant for new school captain Joe Weeks, and I wish him and the new prefect team the best of luck for a successful year.



Summary From The Head

I am delighted to be making my first contribution to the School Magazine since my appointment as Headteacher at DHSB. I am extremely proud to be leading such a prestigious and successful school so rich in history. My vision is to develop a balance between continuing to enhance our strong traditions and ensuring that DHSB is a creative and innovative leader in education worldwide for the future.

As you are aware, the school continues to move from strength to strength despite education changing at an ever-increasing pace, the swelling pressure of accountability and the burden of existing in a time of austerity. Our high calibre staff, ably supported by our excellent governing body, are rising to these challenges with confidence to ensure that 'Everyone Succeeds.'

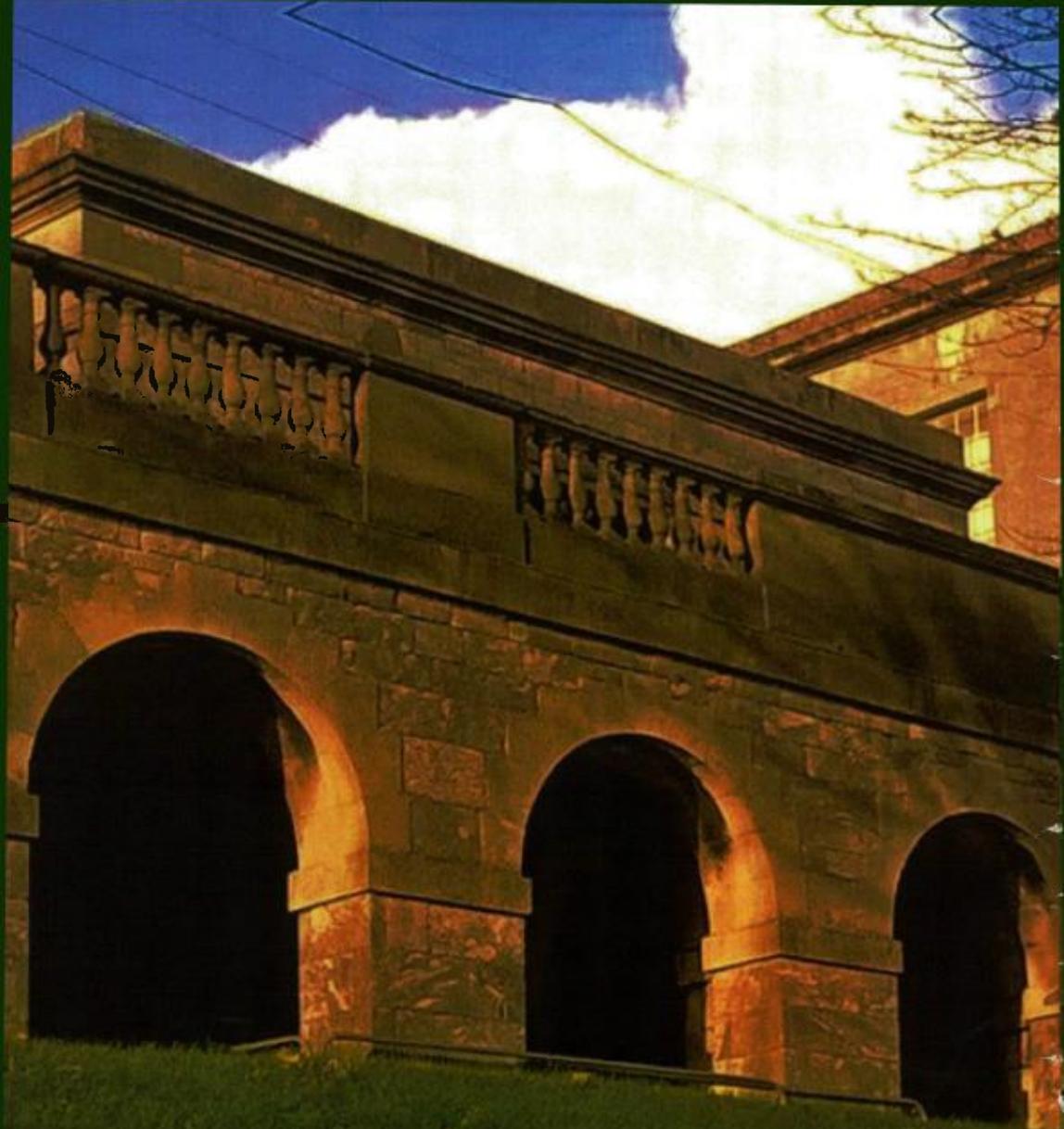
During the summer term, following my appointment as Headteacher, it was important for me to consult with all stakeholders about how we could improve and enhance our provision at DHSB. I met students, staff and parents and the consultation period was an opportunity to celebrate the good things we do and what we are proud of and, perhaps more importantly, what our challenges are and what we could do to improve.

We have targeted the most significant challenges since September and have formed our School Development Priorities (available on our website). These include; students achieving the highest academic standards, all of our staff seeking to become even better, leadership at all levels and collaboration and community and a creative and entrepreneurial spirit.

Next year marks the 120th anniversary of the school and we will be relaunching the Old Boys Association (which supports this wonderful magazine). We will be communicating with you soon about the exciting plans on how you can continue to engage with DHSB through the new developments with the association. Do also follow the school website at www.dhsb.org/ You can keep up to date by reading my weekly blog at www.dhsb.org/blog/ and the school's Twitter feed (@DHSBoys) for updates during the year.

There are exciting times ahead for DHSB and this magazine captures a small amount of the ambition, talent and endeavour of our students. I hope you have enjoyed reading it.





Devonport
High School
For Boys

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