

Devonport High School For Boys Annual Magazine

*"No doubt the best annual magazine the
school will make this year!"*

2008



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copy



Issue 157

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Editorial



So then, what do we say? It's hard to write something here without repeating something someone else has said in a previous year. I guess we'll just have to wing it.

This year we have been bestowed the **extra-stress** honour of being the co-editors of the annual school magazine and we have stepped up to the challenge with a mild-mannered yawn and a smile. We didn't realise how difficult this was so we've had a brilliant team of degenerates to help us and support us by doing most of the writing work for us. All jokes aside, we are proud with what we have accomplished here, and we are even more proud to add

our names to the list of editors in the great archive of previous school magazines. Having brought this magazine to the attention of the school, we can only hope our successors continue working to bring this piece of school history back into the school where it belongs.

We were also bestowed another great honour: to be able to work so closely to the new headmaster, Mr Earley, within the first few months of his new position. It has been a great pleasure to be working on such a piece of school history as another chapter in it begins. We hope that this humble effort lives up to his expectations and will be as successful as his own entrance into this new environment.

**Co-Editors,
Tristan Stubbs
and Irfon Rickard**

Headteacher's Report

It is with tremendous pride that I sit in this office penning the Head's editorial for the school magazine. Dr Pettit and his predecessors made such a massive contribution to the lives of boys and their families **and** the school's place in the city's history that it is easy to feel a little daunted about taking up the baton!

For example, it felt like an act of heresy to alter the Headmaster's study layout at the beginning of term and yet we all work in different ways. When Dr Pettit arrived there would still have been a need to store the various documentation involved in running a school in the two cabinets in his study. Fifteen years later, most documentation is online and in virtual folders – the decision to remove a cabinet or two was an easy one.

Whilst sorting through various documents, however, I made an immediate decision to give pride of place in my remaining cabinet for the complete catalogue of

school magazines. At the same time, I found a useful metaphor to explain my perception of the transition from Headmaster 8 to 9. Like its buildings and school magazine, DHSB is grounded in historical values of quality and morality and a pride in this longevity of spirit and integrity. These remain.

The determination to remain flexible, in a rapidly changing world, in meeting the needs of learners across the city and beyond has been equally a feature of the school's history. My approach will not be a question of "out with the old, in with the new", rather embracing the new with reference to what has made this school great.

In September, the wife of an old boy, Leslie Paine (tragically killed in a plane crash in 1974), sent me some back issues of the magazine she had come across in the house. They chronicled the

period during WW2 when the school was moved to Penzance to escape the blitz. The spirit and character of the school remained intact despite the threat of bombs. We have new challenges to face and I am confident we can meet these head on. In addition to fine buildings and traditions, I have been fortunate to inherit a committed, gifted team of staff who approach life and work at DHSB with tremendous tenacity.

With the distinctive DHSB education in mind, and an eye to the future, the school vision has been updated and articulated; everything we do can be expressed within these five statements:

- 1: Helping families raise their sons*
- 2: Developing people – developing leaders*
- 3: Disciplined Innovation*
- 4: 21st Century Personalised Learning*
- 5: Creating opportunities (to “experience success”)*

Our investment in a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), being designed and populated as I write, will ensure even more contact for parents and students – old and new – in an exciting future.

Prorsum semper honeste.

Kieran Earley



The New Theatre

As those of you who purchased the last school newsletter will know, one of the final acts of old Headmaster Dr. Nic Pettit in his position as head of the school was to have a new theatre built, to replace the old proscenium theatre in E-Hall.

An ambitious project, the theatre was finished a few weeks ahead of schedule at the end of the summer. The main body of the Theatre is a 234-seat auditorium with the old under-stage Green Room/Stage becoming a 75-seat rehearsal studio. Equipped with state-of-the-art sound and lighting facilities, and a masterfully engineered wire gantry allowing our very capable technical staff to 'light-up' the performance, it is fully capable of supporting a professional production and indeed, it may well be loaned out to local theatre groups in the not too distant future. The 234 seats can even be collapsed back on themselves to allow room for examinations to take place.

Despite the large amount of technical support the theatre can give to a production, it is very easy to use and not overly complex. In the words of Mr. Norris, Head of Drama: "Fantastic."

"I am delighted that the school has been able to provide such an impressive facility to support the significant number of our pupils who are interested in performance, direction or backstage work." Dr. Nic Pettit.

Miles Osmaston

School Magazine History



The objective was clearly given to us, the 2008 school magazine team, write, edit and sell the 2008 annual school magazine. We, as a team wanted something new, vibrant and modern, however this magazine is annual and has been running as early as 1907- that's a tremendous amount of school history in thousands of A5 pages, but what did our school ancestors write about? I took the privilege to look back through several editions of the magazine in the school's archive and have picked out some of the more interesting things to share.

I'll start at the beginning, as that's the first logical step, 1907. This was the school's first magazine and I think they were still getting a feel as to what to put in it, overall the entire magazine was interesting, but I can't help but feel sorry for those who probably spent hours in front of a type writer- considering I am here, in front

of my computer knowing I can print autonomously thousands of pages at the touch of a button.

Anyway, the story that stood out for me was about a student in the 6th form, L.A. Lampard who navigated a paddle boat from Chelsea to Greenwich, nonetheless, why? I shall never know but what an achievement. Ten years on the 1918 magazine issue 28 had two articles which were interesting in their own ways. The first is about a R. Hill this pupil was rather naughty and skipped a lesson to buy some wire for a project; however he got caught in a downpour and caught a cold. The school sent him to Italy on a trip where a taxi driver tries to rob him (and succeeds more to

the point). It's a very amusing article written by R. Hill. On a more sinister matter however there is an article from the debating society explaining their debate on whether or not conscription is still needed? (Remember, this is post WW1). The article made me remember about those boys who fought in the wars and reminded of a recent assembly where Mr. Mitchell said:

"These boys sat in the same classrooms as you and did the same naughty thing as you do"

Magazine date 1928, issue number 48, included the statement:

"Plymouth holds the record for the least drunk town in Britain"

Along with another article from the debating society about issues such as;

"The house is of the opinion that modern life is conducive to mental unrest"

If only they knew what the future had in store.

In the 1938 magazine, issue number 72 I learned that the school bought its first ever camera and began its projecting career.. Not too dissimilar to some of the ancient artefacts our school still has collecting dust, no doubt. Also the annual play was 'Richard of Bordeaux' which was performed at the globe theatre by the drama society. In 1948, the boxing club was started and there was a cycling trip from Plymouth to France, more specifically, Paris- that's a lot of miles to cycle- I wonder which teacher would be up for that this year? Finally, the school was visited by Lady Astor to award the Astor Prize. In 1958 (issue 116) there was an article about a 'Science' trip to a Gin distillery, which seems like an unlikely trip nowadays, and there was also a dancing club that was very popular. In 1968, the school had a lot to say for itself, the school sports day had 15 records smashed, there were several

school trips one of which was to Norway, the science club had become the most popular club in the school and there was a very successful drama production of 'Androcles and the Lion'. The 1978 magazine included an article about the School Council's first birthday on which the first ever school mufti day was organised. This year was also the one in which Drake won the St. Levan's shield for the sixth year in the row. Just as importantly, this year was the first for the Wine Making and tasting society- a society that both myself and Miles Osmaston are very keen to reignite in the sixth form.

1988 was an important academic school year as it was the first the new, two year GCSE course was completed. The school drama society produced 'The Tempest', a Shakespeare classic, and also the school's students began a school bank called 'Midland'- unfortunately now no longer

running, however maybe a good thing with the 'credit crunch'.

The last but not least school magazine I read was for 1997 and was issue number 150. In this copy, stories included one about an old boy, Richard Whitehouse, who returned from the U.S.A. to visit and to also play professional Basketball for the local team, Plymco Plymouth Raiders (as it was known then). There was also a trip to Morocco. That article contains brilliant stories of bartering, rock climbing and a trip to the Sahara desert. Finally there was a piece about two boys of the school Barry Johnst and John Northcot who made the international water polo team and who had been selected to play against

the Chinese team in China.

I guess now I should mention the last 2007 magazine, more personal to me as that is the year I will remember most, the magazine contains articles such as 'the theatre must go on' and 'Girls in DHS for boys! A girl's perspective' but I think the most important article was Dr Pettit's final year interview. He had been at the school for 15 years and had a lot to say, the most important statement I found was;

" Be proud that this is a selective school and that it is a meritocracy."

I think that this sums up the heart of our school, being proud of Devonport High is definitely something that has always been with the staff, students and old boys alike. Throughout the years from 1907, through two world wars, and until 2008, the school magazine has been there to document key occasions and all that the school has been

involved with; likewise it will still be here for generations to come.

Jamie McCoy.

Sports Round



Sport at Devonport High School for Boys is extremely important, with football being at the top of the list for many, and to my great joy I can share with you the news that the Sixth Form first team are undefeated in the league this year! Just a week before this article was written, the team racked up a, somewhat convincing, 7-2 win over the Marines. As a result of their fine play this season, they have earned the much coveted 'Larry Speares Team of the Month Award' for October.

Also in the sports news for this annual magazine is the appointment of Miss Riggs, the new school sports co-ordinator, who has introduced a variety of new sports such as 'street surfing' and a new 'break dancing' club, held in Foulston on a Wednesday lunch time. Also on the subject of new staff, Mr Hoare is in place as

basketball coach of the year 11 and Sixth Form team. Mr Hoare worked at the school last year as part of his training, he is considered by the PE staff as an "expert" on basketball, and the players agree, he is the ideal candidate to coach the teams to success in the schools league this year.

Also up and coming in the school calendar for sport is the Plymouth schools panathalon, of which DHSB are the defending champions. The panathalon is a multi school and sport event, providing competition in a variety of sports; from five a side football to chess. The panathalon provides opportunities for competitors across the year groups, where

Any Dream Will Do

success can be found around every corner.

Jeremy Warren



Following in the footsteps of Andrew Lloyd Webber, this year's dramatic

production will be an amateur version of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. With a predominantly male cast, this bright, vibrant play was the perfect choice with which to test the new theatre- females in the cast being made up by girls from the Sixth Form, DHSG and PHSG.

Having seen the actors in practice first hand, this reporter can confirm that Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat should be a real spectacle; starring our very own Mr. Maitland and Mr. Norris. The lead role of Joseph himself is ably handled by Jack Sterne.

The production will be shown in the new theatre on the nights of the 11th, 12th and 13th of February. The perfect valentine's gift? The show will be in high demand so make sure you book your tickets early.

More information will be forthcoming throughout the year.



Ben Anderson

Engineering Diploma



Another new arrival to the school this year is the Diploma in Engineering, a new qualification equivalent to GCSEs and A-levels. Devonport High School for Boys' Technology Department, lead by Mr. G. Heap, is proud to be the first department in the country introducing the Diploma.

The Diploma is split into three levels, imaginatively named levels 'one', 'two' and 'three'.

This year only Levels 2 and 3 are being brought in, as Level 1 was seen as being too simple, and not suitable for the school.

Level 2 will be taken by years 10 and 11 in place of GCSEs. The course is taken over a normal school year, with six hours a week work in addition to private study. The boys will study electronics, design, manufacture and CAD CAM- using computers in the

designing and manufacturing phases of production.

The curriculum is based to reflect the engineering industry, and as such the boys will have to do ten days work experience in an engineering firm- BAE and the Dockyard looking to be popular local choices. Local industries are aware and very encouraging of the new Diploma.

The boys must also complete their own private project- this is very open, and can be a study of some facet of engineering, or the manufacture of an item, with wide possibilities available.

The course is aimed to prepare students for an engineering job, but unlike some other

courses available and despite the large amount of practical work involved, the course *is* academic- “Not like the old vocational courses, it contains the academic rigour suitable for boys at this school,” said Mr. Heap when questioned.

The Level 3 course is available as an option to students going into sixth form, and is equivalent to three and a half A-Levels. Students will take part

in the Diploma Consortium, allowing them access to facilities at other secondary schools in the city.

Miles Osmaston



Battlefields Trip 2008

In the summer of 2008, a group of year 9 students accompanied by six year 11s and four members of the humanities department visited some infamous sites of WWI in Belgium.

Lasting two days, the students visited the battlefield of Paschendale, where one of the decisive battles of the war was fought; the site of the First Battle of Ypres, where chlorine gas was first used in a large scale attack; and the town of Ypres itself, where a wreath was laid at the Menin Gate in memory of those members of the school who had laid down their lives in the Great War.

The two-day trip concluded with a visit to **Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing**, the largest war graves cemetery in the world, which invoked many emotional responses from all present.

Miles Osmaston
(Photographs by **Thomas Hawker and David Riggs**)



F1 Championship



As you may be aware, this year, Team Pulse, made up of four boys from our school, beat off over 7 million pupils to win the "F1 in schools" competition in Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia.

The team made up John Ware, Samuel Wood, Andrew Lees and Thomas Simpson had to use CAD/ CAM software to design, analyse, manufacture, test and race a miniature dragster manufactured from balsa wood and powered by CO₂.

The team fought off competition from 24 teams from 15 countries to claim the coveted Bernie Ecclestone World Championship Trophy and win BEng Automotive and Motor

Sport Engineering scholarships at City University London. They also won "The Ashes" having beaten Australia in the knock- out racing the day before on top of the "Fastest Car Award" with a time of 1.064 seconds, which means that on the 20m straight they averaged 220mph!

The judges said Pulse scored highly with their impressive portfolio and clinical presentation as well as winning the knock- out challenge the day before clinched them the highest points total and scoop the overall prize.

"We are still in shock," said the team's graphic designer Thomas Simpson, "It took two years to develop the car so I'm really pleased that all those hours of work paid off. To have won the fastest car award is just icing on the cake."

In the week that followed the boys were given a VIP tour of the House of Commons, met HRH Prince Andrew in St. James's Palace at a UK Trade and

Investment event, and visited the British Grand Prix with a tour of the BMW F1 Team garage.

Speaking of their memorable week, Team manager John Ware commented, “We’ve had a great time over the last few days. Its been non-stop for us, but we’ve loved every minute of it. We’re very privileged to have met so many famous people, including royalty, visiting a palace in London, and then a different sort at Silverstone – the BMW garage was definitely a motor racing palace! We were treated like royalty there as well, so it was excellent. We’re also going to visit another award-winning venue, which is the McLaren Technology Centre. We’ve been invited to go there next Thursday and we’re really looking forward to that, especially to see the engineering department – and hopefully to see Lewis’s race winning car!”

In order to finance their trip to the final, “Team Pulse” had to raise £11500 and would like to thank all their generous sponsors, in particular their main sponsors; Walter C Parsons, Rittal CSM and Babcock Marine for their continued support throughout the project.

Of course it doesn’t stop there; the boys have been invited to give speeches to the next set of British hopefuls in the competition as the team have decided not to pursue a second title and have also been invited to Dubai next year.

Ben Anderson.

English Story; 'Walker'

He flicked through the TV channels once more, death and carnage equally spread out by smiling adverts, macabre, he thought. He'd realised over the last few months that the more he stared around the room, the more he enjoyed its subtleties, which would be expected he presumed, considering he would not be there for much longer. The other day he had watched some British comedians sketch about a war-lord's diary 'Death, death, death...then lunch', and had suddenly felt immensely guilty again. This mood often plagued him and played tricks with his conscience, triggering depression and nausea, ironically causing him to make even worse decisions than he would've normally.

It wasn't really his fault, he wasn't really that stupid and the phrase 'Best Intentions' could not be better suited to a human being. Every time he tried to make amendments, the guys would shoot him down, claiming apology to be a sign of

weakness. They'd even started telling him when to go to bed recently, 'for his spirits'. The audacity. Admittedly he wasn't looking his best; his face had become bloated then sallow, giving him a waning, grey look. His eyes, although still containing warmth, had become faded and tired. Overall, he was looking forwards to his final rest, his legacy left to speak for itself.

He remembered the day it all changed, everything sort of became real. After that it wasn't fun anymore, the perks and privileges turned bitter-sweet, everyone seemed to turn against him. He was in school at the time, then they told him, it shocked him so badly he really, really couldn't comprehend it, it wasn't stupidity or ignorance or even inability to accept reality. He just wanted to revert back to being a child and just cry so hard, scream and bawl and deny everything. He couldn't of course, quite the opposite, he was flung straight into it, what was he going to do? Who was really responsible? Why wasn't he

a better person? He could remain oblivious to most of the attacks, some of them though really did make him question himself. They caused him to start doubting even his own beliefs. Eventually he settled into the groove of trusting the guys with the big decisions, he would just show up here and there, eventually becoming a shadow of what he was meant to be.

He thought it might change then when he came back. It didn't though. The wallpaper in the room had been re-done he noticed, but nothing else really. He'd returned even more paranoid and self-doubting, his confidence at an all time low but with the pressure at it's paramount. All he ever really wanted was to help, he'd just been misdirected so many times. He'd never even really wanted to return, it seemed like a pleasant idea but he relished the prospect of settling down permanently. He knew he would

soon, but it was with a poignant mood he'd come to an end.

It was now a month before his departure. Things were getting worse. He thought he'd be able to coast through his last few months, leave everything to them, as usual. Not now though, they were using him as a scapegoat. They could see he was weak and eager to get out, so when it all went wrong, he was suddenly responsible again. They bombarded him with questions, Gestapo-style, everything was his fault again, it was like a repeat of seven years ago but no one knew what to do. How do you fix something you're supposed to control?

They'd called an emergency meeting, a

summit debate they called it, basically they wanted to know what to do, and finally they were looking back up to him. He was in charge now, the big dog and it was time to save everything.

It was right then that he remembered the intense scrutiny, the rudeness, the pleas for his leaving, even talks of necessary assassination. What did he owe these people, they were never there when he had suffered, they never thought that their relentless hatred might affect him, why should he do anything for them. They'd talked non-stop about this new boy, praised him and were just itching for him to take the reins, even the guys talked about him behind his back. Well what did he owe these doubters, these be-suited Brutus characters?

Everything was the answer, if not them, then the people they represented, the people that relied on him there. He was not going to be the man who

messed everything up, not this close to the end.

“Mr. President?”

“Well, basically guys here’s what we gotta do...”

George Trevor-Harris 11E

Poetry Corner

'I Wish I Would' Anon

I would stop the sun from
moving across the sky,

Just to spend more time with her

I would dull the stars,

Just so her eyes would be the
brightest jewels in the Universe

I would stop the birds from
singing,

Just to let the entire world hear
the angelic voice that flows

from her soft lips
I would change the laws of
reality,

Just so that I could be with her

But I am not that gifted, I wish I
was.

'Thine Eyes' Anon (Yr12)

From all and outward
circumstance;
Your soul doth nothing
hide.
Dark ebony on Ivory,
Purity from inside.
Until one peers upon
thine eyes;
And lose oneself within,
Thou ne'er hath lost all
fleeting time,
For it hath ne'er begin.
So gaze upon such
excellence,
That strength of darkest
brown;
Look far within those
textured depths,
Thine spir't they surely
crown.
They gild the lily so that
Form something more
profound.
Your beauty is such as
one in heaven,
Though your feet, they
grace the ground.

'Sonnet 13' Anon

Were that my life was easy
forever
But fate shall not give me that
gift, never.
For I am not master of my true
heart
My mind and love will always
be apart.
There is none quite like her, in
world so fair,
Her dearest eyes, her face and
flowing hair.
Though she is mad with song
and dance on screen,
I care not for that, only for my
queen.
I have not the nerve to tell her
though,
For within my mind lurks my
own dark foe.
I have not the courage of any
man,
I have such fear, that a chasm
could span
My fear, thus, will be my
eternal pain
I will care for her, how I loathe
my brain.

Interview with the New Headteacher

What motivated you to apply for the headship at DHSB?

I think if you can't be motivated to come and lead a school of this calibre then you can't be motivated. What a great school, one of the best schools in the country. But a bit more than that really, the school has a sense of direction and values and a philosophy that sit very nicely with my own. I was always determined that when I applied to be a headteacher then it would be to go to a school that I felt I could contribute to and certainly DHSB is that school.

What are your visions for the school, both short term and long term?

Well firstly the school, as it is now, will continue to be renowned locally, nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence for boys' education across the board. In many ways, my challenge is to sustain what is already in place because we already are renowned and I want to see that continue. I want to see our reputation enhanced, in

particular to become a more globally-recognised brand of what education could be and should be. The key I think, to the success of the school is academic excellence, producing well-rounded leaders of the future. DHSB students will be leaders in every field of work, and they will have the badge of DHSB behind them. They'll have the core competencies, the skills, the abilities, the vision, the imagination and the confidence to take those skills across the world and that's what I want every boy who leaves here to have the confidence to do. One thing I won't do is say "right, this week we're doing this", I'm a very consultative leader and that consultation will work through my leadership group, the staff, the parents, the governors and the student council.

Everyone has a voice, not everybody gets their way but everyone has a voice.

What do you believe your strengths to be?

It's very difficult to answer this question without sounding immodest. I genuinely don't like talking about myself, I like talking about other people. I like listening to other people contribute so it's very difficult for me to talk about strengths. If you're going to push me, I would say that I'm patient, tolerant, tenacious and I like people. I'm very determined as well and that's not to be underestimated, it's a very important characteristic.

How hard will it be to follow up from Dr. Pettit's legacy here?

Clearly that's a huge challenge. In 15 years he's made the school his own, he's run it extremely carefully but with imagination too. The projects he's put in place, the things he's left behind him are just extraordinary and of course the boys'

achievements as well. Boys come here and they do well and that's down to his leadership and the commitment of staff. The staff are very loyal to him and to the way he's led as well so it's a huge, huge challenge. I don't like talking about stepping into someone's shoes because it's a question doing things your own way. I'm not going to be here and be like Dr Pettit. His values and my values are very similar and we think the same things are important but I will do things very differently and I think he accepts that too. I'm a different person; different passions, different energies and I'm going to bring that to my work. I'm confident I can do that; it will take some time but things will be a bit different around here from September because I'm not Dr Pettit.

Extracted from an interview conducted by the school council last year.

www.dhsbcouncil.co.uk



