

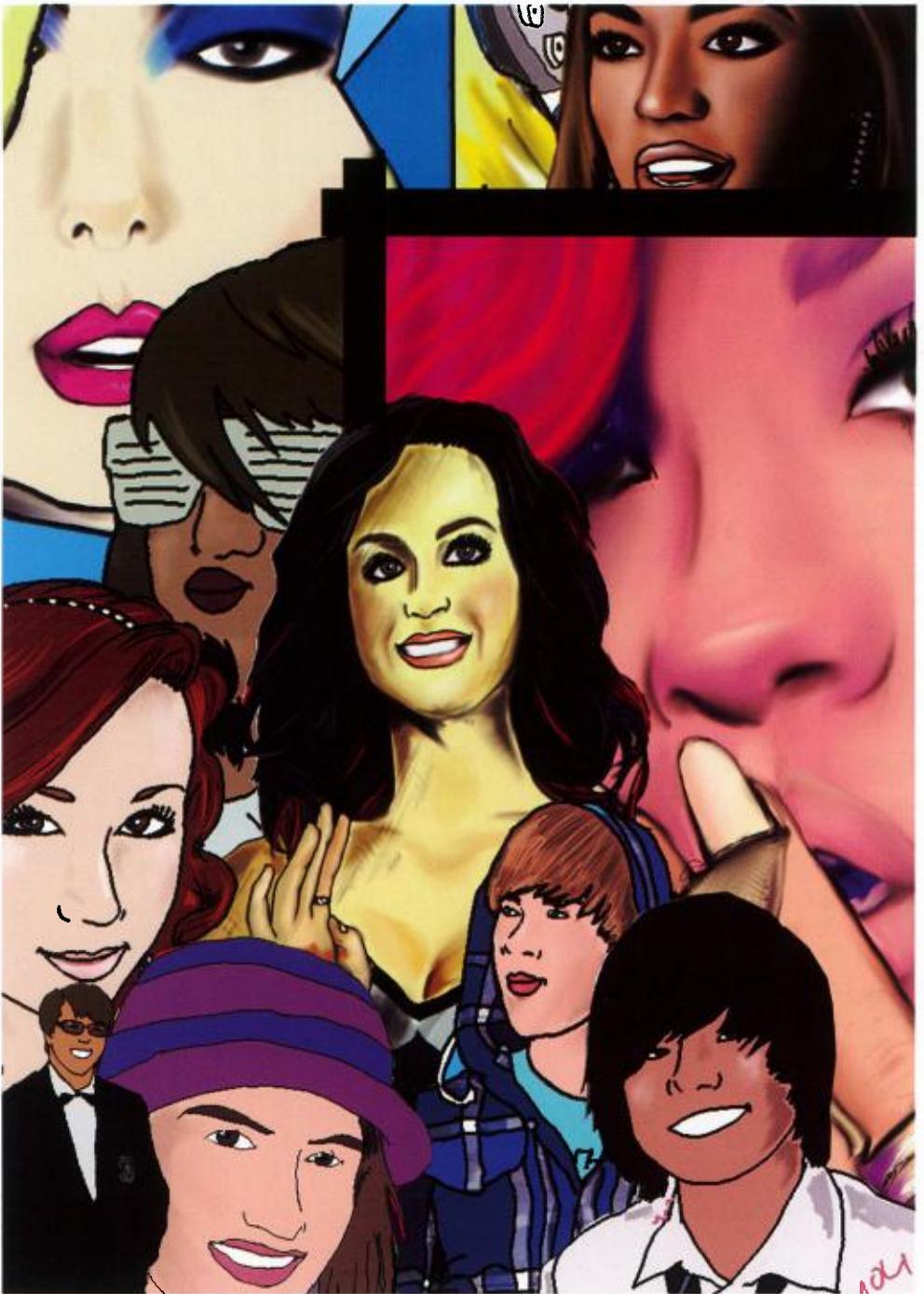
DHSB



MAGAZINE

2010

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Here, George Gibson shows his artistic impressions using digital illustration of students and celebrities. Can you recognise any famous faces?

Welcome to the Devonport High School for Boys annual magazine 2010!

Now in our 106th year, we have been able to witness a fascinating evolution since the first publication of 1904. Not only has our school progressed physically, but our community as well, a central theme for this edition. This year we have focused on the achievements of the pupils as well as the recent and future developments that have and will continue to allow DHSB to flourish.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the supreme quality of material produced by our outstanding team of writers, designers and administrators; namely Petroc Taylor, Gareth Farmer, Philip Willis, Sophie Buller, George Gibson, James Park and Tom Kendall. We would like to say thank you to all of them and emphasise the dedication, effort and time these sixth formers have put into this year's edition, without which we would not have a magazine of such high standard and quality.

As editors, we aimed to produce a publication which realistically reflected the potential of our students and the richly diverse community that they have grown for themselves and we feel that we have created a piece of history that will help Devonport High School for Boys to be remembered as a community of such high esteem.

We hope you enjoy!

Jon and Marcus.





We are living through the most interesting times for educational policy making that I can remember in my 17 year career. I joined the profession just after the national curriculum was introduced and the process of making teaching more accountable, and ultimately target driven, was just beginning. Much of what followed enhanced the credibility of the profession and certainly the funding followed, with substantial annual increases in the educational budget. Other aspects of this programme were rather stultifying, with record levels of educational legislation and crippling bureaucracy.

You won't need me to tell you this has all changed and that we are now facing straitened times, both at home and at work. The Coalition Government has set about an ambitious programme for reducing the national debt and we are all feeling it and looking at the world through a different lens.

I feel there are opportunities within these challenges. The centralised, target-driven, initiative spiralling machinery of the last Government has been rightly trimmed and finally we're being told Governors and school

are in the best position to decide what's right for their schools. DHSB has always been a fund of innovation and resourcefulness, so nothing will change too much there. Our consideration of converting to a "Type 2" academy, (as distinct from the traditional Labour Academies that closed under-performing schools), could leave us with the autonomy to decide how to spend more of the money to which our students are entitled and could soften the blow of the cancellation of High Performing Specialist School funding.

"Creativity" will be the theme of my Speech Day address and this is appropriate on many levels as we come together to consider the future and celebrate our students' achievements. Creativity can be viewed quite narrowly if it is applied to purely aesthetic principles. We can all be creative with the materials and experiences we possess and we benefit from as broad and varied a palette as possible. DHSB's commitment to engaging learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom, provides the rich fund of experience from which our students and staff draw in their ambitious plans for the future.

Other projects that will catch your eye this year are the fundraising campaign we have launched to bring our sports facilities into the 21st Century, a new classroom next to Jervis working in alliance with the ATC and a new Food Technology building next to Gibbons Refectory.

It is too early to speculate precisely how DHSB will look and sound on emerging from this new landscape but it will always be Devonport High School for Boys! As I've said to staff, I am supremely confident in our ability to move forward together with the interests of the boys, and our vision for the school, as a driver for everything.

- 1: Helping families raise their sons
- 2: Developing leaders
- 3: Disciplined Innovation
- 4: Personalised Learning
- 5: Creating opportunities

Keep in touch with progress at www.dhsb.org and the Head's Blog. I hope you enjoy this magazine's splendid examples of creativity and I wish you all a lovely Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Prorsum semper honeste

Kieran Earley

As a student of both French and Politics, the Euroscola programme sounded like my ideal school trip when I was first told about it last December. The visit takes in Euroscola day at the European Parliament building in Strasbourg, where around 500 young people from most EU member states convene to learn about the work of the organisation and debate the contemporary issues of European politics. A day's tour of the beautiful city of Strasbourg is also included in the trip, which is run by Devonport High School for Girls in association with partner schools from across the city. Immediately deciding I wanted to participate, I was asked to give a short presentation in French on a relevant topic of my choice. Thankfully, the judging panel was sufficiently impressed by my talk on the implications of the Lisbon Treaty to offer me a place on the trip, where I would be accompanied by fellow Devonport students Tom Collier, Mary Springett, Ben Anderson and Jon Woodside, as well as twenty other Devon and Cornwall based students.



A Spring morning in Strasbourg

We arrived in a snow-dusted Strasbourg on the evening of 11th March, at the culmination of a tiring day's travel via coach, plane and high-speed train. After rising early the next morning we proceeded by coach to the impressive Louise Weiss building, home to the Strasbourg-based seat of the European Parliament, where we were greeted by a breakfast spread of hot chocolate and fresh croissants. The morning session took place in the main 'hémicycle' where the parliament conducts most of its business, with each country's representatives introducing themselves prior to a general question and answer session with parliament officials. Lunchtime came and went with our participation in the 'Eurogame', a multilingual quiz on all things European, before we were whisked off to take part in one of six independent committee discussions. I was fortunate enough to be elected to chair the working group on the future of Europe, where I was able to stimulate a discussion on how young people can bring the work of the EU closer to their ideals. An interesting conversation swung from the merits of federalism to the potential legalisation of marijuana, with each nation's representatives encouraged to contribute their proposals. At the end of the day each group's reporter reported back to the hemicycle on their collective findings, before their respective chairpersons were invited to take questions from the floor.

Personally, I felt that I benefited enormously from the opportunity to take part in this programme. Euroscola day allowed me to hone my linguistic and communication skills and gain a broader understanding of the views of our continental contemporaries. We were also given a unique insight into the workings of a key international seat of democracy, whilst being given the opportunity to experience for ourselves the flavour of the debate which shapes our everyday lives to a significant extent. Most of all, the visit reinforced my belief that, despite the insular tendencies of a prominent section of the British press, supranational communication is as important as ever in determining the future of such a diverse continent.

Jon Allsop



Jon immediately seized the unique opportunity.

Chinese Visit

In early October, DHSB welcomed visiting staff from our Chinese partner Zhejiang Sci-Tech Engineering School. Aiming to allow students the opportunity to develop business and social awareness skills, we have introduced the new Social Enterprise Qualification by The Real Ideas Organisation (RIO).

The guests assisted with Mandarin lessons as well as providing a fascinating perspective and insight into their culture and daily lives in China. The highlight of the visit, however, was a live video conference between both our boys and the Chinese students, which allowed them a unique opportunity to practise their language skills and business techniques such as market research and different methods of production. After their week long visit, our Chinese guests were presented with a variety of gifts produced by the students, whilst Plymouth Argyle generously provided football shirts for the Chinese fans.

Nichole Sanders, Head of Economics and Business Studies, said: "It has been a great honour to welcome our Chinese colleagues to Plymouth and to Devonport High School for Boys. We have been able to lay the foundations of a partnership that will provide our students with a unique opportunity over the years to come."

Jon Hall



Mr Earley and Mr Shen creating a unique partnership accelerating DHSB's commitment to closer working relationships with China.



Miss Pan assists the students.

Between October 9th and October 15th 2010, 17 students aged 15 and 16 from Lycée Notre Dame stayed with their DHSB exchange partners.

During their stay in Plymouth, the French students experienced normal lessons as they shadowed their partners at DHSB. Many of them were surprised at how short a school day in England is compared to France, which is eight hours long.

They were taken without their English correspondents to Morwellham Quay, a preserved Victorian river port in the Tamar Valley. Here they dressed up as 19th century people as they learned about Victorian life, and took a trip into the ancient mines. After enjoying a tour of Plymouth's waterfront and going ice-skating, many were taken to Tavistock's 'Goosey Fair' in the evening, and enjoyed the buzzing atmosphere and the exhilarating rides, as well as using up most of their money!

On the penultimate day, the whole exchange group enjoyed a day out at the Eden Project, and explored the world's two largest greenhouses bustling with tropical, subtropical and Mediterranean plants. In the evening, Devonport Rugby Club hosted a get together to celebrate the final night of the England visit.



As part of the exchange, the French students shadowed their partners during lessons and were taken on a shopping excursion in Plymouth's city centre. There they were able to purchase souvenirs and take advantage of Primark before returning home.

Overall, the visit was very successful, with positive feedback from both DHSB and Notre Dame pupils. H el ene Lariven, one of the French students, said "We really appreciated the effort the families made to allow us into their homes, and it was interesting to see how different the English school system is to our system."

Romain H erisson, another French student, described the school as "A very rich community with a friendly ambience".

We now look forward to the return visit to France in March, and hopefully another future reunion.

James Park

This year, DHSB has played host to two students from Germany, Adrian Böker and Jeremy Heeck. After coming here to learn English and to experience the British culture, they are currently spending three and a half months living as English students, between 6th September and 18th December.

After taking advantage of the opportunities given to them by their schools, they took part in the exchange scheme, where they were able to travel to another country and experience a different education system. They soon became fond of Plymouth, as they attended Plymouth Argyle matches and have become familiar with the DHSB students, who have had the perfect opportunity to practice their German! One feature of Plymouth which impressed them was the waterfront, with its spectacular views over Plymouth Sound and rich historical significance. Their highlight of the stay was a trip to London, where they rode on the London Eye, as well as visiting the other sights and attractions in the capital that it is so well known for.

They have both thoroughly enjoyed their stay in England, and said that they'll really miss the friends that they have made, as well as the different culture and community that has been enriching and welcoming. One thing they won't miss, however, is the uniform!

James Park



During their stay, the students visited the capital.



It seems like yesterday for us that it was our first day of the school year. Now, over a term later, the Year Sevens' first day finally has a chance to be published.

On 3rd of September we enjoyed our first day at secondary school. We all found Devonport High School for Boys very different to how we imagined, with imposing architecture and a far greater number of pupils than what we were used to, but throughout the first term we have all settled in and are enjoying our new school career.

The DHSB staff have made a huge effort to help us feel welcome and all their hard work has had a very positive effect on all of us. Their sensitive attitude has meant that the lessons are very enjoyable and we would like to thank all of them for their dedication and effort. Thanks to everyone's support, we are all getting into the swing of secondary school and are learning lots of new things. We cannot wait for the opportunities that the next five years at DHSB have to offer us!



The students performing at their Year Seven Concert in early November.

The Future for DHSB?

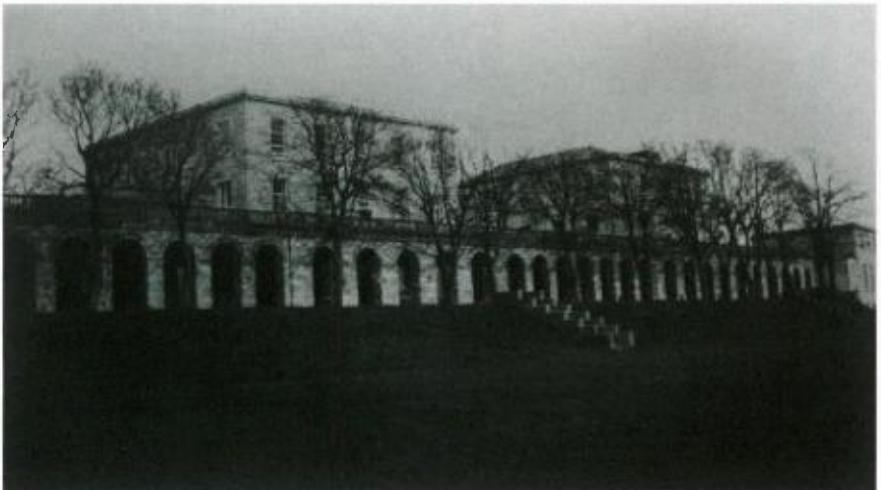
Signalling the biggest change in England's school structure since the 1960s, the presence of academies since 2000 is expected to become a regular aspect in local communities across the country, as the majority of both primary and secondary schools are expected to make the change in the near future. What benefits or disadvantages, however, would a change to academy status mean for Devonport High School for Boys?

Academies generally have more freedom from local authority control, with greater independence over what they teach their students, which could mean a possible reform in the curriculum and nationally compulsory subjects being reviewed as to whether they are necessary for particular schools. The school term dates and the daily hours are also under academies' control, meaning a more efficient schedule for each school to adapt for themselves.

A bill introduced in May 2010 that allows the removal of local authority power to veto any schools' application to become an academy demonstrates one of the most important aspects of the scheme; having more control over their own budgets. This would mean schools have the possibility of retaining more money as they receive payments directly from Whitehall and do not have to pay the unnecessary costs of receiving budgets via the local authority.

As academy status becomes an increasingly popular evolution for many secondary schools across the country, should DHSB consider the possible revolutionary benefits that, especially in these difficult economic times we live in, could allow the school to flourish further?

Jon Hall



Jon Allsop, however, shows us another perspective on the prospect of becoming an academy.

The suggestions made by education secretary Michael Gove do indeed entail radical reform, although we should be concerned by the likely effects of his proposals on state education in this country.

Gove's plans represent a gross perversion of the original intention of the academy programme, namely to drive up standards in failing schools often located in deprived communities. In making academy status the preserve of already outstanding institutions, Gove risks creating a two-tier education system in which the best get better at the expense of those most in need of support. It doesn't seem fair that an outstanding school in an affluent area should detract both funding and focus from a struggling inner-city comprehensive, with the misguided scrapping of the Building Schools for the Future programme a case in point.

The government argues that the freedoms accrued to academies help encourage competition between schools, a goal also targeted by their provisions for the creation of privately sponsored free schools. Far from improving results as claimed, however, such competition can have a destructive impact, creating an undesirable market in education which hinders equality and renders state schools unaccountable to ratepayers and inaccessible to their elected councillors. Education reforms in Sweden are often cited as the model for Gove's plans, although Swedish statistics show fairly comprehensively that standards have (at best) flat-lined since the liberation of education from state control.

Far from having the best interests of our children at heart, it would seem that the coalition's education policy is one firmly rooted in their ideological comfort zone, seeking to shrink the state with a radical new form of privatisation. Gove's ideas are ignorant of fairness, equality and accountability; values which deserve to be at the core of any progressive education programme.

Jon Allsop

Exam Results

It was another excellent year for exam results at DHSB, with many pupils achieving the highest grades across all their subjects. Four pupils (Will Ames, Tom O'Neill, Chris McMurrin and Simon Teasdale) all achieved their A Level offers to secure Oxbridge places. Will and Chris, who are both studying Medicine at Cambridge, will also be joined by Tom, who is reading Natural Sciences. Simon, who had taken a gap year, will now read Law at New College, Oxford. At GCSE, there were strong performances from Jon Evans, Jack West, Filip Gawecki and Ryan West who all achieved at least eight A* grades. We would like to praise all of the students' success which they have well deserved through their dedication, perseverance and effort. Congratulations!

Philip Willis

House of Commons

DHSB sixth former Marcus Natale is one of two members of the UK Youth Parliament representing the Plymouth constituency, after being democratically elected into office by the young people of the city.

As a member of the UKYP, Marcus is able to voice the opinions and views that concern the youth of today. He is particularly interested in making sure that young people are treated fairly and in raising awareness of their achievements, particularly in light of the bad press that they often receive.

On 29th of October Marcus, along with over three hundred members of the UKYP from around the country, was lucky enough to travel to London to take part in a debate in the House of Commons. The debate focussed on issues that are relevant to the youth of today, such as university fees, war and transport. It was only the second time in history that anyone other than members of Parliament have sat and debated in the House of Commons Chamber, after the first debate took place in 2009.

After the success of the 2009 debate, it was decided by MPs that members of the Youth Parliament could debate in the House of Commons annually. Marcus thoroughly enjoyed this once in a lifetime experience and said that, "this representation inside the power-house of British democracy breaks the negative stereotype that young people of today have been unfairly marked with. Being a member of Youth Parliament and being able to speak in the House of Commons has really boosted my confidence, whilst giving me a greater insight into the issues that young people of today face."

Sophie Buller



The debate led to many greetings with influential figures from across London.



The debate was shown on BBC Parliament, with our own local UKYP member sat in the centre of the back row.

Alex Hansford, of Year 12, was recently crowned the best close-up card magician in the UK by the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) at their annual convention in Eastbourne.



Alex with Mr Earley

After receiving this incredible title, we are all wondering what first got you interested in magic?

Well, I was at a New Years Eve party when I was about eleven and a family friend showed me a simple card trick which I then went around the party performing to everyone. I was really amazed at their reactions to something I had learnt such a short time ago and from then on I was hooked.

After that, how did you continue to develop your interest in magic?

A friend gave me some of his magic books as well as buying a few and started teaching myself from there. It took a lot of time and effort but from what I've got out of it, the whole experience has been completely worth it.

The Annual IBM Convention is a very prestigious event for practising magicians, was it what you expected it to be?

I was invited to the annual IBM Convention in Eastbourne to compete for the Rovi Trophy and the Zina Bennett Close-up Cup. I was the youngest magician there by eight years so the competition was quite tough. I ended up winning the Rovi Trophy which is awarded for the most skillful card manipulation as well as the Zina Bennett Cup, making me the best close-up and card magician in the UK. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyable despite how challenging it was.

Philip Willis

Jack Ayland of Year 12 has been awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. The scholarship is bestowed upon A Level pupils who excel in Engineering and other allied subjects such as Maths. Jack successfully completed the rigorous selection process over the summer, which involved a two-hour exam based on product design and eventually an interview. Jack, who aspires to be an Automotive Engineer, will spend the £1000 award on machine parts to help improve his A Level DT product. He said "I was thrilled to receive such an important scholarship and it will be of great help for my A Level studies and hopefully my future career."

Philip Willis



Jack, front right, travelled to London in October for the formal presentation of his prestigious achievement.

Are There Any Places Left In Higher Education?

In an uncertain economic climate, it is understandable that this year there were over 674,000 university applications submitted to the Admissions Service, UCAS. By autumn, only 57 per cent of these applicants had been accepted by a university.

Surely it's enough to expect families to fund the ever-increasing costs for higher education, without having to worry about the number of places available? With employers requesting, now more than ever, better and more qualifications, it's no wonder that only 45 per cent of young people hope to achieve their dream job: but the fact that so many are applying to university with the same qualifications means there is a huge amount of competition facing the nation's young people.

One might think the increase in competition for university means only the country's brightest and best are being accepted; however, even with three A*s at A level there are no guarantees that there will be a place at university waiting for you. With more applicants every year, more attention is being paid to personal statements, school recommendations and overall school performance.

Before the Budget cuts, the Labour Party had plans for an extra 20,000 places. This would have alleviated the total surplus of applicants by some ten per cent. After coalition cuts, however, the figure was reduced to a mere 10,000. In 2009, there were 482,000 places available to students, but recently the number of applicants has been capped at 443,000. With universities receiving fines if they oversubscribe students as well, the future is left very uncertain for many young people.

Some students whose universities have been oversubscribed find themselves being offered the choice to defer for a year. This decision comes with a guarantee that a place will be available for them in the next academic year, and with the benefit of monetary incentives, in some cases amounting to £8,000: but the question is what happens to the 186,000 students who are left without a place? Some students are content to go straight into employment or apprenticeships and that is all well and good, but what



Top universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, are becoming increasingly restricted for many students.

about those who decide to reapply in the next academic year? That increases the overall number of applicants for the following year. This has a knock-on effect that not only is competition increasing, but numbers of unsuccessful applicants rolling over year after year are also on the rise. This will lead to huge numbers of young people without degrees or jobs, and very uncertain about their futures.

Marcus Natale



"I don't agree with the marketisation of higher education - the top universities should be accessible for all"

"I'm not too worried about the fee changes, at least there will be a generous bursary system available to students like me"



"Students should have to contribute but £9000 seems excessive."

"I'm far more worried about getting a place at all!"

"Higher education is getting rediculously competitive, I feel like i'm jumping through hoops to get a place!"



Until the construction of the Hansom Sports Hall, the school had never invested heavily in its sporting infrastructure. A visitor to the school may observe the expanse of green fields and playgrounds and question the need for improvement however, with water logged pitches through most of the year and playgrounds wearing so thin that the markings are barely distinguishable, it's clear that for many years little attention has been paid to the exterior facilities.

When Kieran Earley took over as Headteacher in 2008 he had a vision to provide state-of-the-art sporting facilities to give students the best possible opportunities to fulfil their potential. Hence the launch of the DHSB 'Sport for All' fundraising campaign, which aims to completely transform the school's sporting facilities.

The biggest change will be the construction of a full sized, all-weather astro-turf.

Other developments will include tennis and basketball courts, a fully equipped and refurbished gym and changing facilities, and a new cricket wicket on the field adjacent to Edgumbe Avenue.



The Headteacher's Blog, (read at www.dhsb.org), regularly highlights the school's sporting achievements, but we have always performed extremely well despite (rather than because of) our existing facilities. This latest initiative will enable all students to fulfil their sporting potential and ambitions, and to balance their academic life in a recreational and competitive team environment.

A campaign office has been established on site, and a series of events are being planned to inform parents, old boys and friends about the project and how to get involved. Details will be sent out soon.

Stop Press

The DHSB Old Boy's Association are arranging a get together at the School on the evening of Tuesday 1st February 2011 comprising a presentation, tour of the School and refreshments. As well as meeting old friends and hearing about 'Sport for All' it will also be a chance to see other recent projects including the Sports Hall, Theatre and Library.

If you wish to attend on 1st February, or require further information, please contact the Campaign Manager, Robin Jéquier on 01752 206169 or email him at campaign@dhsb.org.



'These plans are essential to the education and well-being of our students'

Kieran Earley, Headteacher



In August this year, Ed Ames, of Year 12, received the opportunity of a lifetime when he passed an interview to join fifteen other young explorers on a five week trek through the Peruvian Amazon. Although known for its hazardous terrain and vast variety of deadly wildlife, Ed saw the expedition as "a unique experience to witness the wonders of the natural world."

The five week trip consisted of dense jungle trekking which pushed their physical and navigational skills to the extreme and village community assistance to help create a sustained and improved society for the natives.



Ed comes literally "face to face" with wild caiman!



The team battled through rough terrain for five weeks.

The group also aided in science surveying; recording species and samples in the hope of protecting future conservation efforts. Physical results were not the only outcome from the expedition however:

"We were not only able to feel a great sense of achievement, but were enriched with the culture and lifestyle of these people."

"The highlight of the trip, however, was being able to catch caiman and see the extreme rarity of a wild jaguar; all in the stunning beauty of their natural environment – an opportunity that may be our last in the current world we live in."

The exploration, however, did face as many low points in morale as high. Ed remembers vividly the sense of hopelessness and hardship of trekking through the untamed jungle, crawling through quagmires and sleeping amongst the swarms of insects. "One night we only managed to move two kilometres in twelve hours with no food and crushingly heavy backpacks. At this point I felt my lowest."

Despite the difficulties he faced, Ed feels that the whole experience was worthwhile: "It was an opportunity that I had always longed for, and although we struggled through some alien terrain I achieved a great sense of independence and community spirit, working with previous strangers and adapting to living in different conditions and culture."

Jon Hall

Ex-pupil and swimmer Antony James put in a stellar performance at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi to win a Silver Medal in the men's 100m butterfly event. After being out of the medals at the 50m turn he fought back to touch in with a time of 52.50 seconds – a dead heat with Ryan Pini of Papua New Guinea. The medal was made all the more special by the fact he was the youngest swimmer in the final by six years, having only just started his professional men's career. After the race he said:

"I came into the race thinking, 'Swim your own race, hit it hard and see what happens'. To come away with the silver is amazing."

"I'm only 20. Most of these other guys are years ahead of me, so it's a great start to my career. I'm really happy."

Philip Willis



Antony James meets Mr Earley and his previous sports teacher, Mr Orkney after his Commonwealth success.

On the 20th October 2010, the government revealed its financial plans for the coming years in the Comprehensive Spending Review. In this document the government presented the general public with solutions to recover the economy from the worst economic recession in years. So how will this affect education for the students and staff of DHSB?

In the Spending Review, the government has said that education spending will increase within schools and that schools will be given more freedom about how they spend the budgets that they are allocated. The overall schools budget will rise by four billion pounds over the next four years; however some individually funded schemes are to be merged into this main budget. As a result, experts are saying that the impact of this on individual schools will be difficult to predict.



Chancellor George Osborne was criticised for some of his decisions in the CSR.

The government is planning to stop the Education Maintenance Allowance as of next year, which will have a direct impact on the Sixth Form students who would have previously been eligible to receive this funding. This is due to the government having to reduce its spending by over fifty percent. Instead, the coalition has proposed to introduce a scheme which offers more targeted support to those who are the neediest.

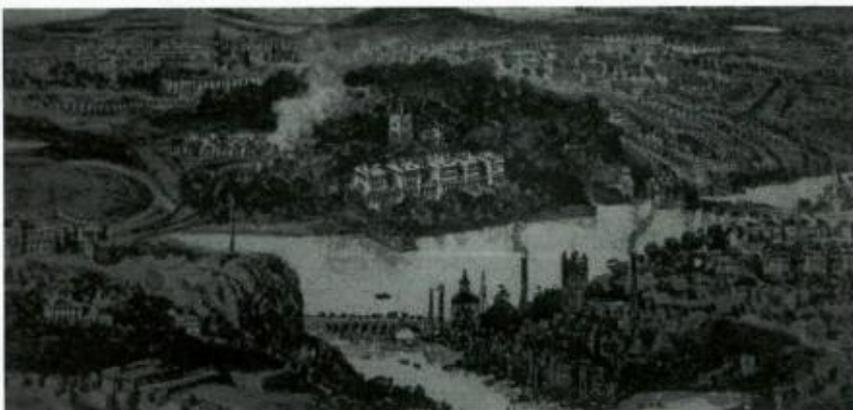
The Chancellor, George Osborne, also said in his report that the Spending Review would cut over fifty percent of the budget for school building and refurbishment projects over the next four years. He did promise, however, that he is committed to completing the six-hundred projects in British schools that have already been planned or are underway.

The government has promised that they are committed to improving education for everyone, by giving more powers to teachers and introducing a pupil premium for the poorest to make sure that everyone is provided with the best education possible.

Sophie Buller

Only recently discovered in the archives of DHSB, we bring you fascinating images of the school and surrounding Stoke during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Pictured at the centre of the top image, a remarkable change of landscape and industrialisation can be seen to have occurred around Devonport High School for Boys, primarily the filling in of the river that used to pass right beneath the school grounds. It is wonderful to see that in an ever changing world, DHSB was able to retain its unique architectural dominating presence and still does today.

Jon Hall



A new addition to the school is the Food Technology block next to the Gibbons Refectory, boasting enough equipment to cook up a storm with ease. With plenty of space, some outstanding equipment and a new look at Design Technology; high hopes are there for the new block. The latest addition to the school has been built due to new legislation for Food Technology to be part of the curriculum, so new students can start to learn how to cook from early on; perhaps something most of our Sixth Form leavers wish for as well. Watch out Jamie Oliver, it seems a whole new generation of culinary talent is on its way!

Tom Kendall



The new Food Technology block will enable students to harness their creativity and experience a new aspect of learning.

Having heard about the new opportunities that have been opened up to them, year sevens are excited and thrilled at the possibility of taking on a new and alternative method of learning.



'Grease' is the Word!

Every year, DHSB is brought to life with the vibrant energy of the drama and arts annual play, which incorporates anyone from all years. This year saw the classic musical Grease revamped for performances in the recently refurbished Edgcumbe Theatre. In October, I caught up with Owen Rees, playing the lead role of Danny.

How does it feel to have the lead role in a classic musical?

It's a bit nerve-racking to be honest, it's a great show and the part is really fun but it's difficult when you know you're going to get compared to John Travolta.

How have rehearsals gone so far?

They seem to be going okay, but it's scary knowing how little time we have left. The cast are really good to work with though and it's a really good atmosphere, everyone is in it for the fun and no-one is afraid to make a fool of themselves.

What do you enjoy most about performing a musical with your fellow students and friends?

Well I think it's a lot more relaxed than a serious amateur production. We have a real mix of people; some have never been in a musical before but others are very experienced performers. It's really nice because we all know each other and that makes it so much easier to share ideas.

Tom Kendall



Lizzie and Owen take the leads.

By the time you read this article, it is likely that the baton will have been passed to the next School Captain. This year's Speech Day ceremony will mark the end of my time in office, as I hang up my hi-vis jacket, stash away my logbook and pop my badge into my little box of mementoes. After a few choice words of advice, my successor will be left to face the challenges that have greeted me this year, flanked by their Vice Captains and eager team of newly-appointed prefects. If their tenure progresses in the same manner as mine has, then they are in for quite a year.

Any twelve months at DHSB is an exciting time, with 2010 proving no exception. From winter's cold white snow de-railing the best laid plans of prefects and proctors, to canapés and speeches at our recent Compton Campaign Information events, the year has thrown up a disparate range of challenges. That the unabated stream of parents' evenings, options events, meetings, tours and fetes has been handled so dextrously has been down to the unceasing efforts of my deputies Tom Burt and Jimmy McConville and of course my prefects, the well-oiled heart of the school without whose support the day-to-day running of the establishment would grind to a halt. Selecting their replacements has been a difficult and demanding responsibility, although we are confident that we have found an outstanding group of individuals who will be more than capable of rising to the challenges ahead. These challenges will be difficult and time-consuming, although they should also be hugely enjoyable and rewarding. If they have half as much fun as we have had, then they should consider themselves hugely fortunate.

Jon Allsop



The enthusiasm that David Riggs shows for history is evident in the manner that he teaches, with passion, flair and always comedy. In 1973 Mr Riggs was a student of Devonport High School for Boys and recalls the sense of 'community' and 'respect' that was rampant in the 70s at DHSB. During the period when Mr Riggs attended DHSB the building that we know today, was split into two separate High Schools, he recalls an invisible divide between Tamar High School (which occupied A, B and F blocks) and Devonport High School (which occupied C, D and E blocks) and insists that rivalry between institutions was only applicable on the rugby pitch.

His work in the Home Office brought Mr Riggs into contact with many government officials and he's never short of a story to tell about his days working in the nation's capital. After eight years in the civil service he left London and the offices of Whitehall, and realised a passion for teaching, enabling him to combine a love for history with learning. Mr Riggs started his teaching career at Notre Dame RC School and then returned to the school he had attended over 25 years ago, but this time as a teacher of History.



His teaching career has enabled him to visit many exotic places across the world, from Peru to Egypt from China to Greece. He began planning these exciting ventures when he was a student at DHSB. Later after leaving school, the young Mr Riggs took a Thomson Holiday to the former USSR aged only 18, and visited not only Moscow and Leningrad, but also central Asia.

Mr Riggs continues to plan these ventures and hopes in the future to lead a school trip to India as well as returning to Peru and China. His interest in photography has accompanied him around the world on his expeditions, resulting in an impressive collation of photograph albums. He never succeeds to amaze, able to turn even the dullest aspects of history to exhilarating non-fiction.

Marcus Natale

This year there has been a number of notable extra curricular achievements from staff as well as students. The achievements range from impressive team success to a solo world champion.

In late August, Mr. Macleod, a teacher of history and politics, travelled to the 2010 World Smite Championships to claim his second world title. Also competing in the skittle based competition were Toby Thwaites and Alex Ledbrook who finished second in the doubles event. There was over 300 competitors from all over the world competing.

After impressive efforts from all the school sports teams last season, this year's teams have a lot to live up to. For many of the teams, it has been a successful start with the school's first football team winning six out of their first six games and sitting comfortably eight points clear at the top of the league table. In the same league is the second football team who, although they have struggled to get results, they have not struggled for character, playing with smiles in all of their games. The first XV rugby

team have also put in some impressive performances so far with a great win away to Petroc School and a draw against Tavistock College.

Other notable success from students include Alex Scott, Richard Bayliss and Charlie Hewitt playing for the Devon RFU at under sixteens with congratulations also to Josh Shepherd, George Rhead and Josh Ford who have been selected for the Plymouth Schools FA U14 Squad.



Another team success was the Year Eight rugby team who were crowned winners of the South & West Devon Rugby Festival. Toby Bamforth has been selected to play badminton for Cornwall County U15s.

Congratulations also to Petroc Shelley who plays for the Plymouth Octopush team and has been selected for the England under 19 Octopush (underwater hockey) team.

We would also like to commend all the students and staff who have competed in these activities and we hope they keep up the good work, bringing more success to DHSB over the coming months.



Gareth Farmer

Since the introduction of the school's fantasy league to Devonport last year; Monday mornings have been revolutionised. With the scores of the previous weekend being updated on Sunday nights, there is now more to look forward to.

It works by a competitor choosing their team of premier league stars on a limited budget, points are scored when a player scores, assists a goal or if a defender keeps a clean sheet, the aim is to score as many points over the season as possible.

With last year being the first time in a number of years the school has competed, most people got off to a shaky start but with some mid season transfers ended strong, with the school finishing the year in the top 30 nationally out of over 1500 schools.

Within the school, the competition was tight but on the last weekend Sam Lavers, then of year 13 took the title beating Humzah Khan a current year 8 into second and Nathan Hall of year 12 into third. Nathan impressed his fellow competitors by discovering many unexpected talents such as Hugo Rodallega of Wigan. In the FA cup competition which totalled up your points your players scored in the FA cup games, Gareth Farmer of year 12 came out top.

This year there are 105 students, teachers and parents competing from the school and three weeks in it is the Widnell brothers dominating with Harry Leading and Jack in a close second. As a school we are 6th nationally which in itself is an impressive feat.

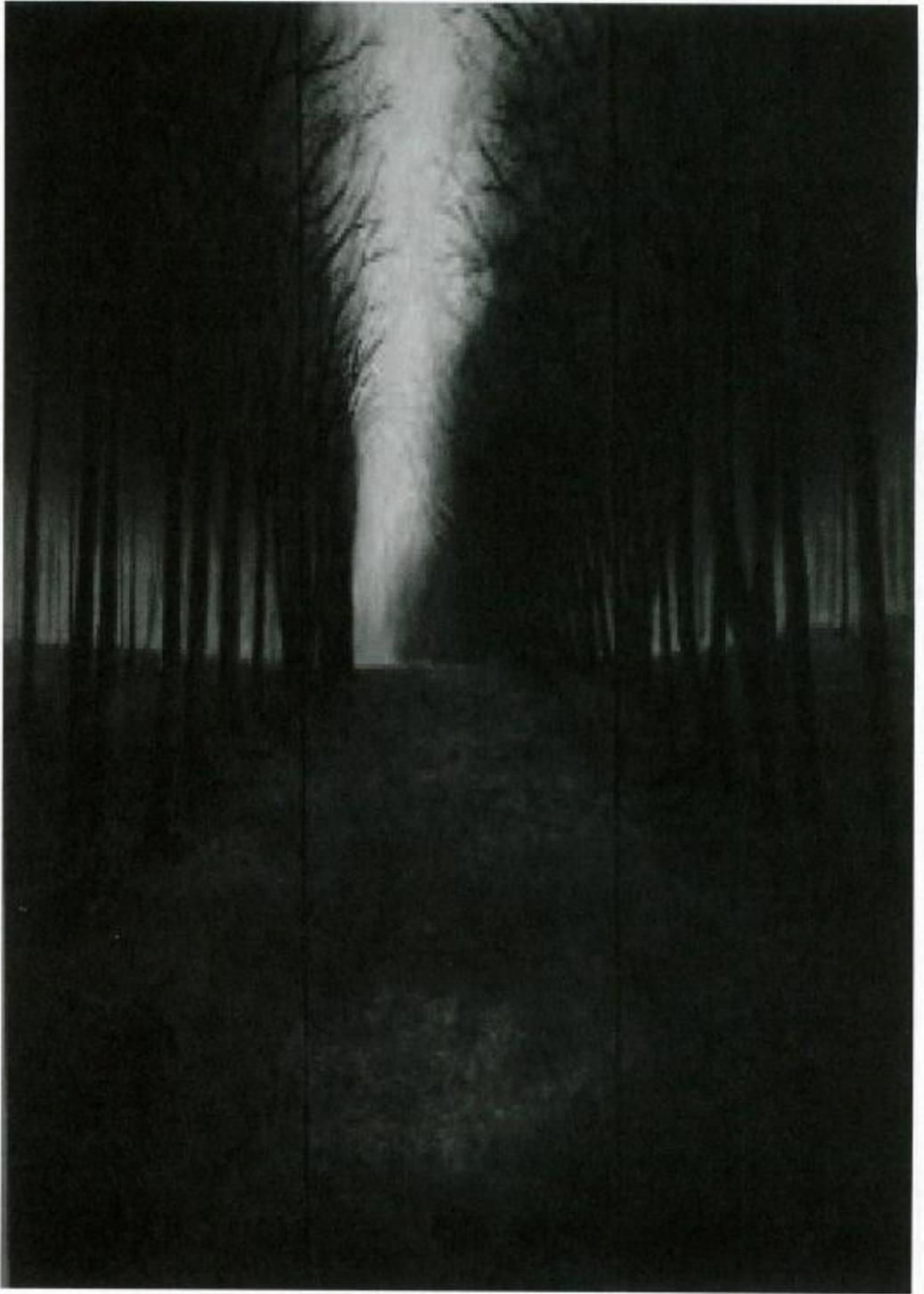
So as students of Devonport continue to aspire to great things when they leave, the fantasy league has discovered the young managing talent that lies within its walls, could the next Alex Ferguson be within the fray?

Gareth Farmer



- 1) Which school production was performed in early 2010?
- 2) During which war period was the school built?
- 3) What were the names of the original four team houses?
- 4) Which compulsory A level do the Sixth Form study?
- 5) Which year group have an annual carol service?
- 6) Who visited the European Parliament building in Strasbourg in March this year?
- 7) Which school block caught fire during the 1950s?
- 8) Who won the first house competition in 1911?
- 9) What are the original two school colours?
- 10) Which former student won a silver medal in the 100m men's butterfly event in the Commonwealth Games this year?
- 11) Who was the first headmaster of DHSB?
- 12) During what year was the Edgumbe Learning Resource Centre built?

- Answers:**
- 7) Brunel Block
 - 8) Grenville
 - 9) Green and White
 - 10) Anthony James
 - 11) Alonzo Rider
 - 12) 2004
 - 6) Jon Allsop
 - 5) Year Seven
 - 4) General Studies
 - 3) Drake, Gilbert, Grenville, Raleigh
 - 2) Napoleonic
 - 1) Charley's Aunt



Dale Branton A2

The vast grotesque trunks of trees littered the marsh. Their roots sunk deep beneath the water and into the murky soil and fallen leaves. Their great enormous branches linked in an impenetrable barrier to the sky, crisscrossing in a woven masterpiece. The canopy of this forest blocked out all of the light reaching the floor, forcing the forest to become almost uninhabited. Those which stayed had adapted. No leaves clung to the vines or ivy that grew up along the length of the trees, amphibians lurked beneath the water's surface. Yet still a treasure was possessed, a secret hidden, an object that invoked greed...

Josh Wrigley

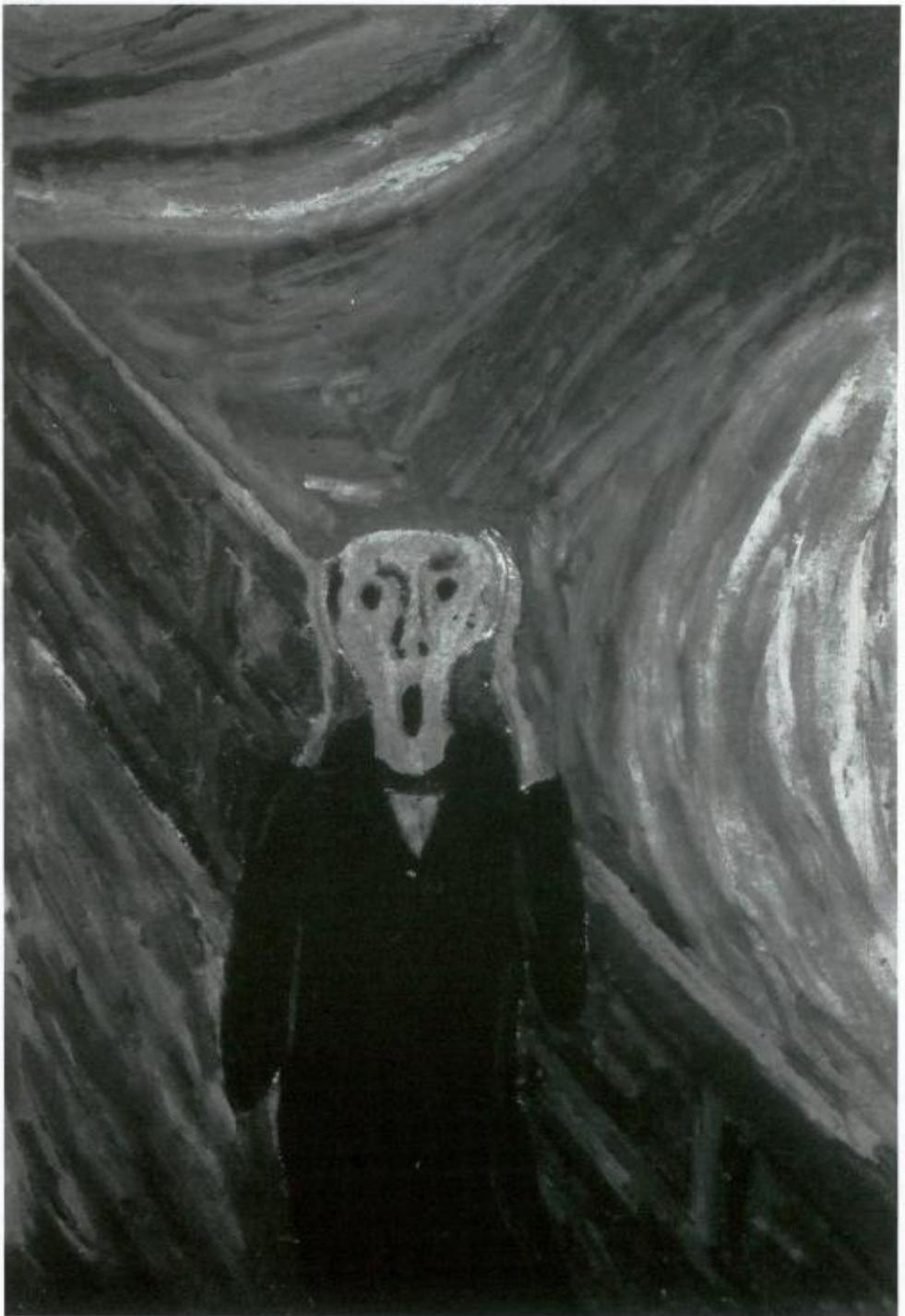
I ran. Full pelt down the well trodden featureless cobbled roads, my pursuers hot on my trail. Thunder cracked violently over my head as the rain thickened. Muddy water flicked up around my heels as I splashed through the ever expanding puddles. I could hear shouting behind me, echoing out of the darkness of the night, the shouting and swearing I knew only too well to be Jinkins.

I knew he had a knife. He always did. Most of his gang would have them too. Hidden under their tunics or tucked into their belts. I didn't want to be caught by any of them.

I turned off sharp to the left. Squeezing through the thin alley and into one of the many miserable slums where the poor and the beggars would gather to escape the harsh world outside. I could smell the dank, dark, dusty smell of poverty everywhere. It coated the floor and the walls, the make-shift huts and the few possessions that these people owned and the people themselves, both old and young, and hung in the air like the memory of a long dead man. It was all too familiar to me.

I had no time to stop. The shouting was getting closer and I guessed that one or two of the gang would have gone round past the town square and be coming back around towards the church so I decided to head for the church as I could hide in the yard or climb across the roof and drop into the lower side of town. I leaped over an old man slumped against the wall, who grumbled at me, and thundered down another alley through the fast falling rain.

Will Cooper



Matt Horsfield GCSE

My time at DHSB...

I think Devonport is great;
there is nothing about it I hate.
Three words to describe this school;
super, fantastic and cool.
I like all of the teaching staff;
they lead me on my education path.
I've met some new friends,
the fun never ends.

Tom Cooper 7E

The Team



Marcus Natale



Jonathan Hall



Petroc Taylor



Gareth Farmer



Philip Willis



Sophie Buller



George Gibson



James Park



Tom Kendall

Ca Chestnut Appeal

“ the most important thing I have learnt about prostate cancer, is not to remain ignorant about it ”

The Chestnut Appeal strives to provide much needed support to men with prostate cancer and their families across Devon and Cornwall.

Raising funds is as important today as it was when we began over a decade ago, since then we have raised over £2 million.

Prostate cancer kills 10,000 men a year, but the chestnut appeal is always investing more money in technologies to benefit patients across the South West.

Seen right, The Chestnut Appeal's annual sponsored walk around Burrator



Call the Chestnut Appeal office on 01752 792 736 or email chestnut.appeal@phnt.swest.nhs.uk

Registered Charity: 1087175

PRORSUM SEMPER HONESTE