



Welcome

...to the Winter Newsletter. Following Deborah Carter's sabbatical she has decided to relinquish her post as Head Teacher of Ovingdean Hall School.

In the next issue there will be a full appreciation of her work for the school. In the mean time we wish her well for her future. A new leadership team has been appointed.

I am Charles Hackett and I have joined the school as Principal. I am supported by Sarah Mascall as Vice-Principal and Sarah Wild as Head of Education.

The school is also changing its focus and now has the facilities to support a range of language and communication needs. This fits in the school's philosophy that every student should receive an education tailored to their needs – an education that is designed to best develop their talents, communication skills and self-confidence. This is an area of on-going work and I look forward to letting you know more in the future.

Thank you very much to all the friends who have supported us this year. You can read about the new Science Laboratory which has been funded by donations on the back page. Please keep supporting us as we prepare for the future. Ovingdean Hall School is a very special community and one that deserves to be shared with as many people as possible.

With best wishes and season's greetings

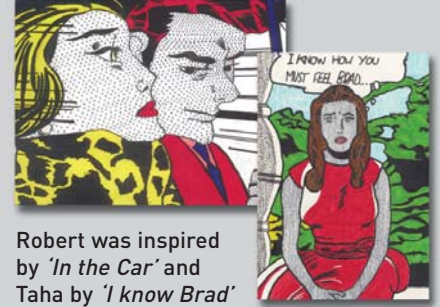
Charles Hackett
Principal



Sarah Wild, Charles Hackett and Sarah Mascall

Pop Art

Examples of students' art in the style of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein.



Robert was inspired by 'In the Car' and Taha by 'I know Brad'

All hail Macbeth!

For the third year running, our students have taken part in at the national Shakespeare Schools Festival.

They performed their thirty minute adaptation of *Macbeth* before three hundred people at Roedean School Theatre.

Robert, who played Macbeth says:

'It was a hard job acting like him but I did it. My character changed a lot. I had to act like happy and proud at the beginning and turn to anger and hate at the end.'

Georgina played Lady Macbeth: *'She is evil and controls her husband. I love drama because it's good talking and makes me more confident.'*

The play also included dramatic sword fighting scenes. Thank you to *Eastenders* actor Paul Moriarty who spent a day teaching our pupils how to stage fight.



Far Left: Banquo and Macbeth

Left: The showdown between Macduff and Macbeth

Outstanding!

We are proud to announce that we have been judged OUTSTANDING in five out of six areas in our care inspection.

The report praised our, 'excellent standard of care,' and added that the school, 'provides the students

with an outstanding level of emotional support and encourages them with their education and interests.'

Congratulations to all the staff whose hard work and professionalism has enabled us to achieve these very high standards. Our thanks too to the students whose contribution during the two days was very positive - you are all a great credit to the school.



The spectacular opening ceremony in Taiwan

Friends reunited

Last summer over five hundred former students returned for a reunion in the school's grounds.

Many classmates had not seen each other since leaving school decades before.

Julia Philpotts, a 1960s student, said: *'It is unbelievable. It has been 43 years but when my friend took her sunglasses off I recognised her immediately.'*

It brought back many memories for her friend Lynn Ramsey, 54:

'I can remember everything so well, like our uniforms and the food. When I left the school, I felt I had lost my brothers and sisters.'

Former teachers also attended including Dorothy Whittaker, who taught at the school from 1962 to 1989, and Kit Leslie who retired last summer after 35 year's service. Kit said:

'One of the best things about working here is seeing young children who are disillusioned and insecure arriving and watching them leave with confidence to go out into the big wide world.'

The occasion was marked with the blessing of a tree by Father Martin Morgan, Chairman of the Board of Governors. The event raised £1,500 for the school.

Thank you to all the committee members of the Ovingdean Reunion Association for their donation and for organising this very memorable event.

Thank you also to Emily-Ann Elliott of *The Argus* and Diana Neal of *Deaf Sussex Today* for covering the day.

James joins Team GB in Taiwan

In August, pupil James Meyers travelled to Taiwan to take part in the Deaflympics, the international sports event for deaf people.

At 17, James was the youngest person on the British table-tennis team. The team played Japan and Austria and earned twelfth place overall.

Team Captain Andrew Calloway praised James's performance: *'Despite the Deaflympics being an awe inspiring experience for a 17 year old with only 2 years table tennis experience under his belt, James gave 100% effort and produced his first international win. If he continues to improve at the rate he has, he will be a major force on the international deaf table tennis circuit and is likely to spearhead Great Britain in Athens 2013.'*

'I am very proud to represent Great Britain in table tennis,' says James. His ambition is to teach others the sport.

His flights and board were funded by donations given by the school's catering team and X Factor judge Simon Cowell. The table-tennis table which James and his classmates use was paid for by friends of the school.

James's mother Heather has thanked the school and its friends for helping her son: *'It is entirely because of the school that James is as successful as he is. I hope that other children follow in his footsteps.'*

James (far right), pictured with Team GB and liaison officer Jenny.



Former pupils, from left, Enid Pope, Sharon Moore, Julia Philpotts, Linda Lewis and Lynn Ramsey together again after 43 years.



Below: 1960s pupil Chris Banks is now a member of the school's maintenance team. He is pictured below with school dog Sam and with friends in Mr Grant's class 1966.



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Student Superheroes

Thank you to Artswork for funding after-school media skills workshops for our students.

They are working toward their bronze or silver awards by creating animations based on their favourite superheroes.

New Scientists

This September students returned to a refurbished science laboratory.

Thanks to the support of our donors we have been able to modernise the thirty year old room and equip the space to a high specification. The room has been fitted with COM link amplification technology which provides students with the best possible environment for listening to each other and their teacher.

Science teacher Zoe Hampson says, *'the new laboratory is a dramatic improvement and has really transformed the atmosphere of our lessons. The pupils feel like proper scientists!'*

Thank you to everyone who supported this project:

- The late John Harris and his widow Gillian Harris
- The Hedley Foundation
- All the friends who responded to our COM link appeal in July

The room has been named after the architect John Harris whose generous bequest enabled us to go ahead with the new laboratory. Mr Harris was a pupil at Ovingdean Hall School in the 1930s in the days before it became a school for the deaf.

