

## PRIZE GIVING AND SPEECH DAY 2006

### HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT (July 2006).

Honoured Guests, Governors, Ladies, Gentlemen and Trinity students, it is a pleasure to welcome you all and give you my annual Report. After a highly successful year, the School continues to take on new educational initiatives and respond to the staff and parent surveys.

It is a great privilege to have Duncan Goodhew as our guest speaker today and he will also be officially opening our new *Learning Success Centre*, where many students achieve beyond their expectations. As a British swimming champion and an Olympic gold medalist, Duncan will no doubt inspire us with what he has to say. Inspiration is such an important key to success in education and life.

Today we say thank you and farewell to Mandy Bliss, Remick Sowa and Anna Grabsca. All have served the spiritual and boarding sides of school life well as Christian Youth Ministers, from overseas. We wish them every fulfillment for the future. We also thank Rev. Caroline Luff and Father Jonathan Stewart for their continued and much valued support, in taking assemblies and leading Acts of Worship and Christian Festivals.

The Nursery and Infant Christmas productions reflect much talent and confidence, as well as the School's special foundation. The rousing Musical "Jesus' Christmas Party" was featured on Spotlight Television and last December, at Exeter Cathedral, our Prep and Senior choirs formed the musical focus for the atmospheric candlelit Carol Concert.

The corporate spirit amongst our boarders has been strengthened in many ways such as the Sunday Services in Chapel and the entertaining Christmas Pantomime.

#### MISSION and VISION

This academic year has been exciting, as we aim for excellence in all areas of school life. Continuous development has become embedded in the thinking of Governance, Management and Leadership at Trinity, as we strive further to improve on the high standards already achieved. The School has a growing reputation both nationally and globally and we expect our teachers to be role models, who are dynamic, passionate, enthusiastic and positive. The Ofsted Nursery Report, last November confirmed our provision is outstanding in all areas. Such a rating is very rare and to quote from Devon County Council; *"This is an excellent achievement, which reflects the high quality child care you are providing"*.

Excellence in education is also seen within the Preparatory and Senior Departments, where music, art and drama are flourishing alongside academic success and many sporting and other extra-curricular achievements. Where value-added provision is measured between the ages of 11 to 16, Trinity is ranked within the top echelon of schools nationally and we maintain our high position within the Performance Tables of Devon.

The Governors are keen to see Trinity as the best School of its kind, where everyone within the community is valued and respected. As an international School we have much to learn from other cultures and

respect other faith systems, based on truth and love for one's neighbour. Strong moral values which build up and protect the common good are essential to the School's ethos.

### **STAFF AND TRAINING**

We have high quality staff, both inside and outside the classroom and would you join with me in thanking the staff members for their many contributions and commitment towards the success and developments at Trinity.

Thank you very much.

In the autumn, we underwent a successful *Investors in People* assessment reflecting the School's commitment to the professional development of our staff at Trinity and its impact on the overall success of the School.

### **SIZE OF SCHOOL**

Despite the drop in birth rate our pupil numbers are slightly higher than a year ago and we are committed to making the School more attractive to prospective parents so that we can maintain our comfortable size. We are also planning to keep fee increases to a minimum over the years ahead, yet still push ahead with building plans and future projects, which I will outline later on.

### **PREFECT BODY**

In Year 6 our Head Boy, Sam Foulser and Head Girl, Felicity Mansbridge have been excellent role models, as have our Sixth Formers, Head of School, Ami Wolstenholme and her Deputy Layla Crabtree. All have carried out their responsibilities effectively, as have Anothai Thaitirarot, Samantha Jones and Amber Mayne, who are Senior Prefects with specific responsibilities. Our thanks go to all mentioned, as well as to all School Prefects.

They have been first rate school ambassadors.

### **QUOTE FROM PARENT/FORMER STUDENT**

A former Russian student in an e-mail referred to Trinity School as "*the greatest school of all time (or very close to that)*"; and from a recent letter from a parent who wrote about her daughter. "*At age 9, she was shy and under-confident. From the informal tour around the School I could already see that this was a place that would care for and nurture my daughter. She is now ready to move out into the world, confident, mature, sure of herself and who she is. Much of this can be placed at the doors of the School and the ethos it exudes in discovering the potential of each child whatever it is. Thank you.*"

### **CHARITIES**

The Trinity community has again given time and energy to raise money for needy causes, supporting fourteen charities and raising over £5,000 and these efforts are applauded.

### **THE EARLY YEARS**

As indicated earlier, children within the Foundation Stage, at Trinity Lodge and in the Reception Class, get an excellent start to their education with top quality day-care being provided. Our Nursery is now well on the way to achieving the *Investors in Children* standard next term. Very well done to all involved in this area of educational provision. This summer, a high quality outdoor Play and Classroom is being constructed for our Reception children to strengthen the Foundation Stage further.

### **ACADEMIC**

Academic performances at Key Stages 1 and 2 are well above the national average. Well done to all Year 6 pupils who performed well in the 11+ examinations. Whilst we have many academically talented pupils joining Year 7 next year, our aim is to develop all those talents and abilities outside the classroom and provide the personal and pastoral support to achieve this. It is the added-value and holistic education we provide that will set Trinity apart from other schools.

At GCSE, our students achieved, on average, exceeding 7 grades at A\* to C level, across a wide ability range. Michael Jarrold excelled by achieving 14 A/A\* grades, as did Emma Yeo who achieved 11.

All university applicants were again successful. Congratulations to Tracey Chen (from China) for winning the ISA bursary award for the best advanced level results out of all ISA Schools. She achieved the equivalent to five and a half A grades at advanced level. Nadia Cracknell, from Teignmouth, also excelled by achieving 4 A grades at A2 level. 9 out of 42 students achieved a points equivalence of 3 A grades at A2 level. In Year 12 it was 16 out of 42 students who achieved the equivalent of 3 A grades at AS level.

Our academic results speak volumes on the quality of teaching and learning at Trinity.

Our *Learning Success* and *English-as-an-Additional-Language* Departments together with the support offered by our teaching assistants continue to build confidence and encourage pupils to fulfil their potential. One local student (Ben Cottrell), who came through the Prep and Senior Departments with learning difficulties, when he arrived, left the Sixth Form last summer with two A grades and a B at advanced (A2) level. Within the *Learning Success* area we look

forward to exploring the opportunities of the *Bright Star* programme with which our guest speaker is associated. Exciting times ahead! Our overseas students for whom English is rarely a first language are often amongst our highest achievers academically.

Whilst referring to English a girl, was asked to explain the meaning of the term judicious by putting it into a sentence. The reply to the teacher went as follows: "*Hands that judicious can be soft as your face*".

Through work experience placements, and Activity Weeks for both Prep and Senior pupils a very broad education is provided that builds confidence and increases self-awareness of the world around us.

At Key Stage 4, in the U.K. Mathematical Challenge, 3 students achieved gold certificates, 13 silver and 21 bronze. Our best results ever! In the Senior Challenge, Yin Ying made it through to the British Mathematical Olympiad. Other top performers in their age groups were Leon Wong and Danielle Rickard.

On the subject of mathematics, a teacher asked a young boy. "You have one pound coin in your right pocket and one pound coin in your left, so what have you got?" The boy replied, "*Someone else's trousers*".

At *Chess*, five players competed in the mega-final of the UK Land Chess Competition in which they won a creditable 10 games.

In the (West of England) Young *Poetry* Writers Competition five students, at Key Stage 3, had poems published and three others are having their stories published in the South West T.A.L.E.S. anthology. Congratulations also to Ryan Townsend who won the Sponsored Readathon. Our well-resourced libraries are proving to be highly valuable.

## BOARDING AND PASTORAL CARE

The boarding community, where students come from countries as far away as Australia gives Trinity a special dimension. Whilst the biggest sector of the boarding community is British, the number of nationalities increases next year, as our plan to widen our global appeal is realized. Through the hard work of the residential staff a friendly and happy atmosphere is maintained in tune with our family ethos. Numerous activities and high morale within the boarding house attracts day pupils to try out the boarding experience boarding, when beds become available. Our boarding tutors provide much academic and personal support, which is highly valued by the students. Further improvements in the quality of the boarding accommodation and facilities are on the horizon and some will be in place during the next academic year. They include broadband internet access in the sixth form and improved cooking facilities. We are also looking at ways of improving the quality of girls' accommodation.

## MUSIC, THE EXPRESSIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

*Drama* flourishes throughout the School and builds up team spirit and great confidence amongst our students. The enthusiasm of staff inspires pupils to enjoy high quality, colourful and entertaining productions. At junior level, the *X-Factor* was a huge success, as was, if ever a *Wiz* there was, the wonderful *Wizard of Oz*. This Drama bug is definitely infectious!

At senior level, sixth form students acted out their version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* extremely well and displayed their dancing skills from the Musical *Chicago*. They also acted out a *Murder Mystery* for a Parent

Teachers' Function with great effect.

*The Little Shop of Horrors* at the Carlton Theatre was a great success and senior actors also performed with distinction in *Les Miserables* to full public audiences.

At the Exeter Arts Festival, Tiana Abdullah won first prize at Prose Speaking and others gained merits.

*Music* is a further great strength with a range of excellent performances this academic year. The Christmas Concert and Prep Department inter-House Singing Competition entertained packed audiences and gave our talented students an opportunity to shine. The Prep Department now has a String Ensemble, Chamber Choir and Rock Band, in addition to a Choir of over 90 pupils.

Connor Gilder won great accolades and numerous cups at the Paignton Music Festival and Emma Yeo's advanced level composition was performed by the South Devon Clarinet Choir. Other top performing musicians and singers include Martha Cassidy, Graeme Hammond and Layla Crabtree. Many others are referred to in the Supplementary Programme. Our Swing Band and singers from the *Little Shop of Horrors* were referred to as outstanding, when they performed at ISA Headteachers' Conference at Torquay in May. Yes, they really were outstanding! The touring Swing Band now adds Belgium and Holland to its list, after France in 2005.

The Prep and Senior Summer Concerts confirmed that music continues to develop and grow at Trinity. As the range of instrumentalists, singers and styles of music increases, the quality of sound gets higher and higher. Our Prep and Senior musicians were again major attractions at the Devon

County Show. In fact a Governor of another well-known Independent School and his wife advised me as they walked past at the end of the day. ***“This is the best stand at the Show!”*** Another real tribute to our musicians. We value our community link with the Shaldon Singers and our senior choir members strengthen this connection. Katrina Godden is a member of the Exeter Youth Orchestra and Graeme Hammond and Rupert Bennett play in the Devon Youth Concert Orchestra.

We also have real strengths in ***Art***, from Trinity Lodge through to the Prep and Senior Departments. There is plenty of evidence of quality teaching and artistic flair amongst our pupils through the impressive displays throughout the School. At the South West ISA Art Competition a record number of students won first prizes. They are James Lycett, Eleanor Pitocco and Shona Plunkett at junior level and Lydia Hartshorne, Danielle Rickard, Emma Duester and Gemma Hudson within the Senior Department. Many other prizes were won by our younger children at the Devon County Show in May.

***Music, the Expressive and Performing Arts*** are clearly thriving and well done to all involved.

## **EXTRA –CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS**

Our ***extra-curricular activity programme*** continues to expand and whilst they often take place after School, they also run before breakfast, during lunchtimes, after evening study for boarders and at weekends and during holiday periods.

Parental initiatives and support in activities are welcome and appreciated.

The ***Combined Cadet Force***, with its growing Naval Section has had a

membership exceeding 100 this year. As I speak, 5 Naval Cadets are on board HMS Albion sailing from Liverpool to Plymouth. After an enjoyable Summer Camp and a successful Biennial Inspection, the ***CCF*** has enjoyed many activities ashore and afloat. Colours Sergeant Henrietta Farr and other officers have led by example and congratulations to all who have won promotions and achieved their BTEC Diploma in Public Service, worth four GCSEs.

In the ***Ten Tors Challenge***, both teams finished in good time and were well led by William Doble and Lee Stoddart respectively. In the ***Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme***, Graeme Hammond and Kira Roberts achieved their Bronze and Silver Awards and forty pupils are now involved. ***The Dartmoor Challenge, Surfs-Up at Polzeath and team-building at Skern Lodge***, for seniors, and within the Prep Department ***Lego Day, Drum Crazy, Book Week and the Artist in Residence Print Workshop*** provide valued additional activities. The Modern Languages trip to Paris was action packed and a further trip is being planned with the History Department to Krakov. The Religious Studies, Geography, English, Business, Economics and Science Departments have organized out-of-School experiences to enrich learning.

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS**

By offering Food, Design and Information and Communications Technologies, with up-to-date facilities, plus a range of science options next year, GCSE choices increase as we strive to get the best possible match for each individual student’s needs. As maintained schools allow children to opt out of Modern Foreign Languages at GCSE, Trinity is looking at ways to encourage as many of our students as possible to study a second language at this level.

## SPORT

At *swimming*, George Fearnley, Kimberley Walker and international swimmer, Reyan Al- Owaied became national ISA individual champions and George swam for Devon in the Western Counties. Paul Wilson a member of Devon's *under-water hockey* team (current national champions) now joins the U19 Great Britain team. Last August, Paul swam as part of the Western Counties team to cross the Channel. Next term, we aim to set up a Swimming Academy in conjunction with Dawlish Swimming Club to train swimmers up to national standard. Watch this space! At *netball*, our Prep teams were highly successful and our U11s won the local High Fives Competition again. Our senior teams won a fair share of their matches and Trinity again hosted the South West ISA tournament, where our U16 team finished 4<sup>th</sup>.

At *rounders*, Indianna Carlino has played for South Devon Ladies and at *show-jumping* Jasmine Rogers and Hannah Mann performed well in the Devon and Cornwall event.

Our *rugby* teams from U9 through to U19 level have had busy and successful seasons. The U11s were almost undefeated, our Under 16s won the Trinity seven's tournament for the first time and Bradley Stone was selected for the Devon U16 rugby squad. The U18s improved on last year's performance at Rosslyn Park Sevens, winning one and narrowly losing one of its pool matches.

Our U16 boys *hockey* team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ISA National tournament – a splendid result for a first time appearance!

At *football*, our Prep and Senior teams tasted success as has Kim Webber-Marks who has

been training and playing at Exeter City Girls Football Centre of Excellence.

In *cross-country* Jasmin Rogers, Connor Mears, Andy Perry and Daran Haarer all competed in the County Championships and in the ISA National Championships Trinity had four senior boys in the top ten.

At *athletics*, Connor finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the AAAs National Athletics Clubs Pentathlon for his age group. Other athletes Tom Brazier, Chris Brown, Daran Haarer and Lewis Beare competed in the County Track and Field Championships and Tom represented Devon in the Western Counties. After last year's success in Madrid, Tom has also been selected again to represent Great Britain in the Catholic Schools Federation International Student Games, this time in Hungary. At the National ISA athletics finals, Daran Haarer won the senior boys 800m and Charlie Eastwood won the Year 5 boys high jump.

At *basketball*, our U16 boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the South Devon League and our U18s were joint winners. For the girls Lizzie Donnelly has represented Devon.

Within the *Tennis* Academy, the following play at county level, Samantha Kenshole, Kimberley Walker, William Hough and Alex Bond. Samantha is nationally ranked and William has been in the news with his *golfing* achievements. David Ruth and Charlie Armitage are other golfers at county level standard.

We now have a Cricket Academy, offering high level coaching with the recently installed indoor *cricket* nets. Look out Freddie Flintoff! Daniel Chow, in Year 5, has played *badminton* for Devon and on the *ski* slopes, Harry Bannister came 4<sup>th</sup> in the U16 boys Great Britain Championships.

Kira Roberts has excelled in the Sabre discipline in *fencing* this year, winning a

bronze medal at the Junior Commonwealth Championships in India and she represented Great Britain in the World Championships in South Korea. A magnificent achievement!

In the recent Melges National *Sailing Event*, Christopher Cayless, in a team of four, finished *6th*.

*Judo* continues to grow and *volleyball* remains popular. *Water-polo* and other *water-sports* are now being introduced to the sporting provision at Trinity.

There has been tremendous development at sport with many outstanding achievements. Very well done to all those mentioned.

### **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

The Sutton Building has had a positive impact on teaching and learning as have the introduction of inter-active whiteboards across all Key Stages. Following the successful building programme over the last ten years, we are revising our Development Plan to include the provision of state-of-the-art-classrooms for the Preparatory Department and a high standard of boarding accommodation for girls. In addition a multi-purpose Hall for Sport, Music and Drama, a new Dining Hall and improved parking will also be part of the plans for the years ahead. This summer the Business and Economics Departments move to the Blue Corridor, as Religious Studies moves to the main building where the Chapel and the School's history lies. Geography moves next door to History to create a Humanities Department area. Sports Studies moves to a new building, close to the Gymnasium and will be erected during the holidays. So the School is certainly not standing still! Our focus however will be on top quality *teaching and learning* in all areas.

### **SUMMARY.**

To Dee Godden and the Parent Teachers Association, the Public Relations and Liaison Committees, Former Pupils and Friends of the School many thanks.

I am most grateful to our Chairman of Governors, Margaret Behenna for her continued personal encouragement and highly valued support. To Jeffery Brown, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and all Governors, some of whom chair sub-committees, I extend my thanks.

Can we join together to show our appreciation to all mentioned please? Very many thanks

Recently we said goodbye to Diane Evans, who taught with much dedication and enthusiasm within the Preparatory Department. We wish Mrs Evans well and thank her for her many years of loyal service. Today we say goodbye and farewell to James Littlejohns, our Prep ICT Technician. He has served us well, showing great flexibility and commitment. Before 2007 arrives we will be saying goodbye and thank you to Gaynor Jowett on the Catering side after 23 years of loyal service. Zoe Clayden leaves at the end of the summer term and has served and fed us well. In addition, our Bursar Mrs Imogen Laws retires in January 2007 after 15 years. Imogen is amongst the most committed, loyal and dedicated colleagues I have had the good fortune to work with and the School's finances and building developments have remained safe in her good hands. With a passionate interest in the School, I am very much aware that this is Imogen's last Prize-giving and Speech Day as Bursar. We welcome Shaun Dyer as Imogen's successor, who is with us today. To all I extend my sincere thanks.

With so much to celebrate this academic year we wish our leavers well for the future. May you all be fulfilled, achieve your goals in life and look back with affection at your time here. To quote Eileen Caddy, *“The secret of making something work in your lives is first of all, the deep desire to make it work, then the faith and belief that it can work; then to hold to that clear definite vision in your consciousness and see it working out step by step, without one thought of doubt in your mind.”* And from our School Motto and Mark Twain.

*“Have faith, optimism and love for your neighbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream and discover, so that you are not disappointed in the things you didn’t do.”*

In closing we applaud our pupils across the age range for such splendid achievements this academic year and thank our leavers and wish them God speed. Very well done and thank you for listening.