

Farleigh   
School Newsletter

December 2009



# Celebrating our Patronal Feast Day



Lucy Milligan and Arabella Joll, Year 8

Farleigh welcomed Fr Malcolm Smeaton, Chaplain of Prior Park College, Bath, to the School Feast Day Mass in honour of our Patron Saint, St Theresa of Lisieux. He reminded the pupils of the importance of “the little way” and gave some very practical advice of how to follow in St Theresa’s footsteps. To commemorate St Theresa’s Day every pupil received a bookmark designed by four pupils from Year 5 – Scarlett Atkinson, Tom Ingrams, Francesca Power and Edward Sandy (right).



When St Theresa’s relics were brought to England in September as part of a world tour, two Year 6 pupils played a special part in welcoming them to Portsmouth Cathedral. With over 600 pupils from the Diocese of Portsmouth, Charlotte Kilpatrick read the Lesson faultlessly and George O’Rorke led the procession to Bishop Crispian to give him our school prayer dedicated to St Theresa.



It was a once in a lifetime occasion and the Farleigh pupils were delighted to find themselves in the front row, inches from the casket containing the relics of St Theresa. They shared their thoughts and feelings of the day with the school in an assembly, where a recording of both the BBC and ITV News reporting the events at Portsmouth Cathedral captured Farleigh pupils singing angelically!

Below: Mariella Dembinska, Year 8, Miss Keyworth, Freya Austin, Year 5, and Thea Opperman, Year 4, enjoy the celebrations

Above right: Smart boys, Ben Brooks, Franklin Phillips and Alvaro Toran Jimenez, Year 6

Below right: Jessica Walsh-Waring and Risa Tomioka, Year 5, dressed in their finery for the Feast Day Dinner



Christo Bradstock and  
Harry Haggas, Year 6

# History is a Hit



It has been a very busy term for the History Department and the subject is thriving. There have been trips offsite, as well as onsite workshops and the opportunity in lessons to work with many ancient artefacts that have really helped to bring the subject to life.



Year 2, who are learning about Florence Nightingale, visited the village church of East Wellow where she is buried. They participated in several activities organised by the church including dressing up as Florence and her nurses, and soldiers of the Crimea. The Pre-Prep also had a fascinating 'Toys Day' where they were able to explore a variety of toys from throughout history.



Year 3 went to Highclere Castle to explore the exhibition there as part of their study of Ancient Egypt - much fun was had by all dressing up as Pharaohs (and not just by the children)! Year 4 have visited the Andover Museum and Butser Ancient Farm; Year 5 are learning about the Tudors, so bumping into Henry VIII on a visit to Hampton Court certainly impressed them; Year 6 were introduced to the Second World War by way of an entertaining history workshop. The children designed propaganda posters, watched DVD clips and role-played being an evacuee. They also visited the Museum of Army Flying for a day of activities and workshops.

Year 7 also took part in a workshop, this time on the Slave Trade, during 'Black History Month' and this provided the perfect introduction to the in-depth projects on which they are now working.

Finally, Year 8 visited the Tower of London, where they enjoyed a workshop on the Peasants' Revolt; inspected the Crown Jewels; explored the mystery of the Two Princes; and experienced what it was like to be a Medieval knight in the thick of battle. We tried to have some of the Year 8s kept in the Tower, but even they wouldn't have them!

Top: The Year 6 girls did not delight in the smell of the gas masks

Middle: Year 2 pupils re-enact the life of Florence Nightingale in Wellow

Bottom left: Georgina James, Honor Sandy and Tatiana Coen design a slave market poster

Bottom right: Zam Bradstock sells Thomas Symington in to the Slave Trade

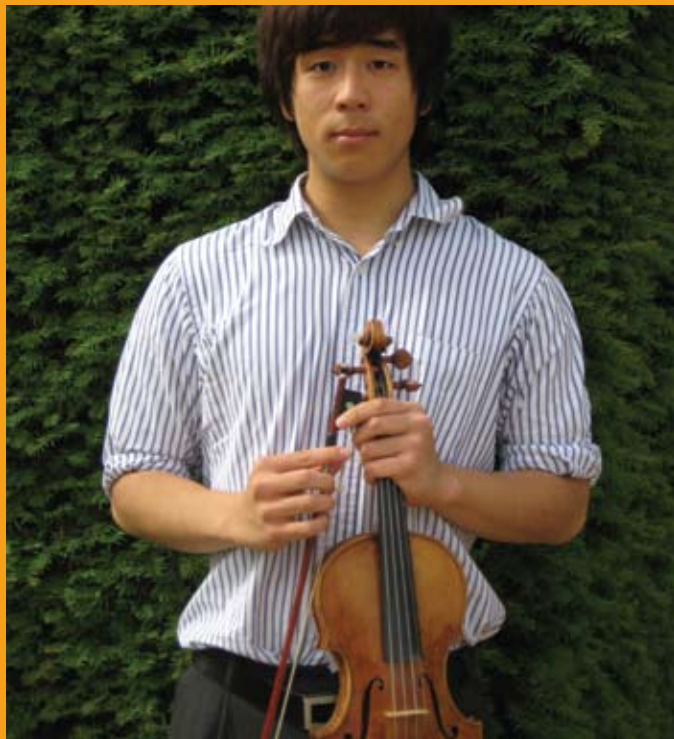


# ★ Young Stars

**Simon Davies**, who was Head Boy at Farleigh and gained a Sports Award to Sherborne in 2006, was this summer selected to represent Dorset in the 400m Hurdles (U17) at the English Schools Championships. He came 4th in the final with a personal best time. Later in the season he was selected to be the South West England hurdler at the UK Schools Games in Cardiff, a mini domestic Olympics for gifted teenagers in all sports (equestrianism, fencing, volleyball etc). Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and nine regions of England are represented at this very big event and it is hoped that many of these sportsmen will go on to represent Great Britain in the future. Simon won a bronze medal in another personal best time, which is an outstanding achievement.

**Ryota Ichinose**, who gained a Music Scholarship to Winchester in 2004, is an exceptionally talented violinist. Before he left Winchester last term, he came back to Farleigh to perform to our current pupils who were mesmerized by his stunning performance. He has now started a joint honours degree at the Royal College of Music and Imperial College, London, where he is reading Chemistry.

**Wilf Marriott**, who gained a Thompson All Rounder Award to Radley in 2007, has been awarded The Sir John Hobbs Silver Jubilee Memorial Prize by the Cricket Society as the most outstanding Under 16 schoolboy cricketer in England. He has also won the Gray-Nicolls Trophy for the most outstanding schools' cricketer. These prestigious awards are presented annually on the recommendation of the English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA) and the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Past winners have included Colin Cowdrey, Mike Gatting, Mike Atherton, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley and Ian Bell. Last season Wilf toured the Caribbean with the West of England region and then at the Bunbury Festival went on to claim a place in the Under 16 England squad. He is also opening batsman in Radley's 1st XI, so he has come a long way since Mr Hooper, Director of Sport at Farleigh, spotted him in the Pre-Prep and included him in his U9 team when he was just six years old.



# Guys and Dolls

Year 8's resident Guys and Dolls took to the stage in early December for their four performances of the fast-paced Broadway hit. From the streets of New York (and the sewers beneath them) to the vibrancy of El Cafe Cubana, Havana, the play follows the fortunes of a group of gamblers determined to avoid the long arm of the law and stage "the oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York"! The talented cast has worked hard this term to sing - not to mention shimmy - their way to success.





Eleanor Melhuish,  
Year 4, gets creative in  
the Scrapbook Club



# 'Strictly' Activities

Farleigh pupils have lots of opportunity to pursue new interests on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. As well as music ensembles, choirs and sporting pursuits, they can choose from a wide variety of activities. This term pupils have got to grips with ballroom dancing with Mrs Storey. Freddie Graham and Thea Opperman (above right) certainly showed dancing talent with a jive worthy of *Strictly Come Dancing*. Mr Rees' Rock Academy is a great training ground for budding musicians (below); Mr Tween's stage constructors helped design the set for *Guys & Dolls* (below right); and the community service group make a huge impression on the children from Icknield School (right). Archaeology, air rifle shooting, chess, riding, gardening (bottom left), pottery (left) and girls' football (left) were just some of the many other interests at which they could try their hand.



Front cover image: Danny Schofield, Year 8, was one of the boarders who learnt to scuba dive in the indoor pool





## The Olympics - Farleigh Style

The boarders threw themselves wholeheartedly in to the annual Farleigh Olympics. Spurred on by members of staff, six teams competed enthusiastically in the glorious sunshine of the first full boarding weekend. Well done 'Pink Pansies' and 'Super Awesome Cool' who took joint honours at the top of the leader board.



"I was very nervous about boarding in Year 7 because I hadn't done it before. I really love it now, especially when the Whithears and Miss Stewart are there. They make it extra special because they put in such an effort and I really like the suppers in the flat because they make you feel at home."  
Lucy Milligan, Year 8

Virginia Lloyd, Year 8

## Home from Home

Senior boarding is run by Mr and Mrs Whithear, who live in a flat linking the boys' and girls' boarding houses. The location of their flat enables them to invite the children over in the evening so that in addition to their common rooms, they have another homely place to relax after they have finished off their work, and done their revision and reading.

A Sunday evening ritual to which the children are transfixed is *The X Factor Results Show*. The Whithears dutifully listen to the children as they talk about which act they think is best, but are amazed when they hear that some have not heard of Whitney Houston or even Robbie Williams. Every Wednesday (see overleaf) they host a dinner for three boys and three girls who all seem to love doing their fair share of the preparation, cooking and of course, clearing up. Baking together and playing Bingo en masse have also been very popular past times for the senior boarders.



Far left: Celia Hensman stirs the chilli con carne  
 Above left: Tom Carr and Miss Stewart can't wait to get in to their fajitas  
 Left: Alex Pertwee and Kara Enoch wash up  
 Bottom left: Andrew Sands, Jamie Atkinson and Tom Carr know their onions  
 Above: Olivia Opperman makes curry  
 Above right: Supper with the House Parents is a grown up treat  
 Right and below: Baking with Gabriel Martinez, Tom Carr and Henrietta Bamford, Year 8, and Georgia Vyvyan, Mariana Gonzalez Velazquez, Elinor Fresson, Annie Haswell and Georgina James, Year 7



“There are so many things I like about boarding. The beds are really comfy and the boarding staff are really nice. We have a good mix of doing work, relaxing and reading. I recommend boarding to anyone who wants to have a spectacular time.”  
 Alex Pertwee, Year 8



# Homage to St Cecilia



The annual St Cecilia Concert was another roaring success. Over 100 musicians performed on the evening; the Orchestra, Flute, Clarinet and String Quartets, Guitar Trio, Sax Pack, Senior Choir and Big Band all playing to a very high standard. The same standard was achieved in an excellent set of Associated Board exams. Thirty-two pupils took exams ranging from Grades 1 to 5 over two days with the average mark being exactly 120 (a Merit).

Brass boys, James Orr, Year 6, Ivor McGrigor, Year 6, and William Else, Year 4



## Netball Success

The junior girls' netball season was a great success. The U10 A team, pictured, had an unbeaten season, including in the Farleigh Tournament in which 16 teams from ten schools took part. The U10 Bs have only lost one match and there were commendable performances from Lucy Bradley, Hattie Lees, Alice O'Rorke, Alexandra Scowen and Lila Vail.

The U9s have also been very successful: the U9 As lost the first two matches, but won everything thereafter; the U9 Bs and Cs lost only one match between them. Congratulations to the following for improvement in skills and for good sportsmanship: Olivia Ekins, Thea Opperman, Lara Pilkington and Emma Simon.

The U8s also enjoyed a number of matches and have improved considerably.



## The Prefects

Many congratulations to the new prefects, 17 pupils from Year 8, who have been chosen to serve the school, support and encourage all members of the community, and respond generously to those who come to them for advice and help.

George Henry and Alex Pertwee are Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy respectively; Catherine Valenzia and Henrietta Bamford are Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl.

The prefects are Charlie Dale, Tommy Dalley, Victoria Everson, Celia Hensman, Arabella Joll, Hector Lopez-Valido, Lucy Milligan, Andrew Sands, Emma Scott, Francesca Servaes, Fergus Shegog and Ben Vail.

## Our Farm Street Singers

The 18 members of the Chapel Choir joined choristers from fellow Catholic prep school, St John's Beaumont, to celebrate Mass at the beautiful Farm Street Church in Mayfair, London.

The two choirs sang different parts of the Mass to provide a fully-fledged choral service. They sang John Marsh's *Lift Up Your Heads*, L. J. White's *A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester* and Paul Inwood's *Gathering Mass*. The regular congregation at Farm Street were impressed with the quality of Farleigh's Choir, and we look forward to returning in the future.



# Pre-Prep Open Morning

The Pre-Prep and Kindergarten are holding an Open Morning on Thursday 11th February 2010 between 9.30am and midday. Open to all, it is an opportunity to see the youngest Farleigh pupils at work and at play.

Sebastian Stannah, Otto Bartlett and William Ekins, Reception, enjoy an Autumn Activities Morning in the woods (right)



# Farleigh Staff Victorious

For the first time in seven years, The Staff defeated The Parents in their annual football fixture. Ian Dembinski made some excellent saves in goal for The Parents, but Jamie McGrigor's team finally went down 5-3, with Mr Anderson, Mr Sibbons and Mr Peebles scoring the five goals for The Staff. The teams enjoyed playing in front of such a large and vocal crowd, and Fr Simon had great pleasure in presenting the enormous trophy to Mr Anderson at assembly on Monday morning.



# Lauren St John

Lauren St John, the well known Zimbabwean-born author of *The White Giraffe*, *Dolphin Song*, *The Last Leopard* and *The Elephant's Tale* came to talk to the children during National Children's Book Week about the inspiration for her books and her conservation work.

Emily Woolf, Year 6, recommended the books as a good read to all her friends, including Hattie Henry, Violet Zand Goodarzi and Tatiana Farquhar (right, with the author).

