



# The Royal High School, Bath

## Newsletter - Week ending 12 October 2007

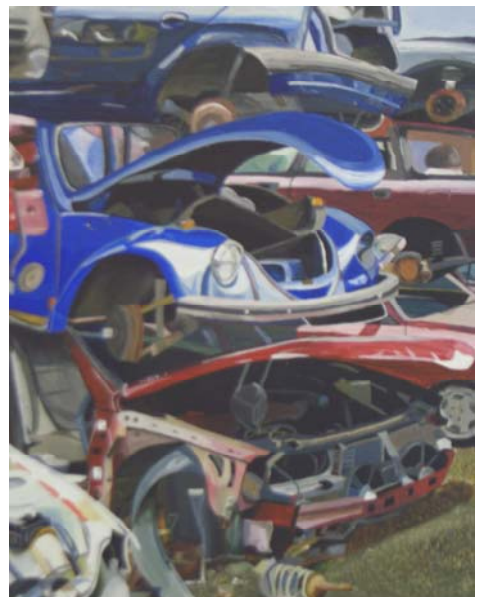
**Year 7 Residential Trip:** Our annual residential visit for Year 7 students to Heatree House on Dartmoor was a great success last week. They took part in a number of team building activities, including searching for invertebrates in Dartmoor streams, becoming inhabitants of a Bronze Age round house, and outwitting some particularly nasty pirates in order to save the eggs of the legendary Tamakale bird. Members of 7A were lucky enough to go out on their night walk when the sky was really clear, providing a spectacular view of the Milky Way which is only visible away from the light pollution of towns. The sixth form prefects worked hard along with staff to make it a memorable and enjoyable visit.



**Performing Arts News:** On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October the Performing Arts exploded 'out of the box' and into the corridors, stairs and public areas of the school. As pupils and teachers arrived in the morning, they were greeted by Yr 12's in 'What's My Motivation' hoodies, children enjoying a sleepover on the main stairs and a beautiful duet between two violins. Subsequent events consisted of a staged fight during assembly, a verbal fight between Rosie Ward and Mr Hayward in the dining room, the stylish sway of the swing band over lunch and the strange meanderings of four little old ladies. And there was much more! And why? Drama and Music have decided this year to bring the performing arts out of their departments and into the school community in a new and fresh way each term. In the future we hope to involve other departments and to make each 'Out of the Box' day an adventure of the rehearsed, improvised and unexpected!



**Art Exhibitions:** Two RHS artists have had their work on show to the public recently. *Katie Costello* in Year 10 won a commendation for her painting of a hummingbird in the art competition organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Katie's picture was published in the society's magazine. A former student, *Sinead Sprigg* had one of her A level compositions, an extremely detailed painting featuring a car scrap yard, selected for this year's annual Girls' Day School Trust Art Show.



## Calendar

<b>Mon 15 Oct</b>	Today	German Exchange visitors return to Munster	
	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.	U14 & U15 Hockey v Prior Park College	Away
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal	Memorial Hall
<b>Tue 16</b>	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal	Memorial Hall
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	1st & 2nd VII Netball, 2nd XI Hockey v St Mary's School, Calne	Home
<b>Wed 17</b>	Today	Spanish Exchange party departs (return Thu 25)	
	1.00 p.m.	Lunchtime Concert	Rehearsal Room
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal (Drama)	Memorial Hall
	afternoon	Year 13 Higher Education Mock Interviews	Hudson Centre
<b>Thu 18</b>	1.00 p.m.	Debate on Global Warming	W3
	4.00 - 5.30 p.m.	Drama rehearsal	Memorial Hall
	4.00 - 6.15 p.m.	U12 ABC, U13 VII Netball, 1st XI Hockey v Wellsway School	Away
<b>Fri 19</b>	1.00 p.m.	Pre-Tour Choir Concert	The Old Chapel
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Half Term begins</b>	
<b>Sun 21</b>	Afternoon	Years 7&8 Hockey Tour to Holland departs (return Thu 25)	
<b>Wed 24</b>	Morning	Choir Tour to Paris departs (return Sun 28)	
<b>Mon 5 Nov</b>		<b>School resumes</b>	

**English Dept News:** *National Poetry Day:* Last week's Literary Lunch celebrated National Poetry Day. We read a collection of fourteen poems commissioned by Andrew Motion when he first became Poet Laureate. He asked poets to celebrate the significance of ordinary moments throughout the day, using the monastic tradition and pattern of prayer and meditation as a guide, hence the title, "A Book of Hours".

*Theatre Visit:* Last Thursday, 55 students and staff witnessed a ravishing production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Theatre Royal, Bath. The visually dazzling production was performed by Indian actors in an Indian setting and, uniquely, Shakespeare's verse was delivered in a rich range of languages – English, naturally, but also languages from the Indian subcontinent, including Tamil, Bengali and even a snippet of Sanskrit. At first the effect was bemusing but within a few minutes, as one girl commented, you forgot the fact and simply tuned into the rhythms and musicality of each different language. This was Shakespeare with a difference, a mix of vibrant energy and emotional intensity, and will haunt our memories for a long, long time.

*Upper School Reading Group:* We meet every other Thursday at breaktime in W3. We are coming to the end of our exploration of *The Kite Runner*, *The House of the Spirits* and *Kitchen*. After half term we will be reading Haruki Murakami's extraordinary *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, Patrick Suskind's darkly gothic *Perfume* and that favourite of every adolescent existentialist, *The Outsider* by Albert Camus. Come along if you are interested in spicing up your reading life.

**Student Council News:** Our half termly meeting was largely devoted to the subject of courtesy and consideration for each other's needs and feelings. We are looking at ways in which we as students can look after each other. We plan to begin by members of the prefect team running assemblies and PSHE lessons with a 'respect' agenda. It was decided to call this initiative '**RHSPECT**'. We are also considering setting up a mentoring system where younger members of the school can come and share their problems with older students. The next meeting will be after half term and everyone is welcome to attend. (Amy Rodwell, Head of School)

**Pony Needed For Xmas Bazaar:** Do you live in the Batheaston, Bathford, Bradford, Box or Corsham area and have a pony suitable for children's rides at the forthcoming bazaar? This was a great success last year, especially with the Junior School pupils. Helpers can be provided to look after the pony and transport it to and from the school on Saturday morning (24<sup>th</sup> November). If you can help please contact Annette Mercer: [annette@footdown.com](mailto:annette@footdown.com) or 07740 182443.

**Class Reps:** This is a parents' group that meets to discuss non-curriculum matters. Please contact your class rep if you want to find out more, or email Annette Mercer at the above address.

**Individual Music Lessons:** From January 2008, fees for individual instrumental and singing lessons at the Senior school will be £14.50 per lesson, in line with the recommendation of both the Musicians' Union and Incorporated Society of Musicians. Please note that our peripatetic teachers are self employed and are free to charge above this rate.

**Sofa Wanted:** Do you have an old sofa that is still in serviceable condition for students to use in 'The Space', a room in the school devoted to quiet contemplation or prayer? Please contact Polly Thomas on 07846796455 if you can help.

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 19 October 1.00 p.m. Choir Concert In The Old Chapel**

Music from the forthcoming half-term choir tour to Paris, which including items which will be performed at Notre Dame. Parents, students and friends all welcome.

**Wednesday 14 - Saturday 17 November 7.00 p.m. School Play - 'A Year In The Park'**

Tickets available from school. Adults £6.50 Students £5.00

**Saturday 10 November 10.00 - 12.30 Senior School Open Morning**