



our news

Encouraging the Pursuit of Excellence

Mrs G.M. Randall Head of College 1994 - 2009



In the bad old days, they used to say that letting a lady teacher into a boys' school was like taking a powder-puff to creosote a fence. So it took a little time to get beyond the gender politics of Mrs Randall's appointment. It was good for Framlingham to be on the front pages of the national press with Gwen swinging winsomely from the mock-Victorian gas-lights at the front of College, but later the Daily Telegraph would provoke a different reaction when its correspondent suggested that the school she was running was something more genuinely Victorian. The reaction was predictable, with Speech Day that year seeing a formidable counter-blast, since when the Telegraph has concentrated on minor issues such as MPs' expenses!

Mrs Randall's purposeful disposition was made clear early on with her decision to integrate day students into the boarding houses. This move was not instantly popular, but the ending of Ziegele freed up valuable space in the centre of College for the Library extension and new classrooms, and day students quickly fitted into their adopted houses. Outside, the piazza replaced the portakabins, though, alas, the Head's proposed water feature never materialised! Within the boarding houses pupils now have accommodation that O.F. parents regard as five-star, and the newly extended Pembroke House shows how far things have come.

Enhancement of the fabric reminds us of the Head's changes to College uniform. Few lamented the passing of the strange green jackets that junior boys used to wear, and the junior girls' tartan skirts have been universally welcomed; the blazers look good for all, and the sharp suits give sixth-formers the chance to cut quite a dash. All this may seem cosmetic, but more substantial change has also occurred. It is difficult to quantify academic progress, but insofar as league tables indicate relative advance, Framlingham can be proud of its achievements in recent years (last year's 80% A-B pass rate at A Level was yet another 'best ever'). One of the strengths of the school is its inclusively broad intake, but the sharp end is now very sharp indeed, while others for whom academics are more of a challenge often surprise themselves by their creditable results. All-rounders can flourish too, and we like students who can knock centuries off the MCC and get straight A grades!

The College's achievements on the sports fields have generally been on a high recently. Facilities play a part here, and the grounds have only got better, while the Sports Hall has mutated from a barn into a well-equipped building with the indoor swimming pool a splendid enhancement. However, the use of the facilities is the key, and student participation at county, regional and national levels in a whole range of sports has been successfully encouraged under Gwen's leadership.

The facilities for music and drama have also been exploited to the full. The visit of the Earl and Countess of Wessex to open the Headmaster Porter Theatre was a high point, with a bit of Les Mis and a little singing from an Angel characteristic of the quality of music and drama in the College now. Arts and crafts also steadily reach new heights, with high calibre exhibits displayed around the College and Arkwright Scholarships testifying to the achievements in Design & Technology.

Prince Albert would have approved of such innovation, but his expression looking over the Mere has remained impassive: Queen Victoria, however, might have been amused!

Farewell Dinner Celebration



On 22nd May 2009, the Head was invited by the Common Room to attend a dinner to celebrate her 15 years as Head of the College. Second Master, Tony Lawrence, gave an amusing and informative speech outlining Gwen's time and achievements whilst at the College. In conclusion he said *"Wherever the new Head will take the College it will only be possible because your vision, your confidence and your courage has greatly expanded our horizons."* To commemorate her Headship, David Morgan, President of the Common Room then presented the Head with a silver salver engraved with the College crest.

Forthcoming Events

Open Morning at Framlingham College and Brandeston Hall

9.30 to Midday
Saturday 3rd October 2009

International Rugby, Netball and Hockey Academies (Boys & Girls aged 8 - 14)

24th - 27th August 2009

Autumn Drama Production Anything Goes by Cole Porter

9th, 10th & 11th December 2009



'Their Finest Hour ...'

In April, Year 9 historians embarked on a fact-finding mission to the Imperial War Museum at RAF Duxford, where they gained invaluable insight into the role of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain. Treated to a talk by museum staff and an impromptu fly-past by a Spitfire, the students immersed themselves in the history of aviation and marvelled at the diversity of the 180 aircraft on display.

Inspiration in Florence and Rome



History of Art and Art and Photography students visited Italy in the February Half Term. They had a packed itinerary which included all the important sights in Florence such as the Cathedral and the Uffizi, as well as some less well-known Florentine treasures. In Rome the Borghese Gallery and the Vatican provided an interesting balance to the Ancient Roman sites.

The trip has provided excellent firsthand experience for the Year 13 History of Art course which focuses on 15th century Florence, and some fantastic opportunities for drawing and photographing for the artists and photographers, whose work will be on display on Speech Day.

Coniston 2009

At the start of the Easter holiday, as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, 51 pupils from the Combined Cadet Force headed for the annual Adventurous Training camp in the Lake District. Of the 8 groups participating, 3 were being examined for their Gold assessed expeditions and all passed with distinction. The students prepared well for this and our strong reputation in this area was confirmed by 2 independent assessors. The annual camp at Coniston illustrates how well the CCF and DofE work together to encourage self-reliance and confidence.

The Eagles have landed

The RAF Section of the CCF completed 2 days of field exercises in the STANTA training area in Norfolk. The cadets experienced camouflage and concealment exercises as well as field cooking. The following day they visited RAF Lakenheath, where they were shown around by F15 Strike Eagle Pilots.



Geographers Investigate

The fieldwork season is now in full swing. The Lower 6 has recently returned from a residential trip to the North Norfolk coast, where students studied features of lowland glaciation and coastline management. Year 10 visited a range of sites, including farms, villages, the Suffolk coast and Ipswich. Year 9 conducted field investigations in their study of ecosystems, and attended presentations on animal adaptations to savannah and tropical rain forest environments at Colchester Zoo.



Year 9 studying savannah animals at the African Zone, Colchester Zoo

SAVING THE PLANET



Recycling of paper has continued now for the second year, with students collecting and emptying recycling bins weekly from all around the College. An estimated 3.5 tonnes of paper is recycled over the year, saving around 14 trees in all.

This year also marked the beginning of the Framlingham College Energy Saving Competition, in which Houses were challenged to see which one could save the most electricity. The 'Eco Warriors' of Victoria house won this year, with a prize of £100.

College students get top marks

Thomas Mills High School was the venue for a keenly contested day of scientific challenges and quizzes in the fields of biology, chemistry and physics.

Some of the county's brightest young scientists competed against each other all day, with *George Castle, Lucy Pring, Emma Vidler, Meg Wells-Furby and William Hamilton* (pictured L-R) representing Framlingham College. The students ended the day in pole position, and in the process the College accumulated the highest score seen in the competition for over 12 months, beating the marks received by hundreds of schools, both national and international.

The trophy was presented to *Emma Vidler* who, as well as leading the team, achieved the highest score of the day in the cognitive ability testing - beating several teachers!



Design Strategy

Churchill is quoted as saying *"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."* We hope that visitors will enjoy looking at the results of another busy year in the Design & Technology department, in the annual exhibition on Speech Day. So many exhibits catch the eye, from Josh Wilkinson's prizewinning Butcher's Block (Tony Martin Prize) to the elegant white dove-cote of Elliott Dunford and the silver jewellery of Tom Chan, to whom we wish every success as he reaches the final stages of the Arkwright Scholarship Scheme. Our prize winners this year are Hugh Chapman (Year 13 Browne Prize for Design and Technology) for his adjustable crop sprayer; Jake Sallis (Year 13 Design Prize) for his silver jewellery and turned walnut container and Will Twentyman (Year 12 Browne Prize for Design and Technology) for his Garden Cloches propagation system.



Art Exhibition

Once again our artists proved their mettle with an eye-catching exhibition of work throughout the Design School. We anticipated some great pieces from Anna Partington (Year 12 Howard Smith Prize) who has delivered exciting work both in her paintings and photography. Irina Voinea (Year 13 Howard Smith Prize) has also produced excellent pieces; she intends to study Fashion Design at university next year and is one of a number of A2 students who are leaving us to study Art, Photography or Design.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Drama Production

Disco Inferno was set to be a sure triumph from the beginning! Featuring hits from the '70's, such as 'Hot Stuff', 'Boogie Nights' and 'I Will Survive,' the production created an opportunity for students to combine their acting, singing, and dancing skills. We were set on fire by the spectacle. All was held together by the focus, energy and professionalism shown by our leads: Mimi O'Neill, Alice Mead, Tom Brown, Natalie Fulcher, Sam Crimp, Sophie Baker, Emily Higgins, Robert Camplin, Angelo Concin, Lewis Myers-Allen, and his younger brother Alex. Special thanks must go to Kirsty Scrivener, Isobel de Podesta and Bethany Burgoyne for their wonderful choreography and to Tom Howard and Maurice Gifford for their genius with all things technical.

Colette Hamilton flourished in her directorial debut, ably accompanied by Alana Conroy. With the assistance of old hand Tony Lawrence, their collective talents created a disco sensation.



Summer Concert

Taking as its basis the anniversaries of Purcell, Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn, College students and staff, swelled by friends, gave the annual Summer Concert in St Michael's, Framlingham. The orchestra gave an accomplished performance of music by Mendelssohn & Bernstein, the Chamber Choir sang Purcell, and the Choir performed a variety of works including Haydn and a Nigerian high-life song. Exquisite solos came from Imogen Webb, Rosie Bullen, Olivia Castle, and leavers Bethany Burgoyne, Nicholas Thorne and James Mee.

Music Exam Success

The College has achieved a tremendous set of results in the March exams set by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).

In the theoretical examinations, siblings Kathryn Berry (12V) and Thomas Berry (9G) both achieved a Merit in Grade 5.

In the practical examinations, the students excelled themselves, with Distinctions for Bethany Burgoyne and Imogen Webb and Merits for Natalie Fulcher, Camilla Hopkinson, Eve and Jasmine Lawson and John Southworth.

Staff who opted for Miss Catherine Cranmer's 'Learn an instrument for charity' competition also covered themselves with glory; Imogen Webb managed to find time to teach Miss Cranmer the cello, where she gained a Distinction. Not to be outdone, Mrs Myers-Allen carried off a Distinction on the oboe.

Sports Report

1st XI Cricket

The 2009 cricket season has been blessed with good weather and great pitches. Robbie Bridgstock is an exciting prospect for the future with a career best 88* in the first game against Brentwood School. Ben Gowing has captained the team maturely, scoring 121 against the Gents of Essex and Ben Wright has been our most consistent batsman, averaging 65+ with a top score of 103. Tom Over has supported the top three batsmen with a personal best 72* against Colchester RGS. Bowling has been steady, with Christian Rowles, Sam Bennett-King, Henry Moffatt, Toby Rider and Tom Claydon all having successful spells.



Cricketers' Trip To Lords

After all their hard work during the winter net sessions, Sadiq Keshwani and Toby Rider were rewarded with an invitation to a cricket master class at Lords, which was being run by Darren Gough.

After a brief tour around the Lords ground, the boys had a good bat and bowl under the watchful eye of Martin Bicknell (Surrey and England) and of course 'Goughie' himself.

James sails away with SportsAid

At the end of May, James Bolingbroke was presented with the Asda Sporting Chance SportsAid Award, which is part of a wider initiative to increase participation in sport across Britain. Later this year James will participate in Kiel Week, The Worlds on Lake Garda and the Nationals at Hayling Island.



Hockey's History Boys!

Last term the College secured victory at the St. George's Sixes for the second time.

With 28 top hockey-playing schools involved, our path to the semi-finals was achieved with victories against Millfield, Chatham House, Dulwich College, RGS Guildford and Dr Challoner's, and a draw against Kingston GS. In the semi we ran out worthy 2-1 winners against Desborough, before securing a sensational 3-2 victory over Tonbridge School in the final after extra-time. The Cup was presented by Simon Mason (Vice-President of England Hockey) to Freddy Whitfield and Ben Gowing, and the Man of the Match Award to Tom Dunnett.



Having won the Suffolk County Cup, the 1st XI managed to sustain their unbeaten run to the end of term with an emphatic win against Ipswich (6-1!), before departing for the Bath Festival. Here they cut quite a dash with further victories against Windsor GS, KCS Wimbledon and King Edward's Southampton, as well as a 3-3 draw against Reed's. The final 1st XI playing record makes spectacular reading: *played 16; won 14; drawn 2; goals for 75; goals against 25.*

Girls in Grand Slams!

On the back of their success in the AEGON National Senior Students' tennis final in Bolton (see picture), where they finished joint 3rd, the 1st VI came eagerly back to pre-season training determined to achieve great things this term too.

In the Aberdare Cup, the team of Tori Aldred, Lydia Green, Becky Saunders and Caroline Reid proved to be too strong for the Amberfield side and beat them 12 - 0. They then put in an awesome performance against Norwich School in the semi-final defeating them 4 rubbers to 2. They are now in the National Finals, which feature the top 16 schools in the country.



L-R Felicity Cobbold, Caroline Reid, Tori Aldred and Becky Saunders

The Suffolk Doubles on the Bank Holiday weekend saw both 1st team and 2nd team winning all their sets making both sides Suffolk champions in their respective competitions. The junior sides have also looked strong with the U15B AEGON team and the U14A currently undefeated.

FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

After a lengthy absence, the football team has made a welcome return to the list of competitive sports played at Framlingham College.

The boys have played some really attractive, possession-based football this season and have produced some pleasing results, particularly against strong teams from RHS and Norwich School.



Well done to Mr Lavery and the boys for re-launching the dream and thanks to Mr Peter Bell of "Los Geordies" for very generously sponsoring the playing kit.

Patrick Spraggs - Golfing Success!



Having already achieved 4th place in the Under 18 rankings in the English Golf Union Boys Order of Merit, Patrick Spraggs was selected to represent Framlingham College in the South East England schools' championship, which was held in Bedford. Patrick beat off a tough field to win by 4 shots with a final total of 1 over par after 36 holes. As South East champion he will now represent the SE England schools in the national finals on June 22nd in Middlesex. The Top 10 at the Nationals automatically go through to represent England against Wales and Scotland later in the year.