

**'COME ON,
FOLKS,' SAYS
BART IN ONE
PARTICULARLY
FINE EPISODE
OF THE
SIMPSONS,
'THESE POEMS
AREN'T GOING
TO ANALYSE
THEMSELVES!'**

English is not something that happens by itself or that anyone else can do for you. It requires personal engagement, ceaseless curiosity and care. I often find myself stressing the five key strands of English practice: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and, at the heart of all of these, Thinking. These are not pieces of information that can be taught and learnt; they are skills pupils all have but need constantly to exercise. Their progress depends on what they are willing to do for themselves.

Our task, as teachers, is to guide students in their own development of these key life skills. Most, sadly, will read very few poems once they leave school, let alone write essays about them; many may even find themselves in jobs where writing is confined to poorly spelt and punctuated e-mails; but all will surely need to talk to others and understand their replies. For all, a GCSE in English will be an important proof of competence, and very few pupils leave the College without this qualification.

Many take their studies further than this, embarking on the challenge of A Level English Literature. Our Year 13 of 2006-7 did themselves proud here, with A grades achieved by Laura Bridgstock, Claire Bush, Leela Shanson and Matthew Tubbs. The Year 12 are set fair to match, or even improve upon, this record. One or two may even be brave enough to set their sights on the far horizon of University English.

The study of English, the use of language: these are lifelong pursuits. Like musicians, painters, sculptors, we keep practising but should never expect to perfect or master our art. What would we do if we did? Stop? There is always something else to read, an old favourite to come back to, some new word to add to one's vocabulary. And it is this youthful hunger for knowledge, this relish of our subject, that staff and pupils will miss most in Mrs Jill Sanders. Inspirational teacher, trusted colleague and committed Simpsons' fan, she may retire, but she'll still, surely, be 'doing English'.

Mr Rory Drummond, Head of English

ILLUSTRATION: JAMES WOOD Y9

Work in the ICT department continues apace at the College. In terms of the network and its infrastructure, we have continued to improve and upgrade our provision. Sixty new PCs were bought and installed this summer as part of our three-year replacement cycle, and fibre-optic cable was put in around the site to give us greater bandwidth and improved performance. I am also pleased to announce that we have met our target of fitting all classrooms with projectors by the summer of 2007. This project, initiated by Clive Norton, has been of tremendous benefit to the quality of teaching and learning at the College.

Much of the start to the new year, however, has been taken up with the roll out of Facility CMIS, a new management information system and a major transition for the College. Parents have already experienced the impact of this with a new-style interim report for Year 11 pupils. Overall, the system will provide a vastly improved platform for recording and reporting on students and forms a major component of our ICT Development Plan. With the addition of CMIS, the College now has a portal which not only provides uninterrupted remote access to email and documents, but also the potential to enable students to access information and data anytime anywhere. For the future, we will be continuing to develop CMIS with a view to extending its remit to Brandeston Hall during this academic year and into 2008/2009.

Another major facet of our development though, for 2007/2008, will be the growth of our VLE (virtual learning environment). Schools nationwide are moving to provide an electronic environment which can supply staff and students with their own learning spaces, online resources, electronic assignments and tests and self-paced activities; all to enhance personalised and independent learning. This is a very exciting phase in any school's development and at Framlingham College we will be

basing these developments on Microsoft's Learning Gateway and Learning Kit.

Turning to the ICT curriculum, we now have an active GCSE program for years 9 and 10 and have a thriving A-Level which focuses on applying skills to real world contexts. Finally, and by no means least, we said goodbye this year to one of our ICT technicians, Ben Payne, who has moved onto RM. We wish him well. We also say a hello to Jamie Mayhew who has joined us and we look forward to his future input.

Mr Chris Rimmer, Head of ICT

**...THE
POTENTIAL TO
ENABLE
STUDENTS TO
ACCESS
INFORMATION
AND DATA
ANYTIME
ANYWHERE.**

The Modern Languages Department enjoyed an exciting and successful year. Without doubt the highlight for all, staff and pupils alike, was the installation over the 2006 summer holidays of a new digital language laboratory.

...ENHANCING INTERACTIVE LEARNING AT ALL LEVELS... This proved to be a splendid resource with its versatile and sophisticated features enhancing interactive learning at all levels and in all the languages we offer.

There were two highly successful trips during the academic year. Ms de Luis took our Year 13 Hispanists to Madrid in October and Mr Jowitt spent 4 days in Paris with a number of our senior French students over Easter. By all accounts everyone benefited enormously from these visits. More recently, Mr Dyer worked hard to prepare a group of Year 12 students for a visit to a primary school in Ipswich where they taught a number of the children basic language lessons in French and German. This proved to be a most valuable experience for all concerned.

The ability and effort levels of our current crop of students means we ended the year with high expectations of successful examination results. We have some really fine linguists at the moment, with special mention going to the Year 11 trio of Tori Aldred, Lydia Holloway and James Mee. These three produced outstanding results throughout the year, as did our new Year 12 student, Robert Beavis, a young man with the potential to be the strongest Germanist we have had in many years.

Our French Assistante, Alexandra Cochard, was of invaluable help to all our senior students and should take her share of the credit for their success. We will be sorry to lose her.

The department has enjoyed a very settled staffing situation for a number of years now. Happily, this continues next year, although with a couple of changes in rôle. Mr Thorpe takes over the reins as Head of Department while I move into Stradbroke as Housemaster.

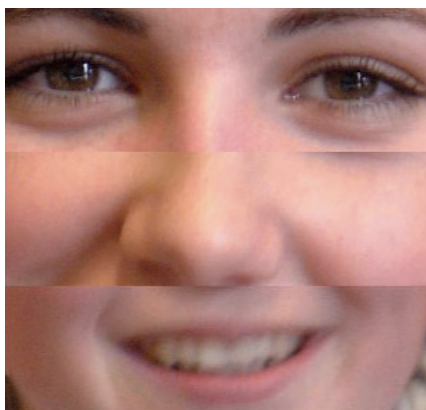
Mr Bernard Dyer, Out-going Head of Modern Languages

"The real question is not whether machines think, but whether humans do!"

This provocative quotation (which originates with the psychologist B F Skinner) is one that students have been giving a lot of time to this year. Our studies of the behaviour of that strangest of creatures, the human being, have prompted some interesting questions. Do we really have free will? Can we choose our own fates? Or is our behaviour determined by forces beyond our control? If so, are these forces environmental, biological or unconscious? As so often in such discussions, there are no easy answers.

Fraud's... Sorry, Freud's view of a dynamic unconscious has been another debating point. Like Davina McCall announcing an award for 'breast singer', we have all made embarrassing verbal slips at inappropriate times. According to Freud's interpretation, these are no mere accidents, and pupils enjoyed coming up with their own examples to prove and disprove his point.

In the Spring term, we looked at Face Recognition, producing composite portraits using each others' features to investigate a phenomenon called holistic processing. I wonder if readers will recognise any of the students who took part.



As well as all this entertaining stuff, this year's pupils achieved good results in the January modules, giving themselves a great opportunity to secure fine grades in the summer and maintaining the high standards of the department. It is to be hoped that many will follow the likes of Vicky Mawson, Will Owen and Kara Kendall by studying Psychology at University.

Mrs Sue Hobson, Head of Psychology

We started this school year still reeling from the terrorist bombings around the world, the continuing and escalating situations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the emotional upheaval that these events caused. It is no wonder in such times that people turn to religion for understanding and support. And yet the world's great religions themselves have a lot to answer for in terms of war, a point pupils have been quick to raise. It is one of the joys of an RS class that it allows us the opportunity to deal with some of the ultimate questions in life and to try and develop some semblance of understanding. It is largely for this reason that the Year 9 course is entitled 'WHY?' Understanding meaning is a theme which continues throughout GCSE and A level studies and one which provokes much in the way of intellectual and emotional debate.

The major trip at GCSE level is to the Holocaust exhibition at the Imperial War Museum where students have the opportunity to hear eye-witness accounts of some of the most horrific acts in recent history. It is then possible to draw direct parallels with the ethnic cleansing in Darfur and the recent troubles in Rwanda. Understanding the evil that some people choose to deliver onto others leads students to reflect critically on the nature of suffering in today's world and some of the reasons for it. Sixth Form studies include the issues of poverty in Latin America and sexual and racial inequality in North America and religious responses to it. Philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle and Kant help students develop an awareness of thought and why people act in certain ways.

Exam level RS continues to blossom and this can only be a healthy thing for the College and society beyond. Gandhi wrote: 'A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.' Logically then, if our young people leave school with some semblance of awareness of right and wrong then they may be able to influence the world of the future.

I would like to express my thanks to Steve Waters and Cath Rowson who have so ably contributed to the teaching of RS this year.

Julian Holland, Head of Department

Through the efforts of Tom Gaughan (Capt), Sam Cherry-Downes, Ollie Cutting and Clifford Mann, the College Economics Department appeared in the Business section of The Times on the 4th December 2006. The journalist, Gabriel Rozenberg, was impressed with a talk given by the students, quoting Ollie Cutting's stern riposte to the Bank of England over interest rate policy. 'We believe we can decrease the rates,' Ollie announced with real authority, and

'WE BELIEVE WE CAN DECREASE THE RATES,' OLLIE CUTTING ANNOUNCED WITH REAL AUTHORITY, AND FLYING IN THE FACE OF MOST CURRENT THINKING ON THE SUBJECT...

flying in the face of most current thinking on the subject, 'as long as other macro-economic variables work in harmony with each other.' Perhaps we will be hitting the national press again next year, with the department aiming to tie up a programme with Action Aid. Globalisation and resource management are now key themes on the A Level syllabus and we are keen to develop practical programs in this area.

As for this year past, congratulations must go to Drivalda Delia, who achieved a merit in the Advanced Extension Award. I would like more candidates to set their sights higher when they first join the course and aim for this difficult exam. It gives the student the opportunity to break away from the modular approach of the A Level course, and to see the subject as a whole. It is interesting to note that, in her first year, Drivalda was by no means at the top of her class, but by the end of the second had matured into a very capable economist. This shows what can be achieved through hard work.

As for the rest of the Economics set of 2006-7, Gemma Ellis was a lively addition on her arrival in the Upper Sixth, proving more than a match for the mighty Hurlock. Mujammil Hussain could be relied on to add his thoughts to the mix, and the ageing Michael Jia finally secured himself a place to study Economics at Aberystwth. Everything was carefully monitored by Tom

Sallis, the winner of the Economics prize. All deserved their success.

In Business Studies we once again held a Dragons' Den competition, and welcomed back as judges Mrs Froud (Marketing Guru, and the department's answer to Simon Cowell), Mr Ball (National Blacksmith champion and expert on the Monopolies and Mergers commission) and Mr Coleridge (ex-Finance Director of Trusthouse Forte). This year the winner came from the

farming community, Toby Tibbenham fending off determined challenges from Rob Norman and Freddie Vaudrey.

This experience no doubt helped the students with what is a challenging A Level course, particularly given our tactic of offering all six examination units in January. Next year, as always, this target will be open to all our students, whatever their ability, with the goal of achieving their qualification several months early. The department will also be entering students for the Advanced Extension Award in Business Studies, giving pupils another way to stretch themselves and develop a greater understanding of the whole subject. Last year, candidates for this examination were given a 16 page unseen case study on British Airways. The students then had two hours to come up with an innovative new business strategy for this famous company. This is the sort of exercise that would go down well on an MBA course.

So, Action Aid, Dragons' Den, Advanced Extension Awards in both Economics and Business Studies... all of these and more are keeping us very busy these days and helping the students, not only to enjoy these subjects, but also, if they do the work, to achieve the desired results.

Mr Charles Caiger, Head of Business Studies and Economics

This year, we were again very pleased with our GCSE results (20% A*, 42% A+, 70% B+, 97% C+) and our Upper Sixth Advanced and Lower Sixth AS grades. While we lost the likes of Richard Chan, Axel Stelk, Maj-Britt Sterba and Tadeas Petak, our best remaining Lower Sixth students are in a strong position to continue with the Further Mathematics course. For the rest, most have already obtained an A grade in their Advanced Level course, having performed well in seven modules in the Lower Sixth.

As usual, several of our best students entered the Advanced Extension Award, a qualification for which universities have a high regard. Amongst the Year 13, Clifford Man had already obtained the top distinction award for this examination last year and went on to obtain a top grade 5 in the Cambridge STEP 1 paper. Four Year 12 students (Nikko Cheung, Alex Lai, Ivan Li and Helena Yang) were this year awarded merits in the AEA. Three of these, along with Kenny Wu, also managed grade 2 performances in Cambridge STEP papers.

Many of these students were also entered for the UK Mathematics Challenge. In November's senior event, 5 pupils (Nikko, Richard, Tadeas and Helena from Year 12, and Martin Sopusek from Year 13) achieved the Gold Award, with 5 gaining Silver and 9 Bronze. Nikko was 'Best in School' and was invited to take part in the second round of the competition – the British Mathematical Olympiad.

The intermediate event came in February. Thirty-one awards were achieved (9 Gold, 9 Silver and 13 Bronze). Seven pupils (Adrian Woo, James Wheeler, Horace Keung, John Ting and Ian Tsang from Year 11, Leonie Salvesen from Year 10 and Eleanor Shallow from Year 9) did particularly well and have been invited to take part in the next stages of the competition. Adrian was chosen as 'Best in School'.

All in all we have had a successful and rewarding year and intend continuing our top set programme throughout the College (commencing in Y9) to develop our talented mathematicians.

Mr Ken Hoyle, Head of Mathematics