Great results * Performing Arts * Sports success

Hair we come!
Students bring Hairspray to the Rodillian stage
A WORLD OF difference

The past two years have seen Rodillian School undergo an outstanding transformation – from our state-of-the-art building to the obvious improvement in results.

In their report, Ofsted said that we ‘could have done nothing more to improve the school in the time available’, proving that our new systems have made a world of difference.

Headteacher Mr Goulty feels that students are happier and safer, behaviour has significantly improved and lessons are more dynamic. He stated: “This change represents a new start, and we’re going to keep on improving.”

Emma Callum, Year 13

Year 11 step up to the Sixth Form

Many of our students gained exceptional GCSE results in 2009, and have chosen to further their education in Rodillian’s Sixth Form.

One example is Faye Sheldrake, who gained three A*s, seven As and one B. Faye is keen to work hard to achieve similar grades at A-Level. With students like Faye, we have high hopes for our 2010 A-Level results.

Emma Kinnaney, Year 13

Top marks in English

Year 11 English Literature students celebrated the school’s best results. The two top sets were taught by Mrs Miller and Mrs Harrington, and achieved three A*s and 18 A grades between them.

Rodillian students even out-performed all students nationally by nine per cent. Congratulations to all concerned, and to A* students Steff Lawson, Jonny Kerr and Eliza Hickinson.

Lessons in creativity

Treasure hunts, Djembe lessons, film-making, memory games, quiz the teacher! These are just some of the activities a student in Year 7 can expect to learn as part of the school’s creative curriculum.

Students take part in project-based activities themed around Performing Arts and Humanities to gain knowledge about learning, develop personal learning attributes known as the 5Rs (Resilient, Resourceful, Responsible, Reasoning and Reflective), and practice new skills.

Performing Arts

FORTY new Year 7 students attended the Performing Arts Summer School in July.

The week included workshops in Dance, Drama and Art, a costume workshop at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, an interactive performance by Blah Theatre Company and a trip to The Deep in Hull.

“It was great fun and made me feel more confident,” said attendee Chloe. One parent commented: “It was an opportunity to meet staff and students in a relaxed setting.”

Year 9 master Maths

For the first time in the school’s history, Year 9 students sat their first module of their Maths GCSE a year early – and their results were the best since the modular course was introduced four years ago. Students in Year 10 continue to do well, including Nathan Parker who achieved 100 per cent in both his module examinations.

Spotlight on...

Newly qualified English teacher Miss Gibson started at Rodillian in September. We asked her some questions about the school:

Why did you come to Rodillian?

A: I knew about the school and its history as I have previous links with the community. I heard about the improvements to the school and wanted to get involved.

What are you enjoying about the job?

A: There is a great atmosphere.

What’s been the hardest thing to adjust to?

A: Setting in and getting used to the systems that are already in place.

What are you looking forward to doing?

A: Tracking the achievements of my classes and seeing them achieve positive rewards. Hairspray should be great too!

Danielle Steen, Year 13

It was great fun and made me feel more confident...
Our Specialism gives our students the skills and confidence to succeed

Three of our students, Nicole Godfrey, Ellie Robinson and Sophie Lund, began attending the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in September after gaining places with Yorkshire Young Dancers. They join Nadene and Lorna Chadwick, who are in their second year.

The scheme aims to give young people with exceptional talent the best pre-vocational training in Dance. Students attend up to eight hours a week, and have the opportunity to work with professional artists and choreographers.

Emma Fletcher, Abigail Dickinson and Megan Taylor also successfully auditioned for Phoenix Dance Theatre’s youth company Bennu, and will be performing as part of the company.

Subsequently, Rodillian has been selected to host the Yorkshire Young Dancers auditions in February.

Rodillian’s Got Talent

Last term, some of our talented students took part in auditions for the Leeds-based competition, ‘SchoolsGotTalent’.

Rodillian held the first auditions in which a variety of acts competed for a place in the quarter-finals.

Year 11 student Will Bedford wowed the crowd with his beatboxing talent, and will now represent the school in the semi-finals.

Amber Wilson, Year 13

Passionate about the Performing Arts

The Music Department has seen a few changes recently. Students in all years can now take part in a variety of musical and music technology experiences, including Year 9 band performance. We have also invested in new instruments such as guitars and Djembes, a type of African drum. For those students who would like to develop their performing skills, the Music Department is pleased to introduce MusicScool, the Tuesday after-school club that mixes Junk Band, African Drumming and Keyboard Club – the possibilities are endless.

MUSICSCOOL!

In November, students in Year 11 took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, which gives students the opportunity to perform on a professional stage, in our case the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Rodillian’s aspiring actors had the opportunity to rehearse Measure for Measure in the theatre with professional sound and lighting technicians. Student Shaun Haley said: “Being involved made me more confident.”

Shakespeare on Stage

Hairspray set to be big hit

The school’s forthcoming production of Hairspray promises to be another toe-tapping, musical spectacular.

Set in 1960s America, Hairspray tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a larger-than-life schoolgirl, who manages to dance her way on to ‘The Corny Collins Show’ and into the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin.

Tickets for the show, which runs from 9th-12th February, are available from January.
Calling all film buffs...

Although it’s fun just watching movies with your friends, that’s not all the Film Club has to offer. Prepare to be provoked, dazzled, amused, shocked and uplifted (sometimes all at once!) by the variety of films on offer. Vintage hits, international classics, blockbusters, Art movies and stories produced in every corner of the world – the Film Club has them all.

What’s on

ON 1st July, students took part in a spectacular evening of Performing Arts. We were lucky to be joined by former Rodillian students ‘The Pigeon Detectives’, who were interviewed by star-struck Year 13 student Hannah Clark. The group presented students with awards for excellence, effort and achievements. The audience, which included parents, were treated to a night of music, singing and dancing, and tucked in to wine, cheese and biscuits. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in this successful night.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

Broomfield residential boosts skills

StudentS at Rodillian’s partner school, Broomfield, recently enjoyed residential holidays at the Brittany craft centre in Brittany and the Wingate centre in Wrenbury, Cheshire. In Brittany, students enjoyed art activities every morning and explored a cathedral, museum, market and the town of Val Andre in the afternoons. In Cheshire, students made candles, visited the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester and Chester Zoo.

Both holidays enabled the students to develop a range of social and independence skills.

What’s on

December 2009

9th | Year 13 Parents Evening
15th | Trip to The Secret Garden
17th | Community Carol Concert, Rothwell Parish Church, 7-8pm. Join us for an evening of entertainment, and start Christmas in style
18th | End of term

January 2010

4th | Training Day
5th | School re-opens
18th | Sixth Form Open Evening
21st | Year 11 Parents Evening

February 2010

1st | Year 10 Parents Evening
8th | Primary School performance of Hairspray
9-12th | Nightly performances of Hairspray. Please contact school for tickets
12th | Half-term
22nd | School re-opens

March 2010

3rd | Year 9 Options Evening
23rd | Year 12 Parents Evening

Performances raise the roof

On 1st July, students took part in a spectacular evening of Performing Arts. We were lucky to be joined by former Rodillian students ‘The Pigeon Detectives’, who were interviewed by star-struck Year 13 student Hannah Clark. The group presented students with awards for excellence, effort and achievements. The audience, which included parents, were treated to a night of music, singing and dancing, and tucked in to wine, cheese and biscuits. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in this successful night.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

Sixth Form cast their vote

In July, members of the Sixth Form took part in a fiercely contested Senior Student Team election. Candidates had to complete an application letter and attend an interview with Mrs Boyd. The elected team has already organised a number of charity events and a stock market share scheme.

Students reap their reward

As a reward for hard work and commitment to school, more than 400 students embarked on a trip to Alton Towers in September. Students had to achieve at least 150 credits over the year to be eligible, with many achieving significantly more. A further group of students were rewarded for excellent attendance with a trip to the Great Yorkshire Show in July.

A positive partnership

Students who are studying ICT Level 3 recently visited the Leeds office of the law firm Addleshaw Goddard. During the visit, the students were shown various collaboration tools used by the company, both within the ICT support department and other areas of the business. The experience and the knowledge they gained will form part of their coursework portfolio.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award aims to encourage young people to get involved in their community, develop new skills and increase their physical fitness. More than 80 students in Years 10, 11 and 13 recently completed their Bronze practice expedition in Lower Wharfedale, near Otley, when they successfully carried all their equipment and navigated 15 miles over two days.

To develop new skills in school, some students are learning to cook, while others are turning their hand to pottery. All the students are expected to complete their Bronze Award by July 2010.
THE U16 girls’ football team took part in the Ruth Gorse Memorial Football Tournament in September, at Morley High School.

The team held Morley to a 0-0 draw, but were beaten 1-0 by Airedale in the last two minutes of the game.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

THE Year 11 rugby team were victorious in the Leeds and District final, securing an 18-10 win against the David Young Academy. Clear favourites after a win against Woodkirk High in the semi-final, the boys deserve their success after training hard with community coach Jonny Wainhouse during the past year. We wish them well in the coming season.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

Volleyball’s big hitters

THE latest volleyball news includes Jessica Plumridge and James Ingham, who have been selected for the Yorkshire U16/17 squad.

Meanwhile, Miss Routledge has passed her Federation of International Volleyball Level one qualification – one of the few women in England to do so. The qualification means that she can assist a coach on an international team.

Also, just a reminder about the community volleyball club, which meets at school every Thursday from 3.30-4.30.

Danielle Steen, Year 13

CONGRATULATIONS to Year 11 student and slalom skiing champion Steven Helliwell who will be representing Great Britain in France in the new year. Steven, who has taken part in competitions abroad and on indoor slopes in Britain, said: “I’m really looking forward to it, but I’m nervous as well.”

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

Girls keep fit with football

THE U16 girls’ football team took part in the Ruth Gorse Memorial Football Tournament in September, at Morley High School.

The team held Morley to a 0-0 draw, but were beaten 1-0 by Airedale in the last two minutes of the game.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

THE Year 11 rugby team were victorious in the Leeds and District final, securing an 18-10 win against the David Young Academy. Clear favourites after a win against Woodkirk High in the semi-final, the boys deserve their success after training hard with community coach Jonny Wainhouse during the past year. We wish them well in the coming season.

Natalie Kelly, Year 13

Volleyball’s big hitters

THE latest volleyball news includes Jessica Plumridge and James Ingham, who have been selected for the Yorkshire U16/17 squad.

Meanwhile, Miss Routledge has passed her Federation of International Volleyball Level one qualification – one of the few women in England to do so. The qualification means that she can assist a coach on an international team.

Also, just a reminder about the community volleyball club, which meets at school every Thursday from 3.30-4.30.

Danielle Steen, Year 13

CONGRATULATIONS to Year 11 student and slalom skiing champion Steven Helliwell who will be representing Great Britain in France in the new year. Steven, who has taken part in competitions abroad and on indoor slopes in Britain, said: “I’m really looking forward to it, but I’m nervous as well.”

Natalie Kelly, Year 13