

Dance and  
Drama

\* Charity  
fundraising

\* Primary  
links

Summer  
2013

10

# Centre Stage

the news magazine of The Rodillian Academy

## Rock challenge

Award-winning  
performance



## A dynamic start to the year

AT the end of another successful year at the Academy, which is set to produce our best ever GCSE results, what am I most excited about for next year?

The launch of our Year 7 Resilience Curriculum, with its residential camp, will be a dynamic way to start the year. We have also invested heavily in innovative ways to develop Literacy – you will soon be reading about the new Rise and Read and Lexia programmes, alongside the work of the new Literacy teachers and other exciting initiatives. Moreover, Rodillian is now one of nine specialist water sports hubs in England which, together with the arrival of our Rugby Union and Netball academies, will ensure that next year is as productive and exciting as this year has been.

*Andy Goulty, Headteacher*

## Spotlight on... Deputy Directors of Learning



THE Deputy Directors of Learning were selected to join the team due to their consistently excellent classroom practice, the outcomes they have helped young people to achieve and their commitment to innovation.

Their brief is to develop a model of coaching and training that enables all staff at The Rodillian Academy to reflect, innovate and share good practice, thus continuing the rise in

standards of teaching and learning that has been at the heart of our success.

They are passionate about the model they have developed, which gives our teaching staff ongoing support, time and resources to facilitate their professional development, and we are certain that it will have a positive impact upon the enjoyment, engagement and attainment of our young people.

## Enterprise project

### takes off



A NUMBER of students recently set about manufacturing bird boxes as part of a business enterprise project.

The students designed the bird boxes – complete with chimneys – primarily for the preservation of the British sparrow whose population is in decline, which was a key element of their marketing strategy.

The first boxes, which were offered to staff, sold out on the first day, and plans are in place to manufacture more boxes and expand the product range. Sale proceeds will be used to purchase more materials to continue the project.

## Recognition of our success

HEADTEACHER Andy Goulty and Brian Sheldrake, our Chair of Governors, have been chosen for national roles supporting other headteachers and chairs of governors to improve leadership, governance and school performance.

Mr Goulty said: 'I am immensely proud, both for myself and for Rodillian, to have become a National Leader in Education. It gives national recognition to the hard work of staff that has gone into turning round what was a failing school. We are now in a position whereby we can use our experience to support other underperforming and failing schools.'

Mr Sheldrake is one of only 44 governors to be appointed to the role of National Leader of Governance in the latest recruitment round by the National College for School Leadership.



## Charity champion

YEAR 11 student Amy Smith has spent the past six months fundraising for Cancer Research. Amy, whose mum and other family members have suffered from the disease, wanted to make a difference and support the continuing research into finding cures for cancer.

So far Amy has raised £200

bag-packing and £100 from a bake sale at school. A recent sponsored silence raised more than £700, after she was given permission from the Headteacher to use a whiteboard to communicate in lessons and around school.

Amy has now set her heart on completing a daring skydive.



## What's on

### July

**18th** School closes at noon  
**24th-26th** Performing Arts Summer School (Year 6)

### August

**15th** A-Level results  
**22nd** GCSE results

### September

**2nd** Training Day  
**3rd** Year 7 and Year 12 start school  
**4th** All year groups in school  
**17th** Year 6 Open Evening  
**21st** F.O.R. tabletop sale  
**24th-26th** Year 7 Resilience camp  
**27th** Rewards Trip  
**30th** Year 7 settling-in evening

### October

**2nd** F.O.R. fashion show and sale  
**16th** Year 11 Parents' Evening  
**24th** Year 10 Parents' Evening  
**25th** School closes

### November

**4th** School reopens  
Year 9 Parents' Evening  
**16th** F.O.R. Christmas Craft and Gift Fair  
**26th** Year 8 Parents' Evening  
**28th** Sixth Form Open Evening

### December

**10th** Year 7 Parents' Evening  
**12th** Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening  
**19th** Community Carol Concert  
**20th** School closes



## 'Oliver!' steals the show

AFTER a successful presentation to local primary schools, students entertained audiences at Rodillian with three performances of *Oliver!*

The production was the culmination of six months of hard work and dedication from a team of more than 80 students, who took charge of everything from ticket sales, advertising and backstage management to sound and lighting and, of course, performing.

Directed by English teacher Amy Gibson, with Susannah Davis as musical director, there were outstanding performances from, among others, Erica Widd in Year 7 as Oliver, Year 11 student Rhys Neville as Mr Bumble, and Beth Rawlings in Year 10 as Nancy.



## MUSICAL FEAST

DURING February half-term, 40 students boarded a coach in the early hours for the long trip to London. After being dropped off at Greenwich, where the Cutty Sark is berthed, we boarded a river cruiser for a guided tour up the Thames, passing the Tower of London, the Globe and 'The Gherkin', among other landmarks.

Alighting at the London Eye, we returned to the hotel to change before setting off to watch the musical *Matilda*. The next day, there was time to shop in Covent Garden before our second musical feast of *Singin' in the Rain*.



## ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

AFTER weeks of hard work, the Dance department put on their annual Dance spectacular over two nights in May.

The winning piece from Rock Challenge opened the show, followed by exam pieces from Years 9 to 13. All genres were covered, including lyrical, tap, contemporary and hip hop. A fantastic contemporary piece, Torn, from students in Key Stages 3 and 4 closed the first half, showcasing the amazing talent that continues to come up through the ranks.

Particular highlights included a Charlie Chaplin piece in black and white, and a moving solo about a soldier by Jade Tye, which she had choreographed herself.

# Students showcase their skills

FROM ACTING AND MUSIC TO DANCE AND CREWING, STUDENTS AT RODILLIAN RELISH THE CHALLENGE OF LIVE PERFORMANCE

## Tarzan rocks!

RODILLIAN took first place in the Bradford heats of this year's Rock Challenge after successfully winning most of the awards.

After an early start and a long day of rehearsals, we wowed audiences with 'Two Worlds', which told the story of *Tarzan*. Alongside awards for Hair Design and Make-up Design, the group also won awards for Entertainment, Concept Originality, Costume Design and Performance Skill.

Feedback from the judges commented on the professional quality of the overall piece and the skills of the performers.

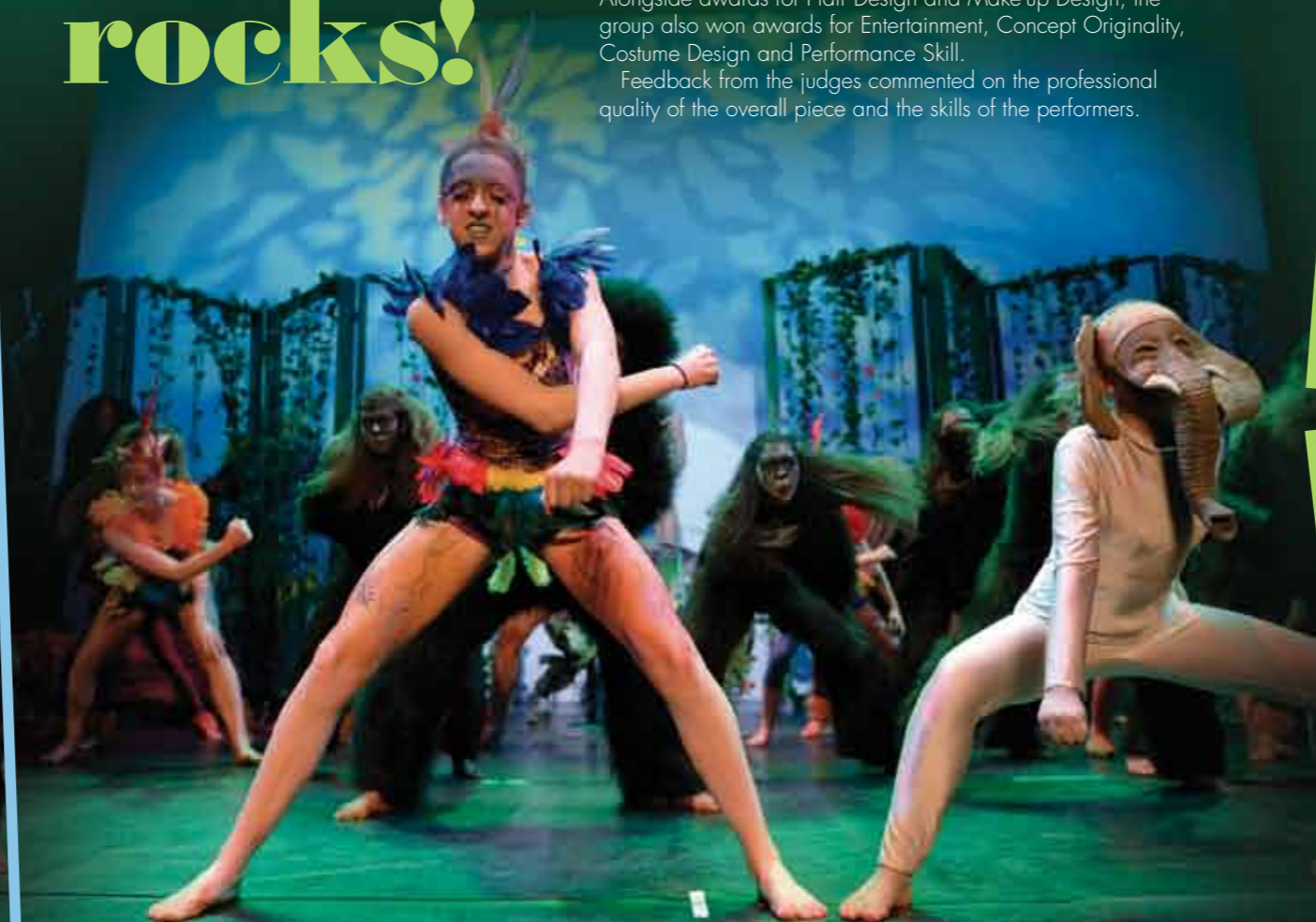


## The Playhouse presents...

STUDENTS from Rodillian were given the opportunity to take part in the annual National Theatre 'Connections' project.

From a list of ten commissioned plays, *We Lost Elijah* was chosen in the belief that the cast would find the story interesting, and enjoy rehearsing and performing it, and that the staging of the play would work equally well at Rodillian and for the transfer to the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

After an outstanding final performance at the Playhouse, the cast were praised by the theatre's staff for their professionalism and commitment.



# R.A.W.S. talent!

R.A.W.S. (Rodillian Acting and Writing Society) would like to invite students to join a brand new club in English called DRAMATICUS!

Working in pairs or groups, budding wordsmiths and thespians from all year groups can explore a different theme – from ghost stories and poetry to popular television and lyrical verse – under the creative guidance of Miss Yates and Miss Rogers.

Join us once a fortnight on Thursdays at 2.30pm in English8 to discover more.



## DRAGON INSPIRES SUCCESS

A-LEVEL students spent a memorable evening in the company of Hilary Devey from *Dragons' Den*.

The occasion was especially useful for A-Level Business students, who are

currently working on 'what makes a successful entrepreneur', as it helped them to understand the realities of running a business, and the motivation needed to ensure it thrives.

## Tribute to Norman Wright

IN May, the Academy was saddened by the death of Norman Wright, known as 'Norm' by everyone from the Headteacher to Year 7. Norm joined the staff as a Technology Technician in 2002. Most of his previous working life was spent as an engineer, manufacturing locomotive parts and oil platform equipment.

Over the years, Norm transferred his skills to preparing materials for thousands of students' DT projects. However, his contribution to school went much further. A role model to many children, Norm offered work placements to those students keen to seek experience in a practical setting, and established excellent relationships with staff and students, particularly Broomfield.

Steven Belfield, Head of Design & Technology, said: "We in the Technology department loved him, and he will be greatly missed by many staff and students at Rodillian."



## Race for life



IN April 2012, Maths teacher Charlotte Headley was diagnosed with cancer. In support, Michelle Puxty ran the 5K Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK, with Charlotte's name on the back of her T-shirt. Charlotte is now back at work, and both she and Michelle invited other members of staff to join them at this year's event, where they raised more than £500 for the charity.

## Key Stage 1 go wild!

CARLTON Primary School recently made the most of the sunshine by learning outside in their new wildlife area.

The area was built last summer by staff and volunteers in a project that was funded mainly by the PTA. The garden is an ideal area for all kinds of outdoor learning with its mini-beast hotel, meadow area, storytelling circle, fire pit and pond, which is now teeming with tadpoles and insects.

Key Stage 1 recently kick-started their new topic, 'down at the bottom of the garden', by going on a scavenger hunt and investigating different plants, as well as pond dipping and creating artwork from natural materials.



## Year 6 rise to the challenge

IN June, Year 6 pupils from Robin Hood Primary spent three days taking part in a variety of challenging, thrilling and exhilarating activities at the Robinwood Activity Centre.

Whether it was canoeing, rock climbing, caving, archery, the giant swing, stream walking or the fearful piranha pool, every child faced each challenge with bravery, enthusiasm and sheer determination.



## An imaginative and enriching curriculum

THE Academy has a long and very proud history of enriching the lives of its students by offering a wide and varied range of extra-curricular activities.

In recent years, the opportunity for enrichment has been brought 'inside' school as well, by the development of an imaginative and enriching curriculum that exercises students' energies in new ways.

This year, we have gone one

stage further by creating a specific enrichment curriculum for Year 8 students. Students are now engaged in lessons as diverse as gardening and skiing, architecture and astronomy. Other subjects within the enrichment programme include biking, the performance company, water sports, jewellery-making and design, cooking, rugby union, netball, boxing, journalism and musical performance.

## Pizzas all round

YEAR 6 children from Rothwell Victoria School visited Frankie and Benny's Restaurant, at Crown Point Retail Park, as part of their Jobs Focus Week.

The pupils learnt all about the history of this well known Italian restaurant, as well as important information in connection with health, hygiene and safety. Quizzing the chef and waitresses, the youngsters were keen to find out about their job descriptions and relevant qualifications.

Afterwards, they sampled a variety of ingredients before designing and making their own delicious pizzas.



# Players of distinction

AFTER a series of trials, four Year 8 students were picked to represent South Leeds schools in a city-wide schools' tournament. The game took place against North Leeds Schools at Headingley Stadium on 7th June, prior to the match between Leeds Rhinos and Castleford.

Although South Leeds lost 16-12 in the last second of the game – Cameron Pattison, Jacob Rotherham, Nathan Wilby and Jordan Hurford all played with distinction and were a credit to The Rodillian Academy.

## Pride in their achievements

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award is thriving at Rodillian.

A total of 16 students completed their assessed expedition in and around Burley in Wharfedale in June. In addition, they have volunteered in the local community – in libraries, charity shops and care homes – and enhanced their communication and team-working skills.



## Rugby debut

AS an England Academy international, rugby league player Liam Sutcliffe (pictured in the right of this photo) made his debut for Leeds Rhinos in May. A great all-rounder, he can play either at loose forward or stand-off. According to Head Coach Brian McDermott, Liam is an outstanding prospect who has performed consistently well.

Liam is the latest in a long line of first-class sportsmen from Rodillian. Carl Ablett also plays for Leeds Rhinos, while Luke Gale plays for the Bradford Bulls and Gareth Moore for Batley Bulldogs.

Centre  
**Stage**

**The Rodillian Academy**  
Longthorpe Lane  
Lofthouse  
Wakefield WF3 3PS

**Tel:** 0113 336 8730  
**Fax:** 01924 825 667  
**Email:** info@rodillian.leeds.sch.uk  
**Website:** www.rodillian.leeds.sch.uk



Produced by Words&Pictures  
Tel: 01943 854800