



## Olympic Champion, Darren Campbell MBE opens new sports facilities

In October, Olympic Gold medal winner, Darren Campbell MBE came to the School to officially open the new

The all-weather floodlit sports pitch, athletics strip and three floodlit netball courts are already making a big

difference to sport at the school. It has been possible to introduce more sports such as lacrosse and hockey and the all-weather surfaces mean they can be used all year round. There have been many favourable comments from pupils who make use of the facilities during the school day and long into the evenings.

Facilities like this could not be built without significant funding and

the full cost of £750,000 was covered by generous donations from the Peter Harrison Foundation, Youth Sports Trust, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and another local charity.



*Darren Campbell teaching pupils sprint starts*

sports facilities. On the new athletics strip, pupils received coaching on sprint starts from the 4x100 relay champion before he unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

## “It’s about being given a chance to be a child”

In November, the school hosted a national conference “Boarding Placements for Vulnerable Children”. Dame Mary Richardson, DCSF’s Ambassador promoting boarding placements for vulnerable children, called on local authorities to give more consideration to the use of boarding schools for vulnerable children. Speakers included an inner London head teacher, a local authority manager and the director of a charity, all of whom have successfully placed children in boarding school.

The conference took an emotional turn when a 22 year-old ex-pupil who is now doing a post-graduate law degree, explained how boarding

school had made a difference to her life. She told delegates how she felt safe at boarding school and how she had found a home where people really cared about her. “It made me believe there is no limit to my abilities.”



## Celebrating 250 Years



*Children at the Alexandra Orphanage*

2010 is the year when the school celebrates 250 years since the first child started at The Orphan Working School. To help us celebrate, we hope a Royal Visitor will join us for a thanksgiving service later this year.



*The Duchess of Gloucester with the Headmaster during a visit to the School in 2007.*

# New Developments

## Science and dance boosted by new teaching block

The John White teaching block, with two new science laboratories, new classrooms and dance studio was officially opened by Crispin Blunt MP in June. Many schools do not offer separate sciences at GCSE but the Royal Alexandra and Albert School



*John Turner, Old Scholar and benefactor, watches pupils carry out experiments in the new science Laboratory*

has been offering separate sciences (biology, physics and chemistry) since 2006. With expanded science facilities the school is able to triple the number of pupils who can take separate sciences at GCSE. Within the new teaching block is the

Turner Laboratory which was named after Old Scholar, Mr John Turner who generously donated to the project. Mr Turner officially opened the Turner Laboratory and then spent some time watching pupils as they carried out experiments using the new facilities.

## An 'Outstanding' school – and still improving

When the school had its last Ofsted inspection in June 2008, it was awarded 'outstanding' for every category. Nevertheless, there is still a constant focus on improvement and this showed with the GCSE results in August 2009. For another successive year, the results were an improvement on the previous year



*Delighted pupils celebrate their GCSE results*

with 80% of pupils getting 5 or more GCSEs at A\* - C. The same measure including English and Maths was 59% which is an excellent result for a school with a genuinely comprehensive

intake. What's more there was a huge leap in the results for higher grades; in 2008 19% of pupils achieved 3 or more A or A\* grades; the figure for 2009 was 29%.

## Future developments

In the last few years we have seen many changes around the school, including those described in this newsletter. Nevertheless, there are many more projects in the pipeline;

- Extending two of the boarding houses to create 42 new study bedrooms for sixth formers
- Complete the programme of adding ground floor extensions to all boarding houses
- Tennis centre with indoor, outdoor and junior courts
- Extending the dining hall
- Replace the stable blocks that are in very poor condition
- Restore the gardens in front of Gatton Hall



*Ground floor extensions to Albert and Elizabeth houses*

## Sixth Form

From September 2010, pupils at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School will have the opportunity to stay on as Sixth Formers following the School's success in gaining consent to introduce a Sixth Form. The School plans to capitalise on its unique parkland setting to develop land based diploma courses to run alongside the more traditional A level subjects for sixth formers.

There will be places for up to 90 sixth form pupils and these places will be for both boarders and day pupils. Boarders will live in 42 new study bedrooms with en-suite facilities and all Sixth Form students will share a new Sixth Form Centre on the school site.

# Fundraising



## Our charity's purpose

The Royal Alexandra and Albert School Charitable Foundation has these objectives:

- To establish and maintain a boarding school for boys and girls who are without one or both parents or whose special circumstances make it desirable that they should go to boarding school.
  - To bring up the boys and girls in the school upon Protestant principles and to have them educated under arrangements provided by the statutory education authority.
- The aim is to achieve this objective by increasing the number of 'Foundationers', continuing with capital investment to improve the school's facilities and providing grant finance to support Foundationers.

## An Evening of Cabaret

The 'fun' was put into 'fundraising' when the school hosted 'An Evening of Cabaret' in November. The audience were treated to an extravaganza of musical hits from West End shows, classic pop and even music-hall performed by post-graduate Musical Theatre students from the Royal Academy of Music. Not only were the performances of the four singers and pianist impeccable, but the show had been tailor-made to the audience and the venue. Musical Director, Andrew Friesner had clearly checked the programme and noticed that the event included a buffet, so he mirrored this with some fabulous food-themed songs including the 'Dieter's prayer' as the audience tucked into their chocolate brownies.



The event, which was a joint fundraiser with The Children's Trust in Tadworth, raised £1,600 for the school's Foundation.

## Charity focus

The Royal Wanstead Children's Foundation is a charity that helps to fund places for vulnerable children at boarding schools. The Royal Alexandra and Albert School has worked with the charity for many years and it currently helps to support 31 pupils in boarding here. The Royal Wanstead works with other charities to provide



'syndicated' financial support to pay boarding school fees. Colin Morrison, Chairman of Royal Wanstead says "Boarding school is not suitable for all children, but all those concerned with child welfare should have a modern view and an open mind regarding what boarding can offer."

## Case study

Born to a young single mother, Freddie spent his early years in the care of his grandmother. At the age of seven he was taken to live with his mother and her husband. There was no bond between mother and child and Freddie was frequently mentally and physically abused. Social workers felt that it might be possible to improve the relationship between parent and child by providing 'breathing space' by placing Freddie in boarding school. He joined the Royal Alexandra and Albert School at the age of 12 and immediately thrived in his new environment.



Whilst his home situation never really improved, Freddie became a confident and happy adult and went

on to gain a law degree.

(NB The name has been changed to protect the identity of the child)

# Foundation News

## Introducing...Graham Williams CA MBA Chair of the Board of Management

As Chair of the Board of Management, Graham is responsible for the Charitable Foundation of the school. Graham has been involved with the school since 2004 and his business



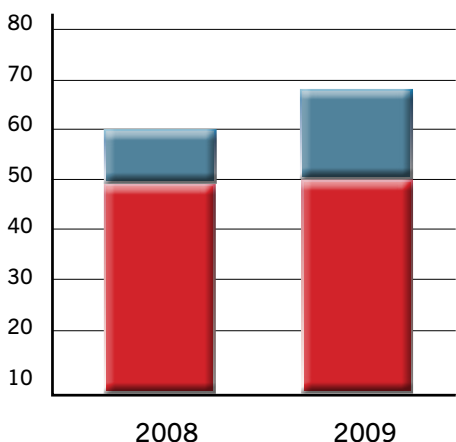
expertise as a FTSE 100 company director and Chartered Accountant have been invaluable as the school has grown over the last few years.

He has been a key player in securing funds from various sources for capital programmes and has contributed in many ways towards the smooth running of the school.

Whilst Graham retired in 2003, he is still a non executive director of a listed company and on the investment committee of a large pension fund and this experience has assisted greatly in the governance of the school. He somehow manages to do this and still fit in being a governor at another local school and a further education college as well as having a family life. Graham is married to a local curate of the Church of England and has three children, the youngest of whom is studying A Levels.



## Foundationer numbers increase



The table shows the number of 'Founditioner' pupils with free places at the school over the last few years. Day boarder Founditioner places were introduced in 2008 and they have provided a lifeline for many local families.

The aim is to increase the number of Foundioners to 80 by 2012.

DAY BOARDER  
 BOARDER

## Fundraising Report

Donations and legacies £'000	2008	2009
Donations	271	368
Legacies	85	501
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>1,645</b>

## And the fundraising continues...

In order to achieve our target of 80 Foundioners we will need to raise additional funds. We can't simply 'write-off' boarding fees so we have to raise every penny that goes towards the £12,000 a year annual boarding fees or £4,000 day boarding fees. We would welcome your contribution; please send to:

The Bursar, Foundation Office,  
Royal Alexandra and Albert School,  
Gatton Park, Reigate,  
Surrey RH2 0TW. 01737 649055  
bursar@gatton-park.org.uk

Here is an idea of how your donation will help support a child at this school;

<b>£50</b>	A school trip so that the child is not left out
<b>£500</b>	Music lessons for a year
<b>£1,400</b>	A day boarder for a term
<b>£50,000</b>	A boarder from age 11 to completion of their GCSEs

Thank you

