



# The Boswells School

*A Specialist Performing Arts School and College*



## Main Highlights of 2007/8

### September

- Building work commenced to remodel our School Hall and Reception area into a multi-purpose performance space fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Paul Butler ran a Dance Workshop for Year 9 and upper school Gifted and Talented Dance students.

### October

- The School's Open Week and Open Evening were both highly successful.
- GCSE Dance students attended and performed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Mencap Special Service held at The Chelmsford Cathedral.
- Paul Butler and John Goodfellow delivered a Musical Theatre weekend workshop to 22 upper school and college students based on the Musical 'Les Miserables'.
- A Drama workshop was held for Year 12 and BTEC students on Artaud and Brecht in order to extend the students' knowledge when embarking on their AS theatre modules.
- Year 9 German students travelled to Germany for a residential week.

### November

- We were shocked to arrive in school on a Monday morning to find the Music rooms, recording studio, practice rooms and a Drama studio a foot deep in water due to a damaged air conditioning unit.
- A Parent/Child Study Skills Workshop was held for all Year 11 students in preparation for their forthcoming GCSEs.
- Boys' Dance made history by being the first all-boy team in Europe to compete in a BCA Cheerleading Dance competition, and they came within a whisker of taking the title against nine all-girl groups.
- The Boswells' Cheerleading Squad became the BCA Southern Classics Senior Co-Ed Champions.
- Drama and Performing Arts students went to the theatre to see 'Waiting for Godot' and 'Looking for JJ'.
- The Cathedral School borrowed the Gamelan for half a term and experienced a workshop where they learnt how the Gamelan can be used in a variety of ways as a teaching tool.
- Students from The Cathedral School visited our Music Department to learn how to play the Steel Pans.
- Year 12 Performing Artists performed 'Jack the Ripper' to Year 11 GCSE History students who were studying the topic for their examination.
- Three cheerleaders and Sian Todd did a live broadcast on BBC Essex where they had the opportunity to talk about Cheerleading at The Boswells School.
- A fund raising Christmas Cabaret was held at the Springfield Parish Centre for cheerleaders and their families.
- Four male Gifted and Talented Dance students took part in a musical theatre day at Tring Arts Education Academy.
- Rob Gentle from Essex Dance provided a contemporary Dance workshop for 20 Year 10 Dance students.
- Students from our partner primary schools attended our annual Music Masterclass. Three workshops were run simultaneously, one vocal, one string and a large woodwind ensemble.
- Bishops Primary School experienced an African Drumming workshop which was funded through the Performing Arts.
- Perryfields Junior School experienced a Drama 'Bullying' workshop which was funded through the Performing Arts.
- Springfield Primary School experienced a Boys' Dance workshop which was funded through the Performing Arts.
- Tyrrells Primary School made their own Drama Resource Box which was funded through the Performing Arts.
- Joint Operation Theatre Company toured Woodlands School and Hayward New Model Special School with their performance of 'A Christmas Carol'.
- 28 Adult Dancers took part in a 'Chicago' Musical Theatre weekend which was run by Paul Butler and John Goodfellow.

- The Dance Department held a festive Christmas Celebration Evening where the Adult Dancers performed alongside the lower school Dance Club students.

## **December**

- The annual Presentation Evening was held at The Chelmsford Cathedral where many students were congratulated and awarded for their achievements over the past year.
- The School's annual Arts colours are awarded to Year 10 students who have shown outstanding commitment, excellence and achievements across the Performing Arts.
- Music students entertained late night shoppers with some festive Carols on a Thursday evening in Chelmsford.
- The first ever Drama Festival took place, which featured Performing Arts and Drama A Level, GCSE examination performances and KS3 students presenting their work to a public audience.
- The Boswells School Carol Service was held at Springfield Parish Church
- Music students visited the local Lawn Lane Nursing Home to perform Christmas Carols to the residents.

## **January**

- Tyrrells Primary School borrowed the Indonesian Gamelan for their students to learn to play.
- Mencap Gateway Club went on a theatre trip to see 'Abba Mania' at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre which was funded from money raised at the Community Dance Show.
- Two Drama providers ran a three hour 'devising' workshop for Year 11 GCSE Drama students.
- The contractors completed their work on the remodelling of the school hall and reception area. Our premises team then began the huge task of undertaking the finishing works.

## **February**

- The Boswells Cheerleading Squad won the Future Cheer Heart of England Senior Co-Ed Level 3 competition and were also awarded the Grand Champions of Levels 1-3.
- Year 10 Religious Studies students and some Gifted and Talented Dance students took part in an Indian Dance workshop.
- Joint Operations Theatre Company (a group of students from Hayward New Model Special School and The Boswells School) performed at the opening of the newly refurbished Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds.
- Some of the Boswells' Cheerleaders appeared on the BBC Radio 1 Scott Mills show.
- Year 10 GCSE Dance students took part in a Street dance workshop run by Karen Cocksedge.
- Four male Dance students took part in an intensive Dance workshop at Tring Arts Education Performing Arts Academy.
- Bishops Primary School experienced a Drama workshop which was provided by Living Posters and funded through the Performing Arts.
- The Cathedral School experienced a superb concert of international music provided by The Magic Carpet and funded through the Performing Arts.
- Perryfields Junior School experienced an interactive Storytelling performance which was funded through the Performing Arts.
- Springfield Primary School experienced an African Drumming club which was run by our Music Department.
- A Drama extra curricular club was provided to Trinity Road Primary School which was run by our Drama Department.
- Tyrrells Primary School borrowed the Gamelan for half a term and also experienced a workshop which was provided by our Music Department.
- 106 Adult Dancers and some of their families went to the West End to see the Musical 'Hairspray'.
- PE staff and students had an enjoyable week Skiing in Italy.
- Year 10 French students travelled to France for a residential week.
- The Year 7 Girls' Football team were District winners and they were invited to spend the day at the David Beckham Football Academy.

## **March**

- Our Jazz-band performed in the Mayor's showcase evening at the Civic Theatre.
- The Advanced Vocals group entered the National Music for Youth Competition.
- Year 13 Performing Arts students went to see a dance version of the play 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest'.
- The Boswells' Cheerleaders performed at the very prestigious 'Move It' Dance Exhibition held at London Olympia.
- The Cheerleaders retained their title of BCA Midlands Classic Senior Co-Ed Champions.
- An 'all boy' Dance group performed at the Essexdance annual showcase at the Civic Theatre.
- Students from Years 11-13 visited the Tring Arts Education School to watch their senior dance show.
- German students visited The Boswells School on an exchange week.

## **April**

- GCSE Dance students took part in Bam Bam Boogies Dance Company show at the Civic Theatre.
- The Mathematics Department successfully delivered a GCSE Revision Conference.
- An 'Essex on Tour' performance was organised by Performing Arts AS students.
- A Level Drama students visited the Queen's Theatre to review the play 'Twelfth Night' in preparation for their summer examinations.
- GCSE Drama, Dance and Music performance evenings for parents were held.
- The U18 boys Volleyball team won the National Finals at Bath University, beating last year's winners, Wessex.

## **May**

- Music students went on a trip to see the musical 'Lion King' in London.
- The Gamelan went on loan to The Bishops' Primary School for half a term.
- Staff training on 'Drama as a Learning Tool' was provided to the The Cathedral School by our Drama Department.
- Perryfields Junior School experienced a Dance workshop which was provided by Sian Todd, Dance & Cheer 49.
- Trinity Road Primary School experienced an African Drumming workshop which was funded by the Performing Arts.
- A lower school boys' dance group performed at St Helen's and St Katherine's Independent School in Oxford.

## **June**

- The Boswells Theatre and new reception area was completed.
- Year 3 and Year 6 boys from some of our partner primary schools took part in a Boys' Dance workshop in the new Boswells Theatre.
- The Adult Dancers went to see the Take That musical 'Never Forget'.
- The Drama Extravaganza took place in the newly refurbished theatre to a sell out audience.
- A select group of Year 10 Drama students performed 'Nil by Mouth', an abstract Drama piece, in the Youth Arts Showcase at The Civic Centre.
- Years 7 and 8 girls both won their Rounders rallies and are therefore MESSA Champions.
- Four of our partner primary schools took part in a Cheerleading workshop which was run by Sian Todd.
- Great fun was had by staff and students during 'Charity Week' which was run by the College students.

## **July**

- The Performing Arts Awards Assembly was held in the newly opened Boswells Theatre. Students from Years 7-13 were rewarded for their contribution, attainment and commitments to the Arts.
- Performing Arts students from Years 11-13 took part in an intense Performing Arts week based on the musical 'Grease'.
- The Celebration of Music took place in the newly refurbished theatre to a sell out audience.

- The Celebration of Dance took place on two evenings to a sell out audience. This year's show included performances from Mencap Gateway Club, Dance 21, Adult Dance and Springfield Primary School.
- Music students performed in the Chelmsford Christian Festival.
- An AS Drama devising workshop was held over a two day period for our Year 12 students
- The Music Department embarked on their first ever Music tour to Italy.
- The Cathedral School and Bishops Primary School received a Drama Bullying Workshop from our Drama Department.
- Year 7 students from our Gifted, Able and Talented register spent the day working with Andy Chambers at Essex County Cricket Club.
- The Sport and PE department hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Awards Evening in July. Over 150 awards were presented to students who have excelled in various sports and exam classes over the year.
- The Year 10 and College Netball teams won the Mid Essex Netball League.

## August

- The Boswells Cheerleaders retained their title as the BCA International Senior Co-Ed Champions.
- A Performing Arts Summer School was successfully run for students from Years 6 -10 which was based on the musical 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.
- A Dance Summer School was successfully run for Years 7-10 Dance students.
- The History Department took 24 College students and 4 staff on a once in a lifetime trip to Japan to learn about the devastating effects of the world's first nuclear strike and to explore the broader Japanese perspective of the Second World War and commemoration of its events.
- This summer's examinations results were the best ever - In the Key Stage 3 SATs 87% achieved level 5+ in English, 89% in Mathematics and over 85% in Science. These results represent an improvement of over 10% in English who achieved a whopping 17% improvement in raising the percentage of students achieving level 6 or more to over 47%. In Mathematics, 72% achieved level 6 or above with 53% achieving these levels in Science.

In the GCSE examinations, 75% of students achieved 5 or more A\*- C grades, 62.6% achieving 5+ A\*- C grades including English and Mathematics thereby placing us in the 'High Achieving Schools' category. Over 97% of students achieved 5 or more GCSE passes, 96% achieving 5 or more including English and Mathematics. More exciting still is that students of all levels of ability achieved results beyond expectations, achieving what is known as positive value added.

At AS our Year 12 students achieved the school's best ever results as did students in Year 13 who sat their A2 examinations. At AS 96% achieved passes with over 40% of these at grades A or B. At A2, 99.7% of examinations entered were passes - a record - with 37% at grades A or B.