



HEADMISTRESS' PRIZEGIVING REPORT ON THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004-5

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It is traditional on these occasions for the Head Teacher to reflect on the school year that has just passed and to talk about the many special events and achievements that have occurred. An almost impossible task! So much has taken place this year, so much has been achieved, it is almost impossible to know where to begin.

I will, however, begin by mentioning the most important people of the school and their achievements – all the pupils. And what amazing pupils we do have at PGS, pupils who have such an array of talents and ability. Pupils who, most importantly, display such a high level of care and consideration for each other, and pupils who are quite simply a pleasure to be with. I congratulate each and every one of you, regardless of whether you are prize winners today or not, for what you have achieved this year. There is not one of you who has not made progress this year so well done! If you believe in your heart of hearts that you have done your best this year, that you could not have done any better, then you have done particularly well. If, however, you know you could have tried harder and done better then just imagine what you are capable of achieving – what an exciting future lies ahead of you as long as you do not waste any opportunity.

How well many of you have done is reflected in this year's SATs results and we have been delighted by these this year – they are the second best on record. We are also very pleased with our success with regard to Senior School entry having achieved another 100% pass rate. Congratulations, Year 6 – we wish you a very happy time in the Senior School but will miss you – you have in so many ways been an exceptional year group.

On the sports front, teams of every sport have been outstandingly successful, reflecting the huge benefit we have derived from specialist coaching and dedicated Junior School staff commitment and skill. The Under 11 girls are particularly worthy of a special mention, with the U11 netball team achieving the ranking of second in Great Britain and the rounders team fourth. A truly outstanding achievement. Mrs. Payne and the girls deserve our warmest congratulations.

An innovation to the sports curriculum has been sailing, with all pupils from Year 4 being given a week's tuition in sailing at the Portsmouth Outdoor Centre. All the pupils made significant progress in their sailing ability across the week and enjoyed the experience greatly.

Musical contribution has been significant over the year with the Brass, String, Piano and Woodwind players achieving outstanding success at the Portsmouth Festival and with the Brass Band and Corelli Orchestra performing in the National Youth Music competition. The Brass Band has been very active performing at Gunwharf, the I.F.O.S., St. John's Cathedral, the Guildhall as well as Fratton Park. An amazing record of achievement. The Junior School choirs have gone from strength to strength, performing in various concerts across the year. Most notably, the Junior School choirs combined with the Middle School choir to perform 'England Expects' as part of the recent Trafalgar 200 celebrations at the Portsmouth Festivities and at the Drumhead Ceremony. The end of each term has also seen special concerts featuring choirs, orchestras, quartets, solos and group performances. Huge thanks and congratulations have to go to Miss Jennings, Mr. Webber, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Ingamells, Mrs. Peskett and Mrs. Towner for all that they have contributed to making music such a successful part of Junior School life.

The two Junior School Art co-ordinators Mrs. Tilling and Mrs. Price have inspired pupils to produce some outstanding art work this year on the theme of Trafalgar and the sea and the first ever Junior School art exhibition has been held in the No 10 Gallery.

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 have had the opportunity across the year to take part in a musical drama production. Year 6 have to be particularly congratulated for their outstanding performance of Dracula Spectacula at the New Theatre Royal. How well the Year 6 pupils rose to the challenge of performing at a 'proper' theatre proving themselves real pros! Mrs. Lockyer and Miss Jennings have to be warmly congratulated for producing such a wonderful performance.

Charity involvement has been quite staggering this year. A number of special events have taken place to raise money, ranging from mufti days, fun activities, sponsored events to the very special Caribbean Evening, run by the Junior School Association. Charities included Children in Need, The Salvation Army, Guide Dogs for the Blind, The National Children's Home, Barnados, The Naomi Hospice, Shoe Boxes for Albania, the Tsunami Relief Fund as well as the Khao Lak Rebuilding Fund. In the region of £10,000 has been raised altogether - a staggering amount. I am most grateful to Miss Long, parents, staff and pupils for their outstanding efforts in raising so much money.

Parental involvement and support within the school this year has once again been wonderful and so greatly valued with help ranging from assisting with technology lessons to attending outings and helping with make up and scenery for the plays and much much more! The Junior School Association has been superb, holding the following events: the Hallowe'en and Christmas discos, the Casino Royale evening, the Christmas Fayre, the Caribbean Evening, the Giant Sleepover and, most recently the Summer Fete (a truly excellent event!!). Pupils, parents and staff have all been involved and have greatly enjoyed these fun occasions.

A wide range of off site visits have enhanced the children's learning this year - places such as The National Gallery in London, Intech, the mechanical doll museum at Chichester, Butser Ancient Farm, Southsea Castle, The D-Day Museum, HMS Victory - to name but a few of the venues that have been visited.. And each year group in Key Stage Two has been given the opportunity for a residential visit - to Yorkshire in Year 3, Ross-on-Wye in Year 4, South Africa in Years 5 and 6. In addition to these exciting opportunities all of Year 6 were taken

on a residential visit to a field centre in Somerset, which was not only very informative and enjoyable for the pupils but also triggered off independent learning projects. Pupils presented their projects to their parents last week with considerable knowledge, skill and panache.

I have only mentioned a small part of all that has been experienced and achieved this school year and hope I have not offended anyone by not mentioning them or events that they have been part of. One important thing does have to be said - how very grateful I am to my staff for their enthusiasm, energy, commitment and dedication – it is because of them that the Junior School is so happy and successful. I would also like to say how grateful I am to the parents for all that they do in support of the Junior School and to the pupils for being so very special. Everyone here today, whether prize winners or not, has contributed so much and achieved so very much over the year.

PSF
11th July 2005