



## HEADMISTRESS' PRIZEGIVING REPORT ON THE SCHOOL YEAR 2005-6

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Recently we have explored the theme of wisdom and knowledge in our assemblies and have decided that if what we learn in life we just keep to ourselves and only use for personal benefit, then that learning will have been wasted. We should use what we learn to benefit others. Knowledge is for sharing. When we keep it to ourselves for selfish reasons it makes us all worse off, but when it is shared it benefits others.

Pupils of all ages in the Junior School have achieved so much this year and deserve, whether prize winners today or not, to be hugely congratulated for all their fine achievements:

Pupils have worked extremely hard in all subject areas and have made considerable progress. This has been most significantly reflected in our recent SATs results which at KS2 presented us with our best ever Maths results with 83% of pupils achieving Level 5 and our joint best ever Science result with 91% of pupils gaining Level 5. The English results were slightly lower than last year but nevertheless an impressive 65% of pupils gained Level 5. Our total of Level 5s gained across the three subjects improved this year by 12% - a fine achievement, especially bearing in mind that the expected level of achievement nationally is Level 4.

Much success has been experienced in sport this year with the Under 11 Netball squad qualifying for the National Finals for the second year running and we were delighted when they reached the quarter finals in this event losing to the eventual winners of the tournament. The Under 11 Football team reached the final of the Portsmouth Schools Cup and were runners up in the ROKO league. The Under 11 first eleven cricketers became Hampshire champions and then went on to represent their county in the South West Regional tournament. Our Under 10 first eleven cricketers have had a particularly impressive season – being unbeaten with many very convincing victories. For the first time, the Junior School entered a ski team in the Hampshire inter schools ski challenge and we were all thrilled when the team won. We now look forward to the national event. Several pupils deserve special recognition for fine individual sporting achievements. Abigail Hector Thomas for gaining national recognition for her footballing skills – aged 7! Oliver Howard and Evie Howarth for county recognition of their tennis skill, Seth Jackson for being selected for the Hampshire cricket board U11 squad. Sam Collings-Wells and Jack Marston for being selected for the U10 squad. Jamie Mist and Ben Blake have played football for the Portsmouth Schools representation team. Rosie Mist is ranked the U10 British No. 1 girl swimmer. Finally, we are all extremely proud of Year 6 pupil Jamie Diamond,

who will be representing Great Britain sailing at the Cadet World Championships in Hungary later this summer.

Once again, music has featured prominently in the school calendar, the string scheme goes from strength to strength with 80 pupils in KS2 now receiving violin or 'cello tuition there are 2 string orchestras and various chamber ensembles. The orchestras and various string groups have made major contribution to our two end of term concerts. In December the Corelli Orchestra took part in the Naomi House 'Light a Candle' service. Many string pupils entered the Portsmouth Music Festival in March with a record number of cups being won by PGS pupils. Special mention should go to 9 year old Brandon Choi who won the Gordon Cawthorne Memorial Trophy for the performer aged 14 and under who makes the greatest impression on the adjudicator.

The Brass band is proving equally popular and successful. With almost 40 pupils aged from 6 to 11 the band generates great admiration and respect whenever it performs. This year performances have been held at Gunwharf, the Historic Dockyard, The Salvation Army Citadel, Trinity Methodist Church and at our Mince Pie and Hot Cross Bun end of term concerts. They had a starring role recently at the Portsmouth Schools Music festival at the Guildhall. There was a large representation from our brass instrumentalists at the Portsmouth Music Festival where an amazing 10 different classes were won by our pupils.

Singing is greatly enjoyed by Junior School pupils and there is a very healthy involvement in choral singing with three choirs: the Year 3/4 choir, the Show Choir and the Chamber Choir. The 3/4 Choir sang at the Mince Pie and Hot Cross Bun concerts as well as at the Carol Service and the Victorian Festival of Christmas at the Dockyard. Their fame spread when they took part in OCEAN FM's Xmas Factor competition and got to the semi finals! More recently, they performed in the Portsmouth Schools Music Festival at the Guildhall alongside the Brass band. The Show Choir and Chamber Choir comprise pupils from Years 5 and 6. The Chamber Choir put on a particularly memorable performance at the Carol Service and the Show Choir greatly entertained us at a performance based on the life and times of Robin Hood.

The Cathedral Choristers have experienced many memorable moments across the year. They attended the opening of the Spinnaker Tower singing in the Blessing Ceremony. On Trafalgar Day they went on board HMS Victory where they sang for the Queen. At the beginning of this term the choir sang in St. Paul's Cathedral and half-term was spent on a special choir tour of Estonia where they were highly acclaimed.

Musical and dramatic performances have featured across the year in all age groups Reception, Year One and Year Two pupils put on splendid Christmas productions. In the Spring Term, Year 4 pupils christened the new school theatre with a performance of Giant Slayer, the tale of David and Goliath. Shortly after this, Year 5 entertained us with a fun performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. This term Year 3 took to the stage to perform 'Rooster Rag', Year 2 presented very amusing interpretations of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and last week Year Six brought our dramatic performances to a climax with a memorable and highly professional performance of Macbeth. The superb new David Russell Theatre now provides an outstanding venue for our many budding actors and actresses.

Indeed it provided an ideal venue for the third Junior School Talent Show – The PGS X Factor when a wonderful night of entertainment raised a very healthy £590 which was donated to ‘Operation Smile’, a world wide charity whose medical volunteers repair childhood facial deformities. Many other charity events have been held over the year raising significant amounts of money for various charities, [including Children in Need, BLISS, Leukaemia Research, Leprosy, Action Medical Research and Sport Relief.] All in all a magnificent sum of over £5,000 has been raised for these charities through outstanding pupil, parent and staff efforts and generosity. In addition to this we have taken part in the Rotary Club Shoe Box appeal, collected toys and sweets for school children in Nepal and collected groceries for the local women’s refuge.

Many special events have occurred over the year – we have celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Anderson, recognised Commonwealth Week, enjoyed World Book Day and recognised the importance of Isambard Kingdom Brunel during his bicentennial celebrations by holding a design technology egg race challenge. Several local primary schools joined us on this special occasion. 16 local primary schools also enjoyed taking part in the Football Tournament we hosted at our school playing fields. We have held two special Grandparents’ afternoons featuring a performance by each year group dedicated to the grandparents. This proved so popular that the new theatre was packed on both occasions. This term we have celebrated Our School over a week that has helped us to understand the history of PGS. During a barracks re-enactment event, many pupils learnt what life must have been like for soldiers who were stationed in the school buildings when they were army barracks.

We were all very excited when pupils were invited to appear on television on South Today and Newsround to express their views on the future of Pompey Football Club. I believe that Pompey’s fortunes improved from that day on as they took on board Henry McStay’s advice to put more balls into the back of the ‘bloomin net’! The spring term saw our General Knowledge team grasping victory by one point in the Portsmouth News General Knowledge Quiz.

Spurred on by this success, we entered teams in the SATIPS Prep School Quiz and were delighted to be placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 145 Schools in Great Britain. Ben Wallis gained individual recognition by being placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 1800 entrants, proving himself to have outstanding General Knowledge.

There have been several innovations to the curriculum this year. Pupils in Reception have greatly benefited from the outdoor play provision in the small quad, pupils from Reception to Year 6 have busily engaged in Independent Learning Projects. Year 6 pupils gave very impressive presentations of their projects to their parents yesterday. We have introduced a modern languages carousel in Year 6 enabling the pupils to build on their previous learning of French, German and Spanish. A programme of Classical Studies has been introduced in Year 6 and regular opportunities to engage in Brain Gym have been provided in all year groups.

Our outstanding extra curricular residential visit provision extended this year to include our first Junior School Ski Trip involving pupils from Year 4 to Year 6. It was hailed a great success.

One of our most successful innovations this year has been the new style Key Stage Two Athletics Sports Days which enabled all pupils to be involved in each of the seven events competing against competitors of a similar ability. These proved extremely popular with pupils, parents and staff.

As always I am indebted to the Junior School Association which has put on some fantastic events this year. The Casino Royale evening and the 70s Rock Dance proved very popular with parents. The Hallowe'en and Christmas parties were greatly enjoyed by the pupils and the amazing Summer Fete that took place last Sunday was a super fun event for the whole family and was such a tremendous success. I thank all members of the JSA and all parents for their support over the year they have added so many enjoyable moments to the life of the school.

In closing I would like to mention the staff. At the beginning of this year we welcomed Jill Ellis and Erica Coonan to the Reception Year, Marianne Price to Year 2 and Lara Vinsen to Year 4. Each of these teachers has made a very special impression over the year and they have become much valued members of staff.

Sadly, we now have to say goodbye to three teaching members of staff, a member of the string scheme and three Teaching Assistants. Mr. Evans leaves after seventeen years exceptional and dedicated service to the school, his humour and practical skills will be a sad loss to the school. Mr. Marshall has gained promotion and is to be Assistant Head at Glasgow Academy. We owe so much to Mr. Marshall for ensuring that all the pupils pastoral needs are understood and fully supported. Miss Wood is taking the opportunity to have a short career break and travel the world. She has been an inspirational teacher and will be sadly missed. Mrs. Peskett leaves as assistant violin teacher to spend more time with her family. Mrs. Watlin retires after five years as a Teaching Assistant, I am glad that we had the opportunity to benefit from her calm and sensible ways in the last years of her career. Mrs. Houston has provided excellent support as a temporary Teaching Assistant in Year One and we wish her well as she resumes her career in ICT. Lastly we wish a very fond farewell to Trixie Humphrey who has been the kindest, most caring and helpful Teaching Assistant for nineteen years. Affectionately referred to as 'Mummy Humphrey' by many of the children – the Junior School will not be the same without her.

And so, as another year draws to a close I wish all the leaving pupils, especially Year 6 a very happy time as they move to the next phase of their education. They leave behind them very fond memories. Finally, I would like to thank my staff for being so committed, dedicated, hard working and so very good at their jobs – I owe them a big vote of thanks.

*PSF*  
*11<sup>th</sup> July 2006*