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# Editorial

Hello and welcome to the year 2000 edition of the Devonport High School for Boys magazine. As you will have noticed, we have given the magazine a more striking and contemporary appearance this year, thanks to the wonders of modern digital technology. Ian Berry, our photographer, has done a fantastic job of capturing the true spirit of the school community, and his atmospheric photographs of the school's architecture, at this beautiful time of year, are very dramatic indeed. Matthew Stevens has made a concerted effort on the graphic design and desktop publishing, having worked extremely hard to produce the stunning visuals which can be seen throughout this year's publication. His individualistic and futuristic style is particularly appropriate, as it mirrors the progressive nature of the school as a whole. My sincere thanks go to both boys for their hard work and commitment. Furthermore, a big thank you to all the other members of the school magazine team, as well as those of you who contributed your poems,

stories and other articles. Without you, the magazine would not have been possible.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

## 2000

Earlier this year saw the completion of the school's new refectory - the date for the official opening ceremony, of which, is yet to be announced, when the landscaping is completed.

(For further information, see page 15).



Moreover, the school's latest and most ambitious project is now well underway. During the summer of 2000, the school's Board of Governors commissioned the building of a Sports Hall, as a part of their ongoing Development Plan. This project will provide a facility which the school's pupils will both benefit and take pleasure

from, for many years to come. The school's "Buy a Brick" appeal has recently been launched, with the aim of raising £100,000 to pay for the 10,000 bricks required for the walls of this exciting new building. Dr Pettit hopes that "every pupil and their family will contribute generously towards a facility that uniquely in Plymouth is being funded by a school from its own resources". (For further information, see page 28).

*"I hope very much that you enjoy this altogether new look magazine. On behalf of this year's team, I would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."*

Tim Dixon

# ***Editorial***

## **Headmaster's Report:**

2000 has been an exceptional year with which to end the millennium: we have celebrated the opening of the Gibbons Refectory a new facility that was long overdue; the imminent demolition of the old canteen and its replacement with a large tarmac all-weather sports surface, and here, adjacent to the Edgumbe Building we are watching the new Sports Hall grow from very complex foundations. This major project is self-funded and is the beneficiary of our major "Buy a Brick" appeal which was launched this November and I hope that every reader will consider becoming a sponsor for the school's latest development which is due to be completed in May 2001 forms are available from the school office.

With these exciting new facilities we can plan for the future with even more confidence as we

continue to provide a first class and very broad education for boys who seek a demanding, but enjoyable, secondary education. Our teaching and computing facilities continue to be enhanced and we are able to attract a very high calibre of teacher to fill our occasional vacancies. We are also funding a rolling programme of repair and maintenance of our fine old buildings to ensure that they meet the demands of educating our 1,100 boys. The pupils' sporting achievements continue to be a reason for regular celebration and so it is with some anticipation we wait to see what impact our new sports facilities will have!

This year the school is again over-subscribed, but we can not be complacent as together we work hard to maintain the ethos and performance that attract suitable students. One

of our priorities is to provide a reliable and consistent pastoral support system which will help the boys cope with the demands of an increasingly demanding curriculum. The externally set examinations at age 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18, the gnawing demands of coursework and the recognition that top grades are necessary to achieve career ambitions puts our pupils under real pressure: our nurture and guidance is therefore vital, both at school and at home. To help every student set realistic goals and regularly feel a sense of achievement we are now using specific targets that are achievable for each individual who works with tenacity.

*(Continued overleaf)*



## ***Headmaster's Report (cont'd):***

Beyond academia and sport we offer many other opportunities for our students to broaden their experience and to do service to the community - including raising money for local, UK and overseas charities, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Enterprise, Music, Speech and Drama and a surprising variety of UK and overseas adventures such as days on Dartmoor, a week in Brittany or Kenya, or two weeks in the Pyrenees.

It remains a privilege to lead such a fine school and a pleasure to work with so many able and pleasant people, staff, boys, parents and old boys: I am confident that the 21<sup>st</sup> century will continue bring more excellent achievements that we can celebrate together.

*N M Pettit*

## ***Peter Fielding, the Chairman of the DHS Old Boys' Association shares his thoughts on the school.***

It was suggested that I write about my memories of the School but, instead, I have decided to say a bit about how the School looks now! Much of the fabric seems unchanged despite a few additions such as the splendid new refectory and the incorporation of A and B blocks which, in my day, were occupied by Tamar School.

What I do find different, are the 'Boys' themselves. They come across as more polished and self-assured than I was at their age and the breadth and depth of their activities is quite staggering. One cannot fail to be impressed by the atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm, which pervades Devonport High School in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Looking to the future I am confident that we can rely upon these young men to become significant players in their chosen professions. Their achievements and successes are chronicled elsewhere in this Magazine but I cannot fail to pay tribute to the hard work of the Staff and the leadership of Nic Pettit without whom the current state of excellence could not have been reached.

Speaking of excellence, I have to say that whilst we as an Old Boys



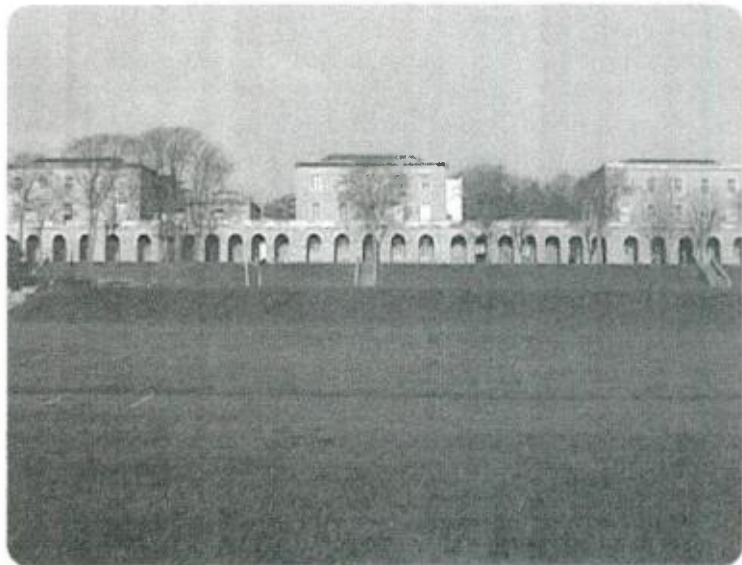
Association are here to stay, I am sure we could do better! Despite the sterling efforts of my fellow Committee members, the 'Old Suttonions' and 'OPMs' are streets ahead of us in terms of membership and network effectiveness. You can only imagine how much it grieves me to admit that!

Help!!!

*Peter Fielding*

# Editorial

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It is a great credit to Devonport High School for Boys that the successes which we have seen throughout the start of the Autumn term have continued on from the end of last year. In fact, the long line of achievements does not seem to stop. The excellent G.C.S.E. and A Level results in the summer are only a fraction of the overall continuing success of the school. The experiences which DHS offers students are wide ranging and extremely varied, such as hiking on the Brecon Beacons with

Duke of Edinburgh, or attending maths masterclasses with the University of Plymouth. Each of these activities, and many more, both those that are included in the curriculum and those that are extracurricular, help contribute to the unique blend of people and their characters that make up Devonport High for Boys. We hope that through the production of this magazine, both people who attend the school, whether they are students or staff, and those outside of the Paradise Road premises, will be able to share in the

successes and experiences of those in our school.

*"The excellent G.C.S.E. and A Level results in the summer are only a fraction of the overall continuing success of the school."*

Thomas Woolway

# Tim's *Tricks & Teasers*

PAGE 7

## ***Counting Sheep:***

Don't worry, the school hasn't suddenly decided to utilise the school fields for grazing livestock. The following is actually an amusing story, including some silly sums, which should, hopefully, bring a smile to your face and *not* send you to sleep!

An elderly farmer had a flock of 19 sheep. The farmer was retiring, and therefore wanted to give his three children a share of his beloved livestock; half to the eldest, a quarter to the middle one and a fifth to the youngest. He realised that this would involve chopping up sheep and, not wanting to follow in the footsteps of Damien Hurst, the farmer borrowed an extra sheep from one of his fellow farmer friends. Now he had 20 sheep all together. He gave 10 sheep (half) to the eldest, 5 (a quarter) to the middle one, and 4 (a fifth) to the youngest (totalling 19 sheep). The man then gave the sheep he had borrowed back to his friend!

## ***How It works:***

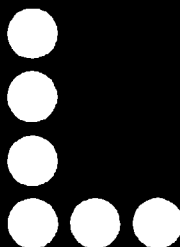
19 is of course a prime number. It can only be divided by 1 and 19 not 5, 4 or 2. To avoid chopping up sheep, the man needs a number which can be divided by 5, 4 and 2 like 20.  $\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  only make  $\frac{19}{20}$ , not 1, so the farmer has one sheep left over to return to his friend.

Now, believe it or not, I did have a valid reason for writing this rather bizarre story. It is, in fact, my rather cunning way of leading me on to telling you all about my "Tricks & Teasers" which will appear throughout this years school magazine.

*Tim Dixon*

Set up 6 coins as shown. By moving one coin, only once, how can you make 2 rows of 4 coins?

For the solution, see page 32





# Academic

As a school, Devonport High School for Boys carries a reputation for having one of the highest exam grades in the country, last year alone, there were several successes including 10 A\* for Josh Green, 9 A\* for Thomas Woolway and 7 A\* for Oliver Pengelly, Edward Taylor, Phillip Williams, Marc Bramham and Matthew Ingleby.

*"An overall result for the school of 95% of GCSE students gaining 5 A\* - C grades and at A Level 75% of students gained 4 or more passes.."*

Seven of our A Level students will be taking up their places at Oxford and Cambridge later this year and nine of the past year 13 students gained a full set of A Levels at A grade, truly exceptional results.

This in turn lead to an overall result for the school of 95% of GCSE students gaining 5 A\* - C grades and at A Level 75% of students gained 4

or more passes at A Level.

Out of school, students excel themselves further making the best use of their ability in their chosen field. Many students take part in physical activity representing teams and even counties and regions. Some make the most of their musical talent gaining music grades in different instruments, J Cope (Y11) gained Grade 6 in the Trumpet whilst M Ingleby (Y12) gained Grade 8 in voice. Music Grade 8 was also achieved by T Newton (Y13) for the Piano and D Pettit (Y11) for the Euphonium.

Many students each year take part in many activities offered by the school, including Gold and Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh Awards and School Musical Productions, but not all the credit goes to the students, during the last Plymouth Half Marathon, Mr Strang (PE) and Mr Davidson (History) took part and both completed the 13 mile circuit.

*"Many students each year take part in numerous activities offered by the school..."*

The other activity offered in conjunction with other schools is the Young Enterprise Scheme. Last year three teams were successful and the company "Crystal Clear" won the Enterprise Trophy whilst "Halogen" won both the Administration Trophy and the Plymouth Young Enterprise Trophy. The company "Yes" won the Marketing Trophy, this year three more companies are out looking for success.

Indeed any one of these people deserve praise but out of the 1000's of members in the school community deserve praise for any success in their chosen field.

Matt Townrow

Devonport  
School High  
for Boys

# *Academic*

## An Institution of Education

The school building stands oppressively,  
A wise elder over its naive infants,  
Teaching them its timeless sacred knowledge,  
To prepare them for their life outside.

The stone is weathered and battered with age,  
And the windows which are set within them,  
Appear dull and lifeless in their unforgiving symmetry,  
Until the building's life giving tenants move in.

An eerie silence hangs over the setting,  
Like a veil protecting from outside distractions,  
Interrupted only by the hollow sounds of the game fields,  
Or the outraged bellow of an exasperated teacher.

At feeding ground when the sun is high,  
The pungent smell of vinegar invades the nostrils,  
An acid and unpleasant attack on the senses,  
As you attempt to consume your ration.

The fallout of the lunch time break becomes still,  
And settles into sheltered gutters and crevices,  
Or litters the open terrain in shameless squalor,  
To be picked up by the worker ants on litter duty.

Restlessness spreads like a plague,  
Inflicting upon all who contact it,  
Until the whole community has suffered,  
The disease of the spoken word.

The school's teaching has come to a conclusion,  
As is portrayed by the masses filing out,  
In an endless hysteria to leave the dreaded premises,  
And cease the day's tiring regime of study.

The bus stops are packed with eager students,  
Waiting impatiently for their ship to dock,  
And carry them away to their distant land,  
The one which they call home.

*Kyle Taylor, 10E*

# Academic

## *Modern Languages in the Lower School*

The opportunities for learning foreign languages in lower years at DHSB are many and varied. We have exchanges for those who have the courage to participate, and these are always popular. Our house in Uzel continues to thrive, providing an excellent base for an authentic French experience. Each pupil has the chance to enjoy this in their first year, and not surprisingly, many return. There are language trips to France and Germany. I had the pleasure of visiting the Rhineland in my third year and the week proved to be an invaluable aid to my German studies. There are also some remarkable linguistic abilities among the younger members of the school that have developed quite independently of the school's facilities and provisions.

*"Our house in Uzel continues to thrive, providing an excellent base for an authentic French experience."*

One of the best examples of this is Tim Ingall, 7E. Tim crossed the Channel last year, when he was just ten, and spent five worthwhile months in Rennes, attending a local school and living with a French family, with the intention of mastering the language. His exchange partner had spent a similar period of time in England to the same end. Upon his arrival, Tim had only a meagre understanding of the basics. For his first week, he was allowed to speak English with the family, but then he could speak only French. After his exchange, he spoke the tongue fluently, how many can boast such a stunning achievement? More than one, it seems.

John Reedman of 8E has also had a sample of French life that has provided him with an invaluable skill. His father, a UN scientist, secured a position in Monaco where John lived from infancy to the age of seven. He completed the first years of his schooling there, and now returns regularly to see old friends. He hopes to return to Monaco to live. John tells me that the

weather is wonderful, so can one blame him given the current climatic conditions in England?!

Both pupils attend additional classes with the French staff, as well as with our French assistant, Marie-Christine, in order to remain fluent. After all, to learn and retain an understanding of a modern language is no easy task.

*"After his exchange, he spoke the tongue fluently, how many can boast such a stunning achievement?"*

These pupils are just two examples of the cultural diversity and skill in modern languages that is evident among the lower school. DHSB as a whole is enriched by cultural influences from all over Europe and beyond, and I sincerely hope that this enrichment continues in years to come.

*Marc Bramham*

# *Tim's* Tricks & Teasers

## The Troubled Traveller:

A traveller, on his way to a certain village A, reaches a road junction, where he can turn left or right. He knows that only one of the two roads leads to village A, but unfortunately, he does not know which one. Fortunately, he sees two twin-brothers standing at the road junction, and he decides to ask them for directions.

The traveller knows that one of the two brothers always tells the truth and the other one always lies. Unfortunately, he does not know which one always tells the truth and which one always lies.

**The Question:** How can the traveller find out the way to village A by asking just one question to one of the two brothers?

## Climbing Snail:

A snail is at the bottom of a 20 metre deep pit. Every day the snail climbs 5 metres upwards, but at night it slides 4 metres back downwards.

**The Question:** How many days does it take before the snail reaches the top of the pit?

## Mixing Your Drinks:

Start with a half cup of tea and a half cup of coffee. Take one tablespoon of the tea and mix it in with the coffee. Take one tablespoon of this mixture and mix it back in with the tea.

Which of the two cups contains more of its original contents?

# Academic

## *Drake chase Gilbert for St. Levan Shield*

In slightly less than two week's time, the winner of the St Levan Shield for the winning house will be awarded at speech day. The race for the prize is very close, indeed the last time that points were released, Gilbert were only 250 points in front of Drake. Both houses are currently on around eight thousand points, which have been acquired throughout the year from house sports and events, such as football, chess and quizzes, and the acquisition of merits by house members, each of which gains their house one point.

Raleigh and Grenville are also very close, although both of these houses are around one thousand points down on Gilbert. Since the re-introduction of the house system in 1997, all four houses except

Drake have won the shield once. The points are this year close enough to mean that Drake could complete the equal sharing of the prize, although hopefully not close enough that we have a repeat of what has happened in the United States!

*Thomas Woolway*

Grenville  
Raleigh  
Gilbert

Drake



## *Tim's Tricks & Teasers:*

In one move, by moving one cup only, how can you make the full and empty glasses alternate?



See page 32 for the solution.



# Academic

PAGE 13

## **'Summer 2000'**

***The following is an extract from a story written by Mark Osborne of year 10. This piece can only begin to provide an insight into the quality of work produced by students from all years...***

The first summer of this century will always be something of a monument to me my first (I am sure) of many holidays to the Greek holiday island of Rhodes. Amongst the many new and exciting experiences during that holiday was my first somewhat salty taste of water sports.

*"It was largely the prospect of food that got me on my feet."*

We awoke in our rooms very slightly less than energetically, due to arriving at the hotel barely three or four hours previously. It was largely the prospect of food that got me on my feet.

Over our typically Grecian breakfast, we discussed the possible activities for the day. We were still undecided by the time the rep arrived. She recommended a beach only three hundred yards or so from the hotel. The walk from the hotel to

the beach, although short, was painful in the best of weathers. As we walked our feet were continually poked by rocks and stones in the ground that had been parched to the core (owing to the island-wide drought of the last seven months). Evidence of development works provided a corridor for the patched, dusty track to run through. The workmen had obviously abandoned the buildings in the relentless mercy of the summer heat. Then, not far off as we reached the cliff-top, we cast our eyes over a beautiful ultra-marine blue sea, complete with a blinding white band of white light reflecting on the sea from the sun.

*"...we paced down towards the white-sanded beach, meeting the occasional obnoxious moped or*

*scooter that churned up the dust, never failing to make me choke or sneeze."*

With new-found enthusiasm, we paced down towards the white-sanded beach, meeting the occasional obnoxious moped or scooter that churned up the dust, never failing to make me choke or sneeze. Then the steep sides of the track opened out allowing us to marvel the view of the beautiful, white-sanded beach stretched out before us, gently descending into the sea for its entire length, broken only by a small, white painted wooden hut with "Water Sports" painted in flaking blue paint on its side.

**Mark Osborne 10C  
Year 10; GCSE Original Writing**

# Academic

## *The Big Step*

Moving from primary school to secondary school is reputedly one of the biggest changes you make when you are young. Coming from the familiar surroundings of a primary school, into the intimidating walls of DHS is a huge step to make, especially when you do not know anyone else in the school.

David McDonald of 7P has just made such a step. His experiences are described below, in his own words.

"When I sat my 11+ test at Devonport High School on the 18th of November 1999, I was very scared, as my primary school was very small. There were only 135 pupils in the school, and I was the only one from my year group to take the exam.

"Having passed the 11+, almost one year on, I spent

my first day at DHS. I was quite nervous, and I was looking around for familiar faces. I recognised a few people from the Devon Junior and Minor football league, but there were none from my team, Plymstock United Colts. All of the faces I recognised were from opposing teams, but I needn't have worried because we were soon playing for the school on the same team, and we all became friends.

"When I got my first homework, I found it quite difficult. There seemed to be a massive amount compared to what I was used to. I soon got myself into a routine, and found that if I got on with it as soon as I got home, the rest of the evening is mine to do with what I choose".

*"So, now I have settled down, and I know that I have made the right choice when I decided to come to Devonport High."*

David's story is similar to that of many others, myself included, who have felt that they have come to the school virtually alone. What we all have in common is that we have all quickly made friends, and found that in reality, we were not alone. Like most people, we have all settled down to enjoy our time at Devonport High School for Boys.

*Michael Oliver  
with David McDonald*

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#### **DHS Old Boys' Association:**

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# New Refectory

At long last, we have a new refectory. After much speculation and consideration, the construction of the building began earlier this year. Now complete, it has been functioning for many weeks.

The new refectory was built due to the fact that the previous site was a 'temporary' structure, and therefore it was not designed for the gross influx of pupils eager to purchase their lunch. This was obvious. The building was beginning to look tatty, and the poor quality of the construction meant that sooner or later, the site may become unsafe.

Mr Faulkner, who is often seen organising the hungry stampeding children into some resemblance of an orderly queue, is more than happy with the new building, saying:

*"The new refectory is larger, brighter, and very well equipped. The number of boys choosing to use the facility has risen by 20%."*

As can be seen from the photographs on this page, the building has been well designed, and sits nicely within the area previously taken up by an old playground, which itself would have needed resurfacing, if it was to remain in use.

*Matt Stevens*



The new, modern refectory

# ***Extracurricular***

Within school, there are many events which are of interest to both students of the school, their parents, and even the general public. An example of an event held outside school hours is the popular and successful Bonfire Night.

During the school day, many pupils spend their lunchtime or breaktime participating in any one of the several clubs that are run by teachers and/or students, for example Chess Club, Homework Club (where sixth form students help those in lower years with their work), etc.

## ***Firework Spectacular***

On the 3rd of November 2000, around 9am, the first truckfull of wood was dumped on the grass just below D block. This wood was to become the basis of our bonfire.

The school has been running a successful bonfire night for over twenty years now and the bonfire seems to get bigger every year. With the help of lots of the PTA, and some sixth formers, it took just over six hours to build the bonfire and set up the fireworks.

When the majority of pupils had left the school, jobs were needed setting up at the entrance for ticket sales, parking and feeding the public.

The event was a real success, and as usual crowds packed the banks of the school to witness the fireworks display which was spectacular.

It is a real credit to the organisers and supporters of this event that, even though there was a free display on the Hoe, the event still went ahead and went well.

We hope to see you next year at the Fireworks Display: contact the schools office nearer the time for details.

*Thomas Woolway*

# Extracurricular

## *Duke of Edinburgh, Gold Award*

A popular physical adventure that is undertaken year after year by enthusiastic pupils, is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. On completing the first 'level' of the scheme, some people just wanted more, and so they participated in the Gold Award event, and of course the linked social/community work, etc.

Rain was expected; and rain came, but thankfully at the right time. This was the situation in the Brecon Beacons for those taking part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh practise expedition.

With one walking group of five and one of seven, the expedition consisted of a day's walk involving map-reading skills and navigation with an instructor (either Mr Adams or Mr Coombes) and a two day hike. Apart from an insignificant smattering of drizzle one day, it only rained during the night, which was quite fortunate seeing that we were in South Wales in the middle of the Autumn, where the weather is almost always appalling.

When we were not surrounded by low cloud, we were able to enjoy stunning views- a reward for our efforts, especially after climbing Pen y Fann, the highest hill in

Brecon. This weekend away, with our other practise expedition, should be good preparation for the assessment walk in the summer which will be in the Lake District over four days.

*Tom Viles*





# Extracurricular

## Duke of Edinburgh, Gold Award

"It will be freezing, and it will pour with rain," we were told as an introduction to our expedition to the Brecon Beacons, Wales. In the current Year 12 there are 11 people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme, which involves serving the community, taking up a new sport and pursuing a hobby, as well as the expeditions!

This trip to Brecon was part of our training expeditions, so that we will be able to be assessed for the award on our trip to the Lake District next July. We journeyed up on a Wednesday evening after school and, after a brief stop in Abergavenny for fish and chips, we spent our first night of three under canvas, in the middle of the Beacons.

The next day, after a hasty breakfast, was spent checking our compass skills and map work. We walked about twelve miles, all of which seemed to be uphill. However, we managed to make it back to the minibus so it was concluded that our navigation could not be

too bad. There was, however, little sign of rain.

*"We had scheduled 10 minutes for breaks whilst climbing 450 metres vertically."*

On that Thursday evening we had a two hour climbing session at the Rope Centre in whose grounds we were staying. Great fun was had by all, and we tried various activities such as abseiling, climbing, zip slides and tunnelling.

On Friday, however, it was back to the expedition. After packing up our tents we then walked up the highest hill (/mountain!) in South Wales, Pen y Fann. Here a lesson about planning was learnt: always include more time than you think is necessary for stops. We had scheduled 10 minutes for breaks whilst climbing 450 metres vertically. Unfortunately, there was absolutely no view at all

from the top of Pen y Fann, due to 10m visibility through the mist, but whilst descending from the hill there were no further mishaps, apart from a few encounters with marshes. A good night's sleep was had by all.

Saturday, and our weary feet knew that they only had one more day to bear before we returned home. We walked steadily for around 14 miles and at one point we even saw the Sun. Apart from one long hike up Craig y Fan Du, the rest of the route was quite flat and we were able to walk quite quickly. Not surprisingly, we were all glad when we got back to the minibus and set off home.

A really good couple of days was had by many. When the Headmaster started talking about hiking up the three biggest hills/mountains for our final expedition in July, the reaction was decidedly mixed!

*Thomas Woolway*

# Extracurricular

## *Sixth Form Talent Shines Through*

Amidst the A-level candidates, there is a wide range of ability and a side to many of them which is yet to be revealed. Whilst many may be contributing to the community, few manage to succeed to the extent of two very talented pupils, Tim Dixon, and Oliver Pengelly, for whom persistence and good fortune has enabled them to entertain the masses.

The National Youth Music Theatre holds auditions across the country annually, with more than 3000 people, between the ages of 11 and 19, applying every year. One of our most talented actors in the school, Oliver Pengelly (Year 12) was one of the successful applicants and was selected to be a part of the musical "Pendragon", a story of the rise of the mythical King Arthur to the throne.

*"The show opened to sell out crowds at Exeter's "Northcott Theatre", in the middle of August, where the show remained for a week before moving on to Cornwall's*

*atmospheric open air theatre, "The Minack". Since then the show has also enjoyed a spell in London's West End."*

To his surprise, Oliver was cast as the leading role of King Arthur and started two weeks of intensive rehearsals at the beginning of the summer. Members of the cast had come from all over the country to be part of the show. Oliver was the actor from the furthest south - the person who had come from the farthest north had made the trip from Glasgow. The rehearsals were held at Exeter University and were on average twelve hours a day, but the hard work paid off. The show opened to sell out crowds at Exeter's "Northcott Theatre", in the middle of August, where the show remained for a

week before moving on to Cornwall's atmospheric open air theatre, "The Minack". Since then the show has also enjoyed a spell in London's West End. Oliver is in the company of highly esteemed performers as he follows in the footsteps of actor Jude Law, Johnny Lee-Miller and Hannah and Paul from the popular band "S Club 7". Oliver is also looking to the future, as he will be singing in the presence of Prince Edward for a fund raising event, spending a week at this year's prestigious Edinburgh Festival as well as a possible trip to Japan, planned for next year.

*Brad Turner*

*Talent  
in the  
Sixth Form*

# Extracurricular

## Your Turn

There are many extracurricular activities, which can enhance a pupil's ability. There are several examples of such activities - and Your Turn is just one of them...

Your Turn is an initiative aimed at teenagers which enables them to learn more about what it means to be a member of a community. Scott Weiprecht of Year 9 is taking part in the scheme, and is one of those representing DHSB. In all, approximately thirty people are attending from across Plymouth.

A Bristol 1999 graduate said the following about Your Turn:

*"I think Your Turn has removed all the participants from the category which defines us as ordinary teenagers whose life is ruled by Adidas and Pizza Hut. We still love these things but now have the confidence to strive for greater and higher targets. We know how to do this and where to find help on the way".*

It is evident that any campaign that can instil this kind of confidence and self motivation into someone is a good thing. The scheme is an excellent way for younger teenagers to prove themselves. They even have the opportunity become 'graduates', a way of staying in touch with others who have participated and to continue learning after the campaign has ended.

Your Turn consists of a number of seminars, for which participants travel to various venues in school time (attendance is mandatory), and learn about everything from team building to crime and justice.

Various Plymouth schools are taking part in the initiative, which is run by Common Purpose, and so far it has been a great success. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Scott the best of luck for the future on behalf of the magazine team, and thank him for his help with this article.

Marc Bramham

Your  
Turn

Your  
Turn

Your  
Turn

Your  
Turn

# Extracurricular

## Sixth Form Talent Shines Through (part 2)

Due to both pupils extensive and impressive history within their individual fields, trying to summarise all of their experiences and achievements would need a magazine within itself.

Tim Dixon of year twelve is one of our most highly talented students and has had a number of notable achievements to date. Primarily a close-up magician Tim has now been doing magic for around eight years. Close-up magicians perform for small audiences, using things they carry in their pockets, or a small case. They may perform in restaurants, doing the same short act for different tables, chatting and joking with the audience. Close-up magicians often perform using 'everyday objects', so some audiences find their magic even more amazing than that of illusionists', because they can relate to the 'props' that they use. Magicians in this particular branch of magic have to practise extremely hard, mainly because they work their miracles right under the noses of their fascinated audience.

In 1998 Tim came second in the international finals of the Young Magicians Club "Young Close-up

Magician of the Year Awards" and won the "Grant Cup" at The Plymouth Magic Circle, of which Tim has been a member for almost six years. After the international competition, Tim was offered a guest appearance on the Disney Channel along with some other young magicians. As a result, he was "spotted" by one of the Disney bosses and has now been working for the Disney Channel for around 2 years. He is their "Resident Magician" as well as often appearing as a guest presenter, and is heavily involved with their broadcasts - doing live studio "links" between programmes. In March 1999, Tim starred in a pop video for "Badder Badder Schwing", a track by Freddie Fresh and Fatboy Slim which reached number 32 in the English music charts, with further success abroad, most notably in America.

Earlier this year, Tim toured the country as part of the Disney Channel's Kids Awards Roadshow and was part of the "Pop

2000" show at Birmingham's NEC. Tim often gets the chance to work alongside various bands and celebrities including S Club 7 and Westlife. He has also performed magic on the radio, three times, for "BBC Radio Devon" and has appeared in the local newspaper, the "Evening Herald" as well as the "Western Morning News".

*"Tim toured the country as part of the Disney Channel's Kids Awards Roadshow..."*

Aside from his school-work, Tim is now working on a stage magic act, for entry in two major competitions, over the next few years. When Tim finishes his education, he would like to work in the media, as a television presenter.

*Brad Turner*

# *Extracurricular*

## *Homework Club*

Every lunchtime, a club that differs from many others takes place. The Homework Club has continued to operate this year, and has proved to be very popular with younger members of the school.

Despite what it sounds like, people who attend to the club do not come for extra homework! The club is intended as a quiet place for pupils to come to do some of their homework, potentially giving them some extra time in the evening.

The Club is principally run by Mrs Bowden and Mr Martin. Staff involved with years 7 to 11, and a 'dedicated' team of Year 12 supervisors regularly assist them.

There are times when pupils attending 'get stuck.' It is a common occurrence to see members of Year 12 delving into the deepest depths of their brains, trying to remember a Latin verb, or how to solve a maths problem without going straight to the calculator!

The popularity of the club has grown over the last few weeks. Most days, around twenty to thirty people turn up and benefit from the time that they spend there. Many of the Year 12 supervisors have thought how useful a club such as this would have been to them in their first year!

*Michael Oliver*

## *Tim's Tricks & Teasers:*

Which mathematical symbol can you put between the numbers 4 and 5 to make a number more than 4 but less than 5?

For the solution, see page 32



# The Team

PAGE 23



Thomas Woolway

editor

I have enjoyed working with the dedicated team who have put this magazine together. English is one of my A Level subjects and being able to see how other people write has been a great experience for me.



Tim Dixon

editor

Being an editor for this years school magazine has certainly been a valuable experience. I have enjoyed working alongside my fellow editors and the responsibility of co-ordinating the team's activities. I feel that I have gained experience in terms of leadership qualities and working efficiently with others, under a considerable amount of pressure.



Matthew Townrow

editor

I enjoyed working within the team to produce this magazine. The articles are impressive and the quality of the articles reflect the people who wrote them.



Ian Berry

photographer

Working as part of the magazine team has been an enriching and worthwhile experience, despite being somewhat challenging at times. As an 'A' Level art student I hope to have captured the atmosphere, development and achievements from the school.



Matthew Stevens

design/DTP

As my job entails compiling the photographic images with the stories, it has been interesting when, on receipt of the work from the editors, I have been able to fully appreciate the high standards set by everybody else on the team. I just hope that my graphic design does their work justice!



Bradley Turner

writer

I have been co-ordinating the efforts of the middle school students for this edition of the school magazine and have thoroughly enjoyed working with this highly talented group of students. I have also really enjoyed being part of this production team. I feel that we have produced an edition that is of an incredibly high quality. It has been a pleasure to work on.

# The Team

PAGE 24



Marc Bramham

I'm Marc Bramham, one of the reporters for lower school. I am studying sciences and maths with German. My hobbies are music, fencing, reading and films. I do voluntary work and I am also a member of St John Ambulance.



Sam Banks

Sport is a huge part of life at Devonport, and having played in a number of school teams over the years, I was delighted to be able to take on the role of Sports Editor. I have enjoyed researching and writing the sports section immensely.



Michael Oliver

I am studying for A Levels in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Maths and General Studies. I am keen Fencer and a Cadet Member of the Plymstock St John Ambulance. Working on the magazine has been a worthwhile experience.



Thomas Viles

I am studying the arts in sixth form: English Literature, History, French and Politics. I have an interest in current affairs and I like writing and reading, which I hope is reflected in my writing. I have enjoyed working on the magazine, and I feel that all of our hard work was worth it.



Gareth Williams

The opportunity to work on the magazine has allowed me to participate in a worthwhile activity, and I am very impressed with the quality of the work, when taking into consideration the timescale we were allowed.

*The Team*  
**2000**  
DHSB School Magazine

# Extra<sup>curricular</sup>

**"I'll be back..."**

Well maybe ex-pupil Peter Jones won't be. However, his colleagues from the Terminator card game are back at school, in the sixth form; Mark Tinkler, Leigh Winters, year 12, and Henry Baker, a member of Year 13 were all on the design team of the new card game craze to hit the nation.

The foursome found an advertisement in November last year at [www.alienpredator.com](http://www.alienpredator.com), a web site for an already launched and successful card game, Alien vs. Predator.

The advertisement was for a new card game based around the Terminator films. There were twenty places for hopeful applicants, and the four were accepted onto the team. Communicating via e-mail the team of twenty

discussed and put forward ideas for the game. Between the group and a representative from the production company, ZI games they were able to refine ideas until they found that they had a game, using movie shots from the films, and robots versus the humans in a variety of different places.

*"The four were pleased with the co-operation of the team and the success of the game, and with their efforts and time poured into the game."*

Once the game was halfway to completion the

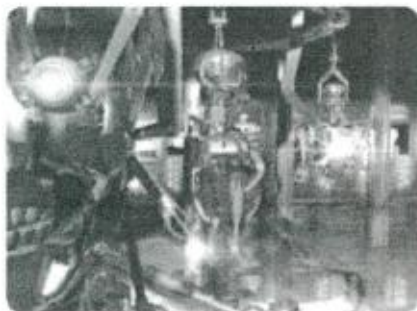
team decided that it was best to meet up and test out their creation... From there they were able to write reports on what they found worked and what they found did not.

After reading through and discussing the reports the team were then able to inform the company that they had completed their game and that it was ready for marketing.

The four were pleased with the co-operation of the team and the success of the game, and felt their efforts and time poured into the game was worthwhile.

The cards, released on May of this year can be found at all good retailers. The new web site for the cards can be found at [www.eternity.com/ttccg](http://www.eternity.com/ttccg).

Gareth Williams



# *Sports Review*

During the last academic year, sporting success has once again become synonymous with the name of Devonport High. Unfortunately, it is often the case that only the exceptional individual sporting achievements can be recognised, whilst the week-in, week-out, all-weather dedication of the less exciting teams is sadly overlooked. Despite this, it is the commitment of these school teams which ensures the school's sporting reputation.

The PE staff run seven lunchtime clubs, in football, rugby, basketball, cross country, athletics, tennis and cricket. Praise is due to all team members for their commitment to lunchtime training and after-school matches, but extra credit is due to the following teams and individuals.

*"...sporting success has once again become synonymous with the name of Devonport High School for Boys."*

The under 16 (Year 11) football team did exceptionally well this year, reaching the quarter finals of the English Schools Cup, thus ranking them in the top eight of all English schools. A major factor in this success was the trio of Chris Maskell, John James and Steven Sims, who were all selected for the Devon U-16 side, and also represented professional clubs.

The under 14 (Year 9) football team are also worthy of mention, as they won the Plymouth Schools League.

In Rugby the under 12 side, in their first school year, came runners-up in the West Devon Cunningham Cup to close rivals Plymouth College.

The under 13 Devon seven-a-side rugby tournament was won by the year 8 team, as was the equivalent competition by the year 9 team. These under 14's almost matched their success in the West Devon full tournament as well, eventually finishing in second place.

Congratulations are due to Allen Harrison of year

10, who has not only been selected to play for the Devon B rugby side, but also led his school team to victory in the West Devon Cup.

Basketball is a sport which continues to increase in popularity, and this year the school has produced some talented players (see feature on the three high-achieving sixth form players). The under 13 team won the Plymouth and District Town competition, and the under 16's won their league, despite some stiff competition from other local schools who have access to much better training facilities. (Hopefully this is about to change, as the article on the new sports hall illustrates).

*"The under 13 basketball team won the Plymouth and District Town competition. The under 16's won their league, despite some stiff competition from other local schools..."*



# ***Sports Review*** (cont'd)

Cross Country runners produced some excellent results, and this was in no small part due to the coaching input of Mr Strang, who himself finished 44th in the Plymouth half-marathon.

He was not the only PE teacher worthy of note, however - Mr Williams and Mr Burt both represented Devon at rugby, and they ended their season with a trip to Twickenham to compete in the county seven-a-side championship. They finished runners-up.

As ever, Sports Day last summer was a huge success, with the usual mix of entertainment, fun and sporting achievement. For the first time, this year the event was sponsored, by Bradleys Estate Agents. Amongst the two new school records was the fantastic achievement of Adam Sharp, who smashed the year 7 javelin record by 4 metres. His name will surely be one to watch out for in future issues of this publication.

*"Mr Williams and Mr Burt both represented Devon at rugby. The season ended with a trip to Twickenham, to compete in the county seven-a-side championship. They finished runners-up..."*

Sam Banks

## ***Tim's Tricks & Teasers:***

- How far can a dog run into a forest?
- He who makes it, has no need for it. He who buys it, has no use for it. He who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
- What could I put in a sandbag to make it lighter?
- What holds water, but is full of holes?

See page 32 for the solutions.



# *Sports Hall*

PAGE 28

Since the beginning of the school year in September, the school site has been alive with the sound of cement mixers, trucks and cranes as the initial foundations for the new school sports hall are laid. With an estimated completion date of the 15th April 2001, phase one of the new building, utilising the existing E-block changing facilities, will be the size of four badminton courts, and will be a welcome resource, both to members of the school and the local community.

For many years the school has recognised the inadequacy of its two small, old-fashioned gyms as sporting facilities for a school with such a high calibre of sportsmen. The project has, however, taken a long time to gain momentum, due to the intricacies of building on the complicated and historic site, and funding rejections from the National Lottery Sports Council, amongst others.

Now though, due in no small part to the brave financial risk taken by the Board of Governors, the project is fully underway. It only remains for students and friends of the school to play their part by raising money to pay for the 10 000 bricks which will be needed to complete the hall next year. Every student has been challenged to raise £100, the equivalent of ten bricks. Every contributor will be recognised by signing a contributors plaque, which will be mounted in the sports hall upon completion.

In addition to this project, the Governors have plans for eight brand new all-weather tennis courts, possibly floodlit, on the site of the old canteen.

*Sam Banks*

## *Buy a Brick Appeal:*

The school has recently launched its "Buy a Brick" appeal, to help cover the cost of the new sports hall.

This exciting new facility is being built adjacent to the Edgecumbe Block, and the target is to raise one hundred thousand pounds to pay for the ten thousand bricks that will be used for the walls.

Family and friends of those in the school are invited to help contribute to this appeal, and to purchase as many £10 bricks as possible. A target of ten bricks per pupil, working on the basis of one thousand pupils, would equal the amount needed. Contributors are being given the chance to show their generosity with a plaque that will be displayed inside the hall, on which signatures of all fund-raisers will be shown.

We, as the magazine team are buying a brick to support our school and we hope you will join us in our efforts to raise the right amount.

*Tom Viles*

# Sports Opportunities

## *Opportunities Abound*

There has never been a more prosperous time to be a member of the Devonport High community. Not only are exam results at an all time high, but the range of extra-curricular sporting events offered by the school, at a very competitive price, has never been so vast.

It is common practice that every year the school runs an Enrichment Week for non-examination groups, during which they are offered the chance to take part in off-site outdoor activities which would normally be inaccessible. These activities are in addition to other expeditions, such as trips to the Evening Herald offices and Paignton Zoo. For example, last year students were offered days out caving, abseiling, climbing, surfing, sailing in Plymouth Sound, canoeing, mountain biking, horse riding, Dartmoor hiking and orienteering at Mount Edgecumbe.

*"Last year, students were offered days out caving, abseiling, climbing, surfing, sailing in Plymouth Sound, canoeing, mountain biking, horse riding, Dartmoor hiking and orienteering at Mount Edgecumbe."*

For a number of years now the school has made available an annual trip to watch an international cricket test match

at Edgbaston, and a rugby international at Twickenham. As photographs and reports displayed around the school indicate, these trips are memorable experiences for the boys who take part, and at roughly £25 they are very reasonably priced. Last year for the first time a trip to Wembley to watch an under-21 international was offered, and it proved to be an equal success.

Back on the school site, the list continues. Dedicated basketball players were offered lunchtime coaching sessions with the head coach of Plymouth Raiders, Gary Stronach. This year the sixth form team is being aided by a top Raiders player, and the influence is clearly rubbing off on some of the boys, as their success at regional level has shown (see article on three high-achieving sixth formers). For rugby fanatics, Graham Dawe, of England and Bath fame, was invited into school to provide coaching for all year groups. Similarly, a session was overseen by old-boy and Plymouth Argyle professional John Beswetherick (son of Mr Beswetherick, retired Latin teacher). Even the teachers are given the opportunity to cash in. They have been given an exclusive session by top FA coach Alan Gillette, teaching them new and improved methods of coaching.

Sam Banks

# Sport

## Sharp-Shooters!

Despite remaining a sport generally monopolised by America, basketball's popularity has increased infinitely in Great Britain. As this year's Sports Review points out, two school teams performed extremely well last season, but it is the exceptional achievement of three keen sixth formers which has caught the attention of spectators.

Ben Anderson, Yiorgos Vlahos and his brother Andreas Vlahos are all members of the Tamar Valley Cannons squad. This is the equivalent of a south-west team. They compete in a national league every Saturday and Sunday against such stiff opposition as Avon Valley, Thames Valley Tigers, Gloucester and Slough.

Ben, who wears the number 8 vest and plays as a forward, enjoys playing but admits the training schedule at this level is very testing. On top of their AS-level studies, the

boys must train every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm until 8pm at the Sir John Hunt Sports Centre, which offers some of the best basketball facilities in the city. Yiorgos and Andreas, who wear numbers 10 and 11 respectively, and who can both play as forwards or guards, share Ben's opinion, but hope that the hard work will be rewarded by a chance to play basketball at a professional or semi-professional level.

Anyone wishing to catch these budding superstars in action can watch home games at the Mayflower Centre, Plymouth. For more information please visit the team's website at [www.tvcannons.co.uk](http://www.tvcannons.co.uk)

*Sam Banks*



# School Clubs

## *"Is the Word Mightier than the Sword?"*

The Scrabble and Fencing Clubs have proved popular with many in the lower School (years 7 - 9).

Since the beginning of the Autumn Term, a Year 7 Scrabble tournament has been fought out, which in the six weeks of competition has seen some close and well fought out matches.

The Fencing Club recommenced in September of this year, which gave many in the Lower School a chance to take up a slightly different sport to football and rugby. Those in other year groups were able to take the opportunity to develop skills in fencing that they had previously attained. The members of the club have had the advantage of being taught by Andy Hill, who has taken fencers to the World Junior Championships and beyond.



Both of the activities involve a lot of skill. From my personal involvement in running the Scrabble Club, I have been able to watch players develop, and improve their overall game play. Many

have found that the most obscure words in the English Language, such as QI, ZO and FAZ are admissible in the Official Word Dictionary. These words have proved useful in getting people out of tight spots, scoring a good deal of points.

I have also found that in the fencing club, many younger players are learning the skills of attack and defence, which are vital to their overall game. I have found that the young foilists have given many an experienced fencer more of a match than they bargained for.

On the question, "Is the word mightier than the Sword?" I would say yes. Whilst fencing, particularly with the Epee, hits can prove to be very painful. However, during a game of Scrabble, I have witnessed on the faces of players whose opponent has just laid a seven letter word conveys more pain that is experienced from a blow from a sword. It seems to me that seven letters played simultaneously causes more pain than a good lunge from a fencer.

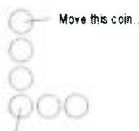
*"In conclusion, THE WORD  
IS MIGHTIER THAN THE  
SWORD!!!"*

*Michael Oliver*

# Tim's Tricks & Teasers

**Want to know the solutions to Tim's tricks & teasers? Well here they are...**

**Page 6:**



...and place it on top of this one

**Page 11**

## **The Troubled Traveller:**

The question that the traveller should ask is: "Does the left road lead to village A according to your brother?" If the answer is "Yes", the traveller should turn right, and if the answer is "No", the traveller should turn left.

**Explanation** (There are four possible cases):

1. The traveller asks the question to the truth-telling brother, and the left road leads to village A. The truth-telling brother knows that his lying brother would say that the left road does not lead to village A, and so he answers "No".
2. The traveller asks the question to the truth-telling brother, and the right road leads to village A. The truth-telling brother knows that his lying brother would say that the left road leads to village A, and so he answers "Yes".
3. The traveller asks the question to the lying brother, and the left road leads to village A. The lying brother knows that his truth-telling brother would say that the left road leads to village A, and so he lies "No".
4. The traveller asks the question to the lying brother, and the right road leads to village A. The lying brother knows that his truth-telling brother would say that the left road does not lead to village A, and so he lies "Yes".

## **Climbing Snail**

On the first day, the snail reaches a height of 5 metres and slides down 4 metres at night, and thus ends at a height of 1 metre.

The second day, he reaches 6 m., but slides back to 2 m.

The third day, he reaches 7 m., and slides back to 3 m.

...

The fifteenth day, he reaches 19 m., and ends at 15 m.

The sixteenth day, he reaches 20 m., so now he is at the top of the pit!

**Conclusion:** The snail reaches the top of the pit on the 16th day!...

## **Mixing Your Drinks**

The two cups end up with the same volume of liquid they started with. The same amount of tea was moved to the coffee cup as coffee to the tea cup. Therefore each cup contains the same amount of its original contents.

**Page 12:**

Drink the contents of the middle cup!

**Page 22:**

Put a decimal point between 4 and 5, to give 4.5.

**Page 27:**

1. Half way. Beyond the half way point, the dog would be running out of the forest!
2. A coffin
3. A hole (as it would soon empty)
4. A sponge

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