

PRIZE GIVING SPEECH

2011

WELCOME:

The Worshipful Mayor & Mayoress of Charnwood, Chairman, Governors, ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls – welcome to Prize Giving 2011

INTRODUCTION:

- I am very proud and honoured to be standing here before you as Headmaster of such an 'outstanding school' to report to you on this school year.
- Fairfield has enjoyed an exceptional year, both inside and outside the classroom and I hope, during my brief resume of the school year, to report on some of those highlights and new initiatives that have taken place and been successful this year.

GUEST OF HONOUR:

- As this is such an important occasion in the school year, I am delighted to welcome to Fairfield as our Guest of Honour, Mrs Julie Robinson, Director of Education and Training for IAPS.
- I have known Julie since she was appointed as Headmistress of Ardingly College Junior School - the first Headmistress in the School's history. In 2002 she became the first Headmistress of Vinehall Prep School in Sussex.
- She has been an active member of IAPS and represented a number of committees and I enjoyed, for 3 years, serving with her on the Membership committee. She became the new Director of Education and Training of IAPS in September 2010 where she has already put her own "personal stamp" on this role. She is a firm believer that all professional teachers and Heads should have access to the highest quality training and professional development. Not only does Julie co-ordinate this aspect of IAPS, but she is also in the privileged position of visiting a number of schools and we are delighted to have her here today to be part of our Prize Giving celebrations.
- **Julie – Welcome!**

WHY PRIZE GIVING?

Today is one of the many days in the school year when we recognise the children's:-

- Success
- Excellence
- Endeavour
- Loyalty to the school, and
- Personal achievement – for those in Years 3-6

However, we do, of course, celebrate this on a weekly basis through:

- The House point system
- Book of Achievement
- Merit badges
- Posts of responsibility
- Certificates
- Cups and trophies, which include sport

and are regularly presented to the children throughout the school year.

Tonight is also for:

- Parents – and I hope you will be proud of your children's successes this evening
- Staff – to acknowledge their contribution to the success of all the children, whether inside or outside the classroom
- Governors – whose role in the 21st century is becoming more exacting and demanding

I do hope that you all enjoy this evening!

- I am delighted to report that this has been a hugely successful and incredibly busy year. Despite the economic downturn, numbers at Fairfield have been very consistent and numbers still look very buoyant for September 2011.
- In addition to the many highlights that I will be celebrating with you shortly, I would like to draw your attention to some of the new initiatives that have been successful during the last 12 months at the school.

- **VLE**

Many of you will have had the opportunity at the Information Evening last October, as well as the numerous Parents' Evenings this year, to have had a demonstration on our new Virtual Learning Environment. This has been one of our Performance Management targets this year for all staff, but a huge thank you for its development should go to Mr Boothe, Head of ICT, and Mrs Winship, as well as all of the staff and VLE experts within the Year groups who have enabled this initiative to take place. As a learning platform, it has made learning more accessible, both at school and from home, as well as providing invaluable information for both pupils and parents to access.

- **Year 2 Strings programme**

This year, we have initiated the Year 2 Strings programme as part of Colourstrings. It has meant that all of the pupils in Year 2 have been learning with quarter size violins and cellos in small groups. Co-ordinated by Mr Osiatynski and Mrs McGee at Fairfield, each of the three Year 2 classes have been divided into three groups; two small groups of violinists and one small cello group. Many of these instruments have been sponsored by parents and staff and so a grateful thank you to our sponsors.

Parents and friends have now enjoyed their first concert at the end of last term when all three classes performed in the Recital Hall. We do hope that many of these boys and girls will continue to play these string instruments in Year 3.

- **Beavers and Cubs**

For the first time in the school's history, Fairfield now has its own Beaver colony and Cub pack, which is part of the Loughborough Endowed Schools' Scout group. The District finally gave permission for the go ahead after all the legalities had taken place and the boys are now enjoying this activity on a Friday evening, as well as being part of the world-wide association of Scouting..... and we hope to welcome some girls next year! Thank you to Mrs Moulding and Mr Bolton for helping to get this initiative started.

- **LAMDA**

LAMDA is another addition to the activities programme this year. Mrs Karen Chapman has been co-ordinating five groups of LAMDA students. Their first examinations were this term and it has given another platform for children to enjoy learning spoken word in a structured format.

- **Penpals**

Miss Carter has co-ordinated the Penpals group and I am delighted to inform you that we have link schools in Ghana and Zambia –the Tujatane School in Zambia has been very keen to reciprocate and have links with Fairfield. A DVD from Fairfield will soon be ‘winging” its way to Zambia.

- **Rugby**

As you heard last year, Rugby has really taken off as a sport at Fairfield and I am delighted to say that 4 girls, Anais Olley, Isha-May Lever, Millie-Mae Matthews and Scarlett Ward were the first girls to represent the school at rugby against Spratton Hall in a Tag Rugby competition. Rugby is, of course, an option for the girls when they progress to the High School.

- **Charities**

Charities, despite the current economic climate, have been at the forefront of our minds. We have supported numerous charities, both locally, nationally and worldwide for children (and other organisations.) Such charities have been:

- Pounds for Pakistan
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Wigs for kids in America
- LOROS
- The Tujatane School, Zambia
- Asthma UK
- Get Kids Going
- Jeans for Genes
- Red Nose Day
- Children in Need
- Shoebox Appeal
- Poppy Appeal
- and the Japanese Tsunami

In total, over £10,000 has been raised this year, to date, which is a phenomenal achievement and thanks largely go to Mrs Barraclough, Mrs Drabble and Mrs Holmes, the Charity Committee, for co-ordinating such an exciting programme of events for the children (and staff) to support. Many of the charities have also been initiated by the children and some have been suggested by the School Council. One of the lasting moments of this school year was when last term, staff and children ran part of a marathon for Get Kids Going and Asthma UK.

▪ **Long Trousers**

Little did we know when we agreed to implement long trousers in 2008, for September 2010, that we were about to experience the coldest winter on record! Therefore, the boys in Reception to Year 4 were very grateful for this change of heart, that has been on the agenda at Fairfield for the last 15-20 years. Sometimes wheels in Prep Schools do move very slowly!

YEAR 6:

- A successful school year is often influenced by the calibre of the Year 6 pupils. This year, we have been blessed with a particularly gifted and talented group of Year 6 pupils, and, for the most part, they all get on with each other as well! They sat the 11+ examination in January for a number of schools this year and, once again, we enjoyed excellent results with 100% of children passing to their first choice schools.

Pupils will progress to the following:-

37	Loughborough Grammar School
32	Loughborough High School
1	Cheltenham Ladies' College
2	Oakham School
1	Repton School
2	Stratford upon Avon Grammar School
2	De Lisle School
1	QEH, Bristol
1	King's School, Worcester
1	Relocation to the USA

- 11 children were awarded 14 Scholarships to 5 of the top Independent Schools in the country.

The following have been awarded Scholarships:-

Parth Bhatt – Scholarship - LGS
Georgina Brownhill - Drama Scholarship – Repton School
Lily Buchanan – Scholarship - Cheltenham Ladies' College & Oakham School
Alex Christian – Music Scholarship – LHS
Harry Foot – Scholarship with excellence in Mathematics - LGS
Ben Greer – Scholarship – LGS
Mathilda Heller-Janes – Scholarship to LHS and an Exhibition at Oakham School
Ella Johnson – Music Scholarship – Oakham School
Shivani Patel – Scholarship to LHS
Rhea Suribhatla – Scholarship and Music Scholarship – LHS
Spencer Ward – Scholarship – LGS

- Congratulations to all of the pupils and thank you to all staff from Reception – Year 6, who have prepared these children – again – so well.
- After half term, in February, Year 6 attended the annual PGL trip to the outdoor adventure centre at Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire. Without snow this year, conditions were still cold, but there was a whirlwind of activities to keep the children busy and warm. They faced many exhilarating challenges and all of them returned smiling with a sense of achievement, often pushing themselves to the limit on a number of activities which they found demanding and extremely challenging.
- In April, slightly later than usual, Mr Smail led a party of over 40 skiers and staff to Pila in Italy. Although conditions were marginal this year, everyone had a great time, although sadly there were one or two cuts and bruises, and more serious injuries on the last day.
- This term, Year 6 have enjoyed two fantastic weeks – the Drama week before half term when they were cast in the roles for ‘Bugsy’ and since half term they have been producing many of the sets in Art Week. We are all looking forward to watching ‘Bugsy’ on Friday, 1st July 2011.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUCCESSES:

Children at Fairfield continue to raise the bar for those who follow them. They have a variety of talents and they have endless opportunities to perform these at the highest level.

Congratulations to the following who have represented the school at either regional or national level:-

- The School Chess champions this year – the Grand Masters were - Daniel Hill and Abimbola Ayorinde.
They, along with Dev Popat, Hari Jethwa, Antoni Krupa, and Shyam Modi will be taking part in the Giga Chess Finals this year in Manchester at the start of the summer. Good luck to them.
- Once again, the school enjoyed considerable success at the SATIPS National General Knowledge competition. Out of 118 schools this year, Fairfield came 7th with a special mention to Toby Heseltine and Sean Ashby who came 25th and 37th respectively out of 2100 competitors.
- Freddie Buchanan in Year 4, who plays the cornet in school and in his local Brass band, has been invited to play in the National Children’s Brass Band of Great Britain.

- Hermione Little in Year 3 has recently performed at the National Dance championships coming 2nd place in the tango and quick step, and 3rd place in the cha-cha.
- Olivia Smith took part in the IAPS National Swimming championships for the 2nd year running and came 7th in the 25m butterfly. Additionally, Olivia also competed in the National Biathlon competition where she was the best Fairfield representative taking part in the 50m freestyle and 500m.
- Dev Popat in Year 5 has been selected to play for Leicester and Rutland in the Midlands Golf championships
- James O'Kelly in Year 6 has been selected to play for Leicester and Rutland at County Cricket.

and

- Jeevan Sidhu in Year 5, who is only 10, has been awarded a black belt at taekwondo.

TOURNAMENTS:

- The boys and girls have continued to perform well at local and regional tournaments in rugby, soccer, netball and hockey. However, a special mention to:
 - The girls U11 Hockey team took part in the Mini-Hockey tournament becoming Leicestershire champions and then played this term at Cannock in the Midlands Finals where they were runners-up. The best result in the school's history.
 - Cross Country continues to go from strength to strength. Thank you to the staff involved for all their hard work. This year, there were 24 boys and girls who represented Loughborough in the County Finals in which Andrew Jones came 3rd for the Years 3 and 4 boys, Archie Banks came 3rd for the U11 boys and Francesca Green was the winner of the U11 girls. Loughborough won most of the Year group trophies to become the overall County champions.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Miss Potter was again selected to run in the England cross country team in Bilbao earlier this year where she came 17th.

Finally, congratulations to all 30 children who performed so well at the Town Sports last Saturday and who will represent Loughborough at the County Sports on Friday, 1st July in Leicester @ Saffron Lane.

PROSE READING:

The Prose Reading competition was one of the highlights of the Spring Term. With a new format this year, each of the competitors had to read their first choice story and the winners of each Year group had to read a second text in the Final.

- Ravi Sewpaul won the Year 3 competition
- Freddie Buchanan won the Year 4 competition
- Arib Islam won the Year 5 competition
- Thomas Pagett-Wright won the Year 6 competition

The overall winner was Thomas who will read his piece entitled “How the Lion Lost his Lunch” by David Henry Wilson.

PERFORMING ARTS:

- We have enjoyed another amazing year of music, dance and drama throughout the school and from Reception – Year 6. I believe that the standard in all three has continued to improve. Thank you so much to the dedication and the focus of the staff who achieved so much this year with the children.
- All of the children enjoyed taking part in Harvest and Christmas celebrations and, last term, Year 3 pupils performed “The Emerald Crown”, a very realistic story how man has destroyed the rainforests. The moral of the story was that man had to rethink his plans and that the wildlife was saved by their change of heart. The singing and dancing was fantastic and it was a very moving and superb performance from all concerned.
- In February, Year 5 pupils embarked on the ambitious project of “The Mermaid”. This has traditionally been scripted as a Key Stage 3 play and Year 5 pupils made it their own in what was a very colourful and imaginative portrayal of this beautiful play.
- A huge thank you to all the staff involved in these productions, as well as Mrs McGee, Mr Geary and the Music department for providing the accompaniment and, of course, we eagerly await the Year 6 drama production of ‘Bugsy’.
- Last term, Mrs Leah, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Godwin and Miss Cooper co-ordinated a fantastic Dance show involving over 100 pupils from Years 2-6. With a whole range of dance, from modern to traditional, street dance to break dance, it was a glorious celebration of some of the wonderful types of dance that children at Fairfield enjoy.

On a musical theme:

Alex Christian, one of our Music Scholars, will now play Rondeau from 'Abdelazar' by Purcell arranged by James Rae.

STAFF:

- The school was saddened with the passing away of former Headmaster of Fairfield, Mr John Kilyon who died on the 23rd March 2011. Sadly, his wife, Jean, had passed away some 15 months earlier. He was much loved and respected, and, since leaving in 1986, has kept in regular contact with the school until more recently when he was admitted to Loughborough Hospital in 2008.

Staff Leaving:

- It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Perkins who retires from Fairfield at the end of this term. She began life at Fairfield as a part time PE teacher in 1979, working alongside Miss Harrild. She later became Year 3 class teacher and then moved to Year 6 where she became Head of Year 6, Head of Pastoral Care and Child Protection Officer for the school. Her contribution to school life has been extraordinary and we thank her for her professional input to so many boys and girls over the years. We wish her a very long and happy retirement with her husband, Norman. She hopes to spend some time travelling, seeing more of her family and improving her golf handicap!
- Also leaving at the end of this term is Katie Billington, a former Fairfield and High School pupil and graduate from Birmingham University. Katie is moving on to De Montfort University in September to start a PGCE and, who knows, one day she may come back to complete the circle and teach at the school. She won't be the first..... or last!
- We also say goodbye to our two ICT Technicians, Kunal Lalji and Gurjeet Sandhu who return to De Montfort University in September to complete their degrees in computer studies.
- And at the end of term, we say goodbye to Mrs McGinty who starts her second period of maternity leave as Year 6 teacher, but we also welcome back at the end of this term, Mrs Smail who returns as Nursery Nurse into Reception.
- With these and other internal changes, there will be 18 different permutations of staff changes in September, which will make next year very exciting for all concerned.

IN CONCLUSION:

THANK YOU – to a number of people:

- The Chairman and Governors who continue to work so hard in order to support Fairfield and the 2 senior schools and bring a sense of balance and reality to all of the legal issues that challenge us and them in 2011.
- Thank you and congratulations to Digby Emson who was recognised in the New Year's Honours list. Mr Emson, Vice Chairman of Governors, was awarded an OBE for his services to health care.
- My outgoing Chair of the Fairfield Governors' Liaison Committee, Mrs Mary Gershlick, for her support and hard work for the last 4 years and to welcome to the committee as the new Chairman, Mrs Caroline Wales.
- Mr Fisher, Headmaster at the Grammar School and for the last time, Miss O'Connor, Headmistress at the High School who (sadly can't be with us this evening) leaves Loughborough High School at the end of term to become the new Headmistress of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in Hertfordshire. We wish her all the very best for the future and I would like to thank Mr Fisher and Miss O'Connor for their support and good humour throughout these last 12 months at Fairfield
- The support staff in the Bursary – Kieron Shaw, Richard Harker, Tom Allardice and their teams.
- The PTA committee this year has been led by Mrs Abby Archer who has, once again, co-ordinated a variety of activities which have been very successful. This year monies raised will provide 8 digital monitors around the school which will soon be in place and some of the new equipment on the Reception patio, the children are already enjoying.
- On the home team, once again, thank you to:
 - my SMT – Penny Barton, Deputy Head and Nikki Young, Head of Pre-Prep.
 - my outstanding teaching staff and non-teaching staff who make the school such an inspirational place to learn and work.
 - in the Office, Sue Dexter, Helen Hewlett, Lesley Jones, and Julie McGeehan for the huge amount of work that they do on a daily and weekly basis at school.

- the Catering team of Margaret Wood, Fiona Coltman and all their wonderful staff..... not just for this evening, but everyday.

- and Simon Titchener, our caretaker

..... and to you, the parents, for your continued support of your sons and daughters.

Finally, I would like you to join me and wish Year 6 and all the leavers of 2011 a fond farewell on the 7th July and every happiness and success in their new schools in September.