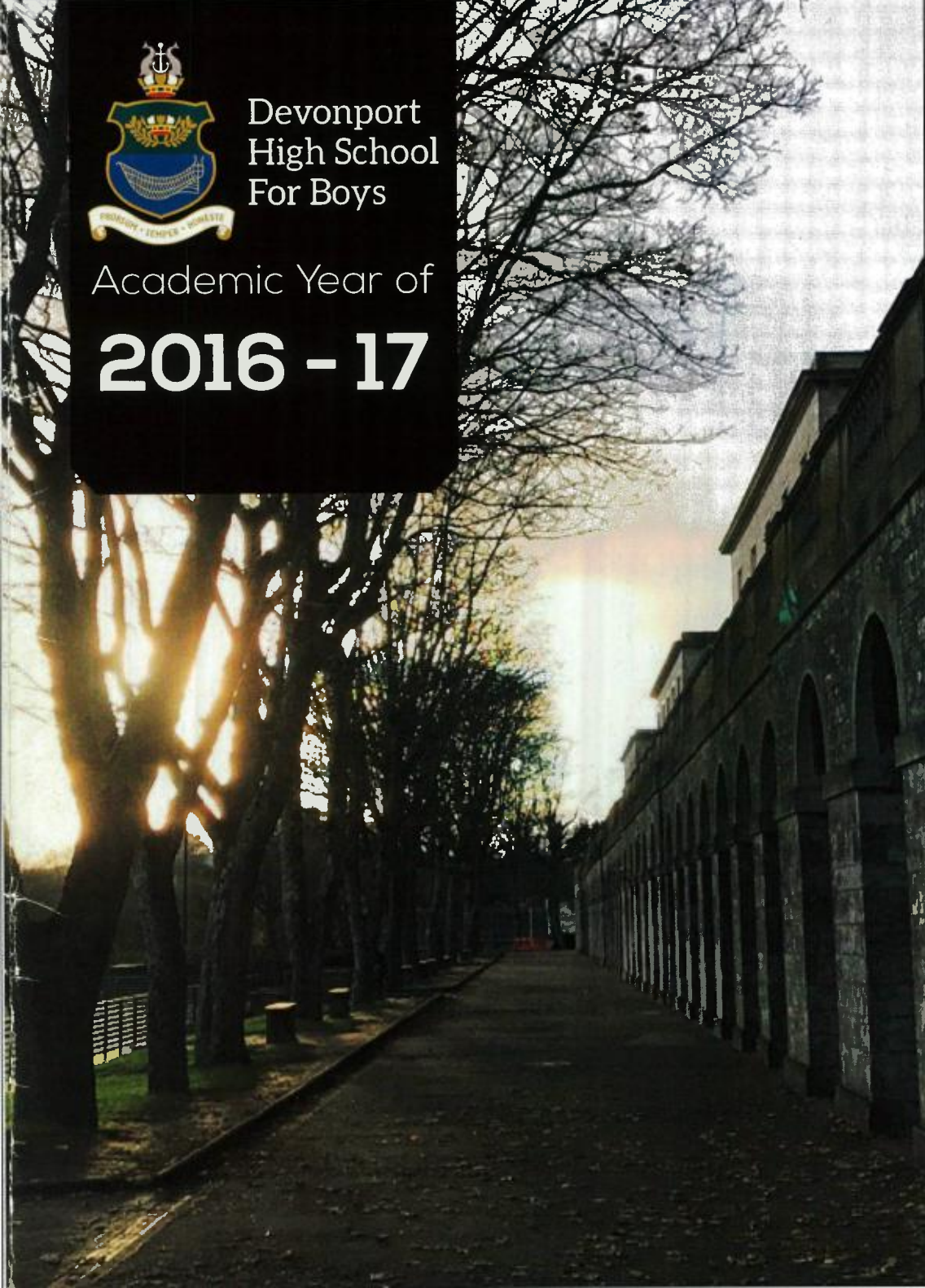




Devonport  
High School  
For Boys

Academic Year of

**2016 - 17**



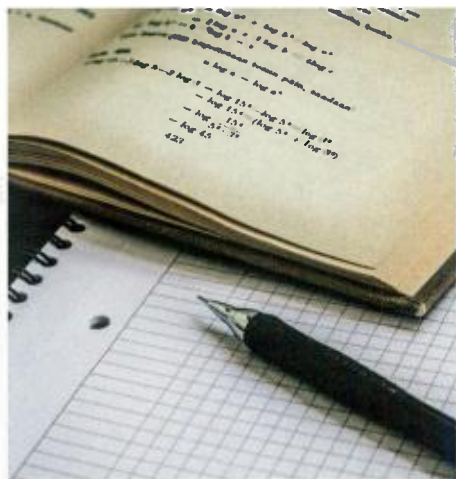
# CONTENTS



05

## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT WEEK

Read about CEW Summer 2017 at DHSB



11

## REVISION ADVICE

Head of Studies gives his perspective on coping with revision with the hindsight of having completed his GCSEs

03

## EDITORS' WELCOME

Welcome to the 2017 edition of the Devonport High School for Boys Magazine

04

## EXAM RESULTS

A recap of this year's exceptional GCSE and A Level results

06

## CURRICULUM CHALLENGE WEEK

An overview of the events of DHSB's CCW week 2017



07

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

A look at the lunchtime clubs and societies at DHSB with the students who lead them

09

## AMNESTY CLUB

Read about the new DHSB Amnesty International youth group

10

## PHYSICS SOCIETY

A sixth form student writes about his funny anecdotes in running the Physics Society for the past year

12

## JOSEPH THE MUSICAL

Technical crew member Alfie Carlisle provides his account of working on this year's musical

14

## HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

In a School Magazine exclusive, Mr Roberts gives his annual update

16

## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

The former School Captain describes his time in the position as Harry Bryan begins his tenure

# THE EDITORS' WELCOME

Welcome to the 2017 edition of the Devonport High School for Boys Magazine. This is an annual project that intends to celebrate just some of the many amazing things that have taken place in DHSB over the last 12 months. This academic year, like all those before it, has been witness to an abundance of achievements and events within the school, and we are keen to showcase as many of these as possible in the magazine.

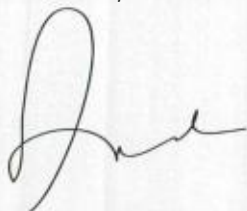
Not only is it a great privilege to have the opportunity to put this magazine together but it is also humbling to read over and reflect upon the achievements of the school over the past year. Whether it be the achievement of the students in the school, the fantastic house events, or the many opportunities provided by the staff, there are so many things for DHSB to be proud of.

For some, this year has also been their first and so we want to welcome on board both the new staff and the new students. We hope and know that the DHSB community will provide the same warm, welcoming, and supportive environment that it has done for each and every one of its students for many years prior. We realise this year will also be the last for many of the students in Year 11 and 13. We wish both years the best of luck in their respective examinations, knowing the experiences and opportunities offered at DHSB will put them in good stead whatever their chosen career path.

So now while we give our farewells to 2017, we hope you join us in reflecting on the school's accomplishments, successes and endeavours this year. We welcome you to read this magazine and congratulate the wonderful students and staff for their continued contributions to the school.

## THE EDITORS:

Jasmine Kean, Kitty Fry, Lauren Oman, Daniel Tout and Tom Critchley





# GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS

IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, 2017 PROVED TO BE ANOTHER YEAR OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GCSE AND A-LEVEL RESULTS FOR OUR SCHOOL.

Year 13 had an outstanding overall pass rate of 98.5%, with 63% at A\*. A or B grade standard.

The delight felt by many of the students was reflected in the reaction from Ms Davidson, our Assistant Head Post-16, who said,

"It's fantastic that nearly all of our students will take up their university places with the super results we've seen this morning. Although they are judged on their exam grades we are proud of them for so much more and our young people will make a difference to our society in the future. I am delighted that so many of the students here today will be able to move forward with confidence. They have all been a joy to work with and will be remembered fondly for so much more than their exam results."

Among the many students who confirmed their university places were nine who took up places at Oxford or Cambridge, with three studying Medicine and two future Vets.

Not only were these A-level results impressive but the GCSE results in 2017 were also extremely good. The year 11s had an overall pass rate of 94.7%, with 50.8% achieving A\* or A grades.

Many of these students went on with their high GCSE results to enrol in our sixth form, and are continuing their learning with the school for a further two years, taking A-levels.

Mr Roberts was very pleased with the students and their results, he said

"There have been many changes in the curriculum and assessment for this year group and they have worked extremely hard to raise to this challenge and achieve great success."

The only thing that remains to be said now is a huge thank you to all of the teachers, the senior leadership team, students' families, and the subject ambassa-

dors for all of the work they have done and support they have provided for the students.

Another fantastic set of results; congratulations and well done to all involved.



# CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT WEEK

June 2017

Between Monday 26th June and Friday 30th June this year, the annual and highly enjoyable Curriculum Enrichment Week took place at Devonport High School for Boys, with over 700 students getting involved. Thanks to the work of 84 members of staff, the week was once again able to run smoothly and successfully. There was a great range of activities for the students to pick from, including nine residentials and 76 daily activities, giving an excellent opportunity to try something new.

Amongst the residentials that took place was a trip to explore 'classical' Italy and a trip to experience Iceland. The Year 7 Bushcraft trip was once again very successful and gave the students the chance to learn how to survive in the wild and take part in teamwork tasks.

There was also a variety of different sporting activities on offer for the students during the week as alternatives to the residentials. Some of the indoor activities that took place included fencing and basketball, as well as outdoor activities such as climbing, skiing, cycling, footgolf, and archery. Other fun sports, which many of the students were experiencing for the first time included karting and surfing with Sennen Surf School. Some students even got to learn how to SCUBA dive! Not only did this give them a useful qualification but also posed as an enjoyable activity to partake in.

In addition to the wide range of sports on offer, many people took part in day trips that gave them the chance to learn in a unique way. Students went to the Plymouth Escape Rooms and the Eden Project, where they were able to learn about Biodiversity and see an amazing variety of plants and environments. Trips such as these also allowed students to enjoy an interesting day alongside their friends and peers.

Curriculum Enrichment Week is a very important and valuable piece of time for us as students as it allows us to learn a new range of skills that cannot be taught within a classroom. Many students may use this week to develop their art and media skills

through different workshops such as the Advanced Animation Workshop with Plymouth University. Equally they may gain life skills by partaking in cooking classes or even have a go at Crime Scene Investigation activities. The week can also be used by some students to carry out work experience, giving them the opportunity to see what a working environment would be like in the field that they are intrigued by.



Our school Curriculum Enrichment Week is always very enjoyable for both the students and the teachers, but what makes our school different to other schools is that we actually have a second week in November, which also gives students the opportunity to partake in a variety of activities.

Much like years before, the school once again offered a fantastic range of activities: we had construction of bridges with spaghetti, rescoring of movie soundtracks, interesting Ion identification in Chemistry, cooking of crêpes and creative RS.

On top of this selection there were also some excellent opportunities outside school: some students were involved in a German Exchange, Ten Tors selection took place, Years 9 and 10 went on a football tour in London and Years 7 and 8 even had the chance to visit the beautiful and well-known German Christmas markets. Also a congratulations towards the Year 11s, who took their mock examinations during this week in preparation for their GCSEs that were completed last May and June; well done to them all for approaching both this week and their final exams with maturity.

## CURRICULUM CHALLENGE WEEK

This week provides a well deserved break for the students from their hard work and is a fun experience that can even help them in the future, like completing a week of work experience which many schools fail to offer. This year many students took up this invaluable opportunity and experienced careers including working in a primary school or with Fender Guitars which may encourage them to pursue this line of work in the future. Mock interviews were also held during this week similarly to other years to help Year 13 students in preparation for many of them who hoped to secure offers for their chosen universities.

Last year's Curriculum Challenge Week was a great success and enriching experience as the students conducted themselves well and the teachers put in such a great amount of effort. The week ran so smoothly and we hope the students gained a great deal.

by: Jasmine Kean & Kitty Fry





# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

"EVERYONE  
SUCCEEDS"

DHSB offers a wide range of extracurricular clubs and societies for students to be a part of. From charity to sports to science to creative outlets, there are opportunities for pupils to attend and lead clubs which suit their interests. Not only are these opportunities enjoyable but they are also a great venue for finding new friends who want to gain experience in the same subject area.

In the following pages are the views of just a few of the students who run clubs and societies here at Devonport High School for Boys...

"Every Friday I run Drama Club for all years. We do all sorts of improvisation activities to expand upon their skills and have a great time. I find it really uplifting to see these young actors developing their aptitudes and enjoying new experiences. I feel that these skills are very useful to all students here at DHSB - not only to those planning a career in theatre - as drama develops skills in public speaking and communication. I hope to continue for the rest of my time here at DHSB."

Henry Kingdon,  
Drama Club

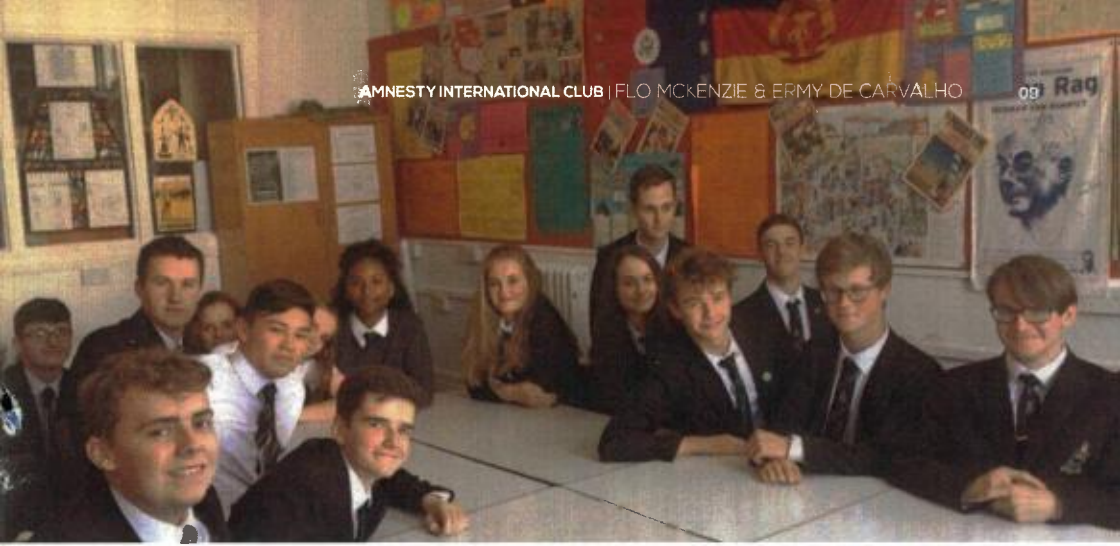
"This year, with the help of Mr Jenkins, Daniel Scoble and I founded the DHSB RPG (Role Playing Games) Community. We are consistently getting an impressive turnout for the school's latest club, having around 25 people regularly coming to each meeting. In addition to this we have gained an impressive online presence and support network for the club. We encourage people to be creative and have fun as they develop their social skills in an engaging manner."

Andrew Smith,  
RPG Community

"Young Enterprise is a not-for-profit business and enterprise education charity in England and Wales. The main focus for this educational programme is to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise. It is aimed at 15-19 year old students and this year, 14 Year 12 students at DHSB have participated in producing their brand and company: LiNK. To date, we have attended several Christmas fairs selling our own hand crafted Christmas cards and baubles. This is in order to raise funds for our main product which is a dementia friendly clock. Through this we hope to support people with dementia and help to make a difference for them. To find out more information about LiNK and our further ideas, find us on Facebook: @LinkYoungEnterprise"

Rhiann Robins,  
Young Enterprise





# BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS A CHANGE

## THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CLUB AT DHSB

As new students at DHSB in the autumn term of 2017, we were determined to make a difference, and with experience in previous Amnesty International youth groups, we decided the best way to do this would be to set up our own.

Amnesty International is a worldwide charity dedicated to helping people all over the world experiencing violations of their human rights which are universal and apply to every person on earth, without exception.

We feel this is an incredibly important and worthwhile cause and after seeking advice from Mr Macleod and gathering anyone in our sixth form who wanted to help out, we decided on Friday lunch times and organised our first meeting. Currently the meetings are exclusive to sixth formers but our numbers keep growing as we do more and more activities such as writing letters in the Write for Rights campaign and making posters to involve and teach the lower school.

As leaders of this group we have so many hopes for its future including more campaigns, fund raisers and sessions involving the whole school to get everyone

passionate about human rights, and not let anyone take them for granted.

by: **Flo McKenzie and Ermy De Carvalho**  
DHSB Amnesty International Club

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



# PHYSICS SOCIETY



10

"Running Physics Society this past year has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had as part of my life at DHSB. There is no doubt in my mind that it will constitute some of my fondest memories of this school when I leave at the end of the year.

The core point of the society is for sixth form students with an interest in Physics to be able to meet and learn more about the subject that we all love. There is no set format, but in a typical week we would make sure to begin by eating cakes and biscuits as well as drinking coffee - clearly a very important aspect of life for all of us. Then a student would give a talk on some particular topic that they have researched. These are sometimes well beyond the scope of A-level, but we always try to make things as accessible as possible.

We may well have a discussion with each other about questions raised during the talk. My favourite part was a section I often led which we call 'Estimation Challenge'. The premise is simple, calculate a rough answer to some physical question. For example: How many atoms are there making up the earth? These always lead to some great conversations.

The fact that we run this all on our own gives us a sense of community and there are many Physics Society traditions, which I wouldn't want to divulge here, that really makes what we do not only worthwhile but really rather enjoyable."

George Irving

# REVISION ADVICE AND SUPPORT

FOLLOWING A RECENT EXAM REFORM IN ENGLAND, YEAR 11 STUDENTS NOW FACE TOUGHER GCSE EXAMS THAN EVER. WITH SIX MONTHS TO GO UNTIL THE EXAM SEASON, YEAR 12 STUDENT WILL POTTER OFFERS ADVICE ON THE ALL IMPORTANT REVISION!

As someone who also found it painfully difficult to get around to revising, I sympathise a lot with anyone who finds themselves struggling. There's always something better to do.

Unfortunately, it is also kind of important. No matter how good you think you are, there's absolutely no way you will achieve your potential if you just mess about and hope for the best. Now, I realise this is something you will all get told a lot in your school life, and I also acknowledge how unhelpful and stressful it can seem. This is why I've compiled a few proven ideas which will help you as you prepare for the biggest exams of your life.

**Find your motivation.** You're never going to work hard if you don't know why you're working. Also, no, your mum nagging you doesn't count as real motivation. Have a think about why you want to do well, and don't just discredit it because it seems self-absorbed or stupid. I will fully admit that my biggest motivator was to some extents vanity. I wanted to do well because I could clearly picture myself picking up perfect results on results day, and could tangibly feel the pride that accompanied it. Get obsessed. That guy who absolutely winds you up when he beats you in a test - beat him. That job with six figure sums; this work is for that. Everyone has some sort of aspiration, and you need to tap into this as a reason for your work.

**Anything is better than nothing.** I remember the teachers repeatedly telling my year over and over again - "Just reading the textbook is pointless". However, whilst reading the textbook is worse than taking notes from the textbook, it is still much better than not reading the textbook. Just do a lot of anything. When you have energy, of course do some more difficult work like past papers or detailed notes, but when you get tired later on, even just going over previous flash cards or reading full mark example answers can aid your progress. In the wise old words of Tesco - 'Every little helps'.

**Take breaks - but regulate them.** One seemingly common misconception about revising is that it's all about spending the days grinding out the work, trying to cram in as many hours as possible. Don't think like this (your mate who says he does this is lying). This sort of mindset is damaging in two ways. Firstly, the thought of a long slog of five hours hard labour is utterly demoralising; you will more than likely give up

after the first 30 minutes as the mountain seem too steep to climb. Secondly, when you work for a couple of hours without a break, your brain starts to get tired and you stop absorbing as much information. It is much healthier to take a 20 minute break after every period of work, as long as you have the discipline to return to revision immediately afterwards.

**Find your favourites, and mix them up.** Writing notes is easy, takes little preparation and can be effective. However, it may not be what's best for you and with overuse it is incredibly boring. Don't worry about wasting time initially trying out new methods of revision, as often the best ideas can be ideas you wouldn't expect. I found that one of my most useful techniques was going over the syllabus with a friend the night before an exam on FaceTime. Doing it with a friend kept me from getting bored and as a cramming technique it was very successful. Also, use the **online resources!** I found course specifications, past papers and mark schemes/model answers absolutely vital to my revision. They will teach you how to answer each question, and how to write your answers in a way that the examiners will like.

Revision is tough, but it is always manageable. I hope you find at least one of my tips useful, and I wish you all the best of luck in your end of year exams!







PHOTO: SARAH NICHOLSON

# JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

## ALFIE CARLISLE GIVES A GLIMPSE INTO LIFE BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MUSICAL

With music from Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics from Tim Rice, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat is perhaps one of the best known musicals throughout the world. Recently completing yet another UK tour just last year, Joseph, as it's come to be known, is a musical for the whole family!

I had the pleasure of working on the technical team of the DHSB performance of Joseph, staged at the start of February of this year. I have been asked by the magazine team to recall the production in as vivid a detail as possible!

Starring Guy Wright as Joseph, and directed by Mr Norris, the performance ran for three consecutive nights in the Edgcombe Theatre on the DHSB estate, finishing with a full house on the Friday. Audiences were particularly complimentary of our live stage band, expertly led by conductor, Mr Newton.

"Smiling from ear to ear after watching our wonderful school musical"

"Will be sin'g, all the way home"

"Loved the show man, funny, and charmin' moments"

Joseph in itself presents quite a challenge both for those on and off stage; it was unique to thespians at DHSB due to that fact that as much 90% of the stage time involves actors singing. Certainly in my five years of working on theatrical performances in the Edgcombe Theatre, I hadn't dealt with anything like it. Practically, we have to consider the voices of our actors, and ensure they are well rested and not strained. Similarly, the stage band are occupied for the entire running time of the performance and so

problems with instruments or sound equipment become harder to resolve. For this reason, the technical crew had to have all bases covered in advance of shows. Despite doors opening at 7.30, crew are usually in from 5.00 replacing batteries and conducting sound checks for our singing roles! Once the curtain goes up, problems become much harder to identify and resolve - the kind of freedom we have in rehearsals of simply being able to pause a scene to adjust a facet of the overall production, is lost completely.

We are fortunate enough to benefit from excellent facilities at Devonport, and the Edgcombe Theatre is no exception to this. Our tension wire grid system, which allows us to walk above the stage and theatre, without the need for ladders or raised platform equipment, is one of the most useful assets. Lanterns (known as 'lights' to most laypeople!) can be rigged and adjusted effortlessly... as long as whoever's doing the work isn't afraid of heights! We also have use of a professional sound system, which in tandem with hired microphone equipment, allows us to achieve crystal-clear sound, filling the whole theatre space.

As a technical crew, our mission is to deliver an experience that is as close to a real-world theatre as possible. Here at DHSB we have the opportunity to do this thanks to the continued support from the members of staff and students who participate.

by: **Alfie Carlisle**







# THE HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Once again our magazine is completely packed with wonderful examples of all the exciting opportunities and experiences that have happened over the last academic year. Increasingly it is getting more and more difficult to select a small shortlist of the highlights from a year at DHSB as there are so many. We hope you enjoy taking the time to catch up on the fantastic achievements of our students and staff.

As a community over the last year we have been striving to develop a real culture of excellence and it remains our main focus this year. All of us, students and staff, are aiming towards our goal of ensuring that 'Everyone Succeeds'.

I would like to acknowledge the relentless dedication and commitment from the staff here at DHSB; they have worked extremely hard to ensure that, despite all of the current challenges within education for example major curriculum change at every level, they have raised the bar once again to provide high quality teaching and support for our young people. I would like to also acknowledge the outstanding effort that all our students have made. They have risen to the challenge of raised expectations and as a result they are achieving more than ever before; this year we had some of the strongest exam results for many years.

One particular area I am incredibly proud that continues to elevate to greater heights is our support of innovative student leadership. DHSB is really shaping and developing a culture of empowering young people to be inspired to have a positive impact on their local, national and international community. Our students are taking control and not just have a say in their future and the future of others but drive and inspire that change.

As always there are exciting times ahead for DHSB so please ensure you keep updated more regularly through our website [www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org) in particular please read my weekly blog at [dhsb.org/blog](http://dhsb.org/blog) and the school's Twitter feed (@DHSBoys) for updates during the year.

## PRORSUM SEMPER HONESTE

Dan Roberts



"EVERYONE  
SUCCEEDS"



PHOTO: TOM CRITCHLEY

# SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS 2016-2017

DHSB has always provided an environment for all students to work, learn and develop. I have been lucky enough over the past year to work with staff, students and parents in my role as the School Captain, giving me the opportunity to give something back to the DHSB community. It is a challenge to summarise a whole year in such a short space, thus I have elected to talk about a few of the highlights and convey some of what I have gleaned from these experiences.

One of the first events which I worked on when I became school captain was the Year 7 carol service. Although this seems a long way away now, it reminded me of my time in Year 7. At first, joining a new school was a daunting experience, but through getting involved in all of the opportunities which DHSB had to offer I soon felt a sense of belonging. There are so many wonderful opportunities, whether that be sport, academia, drama (where, like me, you can dress up in a lion costume without anyone batting an eyelid!) etc. available at DHSB. I would recommend any student to take advantage of these opportunities, and see DHSB, not just as a school, but as a place to try something new.

Later in the year I went on to provide a prefect team for the school musical of Joseph. It was wonderful to see staff and students working together to showcase the talent within DHSB and put on a memorable performance. I also performed in the student led production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, an experience which I will never forget. The show was performed, led, directed and supported all by students, and showcased the formidable force of the DHSB community (especially when directed by Tom Showell).

Apart from these events, through helping at parents evenings, concerts, after-school events and regular lunch-time duties, myself and my prefects have seen the vibrancy of our community. Although at times it seems that school is driven by grades, exams and lessons, DHSB is much more than an exam factory.

It has been wonderful to see so much of what goes on at DHSB, and watch staff and students working together on exciting new projects. On an international links trip to Sweden, I saw how our community spirit spread across the wider education community. In an assembly earlier in the year, Mr Adams spoke of our "six degrees of separation" from other people across the globe, and I am confident in saying that DHSB is making a positive impact on the people and communities around us. For that, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff and students at DHSB who make the effort, day in and day out, to develop DHSB and enrich the lives of others.

I have had the pleasure of working with a team of exceptionally talented prefects, to which I owe a great deal, as without such a supportive team I would have been unable to perform the role of School Captain as I have done. I would like to formally thank them for all they have done to help DHSB run smoothly over the past year. I also must thank Mr Roberts and Ms Davidson for the advice and support they have given me. My regular meetings with Mr Roberts were often a source of laughter during hectic weeks and, although I didn't believe it at the time, our previous School Captain was right when he said they were like an audience with the Queen!

I also would like to express my gratitude and thanks to Mr Mitchell, who works tirelessly to help ensure the prefect team runs smoothly and has offered me a great deal of support over the last year. With his input and guidance I have been able to develop, and I will remain indebted to him for this for a long time to come.

Finally, it falls to me to wish our new School Captain, Harry Bryan, and his prefect team, luck in the coming year. Being able to hand over to a man who I know to be extremely competent and dedicated to his role makes the transition all the easier. I have no doubt that over the coming year DHSB will continue to develop, going from strength to strength, and I look forward to hearing about all the exciting developments to come!

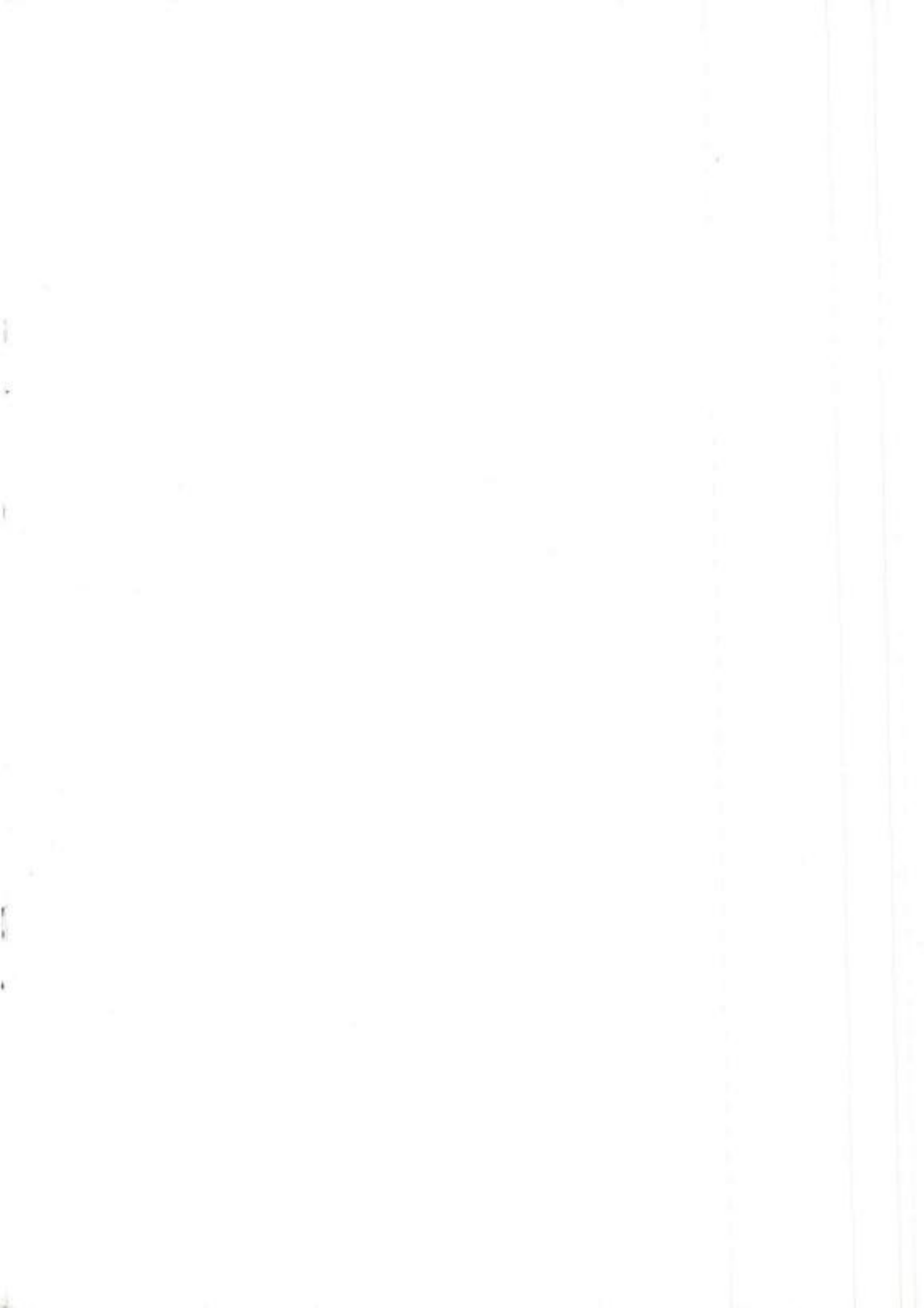
Throughout the year, probably to the distress of most students, I have spoken repeatedly about positive impact, and how we can use small actions to make a positive impact upon those around us. When I first mentioned this I didn't realise how much this happened already at DHSB, however through the year I have seen, every day, students across all year groups doing just this. I am confident that if I return to DHSB in years to come this culture of positivity and kindness will continue to thrive!

## PRORSUM SEMPER HONESTE

Henry Spencer  
School Captain 2016-2017







# EDITORS' NOTES

On behalf of the editors of the school magazine of 2016-17, we would like to give our thanks to those who have helped us put together it together.

**Alfie Carlisle** - for providing a fantastic overview on 'Joseph' the musical and for his technical support in the production of this magazine

**Kitty Fry** - Results and Curriculum Enrichment Week

**Jasmine Kean and Kitty Fry** - Curriculum Challenge Week and the welcome page

**Henry Spencer** - School Captain's Address

**Mr Roberts** - Headteacher's Update

**Daniel Tout** - Clubs and Societies

**William Potter** - Revision

**Florence McKenzie and Ermy DeCarvalho** - Amnesty International

We would also like to thank **Scott Grieve** and **Alex Sells** for providing us with their advice and experience. A lot of hard work has gone into this magazine and we thank you for taking the time to read through the publication.

Many thanks,

Lauren Oman, Jasmine Kean, Kitty Fry, Tom Critchley and Daniel Tout

