



BRANDESTON HALL

Life

SHOWCASING THE STUDENTS OF BRANDESTON HALL





The Little Bears

Play to Learn

At Brandeston Hall Nursery our 'play to learn' ethos ensures children are at the centre of their own learning. We provide a range of stimulating play opportunities and experiences in the surrounding environment to ensure each child develops to their full potential.

By observing each child as they play we identify their interests and abilities to ensure we plan for the next step in their development. For children, every experience they have is a learning opportunity and play is how they explore their world. Through play a child learns to socialise, develop good communication skills and problem solve.

Play, both with friends and alone, enables children to develop their creative abilities, their thinking skills and their understanding of the world around them. As adults our role is to support that play and introduce new opportunities, carefully leading each child as they take the steps forward on their individual learning journey.



The Nose

Memorable Production

Nikolai Gogol's "The Nose" was written in 1836 as a children's story set in St Petersburg, Russia. The story lends itself to some vivid scenes and colourful characters, perfectly suited to the talents of Brandeston Hall pupils. The script was set in twentieth century Soviet Russia creating visually stunning pictures and giving the opportunity for the children to use their physical theatre skills.



The large cast rose to the occasion as Colonel Kovalyov (Tom Saville) went in pursuit of his missing nose which had manifested itself as a high ranking General (Jonathan Hulley). His flatmates offered dubious support as he stumbled into a proposal of marriage to Elena Chektareva (Ellie Gemmill) encouraged by her over-bearing mother (Lizzie Gaylard).

Argumentative doctors, secret police, officious rapping clerks, bizarre liftboys, and clumsy barbers, all supported by a lively and focused ensemble, created a highly entertaining, professional and memorable production.



The Headmaster Mr Martin Myers-Allen

As winter approached I was well into my fourth year as Headmaster at Brandeston Hall and the trickle of favourable comments that had started in 2007 had now turned into steady stream. Numbers in the school had increased again, despite the challenging economic times. As a Headmaster you soon learn that you can never please everyone, but it is important to listen, review and try and it is reassuring to hear that people are genuinely pleased. I also consider myself fortunate because the school's finances are particularly strong allowing me to concentrate on driving the school forward so that we do emerge from this recession well and are seen as the first choice prep-school in Suffolk. Brandeston is a busy, purposeful and happy school packed full of cheerful children and dedicated staff. The children who join the school are thankfully diverse and it is vital that they are each given the opportunity to be the best that they can be.

Inevitably all of the extra and co-curricular activities boost self-esteem, create happy well-rounded children and so contribute to our academic success. Every child gained entry to their first choice school after Common Entrance and our exam results continue to rise year on year. We certainly do not consider children as 'vessels to be filled' and will never merely teach children how to pass an exam, thereby limiting their academic experience and fostering a growing army of nervously over-pressurised spoon-fed students incapable of free thought. At Brandeston we encourage and foster a real life-long love of learning where children have the natural desire to question, explore and stretch themselves. The full celebration board is living proof that it is working. Their success later at GCSE and A Level prove that we are preparing them properly. As adults, Old Brandestonians fondly report their rewarding, fulfilling lives and their ability to be adaptable. This edition of College and Brandeston Life is full of examples of youngsters who are going to be equally successful.

Morocco 2011 Expedition





Morocco Bound

Journeys of Self-Discovery endeavour to promote a spirit of adventure and give boys and girls the opportunity to experience expeditions to spectacular parts of the world that are steeped in culture. Brandeston Hall's biennial expedition to North Africa turned out to be a resounding success and a complete sensory overload. They started in the winding streets of Marrakesh, a traditional first port-of-call for travellers, and were then off to the Atlas Mountains to escape the oppressive hustle and bustle of the imperial city.

The expeditioners trekked the endless trails between Berber villages in the foothills of North Africa's highest peak (Jebel Toubkal) past waterfalls, juniper forests and ancient shrines. They hiked to the snow lines past goat herders on ancient paths baking in the hot sun taking it in turns to lead the expedition and completely immerse themselves in the culture.



Eventually reaching the Atlantic coast in the whitewashed fishing port gem of Essaouira with its huge battlements and winding streets, they found enough surprises around each corner to fill a dozen repeat trips.



Boys' Rugby & Hockey

'Talented Sportsmen'

On the Rugby pitch the boys continue to compete on all fronts with the 1st XV and Colts performing well during the season and on the annual tour in October. The Under 9s have played well under the tutelage of Simon Sinclair, whose role as academy coach for Northampton Saints also provides the opportunity for extra coaching sessions during holiday time at Framlingham College. Toby Trinder and Charlie Warren are in the Saints Academy at the moment and Jolyon Summers represented the Midlands Prep School Barbarians.

In Hockey, pride of place goes to the Colts 'A' team for winning the IAPS East of England Tournament and finishing runners-up in the National Plate Competition. Our youngest sides, the Under 9s, had fine seasons, with the 'A' team winning the Brandeston Hall Hockey Tournament for the third year running. Hockey coaching has been boosted by the return of former pupils Mark Stacpoole and James Legg, both having both played for the East of England.

Suffolk County honours went to Will Hall, Jack Stewart and Jack Gawthrop with Jack receiving the honour of captaincy. Jolyon Summers, despite being 11, was also selected for the Suffolk Under 13 side.

We are justifiably proud that all boys from Years 3 to 8 have had the opportunity to play in a competitive Hockey or Rugby team throughout the year. Congratulations to all those who represent the school with such enthusiasm.



Girls' Hockey

'High Flyers'

It has been another great year for Girls' Hockey at Brandeston Hall. We have fielded 9 hockey teams that involved every single girl in Year 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Our results as always have brought more smiles than frowns, and many of the girls also enjoyed the thrill of going on hockey tour.

We can be justifiably proud of the Under 11 Girls who lost only one match this season, became Suffolk Champions and went on to represent Suffolk at the East of England Championships.

Our youngest girls (the Under 9s) under the expert coaching of former England International Stacey Robinson, also had an excellent season winning the Brandeston Tournament, playing against all of the best hockey schools in the county. As ever the girls have been commended for their style of play and their high levels of skill, for ones so young.

At Senior level three of the 1st XI were selected to play for Suffolk-so congratulations to Taylor Ball, Florence McCausland and Maddie Baker.

The future for hockey at Brandeston and Framlingham looks very, very bright indeed.



'Alice' the Musical



'A Mad Tale'

"Alice in Wonderland" should never be considered just an ordinary timeless, example of classic child fiction - it is an example of literacy nonsense that simply cannot be matched. Brandeston Hall's colourful and magical production was full of philosophy and truisms and packed with a plethora of anthropomorphic characters. The absurdity of the plot kept everyone enthralled and the packed audiences struggled to make sense of a ridiculously illogical story.

Alice, the key character and played by four girls, experiences similar frustrations but eventually emerges wiser after each wondrous adventure. Seventy two children were involved with an average age of eight years - their unique style, together with zany musical arrangements, added real value to this absorbing and mad tale.







'Performance Opportunities'

Brandeston Hall provides an abundance of musical activity providing 250 plus opportunities for the pupils to perform during the year. The Spring 2011 concert saw the newly formed Boys Vocals singing 'Englishman in New York' and 'I'm A Believer' with great enthusiasm. The grand finale saw about 100 voices, accompanied by the Wild Bunch band, singing 'Wonderwall'.

