

# Music & Drama



## Music Review

The first half of the Autumn term witnessed a regrouping of the various ensembles. It was a delight to see the expanded numbers in Camerata, now containing the largest number of tenors and basses for many years, and the forces in the senior orchestra and other ensembles containing healthy numbers.

At half term we bade farewell to Ms Krawec who went on maternity leave. Such is her involvement in the department, it took four music teachers to cover her teaching and rehearsals over the six months. I am very grateful to Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Mady, Mrs Hansell and Miss Perona-Wright for stepping into the breach and working so well with all our students.

The concert programme for the year began in earnest in November with the Juniors presenting a varied programme at their Autumn Concert. Of particular note were the massed forces of the newly formed Junior Concert Orchestra and the expanded Junior Brass ensemble, both under the expert direction of Mr Eaglestone. Such numbers in our instrumental ensembles bodes well for the future and long may it continue. Promising talent was also heard at the Form 1 Concert two days later.

The Seniors gave an outstanding concert the following week. The Senior Orchestra focused on music from the theatre, including Bizet's *Carmen Suite*. The Jazz Band, African Drummers, String Ensemble and Concert Band all contributed to what many in the audience considered as the 'best Autumn Concert in many years'. It was also an opportunity to hear the new senior music scholars. Celia MacDonald, Katherine Curran, Julia Heasman and Samuel Strijdom all demonstrated promising musicality and we look forward to their progress as they move through the senior school.



Several of our musicians have performed with external organisations this year. In late November, Ellen Timothy joined Kate Aitchison (OF) as soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* at St Martin's Dorking with Ashtead Choral Society. We were delighted to hear that Ellen had retained her place in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and later in the year participated at the BBC Proms with the choir under the direction of the inspiring Venezuelan conductor, Gustavo Dudamel. Just before Christmas we received the exciting news that Ellen had been awarded a choral scholarship to Queen's College, Oxford.

December is always a busy time for our musicians. Camerata made its annual pilgrimage to St Martin's within Ludgate to sing for the Guild of Freeman's Carol Service. They also provided the music for three carol services in St Giles' church before the close of term. The Juniors once again sang a varied programme at their various carol services but sadly Phoenix and Cantabile could not undertake the traditional carol singing in the village due to the sub-zero temperatures!

We certainly warmed up with various concerts in January. Our African Drummers, under the direction of Mr Hurn, joined a rock band and Ashtead Choral Society for a performance of David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* at St Martin's Church, Epsom. Our players raised the roof and received a standing ovation from a packed church. The Invitation Concert is an opportunity for our music scholars and talented musicians to perform a solo. It was a particular pleasure to hear the depth of musicianship amongst the boarders from Hong Kong. Who knows, they may produce a concert of their own in the future! The Spring term saw the start of our Instrumental concert series. This is a much valued aspect of the

department, allowing pupils of all ages and ability to perform in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The later part of the Spring term as always was dominated by House Music. Over 300 auditions were heard for the Junior and Senior Competitions. The Junior Final was deftly adjudicated by Miss Leah Perona-Wright, offering useful advice and praise to all our young players. It was a pleasure to welcome back a former Assistant Director of Music, Dr Andrew Storey (now Director of ICT at Dulwich College and conductor of the Ashtead Singers) for the Senior Final. Once again the houses presented three outstanding and varied programmes. Under the efficient leadership of Peter Lam, Gresham finally won the day. The final musical event of the term was City Visit which featured Cantabile and the ever increasing Camerata. Cantabile sang John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth* with great poise while Camerata performed Stanford's monumental *Jubilate* in Bb with immense enthusiasm. Another musical highlight of the Senior Service was Polyphony's rendition of Bruckner's motet *Locus Iste*, the performance of which received many plaudits from both staff and pupils. It was also a delight to welcome back Ms Krawec, much to my relief!

Due to public examinations and a rather truncated Summer term, the musical highlights were placed at either end of the session. The Seniors had been preparing for their Summer Concert over the previous weeks and treated the audience to music inspired by film. Among the highlights, the Senior Strings gave a poignant performance of John Williams' music from *Schindler's List* whilst the Senior Orchestra gave a magnificent performance of a medley of themes from James Horner's score from *The Lord of the Rings*. After half term it was

a pleasure to welcome back Surrey Brass to join forces with our young brass players (see separate article by Ms Krawec).

Two boarding pupils, Connie and Ruby Tai, were invited to play at the Decade Dinner in June and entertained former pupils who left Freeman's in the 1970s with various piano renditions.

During the closing two weeks of term, the musical programme reached its climax with no less than seven separate events. As part of the new Activities Fortnight, the music department joined forces with colleagues in drama and art to produce a presentation based on Far Eastern films. Two groups of Upper 3 and Lower 4 created two extensive and effective pieces based upon Balinese Gamelan music. The department then launched itself into the Junior Summer Concert, Junior Soirée, Senior Soirée and three concerts on Prize Day. No wonder we felt exhausted by the end of term!

It is also a time of the year when we say farewell to students who have made an outstanding contribution to the musical life of the school. This year was no exception as we wished Ellen Timothy, Becky Johns, Loretta Chan and Graeme Du Plessis every good wish for the future. During the holidays we heard of other great success stories by our pupils. Lucy Cole achieved a distinction in her ATCL piano diploma; Peter Lam came first in a national composing competition with his piece performed live by the Dulwich Symphony Orchestra; and Becky Baker was awarded the William Cole Organ Scholarship at St Martin's Church, Dorking. A very pleasant way to end yet another busy year!

Mr Paul Dodds

## Lower Junior Carol Service

In our carol service all of Form 1 and Lower 2 had lots of fun. We put so much effort and hard work into everything. Lower 2 pupils had composed some rhyming couplets and read them out. It was really exciting when we had 'carols for all' – the organ made a very loud and amazing noise. I enjoyed the readings very much.

St Giles' Church looked so wonderful with all the wooden carvings. Imagine how long it would have taken to build the church! There was a stone with 'M.S' written on it, which one of my friends thought meant Marks and Spencer!

The organisation of the carol service was amazing.

Peter Boardman

## Junior Autumn Concert

Over 100 Junior pupils took part in the first major musical event of the Autumn term, the Junior Concert on Wednesday 10th November. The concert featured the budding talent in groups such as Cantabile, Phoenix, Junior Brass, Junior Strings, Junior Concert Band and the massive Junior Concert Orchestra. A packed Senior Assembly Hall thoroughly enjoyed the evening with music ranging from Vivaldi to Queen!

Mr Paul Dodds

## Senior Autumn Concert

On Wednesday 17th November, over 100 Senior School pupils performed a wide variety of music at the Senior Autumn Concert. An enlarged Camerata of 62 singers opened the concert with three demanding arrangements of *California Dreamin'*, *Dream a Little Dream* and *Swing Low*. 18 boys are now in the choir. The African Drummers treated us to a new piece from Zaire. The Jazz Band confirmed their status as a premiere ensemble in the School with a virtuoso performance of *Beat It*, featuring a stunning solo from Dan Sperrin on tenor sax. One parent commented "That was outstanding". Also in the first half we had excellent solo performances from the new senior music scholars, Celia MacDonald, Julia Heasman, Katherine Curran and Samuel Strijdom. The second half had a theme of music for the stage and screen. The senior strings gave a polished performance of Purcell's music for the play *Abdelazar*. A huge senior orchestra performed music by Bizet and Walton plus a very comic rendition of Herold's *Clog Dance*. The concert concluded with the Concert Band playing a highly demanding arrangement of the music from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Congratulations to all concerned, both pupils and staff, and such was the reaction and comments by many audience members it has to be classed as the best senior autumn concert in years!

Mr Paul Dodds

## St Christopher's Music Festival

On Thursday 17th March, 17 pupils squashed into two minibuses together with their instruments which included five cellos, 11 violins and a viola and driven to St Martin's Church in Epsom for the inaugural St Christopher's School Music Festival.

The church was full of family, friends and local residents. Before the concert, the choirs from all the schools practised as they hadn't sung together before. Then with Mrs Wallace conducting and Mrs Gillespie accompanying on the piano, we practised Hedwig's theme tune from *Harry Potter and Money, Money, Money!*

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell welcomed everyone and then the concert began.

Everything went smoothly and there were lots of different songs in many languages. The choirs sang two songs each and then everyone sang two together which were *Can You Hear Me* (we knew this from the O2 and so joined in with the actions) and *I'm a Small Part of the World*.

After the concert we all went to St Christopher's School for lunch and watched the Mayor open their new trim trail, which is a bit like our adventure playground.

Thank you to all the staff that made this day possible and I really enjoyed the day and hope we can do it again next year.

Nathalie Burt





## Brass Massive

Sequels don't always live up to expectation. However, on occasion they excel, entertain and enthrall even more than the original. In the case of the Brass Massive concert on 9th June 2011, this second statement definitely applies.

For music lovers who love the bold, confident and joyful sound of brass ensembles, this concert was a real pleasure. Audience members were treated to a mixture of Junior and Senior Brass groups, either on their own or as one massed 'brass massive', alongside Surrey Brass, the innovative and entertaining ten-piece brass ensemble.

Highlights were Senior Brass walking in to begin the second half with the aptly titled *Just a Closer Walk*. Thanks to Mr Dave Ward, who also hosted the evening and conducted the majority of pieces, the Senior Brass players have gone from strength to strength. Often heard in the background at events such as Carol Services and Prize Day, this was their chance to shine.

Two trumpet members of the Senior Brass

Quintet, Philip MacDonald and Rebecca Johns, then performed the amusing but demanding *Mexican Hat Dance* wearing, yes you guessed it, Mexican hats. Rebecca and Philip, both busy revising hard for their A-levels and GCSEs also played solos.

Another soloist was Timothy Peters who played *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, a trombone feature with Surrey Brass. Sounding effortless but actually notoriously difficult, (and high in register), Timothy played beautifully.

After lots of classical and standard brass repertoire, it was time for a bit of Jazz, and who better to do this than our very own Jazz trombonist, Jonathan Lott. He was joined by Mr Eaglestone and Timothy Peters in a completely improvised 12 bar Blues in Bb called *Shuffle Time*.

The Junior Brass faculty is ever increasing in size and dominance. In recent years, thanks to support from the Headmaster, the Music Department has been able to encourage over

15 children to take up instruments across brass, woodwind and string families that we defined as being 'endangered species'. At this concert, we could witness the culmination of this work within the brass department; three trombonists, one French horn, one tuba and one trumpet player, all continuing to learn to play an instrument thanks to this scheme.

Finally, without Surrey Brass this concert just simply would not have been possible. Interspersed amongst the items from our musicians, Surrey Brass played a crucial role in holding the concert together with their own featured pieces. *Midnight in Moscow* was a highlight, and certainly had the audience singing along and applauding loudly at the end.

Brass Extravaganza 2010, Brass Massive 2011; now what shall we name the third Brass concert? Answers to the Music Department please...

Ms Natalka Krawec



## House Music



The House Gala Concert on Tuesday 22nd March was one of the musical highlights of the year, showcasing the talent in both the Junior and Senior School, and was played to a packed audience of parents, teachers and pupils.

The concert featured the cup winners of the two House Music Competitions, which occurred the previous week, and provided an eclectic mix of music.

First was the Whittington House Choir, conducted by Lucy Cole, with Elise Wilkinson as the soloist in Bob Dylan's haunting *Make You Feel My Love*. Then followed the Gresham House Orchestra with *The Flying Theme* from *E.T.* by John Williams. Peter Lam not only single-handedly arranged the piece, but conducted it in impressive style.



There were many interesting and polished solo performances – Oliver Baylis took us to South America with *Carnival in Rio* – a piano piece by Gillock; James Ellis flew us to Italy with Tchaikovsky's *Chanson Napolitaine* for trumpet; Emma Dunford brought us to the heart of London Town when she sang *Oh, wouldn't it be luvverly!* from *My Fair Lady*; whilst Stephanie Elstub rendered the whole audience silently breathless, when she played a most entrancingly lyrical Japanese harp solo, *Koto in the Temple* by Susann McDonald.

Solo virtuoso playing of an extremely high standard followed by members of the Junior School: Joshua Neil-Boss (violin), Tor Walberg (clarinet), Olivia Yang (piano), Yoo-Eun An (piano), and of the Senior School: Lucy Cole (piano) and Ellen Timothy (violin).

There was something to delight all musical tastes including classical duets: Gounod's *Ave Maria* Meditation from Yoo-Eun An (violin) and Stephanie Elstub (harp) and J S Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins* played by Ellen Timothy and Peter Lam.

If one's preference was more up-beat then Hale Jazz Group brought a smile to everyone's face with Henry Mancini's *The Pink Panther* which included some fiendish improvisations from Danny Sperrin on saxophone, ably accompanied by Darcy Taranto on drum kit, and Becky Baker on piano.

Whittington House Band's interpretation of *She Said* by Plan B was absolutely brilliant, with Elise Wilkinson on vocals, and a very well balanced backing group. It was fitting that the winner of the Harris Cup for Best Senior Musician, Ellen Timothy, should bring the concert to a close, which she did in fiery yet elegant style, playing the first movement of Schumann's *Violin Sonata*, to end a stunning concert of diversity, fun and musical showmanship.

Mr Paul Dodds







## Drama Review

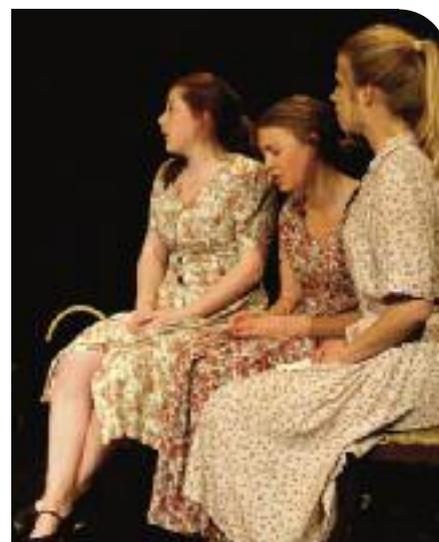
Once again the year has been busy for the Drama department, and also an incredibly successful one for many of our present and past students who left to pursue the dream of a career in the professional theatre.

The year began with the return of our production of *The Typhoid Marys* from the Edinburgh Fringe where we gained favourable press attention from *The Times Educational Supplement* and BBC Radio 4 amongst others. The play told the story of the many women who were incarcerated for life in Long Grove Psychiatric Hospital, Epsom, for no better reason than they were carriers of typhoid; this tragic story played to nearly full houses in Edinburgh and showcased everything that our young actors at Freeman's are capable of.

A number of the cast of this show had been part of the group who had so successfully performed a piece on 'young people as consumers in the internet age' at the global summit of The Consumer Goods Forum in June 2010 at the QEII Centre in Westminster. As a result of this performance we were invited to create two bespoke pieces of theatre about 'Food in a Sustainable Future' for the Barilla International Forum on Food and Nutrition in Milan. So at the end of November, six of our Upper 6 A2 Drama students were flown to Milan for three days to present their work to an international audience; a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

In March these same students presented us with their original devised pieces of theatre for their Unit 3 examination. *Wires* saw Yiannis Charalambous, Charlotte Duke, Graeme du Plessis and Elise Wilkinson present one of the most imaginative and audacious pieces of physical theatre we have ever seen here at Freeman's. This contrasted perfectly with *To Build A Home*, a piece that explored the tragedy of human trafficking in the UK; James Trinder, Ollie Hampden, Natasha Hicks, Vicky Wales and Becca Phillips wrote and performed a predominately naturalistic piece which, I have to say, will live long in my memory as one of the best pieces of devised theatre I have ever seen students produce at A-level.

Next were the GCSE Drama shows. Over two nights these examination students shared four excellent shows: *Saw It in the*



*Papers, Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World, Beasts and Beauties and Private Peaceful.* There were some outstanding performances in these four shows.

The following week Ms Chamberlain Webber's AS students presented their terrific interpretation of Stephen Berkoff's *The Trial*. This was a real tour de force, and the visual spectacle was more than matched by some great ensemble work. Ricky Cooksey's performance as Joseph K and Sarah Moore's as Titorelli demonstrated what fine actors they have become and it would be good to get them in a school show before they leave at the end of next year.

Finally the year ended with *The Practical Princess*, a musical production featuring some of our younger actors from Upper 3 to Lower 5. What this show proved is that the production line of great performers is still going on and I expect to see many of this cast gracing our stages here at Freeman's for many years to come. Olivia Morris showed herself to be a star in the making with her portrayal of Princess Marigold; Katherine Daly, Libby Wells and Lorna McKellar were stellar as the wayward princesses, Jack Flammiger was impressive as the Dragon and Lawrence Belcher tied the whole show together with his fantastic rendition of the minstrel.

It has been a terrific year for our thespians in other ways too. Lawrence Belcher in Lower 5 capped a year where he performed at the National Theatre and the Donmar Warehouse with a leading role in the *Doctor Who Christmas Special* and a role in the new *X Men* movie.

Hattie Knight who was an A2 student last year gained a place at ALRA to undertake her professional actor training, and James Trinder, who many will remember for his fabulous portrayal of Sweeney Todd was on the final call list at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is one of the most impressive actors we have produced here at Freeman's.

Over the years we have had tremendous success in getting students into the

National Youth Theatre but this year Daniel Sareen in Lower 5 has beaten all our records by becoming our youngest ever success. Daniel undertook his training with the NYT over the summer and is now eligible to be cast in NYT shows until he is in his 20s. I am sure this clever young actor will do very well indeed as he progresses over the next few years.

Lucy Benson Brown who left in 2005 to train at Manchester Metropolitan School of Theatre has just come back from New York where she was part of the Old Vic's New Voices for the TS Eliot theatre exchange. This project looks to find the best young theatre talent both here in the UK and in the US and gives these professionals an opportunity to work in another country. I am sure that this will give Lucy's career just the lift it needs.

Caitlin Thorburn, who left in 2006, has worked solidly since leaving Manchester Metropolitan where she was the top actor graduate in her year. Recently she took the lead in the World Premiere of Tennessee Williams' last play, *A Cavalier for Milady* in the West End. She gained tremendous reviews for her work in this show and clearly is a young actor who has tremendous potential. Watch this space – she will go far!

Steph Hyam, who is entering her final year of training at Mountview, has just been awarded a Laurence Olivier Bursary to help fund the final year of her training as an actor. These bursaries are awarded to the very best actor trainees in the country and so Steph is clearly set for success as she looks to secure her professional future over the next year.

Finally Andrew Garfield goes from strength to strength, beating Colin Firth to best actor in the Evening Standard Film Awards for his work in *The Social Network* and *Never Let Me Go* and now with his new film role, where he will play Peter Parker, aka Spider Man, in the prequel to the Hollywood series. And just think, it all began here with his performances in the Senior Assembly Hall!

Mr Phil Tong

## All Hale the House Drama Winners

House Drama took place on Tuesday 28th September, and Jessica Swale, who is a Director at the Globe Theatre, London, came to judge the competition. Having someone who is currently actively involved in world class drama productions was an honour indeed.

The competition began with Gresham. James Trinder performed an extract from *Flush* by David Dipper which was moving and intense. Jessica was most impressed and her comment, "If this was a drama school audition, I'd let you in!" was a great compliment for James. Indeed, James was justifiably awarded Best Male Performer.

Gresham's comic monologue was performed by Emily Wilkes from Upper 5. Emily's energetic portrayal of a woman on a rollercoaster kept the audience engaged and she certainly managed to make her performance amusing for all the right reasons. Jessica commented on Emily's 'lovely facial expression and lovely choreography'. Emily's performance was given the Best Female Performer award. These two excellent performances certainly got the competition off to a great start.

Next were Whittington. The Mengham twins, Clare and Rachel, both from Upper 5, gave a comic performance of an extract from *The Vicar of Dibley*. Rachel captured the role of the dippy Alice perfectly and Clare,

as the Vicar, maintained a calm façade throughout. This performance was commended by Jessica who loved the characterisation and attention to non-verbal elements.

Whittington's original piece *Triple Date* was written by Elise Wilkinson of Upper 6. This comic piece was set in a pub and showed what can happen when a man is dishonest with a number of women. The actor playing the misguided male, Graeme du Plessis of Upper 6, certainly got his just deserts at the end. Jessica commended this original piece for the 'clear contrasting characters' and the fact that 'girl power' won in the end. Performing a Shakespearian sonnet is a challenge and Whittington's Laurence Belcher rose to this with his expressive and controlled delivery.

Last to go were Hale and they knew that they had a fight on their hands. Hale were commended for the 'challenging' material they had chosen, including a duologue from the play *Anne Boleyn*. The comic duologue which was an extract from *The Two Ronnies*, saw Harry Househam and Ben Mady, both from Upper 5 sitting on a park bench delivering a dialogue, which in typical Two Ronnies' style was a play on words. Jessica commented on the 'great banter' between the characters and the excellent use of pauses for comic effect.

Ollie Hampden, performed a monologue from the popular Shell Connections Collection Chatroom. This was a sad and moving piece and Jessica commended him for his timing which added to the tension of the piece.

Jessica was asked to give an award for the best piece and it was Hale's performance of *Shrink* which won. Written by Ollie Hampden and performed by Sixth Form Drama students Victoria Wales and Ariane Bieri this piece was a pleasure to watch. Set in a psychiatrist's surgery, the piece had a maturity which was impressive. Jessica enjoyed the 'balance of comedy and seriousness and the excellent climax.'

In her summing up, Jessica told the assembled performers and directors that she had thoroughly enjoyed the morning and was impressed by the high standards she had witnessed. It was praise indeed.

Although it was a very close-run competition, Hale were the victors by a narrow 2.5 marks. We all enjoyed and were entertained by the pieces we watched. Congratulations to all those who were involved both on and off stage. Jessica said that she would love to return to the school and we very much hope that she will.

Ms Sarah Chamberlain-Webber





## Lower Junior Talent Show

On Tuesday 5th April everyone was buzzing with excitement because it was the Lower Junior Talent Show.

The nervous acts assembled in the Ferndale theatre where Form 1 had transformed into elves and we all got an encouraging pep talk from Mrs Wilby and Mrs Williams. Then the acts went through a secret tunnel, leading to the huge senior hall where eager family and friends were waiting for the entertainment to start.

The acts began with the comperes introducing each act with a bit of comedy. There were loads of amazing acts including: *Brains R Us* by Lewis Blake, Nicholas and Michael John, *Two Girls Ruling* by Deyna Grimshaw and Marnie Ashbridge, *A Couple of Swells* by Olivia Wilson and Ben Boardman, *I do not like.....* by Kaiya and Gezana

Rai, *The Meerkats* by Charlie Bolam, Ollie Bisping, Tim Howard and Luke Butcher, *The Hamsters* by Ben Boardman, Charlie Sidwell and Fred Geen and *The Resident Ghost* by Sophie Hamilton.

All of the acts got a giant round of applause from the audience and the finale dance to *Don't Stop Me Now* got a standing ovation from the crowd.

When we finished, the fun had ended, but no one will forget the entertainment they had seen. Lots of happy, but very tired children went home to bed and dreamt of the talent show happening all over again. How will they top it next year?

Deyna Grimshaw and Kaiya Rai

## Upper Junior Talent Show

On the last night of the Spring term the parents and pupils were treated to a thoroughly entertaining show. The solo singing performances were fantastic; Marie O'Donovan was awarded the trophy for best Solo Performance when she sang *Pack Up*. Maia Diffey, Bethan Moncur, Emma Whiteley and Rachel Simpson danced to *Blue Suede Shoes*. Their dance was energetic and perfectly timed. They were awarded the trophy for Group Music. There were far more sketches performed this year than in previous years and they were clever and extremely amusing. Ed England, James Boardman,

Josh Gamber and Ollie Meek did a brilliant sketch about teenagers and tried to help the audience to understand their behaviour. The final act was performed by a large group of Lower 4 who took off the teachers in the staff room during a 'snow closure' day. Their imitations were hilarious. These two sketches were awarded trophies for Group Drama. The Upper Junior Show raised about £1000 for the Junior School Charity, Wheels for the World.

Mrs Helen Irwin





## Nathan's Nightmare

*As you are well aware, there are all sorts of little folk living at the bottom of your garden. But do you know what happens when you upset them?!*

Form 1 let everybody in on the secret when they presented their production of *Nathan's Nightmare* to packed audiences on 23rd and 24th June. Nathan, played by William Hart, was just an ordinary schoolboy, but he upset the fairies, elves, pixies, dwarves, gnomes and goblins living in the school grounds when he accidentally kicked his football into one of the bushes at the end of the field! To get

their own back, the woodland folk, under the watchful eye of the Green Witch (Shauna Punjabi) put a spell on him. Nathan and his four friends had to face a host of scary and frightening monsters before the spell could finally be broken....

Were Ruth and Sarah, played by Isabelle Trubshaw and Abigail Dopson, eaten by the Wolf Men? Did Daniel (Christian Chatterton) and Peter (Oliver Way) manage to survive Dracula's horrible fangs? What happened to Nathan when the mummy (Jack Critchley) escaped from the ancient sarcophagus? Did Baron

Frankenstein (Dominic Bunyard) and Egor (Jakob Wilton) manage to find a use for the children's brains? But most importantly, did the Ancient Egyptians really invent Rock and Roll?!!

All these questions and indeed many more were answered in this absolutely crazy and very funny musical, which included just about every favourite monster known to mankind! Congratulations to all of the Form 1 cast and staff for making *Nathan's Nightmare* a dream performance!!

Mrs Catherine Williams

## What a Knight

Upper 2 and Lower 3 were taken back in time by Craig Hawes' play, *What a Knight*. As the title supposes, Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th July were two spectacular nights. I was very nervous as I was Princess Alice, but the support from Mrs Gillespie, Mr Metcalfe and the crowd boosted the confidence of the whole cast.

Over the Summer term we practised extremely hard, but the work was very enjoyable. I looked forward to the rehearsals and was very excited about what the final product would be.

The play was set when King Arthur ruled the throne in England. There were squires, princesses, knights and baddies.

All the medieval characters went on adventures: some about how to be themselves, some about how to be heroes and the others all wanting Excalibur (a magical sword).

I found the play funny and it was hard not to laugh on stage! Mr Metcalfe, Mrs Gillespie and Mrs Smith allowed everyone to have a part so it was an Upper 2 and Lower 3 team effort. When I was on the side benches I was very excited because I couldn't wait to go on stage and say my lines. I really enjoyed the play. It was well written, well produced and well acted by all the cast. We all thank everyone who put the effort into it to make it great.

Marnie Ashbridge

