

Five Year View

School Development Plan 2008-09

The following provides a snapshot of the work undertaken over the last year, helping us to move towards our Five Year View.

Ardingly is a Woodard School

- a) By September 2009 there will be a full Chapel Council of students from each house.
- b) New hymn books have been purchased to allow greater variety in the music at the Eucharist.
- c) Communion pre-confirmation classes will start in September 2009.
- d) Pre-confirmation retreats have been planned to visit the Walsingham Shrines. The theme will be reconciliation.

Ardingly is an Academic School

- a) The curriculum has been audited this year, and exploration of the Sixth Form core has begun. Pre-U and EPQ are under consideration to supplement and enrich the A Level curriculum.
- b) The teaching and learning policy is now complete, and our marking and assessment/reporting policies are under review for introduction next academic year.
- c) All teaching rooms are now equipped with data projectors.
- d) Rewards and Sanctions review is completed, and a new handbook for parents and students will be published.
- e) Introduction of a new tutorial system for September 2009, although this will not replace individual tutoring but will enhance the provision for the boys and girls in the school.
- f) A new performance review system has been introduced, which has been trialled with the Three Heads, the HoMMs and the Heads of Science, English, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages.
- g) The "next stage of education" has been introduced to the Sixth Form core.
- h) IB pre-entry reading booklet has been completed and is now published.
- i) Academic success is [now] celebrated through assemblies, newsletters. Standards for Sixth Form entry have been promoted. The new Rewards and Sanctions policy provides immediate and positive recognition.
- j) Oxbridge and Best provision is currently being reviewed to improve conversion from interview to offer.
- k) Regular input from Student Council in Sixth Form voice is informing progress.
- l) The Head of Sixth Form is meeting admissions tutors to further understand the university admissions policies.

Technology

- a) ICT skills continue to be developed in established programmes in Shell and Lower Sixth. ICT skills are now being developed in a number of curricular areas.
- b) Online questionnaires have been used to canvass students' view on ICT at the College.

- c) The establishment of a cross-College ICT Committee, with the aim of ensuring the delivery of innovative ICT across the curriculum and the three sections of the College.
- d) The iSAMS management information system has been purchased (costing over £50,000) and data from SIMS has now been transferred. iSAMS will help to facilitate the following:-
 - I) Online and more frequent reporting
 - II) Student portals
 - III) Parent portals
 - IV Enhanced and improved communication for staff, students and parents, e.g. a text and email facility
- e) The development of a managed/virtual learning environment is a key remit of the ICT Committee. iSAMS will help to facilitate this.

Ardingly is a School with a Strong Boarding Ethos

- a) A full review of the timetable has taken place and will allow the College to enhance provision for games and introduce a Monday activity slot for all pupils. This will allow a greater range of activities to be offered.
- b) The games programme has been enhanced and strengthened with more fixtures for all sports, and Rugby Sevens and Lacrosse have been introduced.
- c) The weekend provision for boarders continues to be improved with, for example, casino nights, speed-dating (not as serious as it sounds!) more popular Sunday trips and Sixth Form events in Woodard.
- d) New initiatives in Art, including art displays in the Hawth Theatre, Crawley, staff art displays etc.
- e) An Arts Committee has been set up to review the cross-curricular provision of Art, Drama and Music.
- f) Music. We have introduced Fauré's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, more regular informal concerts and the Subscription Concert series to our repertoire. Regular masterclasses are now held, and we have enhanced our links with major choir schools in the South East of England.
- g) A Culture Club has been established, visiting venues in London and the South East.
- h) The HML, Headmaster's Lecture, series has been introduced, with three major lectures taking place this year, including Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of the Defence Staff; Charlie Kronick, Senior Climate Advisor to Greenpeace, and Prof. Francis Ratnieks, Professor of Apiculture at Sussex University and world bee expert.
- i) Sports and Careers talks, including Grant Flower, the Zimbabwean cricketer, and John Inverdale.
- j) New societies have been introduced to expand and enhance the curriculum for the boys and girls, including the Bee-Keeping Club, the Law Society (already a wonderful programme of speakers and visits has been arranged), and the Aesculapians Society.
- k) The Bunbury Cricket Charity has been held for the first time.

Investing in Building and Facilities

- a) Plans for the new Prep School continue apace, and a 10-Year Plan for the campus is being drawn up.
- b) The £1/2m pound refurbishment of the girls' house, Woodlands, is complete.
- c) The £1m creation of a new Modern Foreign Languages suite of classrooms and state-of-the-art language lab is now complete.
- d) The refurbishment of the Dining Room – new floors, chairs and, yes, tartan curtains, has also been completed.
- e) Two new flats for staff have been created.
- f) The Pavilion has new railings, and has been internally decorated.
- g) Floodlights have been installed on the Astro.
- h) New Archway doors have been introduced, recovering the original features within the College.
- i) New drama studios in the School House corridor have been created, and will be fully equipped in the summer 2009.
- j) Friends' Barn has been refurbished.
- k) Parking restrictions have been introduced to the North Quad, allowing safer play areas for the Prep School, and a quieter environment in which to study.
- l) The Frenchman's playing fields has had a new square laid, costing £25,000.
- m) Many hidden projects have also been completed by the College over the course of the year, including wiring, painting corridors, new flooring, new boilers etc.

Public Benefit and the World Beyond Ardingly

- a) A full audit of our public benefit has taken place.
- b) We have our first Godwin Scholarship in the Sixth Form from 2009 (a generous Old Ardinian benefactor).
- c) The Bunbury Cricket charity raised a considerable amount of money for local and Bunbury charities.
- d) The Woodard Academies (two) have now been officially opened on the coast, and Ardingly continues to foster partnerships with them. We hope to be a mentor for one, which is contemplating opting for the IB curriculum.
- e) We have expanded the use of our facilities for local organisations and group visits.
- f) Ardingly continues to visit areas throughout the world, including ski trips to France and Bavaria, educational trips to the Gambia, Munich, Krakow (visiting Auschwitz) and art and sports trips to Spain.

Marketing

- a) We have completed the Senior School, Prep School and Pre-Prep prospectuses.
- b) The new website is now live (we would welcome parental comments).
- c) We continue to invite and visit an increasing number of local and national prep schools.
- d) New banners are being produced.
- e) We have appointed new PR consultants and we are now engaging with the local, national and international press. We will have a new section in

the Good Schools' Guide from this September, and hope to be in the Tatler Good Schools' Guide as one of the best UK schools.

- f) We have introduced the Five Year View, the Wonderful Bird, and this Commemoration Day Brochure.
- g) Two 'mystery shoppers' have visited the three sections of the College, and a full report has been produced. Although extremely positive, there are areas we will continue to work on to improve our admissions procedures.
- h) Improved events management throughout the year, including the concert series, Handel's Messiah, Fauré's Requiem, the Bunbury Cricket Day, the College Music Festival and a wonderful Sesquicentenary Mass for 1,500 parents, students, staff and friends of Ardingly, presided over by Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York.