



WILMSLOW
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL



Summer 2011

“PrepTalk”

Top Marks for Wilmslow Prep

As my second Wilmslow Prep year draws to a close and I look back on all our activities, in and out of the classroom, I am staggered by how much the girls manage to achieve.

During the year we've had sporting success and recognition for the girls' Art, Speech and Drama. Music remains an integral part of School life and the girls have wowed us with their musical accomplishments.

As usual we have welcomed many visitors through our doors including authors, Alumni, many of the girls' grandparents and, latterly, School Inspectors!

The School itself has received the glowing endorsement of its parent body. In December we commissioned an independent survey which placed the School second highest nationally for levels of overall parent satisfaction.

In addition to the outstanding levels of satisfaction, 93% of parents said they would recommend the School to others. Other highlights of the survey included the School's strong relationships with parents, high praise for pupils' behaviour and manners, along with teachers' ability to inspire.



Russell Speirs, managing director of RSAcademics who conducted the research said: "Once again Wilmslow Prep School has been rated very highly. Indeed, I am confident in saying that the results are among the very best I have seen in the 8 years I have been involved in this type of work with independent schools."

In 2007 the School received an outstanding inspection report and in June an Interim Inspection, was carried out by ISI. The results

of this recent inspection will be available on our website during the summer break (as soon as we receive the report from ISI).

So, another busy, successful and hugely rewarding year for myself, WPS staff and the girls. Our sincere thanks to parents for their continued support and endorsement of Wilmslow Prep.

Paul Reynolds,
Headmaster



Offers galore for our Form 6 girls!

Thanks to our Form 6 girls we have celebrated another year of excellent results, including two Scholarship offers and one exhibition offer.

The results bear testament to the quality of education at the School and much hard work on the girls' part. The 12 girls received 37 offers to some of the North West's top schools.

We aim to deliver choice for our pupils and their parents when it comes to selecting the most suitable secondary school for each girl and that's exactly what these results have allowed.

Emma Gosnay received Music and Academic Scholarships for King's School, Macclesfield, and also gained a Music Exhibition at Cheadle Hulme School.

Commenting on the results, Mr Paul Reynolds said: "We are all delighted with the girls' achievements, it is a real pleasure to see them all doing so well. School life is busy at Wilmslow Prep and it's worth noting that as well as studying hard these girls have also participated in many other activities including sport, drama, music and art.

"Once again the girls' teachers must be applauded. Throughout their time at the

School their teachers have helped develop each of them into well rounded, capable and independent girls. Special thanks to Mrs Judy Hughes, the girls' Form Teacher, and Maths teachers Mrs Judi Gregson (now retired) and Miss Sarah Ramsay."



Out and about



The Wilmslow Prep Girls have been very busy this year with a variety of interesting day visits and exciting residential trips, giving them the opportunity to continue their lessons outside the classroom. As ever the girls have learnt a lot from these experiences and have returned with increased enthusiasm for their learning.



Trip to Jodrell Bank

Back in September the Early Years' children had a fantastic day out at Jodrell Bank Observatory and Arboretum. In the morning the girls thoroughly enjoyed becoming nature detectives, learning about autumn and why the trees change colour. In the afternoon they changed into astronauts and by way of the 3D cinema travelled to Mars and back: all in a day's work!

Museum Minds

Following their studies on 'Ancient Egypt', Form 3's trip to Manchester Museum in October allowed the girls to get hands on with some of the ancient artefacts they had been learning about in class and up close and personal with Egyptian mummies. Forms 1 and 2 extended their science in November with their trip to the Science Museum, where they explored pushing and pulling forces by engaging in practical experiments using magnets and miniature cars.

Macclesfield Forest

Form 4 travelled to Macclesfield Forest in October in search of the source of the River Bollin. Blessed with perfect weather and armed with clipboards and backpacks containing a fabulous lunch by Mrs Taylor, they set about identifying many geographical sights including valleys, and river features such as meanders, erosion and deposition.

Trip to the Lowry

Having studied Shakespeare and read 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Forms 5 and 6 went to watch a truly stirring performance of the play at the Lowry in February. They were so inspired that it prompted them to re-write their favourite scene in modern English and perform it in assembly the following week.

Chatelaines en France



In March Forms 5 and 6 had a fantastic five days when they travelled to Saint Omer in Northern France where they stayed at the Chateau d'Ebblinghem. After weeks of diligently practising the necessary vocabulary and grammar, the girls were eagerly awaiting the trip and their preparations certainly paid off.

Accompanied by Mr Reynolds, Madame Ward and Mrs Hughes, the girls had a real experience of life in France. During their stay they shopped at a local market, made crêpes and some ate snails, including Miranda in Form 5 who consumed eight of them.

The girls visited a paper-making factory and the local aquarium as well as the now mandatory visit to the chocolate making centre. Much French was spoken when the girls visited a local school and enjoyed time learning about life at a French school.

Needless to say they all arrived home thoroughly exhausted but full of exciting stories for their parents.



Form 4's Trip to York

In early March the Form 4 girls were lucky enough to embark on a three day residential trip to York where they stayed at the welcoming Huntington House hostel. Accompanied by Mrs Facer, Mrs Fenton and Miss Ramsay they had a jam-packed schedule visiting the National Railway Museum, the Jorvik Viking Centre, The Dig, The Minster and finally Barley Hall Medieval Town House. As if that wasn't enough, they had the added bonus of some beautiful sunshine.



The School is alive with the sound of music...and I

At the last count 71 girls from Form 1 to Form 6 and 2 from Reception were having a total of 94 music lessons every week. This is wonderful!

This summer our girls took and passed 21 Associated Board music exams, completing a superb year of distinctions, merits and passes from Prep Test to Grade 5.

The girls have also thrown their all into their performances in School plays, assemblies and concerts. Speech and drama is such an important part of School life at WPS and the girls sat the English Speaking Board exams again this year with LAMDA exams being introduced for the first time.

Many thanks to our superb peripatetic music team and also to our supportive parents who encourage the pupils in practising, especially in the build up to exams.

House Music Festival



In March our second House Music Festival was a great success with many girls playing and singing to a very high standard.

Mrs Christine Hopkins joined us from London to adjudicate alongside Mr Reynolds and was generous with both her praise and marks. Morton were narrowly pipped at the post by Gawsworth who won the House Music Cup.

Inter School Triangular Reading

We hosted the Inter Triangular Reading competition in June which involved Altrincham Prep School and Alderley Edge School for Girls.

Our girls read very well and were unlucky not to win a category but the standard was incredibly high.



Form 2 & 3 Choir

Festival success for Wilmslow Prep

The Alderley Edge Festival has been a source of excitement for the girls for many years, and this year was no exception with girls taking part in solo instrumental classes, choirs and singing, plus the speech classes.

The School's Junior Choir picked up first place with the Chamber Choir and Form 2 & 3 Choir achieving second place positions.

Wilmslow Prep pupils collected a total of 11 individual awards. Other girls gained commendations and distinctions for their

performances. Adjudicators, parents and guests were delighted to see girls as young as 5 years old having the confidence to perform in front of large audiences.



WPS Junior Choir

Hallé Masterclass for Emma

This year Form 6 pupil, Emma Gosnay, played the clarinet and the piano at the Festival and was selected by the wind adjudicator, Daniel Chandler, to be invited to take part in a 'wind' masterclass with the Hallé Orchestra.

The masterclass is for children who show particular potential and those the adjudicators feel would most benefit from the experience. Emma will receive individual coaching and take part in group classes, all under the watchful eye of members of the Hallé.

The masterclass takes place in July. We hope you have a really great day Emma.



Emma Gosnay

The Return of the Glass Slipper



Congratulations to Forms 3 and 4 on a wonderful performance in May. They really enjoyed themselves both in rehearsals and on the day. A huge thank you to Mrs Neilson, Mrs Facer and Miss Shaw for producing and directing the play. Thanks also to parents for the beautiful costumes and to Mrs Fenton for the fabulous scenery.

ve performance!



Shakespeare gives us year end finale

Our Form 5 and 6 pupils gave us a fabulous finale to a year of amazing performances when they performed Shakespeare for Kids' "Twelfth Night" to adoring audiences in July.

Form 6 teacher, Mrs Judy Hughes, directed and produced the performance with Mrs Neilson as musical director. Thank you to Mrs. Fenton who provided the glorious backdrop and was helped by all the Form 6 girls.



Merry Christmas from the young ones!

Busy, Busy Bethlehem

What a gorgeous nativity! It is always wonderful to see how entertaining the Early Years girls are in performance. Never a dull moment!

Children of the World

The girls travelled from country to country in song and dance exploring the way to Bethlehem. We even had 'Christmas Day at the Beach' in Australia! We had lots of fun in all the rehearsals and the concerts themselves with the Angel Backing Group!



Sporting glory

If there is one thing WPS girls don't lack it's enthusiasm. As well as taking part in regular sports activities during the normal school day, many also attend training sessions and matches for various sports after school.

This year has seen some fantastic individual performances as well as team efforts in hockey, cricket, tennis, rounders and athletics, to name but a few. Well done girls!

Anyone for cricket?

Summer Term saw the introduction of cricket and the girls entered the U11 Hale Barns Kwik Cricket Festival for the first time. They played in a festival of eight other teams and the girls did themselves and the School proud.

WPS pupil chosen to represent the North West

Having come 8th in the Year 5 and 6 Race at Greenbank Park, Emma from Form 6 was chosen to represent the North West in the National Cross Country finals. The final took place at Princethorpe College on Saturday 5th March and Emma came 20th overall with the North West team coming 2nd in the competition. Congratulations to Emma for a fantastic performance.

Athletic Aces

Athletics Championships

In May the Form 5 and 6 athletics team did incredibly well in the ISA Regional Athletics Championships at Macclesfield Track. Despite the awful weather, two of the girls qualified to represent the North West in the National Finals: Lili who came 1st in the javelin competition and Emma who won the 800m.



ISA Athletics, Wigan

In June the Junior Girls Athletics Team headed to Wigan to take part in the ISA Athletics and did superbly in their respective competitions. Well done to the U9 Girls who won the championship overall. Congratulations must also be given to some outstanding individual performances:-

Natasha Fahey, Jessica Birchenough, Grace Mather and Niamh Naysmith – 1st in the 75m Relay

Vanessa Downes – 3rd in the U9 60m Final

Amy Collins – 3rd in the U10 600m Final

Emma Gosnay – 3rd in the U12 600m Final and 3rd in the High Jump

Well done to all the girls who participated in both events.



Form 6 Netball

It's all been happening!

Wilmslow Prep girls win National Art competition



The School's Form 6 girls took 1st prize in the ISA National Art Competition, competing against 300 schools from across the country. The girls won first place with their range of 'seated figures' in the hotly contested 3D category.

Commenting, Art Teacher, Mrs Fenton said: "The girls have developed their art and craft skills brilliantly in the last few years. Winning a national art competition is the culmination of effort and endeavour and the School is delighted that their hard work has been rewarded. This is a fantastic achievement."

The girls went in two by two!

In a reversal of the Noah's Ark story, the infants returned to their classrooms in March...after a great flood was cleared.

During the Christmas holidays a burst pipe caused flooding, and considerable damage, in Cobham Block which houses the School's Kindergarten, Reception class and Forms 1 and 2.

Staff returning to School after the Christmas break were faced with the flood and sprang into action, salvaging what they could from the now out of bounds classrooms and setting up temporary classrooms.

Within days the loss adjustor had visited and local tradesmen began work. On March 4th the remedial work was complete and the girls proudly marched back in to their classrooms two by two!

Commenting, Mr Reynolds said:

"Flooding at any time is very disruptive but returning to School in the New Year ready for a new term and to be faced with classrooms knee deep in water was not the start I'd envisaged! Thanks to a formidable team effort we are now back on track and the girls are excited to be settling in to their new (old!) accommodation."



Charity begins at ...School



Wilmslow Preparatory School has always been dedicated to raising money for many worthy causes and this year has been no exception.

The year got off to a flying start in October when £115.70 was raised for **Jeans for Genes** by the girls who wore jeans to School and the **Harvest Festival** which donated food to Lifeshare.

At the School's annual **Toy Service** in late November, each girl donated a toy which was then distributed to Barnardo's, the Seashell Trust and the St Mark's Drop-In

Centre in Wythenshawe. Head Girl Anassa O'Neil said: "We all love our annual Toy Service – it's great to see all my friends coming in with parcels under their arms. I hope that Santa appreciates all our efforts!"

For **Children in Need Day** in November the girls sold Pudsey Bear Mask Kits and the girls all wore something spotty which raised £267.21.

In the annual **Rotary Shoebox Appeal** over 100 boxes were beautifully decorated and filled by the girls with necessities and small gifts which were sent to put a smile on the faces of children in Romania at Christmas.

Other fundraising events were organised by individual pupils; in October Head Girl Anassa raised £160 for Claire's Children's Hospice by organising a **Teddy Bear Raffle** and in March Lili from Form 6 sold raffle tickets to support the **Japanese Earthquake Appeal**, raising £214 which

was matched by Waitrose making a fantastic total of £428. Congratulations must be given to these girls for their outstanding contributions.

In March the whole School turned red and spotty with an own clothes day and special assembly in support of **Red Nose Day**. The School Council also organised activities such as dancing on the Wii, guess how many sweets are in the jar and a delicious cake stand, which raised a combined total of £285.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities this year, we look forward to continuing our efforts next year.



“PrepTalk”

Summer 2011



Mrs Neilson

Parents' committee

From the Halloween and Valentine's Discos to the May Ball, Summer Fair and the Teddy Bear's Picnic the WPS Parents' Committee has had a very busy and successful year. It is through events such as these that we are able to make a difference to the girls' education and social environment.

The money raised has provided the School with many valuable resources both in and out of the classroom. These include an Interactive Espresso Software System, two author visits, classroom materials for Forms 3 and 4, Junior Library furniture, maths materials, the Happy Prince production and many more.

We would like to thank everyone for your support in making these events possible and we look forward to continuing the good work next year with projects which include plans for an all-weather tennis court.

Laura passes secretarial reins to Rachael...and picks up an Alumni role

Our much-loved School Secretary, Laura Kendal, decided to move to pastures new (and nearer to her home in Bolton!) in February. Laura was keen to maintain her links with the School and has become the School's new Patron, with responsibility for Alumni.

In her new role Laura will lead our contact programme with old girls (and boys) and we look forward to seeing more Alumni back in School during the year ahead.

We have welcomed Mrs Rachael Penn as new School Secretary. Rachael was previously a freelance PA and is enjoying WPS's family centred ethos. Leading by example her two daughters are now also part of the WPS family.

Trio of teachers for Wilmslow Prep



In September we welcomed three new teachers to the School. Miss Sarah Ramsay joined the school as Maths and ICT teacher, Miss Alex Shaw became our Form 3 teacher and Miss Carly McBride joined as PE teacher.

Sarah has a degree in Sports Medicine and did her teaching qualification at Manchester Metropolitan University. Prior to settling down in Cheshire, she spent two years teaching at an International School in Milan and has more recently been teaching maths at a secondary school in Cumbria.

Alex, who attended Wilmslow Prep as a child, studied English Literature and Education at Durham University before completing her teacher training in the North East and then heading straight back to her old school.

Sporty Carly studied at Liverpool John Moores University and is a qualified primary school teacher and primary/secondary PE teacher. Carly spent the last year doing supply teaching in schools across the North West.

Sarah, Alex and Carly have all settled in extremely well and are already very much part of the Wilmslow Prep family.

Farewell to our Musical Maestro and welcome Mrs Rundell

We are really sorry that Mrs Janet Neilson, our Director of Music for the past six years, is leaving us.

Janet has made a truly significant contribution to the School's music and inspired the girls to thoroughly enjoy their music and achieve great things, with an array of wonderful performances enjoyed by so very many parents and guests.

We have appointed Mrs Kathy Rundell, previously Head of Music at Manchester High School as our new Director of Music. Kathy joins us in September 2011.

Kathy brings with her a wealth of experience and we know that she will uphold and build upon our tradition of high quality music in the years to come.

Festivities in full swing at Wilmslow Prep

Kindergarten pupils took part in a Christmas Workshop which saw them, amongst other exciting activities, making beautiful fir and holly-covered table decorations to take home. In classrooms adorned with Christmas trees, the girls dressed up in their favourite Christmas costumes including Mrs Claus, Santa's Elves

and even Rudolph himself. Commenting, Reception teacher Christa Rodwell, said, "The girls thoroughly enjoyed making their Christmas decorations and were very proud to take them home for their parents. They all love to dress up and were particularly excited about their fantastic Christmas costumes."

