



SPRING 2013 ISSUE 1

# Et Cetera

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

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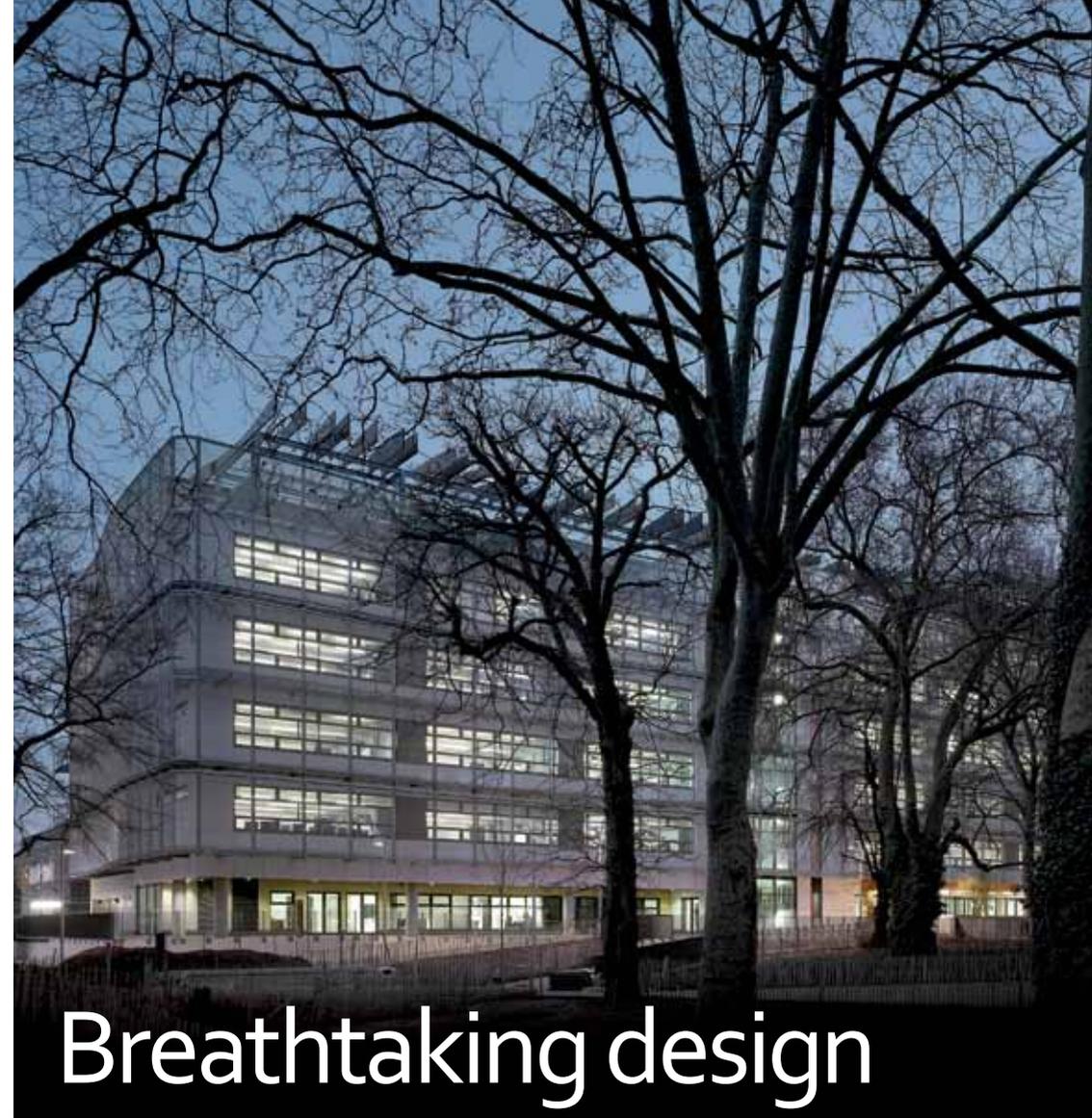
Cover shot: Mr Jamie Thom, Teacher of English, in rehearsal for *Julius Caesar*.



## HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

A very warm welcome to *Et Cetera*, the first edition of our new magazine for our new school. As we settled in to our splendid surroundings, we were delighted to welcome you as some of our very first visitors. Our students' positive response to their environment also demonstrates their sophistication. I hope that you will enjoy reading our news and gathering a view of what happens beyond lessons and independent study. We are in the throes of what I consider to be one of the most profoundly demanding periods in my 32 years in the profession. This generation of students needs to work harder, know more, remember and write with greater precision and accuracy – all of which will be tested in terminal examination papers that I think will be much harder. We are keen to respond to the challenge with our trademark: success is better than rest. Such a prevailing attitude took us in 2012 into the top 3% of all schools nationally and to the very top of the value-added and 5 A\*-C English and Mathematics league table in our area. That is why this magazine is titled *Et Cetera*; we do these things, as well as hit top academic levels. Read and celebrate with us.

MR COLIN HALL, Head



# Breathtaking design

FIVE months into occupying our new building, it is beginning to feel like home. We have had the pleasure of taking numerous visitors 'on tour'; many from the world of education, media and architecture. All have been amazed by the breathtaking design and all that the new building has to offer students to enhance their learning. We have also hosted some celebrities, including David Walliams. While we enjoy the building, students have been watching the demolition of the old school, in preparation for the installation of our underground

car park, the laying of our games areas and the new landscaping. The removal of the West Block has also given us a fabulous view of Holland Park. Other news, Aedas, the architects responsible for our stunning new building, have just completed a submission to RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects) for consideration in this year's annual awards, which recognise new buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. Fingers crossed that we might receive a call from them soon!

MR DAVID CHAPPELL, Associate Head



## CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

GOVERNORS have elected Ms Anne Marie Carrie to the position of Chair Designate. Anne Marie is the Chief Executive of Barnardo's, the UK's largest children's charity, having previously worked in the Royal Borough as the Executive Director of Family and Children's Services. Anne Marie knows the school well, and was instrumental in securing the rebuild planning approval. She will take up post in September when the school converts to academy status. We are absolutely delighted by this appointment, and privileged to have Anne Marie, once again, working closely with the school and its Leaders.

In response to her appointment, she said: "I am delighted and honoured to be selected as Chair Designate of Holland Park and to be involved in the next stages of the school's development. Holland Park School has a long and proud history, and I hope to build on the achievements of my predecessor, Sir John Baker."  
MR DAVID CHAPPELL, Associate Head

## Academy status

FINAL arrangements are now being made for the school to convert to academy status in September of this year. Governors have elected four members to join Anne Marie Carrie. They are Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford JP, Ms Melinda Libby, Mr Michael Tory and Ms Gilly Wiscarson. A requirement of schools converting to academy status is to develop a professional partnership with a local school. Following discussion with the Headteacher, Ms Katy Blackler, and the Chair of the Governing Body, we are delighted to name Avondale Park Primary School as our link school. Speaking of her delight at the formalised partnership with Holland Park, Ms Blackler said: "I am particularly interested in improving the transition process from primary to secondary school and hope that the sharing of expertise and resources will support our children in their learning journey."

MR DAVID CHAPPELL, Associate Head



Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford JP

# A PRIVATE VIEW

ON Saturday 8th December 2012, we hosted, with the Leadership Team, a 'Private View', of our brand new building. The event drew together family and long-standing 'educational' friends of the school. It was our moment to celebrate and reflect upon our decade-long journey and to extend a humble 'thank you' to those who have accompanied, sustained and inspired us. In 2001 we could only dream of such a moment. Emotions ran appropriately high as we reflected on the colossal effort it has taken to deliver

an 'outstanding' school, now complete with its stunning new building. In his address, Colin Hall thanked everyone, explaining that they had each contributed to this moment in time. All guests had a footprint in a new dawn. Each person had in some way made the day possible. Our guests included family, close friends, former students, former colleagues from around the country, friends of the school, and Sir John and Lady Baker, who all gathered together to mark this auspicious 'moment in time' for the school.

COLIN HALL & DAVID CHAPPELL

*"You always do things with such style. The new building is the most remarkable achievement and a fitting reward for your many years of dedication to the school."*

*"The school is fantastic and a well deserved tribute to the astonishing commitment and hard work that you and all your staff have put in to this achievement."*

*"Thank you so much for including me in such a wonderful celebration of the magnificent 'Holland Park' ... dedication, passion, commitment, belief, rigour ... it's all there and you are at the heart of it all."*



Colin Hall, Ann Francis & Sion Elias



Jack, David and Samuel Chappell

## STUDENTS DRAW INSPIRATION

A WIDE range of stunning Art has been produced this term in collaboration with the artist Sarah Bridgland, as part of the 'Art on the Underground' initiative. Students' work will be exhibited at Earls Court tube station and a selection of photographs resulting from this project can be viewed on our school website. Meanwhile, installations have predominated at our extraordinary gallery space, including the 'Scintillate' exhibition based on experimentation with form through paper-folding techniques. Art lessons also continue to push new boundaries with the use of mediums as diverse as marmite and mustard. And, in Year 8, student George Offenbach has created a video exploring students' views on Art and Design, and Technology, in connection with the school's continuing evaluation of teaching and learning.

MR GREG SMITH, Assistant Headteacher



Scintillate.



Bel Powley, actress.

## ALUMNI

IN November, Richard Northover and I went to the theatre to see one of our alumni perform on stage in the West End. Bel Powley was a joy to behold in *Jumpy*. Her previous successes in *Tusk Tusk* at the Royal Court, and in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* on Broadway last year, mark her out as 'one to watch'. Alongside acting, Bel has a place at University College, London, to read Politics and History. It is wonderful to follow her career and remember what a stunning contribution she made to life at Holland Park. And, from Primrose Hill, came Alan Bennett's letter to tell us he

is visiting to talk on 30th April. What a pleasure it will be to host this grand man of letters. Extracts from his most recent play, a current triumph at the National Theatre, have been featured in recent Bennett House assemblies. If you have been to see the film, *Lincoln*, you may like to read, *Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life*. Written in 2003/4 by another friend of the school, Richard Carwardine, the President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and formerly Rhodes Professor of American History, it won the much-coveted Lincoln Prize.

MR COLIN HALL, Head

## A sporting chance

THE Physical Education team is committed to providing opportunities for students to perform and compete across a range of contexts. Students can enjoy the school's amazing facilities both before and after school as our range of clubs expands. The 300 Fitness club on Monday night boasts in

excess of 40 students every week. In addition, students have responded positively to the exciting diet of British Military Fitness and Cross-Fit activities, delivered by our Fitness trainers each week. Fencing club also continues to grow as our students receive expert tuition from qualified international coaches.

MR LEE GARWOOD,  
Assistant Headteacher

## FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

AFTER a captivating Olympic summer in which our heroic athletes dazzled, we have been wondering how to capture the essence of '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' (Faster, Higher, Stronger) in PE at Holland Park. House Sport seeks to capitalise on the best of sport's ideals, and has been characterised this year by the underpinning principles that competitions should be played honestly, fairly and with gracious spirit, while simultaneously recognising the benefits of competitive sport. House Champions were crowned across Years 7-9 in basketball, football and swimming during the Autumn and Spring Terms, and our House Sports Charity Week in February provided an opportunity for Houses to compete against each other to raise money for good causes through a variety of events such as the gruelling 'charity mile' event.

MR LEE GARWOOD,  
Assistant Headteacher



# Sixth Form in focus

"ALONE we can do so little; together we can do so much," said the 19th-century political activist, Helen Keller. Collaboration has been the driving principle behind both the Student and Sixth Form Leadership Teams, since they were established. The two teams have worked closer than ever before this academic year, and their unity of purpose has become ever more apparent. Students have contributed to subject department meetings, worked with teachers on lesson planning, represented the school in hosting visitors and modelled outstanding attitudes across the school. Such collaborative relationships between students and teachers reflect student voice at its very best.

## OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

We are delighted to announce that four students have received an offer from the University of Oxford. Having sacrificed a summer completing their own research projects, the four outstanding scholars are, naturally, excited about what next year has in store for them. "The acceptance letter from Oxford was a huge milestone that represented so much hard work and effort up until that point. At the same time, it serves as an incentive to motivate my future work," Hibba Mazhary said, who hopes to read Geography at St Catherine's College. Chanaatjit Cheawsamoot will be studying Biological Sciences at St Anne's College, Shereen Lafhaj has secured a place at St Catherine's College to read History, and Olivia Porter will be reading Sanskrit at Pembroke College. We wish them and, indeed, all our university hopefuls the very best of luck in the coming term's examinations.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON, Assistant Headteacher

Hibba Mazhary, Shereen Lafhaj and Olivia Porter.



Anita Iyer.

## The Holland Park Trust

THE Holland Park Trust is supporting a number of initiatives in school, ranging from residential courses, projects in Special Needs, English, Music and Dance and academic support programmes for students in the Sixth Form. The Trust raises funds through individuals in the local community who contribute generously, and to whom we are profoundly grateful. Breakfast Club continues with the Trust's support, with enthusiasts revelling in their state-of-the-art dining hall. In addition, two Personal Development Trainers have embarked on a popular new physical

fitness initiative, 'Cross-Fit', for which the Trust has supplied specialist equipment. Further opportunities for students in the Sixth Form to attend university summer school courses, such as that attended by Anita Iyer who benefited from a medical school course last summer, are also being planned. As part of the school's reward scheme, the Trust is also supporting weekend excursions to places of interest, for example to the historical city of Bath. For more information, please visit the Trust's website at [www.hpstrust.co.uk](http://www.hpstrust.co.uk)

MS AMANDA REDFEARN, Deputy Head



## OUTSTANDING PROVISION

WHAT matters most in a school is the quality of teaching. In our commitment to our students we have undertaken this Spring Term to invite Ofsted inspectors to come and judge the quality of our teaching in every subject. It is two years since the school was last inspected and we wished to be sure that we had maintained and indeed improved upon all that was judged to be outstanding in 2011. We have not been disappointed. Inspectors have expressed universal praise for the following things. They found the behaviour of students to be exemplary both in the classroom and around the school. They commented on the innovative and creative ways that teachers seek to teach. They were impressed by the number and range of students whose confidence and initiative assists not only their own learning but that of other students. They were impressed by the school's approach to student workbooks and by the detailed marking that they found in many of them. In some subject areas towards 80% of teaching was judged to be outstanding. Where teaching was not found to be outstanding it was with only some exceptions found to be good or good with some outstanding features. Teaching across the full range of age and ability was reviewed including the Sixth Form and students who have special educational needs. These judgements help us as leaders calibrate our own views and signal for us where extra help and support is needed. The inspectors also gave some useful tips for future practice. They would like to see even more students be less reliant on teachers' guidance and control; more initiative on the part of students. The inspectors were, of course, blown away by the quality of the building, facilities and resources. They were equally astounded by the energy, drive and commitment of so many teachers.

MR RICHARD NORTHOVER,  
Deputy Head

## House news

AFTER a successful corporate career, Jonathan Seeley chose to pursue a career in education and is currently teaching at a primary school in Gloucestershire. Jonathan visited Holland Park in January to meet students in Seeley House, and to experience the school at work. He was much inspired. He was also a guest at our private view in December. JEAN Anderson enjoyed a long and distinguished career in education as Head of History and Director of Sixth Form at Durham Wearside Grammar School. She sends news that a recent operation in January has given her back some limited sight in one eye and this makes a visit possible in the spring or summer. This is welcome news.

MR COLIN HALL, Head



Mr Jonathan Seeley.

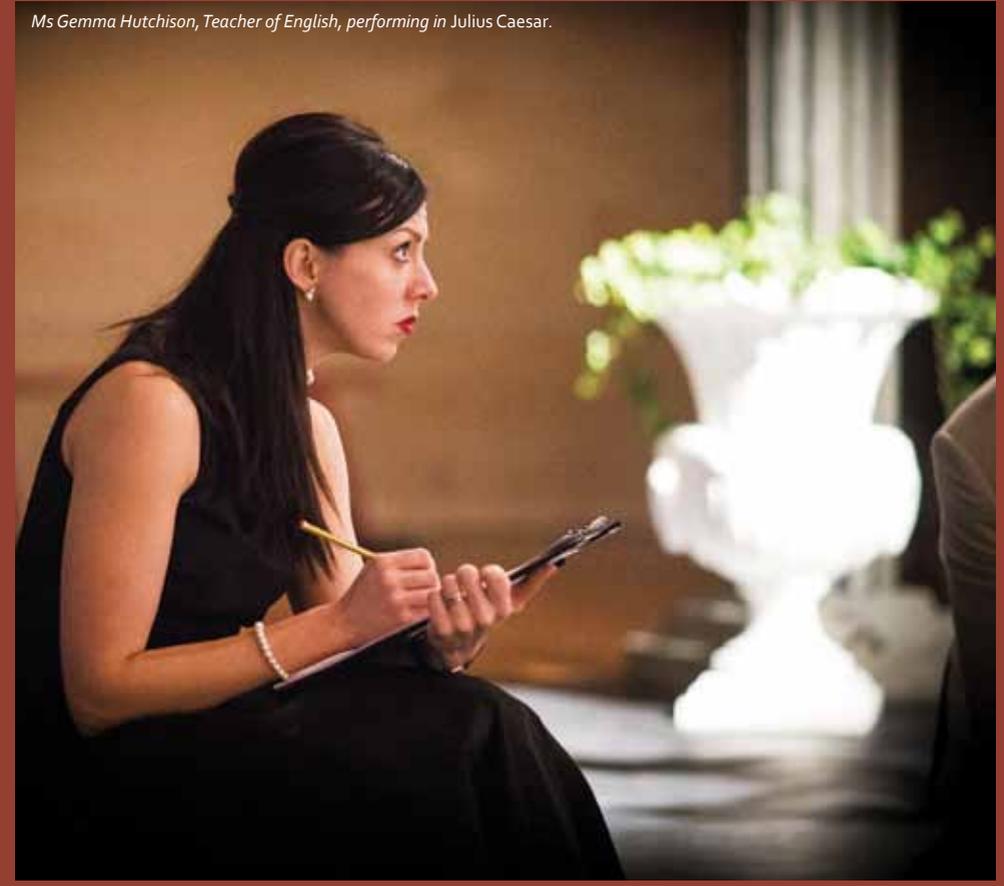
## Et tu, Brute?

MEMBERS of the Leadership Team and the English Team triumphed once more this term in their Italian-inspired production of *Julius Caesar*. Daniel Seed and Nicholas Robson took centre stage delivering powerful performances as Brutus and Cassius, while Michael Crow as Caesar faced his untimely end with a perfect mix of heightened tragedy and pathos much supported by Mark Anthony played by Richard Northover. Expertly edited and brilliantly directed by Colin Hall, both productions were open to an audience made up of students and guests. The production also raised

a healthy donation towards our school's central charities Barnardo's and The Royal Marsden. We have received a plethora of positive reviews of the performance. "Not only were we treated to a well-conceived, super-stylish production, but the performers looked like a cohesive band of players," said Governor Melinda Libby. Katy Blackler, Head of Avondale Primary School, noted that: "Children and staff were completely mesmerised by the performance and very excited about it all on their return to school."

MS AMANDA REDFEARN, Deputy Head

Ms Gemma Hutchison, Teacher of English, performing in *Julius Caesar*.



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