

QEH NEWS



Royal Visit...

feature on
Sixth Form
opening



PLUS

- Juniors steam ahead
- Sports Day special
- Masses of music



New faces

Welcome to all our new boys and staff.

Pictured above: the 2007 Year 7 entry

Pictured below: new Senior School staff.



Left to right: Miss Naomi Morgan (Drama), Mrs Elizabeth Cheatham (English), Mr Tom Fewster (Mathematics), Ms Clare Bennett (Spanish) and Mrs Julia Rostrup (Physics)

...more join the Juniors

It was an incredibly busy year following the successful launch of QEJ Junior School in September 2006.

Throughout the Autumn Term, following huge interest from parents, I met and assessed many boys and was able to fill the 20 places on offer in each Year group.

My next step was to recruit top quality staff to be part of the team at the Junior School. This process began in January when we advertised posts both nationally and locally. After considerable interest in all posts, I was very pleased to

Welcome

Bristol's independent education scene is a changing one: two schools are hoping to become Academies and the Joint Entrance Exam between six schools has, sadly, come to an end. Amid all that, I'm delighted to say that it is business as usual at QEJ! We are NOT becoming an Academy and remain oversubscribed for places. This year, with open competition for places amongst Bristol schools, we shall be holding two entrance examinations to cope with anticipated demand (see Diary Dates back page).

My slogan of being 'Bristol's Best Boys' School' is something we are determined to live up to. We have a very exciting year ahead: our new Junior School has just opened full of bright and eager boys; we are moving ahead with our plans to rebuild our science labs; and I hope to be able to announce exciting developments at Failand before too long.

Boys at QEJ achieve excellent academic results and also develop interests and skills which serve them well throughout life. These pages of QEJ News show just how much goes on and how much boys enjoy all the opportunities on offer here!

S W HOLLIDAY HEADMASTER

Boys hit heights

Congratulations to candidates on their excellent A Level and GCSE results.

At A Level 81 per cent of passes were at A or B. 100 per cent of our candidates passed and 54 per cent gained A grades. One-third of our boys achieved straight A grades.

At GCSE 100 per cent of boys achieved A-C grades in all their GCSEs. 92 per cent of all grades were at A*-B and 63 per cent were A* or A grades.



(Left to right) Mrs R Macleod, Miss K Holtham, Miss A Henham, Mrs J Moe, Mrs L Taylor, Mr T George, Mr R Hall

appoint all teaching, administrative and support staff. I am already enjoying working closely with all my new colleagues.

Adapting the Junior School building also began in January. All the rooms were designed to complement a broad, balanced and practical curriculum in which boys will flourish. I was delighted with the standard of refurbishment. I am confident that QEJ Junior School will provide a top quality learning environment for the boys in our care.

A J HENHAM JUNIORS HEADTEACHER



Representatives of the 150 boys involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme discussing their outdoor activities with The Prince



HRH The Earl of Wessex Opens £1.25m Sixth Form Centre

Prince Edward unveiled a plaque to formally open the new Sixth Form Centre and met many sixth formers involved in outdoor, drama and music activities.

He was shown the new state-of-the-art Centre and was given a tour of the School where he met many boys, staff and governors.

The three-storey extension to the School's grade II-listed main block, and the conversion of existing space, reflects a conscious effort to create an exciting, modern addition which complements and enhances the existing historic building.



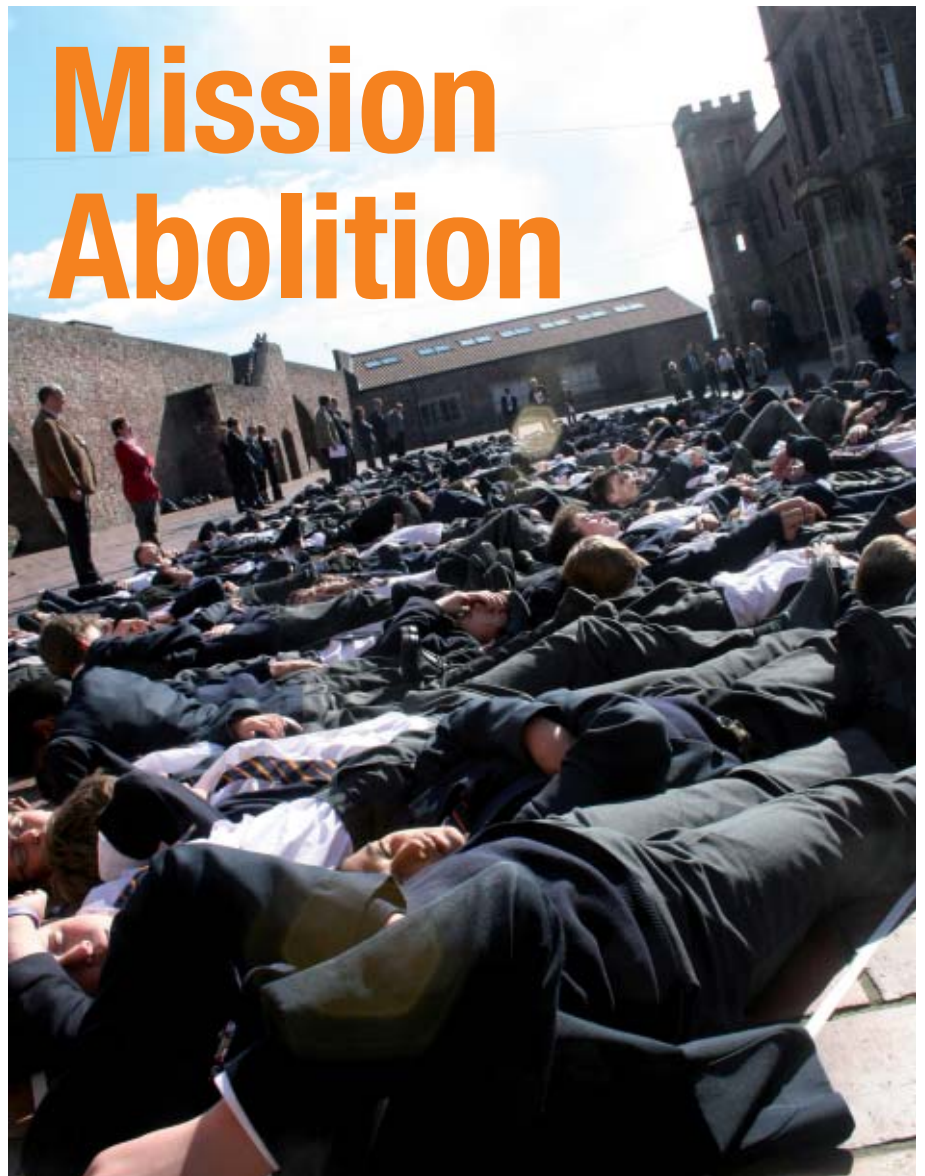
Above and right: A selection of photographs recording moments of His Royal Highness' visit on Friday, June 22

Main cover photograph: Courtesy of Bristol Evening Post/picture by Paul Gillis

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act (March 25), QEH has been researching the topic as part of its pupils' studies, in conjunction with The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum.

The School marked out the deck of a transatlantic slave ship in the School Yard and populated it with boys taking the positions of the enslaved captives on board, as an act of remembrance which included music and readings. This symbolic representation encouraged those present to reflect upon the lost human stories behind the statistical facts of the transatlantic slave trade.

During its researches, the School has discovered that a former pupil – Samuel Gist – became a wealthy plantation owner in Virginia in the United States and that on his death his Will arranged for the freeing of 274 slaves and their relocation to land provided for them in Ohio.



Disco Fever

The Year 7–9 Hawaiian Disco was held at Red Maids?. Another one of our many joint activities with local girls' schools.

Congratulations Sixth Formers on excellent A Level results (see page 2), allowing almost everyone to enter his first choice university.

☑ *Caught in the act – cheeky Leavers persuading the Headmaster to 'go green'!*



Leaving their mark



☑ *The Leavers of 2007 with their tutors*

Sixth-former Andrew Moody, who was offered a Gliding Scholarship, successfully completed the course in just 5 rather than the allotted 9 days.

Andrew really enjoyed the challenge and he is now a qualified Glider Pilot at an age when he is not allowed to drive a car!

He has now applied for a Powered Flying Scholarship.



Flying before driving!



Debating Update

The QEH team, comprising Tim Wright, Ross Adams and Nick Rogers, won the National Final of the BPW Public Speaking Competition against teams from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Tim Wright and Mike Cole competed against five other teams in the England Final of the ESU Schools Mace Debating Competition.

In addition, QEH teams were national finalists in the Oxford Union, Cambridge Union and ICYD (Under 15s) debating competitions.

These achievements make this the best ever season for QEH debaters.



The right Chemistry Biology too...

Six senior students (pictured) gained top awards in the British Chemistry Olympiad (5 Bronze, 1 Silver) and a further two also won a Silver award in British Biology Olympiad, putting them amongst the top 200 in the country.

Questions were designed to interest and engage the most able students in a way that most tests and examinations cannot.

Lively Literature

QEH boys and Red Maids' girls united in inviting David Hopkins, Professor of English Literature at Bristol University, to be their guest speaker.

The AS students were grateful to Professor Hopkins for opening up a number of Literature subjects with provoking questions, and for providing them with a valuable opportunity to experience the kind of dialogue they might experience at university level.



Votes for the boys...

David Cameron (left), aged just 18, stood as a Conservative at the Portishead council election in April and was unlucky to miss winning his seat, after a re-count. He was two votes short of becoming the youngest ever councillor in the UK's local elections!

Conservative leader David Cameron sent his namesake a message of support through the *Western Daily Press*. The young Cameron said moments after the results: "I'm disappointed, but it's been interesting and fun". Dave's father Don, 67, won a Tory seat in the neighbouring Coastal ward.

Chris Woods (right), also 18 and barely old enough to vote (the average age for a councillor is 57!), ran for election in the local Council elections being selected as Conservative candidate for Patchway and, like David, narrowly lost.





Houses pull together

Sports Day was a huge success and the sun even decided to shine!

While parents enjoyed watching the Houses competing, the Friends added a few £s to the School coffers. Along with their superb BBQ lots of delicious cream teas were on offer in the marquee. There was also the annual raffle with some truly great prizes...

Bird House celebrated winning the overall House trophy with Sam Bedwell (Bird's) picking up several new School records.



Going swimmingly

Oliver Eyre, aged 12, won the South West Regionals Sprint Meet taking 1st positions in the 50m Freestyle and 100m Individual Medley. In finishing in the first three of his six events Oliver became the top boy overall in the South West of England.

His coach, Matthew Puddy, said: "I am very proud to coach this talented swimmer. Oliver is on course to make the Nationals next year!"



Super cyclist

Raj Soni, Year 9, has been racing with the Bristol Cycling Development Squad. Ranked 14th in the country in his age group, he has been asked to join the Academy. The British Cycling Olympic Talent Team has also shown interest in Raj's performance.



Draw means great result for Cancer Research

A QEHS Invitation XI side played St Monica's Trust XI at Ashton Gate in early May, with a 4-4 goal draw raising £2,000 to match the same amount of money already raised by St Monica's for Prostate Cancer Research.

Ashton Gate was made available courtesy of Steve Lansdown, Chairman of BCFC. Former Player Peter Hooper, aged 73 and a fund raiser for Prostate Cancer Research, was guest of honour. Mr Steve Ryan, QEHS Deputy Head said: "It is great to work in partnership with St Monica's to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause. Throughout the nail-biting match we were entertained by the QEHS Samba band".

Sailing is a regular sports option activity 





Our South America Rugby Tour team were rightly proud of their achievements in July, especially in being undefeated in Argentina and Paraguay, and eating the biggest burgers around!

Many thanks to Mr Hughes, Mr Joslin, Mr Cook, Mr Murray and Mr Perkins who made this tour possible.

Sports snippets



Orienteering team – Josh Inoue, Doug Hopkins and George Hurford were 5th Intermediate team in the Avon Schools Orienteering.



Sixth formers tucking into free Pizza after helping with the Grand Opening of the new Whitchurch Sports Centre



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's boys on Exmoor. Currently 150 boys participate in the scheme.



Winners of the House Cross Country



Rugby in Paris

Forty-four boys and four staff travelled to Paris and took part in an exciting International Rugby Tournament.

They enjoyed a Masterclass from professional coaches and three afternoons in Disneyland.



Pretty in pink

A large number of women staff at QEH, accompanied by their daughters, took part in the *Race for Life* on the Downs this summer. Here is the team pictured just before the race.

They raised £1250 for Cancer Research.

Young golf Champion

In June Si Fox became overall winner in the 69th Shirehampton Park Men's Club Championship, their most important competition of the year.

He said: "I was involved in the first play off in the competition since 1987. By playing the play off in level par, I fortunately won by one shot to become Shirehampton Park's youngest ever club champion, and one of the youngest club champions in the country. My uncle also won the competition in 1996".



Anyone for tennis...

Alex Allen won the Under-16 boys' Avon County Singles final in straight sets. He did not lose a set in the whole competition.

Alex is part of the David Lloyd National Academy, is sponsored by the LTA and is an Access Member for the LTA Academy at Bath University. He has won a number tournaments, including six last year and represented the County nationally.

Kieran Redpath, winner of the House Tennis Championship with Alex Allen, the Runner Up



Barnardos

QEH Year 7s raised over £1500 for Barnardos in their annual Year 7 Sponsored Hike. The School has raised over £10,000 for various charities this year.



Downs Arts week

A group of QEH musicians was invited to The Downs School, Wraxall to take part in their annual 'Arts Week'.

Together boys and staff entertained and held Masterclasses for a morning.



Double Bill...

There were two major end of summer drama productions this year: *The Demon Headmaster*, played jointly by Years 7, 8 and 10 from QEH and Red Maids', and a QEH Year 12 production of Lorca's *Blood Wedding*.

David Straun, Director of Drama, said: "Of course the 'Demon' Headmaster bears no relationship to any Headmaster alive or dead! It is a work of fiction, but in its own hilarious and cartoon theatrical style it did raise issues of power and freedom in the school environment".

Lorca's passionate and powerful drama *Blood Wedding* was set in the heat of Andalusia and was distinctive in being performed by an all male cast, continuing the long tradition at QEH of 'all male' productions. The flavour of the Spanish culture was enhanced with flamenco dancing and music.

Both productions provided excellent family entertainment for a summer evening and a dramatic ending to the School year.



QEH Choir enjoys 'Mass' appeal



Clifton Cathedral Mass

The choir sang at Clifton Cathedral, taking the place of the cathedral choir for the morning.

There was music by Vaughan Williams (including the anthem sung at Charter Day last March) as well as items ranging from Gregorian chant to music recently composed. There was also opportunity for congregational participation, so many came to join in this special occasion.



Better Than Sax

QEH band *Better Than Sax* won this year's highly-prized Unsigned Song Contest against 189 entrants worldwide.

The group performed its winning song at the Showcase performance at the Colston Hall on 14th May before representatives from the Music Industry.

At QEH, Jazz is proving immensely popular, with new groups emerging and performing in Bristol at large.



Pictured left: QEH Samba Band in action

Back to the Cathedral

As an integral part of their RS studies Year 7 made their annual pilgrimage to the awe-inspiring Bristol Cathedral. They were accompanied by guides who explained much of the history and significance of this great building.

Worcester Sauce... with a twist of Lyme

The Lower School geography department had two fantastic trips in the summer term.

Year 8 spent a day in May in Worcester, looking at the redevelopment of the city's canal and studying the effects of flooding on local inhabitants. The route we followed was later to be submerged under the summer's floodwaters.

A few weeks later, Year 7 spent a very pleasant day at Lyme Regis, successfully fossil hunting but also examining the town's recent and very expensive attempts to protect itself from coastal erosion.



Parler Français à Paris

Treize garçons sont allés à Paris pour un séjour linguistique de 4 jours dans un centre étudiant.

Le séjour a inclus un mélange de visites culturelles, de leçons de français et de découvertes sociales. Tout en français, bien sur!



'Cool' trip with Colston Girls' School

Twenty-eight boys and girls from QEH and CGS visited Iceland in August. They marvelled at the splendour of the island: the Blue Lagoon, the boat trip on the glacial lagoon, white water rafting and rock jumping in a freezing river. Mrs Holliday, as tour leader, and Rocky Rock the guide are to be thanked for all their efforts.



Climbing in Scotland

Twenty boys, accompanied by twelve staff, headed north to Scotland for a week's camping in the remote Highlands.

A highlight was successful fishing in isolated lochs, with Cormac Kinsella landing a huge twelve-pound pike!



Eye for history...

Forty students and staff enjoyed a thought-provoking visit to the Ypres Salient and Somme region of northern France.

The students responded brilliantly and thanks are due to Mr Murray for his impeccable organisation.

Director's Report

This Spring the Development Office celebrated its first full year after the launch in March 2006, and what a busy year it has been.

Our Development Officer, Charlotte Rogers-Jones, has thrown herself into the post and has already made a major impact, especially in terms of organising events and rallying the troops.

Socially, the highlight of our year has been the inaugural London Dinner at the East India Club. The event, which we hope will become an annual fixture, was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Headmaster spoke about progress in the School and the role to be played by fundraising, and Ashley Pharoah (OE), fresh from his screenwriting success and BAFTA award winning *Life on Mars*, spoke about his recollections of QEH in the 70s. Who would have thought that the title of the hit series could trace its links back to the Isle of Wight Camp!



Pictured above (left to right): Steve Ryan, Ashley Pharoah, Martin Bright, Paddy Kilmartin and Mike Smith

He then encouraged others to share their memories. Needless to say plenty were willing to contribute. The auction of a Blue Coat uniform raised the princely sum of £150 although I'm not too sure that Simon Tarasuik would have been too popular when he got it home!

The Cambridge Dinner also went ahead and the Oxford Dinner is taking place on October 5th. The meeting of the South West Old Boys'

Development Office: please contact crogers-jones@qehbristol.co.uk
Telephone 0117 930 3086

Society group at Bodmin was also much enjoyed (see picture below).



The leavers of 1997 have really been proactive getting a 10-year reunion organised in School in May. Richard Meiser-Stedman was the main instigator and not only was a thoroughly good time had by all but he has persuaded them to contribute to a major donation, the main aim being to raise enough money from the Year group to pay the fees for one boy through the School. There has already been a very healthy response to this. Imagine what could be achieved if every age group managed the same. The 1982 cohort got together in July and the 1977ers are well advanced for a reunion on November 10th, the day of the Old Boys' Society Dinner. The 1988ers are now planning something for 2008!

With regard to fundraising the response so far has been really pleasing. We are at well over the £350,000 mark in terms of gifts and pledges. The largest single gift this year being £30,000. The message remains the same – we are looking for the 21st Century John Carrs to boost our endowment income and put it back to levels on a par with our pre independent days. Exciting plans are also afoot – with the new entrance in the "Pit" and the new Sixth Form centre up and running we are looking to totally revamp the science labs on the Upper. Any generous scientists, engineers and builders, please get in touch. The expansion of Failand would also benefit from sporty sponsors.

All in all it has been a very busy year and finally my thanks go to all our supporters and volunteers especially Mr Perkins and Dr Gliddon whose continued involvement remains invaluable.

For details of all events and how to help please contact the Development Office. No contribution too small or too large!

OBS continues to support the School

In addition to its general communication and social activities, the QEH Old Boys' Society maintains and operates a totally separate Benevolent Fund. The stated objectives of the Benevolent Fund are: a) Relief of hardship amongst OEs and their families b) Assistance to current and former pupils at QEH c) Furtherance of education by assistance to QEH itself.

Currently, the Society is providing bursary assistance to two boys, and this will increase to three in September 2007. At that time the total bursary funding will be £8,000 per annum and, in each case, assurance is given that the assistance will continue throughout the boy's time at the School.

Each year, on the recommendation of the Headmaster, the Society awards a Queen's Prize of £500 to one boy going to university. The prize normally lasts for three years, so that at any given time, there are usually three awards in operation, making a total of £1,500.

Also, each year, the Society funds prizes for Art and for Design and Technology, and covers the cost of engraving the replica trophies awarded on Sports Day. Following the launch of the School's Development Fund in 2006, the Society also decided to support that with a 'one-off' donation of £5,000.

In memory

Philip Jones (1973–1975) sadly passed away in June 2007. Philip came to QEH for the Sixth Form in 1990. He never allowed his serious illness (cystic fibrosis) to be an excuse for doing less than his very best. Philip went to University, at UWE, and into employment in the Bristol area. He married Lisa and they had twins – Matthew and Sophie – now aged four.

Eric John Clayfield (1935–1942) passed away at the age of 82 in April 2007, in California where he lived. Eric won a boarding place at QEH and his education was the spark to a distinguished scientific career. Eric headed the Surface Science Group for Shell Research between 1945 and 1984 and, after his retirement, became Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director of the Georgia Mining and Mineral Resources Institute in Atlanta. His great-nephew, Jakob started at QEH Juniors in September.

Congratulations

Ashley Pharoah (1971–1978) picked up a BAFTA for his contribution as screenwriter to the hit TV series *Life on Mars*.

James Harris (1959–1966) is busy finalising a thesis on: 'The astronomical evidence of the accelerating expansion of the universe, and on how this observational data compares to the predictions of a new mathematical solution of Einstein's general relativistic axioms'. He hasn't time to do anything else!

Francis White (1931–1935) recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.

Alastair Wilkinson (1993–1999) has been starring in Molière's *School for Scandal* at Bristol's Tobacco Factory, as well as in other productions.



OXFORD DINNER – FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 2007

Old Boys and staff associated with Oxford or living in the area are invited to a dinner on Friday 5th October 2007, at Lincoln College. For further details please contact Mrs Rogers-Jones or look at the website.



The class of 1997

On 12th May 26 OEs from the class of 1997 reunited. For many this was their first time back to QEH. After a traditional lunch the OEs went on a tour of School. For those unable to attend but who would like to catch up with old friends please email Mrs Rogers-Jones.

1981 and 1982

Another reunion took place on Saturday 7th July – this time it was the turn of the OEs who left 25 years ago. Further details will be published in the Spring edition of QEH News.

Northern dinner

Several Old Boys live 'Up North' and the School is keen to include them following the success of recent regional dinners. If you live in the north of England and would like to be included please let the Mrs Rogers-Jones have your details.

School visitors

Visitors to School included Paul Thomas (1966–1973), who now lives in Germany and Keith Chapman (1955–1962) who has spent most of his life in Tasmania. Miss Wade, daughter of Leonard Wade from the 1920s, spent an enjoyable morning seeing the place that she had heard so much about.

Other Old Boys with whom we are in regular contact include Brian Philpott (1936–1941) in Australia and Wing Commander Michael Watts (1927–1934) in Dorset, still actively walking his dog and providing QEH with his memories of School in the 1930s.

30 years on...

Led by John Orchard, plans are afoot for the Leavers of 1977 to hold a reunion on Saturday 10th November 2007. After an afternoon in School, it is hoped that the Leavers will attend the Annual Old Boys' Society Dinner. OEs from this Year group should have been contacted already but if you have not heard from John please check the Development Message Board on the School website.

"...And finally not leaving out our older Old Boys"

We would like to invite all Octogenarians and Nonagenarians to Charter Day 2008, Friday

14th March. Your invitation will include a tour, a chat with current pupils and lunch. We will transport you to the Cathedral for the service and return you to School afterwards. For those who might need support on the day you are most welcome to bring along a family member. If you have not been in touch with School for some time please phone Mrs Rogers-Jones to ensure that you are included in the guest list.

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

Sports day

The President of the OBS presented the winners' cups on Sports Day. Brian Hanling, to his surprise, was the recipient of the Under 13s cup presented to Samuel Bedwell, 60 years ago!



Merchandise

We continue to sell the enamel Bluecoat lapel badges (£5) and the QEH Mug (£5). The Online Wine Club is generating income for the Development Fund and we are nearing the point when we can sell Bluecoat statuettes. Mrs Rogers-Jones has found a local printer to reproduce whole School photographs. If you want any details on any of these items please look at the website, under Development.



Diary dates 2007/8

Autumn Term:

Friends' AGM

Junior School OPEN DAY

QEH OPEN MORNING

Year 7 Parents' Social Evening

Prizegiving:

Half-term:

Year 11 Parents' Evening

(Entry to 6th Form)

Friends' Fireworks at Failand

6i Parents' Evening

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Concert with Red Maids', Clifton Cathedral

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Christmas Musical (Joseph)

Friends' Christmas Event

Carol Service at Bristol Cathedral

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 4 September – Friday 14 December

Monday 17 September (7.00pm)

Friday 5 October (10.00am)

Saturday 6 October (10.00am)

Wednesday 10 October (7.30pm)

Friday 19 October (10.30am)

Friday 19 October (12.00noon) – Monday 29 October (8.40am)

Tuesday 30 October (7.30pm)

Saturday 3 November (5.30pm)

Tuesday 6 November (5.30pm)

Saturday 10 November (7.00pm)

Monday 19 November (7.30pm)

Thursday 22 November (5.00pm)

Wednesday 5 December (5.00pm)

December 6–8 (7.30pm)

Tuesday 11 December (7.30pm)

Friday 14 December (2.30pm)

Saturday 19 & 26 January 2008