

# St Dunstan's College Chronicle 2002

Editor: G.N. Alderman

## From the Headmaster

In 1809 the Revd Dr John Kate was appointed Headmaster of Eton College and distinguished himself by beating, on average, ten boys every day. His greatest achievement came on 30 June 1832 when he thrashed over 80 of his pupils who responded at the end by all standing and cheering him.

The purpose of education has undoubtedly shifted since those days and we try to adapt more sophisticated ways of helping young people to develop into thoughtful, responsible and moral adults and to help them to develop an understanding and appreciation of equity, tolerance and justice.

As you read the *Chronicle* this year, you will see that we achieve these ambitious aims not just through our academic excellence, but also through our commitment to a wide ranging extra-curricular programme of clubs, societies and activities. The broad, balanced and rigorous education we provide has been developed in spite of a climate of constant change in education, including the seven changes to examination structure since GCSEs were introduced, seven different Secretaries of State for Education and the seven rounds of public examinations recommended for every pupil from 4-18. In the face of the relentless pressure of external examinations and league tables we have, I am proud to say, maintained our commitment to excellence in all aspects of school life.

The *Chronicle* this year bears excellent testimony to the fulfilment of our aim to produce balanced individuals who are socially responsible. It is unlikely that we have ever fielded so many sports teams and achieved such success on the national stage. Two pupils this year won Gold medals at the National Schools Athletics Championships and another won Gold at the National Judo Championships. Our cricketers managed to beat the MCC and our netball teams frequently emerge as the best around. Mr Gobey, our new Director of Music, is determined to take music to yet higher standards with the assistance of a completely refurbished Music Centre. If we include our vibrant and inclusive programme of House Drama, there are at least 15 major Drama productions every year.

Outdoor pursuits is flourishing, not only in the Lower School, but in the Middle School an outstanding 70 pupils in one year group have volunteered for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. We are told employers need well organised, flexible people who can communicate and work in teams, who know when to give a lead and when to follow and who are prepared to take risks.

Our huge programme of extra-curricular activities helps pupils to develop all of these skills and is delivered by highly trained, dedicated and selfless teachers, all of whom are committed to achieving shared aims and are given the responsibility for achieving agreed goals.

As you read this magazine, it will be clear that we do

not have an unhealthy pre-occupation with league tables. However, our rise into the top 150 schools in the country is worthy of mention. Our 99% pass rate at A Level included 66% of all grades being either A or B and 85% of grades being A-C, ensuring that again virtually every student went to their first choice university.

When those results are combined with superb Key Stage 1 and 2 results in the Junior School, it is clear that firm academic foundations have been laid throughout the College for many years to come.

The success of St Dunstan's is only possible when the whole of the St Dunstan's family works together to achieve shared goals. I would like to thank all staff at the College for their enthusiasm and commitment, and all parents and Old Dunstonians who support the College so well.

The first edition of the *Chronicle* was published in May 1890, in the hope that it would lead to an increase in "school feeling" and strengthen the connection between present and past members of the school, "uniting us together into a permanent brotherhood." In 2002, "the hungry critic" will still "seek in vain for a ponderous article on Roman art" and I very much hope with our first Headmaster, Mr Stuart, that "none but those who feel a genuine interest in the welfare of St Dunstan's College will condescend to read these pages."!

## Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

This year sees a steady improvement in, not only the fabric of the College, but also its academic results. We have seen our best A level results ever and numbers are thriving. This year we also have five forms in Year 7 (or the first forms for the older amongst you!) The quality of our intake remains as high as ever and will hopefully secure the College's academic and extra-curricular future.

Sport, Drama and Music remain very high on the College's agenda, as does the ever-popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award. You will see in this edition how many pupils respond to the demands of this award and succeed at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

As always the usual plea goes out to parents, pupils and Old Dunstonians. If there is anything that you would like to suggest that might improve these pages (other than sacking the Editor!) please contact me by e-mail or telephone here at the College.

As is becoming customary in my introduction I would like to thank Amanda Hughes and Christine Harding for all their hard work in helping with the gathering of articles and photographs from the Pre-Prep and Prep department. Their help really does make my life a little easier.

Finally, to all my Senior School colleagues! I would be grateful if they started to submit next year's articles now and save the late rush and my sanity next year!

Graham Alderman  
[galderman@sdmail.org.uk](mailto:galderman@sdmail.org.uk)