



## A taste of trouble

THE Solomon Theatre Company came in on Tuesday 25th November 2008 to raise awareness to year 9 pupils about the effects of alcohol. This was a play with a very strong meaning with a workshop lesson later during the day. This contained useful ideas and information about the subject.

The play was a true story about two 15 year old girls who were left alone on a school night and having never been introduced to the idea of drinking alcohol and not even drinking alco-pops. The girls raided one of their parents drinking cupboards containing many different forms of alcohol which included wine, whisky, vodka and beer. After one drink the girls had several more and these drinks included their own cocktail. They then invited two boys around and despite the fact, only one turned up they began to play drinking games.

The play then showed what happened to the characters during the following hours.

The workshops were for 1 hour and for each lesson two groups were in the workshop. Pupils got to ask questions to the play characters about how they felt afterwards. This raised awareness about what happens from the effects of alcohol and what to do to help someone in the case of emergencies. This was a great experience that will be necessary in later life and definitely a skill worth everyone knowing about as it could save hundreds if not thousands of lives.

By Christopher Margot, Year 9

What Year 9 pupils had to say about the play and workshop

● It was really realistic, because it was a true story. **Tim Rabbitt**

● It really makes you think about the effects of drinking alcohol irresponsibly. **Sophie Lloyd**

● It was a fun activity that encouraged us not to binge drink in the near future. **Pippa Yalden**

● The workshop was very interesting and it felt like they weren't acting, like it was real. It was quite good so kids our age knew what the consequences were of drinking alcohol and it was a very well organised play ideal for our age group. **Carl Merchant**

● It made me more aware of what happens when you get drunk and it looked like it was for real. **Saaria Ahmed**

● IF you are under 16 and wish to send a report or picture for publication in the Student Adver, you must have the permission of a parent or guardian.

# DAY THE PM CAME TO TOWN

IT'S not every day the Prime Minister visits your school.

But it was an extra special day for Isambard Community school pupils Becky Heyes and Jordan McKenzie, who got to go around with the press pack and were the only people who were given a face-to-face interview with Mr Brown.

"It was about a week before in assembly that we found out about a special person who was coming to open the school officially, but we didn't know who," said 13-year-old Jordan.

"When we were told it was Gordon Brown I felt really excited especially because we were going to get to interview him.

"He was really kind. I thought he would have a bit of a deeper voice. "He talked to us about what we thought of the school and what it was like being the Prime Minister. It was a really good day."

Becky, 12, agreed. "I felt quite nervous and excited at the same time, I've not met anyone famous before," she said.

"We asked our questions together and then we talked to him.

"We were the only people who got to interview him face-to-face and it was good to talk to him. It's not every day you get to do something like that.

"I thought he was going to be really loud but he was quite quiet.

"It was a bit strange before he arrived as there were lots of dogs and security – but I would definitely like him to come back again."

● Jordan is currently putting together a video he took of the PM's visit. Keep your eyes peeled on the Student Adver site to see his work.



**WHAT AN ADVENTURE** Jordan McKenzie and Becky Heyes got the chance to interview Prime Minister Gordon Brown



**FILM FANS** Pupils from Wootton Bassett School, left to right, Josh Harding, Rochelle Moutousamy, Chloe Kindred, Emma Marmoy, Sash Wheeler and Kevin Emsley

## Bassett pupils' train of thought

PUPILS from Wootton Bassett School's film club were given the chance to chat to Gordon Brown on a train from Swindon to Cardiff. Here they tell the Student Adver what they thought of the meeting.

**Chloe Kindred, 14:** It was really good. I didn't think he was going to be as relaxed as he was, but he was really nice to chat to. It was a really good experience. We got to ask him what his favourite film was and he said it was Cry Freedom. It was really good of him to take the time to talk to us – he was really kind.

**Emma Marmoy, 15:** We didn't find out we were going until after school the day before. We were told it had to

be kept secret but we were all really excited and our friends were jealous. I thought it was really good fun. It was a really good experience because that was probably the first and last time we'll get to meet him. We gave us all a pencil case and a parker pen and we all got him autograph too.

**Rochelle Moutousamy, 15:** It was really fun and at first we were screaming on our way to see him. We were there and waiting to meet him it was really tense. We were so excited, everyone else was wondering what was going on. We went into First Class to meet him and I got to sit next to him. He spent ages answering our questions and

was really relaxed and nice to talk to.

**Kevin Emsley, 15:** I was very excited when we found out we'd be meeting the Prime Minister. It was a great experience and one that we won't forget. He talked to us about films, the credit crunch and lots of other subjects all in great detail which was really interesting. He seemed to have a lot of time for us which was really nice, and we didn't feel like he was trying to rush us along.

**Josh Harding, 15:** We all got to ask him questions – but other people asked mine before I had a chance. I wanted to know what films had changed his life – and he said

Chariots Of Fire. I thought he was really nice and friendly. He talked to us for ages, asking us questions like what our favourite subjects are, what stuff we like doing and other things. It was really nice that he gave us parker pens and pencil cases and we all got his autograph.

**Sash Wheeler, 14:** I was the only one who went prepared to get his autograph so all the others borrowed paper from me! I thought we didn't have enough time with him and we didn't get to ask as many questions as I'd like to. Afterwards we got to chat with the Minister for Culture, Barbara Follett and she was nice and really interesting too.



**CRY FREEDOM** Gordon Brown told Bassett pupils this was his favourite film

## Don't let bullies win



**STOP BULLYING** Left to right, Chloe Wheeler, Nicole Wales, Emily Dixon and Hayley Richmond

**BEAT The Bullies** was the topic that we were learning about throughout November 2008 at Dorcan.

We heard a story about "NORBIT'S SPECTICLES" and it was about a boy who got bullied quite often and it all started just because of the way he dressed and acted. Anti Bullying week is based on children who get bullied all over the nation.

At Dorcan Technology College we do a topic every year and we all take it very seriously.

Many children are either teased, tormented or even threatened. Children go home feeling really down and upset and just go to their room and cry but that should stop all bullying should get put to a STOP!

Some year 7 girls at Dorcan said "Bullying is a horrible thing to do and if they were ever bullied then they'd definitely do something about it and it is very cruel." By Emily, Nicola, Hayley and Chloe.

## Falling out

**OBLIVION** the Elder Scrolls was Bethesda studios major breakthrough on the Xbox 360 and the PC.

While I can't say it ever appealed to me, I appreciate that the game was well received by reviewers and gamers alike and was a milestone for action role playing games in the current console generation. Unsurprisingly, Bethesda has aimed to move that stone another mile further with its new title, Fallout 3, essentially an reshaped Oblivion.

Set in a post apocalyptic Washington D.C, Fallout 3 has the player emerge from a secluded Vault 101 in the search for your missing father, however, the Capital Wasteland is a fearsome place, and to survive in it you must make harrowing choices. Will you liberate the suffering people of the wasteland, or become yet another blight upon them?

From the start, Fallout 3 must be congratulated with its visuals. While essentially we only have a Re-skinned Oblivion (with textures and layers from Oblivion appearing throughout the map) it

is done with such a fine detail to presentation that one cannot begrudge the nostalgia.

The massive Wasteland map looks visually remarkable from top to bottom; stand on any precipice and you are greeted by a glaring sun, a harsh plain, or maybe ash grey ruins crumbling on a nearby hilltop, and the effect is remarkable.

You will be spending a lot of this game exploring, and it's this visual aesthetic that keeps it rooted in reality. Although the "real" style of the graphics can get repetitive and bleak (after all, in real life one destroyed building will look pretty much like another) it is necessary for this type of game; you aren't in a shooter where you will have fierce action all the time, in Fallout you will take the time to just look around to see the sadness of a bygone era, and the murky browns and greys do suit the dystopia setting.

● To read Sam's full review, check out the Gaming section online.

By Sam Koorns, 18, New College pupil.

## Kingsdown students do their bit for the underprivileged

**KINGSDOWN** School have given an extra special gift this Christmas.

By all of the students and staff working together, we have managed to raise £1295.51. This money is going to be used to buy goats for underprivileged families in desperate need of charity in poor countries, through the charity, Oxfam unwrapped. The idea of using the charity Oxfam

unwrapped as a school came from Mr Poxon, a member of staff at Kingsdown School. He brought the idea forward at a school council meeting back in October after seeing a leaflet about Oxfam unwrapped in an Oxfam Shop.

He states "I saw a leaflet about it in an Oxfam shop, and immediately thought that we, as a school could use

the charity, I chose to buy goats because one goat costs £25 which is an amount that is achievable by each registration group here in the school so it seemed a sensible option"

When discussing his idea with the students on the school council everyone immediately agreed that this was a good idea.

Gabri Grant, Chairman of the School

council said "I think that it is a brilliant idea, I think that it is getting us as a school more involved with charitable causes, it makes a change because every student knows where their money is going, and what it's going to be used for"

Surprisingly just one goat can make such a difference to a family; a goat can provide Milk to drink, fertiliser for

their crops, warmth from their fur and if there is two goats then they can reproduce to make more goats to add to the herd.

Kingsdown School have managed to raise £1295.51, which will pay for 51 goats, which is a fantastic achievement.

By Naomi Pricor

