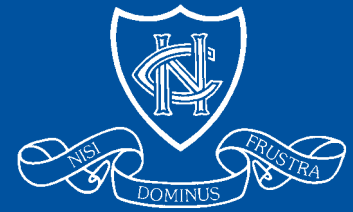


# Northwood College Newsletter



July 2005

discover • learn • succeed • discover • learn • succeed

## A two day Music and Drama Festival marked the official opening of our new Performing Arts Centre at Northwood College on March 21st and 22nd.

The £2.6 million Performing Arts Centre provides state of the art facilities including a Recital Hall, a Drama Studio, a Music Technology Suite, two music teaching rooms, ten practice rooms, a Recording Studio and a Conservatory.

The Recital Hall has wonderful acoustics and accommodates a full school orchestra

with an audience of 100. The Drama Studio, which has a sprung floor and complete blackout curtaining creates the ideal environment for rehearsals and small productions.

Distinguished artists in music and drama visited the College to lead the two day celebrations.



## Dynamic Duo

**Duel** - Craig Owen and Greg Scott – the celebrated violin duo launched to stardom by pop impresario Pete Waterman after being spotted playing their violins in St Ann's Square, Manchester delighted girls from Years 2 to 13 in a series of short concerts. After being entranced by the amazing duo, the girls were given the opportunity to participate in a lively question and answer session which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The talented young soprano Jenny Bacon accompanied by Laura Baxter (piano) gave a series of Recital Workshops to singing students at the College. Jenny and Laura were particularly impressed by the interest shown by the students. They thought the Recital Hall was a great building in which to perform and look forward to future visits to the College. Girls will be delighted to know that Jenny Bacon will be joining our Music Department in September.

The band A A E 2 performed concerts to girls in the Senior School. Band member Tim Adnitt currently teaches 'AS' and 'A2' Level Music Technology at the College. These lively concerts were very popular with the audiences.

Drama students were treated to a series of workshops. These proved exciting and highly stimulating for the participants.

The Trestle Theatre Company presented a Mask Workshop incorporating physical theatre, masks and mime.

A Stage Lighting Workshop was presented by John Watson who used a 2m tall, 2.5m wide huge model stage based on the Covent Garden Opera House in his hands-on workshop.



Gilly Popham who is a freelance make-up artist who also works for Greasepaint, led a fascinating Make-Up Workshop.



## Grand Gala Concert

On the Monday evening a Grand Gala Concert was held. Performing to a full house, a wide range of music of all styles was presented by many of the talented music students of the College. Particular highlights included Clare Bamping's performance of the famous 'Swan' cello solo from The Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saëns and Katy Westford's performance of the first movement of Haydn's 'Piano Concerto in D'.

The second half of the concert featured an ABBA Spectacular and Disney Dazzle performed by the Northwood Singers, Chamber Choir and House Band.

On Tuesday evening, the Official Opening Ceremony and unveiling of the plaque was

performed by Mr Nicholas Hurd, MP for Ruislip and Northwood. The Governing Council and the invited guests were then treated to a short programme of music and drama presented by the students from both the Junior and Senior School. This was much appreciated by all who attended.



## Class Above the Rest

The Performing Arts Centre will enrich and broaden the opportunities and experiences available to our pupils and we hope that it will meet many of the needs of the local community too.

Music and drama have always played an important part in life at Northwood College. The School currently boasts 3 orchestras, a jazz band, 3 choirs and offers Music Technology as well as Music at 'AS' and 'A2' Level. In addition, 146 pupils are learning instruments ranging from the

bassoon to the trombone. Under the leadership of the new Director of Music, Dr Ian Roche, the department is going from strength to strength.

The Drama Department is moving forward too. The new Drama Studio and the arrival of Anna Simpson to assist the Head of Drama, Miss Celeste McCoy, has enabled the department to increase the range of productions this year. Drama competitions, drama clubs and

three major productions are all in this year's programme of events, meeting the needs of girls across the age range. Girls can take Drama at GCSE and AS/A2 Level.

The new facilities will ensure that music and drama at Northwood College will continue to flourish along with the School's reputation as a first class Centre for the Arts.

