

## **REPORT ON VISIT TO UK SCHOOLS: 19 – 30 JUNE 2004**

### **RECTOR, ST. STITHIANS COLLEGE**

#### **Berkhamsted**

1. The school exists on three different campuses, with the girls' campus being at least a ten-minute walk away from the boys' campus, and situated at different ends of the town. The promise to the parents is to keep the boys and girls separate from ages 11-16 and so all lessons at that age group are separate. However, there is a single teaching staff and so teachers may be expected to teach either boys or girls and co-ed classes in the sixth form. All academic departments are joint departments with a single Head of Department. The Head is adamant that the boys and girls' campuses are not referred to as the "boys' campus" and the "girls' campus". The Prep School has its own Head and tends to operate as its own unit. The Head of the whole school has two deputies: one in charge of the boys' campus and one in charge of the girls' campus. All other extra-curricular activities (Drama, Music, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, some sporting activities and other cultural activities) involve boys and girls together. Boys and girls are in separate tutor groups. The Head meets with the deputies on a weekly basis.

#### **Dulwich College**

2. The pastoral care system is based on tutor groups, year groups, with a School Head who is responsible for the three grade groups (e.g. years 9, 10 and 11 at GCSE level). To make sure that the pastoral system is effective, each tutor is guaranteed to teach every child in his/her group. Parental point of contact is with tutors, then possibly the year head, and then the School Head. All School Heads report to the Deputy Headmaster, in charge of pastoral, who in turn reports to the Headmaster. There is also an Administrative Director, who is responsible for the timetable, teaching loads, and he plays a very important role in coordinating the academic loads of teachers and their tutoring responsibilities.
3. Each Head of school at Dulwich has two secretaries. There are two Deputy Heads each with their own secretary. The school also has a Development Officer, who is responsible for fundraising for bursary boys (they have an extensive bursary/outreach and their makeup is probably 50/50, (English/non-English). They also have a Bursar as well as a Financial Director. The former handles all the plant, grounds, non-academic staff; the latter sees to the accounting and management accounts etc.
4. Meetings at Dulwich: the senior management team (SMT) consisting of the Head, two Deputies, Master-in-Charge of Administration meet every Monday morning for 30 minutes. The SMT then meets together with the School Heads and other members of the senior management team every Friday for lunch. Each School Head meets with his/her Year Heads twice a week.

#### **The Stamford Endowed Schools**

5. There are three distinct and fairly independent (from one another) schools (Prep, secondary Girls and secondary Boys), spread across a range of buildings around the town. The Heads of the three schools operate as Vice-Principals with a single overall Principal in charge. Although they are called Vice-Principals they perform a very similar job to that of a school Head. The Principal plays a significant role in terms of the assemblies of the three schools, and other events such as the joint leavers ceremony for the Sixth Form (which is fully co-educational) learners. There tends to be a duplication of facilities in that each school has its own school hall, own Chapel etc. This arose because they were traditionally their own individual schools under a common Board of Governors. They tend to have the problems of separate schools, with various governors championing the different schools. The role of the governors is seen as crucial to building and growing the concept of the overall school.

#### **The Kings School Canterbury**

6. This is considered the oldest school in the UK, dating back some 1300 years. It nestles in the shadows of Canturbury Cathedral. The most interesting element of the school is the fact that some 8 years ago it took a decision to become co-educational. It had existed as a traditional Boys Public (private) school for its entire history and then introduced a co-educational 6<sup>th</sup> form, before becoming fully co-educational.

#### **General comments**

7. It is possible to run and manage a large school with a large number of pupils through tutors, deputies, housemasters, year-group-coordinators or other such structures. Dulwich consisting of some 1600 boys manages extremely well to cater for the individual needs of the boys even though it is such a large institution. However, it manages this with a fairly large central school administration. It has been so successful that it has now started a franchise school in Bangkok, Thailand and is in negotiations to start another one in Shanghai, China.

8. Tim Cookes, Dulwich's Sixth Form Master, in charge of the Sixth Form School had some good ideas about the use of facilities out of school time. They did a serious upgrade of their boarding facilities to make it attractive to others to use. Their premises are available throughout the summer for courses and conferences and it is a major revenue generator. He is of the opinion that there would be significant English school students that would be interested in Cricket and Rugby Camps during the summer holidays in SA at a school such as Saints.

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