



Hairspray

Hairspray is here! We are delighted to report that the production has been playing to sell-out audiences at The Elizabethan.

Hairspray is a high octane, high velocity musical with catchy songs and ambitious dance routines... and the enthusiasm, energy and enjoyment of the whole cast is plain to see.

Central to the musical is Tracy Turnblad, a role shared by students Ruby Bottley (Year 10) and Jaymee Cobb (Year 11). Ruby said getting the lead role in the show was like a "dream come true. *Hairspray* is my all-time favourite musical, and singing and dancing are my favourite things to do. It's going to help me with my GCSE Drama too."

Jaymee also starred in last year's production of *Phantom of the Opera*, and said that the two shows could not have been more different: "It's a very different type of singing in a completely different range. The songs are very upbeat, and I've had to get very fit to dance and sing at the same time."

Hairspray is not just a frivolous story with catchy tunes: there is a whole other layer to the show, with messages about hard work and commitment and pursuing your dreams.

The show is also set against the background of segregation in 1960s America, with extracts from speeches from Martin Luther King projected behind the stage.

The role of Tracy's Mum is traditionally played by a man, with Post 16 student Daniel Whitt following in the high-heeled shoes of John Travolta and Michael Ball to name but two. Daniel and his on-stage husband, Reece Chambers, provide some of the show's comedic moments, with a hilarious rendition of "You're Timeless To Me".

The cast of *Hairspray* is twice as large as last year's *Phantom* cast and is drawn from across the school, with students from Years 7 to 13 involved. One of the youngest cast members is Year 7 student Michael Marshall, who said the best part was "working alongside all these people with such immense talent. Its good fun getting together and putting on a show that everybody loves."



Jordan Parkin as Link Larkin and Tabitha Wilson as Amber Von Tussle

In this Issue



Hairspray

Out of this world



April in Paris

Masterchef



Hairspray



Will Speirs as Corny Collins With both Tracys



April in Paris



Year 10 student, Victoria Lilley, writes about her trip to Paris:

“The first thing we did when we arrived was to go up the Montparnasse Tower, the largest tower in Paris. We got a brilliant view of the city from the top.

The next day, we went to Montmartre and Sacré Coeur, a beautiful cathedral. We also went for an amazing boat trip, where we saw a lot of sites and heard about the history of the city.

What is the famous monument in Paris? The Eiffel Tower! That was the last thing we did on Day 2, and it was brilliant.

Day 3 started with a trip to Brie, famous for its cheese. The best part, though, was the visit to the Stade de France because of its beautiful interior. We got to see the changing rooms too. This was followed by a trip to the Arc de Triomphe, (window) shopping in the expensive shops of the Champs-Élysées and a visit to Notre Dame Cathedral.

Highlight for the Art students were the visits to the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay which housed some of the most amazing paintings ever!

Paris was amazing and I would definitely go back again! ”



Master Chef



Congratulations to Year 7 student, Nick Robinson, who beat stiff opposition from Retford Oaks and Tuxford to win this year's Key Stage 3 Masterchef competition.

Having won the heats at the Elizabethan, Nick represented the school in the final at Ye Olde Bell. Despite the unfamiliar surroundings and the pressure of working in a professional kitchen, Nick kept his cool and produced a winning dish of chicken with pineapple rice.

Asked about his victory, Nick said: “I'm really proud that I won. It was tough working in the conditions of a professional kitchen, but I'd practised a lot so knew what I was doing.”

Seeds from Space

Students were over the moon to hear that they had been selected to take part in a science project led by British Astronaut Tim Peake.

Major Peake is on the International Space Station after blasting off in December. During his six-month mission he will carry out various tests in zero gravity. One experiment is to gauge how weightlessness affects the growth of seeds.

The school has been sent a packet of 100 seeds from space which will be grown over seven weeks alongside a packet of normal seeds. The students won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected and analysed.

Year 9 student Georgia Owen said: “As a Science Ambassador I've really enjoyed being involved in an experiment that is literally out of this world. By growing the rocket seeds along-side normal seeds, we will be able to see whether zero gravity has changed them.”

The experiment will enable the students to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions and the difficulties of growing fresh food in challenging climates.

Principal, Chris Horrocks, said she will be following the project with interest. “Science is a fundamental part of our curriculum and I am delighted that our students have



been chosen to assist with this experiment. There are many exciting career opportunities in Science and related subjects that are so vital to the UK economy.”

Good Luck

With the exams season almost upon us, students are busy preparing for GCSEs and A-Levels. We look forward to reporting on a bumper crop of results in the Autumn.

Best of luck to all those in Year 6 for their SATs exams next month too!