

St Mary's Hall Magazine 08

educating for confidence

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Cover Photo: 'Shells' by Anna Woods Year 9



I always look forward to the School Magazine – and I am never disappointed! Thanks to Mrs Hargreaves and Mr Peebles our magazine reflects so imaginatively the rich variety of experience enjoyed by pupils at St Mary's Hall.

In these pages you will be informed, provoked and shocked, scared (perhaps!) and amused.

The articles and poems sensitively express a gamut of thoughts and emotions and the writing is enhanced by beautiful artwork and photographs of pupils and staff in action.

(I wonder if there will be a prize for the caption competition - see pages 32-35!)

I wish you much enjoyment of the 2008 edition of the St Mary's Hall Magazine and my warmest thanks, as always to the editors and contributors.

Sue Meek, Headmistress

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A Midsummer Night's Dream

I know of a place where Titania slumbers. It is a beautiful glade in the middle of a forest, not just any forest, it is a forest filled with fairies and excitement. The glade has a scent, a musky aroma that is mysterious and strange. A small river trickles throughout the glade and sings a melody. The butterflies and spiders look like jewels in the moonlight, as they wander through the canopy of flowers. The flowers are different shapes and sizes, some are short and ugly, others are tall and elegant, but even in the moonlight, all the flowers are beautiful and graceful, even the thorns. The trees hang over you, shielding you from the cold and protecting you from the sun. The birds twitter, sweetly singing and flying around. The flowers form a bed, the most comfortable bed in the whole universe. The bees hum lullabies in your ear to lull you to sleep. As the night grows darker, the pixies light up and dance around, illuminating the glade and creating warmth. The snake wraps herself around Titania, acting as her duvet. At night, the glade lights up, creating energy, and at daytime everything is still and perfectly normal.

Carina Schou, Year 7



Oh what fools these mortals be...

We asked some of our Year 7 girls to respond to a scene from this year's play. Here is what they wrote

The sun was strolling across the luscious, green grass, which was covered with violets that were beautifully spread out like butter. The sky was a brilliant blue and the clouds were as white and fluffy as sheep. The flowers were like dancers competing for a trophy. It was a very relaxing place and the wind was calm. The beautiful butterflies brought brightness to the sky. There was a clear lake filled with goldfish that were stars glistening in the water. Lily pads were in bloom. Roses surrounded the lovely lake that had a few ripples on it. The chestnut trees were giants standing up. The bees buzzed in the background while the birds' wings clapped. The trees' leaves swayed in the light breeze.

Rebecca Davies

There it was, the most incredible place I had ever seen. There were flowers bursting out all over the place like fireworks. All of them were glimmering in the sun, which was trying to shine through the enormous oak trees. The grass was as green as grass that you imagine in a fairytale. There were all different shades of green moulding into each stem. The flowers were rainbow coloured and grouped together. They were winding around the trees as if they were trying to camouflage them. The sky was bright blue, with pure white, candyfloss clouds floating around in it. The whole feeling to the wood

was magical. The trees looked like they were breathing. All different types of trees were breathing as well. Little trees were breathing softly, bigger trees were breathing deeply and slowly, their leaves shimmering and shaking with each breath. There were some tree stumps scattered around the wood from very, very old trees, so old in fact, that moss had started to grow on them.

Not far away was a little running stream. It was beautiful. The sun's reflection was shining on it as it drifted down to a little cluster of pebbles at the bottom of the stream.

Georgina Robinson

The gentle arms of the olive tree cradling Titania, in her haven of beautiful flowers and their luscious scent. The whispering willows willing her into their soft and gentle hold. The starry sky showing the way to a world of peace, where dreams come true. The oak in the centre rising high, its old face engraved with the journey's time. The life it brought, with the fireflies lighting up Titania's beautiful yet mysterious and crystal clear, flawless complexion. The star of the red sky lighting the glade with such purity that even the hatred between Titania and Oberon would have faded into love. The trees swallowing up the forest so that it seemed to be the only landmark for miles.

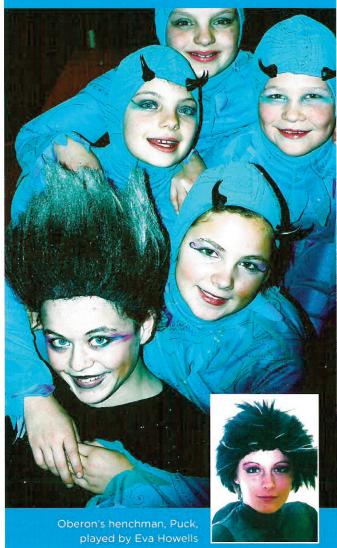
Kate Shove

The full cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream



Titania's fairy servants, led by Jasmine Kilpatrick

Oberon, the King of the fairy world, played by Lily Vernon-Hunt, plots nefarious intent against his Queen Titania





The Mechanicals, a group of honest and simple working class men, led by Sophie Bowles as Bottom.