



Last buzzer for Fortismere headteacher

By Paul Chapman

Andrew Nixon retires at the end of this term from Fortismere Secondary School after nearly 25 years as headteacher. Mr Nixon was appointed in 1983 when Fortismere was formed from the merger of Creighton School and Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, where he has been head since 1980.



Andrew Nixon. Photo by Paul Chapman

"The work is becoming more entrepreneurial with a large budget of £7.5m per year and 170 staff," he said. "The school is the biggest business in Muswell Hill."

In terms of its development, Mr Nixon reflected that "in the past the fabric of the school had been rundown" but now ambitious plans are prominently displayed outside his office for a new performing arts centre.

Provision for learning and sport

The school buildings have already been transformed, especially in the past few years. School Technology status was granted in 1997 and a new science block built in 1999. More recently, Mr Nixon highlighted the new learning centre and improved sports facilities that are now available. The learning resource centre, with a library and sixth form building, was finished in 2002.

An impressive new county-standard sports hall, tennis courts and new artificial pitch have been completed in 2004. Standing next to the sports area near South Wing, Mr Nixon emphasised the importance of sports provision in the curriculum. He added that "obesity is not a problem here," point-

ing out that the students need to walk across the extensive campus.

Recipe for success

The last inspection report was very positive about the leadership of the school. It is regularly oversubscribed with most pupils living less than 1.5 miles away. There is now a popular sixth form with about 400 students.

Mr Nixon said: "The success of the school depends mainly on having good staff and colleagues to do the actual work. I'm just the public face. It is also important to have a broad curriculum."

Mr Nixon plans for an active retirement, which includes mentoring and other support work in education. He said: "It has been a delight to have been headmaster at Fortismere and to be involved in education in the community."

The search for a permanent replacement headteacher to take the school forward is continuing. David Jones, who was headteacher at Philip Morant School in Colchester for 15 years, has been appointed to take over as interim headteacher from September.

Wella done Kelly!

By Diana Cormack

An East Finchley hair stylist has reached the UK finals of the world renowned Wella Trend Vision Award 2005. Kelly Leach, creative director of the High Road's 202 salon, had to prove just how creative she was when she took part in the London Regional heats of this prestigious competition, held in May.

The competitors' styles had to reflect a theme chosen from the following four: being naïve; being constructive; being rebellious; being in love. But before any cutting or styling was involved, each had to produce a mood or storyboard reflecting their creation.

A 60s mood

Kelly chose "being rebellious" and felt that the 60s was a time when a defiant yet creative generation had brought their bold, brash new ideas to the forefront. So her board was made up of pictures that gained global coverage during that era, with the change in music represented by groups like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, the fashion revolution depicted by Twiggy modelling, along with designer Mary Quant's styles. Notorious personalities such as Christine Keeler and the Kray twins were included and, of course, there were Vidal Sassoon hairstyles, which changed the world of hairdressing forever.

After Kelly had cut, coloured and styled her model's hair, she had to show her board to a panel made up of six judges eminent in hairdressing circles, who wanted to know how the style she had created related to her chosen theme. She must have been impressive, for Kelly came top out of 800 of our best young hairstylists!

This win takes Kelly through to the UK finals to be held at the Wella World Studio, London in early September. She will be



Kelly Leach at work in the 202 salon. Photo by Diana Cormack

up against 19 others fighting for prizes, which will include an exclusive photo shoot, £1500 of Wella training vouchers plus the opportunity to represent the UK in the international final in October against winners from all over the world.

French farmers say "Oui" to Whetstone

By Daphne Chamberlain Twenty-one stalls on High Road, Whetstone, on 19-21 May did not mean that the weekly farmers' market has returned. This was a one-off friendly invasion by the French.

French farmers' markets have been established for some time in other parts of the country and organisers PB Organ Ltd told *THE ARCHER* they are hoping to hold another one over the first week of September.

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