

# SCHOOLS

## TIFFIN SCHOOL ON TARGET TO RAISE £10,000 FOR SUDAN APPEAL

BY TOM WHITEHEAD-CLARKE

Tiffin School has recently embarked on a huge charity event that has taken up our entire year. Right from the start our school's ultimate target was to raise £10,000 over the coming three terms in order to help people in Sudan. We decided to use the charity of Education Action International based in Sudan, to help children who do not have access to proper education. Over the year the school has so far raised over £6000 towards our target and we are well on our way to raising another £4000. The staff and the students in the school have managed to organise a series of events and efforts to raise the money.

Right at the beginning of the year, our school council decided on dedicating our first mufti day to our Sudan appeal. Each member of the school and our sixth form was asked to bring in £2 as a minimum donation to the charity. The generosity of both students and staff raised around £2500 for the charity.

To back up this effort the art department constructed a palm tree, as

well as a large Sudan flag to help raise awareness around our school. Both of these made a great impact on our open evening when we held a collection for the cause, raising over £100 in one night.

Around Christmas time, the students and some of the staff from the school decided to organise carol singing outside the Bentalls Centre in Kingston. A large number of our community came down to support the cause, through which we raised over £300.

Finally, and most recently, our school organised a staff pantomime, where the script and the casting was supplied by the teachers of the school. The pantomime contained blind date, karaoke, as well as other acts from the teachers. It raised over £1000 for the appeal. In the coming months, there are further events happening, including the "Tiffin Trek", in which members from both the boys and the girls' school will be sponsored for walking over a day.

Hopefully with our previous efforts as well as the up-and-coming events, we will reach our target, and get the help to

## COOMBE EXPANDS

BY NATASHA PATEL

Coombe Girls' School is well known for its leading edge status, being the one of 103 schools in the country and for being a specialist language school, securing its position as one of the country's top state schools. Coombe's examination results are well above the national average. A 'Special Achievement Award' was given to Coombe by the Department for Education and Skills in recognition of its excellent examination results.

However the school is not only famous for its academic achievements but also for its exceptional achievement in sport. The physical education department at Coombe plays a very important part in the life of every pupil at Coombe. There are 4 full time PE staff that provide us all with wonderful opportunities through our P.E. lessons and extra-curricular activities. Fitness and health is becoming a more and more increasing problem to all us teenagers, so the compulsory one lesson a week to all pupils helps us all to stay physically fit. Also the encouragement of the staff has helped me to become more aware that fitness is very important at our age. Any pupil at Coombe can try out a wide range of activities including trampolining, yoga, cross-country running, basketball, netball, football, dance, gym, tennis and lots more. Many pupils represent Coombe and some often represent the Borough and even the County due to their commitment and attendance at these clubs. We have had many successes in all areas of sport including our year 10 netball team becoming Kingston Borough Netball Champions and they were runners up in the annual borough netball tournament. We have also had great involvement and achievement in the London Region gymnastic competitions. Not only that but we are in the middle of having a new sports and performing arts facility being constructed on the premises. Hopefully this will encourage more pupils to participate in the variety of sports available.

Staying healthy and fit should be one of the main priorities at our age as this is the time in our lives we feel very energised and have more time to start a habit of exercise. The best place to start is at your school. Coombe has given me and many others a head start in many aspects of life, keeping healthy is just one of them.

## RICHARD CHALLONER SCHOOL DEVELOPS UP AND COMING BAND – THE SIEGE

BY ANDREW DIMMOCK

Andrew Dimmock, Luke Ellis, Matthew Bolster and Carlos Garcia, AKA The Siege have over the past four years created their own style of music and performing capability. So far they have been performing in school concerts with versions of classic songs and their own compositions.

Saturday, 26th February, gave them the opportunity to perform a half hour set at a widely known youth centre called Heatham House. This is their first large public performance and it is greatly anticipated by both the band and their peers. Through years of effort and commitment they have created a repertoire of unique songs and are greatly appreciative to the Heatham House Youth Workers for this experience. Richard Challoner School and in particular the Director of Music, Simon Amura, has also played an integral part in the development of the band and other similar groups within the school. His time and effort in the school in a short space of time has had a significant impact on the broadening spectrum

of music within the school and its level of performing ability represented by an abundance of concerts.

Only recently has The Siege been able to professionally record a track, 'Caught me crying', with a renowned artist from Hundred Reasons. This will be available soon on a Heatham House compilation album consisting of many genres of music.

We wish them the greatest success in the future.

If you want to include some news about your school or an interesting story, email [kewilsdon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kewilsdon@yahoo.co.uk)

