

SCHOOLS

“GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN”

BY NAZRENE HANIF

I have no idea what springs to mind when you hear the words ‘Tiffin Girls’ School.’ I don’t know if what you’re thinking is good or bad, but for me, I think back to the busiest and most bizarre few years of the school’s life.

On the evening of Monday 15th December 2003, much of the main teaching block was completely destroyed by a fire. This left the majority of students crammed into the school’s main hall, two gyms, and even the dining hall. Obviously, funds had to be raised; we could not carry on this way. Soon, the girls were moved into huts on the field, which seemed to be of a better quality than the teaching rooms in the old building. This realisation pushed the school to aim for a substantial sum of £100,000 or more towards building, refitting and equipping a new building of 21st century standards. At present, the school has already beaten its target, raising £167,091.

We’ve had Rory Bremner, Matthew Pincent, David Attenborough and Lawrence Dallaglio grace our hall (to name but a few). We’ve had an Auction of Promises, concerts, meals, raffles, and of course the Tiffin Trek. You try walking the seven miles around Richmond Park for

charity and see if you can still keep in mind that it’s all for a good cause. And that’s what will strike you the most, the fact that the girls all enjoy contributing when it comes to fundraising. Whether individually like Lauren Russell in Upper Sixth who raised over £80 by swimming 5,000m in one and a half hours, or as a class like 11F who raised over £570, or even as one of our Young Enterprise teams did when they put onto the market (would you believe it) Tiffin bricks. Yes, that’s the bricks from the old burnt-down building.

So now it’s all go, go, go, and builders have invaded Tiffin Girls’ School. We seem to be getting more and more involved in construction projects, as more innovative plans for the future are cropping up. With The Fire Appeal still going strong and the new building set for completion in July 2006, the long postponed plans for a revamp of the Music and Drama facilities is now under way. There are even ideas circulating of doing up the Sixthform block and sports halls, and if that happens, who knows where to next?

Don’t think all this fire business means TGS isn’t thinking about others anymore. On Friday 4th

November, the school held a Pink Day for Breast Cancer and has become one of the first Fairtrade Schools thanks to our terribly hardworking International Schools’ Committee. Yes, we supply Fairtrade chocolate and it tastes doubly good.

I have no idea what came to mind when I mentioned the words ‘Tiffin Girls’ School’ but here are the facts. Our present site on Richmond Road was originally a 1950s school for boys. Now we’re on our way to becoming a very updated, very cool (if a school can truly be cool) 21st century building fit for all you 21st century girls out there. But what’s really important is that despite the last two years being the busiest and most bizarre y **END** of the school’s life, the staff and the girls all got through it, and the girls are still all having fun.

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