

SCHOOLS

THE TIFFIN GIRLS' SCHOOL SET TO OPEN NEW WING

BY SOPHIE LAMBRAKIS

It seemed like Christmas had come early to us Tiffin Girls that awoke on the 16th December 2003 to the news that our school had been on fire! Amidst the flurry of phone calls to friends and classmates, the truth eventually emerged that one wing, including 15 classrooms and many staff offices, had been destroyed. With Christmas holidays now starting early, there was plenty of time to take a well-earned break and invent wild rumours as to the cause of the fire.

But not for long! Within weeks the 'Tiffin Girls' School Fire Appeal' had been launched, with the aim to rebuild and improve the lost wing. Cake sales were organised and stickers printed as the whole school got involved in the fundraising. The target of £200,000 was a hefty one, but, with events such as the newly reinstated Tiffin Trek, an Auction of Promises,

and a series of 'Evenings with...' including talks by Sir David Attenborough, Rory Bremner, Mathew Pinsent and Simon Singh, we are now very nearly there. Meanwhile, a small village of 'demountables' went up on the school playing field, complete with their own concrete walkways.

And so to the building itself! As we badgered everyone in sight for loose change, the architects and builders were hard at work, and the new wing is certainly a testament to this. Having more in common with an art gallery than a school, the stylish glass frontage hides behind it a multitude of classrooms, offices and even an atrium. The much needed revamp has brought the wing up to 21st century standards, and a group of staff

and pupils are choosing the furnishings even as I write. With a proposed move-in date of 26th June, the end is frighteningly close, although I'm sure very few will feel nostalgia for the old building, with its dark and gloomy corridors and never-ending heating problems. The past 18 months have been a whirlwind of being shunted from one classroom to another, including some disastrous lessons with up to five other classes in the gyms, but, while they have certainly been eventful, I for one am longing for the sanctity of the new 'Holdsworth Wing'. The Tiffin Girls' School has truly risen from the ashes, bigger and better than ever before!

