

# Principal points

## To Finland and back

I am in the unusual situation of writing this article in Finland. Actually, I am in the very small town of Suomussalmi, in the far north east of Finland, close to the Arctic Circle and the Russian border. It is snowing.

With Mrs Reynolds, William Swann (Year 10) and Amy Summers (Year 12) I am attending an international conference for schools from the UK, Turkey, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Italy and Finland. The young citizens are all discussing European energy policy in a EU funded project. Over the year representatives from each school will visit each of the other six schools.

We all know that examination results are very, very important. It will come as no surprise to you to learn that all of the school's staff are working with complete commitment to this end. But an excellent school is more than an exam factory. An excellent school also provides opportunities and builds character.

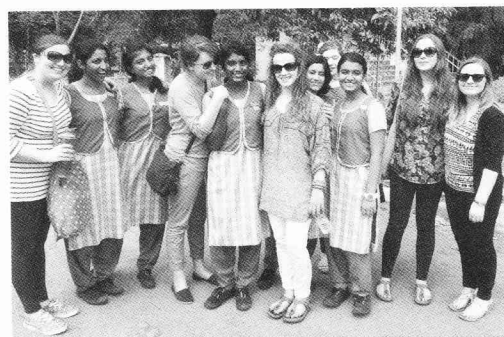
In fact, I suspect success in life is more influenced by character than by examination certificates. A colleague of mine told me of the old headmaster of a boys' school who said that the true purpose of education is "to produce boys

who are presentable at a dance and indispensable in a shipwreck". It is easy for schools in the modern world to forget these wise words.

Participating in this trip to Finland and seeing how Reepham students have demonstrated so many skills and developed their characters, has reminded me just how important it is that schools offer more than examinations.

On a different note it has been a wonderful term at RHSC and I could mention many memorable achievements and activities. I want to draw your attention to one that features in this magazine. Just before I left for Finland I had the good fortune to observe the Reepham Sport Relief Bake Off. For three hours after school we had 14 teams of two baking a sport themed cake. Each team was led by a pupil who was assisted / hindered by a member of staff. The Bake Off was magical; one of the best events I have ever seen at RHSC. It was competitive and co-operative, funny and serious, creative and scientific, and involved staff and pupils working and learning together. And I could not believe the quality of the finished cakes. They were simply astonishing.

**Mr Farrar, RHSC principal**



Editor: Ms L Lubbock Photographer: Mrs B Douglas Advertising: Mrs S Frostwick

Reepham High School and College, Whitwell Rd, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4JT

Tel: 01603 870328 Fax: 01603 870988 www.reephamhigh.com email: office@reephamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

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