



# Annual Review 2011



*It is wonderful to be able to announce once again that the 2011 academic year has ended with superb A level and GCSE results. Teachers and students can be proud of an outstanding set of results that have led to the majority of our 2011 leavers attending the university of their first choice.*

## Academic Matters

Academic success is a major part of life at Concord. Lessons, preps, Saturday tests and end of term exams are all designed to maximise an individual student's chance of success. But these are not 'grades for the sake of grades'. High grades open doors to top universities and give students choices about courses and careers. Crucially, they also give students confidence as they head into the next stage of their lives. This confi-

dence lies at the heart of a really effective education and what makes Concord so special.

On this basis, 2011 has been a stunning year. Our 6:2 leavers have produced an outstanding set of A level results with 92% of grades awarded at A\*/A/B. Perhaps even better than this is the fact that 78% of all grades awarded were A\*/A grade. This has enabled 80% of Concord students to attend their first choice university with nearly 85% into universities in the UK top 20.

At GCSE, the students have once again achieved the best ever results with 53% of grades awarded being A\* and 80% of grades at A\* or A grade. With GCSE grades so crucial to future university success, these are very important results.

Concord's teaching and support staff deserve great credit in making these wonderful achievements possible. The expertise of the teachers and the care that goes into creating a positive environment at Concord play a major role in enabling students to reach their potential.

### Headlines, 2011

- 78% A\*/A at A Level (92% A\*-B & 100% A\*-D)
- 201 A\*s grades awarded at A Level
- 14 students into Oxford and Cambridge
- 17 students placed at medical schools
- 10 students into LSE, 14 into Imperial College London, 19 into UCL, 9 into Warwick & 1 US Ivy League
- 65% of Concord's 2010 leavers are now attending Top 10 UK universities (80% into their first choice university)
- 3rd in 'The Times' school league table (co-educational schools); 4th in the independent schools league table (using ISC data)
- Best ever GCSE results (53% A\* & 80% A\*/A)

## National and Regional Awards

Concord students have achieved success in a number of national and regional competitions this year. The Senior Maths team won their regional heat in the UK Maths Trust competition for the third year in a row and narrowly missed out on the top spot in the national final; our talented senior public speaking team picked up numerous awards on their way to the national finals of the BPW competition where they also narrowly missed out on the top spot: the Outreach and Eco Clubs won local awards for their outstanding commitment to volunteer-

ing; and our Young Enterprise Group were awarded the best live presentation at the regional awards ceremony. There were many individual successes in different disciplines including Vanessa Wong's continued success in Go competitions, O'maro Maseli in athletics and Terrence Lau in squash. One of our senior students Bowie Cheung had an article about climate change published in a prestigious academic magazine.

Participation in such competitions is another way that students can show their ability but also gain recognition for their efforts and self-belief. It can also act as an inspiration to others who see the success of such individuals and think that they too can 'aim for higher'.

## Facilities

The building programme at Concord has continued although on a smaller scale after the opening of our new library last year. This year's project, the provision of new laboratories in an extension to the science block has continued over the summer. By September there will be ten laboratories in total, adding four to the original six. Other areas of the campus have been improved and we are looking forward to the total refurbishment of the old library into a multi-purpose space for students to socialise and for use as a small performance venue: it promises to be very beautiful.

## Beyond the Academic

The 'News' pages of the College website are full of the various activities taking place at the College although they only really brush the surface of the amount of opportunities available to our students.

This year students have had the opportunity to hear acclaimed author, Meg Rosoff, speak about what inspires her to write; to listen to the thoughts of eminent historian Dominic Sandbrook on the social revolution of the 1960s; to attend MUN conferences and debate world issues and to 'Vote for a Quote' to inspire those studying in the library. The annual international concert staged in March was once again a great success and showcased the extraordinary musical and dance talents of our students. The third annual Fashion Show was a sellout evening and was a triumph for the creative talent of the Art Department. Outdoor education activities,



both on and off campus, have been offered to all students and there have been numerous sports fixtures, environmental activities, debating competitions and charity fundraising events.

## The Future?

2011-12 will see Concord at its biggest ever. The growth of the College is a positive feature in our ongoing success. Every effort is being made to ensure that growth is gradual to ensure that the qualities that make Concord special - its happy atmosphere and sense of purpose - are not forgotten as the school continues to develop.

Academically, we are pleased to announce the development of languages at Concord with the introduction of French A Level and the teaching of German, Latin and Chinese for beginners. This development of the language provision at the College is very much in line with Concord's ethos as an international college and will offer students much greater opportunities to explore their language skills.

The physical development of the College will continue this year with focus being placed on our boarding facilities. The Red House will become a boarding house exclusively for Lower School girls, while there will also be a small extension to Bell House. In addition, it is possible that the College will open additional boarding facilities later in the year. These developments reflect the gradual growth of boarding numbers at Concord, along with the very considerable growth of Concord's Lower School over the last five years.

*Overall, there is so much to be proud of as we look to 2011-12. The previous academic year has seen the Concord community going from strength to strength. Of course, much of what we highlight is inevitably that which can be measured: exam success, university offers, competition results and the opening of new facilities. But of course, the real secret of an excellent education lies with the people involved. I know that we are blessed with wonderful teachers at Concord, along with a super domestic staff and very supportive trustees. More than that, students at Concord seem to imbibe the 'can-do' attitude that has always been synonymous with all that is best at Concord. As always at this time of year, I find myself hoping that I am able to write this positively in twelve months' time. You can rest assured that we will all be working hard to ensure that this is the case.*

N G Hawkins, Principal, September 2011