

The pupils

**Annie Fenton, Year 13 pupil at the Royal Hospital School**

Annie's father is serving in the British Army

My family was introduced to the idea of a boarding school through my Godparents. Their children came to the Royal Hospital School and their eldest daughter was the first girl to be Head of School in 1996. As time ran on and I heard all about boarding school life,

I became very keen on the whole idea. I remember fondly the numerous times my



parents asked me if I wanted to go to a boarding school, just to make sure they were doing the right thing - of course my reply was always yes!

When it was time to leave my comfy nest and step out into the big wide world, I was following in the footsteps of my elder brother. I joined in Year 7 as a 'first year' and quickly made new friends at an adventure training camp held in the first few weeks. As a services child, I found it really easy to relate to the other children with similar backgrounds and we all proved to have a lot in common.

Before I came to the Royal Hospital School I had been to four different schools, my education was constantly interrupted and it proved difficult to stay in touch with my friends. RHS has given me stability and as well as many opportunities. In Year 9 I went to Paris on an Art trip and in Year 11 to Belgium on a History trip and a scuba diving trip to Egypt. I am a member of the chapel choir and guard, represent the school in hockey, have weekly singing lessons, am doing Duke of Edinburgh and through CCF, have an amazing time flying and shooting.

The Royal Hospital School has given me a great start in life and with only one year to go until I go off to University, I look back and thank my parents for sending me here, it is truly the best thing they have ever done. I have made some amazing friends - friends I know I will have for life.

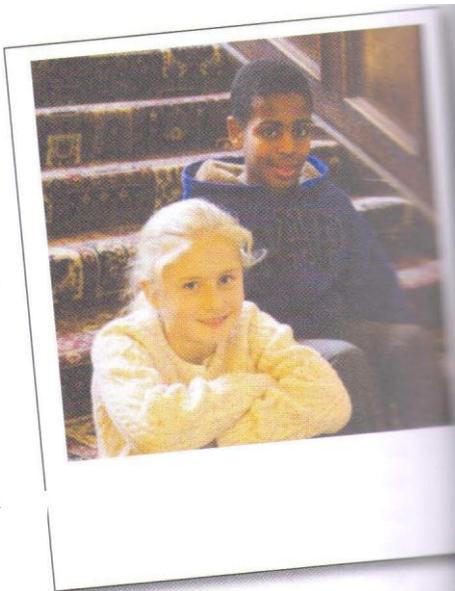
**April Hill, Year 5, and Enam Auku, Year 7, are full boarders at Orwell Park School in Suffolk**

April's father is a Captain in the Army and Enam's father is also in the Army, currently serving in Cyprus.

April

The boarding house is really homely, there is always something to do and we can decorate our dormitories and make them really cosy. My favourite thing about boarding is all the activities we can do at weekends and in the evening. There is so much to do and lots of staff to help us. We sometimes go on outings at the weekend which is great fun. There is even a Brownie troop if you want to join it. There are always teachers to help us and I feel safe and looked after. I am still getting used to boarding but my grandparents live quite near so they

do visit and I can go to stay with them for exeat and half term. My brother is at RHS so he isn't too far away. I think Orwell is a great school, everybody is really friendly and kind and I have made some good friends. They all helped me when I first joined here and never let me feel lonely. It feels like I am part of a big family.



Enam

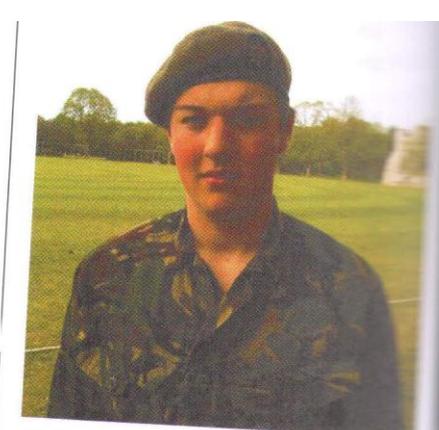
I joined Orwell when I was in Year 3. I didn't know what to expect when I first started boarding and I have been surprised at how much fun it is. There is so much more to do here than there would be if I was at home at weekends. I share a dorm with five others, it is like a normal bedroom with more beds. It feels really homely in the boarding house. If I do get homesick my friends keep me really busy and then I feel better. There is so much to do; I am always tired at bedtime. I like playing dodgeball and rugby and we sometimes play manhunt. There is DT and there is even a Scalextric set in one of the classrooms which we play with a lot. There aren't always a lot of boarders here for the weekend, but that doesn't matter because it feels like a family. The teachers and our houseparents are always here so there is always someone to help. I miss my family sometimes, but I know why I am boarding and this is a good school to be in.

**Ben Jermy, Year 11 pupil at Gresham's**

I am in the Fifth Form at Gresham's. One of the most impressive things about life in a boarding school is the wealth of opportunities that are available to pupils. I have found this to be especially true of my life at Gresham's where membership of the CCF has helped to open up a world of activities to me. Every Wednesday afternoon, I get out of the classroom and enjoy

all sorts of tasks designed to develop my leadership and self-reliance skills. I have learned to use different types of rifle including the LSW and cadet A2, as well as firing them with live and blank ammunition. I have experienced and designed challenges to test the teamwork of my section and although we were not always successful in completing the task we always learned something from our attempts! I have also been involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and been trained for

expeditions, visiting some beautiful countryside in the Peak District well as learning to kayak and paddling on the Norfolk Broads. We are



L/Cpl Ben Jermy, Gresham's CCF

