



## CATERHAM SCHOOL

### **Caterham School 6<sup>th</sup> Form Pupils Laugh and Learn**

Six Form pupils at Caterham School have been learning about relationships through the medium of comedy. In a recent performance at the school, husband and wife team Nathaniel and Zoe Tapley (who also perform together in the comedy troupe Dirty Blondes) used a unique blend of songs, sketches and character comedy to explore many of the issues that confront young people as they embark on their relationships.



“Ever since the days of the Roman poet Juvenal we have known that comedy is an effective tool for making complicated and serious points,” said Nathaniel, a former pupil at the school, “Our aim is to make people think as they are laughing.” To everyone’s amusement, the comedians used improvisation and role-playing games with the students to act out some of the less-attractive behaviours one sees in relationships.

The feedback of the students (recorded on <http://dirtyblondes.blogspot.com> ) was overwhelmingly positive, so the couple hope to perform at other schools in the area. Nathaniel ascribes their success to an unwillingness to talk down to the students: “In many ways it is very similar to the show we perform in comedy clubs in and around London. We trust the pupils’ opinions of their own experiences. After all, it was relatively recently that we were in their shoes.”

Nathaniel and Zoe are performing at the Eye Theatre in Suffolk on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and at The Horse and Groom on Great Portland Street on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Photo: Nathaniel and Zoe Tapley