

Shenstonian

2013-14



SOLIHULL





SOLIHULL

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Teaching Staff 2013/2014

1978		2004	A Bussey; D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther; S J Phillips (Nov)
1979	M A Barrett		
1980		2005	S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; N Cheetham; G Cureton
1981	J J Nickson		
1982		2006	A Jones; P G May; J Wilde; D W Jenkinson; D L Trim (Jan)
1983			
1984	P J Irving	2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson
1985	J Troth	2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb
1986			
1987		2009	D L Hemp (Jan); H M Smith; D R Harford
1988	L M Fair	2010	D E J J Lloyd; O M Walker; L C Wolsey; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips; H J Walsh
1989			
1990	M J Covill	2011	H C Johnson (Jan); C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Ford; M Partridge; K R Sykes
1991	D Reardon; S J Perrins; S A Morgan		
1992		2012	L J Rutherford; B Sandford-Smith; R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; L M Harper; E J Johnson; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; C W Thomas; L M Thomas; D Wilcox
1993			
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner	2013	M D Jones; S E Walton; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Roberts; S J Gummery; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov)
1995	D H Wild		
1996			
1997	A C Hutchinson;		
1998	C Steele; U Mynette; A M Vaughan		
1999	P J Davies; P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart; E Cassano		
2000			
2001	J S Brown; P G Gunning; R R Hadley-Leonard; M Worrall; E R Hurst		
2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer		
2003	M Smith; P J Higley; H E Pike; T J Bryan; K A Powell; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson; C Greswold; V Taylor		



Headmaster's Report

It is difficult to believe that this is my fourth time writing for the *Shenstonian*. The passage of time certainly appears to quicken with age. It is even harder to believe that I have one child in the Sixth Form and another doing GCSE examinations next summer, and the prospect of them leaving home for university becomes scarier by the day. So, what of last year?

Before looking back any further, I'd like to start with last week! It was Speeches and Prize Giving and after placing a 'mystery shopper' in the audience last year, the event had a very different look. Thankfully, the feedback was extremely positive and I hope that all those in attendance enjoyed the celebration. The strong partnership that exists between school and home serves to guarantee that every last ounce of pupil potential, curricular and co-curricular, is fully utilised, ensuring that girls and boys are happy, stretched and keen to take risks, make mistakes and learn from failure. My main theme on the evening was how to win and lose well, and I am very proud of how Silhillians manage both, winning with humility and losing with integrity. Having pride in one's achievements, whatever they may be, is an extremely important part of what Solihull delivers, but never at the expense of others and always mindful of our privileged position. Results days for GCSE and A-Level are always emotionally charged, with inevitable highs and lows, and every year I witness those pupils passing with flying colours comforting those suffering disappointment before celebrating their own achievements. Sadly, more than a few highly paid sports personalities could learn a great deal from our pupils.

Turning to academic results, I am delighted to inform you that 91% of last year's Upper Sixth are going to universities of their choice, 68% are going to a Russell Group university and ten pupils are going to Oxford or Cambridge. All but three of the entire year group are going to university, with two going next year and the third recently signing a professional rugby contract. However, please bear in mind that whilst the Russell

Group contains many excellent universities, many departments and universities outside the Group are equally successful, and upon scrutiny of university league tables perhaps more so. I remain highly concerned about the over-emphasis on a very narrow group of universities and treat my own statistics with an appropriate level of caution.

How did our pupils do it? Well, at A-Level, 84% of all grades were at A* to B, with 38 members of last year's Upper Sixth achieving 3 A grades or better. At GCSE, 73% of all grades were at A* to A, with 23 members of the new Lower Sixth securing at least 8 A* grades, and with 10 of them achieving a fantastic 10 A*s or more. It's fair to say that there was a great deal of national uncertainty this year with the end of modularity at GCSE and the return to linear study, and we compounded this uncertainty by making the switch to IGCSE (International GCSE) in many of our subjects. However, the changes clearly paid off as our boys and girls continue to achieve at the highest level.

Despite what seems like a lifetime of economic austerity and gloomy headlines, the School is currently bigger than ever before at 1,030 pupils, due to the addition of extra classes in J1 and J2 and high demand throughout at all entry points. I am very grateful to all parents for this strong vote of confidence in all that we do. Thanks also go to those parents responding to our annual questionnaires or commenting on a less formal basis. This is our third year of sending out satisfaction questionnaires and ongoing and constructive feedback is very important for informing school improvement planning. Moreover, this year we plan to go one step further and experiment with parent focus groups on three topics featured in parental comments. These are communication, food, and parents' evenings, and more details on how to get involved have been sent home. Whilst we aim for perfection, to claim any school is faultless is misguided, but what I can tell you about Solihull is that we don't hide from our weaknesses. I feel privileged to work with committed and thoroughly professional staff and it is important that all stakeholders view reflection and change positively. Perseverance, or perseverantia, is laudable but so too are our three watch



words: ambition, opportunity and community. This is a super school with a long and distinguished heritage and together we can be one of the very best schools in the country. Pupils, Old Silhillians, parents, staff and governors – well done and thank you!

The governors continue to invest in the School and this year we have constructed two new laboratories, with a third under discussion. Wi-Fi connectivity is now much quicker and more reliable across the campus and we are currently trialling tablet technology and touch screens as an aid to teaching and learning. In addition, it is impossible not to notice that our skyline has changed as the new Sixth Form Centre continues to take shape ready for occupation in September 2015. This is a £4.5m build and the Parents' Association has very generously agreed to fund a sculpture on the mound of earth between the Sixth Form Centre and the Bushell Hall. Although yet to be designed, this will in part be a fitting and lasting tribute to the Old Gymnasium, which was destroyed in a fire three years ago, and is a building which I know brings back both fond and painful memories for many. The volunteers of the Parents' Association form an innovative and very hard-working group, and last year they hosted a number of varied social events raising a staggering £35,000 for co-curricular activities, including a trailer for the mountain bike club, fishing tackle, ski equipment and digital drawing tablets. We are fortunate to benefit from this enthusiasm and commitment, whilst having much fun and laughter along the way.

What's next on the infrastructure wish list? Well, once the Sixth Form and the Economics and Psychology Departments move into the Sixth Form Centre, we must redeploy the space created in School House and we have some very exciting and innovative plans around ICT, which while making a strong statement of intent, will remain sympathetic to one of our oldest and most iconic buildings. Looking further into the future, improving our already excellent sports facilities is a frequent and enthusiastic request, and whether next on the list or not (and let's remember that many schools don't have a

swimming pool – indoor or outdoor) sport is very important to us and most certainly features in any debate around priorities. Given that both girls and boys play hockey, a second astro turf is one of a number of projects currently under discussion.

Last winter, we made the ambitious appointment of Darren Maddy, formerly of Warwickshire and England, as our new Cricket Professional and in order to give Darren the right tools, we recently replaced our old cricket nets with six new and very impressive nets fully approved by the England and Wales Cricket Board. In addition, the (former) Old Silhillians Cricket Club generously funded a set of new cricket covers and our thanks go to Peter Levenger and John Taylor of the OSA for this very kind support.

Some months ago, we visited Steinway Hall in London to explore the possibility of joining the Steinway initiative by purchasing a number of their grand pianos for various locations around the campus. Our music staff were very impressed with the pianos and are keen to explore the possibility further. Watch this space!

Returning to all things 'Old Silhillian', the relationship between the School and the OSA continues to go from strength to strength, particularly as Julia Skan, the Association's current and first ever female President, is also our new-ish Head of Careers. Moreover, auto-enrolment of school leavers, automatic lifetime membership for all and joint communications are seminal changes from which both the School and the OSA will benefit indefinitely, particularly in attracting more recent leavers and women to be actively involved in the Association and its committees. Furthermore, we are working hard to extend our networks by identifying and supporting year group, university, industry and international representatives, who can help pupils and recent leavers with university and careers advice, interview practice, work experience and mentoring. This area of school life is a very exciting development and pupils are increasingly benefitting from alumni engagement, whilst former pupils are enjoying a more active role in university

applications and careers guidance. The next significant step is the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Development Committee which takes place in October. Its purpose is to construct and monitor our development and alumni strategy for the future, focusing on increased alumni engagement, the Silhillian Fund (the fund set up to provide assisted places), legacy funding and possible future capital campaigns.

You may have also noticed a recent change in our branding. We have worked hard, in collaboration with the OSA, to undo the proliferation of 'revisions' and to present a consistent and appropriate image to the community, and one which combines the best of our tradition with innovation for many years to come.

You may be wondering why I have said little of the co-curricular life of the School. It is most definitely not a reflection of its importance but because our many achievements in music, drama, outdoor education, sport, debating and other areas are eloquently reported on by my colleagues throughout the remainder of this year's publication. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Heads of School

The Heads of School for the 2013-2014 academic year were Tom Griesbach and Lauren Buchan and their deputies were Harry Morgan and Charlotte Beesley.



Development and Alumni Relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life

Old Silhillians Alumni Network

Solihull provides many ways for its former pupils, parents and staff to make contact with each other, to connect with the School, and to renew friendships. With over 10,000 former pupils worldwide, the Solihull community is a truly global, lifelong network.

Whether interested in making contact with people working in the same field, with people who live nearby or with people who were at School at the same time, there are networks there to help the community connect with each other.

We have thriving former pupil groups in the Midlands, in London and Alumni Ambassadors across the world, as well as a Careers Network, a Business Network and interest groups such as the Former Choristers' Association.

We are expanding our range of Professional Networks and are setting up groups in the areas of the Military, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Finance and Accounting, Property, Marketing, Languages and Entrepreneurship. We are also making sure that we have a Class Representative for each and every Year Group, as well as for the top 10 Solihull university destinations.

Reunion Day 2014

On Saturday 22 March, the School opened its doors to all former pupils, parents and staff and we loved seeing everyone there!

The day's events began with registration and tours, followed by a school lunch in the Refectory. After lunch a whole host of activities took place, including the annual Old Silhillians versus current pupils sports matches in rugby, netball and hockey, with winners' presentations by former pupil and England

Rugby Coach, Mr Martin Green. In addition, there were workshops from the Science, Psychology, Maths, Philosophy and Art Departments, an opportunity to visit a dress rehearsal of the 2014 musical Spamalot, tours of the School, a cricket master class with former England cricketer Darren Maddy, and a trip down memory lane with former master Denis Tomlin. In the evening, we retired to the Old Silhillians' Clubhouse for a buffet dinner, drinks and dancing.

Over 600 people attended the event, with some former pupils dating back to the 1930s as well as others who left only last year. The next Reunion Day will be for 21st Century Leavers (all former pupils who left Solihull since the year 2000) on Saturday 21 March 2015.





Quotes from Reunion Day

'Catching up with a few former pupils was good, but what surprised me was how many teachers that taught me were there. We had lunch with Richard Costard whom I haven't seen since I left in 1975. He seems to have changed very little. Apart from Brent Wormald and John Lloyd, there was Arthur Brooker, Tim Atkin, Roger Beavis and Phil Griffiths to name but a few'.

'What a fantastic day! One that a lot of people will remember for a long time. A huge thank you to all of you for organising it so well, not easy with 500 people to be sorted'.

'I have never been back to the School since I left in 1971. I was just amazed at all the new buildings and other wonderful changes which had taken place'.

'I wanted to say thank you for a wonderful Reunion Day on Saturday, which brought back some incredibly vivid memories of my time at the School, as well as the amazing opportunity to meet several of my former teachers, one of whom is even still teaching (Mr Perrins!)'.

'Myself and my old classmates had a great day of reunions and it was really good to meet so many former teachers. The School has changed greatly since 1977 but it was nice to see so many of the original buildings still in use and providing character'.

'I told the Headmaster that I felt that the Reunion was a triumph. Well done indeed!'

'Well done everyone! Returning to Solihull always stirs so many happy memories and it gladdens my heart to see the School going from strength to strength'.

'Just a line to thank you, and everybody involved in the organisation of the Reunion yesterday, for a truly splendid day. It was great to see, and catch up with, so many former pupils and staff. Please thank the refectory staff in particular for keeping us all fed and watered so magnificently throughout the day. We are only sorry that we were unable to attend the evening event at the Old Sils but feel sure there would have been many more stories to tell and experiences to exaggerate!'

'The School looks in fantastic shape; a school truly of the 21st Century. I particularly loved the marketing aids, such as the upright flags, and all the signage and literature look very professional now. Super meal and afternoon tea in the Refectory too'.

'It's been great meeting up with the staff, past and present, again and also seeing some familiar faces from the OSA. It was a marvellous turn-out by Old Sils'.



Donating to Solihull - three of our supporters

It feels really good to give something back to a really great school that educated me so well. As I get older, the overwhelming importance of a good education in people's lives has struck me with ever greater clarity. I want much more of the Solihull kind of education, and I want that education to be provided for children regardless of their parents' finances. So I am delighted to make regular contributions to the Assisted Places Scheme. It has the splendid long-term aim of ensuring that any young person with the right talent and ambition has the opportunity to be a part of the Solihull community and reap the educational rewards that come from that. What a wonderful project!

Ian Nichol (1968 – 74)



My year at Solihull was my first time abroad alone. I needed to learn a new language, sports, and customs. I think I learned more in that year than I could ever imagine. From that wonderful experience I was able to play rugby at university for several years, and understand more about foreign students and their adaptations to American living. As I have progressed through life, I look back at experiences and their meaning, and it seems that many of what I look at most fondly started at Solihull. I feel that it is important to let the School know how I feel about my experiences, and the effects on my life afterwards. By contributing to the School, I can help make it possible for others to have a similar, positive experience.

Mark Harrison (1970 – 71)



I joined Solihull School in September 1971 and over the next seven years received not only an excellent academic education, but had the opportunity, encouragement and support to participate in a host of extra-curricular activities and spend my formative years in an environment that engendered self-confidence and fostered a belief in high-standards in all aspects of life. I formed lifelong friendships with fellow pupils and learned a great deal that later helped me, not just in my career, but with life in general. This isn't simply a nostalgic look back into the past through a rose-coloured lens, but a pragmatic assessment of the benefits I have enjoyed as a consequence of my time at the School.

None of this would have been possible were it not for the full scholarship I received from the local authority and so some time ago I decided to include a bequest to the School in my will as a way to help give the same opportunities to someone who would benefit from the School's unique environment and would otherwise not be able to attend.

Paul Hardman (1971 – 78)



Former Choristers' Association

The second Former Choristers' event took place on Sunday 24 November 2013, culminating with an Evensong rendition of Faure's Requiem to a packed Chapel audience. Approximately 180 former choristers, staff, former staff and parents spent a happy day in rehearsals before being joined by the Chapel Choir for the final beautiful performance. Solos were also given by current and former pupils Jack Halsey, Dominic Martens, Sam Troth and Clare Whiting.

The Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places

As a striking addition to our new Sixth Form Centre, opening in September 2015, we are planning to lay personalised granite stones in the main foyer. Each signature stone will be engraved with details of the person in whose honour it is given.

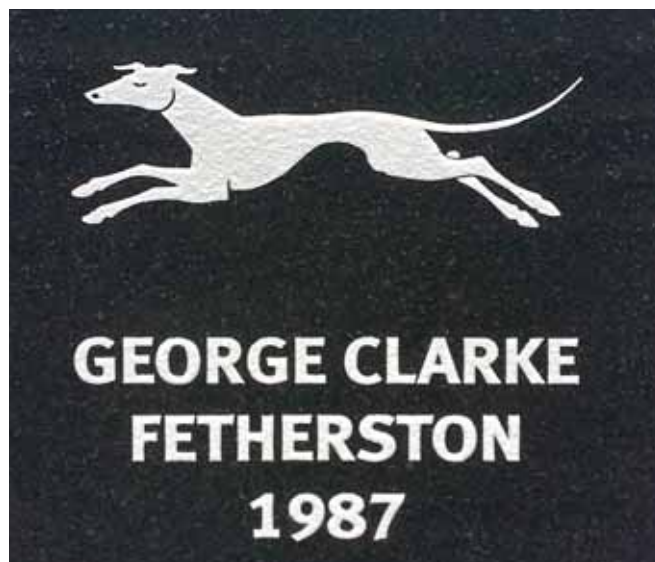
Donations will go towards the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places, launched in Autumn 2014, which enables talented pupils to attend Solihull, regardless of financial capabilities, thus creating a powerful connection between past and future generations.

Families of the class of 2014 were the first to be given the opportunity to acquire one of the stones to mark their child's time at Solihull.



Jack Crawford

In June 2014 Solihull lost former teacher H. J. P. (Jack) Crawford, who died peacefully in a South Wales nursing home, aged 100. Jack came to Solihull in 1960 after a distinguished career in the Colonial Service. Many Old Silhillians will remember him as a Boarding House Master, History and Maths teacher, and as Head of the Junior School from 1980 to his retirement in 1986, aged 72! But most of all, those who were privileged to be taught by him will remember a man of wisdom, humility and compassion, who commanded immense respect.





Former pupil Jack Lucas Narrowly Misses Out on MasterChef Title

22-year-old Geography graduate and former Solihull School pupil Jack Lucas lost out to Ping Coombes in the final of the BBC programme in 2014. Speaking of his near win, he said, 'I don't think I could've done anything differently. The better cook won and I'm really pleased'. Following his success, Jack travelled the world on a gap year, before returning to the UK to begin working for Sainsbury's in its buying and marketing division. Well done Jack!

Civic Leaders Visit

Civic leaders from across the region were invited by the Mayor of Solihull Cllr Joe Tildesley to join him on a tour of the School on 3 April.

Cllr Tildesley said: 'We had an enthralling time meeting Solihull's staff and pupils and viewing the superb facilities in what I hope will become an annual visit. The head boys and girls were fantastic guides and clearly very proud of their school'.

(Warwickshire's civic leaders with their hosts on their visit to Solihull School: from left to right (back row) Harry Morgan, Deputy Head of School; Cllr Richard Davies, Chairman of Warwick District Council; Cllr Joe Tildesley, Mayor of Solihull; Keith Sach, High Sheriff of Warwickshire; Mark Hopton, Chairman of Solihull School Governors; and Cllr Mark Cargill, Mayor of Alcester. Front row: Cllr Mrs Judith Clarke, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa; Tom Griesbach, Head of School; Mr and Mrs Lloyd; Cllr Felicity Bunker, Mayor of Kenilworth; Lauren Buchan, Head of School; Cllr Chris Mills, Chairman of Stratford-upon-Avon District Council; Cllr Dave Shilton, Chairman of Warwickshire County Council; Charlotte Beesley, Deputy Head of School; and Cllr Bill Richards, Mayor of Coleshill).





Annual London Dinner

On Friday 9 May fifty former pupils, staff and former staff attended the Annual London Dinner at the beautiful Pewterers' Hall. A great night was had by all, as memories were shared over a wonderful dinner. Speeches were made by the Headmaster, President of the Old Silhillians' Association, Julia Skan, and London Alumni Representative, Phil Pinto. Our thanks go to former pupil and Master of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Mr Michael Johnson, for facilitating the use of the venue and for the excellent hospitality received on the night.



Termly Coffee Morning

On Tuesday 10 June, a group of former staff and pupils visited the School for a trip down memory lane, which included a visit to the Archive Room, a tour of the campus and a School lunch.

(from top left to bottom left, clockwise) David Westley, Tim Adkin, Barry Chacksfield, Mike Dodgeon, Jean Dodgeon, Arthur Brooker, Gareth Ginns, Harry Rickman, Doris Tomlin, Denis Tomlin.

Careers

It has been an exciting year for the Careers Department. Mrs Skan has been giving advice and guidance to students throughout the School and has organised careers-related trips and events.

With a regular programme of careers lunches we saw visitors from KPMG, PwC, McCann and The Hippodrome, and also physiotherapists, entrepreneurs and journalists. We celebrated International Women's Day with a panel of women advising students on career planning, working in a male dominated environment such as engineering, and planning a career around a family.

A group of aspiring lawyers visited Warwickshire Justice Centre and sat in the jurors' box to witness sentencing of a number of offenders. Our creative students visited the Thinktank in Birmingham to meet musicians, social media experts and art and design experts to learn about using their creative talent to build a career.

The highlight of the year saw two industry-focused events held in the Alan Lee Pavilion in a 'speed dating' format. A group of solicitors, barristers and judges came in to advise students on a career in Law and a group of engineers came in to talk about their areas of expertise. Several students came away with new contacts and even an offer of work experience. We are extremely grateful to the Old Silhillians, parents and friends of the School who kindly gave their time to support and advise our current students.

The new academic year will see the Department focusing on UCAS applications in the Sixth Form and career profiling in the Lower and Middle Schools. With plans to add more CV workshops, interview technique sessions and social media marketing courses, Careers in School is going from strength to strength.

Mrs J Skan

University & College Entries 2013

ASTON

Ashton Greig French

BATH

Alice Allcock Biochemistry
Matthew Allison Chemistry for Drug Discovery
Maria Barnes Architecture

BIRMINGHAM

Darryl Brotherhood Sport, Physical Education & Coaching Science
Richard Brown Physics
Natasha Browne Mathematics and Philosophy
Rajveer Chohan Medicine
Jonathan Clarke Physics & Astrophysics
Holly Cookson Psychology
Nicholas Finnegan Mechanical Engineering
Emma Rivers Psychology

BIRMINGHAM CITY

Katherine Cogley Criminology

BRISTOL

James Williams Biochemistry

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHILL COLLEGE

Alexander Lloyd Mathematics

CLARE COLLEGE

Arun Baxter Philosophy

CARDIFF

Daniel Beck English Literature
Amy Bullard Psychology
Sam Donelan Finance & Management
Ross Edwards Medicine
Ashley Fraser Physiotherapy
Christopher Pettman Business Management
Katherine Spittle Business Management
Alexander Thomas Mechanical Engineering
Grace Webster Business Management (Marketing)

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN

Zoe Bonehill Health & Social Care
William Hartley Marketing Management
Julie Whiting International Business Management
Duncan Wigley Sports Management

COVENTRY

Rhianna Centurion-Eyre Mental Health Nursing
Breeshey Woollaston Sports & Exercise Science

DE MONTFORT

Jonathan Brooke Computer Science

DURHAM

Sanika Karandikar History
Matthew Orme Accounting & Management

EAST ANGLIA

Davinder Singh Pharmacy

EDINBURGH

Kate Robinson Economics

EXETER

Sam Foxall English
Libby Gandhi History
Lucy Rosier History & International Relations
Francesca Ward Geography
Maria Wild Zoology
Kellie Wragg Business & Management

HULL

Victoria Lloyd Economics

HULL YORK MEDICAL SCHOOL

Joshua McGillicuddy Medicine

KINGSTON

Campbell Binning English Literature

LANCASTER

Cameron Botterill Management and Entrepreneurship
Kathryn Hatter History & International Relations
Laura Newbould Geography

LEEDS

Victoria Beech Geography and Management
Lucy Davies Geography
Joanna Errington Natural Sciences
Oliver Griffin Economics
William Harland Medicine
Emily Hodge Management with Marketing
Jake Lupoli Physics

LEEDS METROPOLITAN

Katie Parry Events Management

LEICESTER

Simran Sunner English
Simon Turpin Medicine

LIVERPOOL

Rory Grogan International Business
William Hughes Physiotherapy
Tara Joyce Business Studies
Sasha Mascord Veterinary Medicine
Jack Powell Biological Sciences
Sam Ward Criminology

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES

Sajeeda Bibi Law

LONDON**IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON**Harry Collini Chemical Engineering
Jonathan Super Medicine**KINGS COLLEGE LONDON**

James Morris Geography

ST GEORGE'S LONDON

Arun Raghuraman Medicine

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDONFlorentina Harris Language & Culture
Kirsty Mackinlay Human Sciences**LOUGHBOROUGH**Marianna Avgousti Economics
Kieran Daliwal History & Politics
Albert Davis Transport & Business
Management
Cameron Davis Information Management &
Business Studies
Ryan Lovett Computing
Jai Pannum History & International
Relations
Anna Trenchard Geography
Daniel Younan Politics with a Minor**MANCHESTER**Nicola Cronin English Literature
Harry Jones Criminology
Alexander White Medicine**MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN**

Jessica Henrick International Business

NEWCASTLEMatthew Morris Medicine
Alexander Parry Geography
James Shorthouse Geography**NOTTINGHAM**Alexander Assinder Management Studies
Eleanor Davie Economics
Zoe Harding Neuroscience
Imogen Harrison Classical Civilisation**NOTTINGHAM TRENT**James Daghish Biological Sciences
Charles Harvey Business
Thomas Johnson Accounting & Finance
Samuel Jones Business
Dylan Patel Sport Science & Management
Dominic Reddi Business Management &
Marketing**OXFORD****BRASENOSE COLLEGE**Joseph Halbert History
Hannah Smith Physics**JESUS COLLEGE**

Jack Fowles History

KEBLE COLLEGE

Daniel Murphy Medicine

ORIEL COLLEGE

Sophie Tillman Medicine

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

Naryan Branch Geography

ST HILDA'S COLLEGE

Mary Montgomery Psychology & Philosophy

ST HUGH'S COLLEGERebecca Took English
Joseph Watson Medicine**OXFORD BROOKES**Conor Maher Architecture
Benjamin Perrins Music
Tom Wilde Music**READING**

Alice Newbold Accounting & Business

SHEFFIELDHannah Beasley Business Management
Georgia Cherry Law
Alexander Cromie Economics
James Hornigold Economics
Elizabeth Humphreys Architecture
Harry Luckhurst Aerospace Engineering
Jacob Orton Economics
Laurie Stumper Dentistry**SHEFFIELD HALLAM**William Baines Business & Marketing
Rachel Morris Sociology
Joseph Singer Psychology**TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN**

Mohammad Alherz Medicine

WARWICKCasey Davison History
Oscar Street English & Theatre Studies
Conor Watt Economics**WEST OF ENGLAND**David Bulford Business Management
Michael Fancott Business Management**YORK**Amy Hughes English
Shaun Rodriguez-Brown Environmental Geography

Valetes



Christopher Warren

After a distinguished career in the army, Christopher Warren did a decade as Bursar at Edgbaston High School for Girls, followed by a further decade at Solihull. Christopher is still missed by the entire Solihull community. He is a man of unimpeachable morals and he has an exemplary work ethic. His knowledge of the legal framework governing schools and his interpersonal skills made him a first class Bursar.

Many staff would frequently go to Christopher for support and guidance, always easing minds with his experience and wisdom. His demeanour and social skills are a lesson to us all and a decorated career in the army has honed his leadership skills to near perfection. Arguably, one of his greatest skills is his communication, whether verbal or written, and Christopher was always the 'go-to man' for wordsmithing of important correspondence. He did this and indeed many other duties in a timely manner and never with fuss or complaint.

Christopher leaves the School in a very strong financial position and we owe him an enormous amount for our superb facilities and manicured grounds. He contributed a great deal to the running of the School and not just in bursarial matters. He is also skilled in academic, pastoral and co-curricular issues, and was a key member of the SMT and Governing Body. Indeed, his tenure was also notable for his incredible support of the whole life of the School in attending Chapel, Musicals, Concerts, Plays and sports fixtures.

Arguably, his greatest strength is his friendship to all members of the community, particularly staff. He is a generous man and is always able to find time to listen and to offer wise counsel. He will be sorely missed.

David Lloyd



Merylyn Barrett

Merylyn Barrett leaves Solihull School as Head of Modern Foreign Languages after 35 years of inspirational service. At the time of writing, Merylyn was the longest serving member of the teaching staff at Solihull and will be fondly remembered by the colleagues with whom she worked and the students whom she taught Spanish and French.

Merylyn came to Solihull brimming with the same enthusiasm for all things linguistic that characterised her entire career, and so began a journey that would see many twists and turns (with many of these to be seen in the swimming pool). Merylyn has been a form tutor, house tutor and Head of MFL for 12 years and has passed on her love of all things Francophone and Hispanic to generations of pupils via trips abroad to various parts of the world (involving a visit to a bullfighting school in the days before Health and Safety), cinema trips and a whole range of inspiring co-curricular activities which are too many in number to mention here, since she has planned and operated a foreign venture almost every year of the 35 years she has been here. Merylyn has always been an inspirational practitioner - the excellent results achieved over a long period at O-Level, GCSE and A-Level achieved by students of Spanish and French bear witness to her unparalleled subject knowledge and the unbridled passion she exudes for her subject every minute of the day. Merylyn could, perhaps, be best described as a 'linguistic force of nature'.

Despite her vast pedagogical experience, Merylyn has always been willing to move with the times and has always looked for ways to ensure that language learning at Solihull is cutting edge and relevant. Merylyn is brilliantly clever but humble and human – a rare combination. Generations of Silhillians have benefitted from Merylyn's excellent level of scholarship, particularly those aiming for Oxbridge, to whom she has dedicated countless hours of indispensable advice and guidance.

The work of the LAFF Charity which was set up by her daughter Hannah with the objective of improving the lives of people in various parts of Latin America means a great deal to Merylyn and her commitment to this particular cause serves as just one more example of her strength, determination and humanity. It is worth mentioning here that Merylyn's work with LAFF has led to a trip planned for the summer of 2015 which she will undertake in order to establish a volunteering scheme in one of the two existing LAFF homes, a boys' orphanage and a home for teenage mothers, both in Peru.

Perhaps one of Solihull School's most successful Modern Linguists, Timothy Phedon, who is currently studying for a degree in Spanish and Portuguese, is best placed to sum up the meaning that lies behind such an incredible career:

'I know that I would not have reached my current position at university or have had the opportunity to study abroad this year without the support and encouragement of teachers like Mrs Barrett. It's largely down to all her efforts that I'm here in Brazil'. The good news is that the light of linguistic excellence will continue to shine in the Barrett family as Merylyn's daughter Faye embarks upon her own career in language teaching.

After so many years of dedicated service, a much valued colleague is now looking forward to the next stage of her life with her husband Paul, with plenty of time to be spent in North Devon and the South of France. You have been an inspiration, Merylyn, and we will miss you.

À Bientôt!

¡Hasta luego!

Paul Morgan



John Nickson

John started at Solihull in 1981 and became Head of Art in 2003. In short, John has been an 'institution' throughout and certainly the figure at Solihull that you would associate with Art.

The extraordinary external results that our artists have achieved during John's time as Head of Department can be firmly laid at his door. His guidance, management and attention to detail are legendary.

Outside the department, John has always been a go-to man for knowledge, counsel and straightforward advice; always measured, always valued.

John is a passionate man. Most people, of course, are aware of his passion for Art. Fewer people, however, are aware of his passion for Warrington Wolves Rugby League team and Italian culture! In fact much of John's spare time (when he isn't driving up and down the country examining) is spent supporting Warrington and returning from or travelling to, Italy.

Solihull simply will not be the same without John (though as he is continuing as OCR Chief examiner, our paths may still cross) though his legacy will continue and be here for all to see as the walls of the School adorned with Art are testament to the fine department that he was so instrumental in establishing.

Sean Morgan



Beth Haynes

Beth joined Solihull in 1993 and has certainly been part of the fabric since then, running the surgery as Matron in an incredibly efficient and professional manner. Known for her 'calm under pressure' and 'no-nonsense' approach, legions of pupils and staff have benefitted from her care, kindness and expertise. During her tenure, Beth facilitated an incredible number of trips (thousands!), ensuring that all staff were always equipped with the relevant information and medication and her attention to detail and paperwork were always meticulous. Beth's ability to cover an extraordinary range of medical matters meant that she was equally at home administering Calpol as she was spotting very serious injuries – you always knew you were in good hands. I'm sure Beth will miss us all a great deal and all of the (occasionally comic!) situations she often found herself in, though I am not sure she will miss trudging across a muddy rugby field pushing a wheel chair, often in the wind and the rain! That said, as a passionate fan of Welsh rugby (and surgery was always testament to this), I am sure her interest in the game will continue, though from the comfort of her armchair. In short, Beth has been a terrific employee, we will miss her greatly and wish her an incredibly happy and healthy retirement, which I'm sure will allow her more time to spend with her family as well as allowing her a little time for herself.

Sean Morgan



Jill Godsall

If you are very lucky you get to retire twice as a member of the Music Department from Solihull School! Miss L J Godsall (Jill) is doing just that. That is the first remarkable thing. The second is that this year sees not only Jill's second retirement as a member of the music staff, but also the 60th (yes, sixtieth) anniversary of her association with the School.

Jill gave her first concert here on May 15th 1954, in the days when there was no George Hill Building, no Chapel, no Music School (either 'old' or 'new') and where both the Quad and the swimming pool were open to the elements! In 1958 Jill was asked by the then Director of Music, David Turnbull, to do some piano teaching, and the rest, as they say, is history. Some years later in the early 1960s Jill joined the full time Music staff – there were apparently no contracts in those days so 'early 1960s' is as close as we get. She began teaching in Bradford House, which was, Jill says, already falling down! It was rebuilt in 1972, became known as the Music School and was later to become the Leonard Stevens Building. Jill covered the whole range of piano teaching from beginners to grade 8 and beyond. She nurtured generations of pupils, some of whom have gone on to pursue distinguished careers in music but all of whom remember fondly their other 'mother', Jill. But Jill did much more than this: she was a superb accompanist for hundreds of pupils and for many years was the rehearsal pianist for the annual musical. She was an agony aunt, milk monitor, friend and counsellor. She also organised and time-tabled the termly Associated Board of Music Examinations as well as the visiting piano teachers' timetables.

In 1999 she decided to slow down a little, relinquish her full-time post and become simply a visiting piano teacher (Jill's first 'Valete' can be found in that year's *Shenstonian*). She did, however, continue to organise piano time-tabling and did so until very recently-in total for over 40 years!

And now Jill has decided to retire for good- in her own words '*you know that it's time to go when your pupils become grandparents!*'. In her time, Jill has served 8 Headmasters, 6 Bursars, 2 Directors of Music, seen girls arrive at the School and kept in touch with her first girl pupil-a young lady called Christa Greswold!

Musicians never really retire but Jill leaves Solihull School with the heartfelt gratitude of pupils, former pupils, grandparents, parents and colleagues for sixty glorious years.

Stephen Perrins



Phil Arkell

Phil joined Solihull in September 1995. He is remembered by the Physics Department as a technician who was thoroughly reliable, guaranteeing that when he said he would do something for you he would come through. He helped teachers through their early months here by providing them with advice when it came to practical equipment. Phil did his utmost to ensure that the pupils had what they needed each lesson, even if (very occasionally!) we had not given him enough notice.

Our memories of Phil are of a cheery man, friendly and with a good sense of humour. He was a wonderful person to work with. Those who got to know him would hear him reminiscing about his younger days, drumming and touring with his band. Indeed, only recently he played a couple more gigs, although nowadays without the lycra!

Now Phil has more time to spend with his wife Shirley, son Chris, daughter Laura and his two grandchildren. Incidentally, his granddaughter made such a quick entrance into the world that he had to deliver her in the back of his car on the way to hospital! As well as holidaying from time to time with his family in his favourite Weymouth, he will now have time to learn to play the guitar, as well as pursue his keen interest in astronomy. Phil will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his retirement.

Michael Smith



Carole Steele

For those of you fortunate enough to know Carole personally or professionally, you will understand why we are as sad to lose her energising presence from the Junior School staff room as we are to lose such an outstanding teacher.

Having previously taught in a number of schools around Solihull and further afield, Carole first arrived in the Junior School 16 years ago and has had a very significant hand in shaping the happy, vibrant and successful school we have today.

Sharing, almost in equal measure, her years here between J1 and J3, she has been as dedicated and selfless as any practitioner you could wish to work with throughout your career. Her commitment to her pupils has been, and will remain, an inspiration to us all. Blessed with a conscientiousness and keen eye for detail, she would endlessly ply the children with sound advice and warmly insist that the only way was forwards. Carole has an enviable knack of making her lessons fun whilst also allowing her children to make fantastic progress through carefully-planned, challenging activities. In recent years there has been a large number of J1 Troopers (children who have gone through the entire 7 to 18 age range) who recall fondly their wonderful first year at Solihull School with Mrs Steele as their Form Tutor.

But of course it isn't just our pupils who have enormous respect and gratitude for Carole. She has been praised highly by inspectors and senior managers for her expert mentoring of four of the current Junior School staff in their first year of teaching, who remain indebted to her for going way beyond the call of duty on so many occasions to make sure they had all the support and advice they needed to excel.

Carole has always been a great team player and equally adept at leading. She has been Subject Leader for History, English and Geography at different times and led each of those subjects with characteristic vision, energy and competency.

Throughout all of her time at Solihull School she has also been the unashamedly partisan House Mistress of Windsor, leading them successfully to no less than six Inter-House Championships and dozens of individual competition wins, from House Singing to GK Quiz. Having originally trained as a Secondary PE teacher Carole spent countless hours sharing her sporting talents with successive year groups, always driving herself and her pupils to do the very best they can. In the first half of Carole's career in the Junior School it was still a boys' school, during which time her U11 A-team won the Warwickshire County Hockey Champions more often than our competitors combined. Since the inception of co-education in 2008 until the beginning of this academic year, she lead Girls'

Games and her U11 netball team never finished outside the top 3 in the South Solihull Leagues, even when promoted from the B league to the A league and having, in the early stages, a relatively small number of girls.

We, and Carole, have lost count of the number of school trips and residential trips she has joined over the years. Be it the Centre of Alternative Technology in Wales or the annual J3 trip to PGL in Shropshire, she has wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of the occasion during the day and long after the children have fallen asleep. Whether she was willingly dunking herself in a freezing river, clambering up a climbing wall or dropping like a stone from a giant swing, Carole was never happier than when she was in the thick of it with the children. Her mischievous, and somewhat naughty, sense of humour whilst relaxing with colleagues in the evenings was something we as staff always looked forward to.

Carole has been such an integral part of the fabric of the Junior School for such a long time it will feel very strange to start next term without her. She has seen both of her own children pass through the School and now the sun has set on her own glorious career here. It is time for Carole to experience the joy and adventure of the next stage of her life. Her contribution here could not have been greater, nor our gratitude for everything she has done. We wish her and her wonderful family the very best of luck and we hope that Carole will have the long, glorious and happy retirement she so richly deserves.

Mark Penney



Pamela Davies

Pam Davies joined Solihull School in 1992 as a visiting music teacher. Her primary role was to teach singing to individual pupils and this she has done with extraordinary enthusiasm, dedication and success ever since. Most of her pupils from J1 through to the Upper Sixth have consistently achieved merits or distinctions in their graded music exams, a remarkable achievement.

However, before too long Pam immersed herself in the musical life of the Chapel, firstly working with Peter Irving and latterly with Oliver Walker. She established the first Girls' Choir long before the School became fully co-educational. This choir initially sang secular repertoire but occasionally did sing for Chapel Services enabling Messrs Irving and Walker to have an evening off conducting and move to the organ bench. When not conducting or rehearsing the girls, Pam has been a loyal member of the alto line. She has even given up her Christmas Eves every year to provide an ad hoc choir of current pupils and alumni for the Midnight Mass, playing the organ and conducting – not at the same time, but if anybody could, you feel it would be Pam!

In 1999 Pam joined the full-time staff on the retirement of Jill Godsall. She undertook responsibility for the administration of the School's termly ABRSM practical and theory music examinations with frightening efficiency! In addition she set up boys and later girls' barbershop groups. They regularly performed at concerts, Open Mornings and at Music Festivals, generating friendly rivalry between the two barbershop ensembles to the point where at one Festival the girls sat pulling faces at the boys, trying to put them off! (The girls were presumably successful as they won their class!). Pam has also been responsible for the Junior School Choir which has flourished under her leadership, and now boasts a cast of hundreds (well, almost).

Pam has been an irrepressible evangelist for singing in her time at Solihull School. As well as establishing the original Girls' Choir (subsequently evolving into the girls' parts of the Chamber Choir), she has latterly taken responsibility for the direction of the 'new' Girls' Choir, comprising younger pupils. She has organised dozens of vocal concerts both here and outside School and has engendered such a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment for singing it became necessary to recruit two additional singing teachers to join Pam.

Pam has now decided the time is right to hang up her choral and administrative reins. She will be much missed by the vocal ensembles to which she has given so much energy, enthusiasm, commitment and musical expertise. However, it is good news for her singing pupils that she is returning to her life pre-1999 as a member of the visiting music teaching staff. Happily, therefore, many more singers of all ages and abilities will still have the chance to benefit from Pam's expertise and enthusiasm for a while longer. One retirement down, one to go!

Stephen Perrins



Elvira Cassano

Elvira joined the staff at Solihull School in 1997, to coincide with the introduction of A-Level Spanish into the curriculum. Despite being part time, she has entered fully into the life of the Modern Foreign Languages Department and, indeed, of the School as a whole.

Elvira has kept her colleagues in the Spanish Department up to date with developments in modern Spain and researched excellent resources for use in A-Level lessons on a variety of controversial issues. She has also enabled all of us to maintain and enrich our own knowledge of Spanish by adamantly speaking to us only in Spanish – indeed, she does this even to those who don't speak Spanish! She has brought a real taste of Spain and a real intellectual quality to the Department; many Sixth Formers have left us to study languages at university and all have returned to tell us how well they perform in speaking tasks compared to many of their peers. A recent e-mail from the parent of a student now studying Spanish as part of his degree testifies to the quality of her teaching: 'he is now fluent in Spanish and this is down to the quality of the teaching in the MFL Department.

Elvira has been involved in many of the co-curricular activities we have organised: cooking for the Spanish café at Open Day, running a cooking workshop, attending films, and organising a Spanish workshop on how to dance flamenco. She has also accompanied many MFL trips, most recently the Spanish Exchange to Orihuela, which she was instrumental in setting up. She has been with us to Jerez, to Cadiz and to Peru, and also to Paris and Normandy, providing much needed staff presence on these language visits, from which so many have benefited.

In the Languages Department, we will miss her positive and forthright personality. We will also miss her extraordinary efficiency in sourcing and cataloguing our many language resources. We will miss her friendship and her readiness to organise our social activities, all based on a shared love of Spain. Elvira will continue to teach adults in her evening classes, and to organise more trips and visits for the intellectually curious.

Meryl Barrett



David Hemp

David Lloyd Hemp joined Solihull as Cricket Professional in September 2010 having finished his own 1st class cricket career, playing for England A, Glamorgan, Warwickshire and Bermuda. His reputation as the Vinnie Jones of cricket was soon realised.

His continuous quest to be the best was certainly clear for all to see as he brought a professional outlook to school cricket. The pupils learnt a great deal about the game and life in general from this legend of the game. The aggressive attacking style of cricket he was renowned for became evident across all age groups, both in training and matches. The enthusiasm Hemp brought to all sessions and matches was like a shot of adrenaline. His commitment certainly earned the respect of pupils and staff alike, whilst his direct approach always brought results. To Hemp e-mails were always a get-out clause!

In January 2013 David was appointed as Head of Games as the Department was restructured. This was just reward for a man with Solihull in his heart and a person who never wanted to rest on his laurels. He brought new ideas to the table every day in order to keep games at Solihull ahead of the chasing pack.

David Hemp is a true gent who will be greatly missed by all at Solihull. It is not very often you have the chance to work alongside such a professional, but I have. Solihull is grateful for all David achieved in his time with us but we wish him, Aug, Cameron and Kendall the very best of luck in Melbourne, Australia. They know the door will always be open!

Steven Thompson



Viv Taylor

Viv Taylor retired at the end of the Easter term 2014, having first started working in the Junior School at the beginning of 2003. From September of that year, Viv led Learning and Curriculum Support across the Junior School and on two separate occasions stepped into the role of full-time J1 Form Tutor.

As a Form Tutor she took great care of her tutees and nurtured them through their first year at the School, altruistically stepping out of her established role on both occasions to use her experience and knowledge of the 'Solihull School way' to great effect.

In her capacity as Learning and Curriculum Support Coordinator she regularly went beyond the call of duty and worked both one-to-one and in small groups, with children in need of additional support.

She was also a valued member of our Art Department for many years and contributed, in no small way, to the high standards we have all grown accustomed to seeing around the Junior School. Science and History too have benefited from Viv's input, teaching, as she did, considerable amounts of both during her time here in tandem with Learning Support.

Regardless of what roles Viv undertook, her hard work, determination and commitment to the Junior School and its pupils shone through. She could always be relied upon to do her very best, with characteristic conscientiousness and diligence.

A stalwart of Junior School trips, there was scarcely a time when Viv did not throw her hat in the ring when volunteering to take numerous Year Groups around the Midlands and beyond. The Botanical Gardens, Umberslade Farm, Ash End Farm and Jaguar Land Rover, to name but a few, all featured regularly on a very impressive list of co-curricular opportunities that Viv organised herself, and very often in her own time.

She was also an annual volunteer for the J3 trip to PGL, Shropshire, and she can stake entirely legitimate claim to having pioneered what our pupils have come to view as a birthright - a Junior School PGL hoodie! Much to our collective delight she was also the purveyor of outrageously delicious home-made cakes, which did as much for our sense of indulgence as it did little for our waistbands. Is it any wonder Viv ran such a popular and successful Cookery Club for many years? On each and every trip Viv could always be relied upon to roll her sleeves up, do whatever needed to be done, and more, and to wholeheartedly involve herself in any activities the children were involved in.

You get to know colleagues well by seeing how they react to falling in a freezing lake, jumping off an uncomfortably high trapeze platform, or dangling from a giant swing. In doing so, Viv always showed a joie de vivre, an insistence on not being beaten and an admirable predisposition to challenge herself well beyond her comfort zone. If there are traits that bode any better for a long, healthy and happy retirement, I'm not aware of them. Viv, you go with our sincere thanks for all you have done for the Junior School during your time here and our very best wishes for all you choose to do in the future.

Mark Penney



Helen Johnson

Helen Johnson (Dr J to her students) joined the History Department in 2011 and rapidly made her mark both on the department and the School as a whole. As a History teacher she has a highly academic approach, combining wide-ranging subject knowledge with a strong desire to push the intellectual boundaries of her students. She expects her students to perform highly and they do – in a department of strong results, hers are some of the best. However, the foundation of her success as a teacher is undoubtedly her empathy for the students – she has endless time for them and believes that each of them has the capacity to succeed. It is this which has inspired the love of her students which has been demonstrated in numerous ways since news of her departure emerged, most recently in the actions of the Lower Sixth Politics class who transformed her classroom into a Liberal Democrat election headquarters, complete with life-size Nick Clegg cut-out! Outside the department Helen has led the Debating Society to ever-increasing participation and success – debating now happens from the Junior School to the Upper Sixth, and Solihull is unquestionably the leading debating society in the Midlands, regularly sending teams to the finals of national competitions. As well as this she has transformed the School's Oxbridge preparation and had a direct impact on the significant increase in the number of offers Solihull students have received in recent years. It is no surprise at all that Trent College snapped her up to lead their History and Politics department and although we all wish she was not leaving we know she will continue to be as outstandingly successful there as she has been here; we wish her all the best for the future.

Gareth Affleck



Hayley Miles

Hayley Miles joined Solihull School in November 2011 as the School's first ever dedicated Human Resources (HR) Manager. Setting up the office and function from new was a daunting prospect but a challenge that Hayley took on with determination and charm. Gathering together the various strands of HR activity from across other administrative departments was not straightforward, but it wasn't long before she accomplished this and gained the trust and confidence of all staff. Hayley's open door policy and welcoming nature made her an instant success with teachers and non-teachers alike.

Hayley brought a broad range of HR skills and expertise to the School, supporting and guiding the Headmaster, Bursar and many others with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and by sharing best practice with other schools and institutions. On Hayley's 'watch', the School moved many HR issues forward, notably recruitment, professional development, appraisals and HR handbooks for all.

Hayley was the first occupant of the newly renovated Leonard Stevens Building, and all those that subsequently joined Hayley there enjoyed her unfailing cheery disposition and support. Hayley's glass is invariably 'half full' and her contribution to the School went beyond HR, leading the 2nd netball VII to many successes and taking pupils on a range of trips.

Hayley leaves us to join Birmingham City University's HR department which fits better with the demands of a young family and we wish her well in what, I'm sure, will be a very successful career. Perhaps the real testament to Hayley's time at the School is that it is now impossible to imagine the School without an HR manager, and for this we are very grateful. She will be a tough act to follow – thank you Hayley.

David Lloyd

Carol Southworth

Carol Southworth first joined the History Department in April 2013 as maternity cover for Dr Partridge and then again in October 2013 as maternity cover for Mrs Sykes. Having spent the majority of her career at King Edward's School, she brought with her very high academic expectations and an incredibly wide-ranging knowledge of the subject which has undoubtedly enriched her students' experience of History. She seems to have an inexhaustible supply of energy and taught a very demanding programme of classes and topics across all age ranges. Her A-Level students in particular have benefitted from her expertise in early-modern history and she has also played a valuable role in the preparation of our students for their Oxbridge applications. In the department office her experience has been greatly valued, as has her ability to wash up tea cups, which no one else in the department seems able (or willing) to do! We would like to thank Carol for all her help over the last couple of years and wish her a restful holiday.

Gareth Affleck



Dan Protherough

Mr Daniel Protherough joined us from Moseley RFC during the summer of 2013. He arrived as a man of reputation within the sporting life of the Midlands and fitted in superbly to the Business and Economics Department. Almost immediately Dan proved to be a great hit with staff and pupils alike. With a unique style and with panache, he taught a variety of exam classes with great success and would always go the extra mile. Dan never thought anything of marking students' work at 4.00am . . . all part of being an NQT.

In such a small period of time Dan left a big footprint! His love of rugby and cricket saw him coaching the U16 XV and 2nd XI to many wins. Again he gave of his time so freely to help players be the best they could be. On a number of occasions Dan also showed himself to be a quality squash player and part of the Solihull Staff Golf Club!

He will be missed by all at Solihull due to this attitude of 'bring everything to the party!' We wish him good luck on the next stage of his career at Tudor Grange and also as coach of Bromsgrove RFC. Good luck to a great bloke!

Steven Thompson



Laura Adkins

Even though we were fortunate to benefit from Laura's expertise for just one academic year, before she chose to return to her life as a full-time professional artist, she made a considerable impact during her time here. Whilst working part-time as our Junior School Art Technician, Laura's ability to display the pupils' work so beautifully has been appreciated by all. Her work, always of a consistently high quality, has turned otherwise unremarkable spaces into ones where children and adults dwell in admiration.

She also proved to be every bit as adept when turning her hand to the *Spamalot* and *Porridge!* stage sets and created bespoke props of everything from cheese wedges to fake suitcases of money for the J4 cast to use during their shows. The reactions of the children and staff said it all each time Laura produced yet another entirely convincing prop.

Graphic designer, artist, photographer, ceramicist, potter, illustrator and published author... it's fair to say there was nothing Laura couldn't and didn't do this year. She commanded the technicalities of her role as admirably as she did modestly. Perhaps, though, her longest lasting legacy will prove to be *'Scuffle Goes To School'*, a children's book that Laura worked on in her own time this year, on behalf of the School. The exceptional quality and imagination of her illustrations, complementing the endearing tale of two young squirrels and their adventures in the Junior School, will delight all those who read it for many years to come.

We wish Laura the very best with her professional career and eagerly await news of her exhibitions in the future.

Mark Penney





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John Jennings 14



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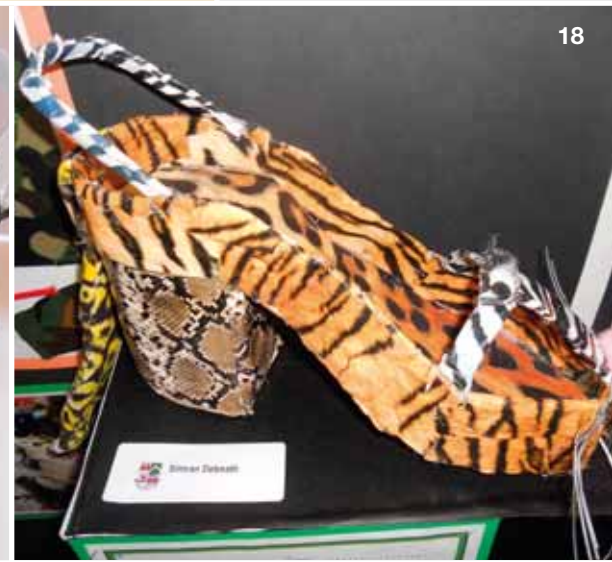
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21



Tegan Gilbert 22

Junior School Art

- 1. Aimee Burgin J1
- 2. Annabel Bagshaw and Lara Fletcher J2
- 3. Cameron Holland J1
- 4. Arnav Umranikar J4
- 5. Arabella Morrall J3
- 6. Dhillon Virdee- Oakley J3
- 7. Grace Henwood J1
- 8. Jayvyn Yagnik J1
- 9. Hannah Greenwood J1
- 10. Hanaan Welch J4
- 11. Melissa Yip J4
- 12. Morgane Lyko-Edwards J4
- 13. Jessica Anderson J4
- 14. John Jennings J2
- 15. Josh Woodman J3
- 16. Lainey Murphy J3
- 17. Mariella Scott and Jane Woodley J2
- 18. Simran Debnath J4
- 19. Orissa Mistry J1
- 20. Sophie Anderson J3
- 21. Woody Pugh and Oscar Montgomery J4
- 22. Tegan Gilbert J2

The Junior School



J1 Trip to Ash End Farm

We arrived at the farm on a lovely, sunny day, And the first thing we did was get off the coach and play!
Next we had our snack and a long, cool drink,
Before meeting our guide, called Farmer Frances, I think.
First we fed the hungry goats with green leaves and grain,
Before passing along a bottle of milk for a baby kid again and again.

After that was the barn with the fluffy lambs and sheep,
Some were fed grain, but others were fast asleep.
In the Hatchery we saw ducklings and chicks which were very sweet,

And then on to the Hen House to collect an egg to eat.
We saw a turkey's head go wobble, wobble, wobble,
And apparently all they say is gobble gobble gobble!
In the piggery there were piglets, feeding from a sow,
And then Millie and Lucia became a calf and cow.

Hugo and Rhea ground some grain using a clever machine,
Then Robert sieved it carefully to make it really clean.
We saw horses in their stables and stroked their soft noses,
One was called Grace – look how she poses!
After seeing some ducks we washed the dirt on our hands away,
Ready to eat our scrummy lunch and have another play.
We were lucky after lunch to see a baby owl and different birds of prey,
Before splitting into smaller groups for the rest of the fun-filled day.

We bought souvenirs in the shop with our five pounds,
And had the opportunity to jump and run around.
It was the final school trip for these three musketeers,
Who have been on many outings together over the years.
We all had a great day, it was really cool,
And we walked to the coach happily to travel back to School.





J4 France Residential Trip

On Friday 16 May 2014, the Chapel car park had a noticeable air of excitement as the J4s eagerly gathered around the coach bound for the PGL Centre, Le Pre Catelan, in Hardelot, France. The coach journey seemed long and tedious but after a never-ending stream of 'Are we nearly there yets?' and 'Miss, I'm going to be sick!' we arrived in Folkestone at the Channel Tunnel terminal.

As we emerged out of the tunnel, we were greeted in Calais by gorgeously hot weather and a sky that was totally devoid of clouds. That evening, we discovered the beach, which skirted the picturesque Opal Coastline, where the expanse of sand stretched as far as the eye could see. The evening of typical beach activities was all part of the teachers' tactical plan, clearly aimed at tiring the J4s out! But sadly, the plan was destined to fail, for we J4s had an abundance of energy still to exhaust that day!

On Saturday we woke up bright and early, ready for our first whole day in France. We were split into groups for our first challenge of the day: the Prep a Manger competition. For this, we had to prepare a meal fit for us to eat. We bought all of the food from the local market, which was full of fresh produce, and spent the whole of the morning baffling the shop owners with our badly spoken French. Cheeses, fruits, cold meats, pastries, cakes, and, in some cases, even flowers to win over the judges!



We tucked into our meal then got ready to go on our next trip, the Chocolaterie de Bussent. There we were taught how to make our own chocolates, as well as what is good for you. Following the great talk, we got to the bit that we had all been waiting for – the part where we would get free samples and have a chance to buy things from their shop. The chocolate was amazing and healthy too!

The next day we were to compete in the mini Olympics, which was welcomed with open arms. The moment our feet touched the warm, golden sand a smile spread across all of our faces. Let the games begin! We all had a great time in the Olympics, however, there is one race that is stuck in all of our minds, the 'most realistic chicken impression', in which there were many strong and convincing competitors. This was followed soon afterwards by the best sandcastle competition, with one group falling on theirs before it could be judged! We lunched on the rocks before heading off for a town trail in the centre of Hardelot. After a refreshing ice cream we sauntered home to a classic French dinner, which much to our horror included the dreaded snails. This memorable episode was rounded off by a trip to the local creperie and a final visit to the beach.

Eventually the dreaded last day came. We hauled ourselves onto the coach waving our final goodbyes to the staff. We weren't on the coach for long though, because about half an hour later we were pulling up to a sweet factory to undergo a demonstration on how to make sweets, in French. Having all bought enough sweets to open a shop we clambered back on the coach for the journey to the Eurotunnel. Some people were still hoping to see some fish – whilst in the tunnel!

After four hours of nonstop singing and shouting we arrived weary and tired back at School to be greeted by our overjoyed parents. We'd all like to thank the PGL staff, and the School staff for organising this amazing trip for us all, and all the hard work they've put in behind the scenes for it all to happen.

Eleanor Gooderidge, Jessica Anderson, Kyle Trainer and William Sargent, J4





PGL at Boreatton Park

On the 9th of May, an extremely excited J3 piled into the coaches, ecstatic about what PGL would hold. Every five minutes the teachers were asked if we were nearly there! When we arrived we had our lunch before going to our cabins to get ready for raft building. We learned how to tie knots and made eight very good rafts between the seven groups (and the teachers' raft). We had an oar each and despite trying to splash the teachers, they always managed to splash us more as thanks to Mr Jones, they had two water pistols between them. Maybe the mud war-paint on their faces put us off! The activities included canoeing, trapeze, the climbing wall, Jacob's ladder, aeroball and most people's favourite, the giant swing. We were also fortunate to be allowed to have a go on the zip wire for one of our evening activities.

Canoeing was a new experience for most of us and included forfeits such as filling your waterproof sleeve with water or filling your shoe with water and tipping it on a head of a person in your canoe. If you heard our screaming at Boreatton Park in Solihull this was probably when we were on the giant swing. In the giant swing you are attached to a bar through your harness whilst everyone else hoists you up into the air. You then pull the dreaded cord. As the cord snaps you fall, quite fast!

Jacob's ladder is very challenging but many made it to the top. Thomas Currie made it to the top of Jacob's ladder with a blindfold on! The climbing wall also posed an amusing activity as we were not allowed down until we shouted 'Does my bum



look big in this?' All of the boys and the girls got competitive as the tidy room competition entered PGL. I'm pretty certain no one slept at all the first night but on the second night some people slept for a record breaking 9 hours! The food at PGL was delicious!

Sadly our PGL experience did have to end. We went in the coaches and waved goodbye to Boreatton Park singing the crazy moose, one of the many songs we sang moving between activities. We all made many memories and are very thankful to Miss Compton for organising one of the best weekends of our lives and for the rest of the teachers who put up with our singing all weekend.

Isabel Fennell, J3H





J3 Public Speaking

Eight J3 pupils competed in the annual J3 Public Speaking final to decide the winner of the Taylor-Steele Shield, which has been newly introduced to mark the retirement of Mrs Taylor and Mrs Steele. This year, the children were lucky enough to have the chance to present their talks in the Bushell Hall. The standard was incredibly high, as all pupils spoke with impressive clarity, confidence and enthusiasm. It was a tough decision for the judges, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Steele, and they decided to award joint second place to William Thomas and Claudia Reda. The Taylor-Steele Shield for the overall winner went to Zain Rizvi for his fantastic talk on 'The Top Five Phobias' – he certainly did not suffer from glossophobia!

Miss J Hanlon

J2 trip to Jaguar Land Rover

As part of our Geography topic on Settlements, we went to visit one of Solihull's largest businesses, the car manufacturer, Jaguar Land Rover.

We were collected in a Land Rover minibus and soon arrived, where we were given a safety briefing along with a talk about how the production is organised and what vehicles they make.

We were then driven around the factory and could see all the finished cars stacked ready for distribution on the huge transporters. A lot of the track production these days is performed by robots and we were given the opportunity to have a go on a mini robot, using them to pick up different sized bolts.

After this we saw the construction area where the separate parts were glued and bolted together to make the chassis. We were amazed just how many different robots there were with only a few people to control them.

When we entered the welding factory we had to wear safety goggles to protect our eyes from any sparks. It was very noisy in here and there was lots going on. There was also a large off-road test track where potential buyers can try out the more rugged vehicles like the Land Rovers.

To finish off the day we had a go at assembling a mini car out of Lego to simulate how cars are built in stages. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we will never look at a car in the same way again!

Jem Perry, J2SC

experience





Junior School Decathlon 2014

The final charity event of the year took place in the Summer Term. The legendary 'Decathlon Day' actually involved eleven activities instead of the traditional ten and took place on the Junior School Fields during the morning of Friday 6 June. Combining physical activity with an abundance of fun, the children took part in events such as shooting baskets, dribbling footballs, an obstacle course, space hopper relay and, everybody's favourite, wellie 'wanging'! In their form groups, the children moved from one activity to another, throughout the morning, working together and hoping to achieve better results than the other classes in their year group.

The Junior School Council decided that this year's charity was to be Reynolds Cross School. Based on Kineton Green Road in Olton, the school supports over 100 pupils between the ages of 2 and 18 who have a wide range of complex learning difficulties and an increasing number of pupils have medical needs and challenging behaviours. Our School Council members also had the honour of visiting the school on the morning of Friday 23 May in order to see first-hand how it helps and benefits the children.

As a result of the children's endeavours, the Junior School managed to raise a magnificent total of over £5,200. A tremendous effort! Well done to all the children and staff for making it such a successful occasion.

Mr S Mitchell

Henry's Memory is Simply Capital!

From Bujumbra in Burundi to Niamey in Niger, Henry Close will not be beaten when it comes to naming the world's capital cities.

The J1 pupil is constantly being tested by his friends and teachers but not even the obscurest of places have caught him out.

Now he wants to take on all-comers to test his claim to being able to name all 220 country and territory capitals.



Junior School Charity Week 2013

Junior School Charity Week took place, as ever, in the week before the October half term. The fund-raising began with the children collecting an abundance of copper coins and then taking part in, or supporting, the annual 'Monitors v Staff' football match – there was only ever going to be one winner (better luck next time, monitors!). This was followed by the now-infamous 'Great Big Junior School Tuck Shop' when, once again, the entire Junior School transformed the Refectory into possibly the busiest tuck shop in the world as enthusiastic Junior School children became experts in extracting cash from Senior School children by selling an abundance of toasties, pizza, popcorn, chocolate, sweets and soft drinks. The children also had the opportunity to run a variety of games and activities during their lunch breaks that included, 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' and 'How Many Sweets in the Jar?' This year saw the introduction of the Charity Cinema and we are grateful for the support of the Senior School in a non-uniform day that helped boost the monies raised by a considerable margin.

A tiring, yet exciting, week was rounded off by the Junior School Talent Contest, where the children had a chance to shine in an entertainment extravaganza.

Once again, the Junior School's endeavours broke all records, with a mammoth total of £6,400 being raised for this year's designated charity, Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR) which was set up with the aim of relieving the poverty of



innocent victims in war-ravaged areas of Sri Lanka by assisting and enhancing their livelihood.

Thank you to all of those who supported this year's events, with a special mention to the Sixth Form Benchers and helpers; to Mrs Round and the kitchen staff and, of course, all the Junior School children and staff that continue to make this event so successful.

Mr S Mitchell





Religious Studies in the Junior School

The children of the Junior School have continued to embrace Religious Studies and have taken part in a number of activities and trips to extend their knowledge and understanding of different religions. As part of our termly topic themes, the J1s visited St Alphege Church to go on a 'Journey to the Stable' at Christmas time, and the J2s went to experience the sights and sounds of Sikh worship at Handsworth Gurdwara. This year, we also introduced a Video Conference to the J4 'Human Rights' topic which was led by Chris Lubbe, a former bodyguard for Nelson Mandela. The J4s asked some perceptive and thoughtful questions to an inspirational man who has experienced so much growing up in South Africa through the Apartheid.

We are lucky to have representation from many different religions in School and actively encourage children in each year group to share their knowledge and experiences with their friends in class too. Pupils have been treated to Kosher food, talks on the Puja Tray and Qur'an, as well as seeing and handling many different religious artefacts in lessons brought in from pupils' homes. Thank you to all those children who have contributed so willingly to make our RS lessons so much fun.

Mrs D Penney, RS Co-ordinator of the Junior School



Junior School Scholars

Fourteen Junior School pupils celebrated having between them won 12 Scholarships and 3 Music Awards in the Solihull School 11+ Entrance Exam. This was a fantastic achievement which recognises the pupils' hard work in the classroom and their talents in Academia, Art, Music and Sport. Nine Academic Scholarships, two Sports Scholarships, three Music Awards and an 11+ Art Scholarship, in the first year that it has been offered, were awarded to Junior School pupils this year. We will be following their future progress and success as they join the Scholars' programme. Well done to them and all of our other J4 pupils who have earned their place in the Senior School in such a competitive exam.

Trip to the Sealife Centre

The J1 pupils visited the Sealife Centre in Birmingham to inspire ideas for their art printing project. After a guided tour and a trip to the 4D cinema, pupils observed and sketched their favourite sea creatures. The pupils saw lots of amazing sea life including otters, tropical fish, crabs, sharks and even penguins!







Junior School Art 2013-14

Another successful year has gone by in the Junior School, with all the pupils thoroughly enjoying a wide variety of Art and Design activities.

The year got off to a fantastic start, with world- renowned, local artist Ian Cook paying the Junior School a visit. Ian led an inspiring assembly in the Bushell Hall for all the pupils, demonstrating his unique style of painting - using radio controlled cars to create the School crest. The J4 pupils were then involved in a day long workshop, rotating around a carousel of exciting activities, intended to extend their creativity with paint. More of the 'Crest' painting later....

The J2s and J3s also started the year appreciating the work of well-known artists. The J2 pupils focused on the colourful, wacky style of Friedensreich Hundertwasser, honing their colour-mixing and fine painting skills to produce some amazing artwork in his style. The J3 pupils familiarised themselves with the work of Wassily Kandinsky, noting his union of music, emotion and art to create his paintings and in doing so they constructed fabulous abstract canvases. The J1 pupils studied portraiture and had a lot of fun observing how to draw their own portrait, which then extended into constructing their own imaginative 'Funky Faces' out of clay.

The Easter term saw the Junior School 'Shoe' project brought to life. All year groups took on the theme, becoming 'Shoe Designers' in the process, producing a variety of shoes using different ideas and processes. All pupils conducted research into shoes, drew shoes from observation, and created their own design using various construction methods. The J1s then used their imagination to update an old pair of shoes, the J2s looked at 'Monochrome' and decorated their shoes accordingly, the J3s used papier mache to construct and then decorate in the style of an artist of their choice and the J4s used their shoes to demonstrate their hopes and dreams for the future. Everyone had great fun making them and many pupils' shoes, drawings and ideas were exhibited in the Summer Art Exhibition in the George Hill Building, where they were admired by all.



Finally, to tie in with their imminent transition from Junior to Senior School pupils, the J4s embarked on a 'Mask Making' task, inspired by Head of School Lauren Buchan. The aim was to create a mask that completely represented them, embracing all their talents, skills and aspects of their personality that would help them integrate into their new classes. The pupils were full of creative ideas and produced some very innovative designs.

Bringing the year to a close was the delivery of the much anticipated large scale canvas from Ian Cook, depicting the School Crest. A fleet of 30 radio controlled cars were used to paint the artwork, along with a variety of wheels and tyres and it now takes pride of place in the Bushell Hall foyer.

Mrs R Morgan

J4 Drama Production - *Porridge*

Since the beginning of the year, the whole Junior School waited in anticipation for the drama production, *Porridge*. All the J4s enjoyed the many weeks leading up to the two-night, hilarious hit on 30 and 31 January. With the help of the ever-talented Miss Lynch and Miss Compton, the amusing musical, starring Jack Spratt (Jack Rootkin-Gray) and Papa Bear (Patrick Gransbury) as lead roles attracted a lot of special attention.

It took place in Happy Valley, where the mysterious Detective Jack Spratt introduced the audience to the first song, 'Once upon a crime'. After this, Goldie Locks (Courtney Holland) appeared, looking for help. She proceeded to unravel the whole story: Mother Hubbard (Kyra Johal) was distraught over losing her single cow Marigold, played by the comedy duo Mr Thomas and Mr Mitchell, who squeezed into a single costume. Goldie and Simple Simon (Guy Sandler) tried with all their might to cheer her up when Marigold walked in, accompanied by a bunch of fairy tale characters (Humpty Dumpty, Little Bo Peep, Wee Willie Winkie and Peter Piper, played by Freddie Albrighton, Olivia Featherstone, Isaac Miller, Isabelle Collins and Simmi Debnath respectively.) As everybody calmly chatted away, Tom Tom (Tommy Simmons) was arrested for Pig Napping! Meanwhile, the restaurant 'The Porridge Pot' was opened and the bear family announced their plans to go global. Unfortunately, Junior Bear (Ella Furber) did not want to be part of the family business. Little did everybody know somebody was behind all the crimes in Happy Valley. Papa Bear for that matter! The only people who knew were Goldie and Junior, and they needed help from Jack Spratt, Private Detective. After a kerfuffle with cases and a character nearly being falsely framed the culprit was caught by Inspector Drain (Hanaan Welch) and her comedic Boys in Blue (Emily Baker, Josh Denton, Pranav Sivakumar and John Abram.)

Porridge was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a highlight of 2014. Special thanks must go to Mrs Morgan and Mrs Adkins who designed and made the set and props. We would again like to thank Mr Thomas and Mr Mitchell, and of course Miss Lynch and Miss Compton who, as well as letting us have loads of fun and enjoyment with the production, also helped us to gain an amazing reaction from the audience. It was certainly an experience none of us will be forgetting for a very long time. Thank you to everyone who came and watched, especially the Mayor, who made time for us in his busy schedule. Thank you!

Guy Sandler, J4H



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

On Friday 20 June, the budding J1 actresses performed a memorable modern-day performance of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. They memorised their lines and delivered them faultlessly, showing some super acting ability. We are looking forward to them appearing in the future J3 Junior School Production.



Junior School Orchestra

The Junior School Orchestra is led by Lauren Raybould and conducted by Miss Dolby. I only came to Solihull School last September but joined the orchestra straight away and I have been made very welcome by everyone. We get together during Tuesday morning break. We practise music in preparation for concerts and we also learn how to be better musicians. This year we performed on 5 March in the Junior School Concert in the Bushell Hall. The orchestra played lively and loud arrangements of 'Kum-Ba-Yah' and 'Procession'. We looked forward to the Summer Concert in which we played the two traditional Caribbean songs 'Jamaican Dance' and 'All Night, All Day'. Miss Dolby is a very welcoming and supportive teacher. We would love to see some new pupils join the orchestra next term as it is great fun learning together! We wish very good luck to all the J4 players who will be moving to the Senior School in September.

Isabel O'Malley, J3

Junior School Wind Band

This year Wind Band started off loud, playing in the Junior School choir service the classic 'The Good King Rocks'- an adaptation of 'Good King Wenceslas'. Afterwards, we went straight on to practising for our futuristic Easter Concert piece 'Android Attack'. This piece was a good chance for the entire band to work together to make an especially scary tune.

For our final piece this year, we are doing 'Rock It Science'. There will be loads of percussion to make a big noise, and all together it is probably the loudest piece of the year! All the J4s have enjoyed the experience of playing in Junior Wind Band and are looking forward to playing in another one next year. A massive thanks to Miss Greswold, who helped us play our best and made Wind Band so enjoyable. Also, thank you to all the members who came every week to play and contribute to a successful group.

Guy Sandler, J4

Junior School String Ensemble

The String Ensemble has been a great success this year with more than twenty players attending each week, with pupils of all ages and abilities from the Junior School welcome to join in the fun.

We meet to practise every Monday break and one of the great successes from the entire Ensemble was at the Easter term Junior School Concert on 5 March when we played an outstanding performance of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Other pieces we have played this year have included *A French Suite* which we performed at the Summer Concert on 26 June.

Sadly we say farewell to the following pupils who leave to join the Senior School next term; John Abram (viola), Lauren Raybould, Megan Davies, and Morgane Lyko-Edwards (violin) and Freddie Albrighton and Jack Rootkin-Gray (double bass). We have all had so much fun and learned so much about ourselves as musicians. None of this would have been possible without the hard work, encouragement and support of our wonderful conductor, Miss Dolby.

John Abram, J4

Junior School Brass Group

This year, Brass Group has progressed into playing some well-known pieces. We now have trombones, tubas, trumpets and cornets. Everyone in brass group has accomplished many feats and has played as a group extraordinarily well. Blue Danube, Titanic and Easy Winners are just a few of the many pieces we have learnt this year. After playing in two concerts and many assemblies, we are proceeding towards the Summer Concert. Well done to all members of Brass Group and thank you to Mr Pascall for helping us along the way.

Emily Baker, J4A

Junior School Flute Group

Flute Group is amazing. We bring the best music to your ears and we will inspire you to play the flute. If you already play the flute we would like you to join us. We are at Monday lunch time (12:30) with Miss Greswold. The most fun thing being at Flute Group is that most of the time you will get sweets. However it may be challenging for some people. In my opinion I think Flute Group is the Best group ever. We are friendly, honest, and confident in everything we do. We also have played in many concerts. We currently have five people and we would love to have more.

Joanne Wu, J3SM

Junior School Saxophone Group

This year the Junior School Saxophone Group has grown in numbers and we now have six members! We have performed in the Christmas Concert and are working hard preparing for the Summer Concert in which we are playing Saxophone Banter! I would like to thank all the members of the group – Annabel Dalby, Oscar Huissoon, Jessica Toogood, Lauren Besford, Ella Giles and Arrabella Morrall – for working hard. Also thank you to Miss Greswold for leading the group to be a very successful ensemble!

Annabel Dalby, J4

The Junior Jazzers

The Junior Jazz Band or the 'Junior Jazzers' is a newly created club started by our very own Miss Greswold at the end of the Easter Term. It consists of Oscar Huissoon, Jess Toogood, Hanaan Welch and Annabel Dalby on the saxophone, Isaac Miller and Jessica Anderson on the trombone, Emily Baker, Freddie Truman and Simmi Debnath on the trumpet and Oscar Montgomery and Yusuf Skinner on the drums. Currently, we are playing a tune called 'A Rock' and hope to perform it at the Junior School Summer Concert. See you there!

Isaac Miller, J4H



Junior School Sport 2013/14

It has been another busy year for the Junior School pupils on the sports field. With over 80 fixtures across all ages, there is much to report...



Rugby

P - 19 W - 16 L - 2 D - 1

As is evident from the match statistics, it has been a stellar 2014 campaign for Junior School Rugby. Teams from J1 all the way through to J4 have competed in some blockbuster fixtures! A particular highlight for the J1s was avenging an early season loss to King Henry VIII, coming out victorious 7 tries to 6 in their return tag match.

The J2s put together an excellent run of wins, with a particularly robust performance against Hallfield with Ben Raybould and Seb Thompson standing out amongst others. The J3s were also outstanding against Bablake, showing that they have a lot to offer in their final year.

All this said, the standout performance across possibly all sports this year went to the J4 Sevens team who travelled to the Bedford Modern Invitational Sevens event on a wet Monday afternoon. All the hard work on the training paddock paid off as overlaps were utilised, tackles were made with ferocity and gaps in opposition defences were exploited. The team put in a near perfect display to come out as Champions. A fantastic advert for Junior School Sport.

Special mentions to Jacob Gordon, Dylan Bryant and Woody Pugh who were all named Players of The Season and to Oscar Montgomery who was awarded Most Improved Player.

Football

P - 14 W - 6 L - 5 D - 3

There have been some impressive performances across the age groups in football this year. The J2s came up just short against a very strong Eversfield side, however, the J3s dug deep in their fixture and managed to beat our local rivals by two goals to nil.

The J4 team travelled to Foremarke Hall for a national 7 a-side tournament in which they managed to emulate the performances of so many of the past national sides by going out on penalties!

Special mentions must go to Jacob Gordon who was awarded Player of The Season and Joseph Morgan who scooped the Most Improved Player award.

Hockey (Boys)

P - 11 W - 5 L - 3 D - 3

The boys had another successful season with some hard-fought matches and some notable victories, including a fantastic win for the U11 A-team against Bromsgrove and a successful run in the Warwickshire Schools U11 tournament, where Solihull were runners-up, missing out on winning the tournament on goal difference.

However, this did mean we qualified for the Midlands Regional Championship, where, once again, the boys played some fantastic hockey and reached the semi-final, when we were eventually defeated by one goal.

Overall, the standard of hockey throughout the season developed tremendously and the boys can be proud of their achievements.

Well done and thanks to all boys who represented the School so well. Special mentions to the Player of The Season, Jacob Gordon, and the Most Improved Player, Woody Pugh.

Hockey (Girls)

P - 10 W - 7 L - 2 D - 1

The U10s have excelled at hockey this year, with excellent wins against Arnold Lodge and Hallfield. They also had a notable 2-2 draw against the boys' team at Bromsgrove, showing great team work and excellent determination.

The U11 girls also have a strong hockey team with their season culminating in both the A and B teams beating Bablake, who had been unbeaten all season. Annabel Dalby was honoured as Player of The Season and Morgane Lyko-Edwards deservedly won the award for Most Improved Player.

Netball

P - 25 W - 15 L - 9 D - 1

The Junior School girls have had a great year of netball, playing each match with enthusiasm and great team spirit. Particular highlights of the year were the U8s playing their first ever fixture against Eversfield netball team. They did so with gusto and positivity even though they lost overall.

The U9s have begun to play more fixtures this year and have shown promise, especially with only 14 girls in the year group! Impressively, the U9 netball team beat Eversfield School twice without conceding any goals. Their result of 8-0 was especially pleasing.

The U10 team have been very fortunate to have Mrs Johnson coaching them this year and enjoyed several wins against Ruckleigh and Eversfield. They also performed brilliantly to become plate finalists in the annual Solihull School tournament. The U11s have finished their last year of netball in the Junior School with plenty of victories, most notably against Balsall Common, beating them 15-0, and against Eversfield where they triumphed 13-6. They will have especially proud memories of their second place finish in the South Solihull netball tournament, where they narrowly lost 3-1 to St.Martin's in the final. Annabel Dalby was Player of The Season and Simran Debnath deservedly won the award for Most Improved Player.



Well done to all of the girls who have played in the netball teams this year and a huge thank you to all the staff and parents who make playing the fixtures possible.

Swimming

P - 4 W - 2 L - 2

The Swimming Squad has had a good campaign, competing in four very high-standard galas against Warwick and Edgbaston High School in return fixtures. With two narrow losses and two emphatic wins, the squad can be happy with their performances. Early morning training sessions on a Wednesday have helped gain that edge and the future certainly looks strong.

Swimming Sports was as bustling and competitive as ever, with Shenstone taking home the J1/J2 Shield and Jago swiping the J3/J4 title away from the other four houses. Overall, Junior School Swimming Champions were Jago on the back of their excellent J3/J4 win.

Lucia Baker (J1) broke both the backstroke and front crawl records whilst Ben Smith and Rebecca Vidal both broke records in J4. A special mention goes to Rebecca Vidal who was awarded Swimmer of The Year for 2014.

Cricket

Cricket teams from all age groups have posted a 50% win rate so far this year. They now look to repeat last year's success in the U11 hardball tournament by getting all the way to the national finals! We wait with baited breath to see the outcome and how far they can progress in the competition.

Athletics

Our best Junior School athletes showed off their talents at the hugely competitive Borough Sports event, held over two nights, with over twenty schools from around Solihull. Our athletes performed brilliantly, coming first overall.

Notable performances in field events came from Isabel Fennell who came third in the U10 Girls' Long Jump, Isabel O'Malley who came second in the U10 Girls' High Jump, Kyle Trainer who came second in the U11 Boys' Bullnose Javelin, Louisa Miles who came third in the U11 Girls' Bullnose Javelin, and

Woody Pugh who came second in the U11 Boys' Long Jump. In the track events, we got athletes through to finals in the U11 Boys' and Girls' 600m, the U11 Boys' sprint, the U11 Girls' sprint and the U10 Girls' sprint. All children ran fantastically but Simran Debnath and Megan McDonagh stole the show coming first and second in the U11 and U10 75m sprints, respectively. The relays made an exciting end to the two days, especially as we had a team in every final. We finished with some excellent results- the U10 Girls' team and U11 Girls' team both finished runners up and the U11 Boys' team finished third. The team effort and individual successes left us proud champions of the Borough. Well done to all of the children involved and a huge thank you to all the staff and parents who made competing in the event possible.

Sports Day

This year we turned our back on the tradition of Sports Day being cancelled on the first date and paraded out to the fields on the afternoon of Friday 13 June... a glorious one despite the connotations with bad luck! This year saw 50 races cross the finish line, including the introduction of an immensely popular Mothers' and Fathers' Egg and Spoon race! As ever, huge crowds of parents witnessed all pupils competing in at least two events and giving their all for their house team. Cameron Holland broke the J1 50m record (7.96 seconds) and Aimee O'Malley broke the J3 Girls' 800m record (2 minutes 55 seconds). Windsor eventually came out victorious in what was a fitting send off for Mrs Steele in her last Sports Day as House Mistress.

Overall, Junior School Sport has enjoyed huge success over the course of the year. I'd like to thank all staff, both Junior and Senior, for their constant hard work and support. My sincere thanks must also go to all the grounds and catering staff for making the whole Junior School Sport experience for parents and pupils an enjoyable one.

A huge well done, finally, to all pupils who have represented the Junior School this year. Their passion is unrivalled, their desire to compete is unparalleled and the fact they do it with a smile on their face is the icing on the cake. It's been an absolute pleasure.

Mr C Thomas
Junior School Sport Co-ordinator

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23

Third Form Art

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Annabel Hill | 13. Jessica Boake |
| 2. Aryan Parekh | 14. Johanna Balogh |
| 3. Ben McHugh | 15. Lily Evans |
| 4. Daniel Gaffney | 16. Matthew Smith |
| 5. Harriet Toogood | 17. Matthew Vaughan |
| 6. Harriet Toogood | 18. Mitchell Reeve |
| 7. Henry Davies | 19. Tiegan Pound |
| 8. Ibrahim Rehman | 20. Olivia Mueller |
| 9. Isabelle Blake | 21. Pierce McGowan |
| 10. Jacob Yip | 22. Toby Bagshaw |
| 11. Jacques Barker | 23. Zac Bew |
| 12. Jamie Morrall | |

School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The life of the School Chaplaincy has been interesting and varied over the past year involving many students in our services and musical activities. The Chapel Choir has flourished and grown under the expertise and leadership of Mr Oliver Walker, Miss Pamela Davies and Mr Peter Irving, enabling us to promote excellence in liturgy and music throughout the calendar.

As usual, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a huge success and has become a highlight in the School diary. The Junior School Christmas Carol Service and the Midnight Mass continue to be very popular as was the Advent Service of readings, hymns, anthems and organ music reflecting the theme of Preparation. We were able to send a donation to Christian Aid representing our celebrations.

A splendid Christingle Service was held in Chapel marking the Feast of Candlemass and the end of the Christmas season. The Junior School pupils prepared the Christingles and subsequently a donation was given for the work of the Children's Society.



The Summer Term saw the return of a Celebration of all God's Creatures, when pupils brought their pets into Chapel for a blessing. Junior School members participated admirably by reading the lessons and prayers. It is always marvellous to participate in this fun service and great to see all worshippers smiling!

The Governors were invited to a Sunday service when we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi. We worshipped in style with a Choral Evensong containing sumptuous music, a wonderful sermon and an opportunity to thank those leaving school who have contributed significantly to music-making in the choir. We also thanked Jonathan Allen for his commitment as an altar server. We wish them all well.

Our links with the Anglican Diocese of Katakwa, Kenya, continue and develop and we often hear about the Cathedral



and pupils at the Cathedral School. We continue to hold them in our prayers as they remember us.

It has been good to continue our friendship with St Alphege Church, particularly through Mr Walker's involvement with music and the exercising of my own priestly ministry there. It is always a joy to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage for those previously associated with the chaplaincy, too. Only recently I was pleased to officiate at the marriage service of Chris and Laura Troth at St Alphege Church. We wish them every blessing in their life together.

During the summer term we enjoyed another successful pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham with members of the local community. Indeed, we have enjoyed much fraternity between the different churches in town and with the Hospice chaplaincy.

Towards the end of the summer term Mr Martin Ayers retired as Chapel Warden after many years of dedicated service. He has been a huge support to the chaplaincy and will be much missed.

The attendance at the Chapel services throughout the year is testimony to the significance and prominence of the Christian Faith in School and our influence in the local community. Many thanks to those who support us with their presence and prayers.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir, which is made up of the Chapel Choir's older choristers, continues to sing regularly on Sunday evenings in Chapel during term time, alternating and often joining the younger Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir. Memorable pieces of music for these services over the year have included Schubert's fabulous 'Mass in G', Howells' Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis 'Collegium Regale' and many others.

Beyond the regular round of Sunday services, the Chamber Choir has enjoyed an extraordinarily busy programme both locally and further afield. In October we had the great honour of singing in St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick, for the High Sheriff of Warwickshire's annual Judicial Service to mark the start of the legal year. As well as the High Sheriff, notable attendees included the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, a High Court Judge, the Bishop of Coventry and many local dignitaries. The Choir, enhanced with trumpets and timpani, performed Handel's 'Zadok the Priest', MacMillan's 'Give me Justice' and Britten's arrangement of the National Anthem to critical acclaim.

Even more locally, members of the Chamber Choir were delighted to be asked to sing Christmas music for the patients at the new Marie Curie Hospice. Taking items from the Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as audience carols, we provided an hour's worth of entertainment, bringing seasonal joy to many there.

In January, the Chamber Choir reached a global audience of 250,000 through its first live BBC Radio broadcast. BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service' programme is the world's longest running radio show, now broadcast live from Emmanuel Church in Didsbury, South Manchester. The Choir departed Solihull at 6am in order to arrive on time to rehearse and perform at 9.45am. Music included Peter Nardone's anthem 'I give to you a new commandment' and two hymns. It was a nerve-wracking experience, with lots of pressure to get it right, but we rose to the challenge and enjoyed the adventure.

Immediately after the broadcast the Chamber Choir set to work with its next exciting project, learning the newly commissioned 'Solihull Service', a set of canticles composed for us by leading composer Ben Parry. Parry is currently the Director of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and has worked with the world's leading choirs, as well as composing music for a whole range of artists and films. The 'Solihull Service' was funded by a generous donation from a member of the Solihull School Former Choristers' Association, for which we are very grateful. The first performance took place in School Chapel on March 9, followed by its first London performance in St Paul's Cathedral on March 10. This, the Chamber Choir's second trip to sing Evensong in this wonderful building, saw us also perform Elgar's 'The Spirit of the Lord', Ayleward's Responses and the Psalm for the day. Having our very own set of Canticles is something we are very proud of, and congratulations must go to Mr Irving for learning the fiendishly tricky organ accompaniment and Mr Walker for leading us through these services.

The Chamber Choir has sung for two occasions over the year in support of members of the Former Choristers' Association. Firstly, in December, we offered a Memorial Evensong in Chapel for Alan Yardley. This was a fitting and moving occasion and it was good, even in sad circumstances, to see many Former Choristers and organists in attendance. In June the Choir sang at the wedding of Chris Troth and his wife Laura. As well as being a Former Chorister, Chris can still regularly



be seen in our choir stalls supporting our young singers and this was a great way to thank him for his support. The service, which took place at St Alphege Church, included a splendid new anthem 'My beloved spake' composed by Mr Irving especially for the occasion.

In May the Chamber Choir joined forces with Solihull Choral Society and Solihull Symphony Orchestra for the first ever 'Last night of the Solihull Proms', held in our Bushell Hall and hosted by the Mayor of Solihull. To a huge crowd, the massed choir performed Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and 'Hallelujah Chorus', Parry's 'I was glad' and the usual Proms favourites 'Land of hope and glory', 'Jerusalem' and 'Rule Britannia'. A highly rousing occasion!

Finally, the Chapel Choir Leavers' Service combined with the Governors' Service was a sad occasion as we said farewell to long serving choristers Maddie Lavery, Benjamin Newman, Benjamin Piggin, Christopher Bevins, Shashank Chaganty, Hannah Butler, Katie Singleton and Dominic Martens. Music performed included Stanford's Canticles in G and 'For lo, I raise up', with leavers performing moving solos. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for all their hard work over many years.

Joint Chapel Choirs

Gary Barlow's inspirational words 'Sing it louder, sing it clearer, knowing everyone will hear you' brilliantly summarise the Chapel Choir's year 2013-14, perhaps the busiest year yet for our young singers.

The combined Chamber Choir, Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir started as they meant to go on, heralding the new academic year in the first Evensong of September with Vivaldi's spellbinding 'Gloria' and Stanford's 'Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C' to a full Chapel of parents and supporters; quite a way to begin! It is only for special occasions that the Choirs combine in such a way, and it is always a glorious sound when they do. This was certainly the case on 24 November when the full Choir joined members of the Solihull School Former Choristers' Association, staff, parents and local choral societies for a performance of Fauré's Requiem with chamber orchestra. With over 200 singers coming together in the School Chapel, the sound was magnificent and the triumphant 'Dies Irae' is still ringing in our ears! Highlights of this event including solos by Former Choristers Clare Whiting, Jack Halsey and Sam Troth, violin playing by Jacqui Martens and a touching performance of Fauré's 'Élégie' by Dominic Martens. The Former Chorister



aspect of the day was another occasion to bring past and present members of the Chapel Choir together over lunch and song, with much fun had by all.

Only a few weeks later the Choirs combined once more for the Advent Carol Service which, as always, featured sections of the Choir performing from around the building. The musical focus this year was Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols' which the Chamber Choir sopranos and altos performed in its entirety during the service, accompanied by Hungarian harpist Rita Schindler. Maddie Lavery's sublime 'This yonge childe' was a particular highlight, as was the full Choir's performance of William McKie's 'We wait for thy loving kindness'.

Our two Services of Nine Lessons and Carols are always a joy for any chorister to take part in, with this year's being no exception. The Services opened with the 'Once in Royal David's City' solos performed admirably by Ewan Waddell and Rebecca Timperley, both demonstrating nerves of steel in front of a packed Chapel. With too many other solos to mention, musical highlights included Mr Irving's 'Noël Nouvelet', John Tavener's 'The Lamb', Will Todd's 'My Lord has come' and two unforgettable performances of Jonathan Dove's highly complex 'Run Shepherds, Run'. What a way to celebrate Christmas!

From one extreme to the other, two evenings in April saw 40 members of the Boys', Girls' and Chamber Choirs onstage at the LG Arena in front of a total of 26,000 people, alongside Gary Barlow and his band performing his hit single 'Sing', written with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This unforgettable experience came about with only two weeks' notice and we are delighted that Old Silhillian and Former Chorister Richard Lucas was able to create a documentary about the event's preparations; this can easily be found on Youtube, as can countless videos of the two performances. Congratulations must go to Ellie Ajao and Georgina Dalby for beating off much competition for the solos which were performed brilliantly.



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It was in the spirit of gratitude, sadness and celebration that the combined Girls' and Chamber Choir came together with Former Choristers for the final service of the year to mark the retirement of Miss Davies who has given much time, expertise and energy as Choirmistress over many years. Mr Irving and I are tremendously grateful to her for her support and we will all miss her. It was fitting, then, that the Choir year concluded with a performance of Miss Davies's beautiful 'Soul of Christ' for two unaccompanied choirs.

Mr O Walker



Boys' Choir

This year has been a great year for the Boys' Choir. Numbers are strong with a total of 20 singers, 13 being new in September, and so we've had to work hard to sound like we've sung together for longer! Ewan Waddell has been the Head Chorister throughout the year, with Isaac Wright being his deputy. Our highlight is always the Nine Lessons and Carols service in December and Ewan Waddell's solo for 'Once in Royal David's City' started a very enjoyable evening for us. The Solihull Sing! outreach concerts are always great fun and the two this year were a huge success with over 250 children taking part from St Alphege, St Augustine's, Chapelfields, Reynald's Cross and Mapledene schools. We enjoy performing anthems to the visiting children, parents and teachers, as well as singing the songs with them. We hope to do more next year!

For the Summer Concert in the Bushell Hall the Boys' and Girls' Choirs came together to perform Benjamin Britten's brilliant 'Psalm 150' with a small orchestra. We stood along the stage and the floor and filled the hall with sound, including a complicated canon in four parts.

Our final service of the year was the Pets' Service where all our furry friends (and some lizards!) came to chapel for Father Andrew's blessing. The pets particularly enjoyed the Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir singing 'All things bright and beautiful' by John Rutter.

Mr Walker works very hard to get us to sing as well as we do and we are all very grateful to him.

Ewan Waddell & Isaac Wright

Girls' Choir

The Girls' Choir consists of pupils from ages nine to fourteen and now has twenty-three enthusiastic and dedicated choristers who are led by Miss Davies. We practice twice a week and often more frequently when we are preparing for a concert or special service.

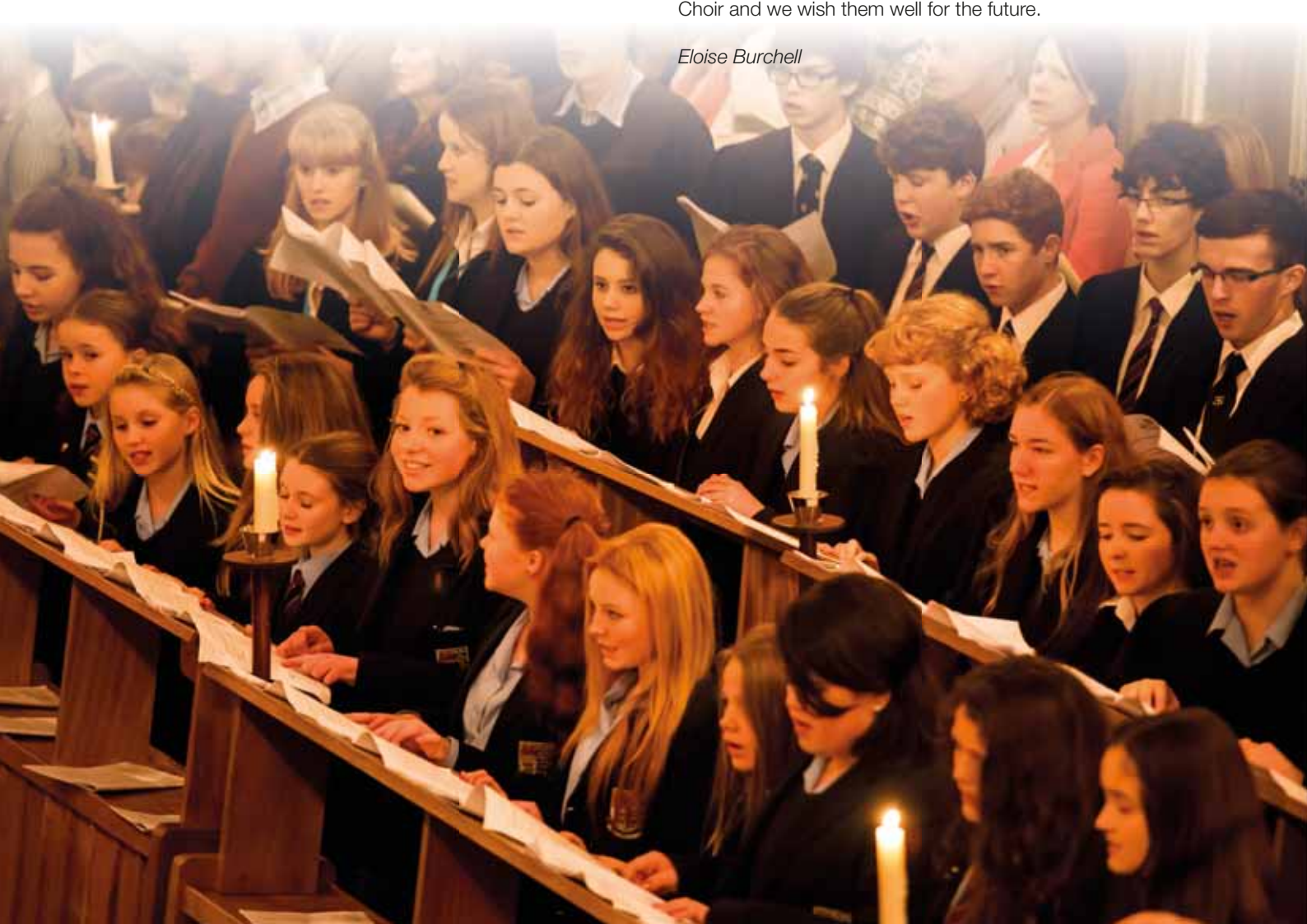
This year has seen an enjoyable and varied schedule and the busy Christmas Term began with our visit to the atmospheric Lichfield Cathedral in November where we performed the 'Aviemore Service' composed by Miss Davies as well as Stephen Cleobury's 'Let all mortal flesh'. In December we worked hard preparing for the popular Advent and Nine Lessons and Carols services where we sang to a packed Chapel of many family and friends of the School.

In June we had a very early start and travelled to Manchester to sing for the BBC Daily Service broadcast on Radio 4. We sang 'A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester' by White. Emma Hadley did a reading and we were accompanied by Mr Walker and also by Alex Sasse who played the cello. It was a very exciting experience but it was quite nerve-wracking to sing live on the radio!

The final service of the year in July was a special event to mark the retirement from Chapel life of Miss Davies, who chose her favourite music (including Howells' 'Collegium Regale') and conducted the combined Girls' Choir and Chamber Choir. We will miss her hugely as the Girls' Choir has gone from strength to strength under her careful and dedicated guidance. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

At the end of term, the Fourths will be joining the Chamber Choir and we wish them well for the future.

Eloise Burchell





Remembrance

This year's Remembrance Day ceremony was a particularly special occasion as it marked the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the War Memorial.

Community Service

At Solihull we try to instil values in pupils which will enable them to make a positive impact on the people around them, both now and in the future. It is, therefore, very pleasing to see that Community Service in the School is going from strength-to-strength, with more pupils than ever before taking up this enrichment option.

This year, Sixth Formers have visited residents of Deerhurst Court and have also supported the learning of local primary school pupils through helping out in lessons and reading with pupils. The Sixth Formers involved have gained a lot from taking part in the programme this year, with some even considering carrying out some volunteering work over their summer holidays. We are very grateful to the placement hosts, who have given our pupils a wide range of excellent opportunities to develop skills. Next year we hope to have an even bigger and better programme as we have been exploring opportunities for placements with Marie Curie and also Reynolds Cross School.







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Shell Form Art

- 1. Alice Sharpe
- 2. Alice Sharpe
- 3. Emilia Harris
- 4. Christina Bate
- 5. Isabelle Alderson
- 6. Daniel Withington
- 7. Haris Khan
- 8. Helena Massoud
- 9. Oliver Rooney
- 10. Lucy Fennell
- 11. Max Dormon
- 12. Moiz Sandhu
- 13. Niamh Smythe
- 14. Isabel Dodd
- 15. Jack Hughes
- 16. Oliver Rooney



Music

Summer Concert

On Thursday 8 May the Bushell Hall was once again full for the annual Summer Concert with the Mayor of Solihull graciously supporting the many musicians taking part. A varied programme included English music from the Boys' and Girls' Choirs, The Senior Wind Band, The String Ensemble and The Concert Orchestra. The Classical Rockers also saw Junior School guitarists joining their Senior School counterparts in a Snow Patrol number. Amazing solos were provided by Ellie Ajao, Dominic Martens, Maddie Lavery and Libby Thomas, playing the first movement of Mozart's *Flute Concerto in G* with the Chamber Orchestra. The concert also saw the world premiere of a lively Latin composition by Philip Blenkinsop. After Megan Lloyd and Maxine Perroni-Scharf had opened the second half with an exuberant piano duet, The Big Band brought the official proceedings to a close with two classic jazz numbers. A subsequent emotional farewell was provided to all leavers by The Jazz Singers performing 'You raise me up' followed by Dominic Martens's last public performance in School playing Saint-Saens' iconic 'Swan' - a swansong to all indeed!



Symphony Orchestra

It's been a busy year for the Symphony Orchestra with three concerts. The year started with the Saint Cecilia Concert where the orchestra performed Beethoven's 'Egmont Overture'. As this year marks 100 years since the start of the First World War, it was only fitting that we performed Karl Jenkins's 'The Armed Man' in a Choral and Orchestral concert where Dominic Martens also performed Haydn's Cello Concerto. This concert brought together present musicians at the School with friends, family and past pupils to perform this fantastic piece of music. In the Summer Concert Libby Thomas performed a Flute Concerto by Mozart accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra. This ended a year full of contrasting music for the Symphony Orchestra. On behalf of the orchestra I would like to say a special thanks to Mr Perrins who has conducted and guided us throughout the year with such enthusiasm.

Catherine Sullivan



Concert Orchestra

This year, the Concert Orchestra came back from the holidays with their new leader, Aviva Sandler, ready and raring to go. We kick-started the year when we performed in the annual St Cecilia Concert in the Christmas Term. We played 'March' from *The Magic Flute* by Mozart and 'Menuetto' from Haydn's *Symphony No. 75*. We later returned after lots of practice and performed in the Summer Concert where we played two pieces arranged by David Stone: 'St Martin's' and two Celtic Dances. Overall, it was a pleasing year, so keep up the good work!

Aviva Sandler

String Ensemble

This year in String Ensemble we have had a lot of fun performing at several concerts with our conductor Miss Dolby and leader Amy Parry. In the St Cecilia concert in November we played the baroque style *Serenade for String Orchestra* by Michael Short. To commemorate the anniversary of the 1st World War we held a concert in the Bushell Hall on 6 February. Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society gave a performance of Karl Jenkins's moving choral work *The Armed Man* and String Ensemble played Jenkins's *Palladio* which is a brilliant piece to play because it is so famous! We finished off the musical year with a lively performance of *Suite for Strings* by John Rutter in the Summer Concert. This year has been wonderful for the String Ensemble and I'm sure next year will be just as great!

Ellie Ajao

Chamber Music Ensemble

Our ensemble consists of a Bassoon, Clarinets, Oboe and Flutes, and we have been rehearsing hard on Monday and Friday lunch times. We have performed in two concerts so far including the one at the Marie Curie Hospice which we really enjoyed. At the moment we are preparing music to play at Prize Giving in July. Our repertoire is varied and ranges from Grieg to the more modern composer, Keith Bissell. We are also enjoying a version of La Paloma which is great fun to play! Our teacher is Miss Greswold and she has coached us on how to perform as a small group and encouraged us to play together in public. There is even talk of taking an Ensemble Exam! All in all we believe that we have made excellent progress and are excited about playing in more concerts.

Ellie Shiels

Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band has had a successful year, performing magnificently in the Saint Cecilia Concert, playing the highlights of *South Pacific*. At the start of the summer term the band made a guest appearance at Charlotte Beesley and Alanna Wall's enjoyable recital where they performed Piero Umiliani's 'Mah Nà ma Nà,' with great enthusiasm. They continued their momentum into the Summer Concert, playing 'March' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, including an impressive trumpet solo by Charlotte Perry.

The Wind Band has improved throughout the year, and has shown off a lot of musical talent. This has come from enjoyable Tuesday practices, on a weekly basis. Our thanks go to Christa Greswold for her enthusiastic conducting and her admirable leadership of the band throughout the year.

Oscar Haynes



Saxophony

Another year in Saxophony's hectic calendar has come and gone. We have all kept busy and set the pace for new recruits Rob Jones and Becky Timperley who have both been brilliant assets to the team.

We have thoroughly enjoyed playing in both the St. Cecilia and Summer Concerts this year, whilst our highlight again has to be performing in John Lewis in December with many Christmas favourites!

Saxophony also performed brilliantly at mine and Alanna Wall's recital in May, debuting 'One Last Shot' from *Pirates of the Caribbean* – much to Miss Greswold's delight! Huge thanks must go out to the rest of the team for their help in this; it wouldn't have been the same without you, and was certainly a Saxophony highlight for myself and Alanna throughout our school careers.

Attendance has once again been brilliant at 8.15am every Thursday morning, and this has to be attributed to the great team spirit, good music, top notch banter, but primarily the flawless teaching. Miss Greswold's humour, hard work, commitment and patience is forever award-worthy; so on behalf of Saxophony but especially the leavers we cannot thank you enough. Alanna, Sam and I wish you all the best for the coming year – and don't worry, we'll be back to surprise you before university!

Charlotte Beesley

Saxbeats

It has been a successful year for Saxbeats as they have learned a new repertoire and performed in concerts. The ensemble consists of Oliver Rooney (soprano sax), Tom Carter (baritone sax), Megan Perry (tenor sax) and Alex Sasse on alto sax. We have also been joined this year by Ewan Waddell on drums who does his best to keep us in time! Our repertoire consists of Bill Bailey, Groovy kind of Love, Colonel Bogey March and many more. Miss Greswold has spearheaded our development through her experience and dedication. We look forward to new members joining in September and hopefully, more concerts.

Oliver Rooney

Sax Quartet

... or as we like to be called – The Jazz Noodles. This year has been a very enjoyable one, mainly due to the pure hilarity of rehearsals on a Monday morning, catching up with gossip from the previous weekend. It has also been a year in which two new members were introduced to the Legendary League of Quartet Players; Abigail Moise and Oscar Haynes. They took to the pace of the group very quickly, learnt some challenging pieces in no time at all and, with great humour, joined in with Charlotte and Alanna's relentless mocking. Highlights of this year have to be the St. Cecilia Concert and our Christmas gig at John Lewis. However, even better, more stressful memories arise from the preparations and performances for Charlotte Beesley and Alanna Wall's recital, a perfect way to say goodbye. Thank you to Christa Greswold for a fantastic year and an excellent group!

Alanna Wall

Intermediate Wind Band

We've had an exciting year in Wind Band. At the start of the year, we were practising hard for the St Cecilia Concert, in which we played *Skyfall*. It went off without a hitch, and soon we had to learn two new pieces at once.

'Suddenly' from *Les Misérables* would have been excellent by itself, a smooth soothing piece perfect for the Summer Concert, but after the calm came the storm. 'Drummers' Delight' shattered the relative peace of 'Suddenly' with an explosive percussion solo from Lukas Moment and me. Together, we shocked, wowed, and possibly deafened the Bushell Hall.

All in all, we had a very hard year, but I can speak for us all when I say we enjoyed it.

Simon Clarke
Percussion

Percussion Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble is an ensemble consisting of five Fourth Form drummers lead by Mr Lawrence Hunt. So far this year we have taken part in the Summer Concert and performed 'American Idiot' by Green Day. We hope to play in future events and concerts with our rocking pieces. Percussion ensemble consists of George Armstrong, Simon Clarke, Hannah Currie, Daniel Hofton and Lucas Moment and we wish to expand this group in the future, so do come along!

Hannah Currie



Senior Clarinet Group

Clarinet Group this year has been as enjoyable as ever. We've been a great team, working hard together and achieving a high standard while having fun under the firm leadership of Amy Parry. The pieces we have played throughout the year demonstrated great variety from the classical *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* to the very jazzy *Chicago* soundtrack, which we performed in the Summer Concert. However, we were busiest in the Easter term during the run up to our group music examination. Despite a slight wardrobe malfunction on the day we managed to pass with distinction again; our second in the last two years. I would like to thank Miss Greswold hugely for her boundless help, enthusiasm and most of all patience! I would also like to add a massive thank you to Tom and Jacob for their dedication to the group over the last two years. It is sad to think we will never play together again, though bring on next year and the new recruits- I'm looking forward to it already.

David Clarke

Oboe Quartet

Oboe Quartet practises once a week on Wednesday breaks. The ensemble consists of Bryony Ainsworth, Fleur Street, Chris Cotes and our tutor, Miss Lesley Knowles. We have played in two concerts; one of the Informal Concerts and the Chamber Music Concert, both of which many parents attended and both went very well. We have played a variety of musical pieces such as 'Over The Sea To Skye', 'Spy PI' and 'Turkish March', but most recently we have been playing 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

Chris Cotes





Senior Flute Choir

The Senior Flute Choir comprises Abi Smith, Muskan Shrivastava, Aine Maher and Elisabeth Thomas.

Over the last year, our newly-formed flute quartet worked together with Miss Greswold on several pieces, from old musical favourites (Fiddler on the Roof) to blues ('Japanese Sandman' by Richard A. Whiting).

In the final assembly of the winter term, we performed a Christmas number, and later, in the Easter informal concert we played Tambourin (by François-Joseph Gossec), exploring different musical genres.

The choir is now strong, with both older members giving recitals this year, and will continue to grow over the coming year, hopefully performing more and more. Abi and I have enjoyed our short but sweet time in this group, as we are leaving this year, and on behalf of everyone we would like to thank Miss Greswold for all her encouragement and enthusiasm.

Elisabeth Thomas

Intermediate Flute Group

This year Flute Group has been great! They have performed in concerts for the School and are fortunate to have five very good flautists who are working very hard at playing their pieces well. This year they played in the informal concert on 10 October performing Aura Lee, which was played fluently with great attitude. Also on 27 February, two of the flautists played a piece called 'Variations On a Theme' by Haydn, which was accompanied by the guitars. Flute Group is currently busy preparing the next piece to play in Solihull Sings and Prize Giving. Well done to everyone and thanks to Miss Greswold for directing us!

Imogen Houghton

Jazz Singers

As musicians, we often have to sacrifice our lunch and break times for rehearsals for different clubs and societies. Although this has been hard work, rehearsing every Tuesday lunch time for Jazz Singers has been highly enjoyable and a definite highlight of the week. Jazz Singers has primarily focused on two events this year: Saint Cecilia and the Summer Concert.

For the Saint Cecilia Concert we sang two classic 'golden oldie' numbers in the form of 'Blue Moon' and 'Singin' in the Rain' while for the Summer Concert we performed a variety of pieces including a surprise 'You Raise Me Up' that got a number of spectators reaching for the tissues! However, the highlight of the show had to be Mr Perrins's ingenious self-composed 'Chronomatics' piece. This piece had the theme of evolution of time: past, present and future, interlinked with the concept of love. It consisted of a medley of the following songs: 'Yesterday' by The Beatles, 'Tonight' from *West Side Story* and 'Tomorrow' from *Annie*. The medley featured solos in 'Tonight' and 'Tomorrow' by Shashank Chaganty and Crystal Wilkins respectively with Muskan Shrivastava and Charlotte Sasse providing flute and violin accompaniment.

To conclude, Jazz Singers this year has been an incredible success. However, there is no doubt that none of the above triumphs would have taken place if it was not for the commitment and dedication shown by Mr Perrins. For this particular reason, on behalf of all the Jazz Singers members, I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Perrins and for all his efforts for the group. Furthermore, on behalf of the leavers – Chris Bevins, Liam Deane, Catherine Sullivan, Lauren Buchan, Tom Griesbach and Harry Morgan – I would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation for Mr Perrins's efforts not only for Jazz Singers but throughout school music in general. Good luck to the Jazz Singers for the future.

Shashank Chaganty

Senior Choir

This has been a successful year for the Senior Choir. Last September, we started working on one of the most popular modern choral works, Karl Jenkins's *The Armed Man – A Mass For Peace*. This iconic work formed the second half of a concert in February as part of a centenary commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War. Months of early morning rehearsals came to a climax on concert night as the Choir combined with parents and friends of the School to give a memorable performance of this choral classic. The evening was made all the more poignant with visual imagery by Dr Jukes and a fitting photographic foyer display chronicling the life of wartime Solihull School by School Archivist Mr John Loynton.

Evocative and moving solos were sung beautifully by Olivia Harris, Katherine Williams, Hannah Shakeshaft, Muskan Shrivastava, Christopher Bevins, Shashank Chaganty and Ben Davidson with the famous cello solo in the Benedictus movingly played by Dominic Martens.

I would like to thank all who have supported the Choir over the year and to wish our leavers the best of fortune, not least of all Miss Pamela Davies who has performed a variety of roles over the years: flitting from soprano to alto when necessary – often almost at the same time! – acting as unpaid general choral factotum and spending hours coaching many of the soloists.

Mr S Perrins

Last Night of the Solihull Proms

On Sunday 11 May, the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Joe Tildesley presented his Charity concert in aid of the Mayoral Charity Fund in the School's Bushell Hall. Performing were the Solihull Symphony Orchestra, Solihull Choral Society, Solihull Music Services and our own School Chapel Choir.



Vocal Masterclass

On 16 June the Music Department hosted its inaugural Vocal Masterclass which was led by Andrea Calladine, an experienced singer and vocal teacher. Eight pupils from throughout the Senior School each gave a performance of a song and then worked on the piece with Andrea – Amelia Dicicco, Ewan Waddell, Fleur Street, Oliver Daniels, Charlotte Sasse, Sophie O'Kelly, Ned Tennet and Hannah Shakeshaft. Many of the singers were encouraged to move around the stage and develop their stage presentation; this often brought quite a lot of humour to the evening and audience and performers alike had a thoroughly enjoyable time.





Cello Recital given by Dominic Martens

On the evening of 14 November, Dominic Martens became the first ever pupil from the Upper Fifth to perform a solo recital. This privilege is usually only granted to outstanding Sixth Form Music Scholars.

Dominic presented an hour long programme of cello repertoire that would challenge even an experienced professional soloist. He performed throughout with astonishing technical bravura and accuracy, showing both outstanding musical commitment and an impressive maturity in his interpretation of the music.



Olivia's Original Composition

Sixth Former Olivia Harris has written an original composition and it was premiered at this year's St Cecilia Concert. It was written as part of her GCSE coursework last year and is scored for flute, clarinet, violin, piano and cello. The flowing quaver patterns that permeate throughout match perfectly the title of the piece, 'Chant de la Riviere'. It was really pleasing to play and listen to and we hope that other students will be encouraged to submit live performances of their work in future concerts.



Maddie Lavery – Soloist for concert in Edgbaston

On 28 June Maddie Lavery was the soprano soloist in a concert of English Cathedral Music given by Birmingham Choral Union conducted by Colin Baines at St. George's Church, Edgbaston. The programme of choral pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries included music by Edward Elgar (1857-1934) and Herbert Howells (1892-1983), and the second half started with Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer* in which Maddie sang the soprano solo. This work is best known for its central passage 'O for the wings of a dove' recorded by various famous trebles. Maddie's voice soared above the choir and she gave an amazingly mature and confident performance. Additionally, in the first half she sang four songs in English, French and German accompanied by her singing teacher Pamela Davies. Everyone was astounded by the quality of her singing and wished her well for her future.

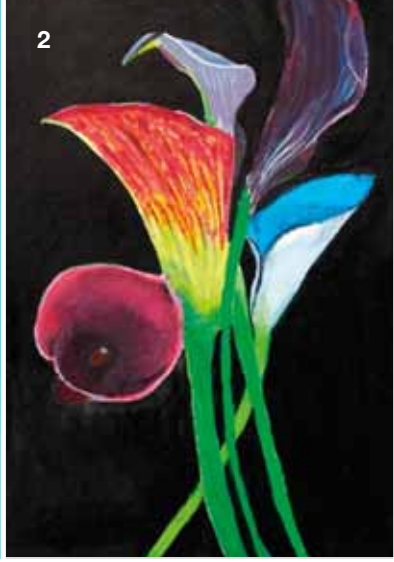
Mrs P Davies

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Fourth Form Art

1. Alexandra Marshall
2. Anika Rao
3. Thomas Loughran
4. Arthur Townend
5. Rui Yi Du
6. Elisa Mottram
7. Anushka Karandikar
8. Finley Blake
9. George Armstrong
10. Hannah Wolverson
11. Harriet Bray
12. William Hardie
13. Lily Jackson
14. Rebecca Monkhouse
15. Harriet Jones
16. Mary Davies
17. Elizabeth Ajao
18. Milad Amel-Kashipaz
19. Kate Stumper
20. Saskia Freshwater

Performing Arts

Spamalot

Following the success of last year's musical *Phantom of the Opera*, this year we brought you 'something completely different' with Monty Python's *Spamalot*. This was a timely choice of production coinciding with the announcement that the Python team were reuniting as an ensemble for the first time since 1980. The musical, lovingly ripped off from the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, provided a wonderfully silly end to the Easter term. This was a fun-packed production involving a cast, orchestra, back stage crew, lighting, sound, costume and make-up personnel of around 100 pupils and staff. The show was full of energy with sing-along songs and dances of a range of styles, including ballet and tap, and contained many favourite characters from the film, including the Knights of Ni, Tim the Enchanter and the Killer Rabbit. Callum Fisher gave a superb performance as King Arthur along with the equally super Oscar Haynes as faithful sidekick, Patsy. Tom Griesbach, Shashank Chaganty, Chris Bevins and Ben Newman were brilliant as Arthur's Knights and Esther Domingo excelled as the Lady of the Lake. There were some brilliant cameo roles created: Alanna Wall got the production off to a cracking start as the Historian whilst Aine Maher and David Herriotts entertained us as the Guards with their debate on African and European swallows. Tom Carson was delightful as Prince Herbert, Harry Morgan's very northern Herbert's Father was perfect, Harry Sharpe was hilarious in the roles of Not Dead Fred and The Black Knight, Louis Roach took French taunting to a new level of fun, Matthew Tyler was spot on as Tim the Enchanter, complete with an outrageous Scottish





accent, and Grace Lodge, Abigail Moise and Katie Williams were great as the Knight of Ni. James Green and Angus Young and Oli White were very funny as Guard, Concord and Brother Maynard respectively and Taimoor Rashid, Tom Beasley and Ben Gee proved that you can get a laugh even if you have few or no lines. Liam Deane must also get a special mention for his versatility, playing the Finnish Mayor, Dennis's Mother, French Guard, Principal Minstrel and even Susan Boyle! Mention should also go to Father Andrew Hutchinson who hit the right note as the Voice of God.

The many students in the Chorus added energy and zest to the productions and clearly enjoyed themselves. The comic timing throughout was impeccable. The singing was splendid, with all songs being delivered with confidence and style. The dancing was wonderfully energetic and the choreography outstanding. The orchestra, as always, was superb. We had a great team working on the show. Mr Karl Leach created an absolutely fantastic set, painted by Kevin Hunton, Laura Adkins and Claire Pettitt which included a 9 foot wooden rabbit! Once again we were very fortunate to have the services of Samantha Mabon, who choreographed the show. Mrs Eleanor Hurst oversaw wardrobe with Mrs Sue Butler and Mrs Jo Johnson; Mrs Sharron Thomas, along with Mrs Sandra Marks, Mrs Helen Watling and a team of Sixth



Formers provided make-up; Joe Hadley and Freya Harding provided stage management and Theresa Morgan and Sam McCumiskey controlled Sound. Dr Paul Jukes and Mr Paul Hadley oversaw the production. Musical Director was Mr Stephen Perrins and Mrs Jean Wilde directed and produced the production. The show was highly popular with all who came to see it and everyone involved enjoyed the process from auditions to final night.

Mrs J Wilde



Macbeth

This year's Senior School Play was Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The plot is probably well known to every student of GCSE English across the country, so the challenge for us was to make our production as contemporary and visually interesting as possible. The themes of guilt, ambition and betrayal are as relevant today as they were when the play was written, making the transition to 21st Century Britain much easier to achieve! Our *Macbeth* was to be set against a backdrop of civil rioting and gang warfare; Duncan became a gang leader and Macbeth and Banquo his two 'generals'. The Witches evolved as underworld sirens, intent on creating chaos by seducing them to their downfall...

Shakespeare is never easy, but this production materialised in just 6 weeks and the lead role, played by Callum Fisher, had the added complication of an accent to link our modern version with the original Scottish roots of the play. Callum was astounding: the lines he learnt and the energy he brought to the role were truly impressive and he was more than ably



supported by his Lady Macbeth, Charlotte Beesley. She was superb as the ambitious, manipulative and determined 'partner of greatness' – their scenes together underlined why this play is so powerful.

As well as the two key players, the supporting cast proved to be more than up to the task of translating the Bard's words into a powerful performance. My Witches deserve a special mention for their skills in choreography and adding the sense of menace and visual interest this play needs. Charlotte Taylor, Lauren Buchan and the choreographer Esther Domingo, worked tirelessly to perfect their scenes, with Sam, Brogan, Nicole, Ella and Holly all adding to the mix.

No production would be complete without the support of Matthew Tyler, Harry Morgan, Louis Roach, Oscar Haynes and George Gamlin (who actually didn't audition but happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and landed himself the role of the Porter!). They have been the most supportive group of students I have had the pleasure to work with since the days of Bugsy Malone.

The video interaction and projection was an ambitious step for a school production, but Paul Jukes and his team – notably Sam McCumiskey and Theresa Morgan – pulled the rabbit from the hat and I am very grateful for all their help.

Mrs L Fair





Sixth Form Theatre Studies

For the final assessed practical examination, A2 students presented two plays devised, designed and produced by themselves. 'One in Four' performed by Esther Domingo, Sophie Hicks, Jessica McCormack and Bethany Roberts explored mental illness and society's perceptions of this issue; the piece was performed using physical theatre and included the use of multi-media. The second piece was a complete contrast; 'The Five Chinese Brothers' was an adaptation of an American short story of the same name by Claire Huchet Bishop. Lawrence Finch, Callum Fisher, Ben Gee, Harry Morgan and Louis Roach worked as an ensemble to create an entertaining piece of theatre that drew morals from the children's story about working together and good leadership. In both pieces the standard of acting was very good and the design of each piece was excellent with lighting, sound and projection being integral to the performances.

In the Easter term, following work on Stanislavski's system of acting and the directorial approach of Max Stafford-Clark, Lower Sixth students presented two excellent pieces of theatre for the practical unit of the course. Aine Maher and David Herriotts performed the roles of Blanche and Mitch in an extract from Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Joseph Sherman designed and operated the lighting inspired by the lighting practitioner Paul Pyant. The piece was engaging, atmospheric and very successful in its execution. Louis Roach and Ben Gee created suspense and comedy performing an extract from Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*; this piece of 'absurd' drama was performed excellently and with the right amount of menace.

Mrs J Wilde



Drama

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In the first half of the Christmas term, Lower School pupils took part in two productions: the first was a dramatised version of the fairy story 'The Shoemaker and the Elves' by Gadfan Morris in which Liam Mingo confidently led an enthusiastic cast of Third and Shell Formers in the title role. Lower Fifth pupil Eve Colyer helped direct the piece and Upper Fifth pupil Gianni Baldi choreographed the dancing. The second production was a modern comedy 'The Ten o' Clock Angel' by Graham Walker, which followed the exploits of a young angel and a young devil who are returned to earth to prove themselves. There was some fine singing, creative dancing and there were many fine performances including those from Freddie Collini as gameshow host Nause Gleamworld, and Cerys Stansfield as TV presenter Dorothy Blissington-Marchbanks. Sixth Formers Charlotte Taylor and Esther Domingo helped direct and Gianni Baldi and Asha Abram provided the choreography. The plays were directed by Mrs J Wilde and the music was provided by Mr G Cureton on the piano. Dr P Jukes managed the production with an enthusiastic team of pupils providing backstage support.





Lower School Drama Club has continued to be popular with many Lower School pupils regularly attending on Tuesday lunchtimes. Sixth Formers Charlotte Taylor and Esther Domingo ran the club, leading theatre games sessions and encouraging the younger pupils to experiment with improvisation. Freddie Collini also helped organise and run sessions which helped pupils expand their imaginations and create interesting pieces of theatre. The club was extended for part of the year and pupils took the opportunity to attend workshops on Wednesday lunchtime, run by Ellie Clarke who is a student at Solihull College.

Mrs J Wilde

GCSE Drama

In the final year of their GCSE Drama course, Upper Fifth students have presented a variety of devised work, including a well researched play about schizophrenia, a lively and inventive creative adaptation of *Lord of the Flies* and a poignant play about war and guilt spanning two time scales. This latter piece included some excellent singing, superb ballroom dancing and a highly original and wonderfully executed piece of modern dance. For their final assessed piece the group designed and performed *The Ash Girl* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. There were excellent performances from all involved. Pupils also successfully designed and operated lighting and sound, designed and created costume and make-up, and stage managed.

Lower Fifth pupils have made an enthusiastic start to their course, commencing with improvised work on the theme of 'painful goodbyes' and are working towards performances of extracts from *Bouncers* by John Godber, *That Face* by Polly Stenham and *Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs* by David Halliwell.

Thank you to Dr P Jukes for all his support with the sets and technicals.

Mrs J Wilde

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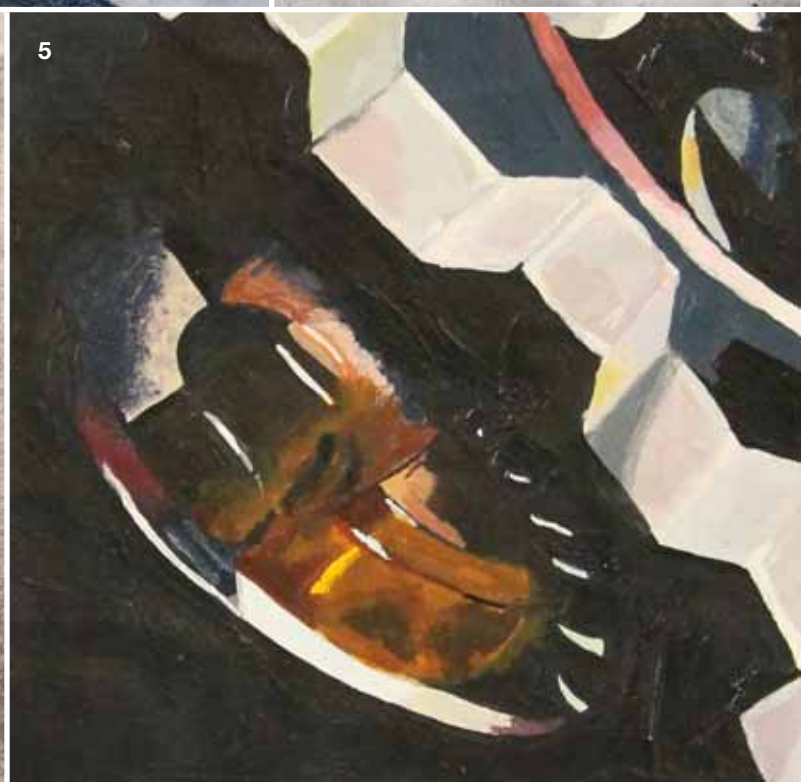
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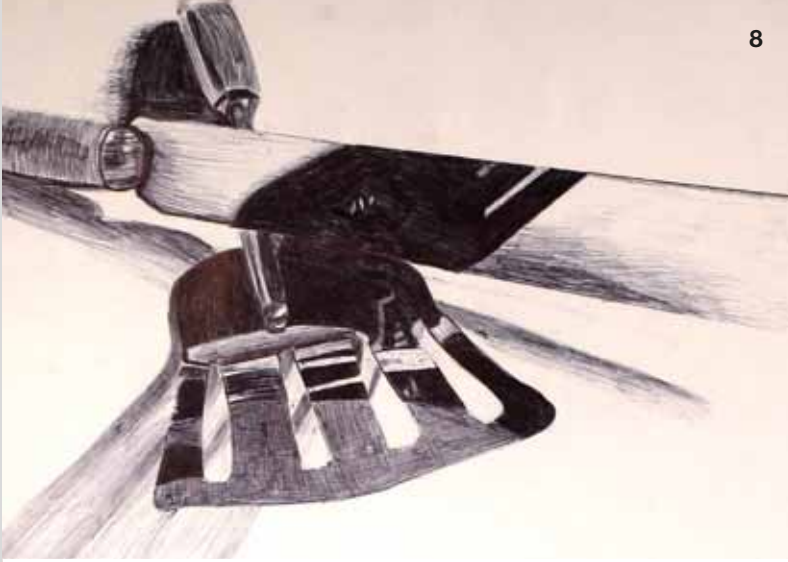


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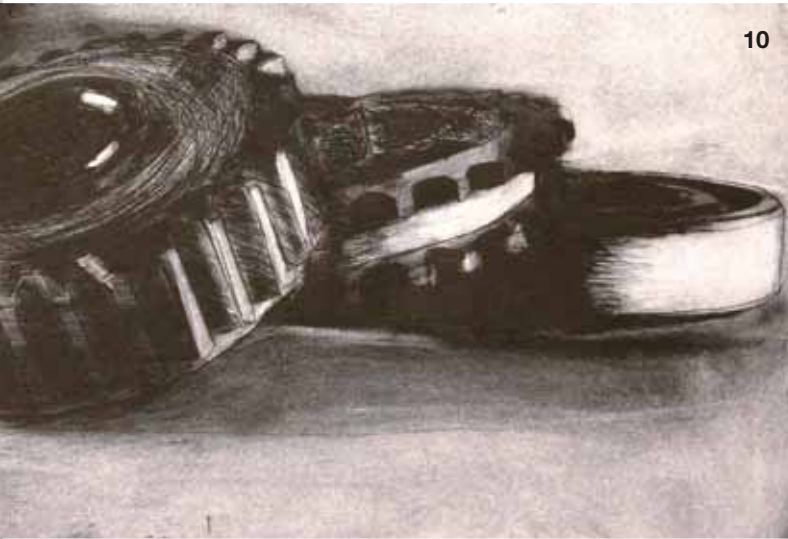




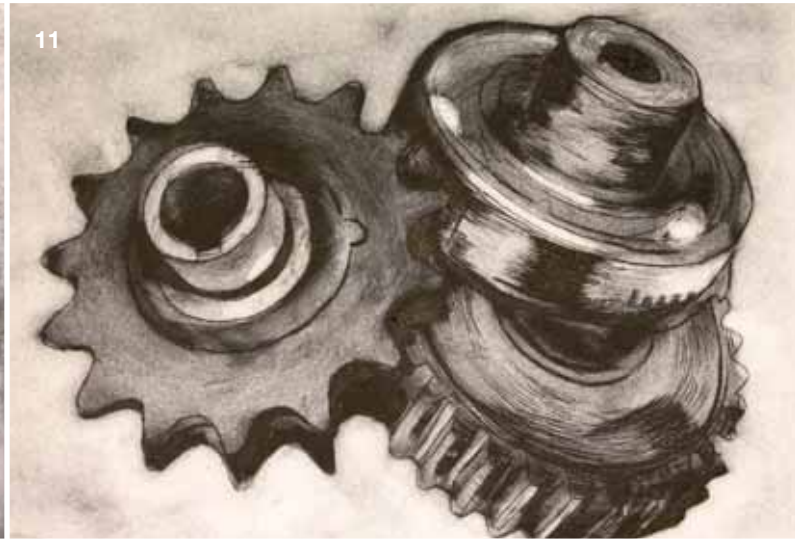
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Lower Fifth Art

- 1. Eamon Martin
- 2. Emily Shepherd
- 3. Michael Woolley
- 4. Ted Warner-Knowles
- 5. Ted Warner-Knowles
- 6. Jessie Lloyd
- 7. Lydia Roll
- 8. Georgia Brotherhood
- 9. Jade Gilmore
- 10. Meredith Hanson
- 11. Georgia Brotherhood
- 12. Maxine Perroni-Scharf
- 13. Maxine Perroni-Scharf
- 14. Michael Woolley



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Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

CCF (Army)

2013/14 was another successful year for the Army Section under the leadership of CSM Price. This year there were again numerous training events including military training weekends and range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

The section also sent teams to the Brigade sponsored competitions. The Skill at Arms meeting was held at Kingsbury Ranges on the first weekend of the school year. The team had little opportunity for practice but under the guidance of Maj Leonard they were able to compete on the Sunday after a couple of hours of tuition on the Marksmanship principles from the previous afternoon. The team shot well but unfortunately were not able to bring home any trophies.

In October we held Field Day at Swynnerton Training Area. This was a really successful day and all the cadets were able to put their training to good use. The recruits undertook a round robin of activities that included an orienteering exercise (in which amazingly no one got lost) a patrolling exercise, a camouflage and concealment exercise and building shelters. The more experienced cadets had the opportunity to use the 30m range in order to practise their shooting skills, a Section Attack Stand and also a CQB lane. It was a long but enjoyable day.



The next event on the calendar followed very shortly which was the Battle Camp, the highlight of the training year. This was held at Hankley Common Training Area near Aldershot and involved Seaford College CCF providing the enemy. The weather was very testing and certainly made the cadets aware of how important it is to build a good shelter and ensure their kit keeps dry! Despite the weather, some excellent training was undertaken.

In July 2014 we attended summer camp, which was held at Warcop Training Camp for 20 cadets. This was an excellent camp and the weather was especially kind to us when we were on military training. Possibly it was too good and the training was nearly halted because of fears of dehydration! The activities that were laid on by the camp staff were some of the best we have had.

Once again all the activities offered by the Army Section can only happen due to the commitment of the staff involved. All the training we provide could not happen without the administration and organisation of WO2 P G Dean MBE and his assisting staff, CSgt 'Swanny' Swan and Capt Viv Lord and all the other officers.

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)





RAF section

Time, much like modern aircraft, seems to go by much faster each year. This year saw both Mr Hadley and Miss Thomas attend and pass their initial Officer training at RAF Cranwell. Also, many of the cadets passed their Leading Cadet training with several going on to attain their MOIT (methods of instruction training) and become Cadet Instructors.

The Cadets took part in a very cold and damp overnight team-building exercise at Rough Close Camp and the finale of the year was the very successful RAF Cadet Camp held this year at RAF High Wycombe. The Cadets visited the Battle of Britain Bunker at RAF Uxbridge, took control of a Hercules Transport plane at RAF Brize Norton and had a full day of Flight training at RAF Benson.

Flt Lt Paul Hadley





Terriers

This year has pushed my outdoor/adventure skills to the limit with exhilarating tasks. Terriers has helped me with my teamwork skills, outdoor knowledge and first aid knowledge as well as how to challenge myself. I now know how to work well with others. I have lots of memories throughout my year as a Terrier and I have made new friends outside my friendship group. Your Terriers group helps you settle into school because you quickly get to be friends with your entire group.

One of my personal favourite teamwork activities was command tasks - you definitely need to rely and trust your group. Lots of arguing came to play at the start when the strong personalities clashed but we soon sorted it out and made a great team. My favourite activity was kayaking but one of my team members tipped my kayak over and my other friend sunk. It was very funny as she got out the kayak

laughing. I also enjoyed cooking even though my partner and I weren't the best cooks but the teacher helped us and we made great bacon sandwiches.

The start of the year was more classroom learning as we prepared for Terriers test weeks. In those weeks we also had to complete Mission where we were given a map and compass and we had to find our way back to the meeting point. This was very fun and challenging as we got lost a few times but we got put back in the right direction by the Sixth Formers. The tests were surprisingly fun and we also had a treasure hunt afterwards. Terriers has helped me excel in all aspects of outside learning and I will treasure these skills for a lifetime. Terriers has inspired me to consider the CCF in the Fourth Form. I definitely won't forget Terriers.

Beth Embley, Third Form

Young Enterprise

It has been a successful and rewarding year for our three Lower Fifth Young Enterprise Companies; Aspiration, ComfyCo and Phoenix. We attempted to generate some creative ideas rather than the usual 'Alan Sugar inspired' buying and selling, and whilst all teams managed to make a good profit, most of this came from sourcing products and retailing. The teams were ably assisted by their external volunteer Business Advisers; Paul Lucas, James Murray and Bryan Thomas. We are extremely grateful for their support. Special thanks must also go to Paul Lucas who has 'retired' due to relocation after ably advising successive Young Enterprise teams for eight years. His support will be missed.

The Managing Directors – Charlie Hadley, Zebedee Trett, Jessie Lloyd and Gemma Kentish – soon realised the difficulties and challenges associated with managing a group of peers and learnt much about the power of persuasion and resolving conflict. All teams met the deadlines set in spite of their other academic and co-curricular commitments. A range of business skills were developed and this learning was put to the test in the Young Enterprise examination where pupils were required to analyse and evaluate the performance of their respective businesses.

Companies participated in the Parents' Association Christmas Fayre, the Solihull YE Trade Fair, held in the Touchwood Centre, and the Stratford-upon-Avon National YE Fair. In addition, companies sold confectionery at various school events and managed to make a sizeable return on their investment in stock! Companies sold a range of products

young 
enterprise
start something

including kitchen gadgets, confectionery gifts, plant pots, photographs, calendars and tie-dye T-shirts.

At the Solihull area competition, Jessie Lloyd won an award for her performance as the MD of ComfyCo and all teams delivered a professional and confident presentation, while standing up to the harsh scrutiny of the judging panel.

At the end of the process all teams held AGMs to decide on how profits would be shared. Decisions were based on the individual contributions made by each pupil. All pupils who participated in this year's programme learnt a great deal and it is particularly pleasing to see the confidence they displayed and the maturity of their approach to the activities completed.

Mrs J Mander





Classics Society

Once again the Classics Society has had a very busy and exciting year – and this year we didn't even leave the country! We started off at the University of Birmingham to listen to the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association's Autumn Lecture, this year given by Professor Ray Laurence from the University of Kent. The title of the talk was 'Pompeii: a view from the street' and it explored many of the questions that we are faced with when looking at archaeological sites and gave us a very interesting insight into the human side of the ancient town. The focus of the lecture was the streetscape, and we learned why the streets were so straight, why there were wheel ruts in the road and how the people used them. We also found out that the people of Pompeii who had houses that opened out on the street raised the pavement to allow for a grand entrance when they left their front door – our equivalent to a porch! This was especially relevant to those students who went on the Rome and Pompeii trip earlier in the year as it added to their understanding of what life was like in the Roman town before the eruption in AD79.

The lecture was followed in November by one of our nearly annual walking tours of Birmingham. We ventured out into the city to experience the influences that the Classical world has had on the buildings. Led by local architect Jim Bavin, we started out bright and early from St Martin's Church to explore the rest of what we thought was a place familiar to us. Walking up towards the Bullring, we learned how the shopping centre was suspended on a large arch-like structure as there were no fixed foundations due to the rail-network below. We continued up towards the Town Hall, designed by Joseph Aloysius Hansom in the style of a Doric column temple. Afterwards, we visited the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery which we learned was first opened on 28 November 1885. The Industrial Revolution is reflected in the internal architecture of the building as its main gallery is decorated with metalwork, initially intended to inspire and educate Birmingham's craftspeople and industrialists.

The tour continued through Paradise Forum, the site of the existing Birmingham Library. Considered a passing place through the city, the Forum's design is an inverted ziggurat

in the Brutalist style – loved and hated in equal measure. We then visited the new Library of Birmingham which was very impressive; from one of the many balconies around the edge of the building we could see the entire cityscape. Lunch was the next stop in Brindleyplace, once a very neglected part of the city, now a vibrant hub of restaurants, bars and shops. Walking alongside the canal, we eventually reached the Cube, where we learned that the building is the perfect cube and was designed by Ken Shuttleworth. After borrowing a spectacular view from Marco Pierre White's restaurant, we headed for the BBC studios in the heart of the Mailbox. We finished the day with a visit to Millennium Point, where there was a rather unusual art installation in the shape of a giant pig! After a final look around Selfridges (the structure not shopping of course!) we headed back to Moor Street Station.

At the end of the Christmas term the Upper Sixth Classical Civilization class visited the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, to study, believe it or not, the Parthenon. Firstly we studied a scale model of the Acropolis Hill in Athens, which allowed us to see how the different buildings related to each other and how the sanctuary looked as a whole. Then we looked at a painting by the Victorian artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, which showed the Athenians climbing on scaffolding to study the sculpted frieze of the Parthenon itself. This painting is particularly interesting as it shows how the sculpture would have been painted in bright colours – very different from how we see it today. Finally we spent some time examining and sketching the frieze itself – not the actual frieze, which is mostly in the British Museum (more about that later!) but a cast of the frieze. A very interesting day out, which really helped us to picture what the Parthenon would have looked like in 432BC.

In the New Year the Classics Society became even busier. We kicked things off straight away with another lecture. On Thursday 30 January we once again joined the BMCA at the University of Birmingham to listen to Professor Ken Dowden (Birmingham) talk about Greek Mythology. We learnt about the myths themselves and their origins, as well as what message they leave for us today. The group also found that the Hercules Disney film was not in fact a reliable account of the traditional

Greek Myth, but fiction far from the true story of Jupiter's son; a disappointment for some. Dowden also raised the question of modern myths, and what similarities they hold to those of 3500BC. It was an insightful and enjoyable evening for all involved, and made us reconsider many of the myths we have enjoyed reading.

The following week we were off to Warwick School to watch their production of Sophocles's *Antigone*. It was a dynamic and enthralling performance, with a strong cast, that really brought the play to life. *Antigone* was a figure we simultaneously admired and were frustrated by, and the Chorus helped to guide us through the moral and ethical issues of the play. On this occasion we were joined by English A-Level students, and it was a pleasure to introduce them to the world of Classics. Later on that same week, the Classics Society was again back in action. On Friday 7 February the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation class visited Warwick University to take part in a variety of activities on Greek Drama. This proved to be a most enjoyable and useful day, and something we are hoping Warwick University will run again next year.

The following Saturday was very wet and windy. But that didn't deter the Classics Society - we were off to the Roman city of Deva, known today as Chester. We started the day with a visit to the Grosvenor Museum which contains Roman artefacts found in and around Chester as well as an art collection, natural history exhibition and a model of a period house where we were able to explore a Victorian kitchen. After exploring the museum, we went to visit the remains of the largest amphitheatre in the UK. It was discovered in 1929 after the council decided to build a straight road through the centre of the city. The latest excavation indicates that it was two-tiered and capable of accommodating 10,000 spectators. As it has been found so near to the fortress, it is very likely to have been used as a venue for weapons training as well as hosting gladiatorial contests. After lunch in the heart of the city, we spent the afternoon - in the pouring rain! - walking the Roman walls. The medieval walls that stand today are built on top of older Roman walls. They are the most complete in the UK and the Roman walls were built in AD 70. Regardless of the weather, the trip was really enjoyable and the Society decided that Chester was a great place to visit.

On Saturday 8 March the Classics Society was back at the University of Birmingham, this time for the BMCA Texts and

Topics Conference. Pupils from the Upper Fifth to the Upper Sixth attended a variety of talks, including ones on Greek Art and Architecture, Athens and Roman literature, as well as language classes in both Latin and Greek. The Conference was a very interesting and useful day, and really helped to support our learning at both GCSE and A-Level.

At the end of the Easter term the Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation class was off for another Study Day, this time at the British Museum in London. Here we had the chance to see many of the Greek vases we had studied in class, as well as the frieze from the Temple of Apollo at Bassae and the pediments, metopes and frieze from the Parthenon. It was great to be able to examine the artefacts themselves, rather than just pictures of them, and it was a brilliant way to round off the course and consolidate all our learning.

The Summer Term is normally the quiet term for the Classics Society. But not this year! As 2014 marks the bimillennium of the death of the Emperor Augustus, Mrs Johnson decided that we simply had to mark the occasion! This resulted in the first ever Classics Enrichment Day to be held at Solihull School, which involved not only Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils from Solihull, but also around 70 pupils from other schools. On Thursday 19 June, two Augustan scholars, Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos and Dr Penny Goodman, from the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds respectively, started and ended the day with talks on Augustus - who he was, what he did and what legacy he has left us. The rest of the day was taken up with three different activities - studying the literature of the Augustan period and seeing what different authors had to say about him, examining the famous Prima Porta statue of Augustus and designing our own dedicatory statues to him, and writing obituaries of him, picking out what we thought were his most important achievements. It was an interesting and informative day, and really added to our wider understanding of the Ancient World in the first century BC and the first century AD.

The Classics Society continues to go from strength to strength and we are looking forward to our adventures next year and especially our trip to Turkey during Easter 2015! Remember you can always keep up to date with what the Classics Society is doing by following our twitter feed: @solclassics.

Katherine Bridges, Isobel Serle and Mrs Johnson





Oxbridge Success

Congratulations to all ten students who have received Oxbridge places this year. With places at Cambridge are Lucy Allen, Tom Griesbach and Jamie Turpin for Engineering, History, and Spanish and Portuguese respectively. Alanna Wall has received a place to study Medicine at Oxford while places for Engineering have been received by Alex Browse and Sam McCumiskey. Also with places for Oxford are George Diwaker for Theology, Nick Hooper for Classics, Maddie Lavery for Psychology and a choral scholarship, and Ben Piggin for Physics.





Before the Leavers' celebrations, this year's Bench enjoyed the annual summer soiree in the Alan Lee Pavilion.

Leavers' Day Celebrations

23 May was the last day of school for our Upper Sixth Form and this year's leavers' celebrations were truly memorable. The celebrations kicked off with a formal farewell Chapel Service, which this year contained a little surprise; mid-service, various members of the year group sprang up from the congregation and sang 'One Day More' from *Les Misérables*. This was greeted with a standing ovation, not to mention a few tears (recordings of the performance can be found on You Tube!). The Chapel Service was followed by a game of 'bubble football' on the playing fields which provided plenty of laughs and thankfully no injuries! The final day itself was an emotional affair; the Upper Sixth came into School for their final assembly in customary fancy dress, which this year was an '80s theme. The final assembly itself lasted just over two hours and was a testament to the year group's diversity and talent with musical, comedy and film performances. The day ended with a barbeque at the Old Silhillians' Club House where leavers received their yearbooks and hoodies; many a tear was shed as they left farewell messages for one another. All in all, it was a fitting end to a fantastic year group's time at Solihull School.





What do bananas and footballs have in common? A year in the life of the Geography Department

Geography is a subject which tries to reflect the changing world around us. We are constantly looking to update what we do in the department to ensure that the pupils in our care have the right skills and knowledge to take on the challenges of an ever more global, technologically advanced world. So in addition to the usual range of activities, including field work in Castleton, the Lake District and Manchester United, we have explored a wide range of new topics and areas for research.

One of our initiatives this year has been to teach more about the fairtrade movement. In previous years we have taught about fairtrade using the example of chocolate as part of the development topic we study. This year, pupils were particularly taken with the story of Kuapa Kokoo from Ghana and this led to several of them taking their learning beyond the classroom, searching local supermarkets for Divine chocolate products. Their learning in this area was reinforced during fairtrade fortnight. Through the story of Foncho, a banana grower from Colombia, pupils learned how even though we eat over 5 billion bananas a year in the UK, the farmers benefit very little from this trade due to the competition between UK supermarkets. Pupils showed that they are well on their way to becoming global citizens, reflecting on how their everyday choices affect the lives of others around the world.



The World Cup in Brazil this year also offered lots of opportunities to learn. Pupils from the Shell Form were fascinated to learn about the physical geography of the country, putting their knowledge of weather and climate graphs to good use. Meanwhile, during our study of the geography of sport, the Third Formers were able to undertake research into the location and redevelopment of the stadia around Brazil in preparation for the World Cup. The protests around the World Cup also gave us the opportunity to explore the inequalities in Brazil, examining the differences between the lives of the rich and the poor in the country. Pupils were surprised and challenged by what life in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro is really like. Hopefully this led them to consider just a little more who it is that was filling the stadia they saw on television, such as those in Belo Horizonte and Manaus.

Pupils this year were also asked to think about change in the future. The Fourth Formers were asked to consider what their lives might be like in 2030 and how the world will have changed. This led us to explore together how our actions are changing the world, through polluting our oceans, using up finite resources and global warming, as well as how we are undermining the ability of the Earth to support life. During this topic, the Fourths showed an impressive range of skills, not only conducting research into these issues, but also coming up with action plans for change (including actions to be implemented at school). Poetry is not normally linked to Geography, but pupils showed amazing skills creating poetry about the rather 'dry' topic of desertification (one of which is presented here).

Dr S Sawicki



Desertification

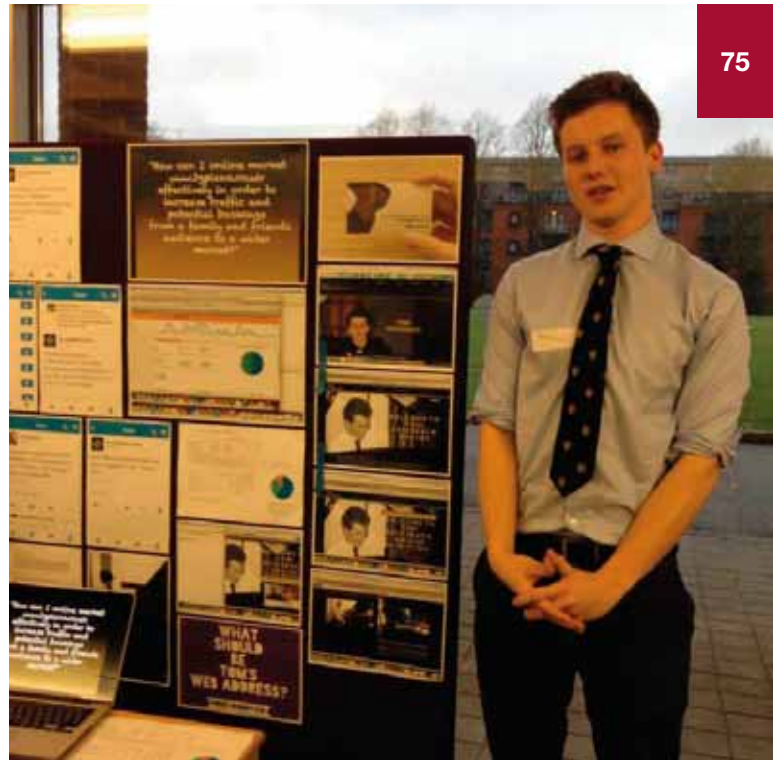
The day before Yesterday,
Our lands were green
And the void between, refreshingly blue.
They said
This was to share.
It was filled to the brim
Of wild, raw life
In which we have known
To keep us going
For as long as humans could remember.
We took it for granted.

Yesterday,
We started to work.
We thought we were clever
And made good use of that land.
They said
Don't be greedy.
But everybody profited,
So it didn't matter.
We ploughed,
And let the cows graze.
We grew more,
And cut the trees.
We could take what we wanted.

Today,
We invented chemicals,
And cash crops.
They say
You've gone too far.
We replied
How so?
One third
Was what we nearly destroyed.
The green is now brown,
And soil now sand.
Yet there was no reaction.
We kept ploughing.

Tomorrow,
They will say to us
Have you realised?
We will nod and ask for help.
But the land will turn its back to us and say
You did this to yourself.

Rennae Du, Fourth Form



The Extended Project Qualification

On 25 September nine Upper Fifth pupils attended an Aim Higher Biology Conference held at Aston University. Solihull School joined schools from across the country to listen to lectures aimed at gifted and talented students. Our first lecture by Professor Antony Hilton entitled 'An unwanted guest for dinner' involved the history of microbiology and food hygiene. Our Solihull star Archie Clay was selected for demonstrations. The afternoon lecture given by Dr Alice Rothnie involved interactive DNA quizzes and genetic code breakers. The highlight of the day was the practical session run by Dr Russell Collighan where pupils worked individually on DNA extraction from kiwis in full scale science laboratories. The day was a great success and proved to be thought-provoking for our able scientists.



Debating Society

This academic year has been another busy one for the Debating Society, from regular competitions across the country to weekly debates and training sessions engaging debaters from across the School. The year started with excellent competition results at Birmingham University where Caroline Camm and George Diwakar broke to the finals. This success was quickly followed with Phoebe Harland and Oliver Rooney, and Adam Wolwark and Joanna O'Sullivan all breaking to the Novice Final at Warwick University. Nottingham was the next competition where in the Novice Final, debating the controversial topic of the right to bear arms, Angus Young and Abigail Moise, Oliver Rooney and Tom Williams, and Charlotte Perry and Aine Maher were all finalists. Congratulations must go to Angus Young and Abigail Moise who emerged as the competition winners, with Angus Young also claiming the prize for the Top Novice Speaker. The Easter Term started with the success of Alanna Wall and Jaipreet Deo breaking to Oxford Finals Day at Oxford University's prestigious competition. In April, Megan Lloyd, Lydia Stephens and Jess Browne competed in the National Finals of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition, successfully placing them in the country's top 8 teams. The Easter Term ended with the annual weekend trip to Durham University to compete in the world's largest debating competition at school level. George Diwakar and Maddie Lavery succeeded in reaching the quarter-finals, ranking 10th in the UK, a fantastic achievement.

However, the Debating Society's success was by no means limited to its competition achievements. Within School the society was busy with House competitions and weekly animated debates of controversial issues. In the Summer Term elections took place for Debating President, with lively debates between Angus Young and Aine Maher being settled by a whole-school vote. The Summer Term also featured the Society's inaugural 'Big Debate', hosted by former pupil and Radio 4 Presenter of *The Moral Maze*, Michael Buerk. The Right Honourable Caroline Spelman MP and Upper Sixth student George Diwakar proposed the motion, with Adam Hawksbee, President of Sheffield University's Debating Society, and Lower Sixth student Aine Maher, opposing the motion. The Society was particularly pleased to be able to welcome Mr Buerk as the new Patron of the Debating Society.

Thanks must go to the dedicated staff involved in the Debating Society, particularly to Ms Harford, Mr Anderton, Miss Evans and Dr Spratley, without whom none of this would be possible. At the end of the year the society also bid farewell to Dr Johnson, whose enthusiasm and dedication to debating was infectious; she will be much missed.

Aine Maher

The Big Debate

On Thursday 19 June a very special event took place - the inaugural Solihull Big Debate, hosted by Old Silhillian and Radio 4 Presenter of the Moral Maze, Michael Buerk. The Right Honourable Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden, and George Diwakar from our Upper Sixth proposed that we should push the G20 to spend 0.7% of their GDP on the world's poorest people. The motion was ably defended by Adam Hawksbee, President of the University of Sheffield's Debating Society, and Aine Maher from the Lower Sixth. The questions from the floor were incisive and Michael's chairing meant that evasion and waffling were simply not tolerated. The School has one of the largest and most dynamic debating societies in the country and we are delighted to have Michael Buerk, someone who has spent his career challenging governments and the public to consider the world differently, as the Patron. After the event Michael said: 'The debate was terrific and showed why Solihull has one of the finest reputations for debating for any school in the country'.





Sixth Form Public Speaking Day

Friday 27 June saw the Lower Sixth take part in our annual Public Speaking Day. This has become a fixture in the Sixth Form calendar and something we value extremely highly, not just for the invaluable speaking and presenting skills it helps our students learn, but also for the 'team building' aspect and the greater understanding of each other that it gives our students. As with previous years, five public speaking coaches travelled up from London, led by James Marshall of Talking Ape. Students were divided up into their Houses and quickly bonded with their coaches over ice-breaker activities and by the end of the morning session each of the students had produced a short speech about themselves. In the afternoon session students all produced more lengthy speeches, which were performed in front of their group without notes of any kind; some of these were incredibly emotional and it was not unusual to see the group moved to tears. Eventually, one speech was put forward from each House to compete in the final which took place in the Bushell Hall in front of the whole year group. This was a nerve-wrecking experience indeed and a huge amount of credit should go to all those who spoke in front of their year group: Charles Badham, Grace Lodge, Ben Priestley, Joe Hadley, Jack Hines, Victoria Steele and the eventual winner Aine Maher who gave an exceptional speech about feminism.

Mr B Sandford-Smith



Public Speaking Success

This year has been an astonishingly successful one for our Public Speaking Team of Jessica Browne, Megan Lloyd, and Lydia Stephens. Firstly, they won the Birmingham Final of the English Speaking Union's Schools' Public Speaking Competition. They then progressed to the Midlands Regional Final, held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, and again they emerged victorious. On the day, there were additional prizes for Megan as best questioner, and Jessica as speaker with most potential. While unfortunately they were not victorious in the National Final, held in Cambridge, 350 teams entered the competition originally, and so to finish as one of the top 8 schools in the country is a fantastic achievement.

Dr P Spratley





Debate to mark International Women's Day

On Friday 7 March we celebrated International Women's Day with a lively debate from a panel of women in business. The event was very well attended by boys and girls and the panellists – hosted by Jo Malin of the BBC – answered questions around the subject of women in the boardroom, how to get ahead in business and how to develop a career in broadcasting. Jo Malin talked about her career in the BBC and encouraged students to follow their passion and be prepared to be flexible on their career journey. Among the panellists were Harriet Evans, Corporate Solutions Director of Mitsubishi Electric, Manty Stanley, MD of Teal Patents Ltd and Georgia Adderley, current student at Nottingham Trent University and intern at Capital FM, all of whom are former pupils. There was also Lucy Jaynes, Consultant and business owner and Lucy Lunt, School Governor and BBC Radio Producer.

Chess Club

This year has been very successful for chess at Solihull School. All members of the Chess Club have played many games this year – both in the National Schools' Chess Challenge and also in representing the School in one of the teams. All have improved greatly over this time.

The first team narrowly missed out on promotion in its division, finishing joint runners-up. The younger teams, including the Junior School, also gained valuable experience playing competitive matches against other school teams.

The future of chess at Solihull School looks very promising, with many students joining the newly formed Junior School Chess Club. Over thirty pupils took part and the club was so successful that a professional coach was introduced.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr Powell and Mr Thomas for guiding and helping all chess players in the School.

Jake Humphries



The Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners National Conference

As Chair of Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council I was invited to speak at the Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners National Conference on 28 February and 1 March 2014 on 'How to set up a Youth Council'. It was a privilege to be invited to represent the youth of Great Britain at the conference, especially as we stayed in a beautiful hotel and were treated like royalty. I delivered two workshops, speaking for 50 minutes before taking questions. The session aimed to highlight the opportunities available for young people, practical details on how to start a Youth Parish Council, what actions need to be put in place, what to put in a constitution and what types of projects young people can get involved in.

Jessica Browne, Lower Fifth



Shakespeare Club

The School's new performance-led Shakespeare Club is introducing our Junior pupils to the world's greatest playwright and instilling a love of plays. Many of our ten and eleven-year-olds are exploring the works of Shakespeare on their feet as if they were professional actors during the club's weekly after-school meetings. It is run by Miss Evans as part of her MA course in the Advanced Teaching of Shakespeare, at the University of Warwick. Her experience of working with specialist academics and directors has already enabled pupils to gain thrilling introductions to *Hamlet* and *Romeo & Juliet*.



Leticia 'Teas Up!'

Leticia Salmon in the Upper Fifth found the answer to raising money for an African mountaineering and charity challenge in a tea cup. She raised £1,300 to take part in Exercise Kenya Venturer this summer after turning her home into a tea shop. The proceeds, added to those from other fundraising, also netted £900 towards the funding of much-needed new buildings for Thangathi Primary School which Leticia will be helping to build with other cadets during the expedition.

More than 70 supporters, including Solihull Mayor Joe Tildesley and his wife and Lady Mayoress Joan Tildesley, tucked into the full afternoon teas served up by Leticia. She made more than 100 pots of tea and served over 1,000 homemade cakes and sandwiches for over six hours - and even ran a raffle for a dozen donated prizes.

Luke motors his way to victory

Congratulations to Luke Bryant who this year was crowned champion of the GSK-McLaren Pit Stop Challenge. Luke's work on how to improve the reaction times of the McLaren F1 pit crew trumped hundreds of other applications, and he was shortlisted to present his findings at the final, held at GSK's Human Performance Lab. Luke did a fantastic job, and was awarded his trophy by Dame Kelly Holmes. As part of his prize, Luke has been invited to the McLaren Technology Centre for a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the world-leading facilities, and the opportunity to meet some of the most important people in the world of motorsport.





Martin Johnson visit

Back in the Christmas term, ex-England rugby union captain and coach and World Cup winner Martin Johnson visited the School to run a coaching session with the 1st XV. It was a real privilege to have such an experienced and well-respected rugby great here at the School and the whole squad learned a great deal from him.



Third Form 'Paul Horton' Exhibition Visit

Following on from their successful exhibition at Castle Galleries, Solihull in December 2012, the Third Form pupils this year took local artist Paul Horton up on his invitation to join him at his new 'Love & Hope' exhibition at the Waterhall Gallery in Birmingham. The pupils participated in a series of activities centred around Paul's paintings, which culminated in a tour around the exhibition, with Paul himself giving the pupils a personal insight into his life and work and what has inspired him to be the artist he is today. It was a fantastic opportunity to be able to view Paul's work in such close proximity and meet the artist himself.





A visit to the Mayor

Pupils were delighted to be given the opportunity to visit Solihull Council Chamber this year. A party of Junior School pupils and representatives from the Senior School Councils were given a warm welcome to the Council House by the Mayor of Solihull, Mr Joe Tildesley.

We had an opportunity to take a seat in the Council Chamber itself. To sit in the very seats used by our elected Members of the Council was a privilege - a role that may become a reality for some of us in years to come! The Mayor spent time explaining the role of Solihull Council in the wider Borough and asked us questions about the different political parties. He

also championed Solihull Youth Council as a vehicle for young people to get involved in politics at a local level.

We were invited to visit the Mayor's Parlour, which is where he meets and greets invited guests. The clerk to the Mayor showed us the Mayor's ceremonial robes and a photograph of the Mayoress, Mrs Joan Tildesley. We were then presented with one of the new and rare five pound coins which have been produced to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. This was a wonderful opportunity and it was made all the more special because of the Mayor's generosity.

Jessica Browne, Lower Fifth

Speeches Evening

Our Guest of Honour at this year's Speeches Evening was Nigel Botterill, a successful local businessman with three children at the School. He handed out prizes to pupils in the Upper and Middle School and spoke passionately to the Bushell Hall audience about how to achieve success in life.



The Kent Library

To mark the beginning of the academic year we displayed all the Summer Reading Challenge postcards that were returned to us over the summer. It was great to see the enthusiastic response from our new Third Form pupils.

Throughout the course of this year we have invited pupils to engage in various library activities. For example, pupils have filled in a 'suitcase' with the title of their favourite book for our 'Train to Storyville'. Then in a Valentine mood, we set two competitions: 'Guess the Famous Literary Couples', and pair the leading lady and gentleman from our list of 'Lonely Hearts'.

Pupils also participated in our Earth Hour Competition where Lower School pupils were asked for their 'Wish for the Future' written on a star. These stars were then transformed into our very own constellation. The School was awarded a certificate from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for our participation in Earth Hour 2014. Prizes were awarded for the most selfless and sincere wishes.

New to the Library this year is our dedicated Sixth Form/ adult reading section. Our aim is to encourage the older readers in our School community to continue their appreciation of reading by providing them with a wealth of suitable reading matter easily accessible in one place.

Finally, the accolade of 'Most Avid Reader' this year goes to Imogen Houghton (IHP) for the girls and Ramyank Chaganty (IVS) for the boys. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

Mrs Alison Vaughan, Librarian



Poet Laureate

This year, Megan Lloyd succeeded Becky Took as the School's official Poet Laureate. Below are two of her poems. The first was read out at the Remembrance Service in the School Chapel and the second appeared in this year's Headmaster's Christmas card.

Lament for the Lost

War, a cold, bitter fiend.
Its shadow steals men away
then watches as they don
the shroud of bitter torment
and stitch it to their skin.
To be worn always.

Their pockets heavy
With gifts of steel.
Never allowed to ask
If problems might be better solved
Not by bullets
But by tongues.

For some, solace lies
In Death's sweet embrace,
Whilst others trudge home.
Their eyes, once clouded
By the delusions of youth
Now clouded only by tears.

As the years run on, still
We weep, mourn, lament
The spaces they left.
Yet our sorrow is powerless to
Undo the horrors
Wrought by man.

Our power is in our remembering.
The promise to never forget
The weight of the cross they bore
In the name of peace.

Of A Virgin Born

From the dark velvet night hangs a golden star
Proclaiming glad tidings as angels foretold,
To men as they sleep in countries far,
The word that was writ in the scriptures of old.
Of a virgin born was a baby boy
Whose infant tears will wash away the sins of man.
Jesus our redeemer, bringer of great joy,
His deliverance part of God's majestic plan.
His love asks no questions, for he loves us all the same.
When we're lost he's there to guide us, and set us on our way
Asking naught but that we praise his father's name
For the gift he gave us one December day.
Earth slumbers on, bathed in celestial light,
It's a saviour born on Christmas night.





Aim Higher Biology Conference

On 25 September nine Upper Fifth pupils attended an Aim Higher Biology Conference held at Aston University. Solihull School joined schools from across the country to listen to lectures aimed at gifted and talented students. Our first lecture by Professor Antony Hilton entitled 'An unwanted guest for dinner' involved the history of microbiology and food hygiene. Our Solihull star Archie Clay was selected for demonstrations. The afternoon lecture given by Dr Alice Rothnie involved interactive DNA quizzes and genetic code breakers. The highlight of the day was the practical session run by Dr Russell Collighan where pupils worked individually on DNA extraction from kiwis in full scale science laboratories. The day was a great success and proved to be thought-provoking for our able scientists.

Mrs D Wild

CIPFA Sixth Form Games

Seven Lower Sixth Business and Economics students competed in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Sixth Form Games at the University of Derby. This event asks students to change their usual focus from private sector business to public sector organisations and provided a unique insight into the roles of accountants and finance specialists in the public sector. Pupils had to play the roles of the board of directors for a fictitious borough council, making decisions about cuts to public services in the areas of street lighting, social care, youth unemployment service, parks and recreation, and refuse collection. They were challenged throughout the game by a range of 'bombshell' scenarios; one of which resulted in a heated argument with a union leader! The team made an excellent presentation and fully justified the creative decisions they made in a mature and professional manner.

Mrs J Mander



Isaac Webber – Mathematician Extraordinaire!

This year, Isaac Webber in the Lower Sixth competed in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2 Competition, which is the highest you can enter. 200 of the very best mathematicians in the country enter this prestigious competition, and Isaac secured a place in the top 50.

A fantastic achievement! Isaac has also been successful in a prestigious competition for Lower Sixth physicists, the Senior Physics Challenge. This involved a demanding online test of Physics and Maths problems, with success also depending on GCSE results, previous success in national competitions, and a reference from Physics teachers. As a result, Isaac has been invited to a Physics summer school at Cambridge University.

This is the fourth successive year in which a Solihull School student has been among the sixty or so best in the country who have been offered a place on the summer school.

Mathematics Competition Success

In the Easter term we sent two teams to the local regional final of the FMSP (Further Mathematics Support Programme) Year 10 Team Competition, 2014. They came first and second. The successful A-team comprised Charlotte Sasse, Daniel Sandler, Maxine Perroni-Scharf and Lili Mistry. The event was composed of four rounds of different types of maths problem solving, including an off-curriculum round on Base 6. Thank you to Mr Bishop, Mr Cureton and Dr Atkinson for support.





Art and Photography Summer Exhibition

Karren Brady was guest of honour at the summer art exhibition in July where parents, pupils and friends viewed more than 1,000 pieces of art and photography work over three floors of the George Hill Building and adjoining School House.

Work was also displayed by pupils from Solihull Junior School and from ten local schools: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Balsall Common Primary School, The Blue Coat School, Eversfield Preparatory School, Kineton Green Primary School, Knowle Academy, Monkspath Primary School, Mapledene Primary School, Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James and West House School.

Karren Brady, who presented certificates of thanks to the participating schools, said: 'Learning the ability to express yourself, whether through communication or your work, is a vital preparation for life and I think the wonderful artwork we see here at this exhibition shows that these creative young people can approach whatever they do in the future with confidence'.

The exhibition, which included live musical entertainment from Charlotte Sasse and Ellie Ajao, also provided an occasion to pay tribute to John Nickson, who retired at the end of the summer term as Head of Art after 35 years' service to the School.

Ms D Trim



Life Drawing Workshop

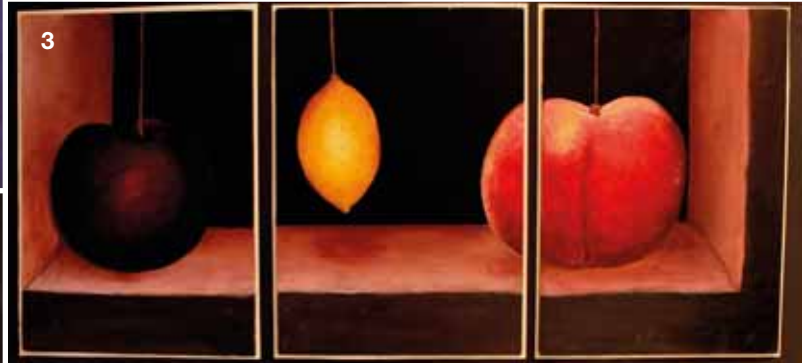
This year the Sixth Form Artists were treated to a life drawing workshop run by the Royal Academy of Art in our painting studio. Students spent the day working with one of the Royal Academy lecturers and her model exploring a range of drawing techniques and concepts based around the tradition of Life Drawing. The students gained a great deal from the sessions and impressed the Royal Academy staff with their skills.



A-Level students' photography work displayed at the Mailbox in Birmingham

After being impressed by the School's Art Exhibition last year Tarah Hewitt, Marketing Manager for the Mailbox, approached the Art Department to supply photography work to display during the Mailbox redevelopment over the summer of 2014. The Mailbox was open throughout the process and our students' work was selected to make the surroundings more visually attractive to the customers and general public. Work was chosen from twenty of our A-Level photographers with some students having more than one piece displayed in the entrance and by the restaurants and bars overlooking the canal.







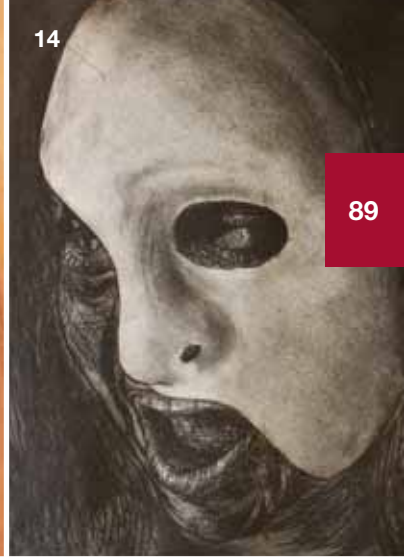
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19



20



Upper Fifth Art

- 1. Georgina Brownsword
- 2. Aimee Skidmore
- 3. Annie Johnson
- 4. Gianni Baldi
- 5. Harriet Marshall
- 6. Jack Berry
- 7. Zershaaneh Qureshi
- 8. Shona Eaton
- 9. Vini Vinod
- 10. Helena Newbould

- 11. Karan Tumber
- 12. Sam Brown
- 13. Rebecca Rodwell
- 14. Isobel Serle
- 15. Alexandra Finnegan
- 16. Rebecca Timperley
- 17. Nakita Basra
- 18. Harriet Woolley
- 19. Hayley Piggin
- 20. Bradley Monk

Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Wessex School visit to Solihull

This year was the ninth year of our partnership with Wessex School in Chile, and they visited us from 20- 23 May. Forty-two students and four teachers enjoyed visiting the local area, Stratford and Coventry, and competed in the annual football and rounders matches. Unfortunately the weather prevented play on the grass but the boys insisted on their football challenge on the astro turf. Again Chile (Wessex) beat England (Solihull) in the football, but it was a close shave with a goal scored in the final five minutes to make it 3-2! Well done Chile! On the final morning Wessex students sang, recited and performed the 'Cueca' in Junior School assembly, which is a traditional Chilean folk dance. This year many Junior School families hosted our visitors which added a new and exciting dimension to the visit. Many thanks to all parents and students who hosted.

Mrs J Brown



Chilean Gap Students - Andrés's Reflections

Since the first time I came to England and to Solihull School three years ago I knew I wanted to return, so coming as a Gap student seemed ideal. I spoke to the last Gap students about their experiences at Solihull and all of them had really nice memories about the School, about their travels around other countries and about all the opportunities they had here. This, and all I already knew about England and the School, encouraged me to try to come as a Gap student.

I knew it was a great opportunity to improve my English, to get teaching skills and to learn more about British culture. But now that I have had the experience myself, I know I learned a lot and got a lot more than I expected. It's not just working and helping in Solihull School, it's about living in a different country with different people and language, it's about exchanging cultures and knowledge. I also made really good friends, and I hope the relationships that I made never get lost. If they come to Chile one day they have to remember they have a friend, a Chilean son and brother in Concepción. They are invited to come to my house whenever they want to.

Helping in Spanish lessons made me improve my English/ Spanish and meet a lot of very nice students. Helping in German lessons made me learn a little bit of German. Also, when I participated in the backstage of the play Spamalot I got more in contact with the pupils and I had a chance to get to



know them in other ways. I hope I was helpful in all the classes and that the students at Solihull School learnt a little bit about Chile and our culture having us here.

Coming as a Gap student wasn't only about England, I also had the opportunity to travel around Europe and visit some old friends, mainly Germany because of my German roots. In Germany I went to many different cities and places. I went to Hamburg to visit a friend and I went to a German school for a week, then to Stuttgart to some car museums, after that to Munich to visit all the historic and tourist places including Neuschwanstein Castle and finally Berlin, an incredible city for all kind of visitors. I also went to Salzburg in Austria, the beautiful home city of Mozart. Before going back to Chile I want to go to London again, I want to visit all the places I went three years ago and I also want to visit even more.

I would like to thank my two host families, Mrs Amanda Copsey, and their really nice and funny sons Harry and Freddie Collini; and Mr and Mrs Blake and their two great sons Cam and Fin. I really enjoyed my three weeks at the Collinis'. I had great fun with them and I enjoyed really nice Italian food. Plus, I am really thankful to the Blakes for receiving me in their home for a second time, making a total of almost two months with them and also for receiving my brother Francisco coming from the The Wessex School where Paulina and I studied. You've been amazingly kind and I have enjoyed my time with you a great deal. Thank you very much for making me feel at home and part of your lovely families. You are all invited to come to



mine if you want to. I hope you also had a good time hosting me and that you learnt a lot about my country and our culture. I would also like to thank all the members of the Modern Languages Department, especially Mrs Barrett, Miss Campbell, Mrs Rossay-Gilson, Mrs Elvira Cassano, Mr Gunning, Mr Morgan and Mr Dowsett, plus all the teachers I had classes with, for letting me help and teach in your classes, for being so helpful and friendly with me and for making me feel a member of the Solihull staff.

And last but not least I would really like to thank Mrs Julie Brown for organizing this amazing experience for us and the School for looking after us, for helping us and for receiving us in her house as if it was ours. She has been doing an incredible job over all these years with the Chilean connections, I really hope they won't get lost.

Andrés Oelker Mella

Chilean Gap Students - Paulina's Reflections

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When I finished high school, I knew I wanted to do something out of the ordinary before going off to university. I wanted to live in another culture like the English, meet new people, and speak English all day.

I could not be luckier about the four completely different families that hosted me in the past three months. Going from those having snakes, geckos and lovely bird as pets, to a whole car collection and an amazing eleven-year-old cyclist. All of them made me feel right at home from the first night I got there, and treated me as if I were part of the family.

I have been helping students from ages thirteen to eighteen in their Spanish lessons, mostly with their pronunciation. Working with the teachers of the Modern Foreign Languages Department was a lovely experience; they really made me feel part of the staff.

During my three months here I have participated in the school musical Spamalot, an experience that I'll definitely never forget. It was fabulous and I made lots of friends during rehearsals and the play itself. I also sang with the Jazz Singers at a concert, went on an Art Trip to galleries in London, and debated with the politics class on a European Languages Debate in Birmingham!

On holiday I enjoyed an unbelievable trip to Belgium, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Germany and Denmark. I visited places I didn't even really know about and saw amazing scenery. I am now off to Italy and then back to my country, Chile.

When I get back to Chile I will continue practising rhythmic gymnastics and get a job until March when university starts in Chile. I haven't really decided what to study but it will definitely be something related to English and Languages.

I wouldn't say I am sad it's over, but I am very glad it happened and if I had the chance to repeat this trip I would definitely say YES. This Gap link between Wessex and Solihull School has given me the best three months in my life which I will never forget, and I thank them both. I take with me the best friends and memories.

*Paulina Rosales
May 2014*



Spanish Exchange

The academic year 2013-14 saw the second instalment of Solihull School's Spanish Exchange programme with Colegio Oleza in Orihuela (Alicante).

This year, it was the Solihull Fourth Form pupils' turn to go abroad first, and as such, accompanied by Mr Morgan and Mrs Rossay-Gilson, they departed for Alicante in October 2013 and spent the week with their host families. They got involved in learning the language, experiencing the cultural and scenic delights of the local area and spending some quality time in the shopping malls and on the beaches that surround Orihuela. All the pupils were enriched by their visit and came back more confident than ever in their ability both to hold their own in the language and order a frozen yoghurt.

The return visit of our Spanish colleagues took place in March 2014, and during the week they spent here, they visited Stratford and Warwick and made their traditional pilgrimage to Bourneville. As in Orihuela, sport played an important part in bringing both nationalities together and by the time they left for Spain, the Colegio Oleza pupils could certainly say that they had had a real taste of everyday life in England. (It rained a lot.) Once again, our Spanish Exchange was a tremendous success, and we look forward to continuing our fantastic partnership with Colegio Oleza in the future.

Mr P Morgan



European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages, a Council of Europe initiative, was embraced with great enthusiasm by Solihull School on Thursday 26 September.

Miss Sophie Gavrois, Lecturer in French and Schools Liaison Officer from the University of Birmingham, began proceedings by addressing the School community during Senior School Assembly, setting out all the economic, professional and cultural reasons why multi-lingualism is more important than ever in today's society.

Throughout the rest of the day, students and staff alike did their best to celebrate language diversity in Europe in a number of ways.

Firstly, pupils were able to engage in simple conversations in a foreign language with members of staff who had volunteered to wear special stickers bearing the message 'Speak to Me' in the language of their choice. Having worked up an appetite, they then got the chance to order their lunch in the Refectory using menus in Spanish, German and French.

In addition, Mrs Cramb and Mrs Foster staged language workshops for staff in Italian and Welsh respectively. Perhaps the highlight of the day were the lessons taught by those brave teacher volunteers who agreed to teach lessons in their own subject area using a language they could speak other than English. There were some fantastic examples of teachers from outside the Modern Foreign Languages Department using their language skills in order to transmit their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject to the pupils. European Day of Languages proved once again that speaking another language not only builds bridges between different people, but also represents a great opportunity to have fun.

Mr P Morgan



lari
dys.
wend - saygyan
Fed - drink
wyta - eating
mynd - to go
ogini o.

drych
oneud
mynd
wod

Cyw i

Rwy'n ho
Dwi'n ho
Rydni

Raths

Ble?





Onatti Theatre Company

This year we welcomed back Onatti Theatre to the School, a company who put on short plays to enrich the learning of languages for young pupils. In the Christmas term they put on a French play. The Bushell Hall was filled with pupils from the Lower School and J4 and everyone enjoyed the performance, delivered entirely in French. At the end, pupils asked the actors questions, again, all in French! Then, in February, all the pupils in the Shell and Fourth Forms who study Spanish had the opportunity to watch an entertaining play performed entirely in Spanish. The title of the piece was 'La Habitación de Mateo' (Matthew's Room) and it certainly proved to be both entertaining and very helpful from a linguistic point of view. Such events greatly enrich our Languages curriculum and give our pupils the chance to see the language they study being used in a more authentic setting.

International School Meals Day

To mark International School Meals Day, A-Level French students helped students of French, Spanish and German in the Fourth Form make a Franco-Belgian classic – Croque Monsieur! The older students demonstrated how to prepare the dish in French and German and the younger pupils took pleasure in serving up a tasty multi-lingual treat!

Thanks to Mrs Hallworth for making this cross-channel culinary experience possible!





Visit to German Department by Professor Heinrich Detering

This year, we were pleased to welcome to the School Professor Detering, who is President of the German Academy for Language and Poetry and an eminent poet and essayist. He was writer-in-residence at Aston University and visited our German Sixth Form students to discuss his poetry and the reunification of Germany, which is part of our A-Level cultural topic.

The German Exchange to Hofheim with the Lower Fifth German Group

We arrived in Germany on 21 March all eagerly anticipating rekindling our friendship with our exchange partners who had come over to England the previous October. After spending the weekend with our partners' family who had organised their own activities for us, we were then reunited with the rest of our School. Our partners' school was a 'Privatschule', a smaller institution, but was still really lovely. We then had a week of fun activities including rock climbing, shopping and sitting in on their lessons. At the end of a great week, not only did we learn a lot of German, but now have friends for life.

Will Jervis, Lower Fifth





Frankfurt Christmas Market, Birmingham

On Thursday 12 December the Shell Form pupils had a chance to immerse themselves in the German culture as they headed not to Germany, but Birmingham. At the annual Christmas Market they tried new foods and saw the traditional German crafts but what was most valuable was all the speaking practice. German stall holders provided the perfect opportunity to test their classroom German in real life situations and we were lucky enough to be joined by some Aston University students.

Mrs P Cramb



The Annual German meal with the Sixth Form

The German Department enjoyed their annual German meal at the German Cafe in Shirley in June. Our regular special guests were Dr Troth, who has been organising the German Christmas Market Trip for the whole School and the Berlin Trip for the Sixth Form for the last 8 years, and Mr Hadley who taught Sixth Form German until last year. We are hoping to invite past Germanists from Solihull School in the future.



DAS ALLES IST DEUTSCHLAND

Die vierte deutsche Zeitschrift von Solihull School



The Lower Fifth enjoying a day out with their German exchange partners at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

Featuring high quality articles on grammar German culture, vocabulary learning...



...and a fantastic website to help with tricky vocabulary!
Viel Spaß!

German Magazine

The German Magazine has continued to grow and improve with the launch of the fourth edition of *Das Alles ist Deutschland* in the Easter term. The magazine aims to have interesting articles relating to the culture and language of Germany, as well as articles showcasing pupils work from the Shell Form through to the Upper Sixth. A particular highlight in this issue was an interview with Henning Wehn, the famous comedian who has appeared on panel shows such as 'Have I Got News for You?'. Henning told us about the importance of German in today's society and even explained his exciting career.

Das Alles ist Deutschland was delighted to be given a spot in the prestigious magazine *The Linguist*, a monthly publication from Birmingham University. We featured work in there from three students of varying ages and abilities and the University was very impressed. We hope this will be the first of many appearances.

It is clear the magazine continues to thrive due to the hard work of its contributors and is vital in maintaining students' enthusiasm for the language.

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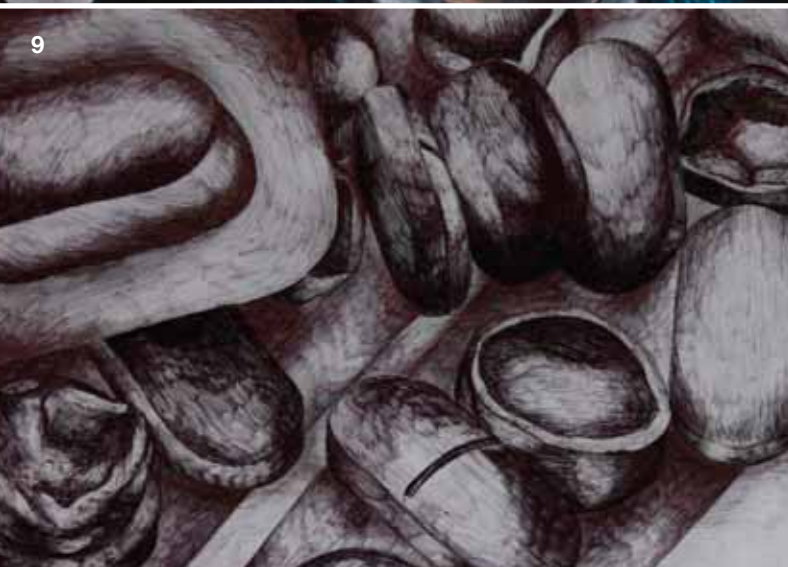
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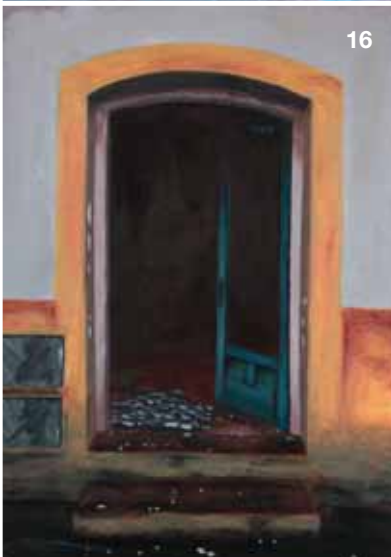
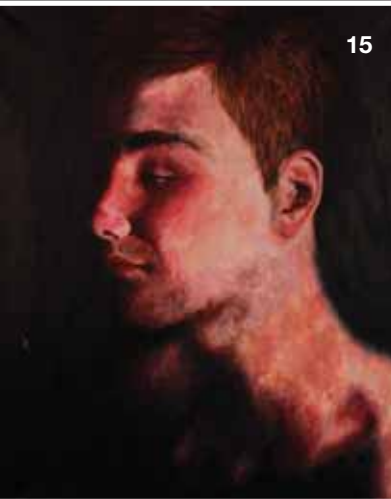
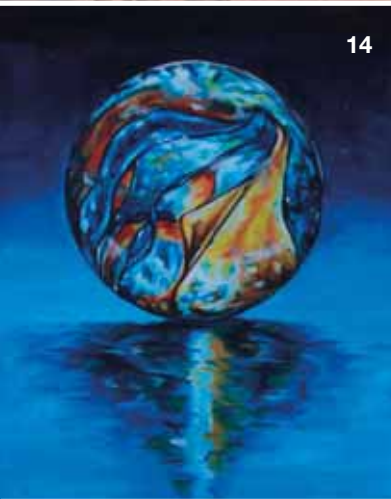


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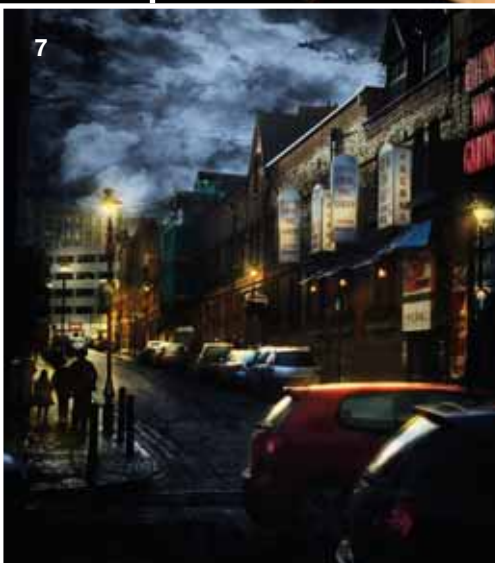
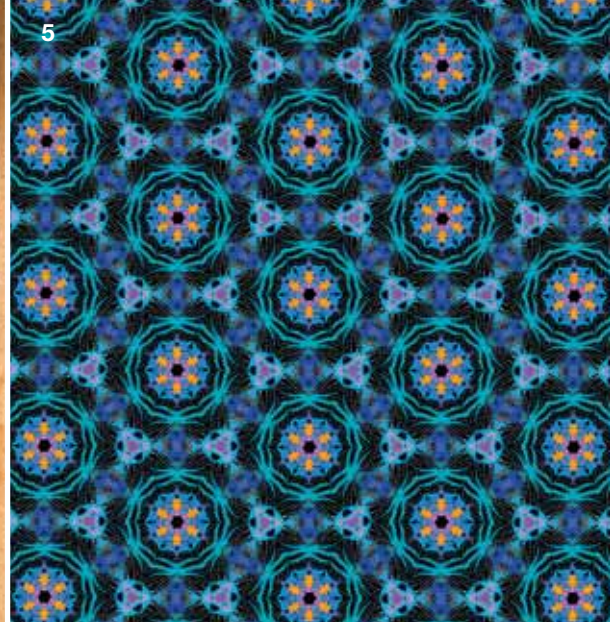
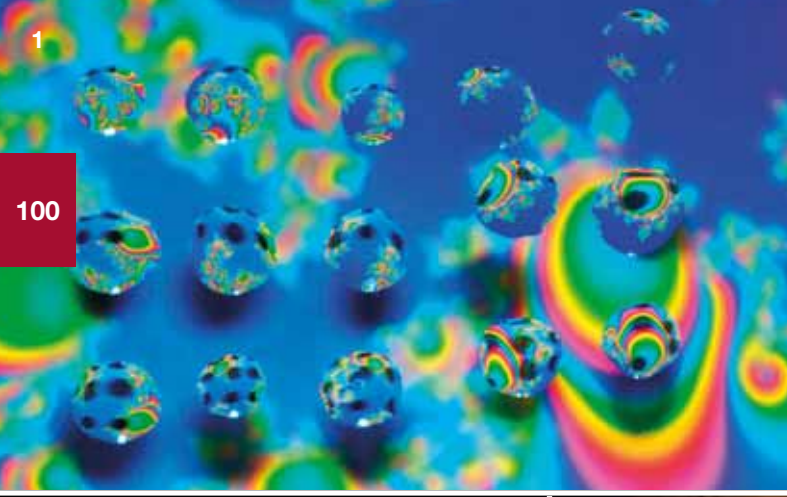
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Lower Sixth Art

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Abdullah Sheikh | 12. Nicolas Starkey |
| 2. Abigail Moise | 13. Bernadette Farnworth |
| 3. Euan Argyle | 14. Harry Sharpe |
| 4. Adam Wolwark | 15. Isobel Cawley |
| 5. Anna Brice | 16. Jack Francis |
| 6. Annie Bewick | 17. Megan Woolley |
| 7. Danielle Blake | 18. Georgina Hall |
| 8. Eleanor Rush De Jesus | 19. Megan Seickell |
| 9. David Herriotts | 20. Jenna Balfour |
| 10. Eleanor Brown | 21. Olivia Harris |
| 11. Katie Craddock | 22. Liberty Malley |





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Lower Sixth Photography

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Robert Comer | 11. Megan Seickell |
| 2. Tom Gill | 12. Georgina Hall |
| 3. Georgia Lovett | 13. Bhavandeep Sunner |
| 4. Anne-Sophie Gilson | 14. Jenna Balfour |
| 5. Zoe Black | 15. Jonathon Altham |
| 6. Eloise Boblin | 16. Daniel Dowell-Lee |
| 7. James Sutton | 17. Oliver Turley |
| 8. Zeena Ismail | 18. Lottie Harland |
| 9. Fraser Mackie | 19. James Ward |
| 10. Hannah Shakeshaft | |

Sport

Rugby - The 1st XV

U18 XV

P28 W20 D1 L7 PF 643 PA 426 Win Ratio 73.2%

A hard summer of graft was behind this band of men who had become united in their quest to be the best. Wagamama had provided the winter insulation and under the leadership of our 'intelligent' prop Lawrence Finch, 'The Fifteen' talked matters all rugby. Looming in the distance were the Daily Mail Cup (League), The Natwest U18 Cup and the domestic fixtures. Not a single easy day in the office could be had!

The 24-strong squad, plus an entourage of staff that would embarrass even the British Lions, departed for the annual King's Macclesfield pre-season festival. There was a blend of youth and wise old heads who had previously been at the coal face. Our four fixtures saw us finish with a 50/50 split having played some dazzling phases but also some pieces only good enough for Room 101! With more fodder on board, this group of professional athletes had an early night after a bedtime story from Mr Covill. Falling asleep was not a problem.

Targets were simple: 1. Top 5 in the Daily Mail Cup League. 2. Win the Natwest U18 Cup. 3. Undefeated in domestic fixtures. Let the story unfold!

The Fifteen's first Daily Mail League game was up against an Old Swinford Hospital team hungry for some success which they have been starved of for five years. But the drought was to continue as Solihull poured on the pressure and made home advantage count. Every blade of grass was touched as the final score reached 22-17. On the Wednesday for a little light relief, we welcomed Brynteg Comprehensive School from the valleys, birthplace of the bronzed Gavin Henson. The Fifteen were far superior on the day with a superb mix of brawn and finesse. Another win, 55-5.

Our following two Saturdays would see the Fifteen tackle the might of the Worcester-based schools, an area beginning to push us a little and of whom we have memories to put to bed. A young King's Worcester side competed well with us initially but then the power and pace of the home side simply blew the young guns away. End score 35-19 and RGS to look forward to. With visiting staff 'microphoned up', this was a day for the Fifteen to hush a few people. A gruelling match full of 'grunt' and no backward step, saw the School win by a single converted score, 20-13. That meant in the league P3 W3. So far so good but complacency is an ugly word!

The next mid-week game was league against Stowe, away. What an epic and one of the best and most memorable games I have been linked with at Solihull. Having arrived a little later than expected due to Mr Hifle liking pudding, the Fifteen (a little depleted due to injury) cut short their warm-up. The whistle blew for the start of the game. Drums were beaten and the opposition support were out in force and could spell STOWE! The whistle blew for half-time and we were being 'spanked' royally by a dynamic opposition 22-0. What happened in the second half was exceptional. The never say die attitude was commendable. We played out an incredible 25-22 victory: epic / awesome / incredible / astonishing – take your pick!

The next match was against last year's Daily Mail U18 Cup finalists, Northampton School for Boys. They were put to



the sword by an impressive 41-12 margin, just the gin and tonic needed before our Round 2 Natwest Cup game versus Bishop Vesey's. A young side were blooded in this and the game wasn't plain sailing by any means. Never any doubt for a gambling man and we progressed to round 3 with a 24-10 victory.

Bromsgrove School was a lesson in having 99% possession but not scoring, whilst they use the 1% and win 26-38! Not an enjoyable day in the office. But the next two encounters leading up to the St Joseph's Tournament saw The Fifteen score 80 points with only 15 against.

This was our first time on the big stage at St Joseph's prestigious tournament, only for the top heavyweights. Our group was Dulwich College (Daily Mail Champions past two years), Portsmouth GS and Belfast Royal Academy. It proved to be two days of battle; shortened matches and no holds barred! The aim was simple: stay standing. The Fifteen lost 3-5 in the last play against Dulwich but then defeated the others 10-5 and 26-5 respectively. We had made the cut and were into day two against Bedford School, Millfield and RGS



High Wycombe. The ice baths the night before had worked! In the first game The Fifteen beat Bedford School (basically Northampton Saints Academy) 7-0. Pinch me, this wasn't happening! But then the wheels came off the Aston Villa coach as injury struck; 3 in the space of 2 minutes against Millfield. It was brutal! Again a score in the last play saw us lose 3-7 but we were now down to the last ones standing. RGS punished us 5-19. What an incredible achievement and this band of men made sure Solihull was on the map. Brilliant!

As if it couldn't get any better, we then travelled to Ellesmere College. What a fixture everybody witnessed. Rated highly and moving well in the league, this was a biggie! Blow for blow, punch for punch, tackle for tackle it was relentless. No player would lie down. Four minutes left and we are 19-13 down and in our 22 metre area. Only one thing to do: run it (such is the belief of this squad) and score a length of the field converted try and we win 19-20: stuff of dreams. Round 4 of the Natwest Cup witnessed a 48-12 win against John Taylor High School leading us to a Round 5 clash against Warwick on Wednesday 27 November. In the league we saw off KES Birmingham 31-0 and then Nottingham 19-17.

Warwick was certainly a day we shall never forget and one I will not comment upon! Neither will I watch the video replay. What I will say is I'm proud of every single player that day!

Trent and Adams GS detected a possible wounded animal but sheer character of The Fifteen saw us eke out two wins 12-10 and 16-15 respectively. Our match against Adams GS demonstrated to all of the loyal supporters that the Warwick Cup game had served a purpose as we closed out the match in true Munster style. The Christmas break had come at the right time with all of the squads needing some R&R with TLC, as well as Mr Emmett and Mr Covill.

Good old English weather struck after Christmas as Jack Frost had his say! From January to the back end of March we only managed to play a total of four matches, a ridiculous statistic for this group of keen players. Coleg Morgannwg gave us a lesson in speed play mixed with a deadly pinch of power. The combination was impressive and we floundered to a 5-33 defeat. The Fifteen looked a little like the turkey I had eaten at Christmas. The panto was put back on the stage with a deserved 26-3 victory over a resilient Bishop Vesey's but

when Sir Thomas Rich's arrived from Gloucester, the curtains had closed. We lost 11-32 against a street wise opposition possessing two players who had already made appearances for Gloucester RFC. A valuable experience!

The final game of the season saw the visiting Old Boys XV once again grace the fields. This had been moved from the usual December slot to allow for Alumni reunion, and they certainly turned out in droves. The Old Boys XV certainly played their part in an entertaining fixture which included the more aged players throwing all they had at the lesser mortals! But this current crop of Solihull player is rare and The Fifteen ended up winners by 34-12.

So, some season 2013-14 was. Top 5 in the Daily Mail Cup National League. Round 5 (should be winners) of the Natwest Cup and domestically P7 and W5. It was the hardest set of fixtures and tournaments any Solihull XV had encountered and each and every player should be congratulated for what was achieved. Legends one and all! Thank you for some of our best rugby memories at Solihull and a great deal of credit to the leader of these merry men, Lawrence Finch.

I'd also like to say thanks to all of the staff for the hours given and time away from home. Much appreciated!

Further congratulations to the following players: Ben Fowles, England U16 Saxons XV; Charlie Morgan, England U16 Lions XV; Jonathan Allen, England Independent Schools Barbarians U18 XV; Kieran Joyce, Ireland Clubs U18 XV.

Mr S Thompson

The 1st VII

U18 XV

P25 W18 D0 L7 PF 564 PA 286 Win Ratio 72%

The 2013/14 Sevens season proved to be one of the most successful for a number of years under the expert leadership of veteran Jon Allen. Our warm-up tournament prior to our own was at King Edward's School Stratford where we performed relatively well to reach the semi-final of the Cup, only to lose out narrowly 26—28 to eventual winners Bishop Vesey's.

The VII's dream was to win on home soil; could it become reality? History confirmed it was, achieved with wins against St. Peter's, Loughborough GS, Bishop Vesey's GS, and a 31-0 win against Bedford Modern in the semi-final. After extra time in the final against Adams GS the VII won 24-19.

The remaining tournaments tended to fall into insignificance as the main goal had been achieved. At times the VII continued to play some mesmerising Sevens but nothing to the level they had played at the Solihull Tournament.

At Fylde history bit us on the derriere again as the VII lost 7-26 to Kirkham GS in the Cup semi-final. Sam Montieri's day without a doubt: watch the video! In the King's Worcester Sevens we never got going! The Rosslyn Park National Sevens, ruthless as we know it is, saw us lose in our group 5-33 to eventual finalists John Fisher School; no disgrace there.

Congratulations to all players on a great Sevens season and thanks for some entertaining times travelling the country. A final thanks to Jonny for his enthusiastic leadership at all times.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

2nd XV

P15 W11 D0 L4 PF 342 PA 228

Following on from the successful tour to Canada and a season of playing hard competitive rugby, there was a genuine air of expectancy and an overwhelming desire from the battle-hardened stags of the Upper Sixth – especially Messrs Gamlin, Toher and Jervis – to pass on the never-say-die attitude of the 2nd XV to the young pups in the shape of Joe Lankester, Peter Stansfield, Harry Sharpe, Tom Murphy and Fraser Mackie.

Optimism was high, especially as we wouldn't have to locate an atlas until November. The bar was set when, despite 'Work to Win' firmly engrained in our psyche, the whole squad adopted the mantra of 'No retreat, No surrender, No defeat' in an almost identical manner to 'This Is Anfield' as we turned Pavilion Changing Room 4 into a sacred inner sanctum of the 2nd XV where all became united in a single cause. Tom Griesbach readily accepted to lead his men into battle from inside centre and was ably assisted by 'hair dryer' Jervis who led the forwards with passion and directly from the front, with neither willing to accept second-best from their charges.

It all began with a home match against the old enemy Old Swinford Hospital. On reflection this was perhaps one of our best games. The tightness of the squad huddle on the pitch, the steely determination in the changing room and a pre-match text from the previous year's captain, Shorty, set the tone for the belligerence, focus and determination that was to serve us well throughout the season. Indeed, the ferocity of the tackling and sheer will to win laid the foundation for the season that lay ahead as backs and forwards integrated seamlessly as the opposition was brushed aside in an emphatic 50-0 victory.

What followed was a close mid-week encounter against the Welsh and Lions production factory that is Brynteg School. A hard fought 17-5 victory kept us honest and workman-like and saw the emergence of a very hardworking second row partnership of Harry Morgan and Joe Lankester that would set up many good platforms throughout the season. In fact we were indebted to Harry's winning try, and the hard graft needed to secure victories was evident in the last ditch 15-14 victory over King's School Worcester. This marked the last game for George Gamlin who had pulled the strings expertly for the last 15 months before his calling to the 1st XV. There were subsequent victories over Llandoverly College (64-12) and RGS Worcester (24-15). The team was beginning to take on a ruthless edge with the younger players giving their all for their peers. This was especially true of the front row warriors Tom Murphy and Fraser Mackie who were unstinting in their efforts and deeds as well as the emergence to the centre stage of players – previously more accustomed to life in the shadows – in the form of Declan O'Brien at hooker, Ben Gee and our own destroyer out wide in the form of Jordan Davey. They complemented the skills of Anthony Szarmach, Oscar Haynes and Daniel Dowell-Lee when he was not injured.

This set the tone for the second half of the Christmas Term where despite a defeat to Stowe before the break we returned to winning ways with excellent performances in wins against Bromsgrove (11-7) and St Peter's Gloucester (15-5). The assault up to Christmas saw a poor performance punished by Ellesmere College, before victories against KES Birmingham (24-10), Nottingham High School (22-3) and Trent College (32-5). This period also saw the fulfilment of potential that is Michael Kiely who having joined the party late, lost no time in making amends with his abrasive style of play.

A narrow loss to Adam's GS did not dampen our spirits as we headed into the New Year. Charles Toher was consistency personified around the park, and in the line-out, with the breeze in his hair James Jervis was the dominating influence with his raging bull performances.

Unfortunately the post- Christmas matches were confronted by wind, water, ice and postponements which resulted in only one game against Bishop Vesey's which fittingly we won 34-17 with a performance that epitomised the season – flair, passion, determination and a willingness to play 15- man rugby.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole squad for all their efforts throughout the season culminating in what was a most enjoyable year. Statistics don't lie and we were on the Schools' Rugby website as the 3rd best team in the Midlands. Nationally we were very successful and had beaten some of the teams that were above us! My thanks also to all the Upper Sixth boys for their commitment and expectations that were passed down to the younger players and of course to Tom and James for all their efforts, on and off the pitch, throughout a very demanding but ultimately successful season.

Mr M Covill

3rd XV

P7 W3 D0 L4

This season carried on where we left it last year, with a high level of opposition to play against. Using the winning formula of experienced players such as James Jervis and Ben Gee, who are able to pass on their two-plus years playing the cut and thrust of U18 rugby, to the raw recruits from the Upper Fifth, the 3rd XV provided the base from which the U18 rugby at Solihull can play. Players such as Ross McCormack and Frank Fogarty had to quickly adjust to the higher tempo game of U18 rugby.

An early defeat to our rivals, Warwick, was quickly followed by a resounding win against King's, Worcester. Results in the next two games went against us, but there was a spirited performance against Stowe, and a hard-fought match against Bromsgrove. The match of the season in my view came next, against a very good Ellesmere College side, with Solihull coming out winners 20- 15. The season ended on a high with an exciting match against our other local rivals, King Edward's, Birmingham.

Dr P Jukes

U16

The U16 rugby season was one of mixed fortunes as a team. The team recorded some excellent results notably against Warwick 4ths, Old Swinford Hospital and RGS Worcester but there were also some poor defeats to teams such as Nottingham High School, Northampton School for Boys and Warwick where player availability was poor. The results in the main were up and down due to availability issues created by injuries in the 1st XV and the fact that the squad was already very thin on the ground.

The group as a whole has matured greatly throughout the year and are starting to understand that rugby is a collective game where the strength of the group is far more important than individual excellence. This was at the fore in an excellent result against Bromsgrove at U17 level late in the spring term.

In Sevens the team had a good year winning the NHS tournament and qualifying out of the group at Warwick before losing to a strong Sedbergh team. This year has a number of very strong players such as Ben Fowles, Charlie Morgan, Will Davies, Nick Empson, Liam McStay and Ben Osborne but the attitude and improvement from others such as Chris Clay, Frank Fogarty and Matt Gibbons has been outstanding.

Mr D Protherough

U14A

P15 W5 D0 L10

This was to prove to be a season with a sharp learning curve. The team won only one fixture before half term against King's Worcester. However, after the October break the team went on to win 4 out of 5 matches. The best performance was probably against Ellesmere College when the defensive effort was outstanding and we were able to record a 14-5 win. This match then inspired us to win the next two matches against King Edward's Birmingham and Nottingham High School. After Christmas we only played one match which was a loss.

The front row was made up of Benny Wu, Jake Vincent and Elliot Morter and they held the scrum up well throughout the season. The locks, Ned Tennet and Jeppe Brendstrup, played well together in front of the back row of Will Rigg and Alex Sasse as flankers and Max Stanley at Number 8, who created a vital partnership with the captain Tom Serle at scrum half.

There was also a new, quicker, and more powerful back line set up, with George Armstrong and Arthur Townsend being brought out of the forwards and stepping in at outside and inside centre forming a formidable midfield combination. This centre partnership was very important, with both being extremely strong tacklers and consistently capable of breaking the gain line.

Alex Simpson, with the help of Tom Serle at scrum half, controlled the back line. The season saw a powerful runner Ben Harding at full back, with the skilful Ed Gray on the left wing, and the powerful Waqaar Ul-Haq on the right.

Finally on behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr Phillips and Mr Morgan for coaching the teams and for their encouragement and motivation.

Mr N Leonard

U14B

This was a tough year for the U14B rugby squad, who under the leadership of Tom Banks, came up against some well-disciplined teams selected from a much larger pool of potential players. The highlight of the season was a thrilling 29-24 victory over RGS Worcester that showcased all that was good about the team, namely their togetherness, work-rate and commitment. Even when the chips were down, the team kept trying to play rugby in the right way, with barnstorming forward drives being a particularly effective weapon. All the boys who represented the U14B squad this year deserve great credit for representing the School in all weathers – their heads never dropped and they always came back for more.

Mr P Morgan



U13

The U13 rugby season got off to a shaky start with a couple of early losses. Despite these setbacks the team kept their heads up to achieve some very good results against Bromsgrove, Bablake and Adams Grammar School.

The Bromsgrove game finished as a draw. This was probably the highlight of our season against a very strong Bromsgrove team; we were delighted that our Headmaster, Mr Lloyd and Director of Sport, Mr Thompson along with other teachers, came to watch. That was a game where we knew we could get a result and everyone took their game up a level by making the right decisions and defending 'our line' at all costs. We all remembered the School motto 'Perseverantia' and defended all through the second half, grabbing a late try and a conversion to achieve a 14-14 draw. At the end of the game the Headmaster came over to us and congratulated us on our performance. This match boosted our confidence a lot.

Later on in the season the team managed to pull off two very good wins against Adams Grammar School and Bablake. These matches were a great way to finish the XV's season

James Lewis and Oli Nesbitt were selected to play for the Greater Birmingham U13 County squad, with Oli Nesbitt in the team that won the North Midlands County Championships.

The Sevens season overall was a very enjoyable time, and we won our fair share of matches, getting in to the plate semi-final at the Berkhamsted tournament but unfortunately losing to a very well drilled Glyntaff School from Cardiff. Getting through to many of the knockout stages in tournaments got us ready for a great trip to Rosslyn Park.

The team are extremely thankful for all the help, encouragement and support from Mr Jenkinson who always kept us motivated. The team is looking forward to next season where we will be strengthened by the arrival of a few new players and together with greater commitment to training from the rest of the team we can achieve a great deal more.

*Oli Nesbitt, Shell Form
U13 Captain*



U12A

P16 W7 D0 L9 PF 331 PA 250 Win Ratio 43.73%

As a band of merry men leave Solihull at the top end, so enters another bunch of players of a similar ilk. Competitive, hard working and as tight knit as could be. The statistics above don't speak of the brilliant style of rugby these boys played, culminating in their most complete performance of the season against Bournside School, Cheltenham which they won 45-5. No individuals need mentioning because this squad knows success comes from teamwork. The losses they experienced will make them all better players and a stronger group whilst the wins were icing on the cake. Scalps taken were King's Worcester, Bromsgrove (sweet taste), Tudor Grange, Nottingham HS, Adams GS and Bablake.

With cup rugby next season to prepare for and learn from, along with normal domestic fixtures, this group will go from strength to strength. I eagerly await them at the senior end! Well done to all of the players for the level of commitment shown throughout the season, especially at training. Many thanks also to all the staff who helped and Mitchell Reeve for his captaincy from the front.

Remember: complacency is ugly.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

U12B

P13 W6 D1 L6

This year has been a year of steady evolution and progress – highlighted in part by the overall statistics. We had a number of boys who were new to the sport, grafted onto those who were accustomed to playing full contact rugby. There were many pleasing aspects to observe, not only through the dominant victories over RGS Worcester, St Peter's Gloucester, Nottingham High School, Pates GS, Adams GS and Bablake showcasing our progress and skill, but also the tenacity shown in the draw with Bishop Vesey's, fighting to secure an even share of the spoils with the last play. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect was that throughout the season many players gained promotion to the A-team and provided genuine competition for places.

The foundations have been set and we look forward to monitoring the development of the squad over the coming years.

Thanks must go, finally, to all the players for their enthusiasm, regular attendance at training and desire to compete.

Mr M Covill & Mr T Emmet

U12VII

P13 W6 D1 L6

With many players new to the game of Sevens, this season would always be about progress made and understanding. Few could have imagined they would win a tournament this early in their development.

At Warwick the squad won through to the quarter-final having beaten Wimbledon College 17-5, Bradford GS 20-0 but lost to OSH 14-17. In the quarter-final they met a confident Millfield School who won 5-19.

On their way to being crowned Nottingham HS champions they played great Sevens to beat all who dared come before them: King's School Macclesfield, Nottingham HS, Saworth Academy, OSH and Leicester GS. Brilliant work but tiredness was becoming a worry. There was still the Bishop Vesey's tournament to come.

At Vesey's this aggressive, determined squad of U12s reached the final only to lose at the last hurdle against the hosts. But an excellent learning curve! The results were King's Worcester 22-7 (semi-final), Bishop Vesey's A 0-40 (bad day at the office). Again well done to all and remember the scores to settle!

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle



U15

P29 W24 D0 L5 PF 864 PA 303 Win Ratio 82.76%

An unexpectedly early exit from the NatWest Cup was to be the only blemish on an otherwise remarkable season for the U15 rugby squad.

It is 7 September 2013 and a new era starts. Old Swinford Hospital, the first challenge, resulted in a thundering 67-7 win - a perfect start, with Tom Ritson scoring an incredible 7 tries! We didn't dwell on this victory, knowing that bigger challenges lay ahead. They came, and we conquered King's Worcester, RGS Worcester and St Peter's Gloucester. Against Bromsgrove, we lost 7-14 yet the commitment and ferocity of the tackles from all 15 could be doubted by none, and this match is believed by many to be the best performance of the season. Two days after the Cup defeat by Bishop Vesey's, we hit straight back, as all great sides do, with a more than convincing win over King Edward's Birmingham, 31-7. At half-term, we travelled to Norwich for a ten-team tournament containing sides such as Millfield, Langley and the eventual winners, Eton. We performed valiantly throughout, beating Pocklington in the Bowl Final, 7-5. As the Autumn Term continued, we showed our resilience, beating Adams Grammar 31-0, with the stand out try coming from Sam Kandola, with Benny Watson and Oscar Blundell combining beautifully. Henry Nicholls was the main performer in a 26-0 victory over King's Macclesfield, a game showing the value of quick ball rugby.



We were the better team against Warwick, yet a referee's hamstring injury stopped our momentum, and in all fairness, Warwick dealt with the half-hour delay far better than we did, and in the end Warwick won quite comfortably. Early in the Spring Term Sevens took over, and what a successful time it was! We finished 3rd at Nottingham's tournament, were finalists at both King's Macclesfield and Solihull, and won at King's Worcester. Sam Kandola was the Sevens top scorer, with Oscar Blundell not far behind! However, our squad was very strong, ably led by Harry Manek-Robinson (Sevens Player of the Season), and it was great to see the likes of George Armstrong, promoted from the U14s, making a valuable contribution to the squad's effort and ethos. We finished top of the UK All Comers Sevens League.

After a successful season on English soil we looked to continue this against the French. We kicked off the tour with two resounding wins against Stade Bordelais in both the A-team and B-team matches. We then proceeded to play against a strong Le Bouscat side. Playing in the searing heat, against a physically bigger team, Sam Kandola managed to get a breakthrough try to win the match. Despite a brilliant performance, we were all exhausted and woke up next morning to a recovery session in the sea! The afternoon was spent playing a competitive beach Sevens tournament where people came up with some interesting and innovative 'kits'. After a relaxing day of recovery and exploring the town of Arcachon, we were ready to face the famous Salles. Having never beaten them in the past it took an exceptional defensive effort from the team to beat them, with Joe Church making some crunching tackles. Our tour finished on a high beating St Médard-en-Jalles safely with captain Charles Davies scoring the final try of the season and securing the match and the tour success.

After the extremely successful tour we managed to boost our ranking in the national league to sixth - an all time high for the School. Many thanks must be given to Mr Jackson and Mr Morgan for their dedication to the team and in helping us to develop our rugby skills. Thanks must also go to Mr Wild for his assistance on the tour.

Matthew Farrow and Alistair Bevan, Lower Fifth





Cricket - The 1st XI

The 1st XI cricket season proved to be for the most part a very successful one.

After a winter of indoor nets starting back in November, we got off to the worst possible start imaginable when we lost the opening game of the season to the MCCC by 212 runs. Playing against semi-professionals and accomplished league cricketers, we were totally out-played and suffered a humiliating defeat.

Things could only get better from there onwards and I'm pleased to report that the team immediately responded.

Captained by Oliver Haley who is currently on the Warwickshire Academy programme and who also made his WCCC 2nd XI debut during the season, the team showed fast improvement and depth of character.

Winning the next eight consecutive matches, which included victories against the MCC, Warwick Imps, Loughborough Grammar School, Nottingham School and King Edward's Birmingham, we were top of the National Schools Performance table during this time. We almost secured our first ever 2-day victory against Monmouth School. During a thrilling last session Monmouth were able to bat the remaining overs when we required just 3 more wickets to bowl them out in the 2nd innings to win the game.

The batting was led by Haley throughout the season who showcased his skill and ability scoring approximately 500 runs with one century and an average of 50. He was well supported

by fellow senior players Jamie Hughes who showed good consistency in scoring three half centuries and also from the more powerful and explosive batting of Sam Montieri who scored two.

The bowling attack was lead by Charlie Rowe and Louie Turpie who both made valuable contributions. Rowe claimed a 5 wicket haul against Monmouth School in the 1st innings but our attack lacked the same potency when one or both weren't playing. They were well supported by Will Davies and Haley who bowled both spin and pace when needed. Haley claimed the 2nd 5 wicket haul of the season in the 2nd innings of the Monmouth match.

During the season we also saw the introduction of many under-aged players. With many of our players on exam leave it was the perfect opportunity to try out some of our younger players. Ethan Brookes (U13), Will Rigg (U14), Fahd Janjua, Benny Watson, Harry Goodworth, Tom Mitchell and James Gordon (all U15) all made their 1st XI debuts and performed admirably.

I would like to thank all of the squad for their support and willingness; their attitude and enthusiasm were quite refreshing. I would also like to wish the senior lads who are leaving us the best of luck for their future cricketing careers.

Mr D Maddy

2nd XI

P4 W1 D0 L3

The 2nd XI team played all their matches with a fantastic spirit and with great enjoyment. The team was captained very well by Joe Lankester, and the season got off to the best possible start with a win over King Edward's. Tom Brewer took a wicket with the very first ball of the season. Richard Bradley then scored a quick fifty in an emphatic win. Unfortunately we were not able to win the return match so the series was drawn.

It was a very short season due to exam commitments and the weather curtailing some fixtures. I look forward to next season with hopefully some more matches and the same excellent spirit shown by the players.

Mr N Leonard

U14A

P8 W2 D0 L6

This U14A cricket team improved steadily throughout the season. I believe it was a better team at the end of the season than it was at the start. The team bowling was of a good standard, as was the ground fielding. Two areas that are work in progress are batting and catching. The team reached the County Cup semi-final, where we were defeated at the hands of Warwick.

William Rigg was top scorer with a total of 296 runs at an average of 59.2. He scored two magnificent centuries, which both resulted in victories. His first came against Washwood Heath in the County Cup quarter-final. He scored 116, reaching this ton off 30 balls! This was an extraordinary innings that included 9 sixes and 11 fours. His second was against Loughborough Grammar School. Chasing 163 to win, William scored 119 not out and shared an opening partnership of 166 with Adam Beaumont, who was undefeated on 26.

The team's area of strength was bowling, with many players chipping in with very useful spells. Arthur Townend bowled well throughout; he bowled tightly and was leading wicket taker with 12 wickets at an average of 11.92.

William Rigg captained the team and in his absence Thomas Serle took over the reins.

This is a team that worked hard to improve their game. The team spirit, work ethic and attitude toward the game were a joy to be part of. The more they play, the better they will get.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

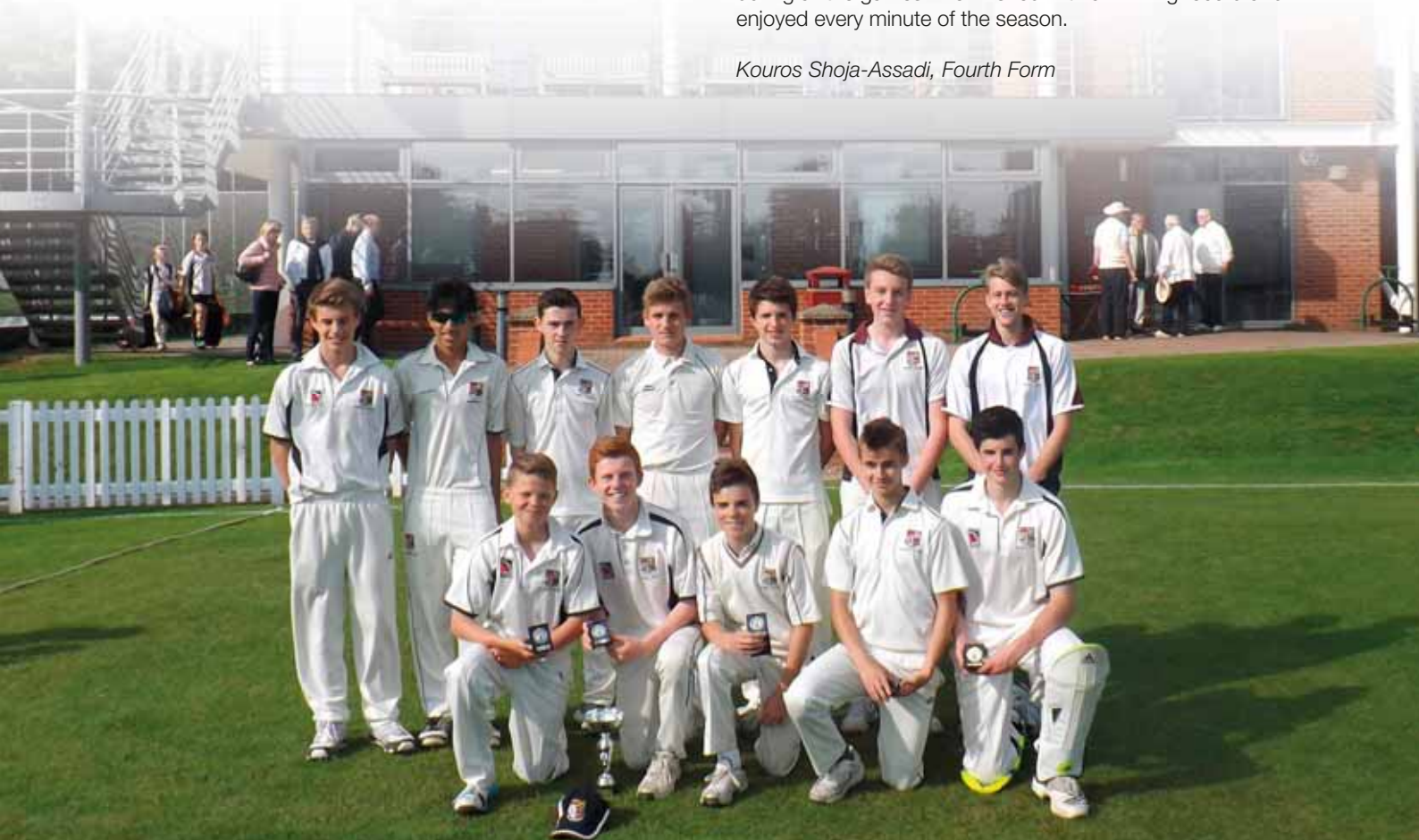
We played very well this season, winning two of our three games, with some amazing team work throughout.

Our first match was our only defeat, where our clumsy fielding let us down. In our second match we did far better, finishing on a huge score of 141, with Kiran Thandi getting 43 runs. When we came to bowl, we played amazingly, with Adam Zaman getting 4 wickets, and Nathan Wright and myself both getting 3.

Our final match was tense, because we wanted to end the season on a high. We lost the toss and were forced into bat. We started badly, but Nathan Wright swiftly picked up the score. However, it was the last wicket partnership of 27 from Hari Ramachandran and Yahvin Pillay that really did save us, finishing on 86 all out. We did very well in the fielding and bowling, with wickets all around. But the man of the match had to go to Adam Zaman, who managed to get an amazing 5 wickets.

It was an enjoyable season, with the whole team displaying outstanding commitment to training and an excellent attitude during all the games. We finished with a winning record and enjoyed every minute of the season.

Kouros Shoja-Assadi, Fourth Form



U13

This year the weather for cricket has been ideal, with only two games getting called off, and we have all had a chance to show what we can do with bat and ball. With only one loss in the season for the U13A team on an unplayable wet RGS pitch, this has been a very successful year.

The team had a convincing win against a good King Edward's Birmingham side, winning the toss and choosing to bat. A very good batting performance from Ethan Brookes (51) got us to a strong total of 125. With some good, tight bowling we managed to restrict KES to 85 all out and won the game convincingly.

Another outstanding performance was at King's Worcester. Batting first we got 159 without losing a wicket, with Brookes 87* and Bevan 53* starring. With good bowling and fielding from the team we bowled them out for 70. Another excellent performance was in the County Cup against Bishop Vesey's. Batting first on a difficult wicket we set a respectable total of 103. Some good bowling from Brookes, Nesbitt, Bevan and Nazar managed to skittle out the opposition for 39 runs.

Other games saw us play two very good sides, Nottingham High School and Loughborough Grammar School. A good knock from Bevan (65) and Sam Shepherd got us to a commanding total of 131 against Nottingham; some tight bowling from Marwaha and Nazar and excellent fielding by Saleem saw us bowl them out for 90. Loughborough was a brilliant game for Max Brown and Hamza Nazar, with Brown getting 35 and Nazar 27*. We managed to get to a very high total with the helpful contributions of the lower order. Some exceptional bowling from Brookes and Brown brought us the victory. We beat Bromsgrove easily by 154 runs with another

good knock from Bevan. We also beat Bablake in the semi-final of the County Cup thanks to a brilliant 66 from Brookes and 43* from Harvey Meacham. Sandhu bowled well to close out the victory for us. This was Bablake's only defeat of the season.

In the County Cup Final we played KES Birmingham. We batted first and scored an impressive 245 for 6 off 35 overs. Again Brookes batted brilliantly scoring 123 and Meacham added a superb 65* (they had a partnership of 110 runs at a crucial time). Other batsmen contributed well, including Ahmed and Brown. We then bowled and fielded excellently dismissing KES for 100 off 33 overs. The wickets were spread around with Marwaha taking three and Roll two. Sam Shepherd took the final wicket, clean bowling their last batsman and making us County Champions!

During the season the B-team managed to play a few games, but unfortunately lost to Warwick, King's Worcester and KES Aston. However, there were some encouraging performances by many of the players. Jack Hughes, Ethan Stretton and Liam Mingo have all played for the A-team at some stage.

Massive congratulations go to Oli Bevan and Ethan Brookes for getting into the Warwickshire A-team, with Ethan Brookes also playing for the School 1st team! A very well done to both of these players on these achievements.

A big thank you from the team goes to Mr Bishop, Mr Phillips, Mr Maddy and Mr Smith for all the coaching and support they have given the team!

*Oli Nesbitt, Shell Form
U13A Cricket Captain*





U12A

P 9 W 5 D 0 L 4

This year's U12 cricket A-team has made very pleasing progress. Despite a very slow start all aspects of the games have seen a huge improvement. Batting has become more measured which resulted in Fergus Roll scoring 58 not out against Princethorpe on his way to becoming the leading run scorer, Matthew Smith 50 not out v Bishop Vesey's and Daniel Gaffney scoring 56 at Loughborough Grammar School. Bowling also became very measured with Charlie Cook leading the way with 17 wickets (including a fabulous return of 4-1-8-6 against Princethorpe) but with Tom Gardener being the most effective and economical bowler. Regular fielding practices also resulted in not only increasing the pressure on batsmen but also reducing the runs conceded. It was perhaps fitting that two key memories stand out – the win against Bromsgrove when all of the disciplines of cricket were very effectively displayed, and the reaching of our first Gladstone Small trophy final against King Edward's Birmingham.

Thanks go to Fergus Roll for all his efforts in captaining the side.

U12B

P 10 W 6 D 0 L 4

The B-team this year has had a splendid season having got off to a very slow start against King Edward's Birmingham and Nottingham High School. However, fortunes were reversed with splendid wins against Princethorpe and Old Swinford Hospital before agonising losses against Warwick and King's Worcester. However with James Morrall assuming the helm, fortunes prospered with stunning victories over Loughborough Grammar School, King Edward's Aston and Bromsgrove. The measure of the success of the team is seen in the fact that lots of players not only progressed to play in the A-team throughout the season, but ensured that there was genuine competition for places throughout the squad. Leading run scorers were Max Penney (81) and Saul Greenburgh (80) with Robert Stockdale the leading wicket taker (11) ably back up by Max Penney (6),

Saul Greenburgh (6) and the most economical bowler William Thompson who also took 6 wickets.

Many thanks to all the players who played in both teams and for all their efforts in what has been a very enjoyable and successful season.

Mr M Covill, Mr T Emmet and Mr C Thomas

New Cricket Covers for the School

Due to the generosity of the Old Silhillians' Cricket Club, the School now has a new set of 1st XI cricket covers. This initiative was driven by Mr Peter Levinger and Mr John Taylor, two former pupils and cricketers who were keen that the legacy of the OSCC would live on at the School. We are incredibly grateful to them both.

Darren Maddy joins the team

This year we welcomed Mr Darren Maddy, ex-Warwickshire, Leicestershire and England cricketer as the new Master i/c of Cricket. He replaced Mr David Hemp who emigrated with his family to Melbourne, Australia at the end of the Christmas term.





Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

The 1st XI enjoyed a fantastic season, one which saw the team score 142 goals and concede 66 goals in 34 games. The record was - won 24, drew 4, lost 6. In my opinion, this was the best team we have had at the School for a long time. Greater demands were put on the players in terms of tactics and having a better understanding of the game. I feel that this was achieved. Oliver Haley was top scorer with 39 goals and Harry Busz was not far behind on 34. This was a great effort from the pair of them, with Harry Busz's goals mainly coming from open play. In his three seasons in the 1st XI, Oliver Haley top scored in all of them!

The season started at the end of August with two days of training at Cannock Hockey Club and was followed by the Bill Buttle tournament at King Edward's Birmingham. This was the first time that we have done pre-season in this way and I believe that it was a great way to start the campaign. It built

up team spirit, gave us valuable practice time and meant that we hit the ground running for the start of the fixtures. During these early matches we faced tough opposition and managed two fantastic 4-3 wins over both Repton and Oakham, both of whom were very strong. These victories were something to be proud of, but on both occasions we followed it up the next day with a loss. I put this down to struggling to get up for the next game in such a short space of time after such a big win, rather than fatigue. The results in the first half of term had been decent, but I demanded more and asked the team to be unbeaten from half-term up to Christmas. The team responded very well and we won six games on the bounce.

Post-Christmas is always a tricky time and we coped better this season than we have done in previous ones. We had a great win at Adams Grammar School, where we were 2-3 down with 5 minutes to go and we turned it round and won 4-3. A close game with MCS Oxford saw us lose narrowly and another close game at Bloxham saw us denied victory at the death, when they equalised to make it 3-3. A special mention for that day must go to Joe Price, who scored all three goals from his first three penalty corners. For quite a lot of the remaining fixtures, our attention turned to the National Cup/ Plate knockout competitions.

The 1st round of the National Cup Competition had taken place before Christmas when we beat Queen Mary Grammar School, Walsall 4-3, having trailed 3 times. This set us up for the next round with King Edward's Birmingham in mid-February. In a game that we dominated, we managed to mess up many very good chances to score and then gifted them 2 goals. A late goal was not enough to turn it round for us and we lost 1-2. This was a bitter blow, as we felt that we could have gone far in the Cup and by losing, it meant that we went into the Plate competition. Long journeys down to the West Country saw us defeat both King's Taunton and Colyton Grammar School. This set us up with a home tie



against local rivals Warwick. We started very well and went 3-0 up early. We did not maintain this level and in the 2nd half we struggled to control the game and allowed two late goals to cause us some stress. This was alleviated when from the restart after Warwick's 2nd goal, Harry Busz went from the half way line, won a penalty corner which was converted by Oliver Haley. Game won 4-2. We were now through to the quarter-final and we drew the sporting powerhouse that is Millfield School at Millfield! They were a very good team and on the day they proved to be a different level to us in terms of speed and power and we lost 1-6. The game had been close in the first half and half-time saw us only 1-2 down. Straight after half time we had three players on the keeper and we failed to convert. They went down the other end from the resulting 16 yard hit, won a penalty corner and scored. This rocked us and we endured a tough 10 minutes, which saw us concede three more. We knew that it was going to be tough, but in the end we were very disappointed that we failed to play anywhere near our best. To beat them, we needed to be so.

Throughout the season the team played in the Warwickshire league. The big game in the league came in October where we faced King Edward's Birmingham. It was a closely fought match and we drew the game with a 2-2 score line. We then followed this up with a bad day at the office against Bablake, which saw us lose. This meant that we finished as runners-up.

The end of the season saw us go to the Bath Festival. This was a very successful tour, seeing us win 3 and draw 1. It was a fitting way for the team to end the season and a trip that they will have all enjoyed. The playing kit for the tour, arranged by George Taylor, was very pink.

I am hoping that the leavers – James Leadbetter, George Taylor, Harry Busz, Oliver Haley, Luke Owen, Nicholas Hooper and Jonathan Foulkes – continue to play hockey at University and that they look back on their time playing hockey at Solihull School with great fondness. They have been a pleasure to coach, great fun to be with, they have been talented and I know that I am going to miss them greatly. For the players that remain, next season will be a challenge; one that I am sure they will rise to.

Harry Busz and Oliver Haley were co-captains of the team. Nicholas Hooper and Jonathan Foulkes were awarded full School colours. A big thank you must go to Mr Leonard, Miss Walton and Mr Babb, who all assisted me in the running of this team.

Finally, I would like to thank the players for their efforts and for making it a very enjoyable and rewarding season.

Mr C Mayer



2nd XI

Played 23 - Won 15 - Drew 4 - Lost 4

This was a very successful season, especially since the team remained unbeaten against School 2nd XIs, and all the losses were against 1st XIs. The best performance was probably against Bishop Vesey's when the defensive effort was outstanding and we were able to emerge victorious.

The team had the very experienced Ben Newman in goal who made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled his defence with aplomb. Ed Price and Jack Hines defended very well, and were ably assisted by Sam Orme and Vicknesh Sarveswaran. In central midfield James Berry and Cameron Blake were very influential players and they were supported by Sam Brown and Matt Blenkinsop on the left and right respectively. Chris Bevins managed to play in all areas of the pitch due to his fitness and eagerness to be on the ball. Added to this group of players in attack were Tom Vale, Fraser Waddell and Oliver Daniels who all certainly tested the opposition defence. Jamie Hughes also led the attack well with his experience.

Many thanks to Miss Walton for coaching the side during the season.

Mr N Leonard

3rd XI

The year started well with an impressive 3-0 win over Queen Mary's and there was hope that this would lead to an all-conquering season. However, this was not to be and although we generally played well in games, and on many occasions dominated the opposition, we were often unable to press home our advantage and lapses in concentration at the back turned potential wins into losses. Progress was made throughout the season though and hopefully we will be in better shape next year.

In the first half of the season we managed to notch up three wins and many of the losses were narrow. We had a large number of new players and, as with last year, it took a while for players to adjust to the level and for the team to properly gel. Unavailability also meant we struggled to get a consistent team and I'm hopeful that this will improve next year. Our original captain George Diwakar unfortunately had to stand down due to other commitments but Andy Hooper led the side well in his place. Tom Gill was a rock in the centre of our defence and was much missed in the 2nd half of the season, and Jack Berry managed to successfully convert himself into a very useful right-back. Our midfield was supplemented by the skills and work rate of Tom Brewer, Max Richmond and Alex Hurt among others. Tom Clayton-Wright put in some good performances in goal and our forward line including Charlie Thompson and Jack Allcock worked hard all season. Many players who initially started in the 4th team also stepped up to help the team and Wajeeh Chaudhry and Hector Brooke both impressed with their tireless work rate and willingness to play at a moment's notice.

Highlights of the season included our four wins but also our draw against a King Edward's team that had inflicted a heavy defeat on us earlier in the season. That result showed how far we had come and I'm hopeful that the team will go from strength to strength and achieve more wins next year. Overall, I have been very impressed with all the players who have represented the School this year and I hope to see many of them in higher teams next year!

Mr D Brough

U15

As it did for the previous year's U15A team, the season started with an away fixture against one of our strongest opponents and certainly our greatest rivals for the Warwickshire Schools Hockey League title, King Edward's Birmingham. Whilst we managed to avoid the humiliating capitulation of 2012, the side played somewhat sluggishly and were beaten by a strong team, who had already played in a pre-season tournament, 0 – 4. Disappointed, we were at least relieved that this hadn't been the league fixture.

After this ignominious opening performance, the squad produced hockey of a much higher tempo and quality in the second fixture, comfortably dismantling Nunnery Wood in a 6 – 0 victory, thanks to a hat trick from Charlie Hadley, one piece from Harries Peachey and Goodworth and an own goal.

However, disappointment came soon after with an unexpected 0 – 1 league defeat away at Bishop Vesey's. It was a close game in which the side played well but lacked the cutting edge to reply to Vesey's solitary goal. The result dealt a serious blow, at such an early stage of the season, to any league title ambitions we held.

Responding positively, though, the team then recorded convincing wins over Warwick in the league, a 4 – 2 romp in which Harry Manek-Robinson and Charlie Osborne opened their accounts, and against King Henry VIII Coventry (4 – 0). Although it was only November, the next fixture proved to be crucial in determining the league title, as we faced King Edward's again. Despite a much better performance, and strong opening and closing spells, a mid-game crisis of confidence led to the quick-fire concession of three goals, settling the match and, ultimately, the league. Although we would win all our other league fixtures comfortably – often impressively – we ended up finishing third behind the two teams who beat us.

Although this setback was followed by our only draw of the season, 1 – 1 against Bablake, and a 1 – 5 loss to Loughborough, the side soon began to regain confidence and enthusiasm and, effectively freed from league concerns, to play with real aplomb. Pace and strength improved, movement off the ball became more sophisticated and determination grew. After the defeat at Loughborough, which was on 2 December, the side would lose only one more fixture in the whole of the rest of the season – away at Nunnery Wood in January, against their Under 16 team – winning all others with increasingly impressive performances.

Notable highlights included an 8 – 0 destruction of Nottingham High School, featuring a very good goal from Tom Mitchell and a penalty stroke converted by Conor Gregory, a 7 – 1 league win over Princethorpe in which super-sub James Hurt netted two and a second thrashing of Warwick, 4 – 0, which saw rare goals from Luke Kent and Max Angelides (who would go on to score three more in the remaining three games).

Our most impressive performances, and results, came courtesy of 2 – 1 victories over two of the strongest hockey schools in the country. Each very different matches, the game against Dean Close was a relatively evenly matched but rough affair, in which some pretty nasty challenges by the opposition went unpunished. Despite our opponents' quality and aggression, Solihull worked harder and with greater determination, frustrating them and eventually breaking their resolve to finish the game as by far the stronger side, penning Dean Close back into their half and being unlucky not to score

more in the dying minutes. Contrastingly, the match at Repton saw us spend most of the time in and around our own D. A Herculean defensive effort and some outstanding goalkeeping from Jonny Shiels were needed for Charlie Osborne's breakaway, against-the-run-of-play, first-half goal and Harry Peachey's second-half conversion of a rare penalty corner to suffice in winning us the game.

By the end of the season, the side were playing some really excellent hockey and the record of 14 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses (none of which occurred at home, incidentally) attests to a very successful season. Captain Harry Peachey and Charlie Hadley also deserve congratulations for their selection to join the 1st XI squad at the U19 Bath Hockey Festival at the end of the season.

For the B-team the season also began at King Edward's, against an U15B team that would – and probably did – embarrass most schools' A-teams. However, we earned greater success in this meeting than the corresponding A-team fixture, taking an early lead through Fahd Janjua's thumping strike and then defending heroically – epitomised by Jack Davidson's do-or-die approach – to cling on for a 1 – 1 draw, much to the chagrin of their watching Chief Master!

This set the tone for a super season in which the attitude and commitment of the side could not be faulted and much of the hockey was of a very high standard. Our impressive season record of 6 wins, 2 draws and 3 losses is even more remarkable in the context of our fixture list, which pitted us against other schools' A-teams in six of our eleven matches.

The highlight, results-wise, had to be the 12 – 1 annihilation of Warwick's B-team in which Fahd Janjua's hat trick was supplemented by another from Jonny Shiels (whose outfield escapades in the B-team saw him finish as the side's top scorer), braces from Oli Altham and Harvey Wilson and one apiece from Conor Green and Tarran Dhillon. A fine 3 – 0 victory over Camp Hill's A side in the final fixture, in which Zebedee Trett scored his fourth of the season, was another memorable result amongst many fine performances and capped an excellent and enjoyable season.

Both U15 sides enjoyed successful seasons in which a great deal of individual and team development took place. The boys deserve congratulations for their efforts and achievements. I feel confident that this crop of U15 players will go on to a play big part in the successes of the senior sides next year.

It would, of course, be remiss of me to finish without mentioning Mr Brough. I am most grateful for his enthusiasm and abiding commitment to the U15s, and all his hard work in coaching and umpiring. I also wish him luck in passing his minibus driving test, so that he will be able to chauffeur me to fixtures in future!

Mr M Babb

U14A

The U14A team enjoyed a season where the improvements made were dramatic. This was down to the hard work and commitment that the players put into their hockey. The boys were fun to be with, they had a great team spirit and they were a joy to coach. The season started with many of the A-team players from the previous season stopping hockey to concentrate on their rugby. This meant that several B-team players had to step up into the A-team. We started the season as expected and our motto was 'It's not where you start, it's

where you finish'. This served us well and with each game our skills improved and tactical understanding grew. The team acquitted themselves well against the likes of Repton and King Edward's Birmingham and managed to record great wins over Bloxham 3-1, Loughborough 5-0 and Adams Grammar School 5-0. Our record was won 8, drew 2, lost 11. Every player in the team was a better hockey player at the end of the season and for me the improvements made both individually and collectively gave me great satisfaction as their coach.

I am hoping that the experiences gained from the season will inspire the boys to keep working hard over the coming years, to strive to keep improving and to play with the same enjoyment that they showed this season.

Finley Blake was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Anderton who assisted me in the running of this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The U14B team has had a tough season, against some strong opposition. Whilst there have been a few losses, there have also been some strong victories. After a draw against Arden and a couple of close defeats, the boys faced Camp Hill and played excellently, emerging victorious with a 2-0 win. The following term also saw the boys' best result with a 3-0 win over Loughborough, including an excellent one-on-one goal by Kouros Shoja-Assadi. Throughout the season the team has been captained effectively by Nathan Wright, who deserves thanks for his efforts. In addition, special mention should go to Luke Bryant for a fantastic season, even warranting him being given a match as captain towards the end of the season. Overall, a difficult season, but one which has seen vast improvement and looks promising for next year. Thanks should go to Mr Mayer, who has assisted in the running of the B-team; helping the boys improve with his words of wisdom.

Mr O Anderton

U13A

The U13A team had a season that started well, dropped off in the middle and then picked up again towards the end. The results before Christmas were very good where we played 5 and won 5. These results masked problems that would hurt us if we chose to ignore them. It is hard at this age for a team that is winning, to see that anything is wrong. After Christmas these problems were exposed and the team experienced a rough trot. The boys responded positively to this and realised that they needed to do things better. Some of the things that needed to improve were their intensity and work rate, and this came to the fore against Foremarke Hall, a very good hockey playing school. The boys put in the effort and gave their best performance of the season to win 1-0.

For the remainder of the season the boys played well, winning 4 and losing 1 in their last 5 matches. Although we lost, this was a good performance against a good Warwick team and could have seen us get something out of the game.

In total the team played 18, won 11, drew 2 and lost 5. I am hoping that the experiences gained during the season will stand this group of players in good stead for the future. There is talent in this group and I believe that the boys can push on next season and make big improvements.

Max Brown was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Murray and Mr Mitchell who assisted me in the running of this team.

U13B

The U13B team played all of their matches after Christmas. The start of the fixtures saw the team put in creditable performances, but come up short in terms of wins. The more the boys played, the better they got. This can be seen by the Warwick fixtures. We had a 0-4 loss at Warwick in January, but when the teams met again in March we won 4-2. The boys began to work harder in their matches and had better structure, which made the team more competitive. In the end, we managed to win 2 and lose 6.

The team was captained by Zakariya Saleem and thanks must go to Mr Murray, Mr Leonard and Mrs Black who all helped to run the team.

Mr C Mayer

U12

A-team: P14 W5 D4 L5

B-team: P6 W2 D1 L3

This was a very successful season, culminating in reaching the final of the Midlands Championship. The team was unbeaten on the day until eventually losing out in a penalty shoot out. The best performance was probably against Bromsgrove School when the defensive effort was outstanding and we were able to reverse a 4-2 loss from before Christmas.

The team had a strong spine starting with Jamie Morrall who made some fantastic saves during the season and was man of the match against Loughborough. Dan Gaffney and Will Daghish defended very well throughout the season. In midfield Fergus Roll was a very influential player and in attack Sam Day was always threatening to score.

Added to this group of players in attack were Tom McDonagh, Jack Talbot and Sean Mhende who certainly tested the opposition defence. Saul Greenburgh and Matt Smith combined really well with Fergus and dominated the midfield when all played together. In defence Raoul Bagga and Tom Averill were very difficult to get past. Fintan Bristow, Declan Donohoe and Max Penney all played well when called upon.

The B-team also had some success this season and many players were selected during the season. All played well and hopefully learnt many new skills due to the coaching they received.

Mr N Leonard

Girls' Hockey - 1st XI

Captains: Nicole Angelides and Hannah Butler

The Girls' Hockey 1st XI had an excellent start to the season, winning tough matches against RGS Worcester and King's Worcester. After a strong 1-0 win against an experienced King's side, the girls came up against a talented Repton team and suffered their first loss, coming in 1-0 down at the final whistle. A sterling performance by Laura Daghish in goal allowed us to build from defence and play some progressive hockey. Victories in the county tournament, including King Edward's High School and Edgbaston High School meant that the girls travelled to the Midlands Zone round for the first time in a number of years. Here, Solihull produced some of their best hockey of the season and beat a talented Worksop side 1-0. Unfortunately, a tough group including Rugby School and Bromsgrove School saw us miss out on a place in the next round, but confidence was high following three exceptional performances. A Saturday victory against Bablake School ensured that the girls bounced back from their tournament knock out, but challenging matches were to follow. During the following few games, the girls faced some tough opposition against boarding schools Denstone College and Wrekin College; Lottie Harland continued to impress by driving the team forward from her centre midfield position. Ellie Talbot-Davies, Liz Ready, Hannah Butler and Sophie Fowler withstood numerous attacks and demonstrated their understanding as a back four unit. A 3-0 win against Stafford Grammar School rewarded the girls following their efforts, with goals coming from Harriet Marshall and Lottie Harland.

The second half of the season saw the merging of the 1st and 2nd squads; the pool of young players coming through was encouraging and the senior girls were successful in smoothing over the transition between the two squads. Games against King Henry's and a second against RGS Worcester produced some positive results and allowed the season to continue with pace and endeavour.

Overall, it has been a pleasing season. The girls' commitment to training must be commended and has allowed them to improve and build as a squad as the season has progressed. Sad goodbyes to the outgoing Upper Sixth must be made: Nicole Angelides, Hannah Butler, Ellie Talbot-Davies, Liz Ready, Sophie Ward, Frankie Theakston and Amy Middleton – you will be missed immensely on the pitch. Congratulations to those girls playing representative and club hockey and good luck with preparations for next season.

Girls' Hockey Squad:

Laura Daghish, Ellie Talbot-Davies, Hannah Butler, Liz Ready, Lottie Harland, Harriet Marshall, Nicole Angelides, Shona Eaton, Sophie Ward, Lydia Jackson, Emma Whitfield, Amelia Woolley, Adina Bailey, Katie Craddock and Sophie Fowler.

2nd XI

Captain: Lydia Jackson

The 2nd XI Girls' Hockey squad this season has shown a good commitment to training where skills and game play have improved over time. The girls have faced some very challenging fixtures with the results showing both defeats and successes, but with every match the girls demonstrated great team spirit and a real desire to win. Our highlight of the season was our impressive 5-1 win against King Edward's High School with goals coming from Aimee Skidmore and Sally Warmington. The team saw out three draws in the season to Bablake School, Wrekin College and Wolverhampton with

strong finishes coming in front of goal from Nakita Basra. Gemma Mitchell-Meades was an excellent addition in goal, pulling off some superb saves to keep us in line with the opposition. Lydia Jackson continued to lead from the back, distributing the ball to our front line, ensuring that chances to score remained. The team learnt cooperation and teamwork against a strong King's High team where we lost heavily, yet the girls came away with the experience of working hard and staying focused. From these matches, the girls were able to learn from their own mistakes and improve as a squad.

Well done to all the girls this season for your hard work in training and commitment to matches. A massive thank you must go to Miss Wilcox, Miss Berns and Mrs Fair for their hard work and support towards the 2nd XI team this season.

2nd X1 squad:

Jess Lawton, Leticia Salmon, Amy Parry, Nakita Basra, Lydia Jackson, Amy Middleton, Caroline Camm, Alex Levey, Frankie Theakston, Nadine Wilkinson, Gemma Mitchell-Meades, Harriet Woolley, Aimee Skidmore, Beatrice Cowley.

U15

With the first match of the season against RGS Worcester ending with a 3-0 victory, spirits were high. We then continued our winning streak with victories over Bablake and King Henry's. However, during the fourth match we unfortunately endured a loss to St Martin's though we did have a weakened side. With training sessions every week, we soon began winning both friendly and league matches. Our match against Edgbaston School, which we won 5-1, highlighted to us many important tactics which we went on to incorporate in matches to come and subsequently strengthened us as a squad. The team have dedicated extra hours and Saturday mornings to play teams like Dean Close and as a result have learnt from the difficult matches. In the past few months we played Bablake School for a second time, although the final draw wasn't what we'd hoped for. Players such as Victoria Brewer and Lydia Roll have shown fantastic skill and improvement throughout the season. Due to injury, we have been playing without one of our best defenders, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, and we have felt her absence. Despite this, Chloe Horsburgh has adapted to a new role in defence and the team continued to make progress. Our most memorable victory was against King Edward's School, where we unforgettably won 5-0 as the away team. Not only individually, but as a team, we have had a very impressive hockey season; we are excited to repeat this next year. Many thanks must go to Mrs Fair for all of the time, effort and expertise she has offered towards us.

Lydia Jones-Brown, Lower Fifth (captain)

U14

This year the U14 girls had an enjoyable hockey season. Our skills and teamwork improved immensely as we played more fixtures throughout the term. We were determined to work hard in training sessions and deliver a strong performance on the pitch. Our first match was against St Peter's and we drew 1-1. This was a disappointing result as we had hoped to win, however we came to the realisation we needed serious training. With the help of Miss Wilcox, Mr Murray and Miss Berns we soon developed more skills and impressive hits. One of our next matches was St Martin's and we were determined to beat them. With some aggressive tackles from Hannah Higley and Georgia Brown and great defending from Ella Stirling and Ellie Featherstone we settled for another draw, 1-1. Towards the end of the season we won against Bablake. Clara Miles and Brooke Matthews scored some excellent goals while Mary Davies and Amy Edge put up a fierce defence. Our hockey has really come on and we are all ready for next season. The squad this year included Mary Davies (GK), Clara Miles, Hannah Higley, Georgia Brown, Ellie Featherstone, Brooke Matthews, Amy Edge, Emma Hadley, Saskia Freshwater, Gwynneth Horbury, Kate Stumper, Becky Monkhouse, Katie Lyth, Lily Jackson, Ella Stirling and Alex Marshall. We'd like to thank the coaches for all the help and organisation of fixtures.

*Alex Marshall, Fourth Form
U14 Hockey Captain*

U13

The U13s had a very successful season with many wins and rare losses! During the season our team play and stamina improved incredibly with the help and encouragement of Mrs Black.

With high ambitions we played our first match against Bablake. Thankfully we won 4-1 and this encouraged us to train even harder to maintain our wins for the rest of the season. After many matches won by 3 or 4 goals we were determined to play even better! A very memorable match was played against Arden where we won 13-0. It was a great team effort and was very enjoyable! Everyone made some excellent tackles and some great goals were scored between the attackers.

Another highlight of the season was winning the 11 a-side borough tournament. It was a very tense evening with some incredible tackles and difficult skills being used. In the final, we played King Edward's High School and Katie Phillips scored the winning goal with only five minutes to spare! When the final whistle blew everyone was very relieved but ecstatic!



By the end of a fun-filled and very competitive season we had won 7 matches and lost 3. After some great attacking play we managed to score 35 goals and with some equally fabulous defending, we only conceded 12.

We would like to congratulate the top goal scorers Sofia Cusack and Phoebe Harland, our excellent goalie Issie Dodd and the team for their commitment, effort and sportsmanship!

A huge thanks from the whole team goes to Mrs Black for her continued effort and belief in the team. And thank you to Mrs Hallworth for her support with training sessions and matches.

As a reward for a great season we were taken on a brilliant Hockey Tour to Manchester!

Phoebe Harland and Sofia Cusack, Shell Form

U12

The Girls' U12 Hockey Team has played extremely well this year, making a tremendous start to their Senior School Hockey. We started off slowly with a loss against St Martin's but came back determined to win in our next game against Bablake. Our highlight games were against King Henry VIII and King Edward's Five Ways, which we won 3-0 and an outstanding 6 – 0 respectively! We also did very well in our tournament, winning our first match 6 – 0 then overall coming an impressive 2nd. Our top goal scorer was Libby Shepherd and many goals were saved by our superb goalie, Ellie Couch. The team has worked really successfully together, showing collaboration and great team spirit. Well done for all your hard work and effort this year to all the girls in the hockey teams and I look forward to playing again with you next year.

Lily Evans, Third Form

Netball - 1st, 2nd and 3rd VII

The 1st senior netball squad started off the season working very hard with fitness testing: strength and conditioning, and tactical work were the main focus. The opening match was a strong win against Heart of England. Confidence levels were high, but perhaps a little too high, leading to a poor performance against Solihull Sixth Form College who were on top form. Next was the Borough Tournament where we achieved 2nd place, gaining qualification to the Coventry/Solihull/Warwick Tournament. An exciting morning of netball was played, with the final placing going down to goal difference. Unfortunately, Solihull finished in 3rd place. Back to the drawing board for the 1st squad and a friendly to get us back on track! We had a fantastic game of netball with the Headmaster coming out to support us! It was goal-for-goal throughout the entire match, however the stopwatch was not on our side and we lost by one goal, 26 – 27. Then we started to get going: three strong wins against King Edward's Five Ways, Alcester and King Edward's Nuneaton. After Christmas, we were disrupted by exams and snow. However, after a motivational talk from the PE staff, we stepped up our efforts in training. The 1st squad has had some great victories throughout the term, losing only one game.

The 2nd squad trained really hard this year and have definitely improved greatly. They gained 3rd place in the Borough Tournament. The 2nd squad had some tough competition and put on some lovely displays of netball. All their hard work was confirmed by winning their last three games.



The 3rd squad showed the most progression this season. They worked very hard on fitness, ball skills and tactical play. Unfortunately, not many schools could field a 3rd squad so we had only four fixtures. Their best result was against Old Swinford Hospital C-team with a fantastic 20 – 4 win!

On behalf of all the players throughout the School I would like to thank all of the netball staff for their help and dedication this year, especially from the Upper Sixth players who are all disappointed to be ending their netball careers at Solihull School.

U15

The U15 Netball team has had a strong season this year. Training began in the first term so we were ready and motivated for the beginning of matches in the Easter term. The girls have played very well this year and we have all tried our hardest to make the team as strong as possible. Unfortunately we didn't start the season as well as anticipated, narrowly losing our first two matches to Bablake and King Henry's. After some motivational team talks we suddenly realised that we must try harder. We then went on to win most of our remaining matches.

Some of the highlights have been winning by a significant amount of goals, for example, beating St Peter's 26-2, King's Worcester 28-8 and Heart of England 26-24. Disappointingly, our tournament was cancelled on a number of occasions and consequently we never got round to playing it. This was unfortunate because we were very confident that we would succeed. Overall we have had a very strong year playing as a complete squad, and the girls look forward to beginning Senior Netball next year. Good luck to Sophie Shakeshaft and Jessie Lloyd in their upcoming Warwickshire trials.

U14

The U14 Netball Squad has had a good season. Having played 13 matches, we won 11 and lost 2. With a range of different opponents, the girls improved at every match. The season began with an A and B fixture against RGS Worcester. With strong defence and solid attacking play, we won 14-10. This year the Borough Tournament was very early on in the year meaning we didn't have much time to prepare for it. However, everyone put in maximum effort and as a result of our hard work, we came 2nd overall. With many matches still to play, this gave us confidence as the season progressed. A loss against King Henry VIII made the team more determined to



get a positive result out of our next match. This determination resulted in victories against St Peter's, Arden, King's Worcester, St Martin's, Alderbrook, Heart of England, Lode Heath and Light Hall. All matches consisted of strong defence in the circle from Ellie Featherstone and Elisa Mottram, assisted by consistent perseverance from Kate Stumper. There was exciting attacking play from Ella Stirling and Annabelle Barker through the mid-court, linking well with Clara Miles and Brooke Matthews in the shooting circle. At the end of a commendable season, we look forward to more success next year.

Captain: Clara Miles

Squad: Clara Miles, Brooke Matthews, Ella Stirling, Ellie Featherstone, Anushka Karandikar, Elisa Mottram, Kate Stumper, Annabelle Barker, Hannah Currie and Mary Davies.



U13

The U13 Netball A-team began the season with a match against Henley. After running off all the ice-creams we had eaten over the summer holidays, we got off to a good start by winning 9-4. Unfortunately, having determination and perseverance we lost our next two games against King Henry's and Bablake. We knew they were strong sides but even though we lost, it helped us with what we needed to do better in our next game. We began the Easter term with a win against Arden 12-8. Our next match was an A and B-team match against King's Worcester. They were a strong side, but one thing we lacked in this match was height! Therefore they managed to beat us 16-10 and 12-4. But with some more training sessions and some more goals, we won our next three games! These were against St Martin's (8-4), Alderbrook (19-5) and Heart of England (9-5). We had a lot of pressure on us for the next two weeks: we were on a winning streak, but we were heading for our hardest match of the season against Tudor Grange. We lost 20-6, but we learned from our mistakes and trained harder as the big tournament was slowly creeping up.

After a season of mixed results, the Borough Tournament came upon us. We were nervous since we really wanted to win for the School. We played really well in our first 5 matches, winning 4 and drawing 1. This was enough to get us through to the semi-finals! With our hearts pounding like mad, we played amazingly and beat Arden 7-5. We made it to the final and worked so hard for an extraordinary win against Lode Heath 8-5!

The A-team consisted of Georgina Dalby, Phoebe Harland, Tabitha Botterill, Isobel King, Katie Phillips, Sofia Cusack, Isabella Adderley and Mia Sukkersudha. The B-team consisted of Cayla Balfour, Pru Dixey, Rebecca Toher, Isabel Dodd, Niamh Smythe, Lucy Fennell, Sophie Besford, Holly Simkiss and Fleur Street. On behalf of the team we would like to thank Mrs Johnson, Mrs Smith, Miss Wilcox and Mrs Hallworth for all their hard work throughout the season!

Georgina Dalby, Shell Form

U12

This season the U12 Netball Squads have worked very hard and have been very determined. The teams got off to a bit of a shaky start, losing their first two matches 15-4 and 33-2 in the A-team and 12-0 and 13-2 in the B-team. However, the squad started to develop and became more dedicated as the term went on, winning the next match against Henley 10-4. Overall, the A-team won an impressive total of 6 games (against Henley, St Peter's, Arden, Lode Heath, Heart of England and Princethorpe) while only losing 13. The undeniable highlight of the season was the area tournament where the A-team won all their round matches but unfortunately lost to a very strong Tudor Grange side in the semi-final. This was a great finale to the season and the girls I am sure will not be disheartened and come back even stronger next year. Another highlight was the A, B, C and D matches away at Princethorpe, where all the teams won their matches comfortably and even got sweets for the journey back! The girls' attitude and commitment this season has been excellent, with most of the girls coming to training on Tuesdays after school and Thursday lunchtimes.

Hopefully next year we can start to get even better and improve our overall skills. Well done for all your dedication this year!

Rounders

U15

We have had a good turnout at training this year and captain Cait Casey has worked hard with Mrs Smith and the team on tactical play.

We had a great fixture list and played against St Martin's, King's Worcester, RGS Worcester, King Henry VIII, King's High, Warwick and King Edward's High School. There were a mixture of results, with some wins and some losses.

The Solihull Borough U15 tournament was the highlight of the season. The squad played excellently in every game and only lost one by half a rounder! As the tournament was a round robin and two other teams had lost one game each too, it went on rounders scored. We were equal first, however, on rounders scored ended up third.



U14

The U14 Rounders team has had a very promising year with some exceptional performances to finish off the season.

The team started confidently against a local St Martin's team showing good composure in the field and in bat resulting in a 10-6 win. As the season continued we allowed our focus and attention to slip which allowed competitive teams such as King Edward's to get the better of us.

The last two games of the season saw the team come together and perform the best Rounders they had played all season. The fielding was flawless and we had confidence and placement in our batting. Our last game of the season saw us beating Bablake 21-9.

A great season, and thanks to Anushka Karandikar for captaining the team.



U13

The Girls' U13 Rounders team has been very hard-working and successful this season, achieving many outstanding wins. Some extremely positive matches that should be mentioned include one against King's High, Warwick where the end score was 20-5 to Solihull. Another great win was beating Bablake by half a rounder on a sunny Saturday in June. The B-team has also participated in the season winning many matches against teams such as King's High, Warwick.

On Tuesday 17 June, the Rounders team took part in the County Tournament against a number of other schools from the area. After persevering through many tough matches we made it through to the semi-finals but lost an extremely close match against Tudor Grange. We left the tournament in fourth third place.

On behalf of the Rounders teams we would like to thank Mrs Black and Miss Wilcox for coaching and leading our teams over this successful and enjoyable Rounders season.

U12

This season has been a fantastic one for the Third Form Rounders A-team. We started off with an unfortunate loss but quickly regained confidence and skill which saw us win multiple matches straight after. With a total of just 3 losses and 11 wins the team have made fantastic progress. All the players have contributed to our success but we have seen great performances from Libby Shepherd all through the season with tremendous batting. Ellie Couch, who was added into the team a third of the way through the season, made a great start to her career on the A-team.

The team finished on a high, coming runners-up in the Year 7 Solihull Tournament and sadly losing to Tudor Grange in the final match by half a rounder. We hope to go back to the tournament next year and come away with a win. We would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Wilcox who has been a fantastic coach this season and also to any other staff involved with the organisation of the matches and making sure everything runs smoothly.

Mrs H Smith



Athletics

Overall Boys Borough Champions

U16 Boys Borough Champions

This has been another successful season with three athletes selected to represent the West Midlands in the English Schools Championships: Phoebe Harland in the U14 Girls' high jump, George Armstrong in the U14 Boys' shot put and Adina Bailey in the U17 Girls' hurdles and shot put. Adina has also been selected for the West Midlands Multi-event team in the English Schools Championships.

In the schools fixtures the U16 boys have beaten RGS Worcester, King Edward's Birmingham, and King Edward's Camp Hill and narrowly lost to Warwick. The U14 boys beat Warwick and King Edward's Stratford. The U16 girls defeated Heart of England and the U14 girls beat Camp Hill, Saint Martin's and Heart of England.

There were many great performances throughout the season but probably the best individual performance of the year occurred in the Borough Championships when Oscar Blundell broke the Borough Record in both the 100m and 200m along with the School Record. Two other athletes also managed to break Borough Records: Phoebe Harland in the high jump and Charlie Hadley in the long jump. This is the first season we have had more than one athlete beat a record in the Borough Championships.

Solihull Borough won the West Midlands Championships again and many congratulations to those athletes selected to represent Solihull. George Armstrong is West Midlands Champion for the U14 shot put, Phoebe Harland for U14 Girls' high jump and Adina Bailey for the U17 Girls' shot put and 80m hurdles.

This year's School Sports Day also included the Lower Sixth students competing again and congratulations to Fetherston on coming out Overall Winners.

Once again on behalf of all the School athletes, many thanks to all the staff who have helped to officiate the many matches. Without this we would not be able to host our inter-school fixtures.

Borough records:

Phoebe Harland:	High Jump	1.50m
Oscar Blundell:	100m	10.9s (School Record)
	200m	23.2s (School Record)
Charlie Hadley	Long Jump	5.71m

School Records:

Charlotte Rigg	1500m	5m 25.7s
Phoebe Harland	Hurdles	12.5s
	High Jump	1.61m





Annabelle Barker	100m	13.8s
Ella Stirling	800m	2m 34.7s
Lydia Roll	800m	2m 38.9s (House Sports record)
	1500m	5m 12.4s
Charlie Hadley	Triple Jump	12.71m
Victoria Brewer	Javelin	23.12m

House Sports Records:

Charlotte Rigg	800m	2m 42.5s
	1500m	5m 27.8s
Phoebe Harland	Hurdles	12.7s
	High Jump	1.45m
Hannah Higley	100m	14.2s
Annabelle Barker	Long Jump	4.73m
Ella Stirling	Discus	15.39m
Lydia Roll	1500m	5m 32.0s
Charlie Hadley	Triple Jump	12.43m
Victoria Brewer	Javelin	22.60m

House Sports Champions

Overall: Fetherston

Third Form

Boys: Shenstone Girls: Fetherston

Shell Form

Boys: Shenstone Girls: Jago

Fourth Form

Boys: Fetherston Girls: Fetherston

Lower Fifth

Boys: Pole Girls: Fetherston

Lower Sixth

Boys: Windsor Girls: Shenstone

English Schools Track and Field Cup

U16 Boys Midlands A Final (top 8 schools in the Midlands)

U14 Girls Midlands A Final

U14 Boys Midlands B Final (Top 8-16 teams)



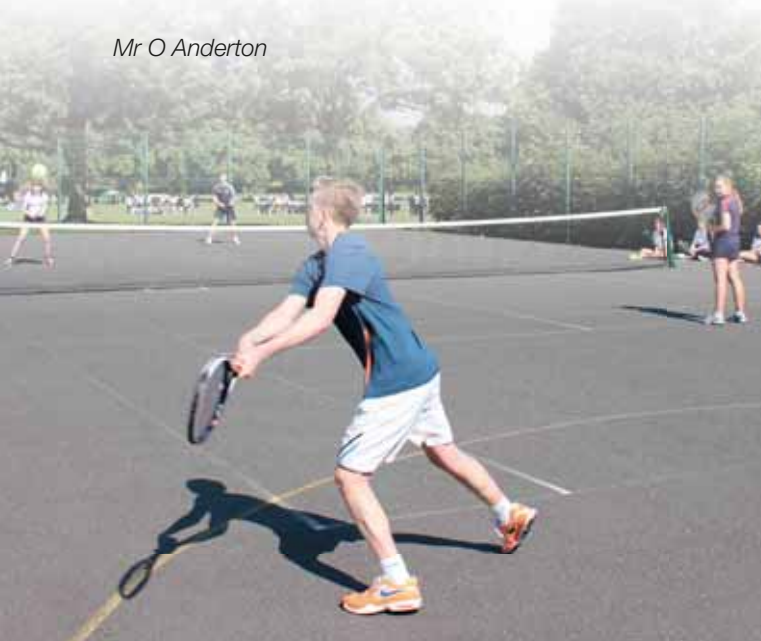
Tennis

The boys' tennis this year has been as smooth as a Roger Federer backhand! The U15 team has had a rotating squad with talent throughout and they played with a fantastic attitude. Conor Gregory has captained excellently, with Theo Villepontoux as a regular number two. The ability and enthusiasm of the Lower Fifth squad has resulted in just one league loss against Heart of England where we had a weakened team. The team has really impressed me this year and they will be missed as the majority of them move up to Senior Tennis. The U13 Team, captained by Alex Griffiths, has gone one step further and managed an unbeaten record, coming top of their league this year. With Charley Gregory at number one, followed by Alex, we have a fantastic top pairing, ably backed up by Harvey Meacham and Ethan Stretton at three and four. Charlie Cook also had a fantastic debut for the U13 team, whilst he is only an U12 player himself. Overall, this has been another fantastic season, and with at least one team through to the knockout stages of the Aegon competition in September, the sky's the limit.

The girls' summer tennis term has gone quicker than an ace from Maria Sharapova! However, we have managed to fit in a fixture most weeks with matches being played as part of the Solihull League. There have been some mixed results, however new Third Form pupils Libby Shepherd, Lily Evans, Annabel Hill and Harriet Toogood did very well in the U13 team, winning 5 out of their 6 matches. They each won some singles and doubles matches and played some lovely tennis. Holly Simkiss and Ellie Berrow have played well this term and have provided a strong base on which the team can build. Phoebe Harland and Georgina Dalby have also stepped in to play in the U13 team and they have made some great progress this year. The U15s have had a tougher season, however have continued to work hard and enjoy their tennis. Alice Lodge has been a reliable and enthusiastic captain and has been a huge help throughout the season. Alongside Alice, Harriet Bray, Katie Lyth, Elle Miles and Jade Gilmore have played some great matches. They have all made good progress with their game play. Well done and thank you to all involved this season.

Tennis Club has also been held on Friday after school and it has continued to be well attended. An external tennis coach has offered further expertise to the more experienced players, and some of the beginners have made superb progress this year. Enjoyment has been our main priority at Tennis Club and all the pupils that have attended have certainly seemed to have fun, but have developed their tennis as well. Thanks and well done to all involved!

Mr O Anderton



Skating Success

The Ski Team has had a packed year with both indoor and outdoor races. Like the British Cycling team, our skiers are only happy with podium finishes. The girls became English Champions and for the third time represented England at the British Championships, finishing third overall. Individually, four members of the team have been chosen to train with the English Schools' Ski Team.





Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Millfield Invitation Clay Pigeon Shoot was held on 7 November at Brook Shooting ground, Cheddar, Somerset. The team consisted of team captain Christos Wild, alongside Alex Browse, James Sutton, Bart Sands and Angus Young. The shoot is renowned for its high standard and fierce competition from schools across the country. This is the first year we have entered and out of the 5 shooters, 4 had never shot in a competition before and 2 have only been shooting since September. The boys shot exceptionally well given the cold weather and the inevitable nerves of a first competition. 18 teams entered and we were placed joint 8th which was a tremendous result, beating experienced teams from Cheltenham and Wellington to name a couple.

The shooting team was out again on 1st December in the Butler Cup against local schools such as Old Swinford Hospital, King's High Warwick and Warwick School. The competition was held at our host ground, Hereford & Worcester Shooting Ground. Solihull School came a very respectable 2nd place and the three novice girls shot brilliantly, coming close on the heels of King's High Warwick who have significantly more experience than our three young ladies.

The team was: Christos Wild (Captain), James Sutton, Bart Sands, Angus Young, Richard Beaty, Vini Vinod, Lauren Packham and Lydia Stephens. High Gun for Solihull Gentlemen was James Sutton, and High Gun for the Ladies was Lydia Stephens.





Fishing Club

Solihull School Fishing Club has taken off really well and has been running for three years, growing year on year. The club is generously funded by the Parents' Association, which has enabled us to purchase a wide variety of equipment so beginners have the chance to give fishing a go. The local fisheries in the Solihull area have been very helpful allowing the club to fish their waters, catching many species of fish, including Rogue American Crayfish! The club is run during the holiday period every Wednesday afternoon. All current members – male and female students – show such enthusiasm and seem to really enjoy the sport. We are looking forward to the new season and hopefully will have some interesting catches! Tight lines!



Swimming

Girls' Captain: Amy Middleton

Boys' Captain: Jack Francis

Our opening gala was held at Warwick School in September for the U13/U15/U18 Girls and Boys. For the first gala of the season, the squad swam well and produced some good performances finishing 2nd overall. We then travelled to Stowe for our second gala of the season where we took boys and girls from three age groups to compete against Stowe and Bromsgrove. We produced some brilliant performances in the individual races with our Inter girls finishing 1st overall and Senior girls 2nd. Our third saw us return to Warwick for the 3rd 50m Annual Warwick Individual Championships. All of the squad's efforts kept Solihull School in contention with the other strong schools from the Midlands. Team success was once again high with the U12 Boys finishing runners-up in the overall results.

The Girls' squad went away to a Gala against St Martin's. Solihull School swam some impressive races with the Senior Girls finishing 1st overall.

On 6 February we travelled back to Warwick for the 100m Individual Championships. The girls and boys swam exceptionally well against very strong opposition over 100m races, which are longer than what any of our swimmers are used to competing in. However, they all showed great determination. Individual success goes to Abigail Humphreys, Charlotte Rigg and Lucy Gerrard.

For the final gala of the year we took a Senior Girls' team down to the Olympic Park for the national relays; the first competition hosted since the Olympics. All of our swimmers were a lot younger than the majority of the other competitors and swam superbly. A special mention goes to Abigail Humphreys, Lydia Roll, Hannah Quibell, Charlotte Rigg and Lucy Gerrard.

The season has been one of many victories and triumphs but also lots to learn from race situations. Lucy Rigg (Swimming coach) has been a big influence on all swimmers, where her training sessions on Tuesday mornings are of a high quality. Well done to all swimmers this season for your hard work.

Girls' Swimming Squad: Junior: Charlotte Rigg, Lucy Gerrard, Hannah Currie, Cerys Stansfield, Elisa Mottram, Kate Stumper, Alyssa Houghton, Alyssa Morrison, Isabell Atkinson, Libby Shepherd. **Inter:** Abigail Humphreys, Isobel Douglas, Lydia Roll, Hannah Quibell, Ella Talbot. **Senior:** Jemima Dixey, Caroline Gerard, Amy Middleton

Boys' Swimming Squad: Junior: James Morris, Jack Talbot, William Thompson, James Topping, Oliver Francis, Fraser Blackhurst, Oliver Rooney, Noah Belling, Ben Smith. **Inter:** George Armstrong, William Rigg, Adam Beaumont, Ben Osborne, Sam Orme. **Senior:** Jack Francis, Robert Gnyla, Peter Stansfield, Frank Fogarty



Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race

Isobel Cawley and Isaac Webber completed the 125-mile DW race with incredible strength both in mind and body over the four days of Easter. They endured a broken rudder on the third day which unfortunately slowed them down by around 20 minutes. As a result, they were even more determined on the final day to make up time! To make it even more gruelling, they set up camp each night and cooked for themselves come rain or shine.

There was great camaraderie and support between the teams that had entered from a number of schools from all over the UK. Issy and Isaac completed the race in a tremendous 23.19 hours and we believe they have broken the School record! Their justgiving page has now raised over £1200 for Marie Curie Cancer Care in Solihull.

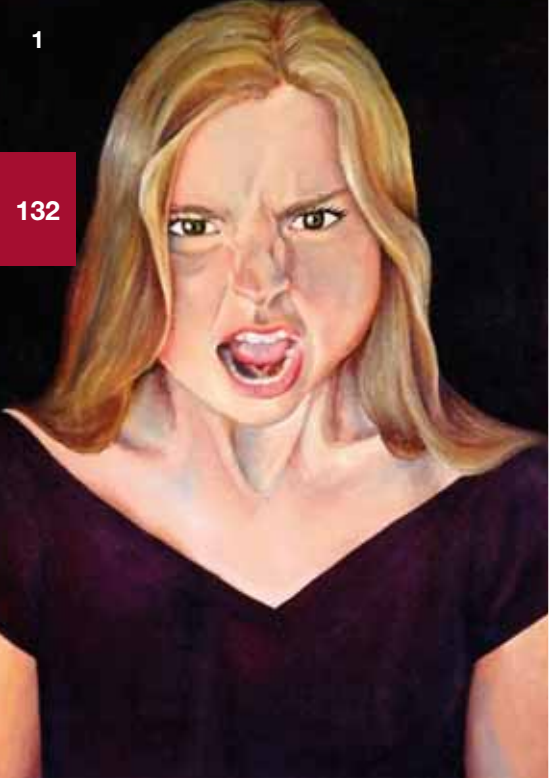


Sport Successes

This year we have been able to celebrate a number of individual sporting successes. Many congratulations to the following:

- Abigail Humphreys has been selected for the final phase of the ASA England Talent Program and will represent England at the Portuguese National Championships in July.
- Charlie Hadley was ranked 3rd in the UK in Indoor Triple Jump.
- Ben Priestley competed internationally in France and Slovakia in a foil fencing competition in the U17 Cadet category.
- Aoife Mannion played for Birmingham City Ladies FC in the European Cup semi-final against Tyreso FF of Sweden.
- Charley Gregory became the National U12 Nike Clay Court Tennis Champion.
- Charlie Morgan played for England U16 Lions XV against England Roses.
- Jonathan Allen played for the England Independent Schools Barbarians U18 XV against Zimbabwe U19 XV in Zimbabwe.
- Ben Fowles played for England U16 Saxons against Italy.
- Kieran Joyce played for Ireland Clubs U18 XV against England Clubs U18 XV.

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12



13

Upper Sixth Art

1. Alanna Wall
2. Alanna Wall
3. Charlotte Beesley
4. Nicole Angelides
5. Alanna Wall
6. Faye Kent
7. Martyna Sucharzewska
8. Brogan Kelly
9. Jemima Dixey
10. Luke Owen
11. Brogan Kelly
12. Sophie Ward
13. Polly Baines

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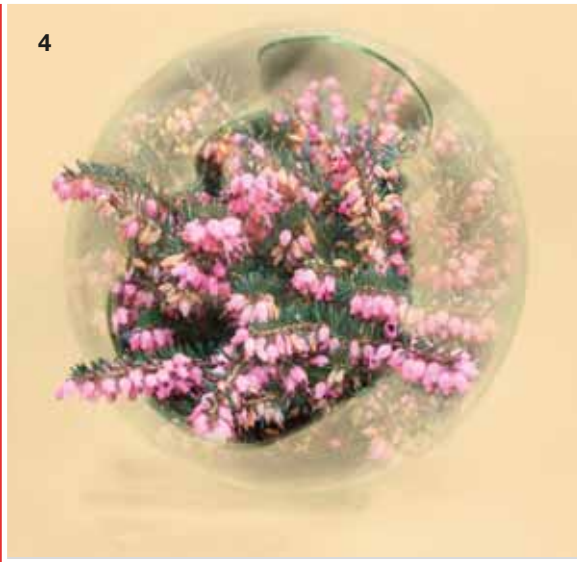
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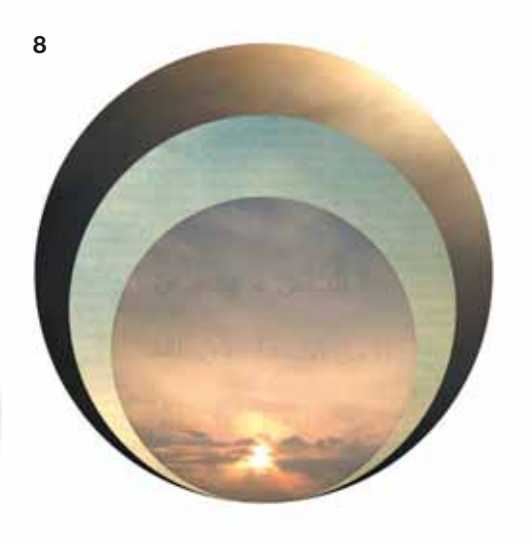
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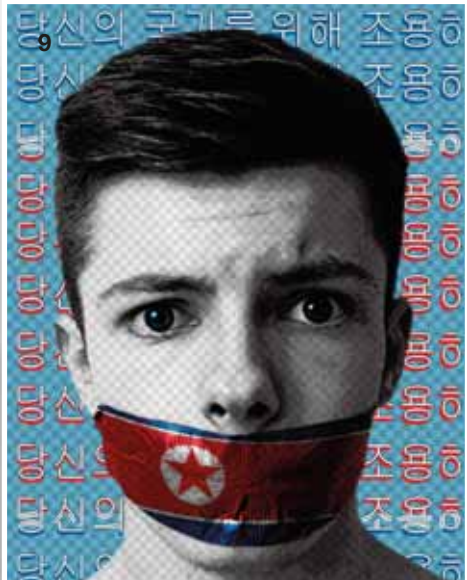
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Upper Sixth Photography

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Nicole Angelides | 11. Samantha Deakin |
| 2. Brogan Kelly | 12. Louie Turpie |
| 3. Tom Beasley | 13. Sam Montieri |
| 4. Ella Goodworth | 14. Sophia Peschisolido |
| 5. Daisy Blundell | 15. Grace Walden |
| 6. Mathew Prichard | 16. Yasmin Webb |
| 7. Emily Reddi | 17. Katie Singleton |
| 8. Luke Owen | 18. Lydia Jones |
| 9. Ewan Waddell | 19. Oliver Haley |
| 10. Lottie Wilson | |

Travel and Trips

Rugby Tour to South Africa

A 27-strong party left on 19 July for a two week tour of South Africa. The party flew to Johannesburg for the first leg of the trip before then boarding a domestic flight to Cape Town. Over the 14 day period the squad took in a number of the main tourist attractions whilst also learning about rugby the Southern Hemisphere way. It was superb to spend the first few days at a training camp in Ingwenyama Training Resort which is where the Wales Team prepared before the final test match against the Springboks. Here the boys were put through their paces and pushed well outside of their comfort zone. The playing record for the tour doesn't make for the best reading, having lost the full-sided matches, but they did win the two 7-a-side tournaments they competed in. But as a bonding exercise the tour was superb. Culturally the boys had their eyes opened wide and highlights were undoubtedly Robben Island, Kruger National Park and the Canyon.

Many thanks to the staff who made the tour possible and also the sponsors. This was a great two weeks and certainly put this group of players in a good position for the new season.

Mr S Thompson





Girls' tour to South Africa

On the last day of the summer term, 19 girls and 3 staff departed from Heathrow to start the long journey to Johannesburg, South Africa. Upon arrival, we began a very busy tour schedule that incorporated both cultural and sporting activities, allowing us to make memories that will certainly last a lifetime. Highlights included the Mabula Game Safari, where we travelled in search of the 'Big Five' and were lucky enough to catch sight of a pack of lions, five elephants, a rhino, three hippos, crocodiles, zebras, giraffes and many more. Other activities included a visit to one of the biggest townships in South Africa: Langa. This was both heart-warming and enriching and opened our eyes to the conditions that some people endure. We were also lucky enough to enjoy a delicious meal in one of the township restaurants. An array of traditional foods was on offer as well as live music incorporating steel drums and voice.

From a sporting perspective, we had a mixed bag of results that reflected the high standard of sport played by our host schools. In hockey, we played four very tough matches, including one against national representatives St Andrews School. Our highlight was a 6-0 win in the last match played. In netball, girls' school St Mary's proved to be a tough test in our



opening match but we improved over the coming matches, drawing with Roedean School and beating an athletic Langa team. All players improved during the four games and we look forward to transferring these skills into Bigside squads in the 2014-2015 season. Good luck must go to Harriet Whitfield and Ellie Talbot-Davies who played their final matches for the School whilst on tour. Both pupils and staff enjoyed every second of our touring experience that far surpassed even the highest of expectations.

Tour Awards:

Players' Player: Laura Daghish
 Manager's Player: Kiantie Lightbourne
 Most Improved Player: Amelia Woolley

Miss D Wilcox





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull School 2013/14

Over the last 12 months the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Solihull School has operated with 90 Lower Fifth pupils at Bronze level and just over 50 at both Silver and Gold levels. Pupils enrol for their Bronze award towards the end of the Fourth Form and this year large numbers (six groups) have succeeded in making it through to attempt Gold in the Sixth Form.



A key focus this year has been encouraging pupils to remain active on their 'e-DofE' account and to continually upload evidence of their 'Physical' (sporting), 'Skill' and 'Volunteering' sections at regular intervals. Completion of the whole award is always our key objective and not just the expedition section and so we have insisted that pupils have a well-populated online account before they can proceed to do their venture. Bell ringing, textiles, conservation-based projects, various charity projects, makaton and marksmanship were some of the more unusual activities with many pupils helping with fundraising or in charity shops, playing a plethora of musical instruments and competing in all manner of sporting activities. The Gold award includes a fourth 'Residential' section which once more has found Sixth Formers involved in a variety of interesting activities ranging from a zoo keeping placement in the lake District, taking part in a cookery course in France, helping young people with a physical disability on their summer camp and an Eton choral course to name but a few. Pupils must organise these themselves and then show commitment and determination to stay the course.

Expedition training in January targeted the Bronze and direct entry Silver candidates and included first aid training / country code / stoves / tents / rucksack packing and expedition kit. The vast majority of the time is spent using maps and compasses for route planning. The Silver and Gold expedition weeks last summer in North and Mid Wales respectively were followed by a local deferral weekend in September in Warwickshire. Staff training in the snow and ice of Snowdonia in February was then followed by a relatively mild spell of weather for the Bronze and Silver Easter ventures starting near Llangollen. A May Bronze Practice weekend in Shropshire involving 78 pupils led to their assessment in June in the Peak District. A tough 4-day June Gold Practice in scorching conditions in the Rhinog Mountains means that we are now looking forward towards assessment in August and a further Silver expedition to Mid Wales.



All in all then, it has been another very busy year! Congratulations go to all pupils who have completed an award at any of the levels and pushed themselves hard to achieve it. Through adversity and in challenging conditions, pupils dig deep and often discover life-changing qualities within themselves. The blisters recover but the memories of teamwork and friendship will certainly endure.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE



Château de la Baudonnière 2014

During February half-term Solihull School undertook its tenth visit to the Château de la Baudonnière in rural Normandy, France.

Accompanied by Mrs Black, Mr Thomas and Miss Evans, 18 Third Form pupils took on the challenge of a week of total French immersion in order to improve their knowledge and understanding of French language and culture. In a break from tradition, 9 A-Level students also joined the trip. The pupils were required to speak French to each other and to the staff for the WHOLE week! It was a task they undertook with great enthusiasm. Prizes were given at the end of the week to those who made a particular effort with their French and embraced the challenge of the activities: Charlotte Rigg, Tom Carter, Libby Shepherd, Raoul Bagga, Sophie Borman, Lily Evans and Anne-Sophie Gilson.

The programme consisted of a variety of different indoor and outdoor activities, from bread-making and rock-climbing to the dreaded muddy assault course! We also spent a day out visiting a French market in Villedieu, a good chance for the students to practise their French on the locals whilst sampling some traditional produce, and in the afternoon the world-famous Mont St Michel. The Sixth Form students visited a local school where they interviewed the Headmistress and assisted in a very challenging English Baccalaureat lesson. They spent



the evening in a local café where they quizzed the owner and sang karaoke in French and also had to prepare and take a mock speaking examination. The evenings were also jam-packed with fun events: we enjoyed a camp-fire (to the accompaniment of French songs), a treasure hunt, a 'soirée française', where we donned berets and moustaches (and a rather fetching bleu, blanc, rouge dress in the case of one of our Sixth Form boys!) and sampled snails. We also enjoyed a talent show courtesy of our students and a very enthusiastic Luca Walker!

The week was a great success thanks to the fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm of the pupils, and the hard-work and support of my accompanying staff.

Mrs C Black





Third & Shell Form Ski Trip Austria 2013

On Saturday 15 February, 68 very excited pupils and six apprehensive teachers met on the Chapel Car Park to travel to New Hampshire. There was a heavy snowstorm hitting the East coast of America and we were one of the last flights allowed to land at Boston airport. Miss Campbell certainly enjoyed the flight in First Class!

The snow was fantastic all week as a result of the storm although it was very cold for the first couple of days. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the skiing and on Thursday, thoughts turned to New York.

We had a fantastic time in New York seeing the sights. The Empire State Building and Times Square made a great first impression.

My thanks to all the staff and pupils for making this such a memorable trip.

Mr N Leonard



Sixth Form Trip to Auschwitz

What do you write about a place everyone has heard a lot about? Auschwitz is a word regarded as one of the most chilling in our concepts of history; the name is infamous and in the wake of it, there are connotations of heartbreak, terror and inhumanity. There is no amount of reading, research or historical lessons that can prepare you for such a trip, with some regarding it as close to Hell on Earth. Having experienced it, it is safe to say that unfortunately, it lives up to its name. Our trip to Auschwitz was an event that affected us in different ways. One of us wanted to talk about it, while the other just wanted to shut it out and keep it private. Despite the challenging day, we realised the absolute importance of being educated about the Holocaust. While we were in Poland, we visited a Jewish cemetery before we arrived at Auschwitz. When we were there we were shocked and appalled to discover that to this day people vandalise Jewish graves with anti-Semitic graffiti. This was the first instance where we realised how discrimination and prejudice is still rife even after a genocide such as the Holocaust. This, as well as being taught about people who preach about the Holocaust never existing, shocked us deeply.

Before the trip, something which was key for us was witnessing first-hand the undeniable evidence of man's inhumanity towards his fellow man, because it seemed an inconceivable prospect. Yet, having experienced it we believe that this is one of the main facets which really hit home with us. From this, we realised how imperative it was that we acted as witnesses to then inform other people about our experiences, in the most enriching and enlivening way.

What remains apparent and key for us, is acting as ambassadors of Auschwitz, and not disappointing the memory of those who had to experience the worst of life. The fundamental calling card of going to Auschwitz was to come home afterwards and tell the tale of those who are no longer around to tell it, the tale of the most harrowing imprisonment possible. This is something which we hope to continue to do.

Joe Lankester and Olivia Fordyce, Lower Sixth



The following poem by Lauren Buchan in the Upper Sixth was written as part of her Auschwitz project.

Feel

None of it seems real.
It's as if I'm waiting for images to overwhelm me
And fill my tired eyes with tears.
But nothing. My heart is still as the atmosphere.
And yet the atmosphere feels drugged, subdued, as if we
are trooping
Respectfully, silently, over this hallowed ground
In some sort of dazed stupor. Unsure
Of how to feel.
None of it seems real.

Huddled at the train tracks that forever
Scar this pretty – yes pretty – landscape
As a blatant 'I told you so' to all the non-believers.
Left line is death, right line is death,
There was no such word as 'saved',
Except where it lay in the hands of those who
Chose to lift them to their eyes
And block the sorry sight of the marching stars who left.
Because it was the easiest thing to do.
Now, at the spot where the march took them,
The ground beneath my feet should
Feel tarnished, should pulse some sort of remorse.
But still, nothing I feel,
I tell myself that it's because it doesn't seem real.

The deserted rigid barracks that dehumanised
Feel abandoned,
From the outside they look like neat little farm houses. Ironic
–
Because they held the perceived beasts of their time.
We troop through one door:
One bunk bed, two bunk beds, three bunks beds...
And out the other door. That's it.
A passing observation that holds no real depiction
Of the horror that it sheltered.
The foetuses of death that writhed pitifully on those beds,
Are lost. Never to be grasped again.

And now – the chambers of death.
No – just ruins. An attempt to demolish brutality
By piling over the stain.
Ugly concealing ugly. How fitting it seems.
The barriers between me and the ruins cries 'danger'
-Do not cross into the rubble. For my safety.
All these years later, and the delicacy of my life is being
Protected, when I couldn't be safer.
Where was this barriers, this line, this threshold,
For the Jews that trooped up here?
Where was their protection.
What a sick world we must be to move
From one extreme to another so fluidly –
To disregard all care for vitality in one moment
And now to have a world too full of cautiousness.
Then, the world knew it was real,
So why didn't it feel?
If I want to weep, now is the time.
But I cannot force emotion. Perhaps I am at a loss,
Confused, like they were.
I cannot comprehend death occurred here,
Just like they so naively thought when they wandered up
here,

Only to be consumed, ashy particles in the frigid air.
The evening dims, I am cold,
Just like they were, in their stripes of shame.
All I desire is to escape – the warm embrace of home,
Just as they hoped every day.
Yet the difference, oh the difference.

I turn, I trudge past the slashes of train tracks,
No longer rattling with more cattle, but discarded.
The walk is long, the acres of land
Seem to try to consume me. The souls of those before,
Jealous of my freedom.
My heart jolts, I huddle under my coat,
My feet ache, but I reach the gate.
And pass through.
No metal bites into my skin,
Pressing me back into captivity.
I can stroll aimlessly out, free from the
Depression, and claim warmth gratefully.
And only then, do I feel.

I feel the relief course through my senses,
The warmth soothing my cold-flushed face.
My seat cradling my limp body,
Giving me security to sleep, undisturbed.
Is this what you will do? Or will you forget what had
Been, because it is no longer tangible?
The particles of ash in your boots and the
Scent of smoke in your hair – will they be
Easily removed by the need for comfort?
Or, as you do, will you stop, and remember.
Remember the freedom you have which allows
You to do this, to be clean, warm, and safe.
To have identity. To be considered a human being,
With rights. Not dishevelled animals behind bars.
Remember the triumph you felt,
When the oppression of the camp could not hold you.
Its chains are broken, and can stay so,
But only if you uphold appreciation
For human life.
Because only when it is snatched from you,
Will then the brutality of human nature
Seen real.
So feel.

Lauren Buchan



Snowdonia School at the Mountain Cottage

The trip started with the tiring 3-hour drive to the scenic region of Snowdonia. With no time to rest we were thrown into our first exhilarating activity. After constructing our own makeshift boats, we raced across an incredibly windy Llyn Padarn in Llanberis with varying degrees of success, at one point almost getting blown away entirely.

The next day was incredible. After a beautiful drive to Anglesey, we did some coastering along the rocky and quite terrifying cliff faces. That day many of the group's fears were conquered and luckily we all made it back to the Cottage in one piece even after a very precarious zip line and some hairy moments. The next day brought our biggest challenge: Mount Snowdon. Our ascent took roughly three and a half hours but all our hard work was rewarded with beautiful views in every direction at the top. Somehow we managed to safely negotiate the very snowy path of the Pyg Track and it was all the more satisfying to reach the summit because it had been such a struggle. After



a quick lunch and a few photos including selfies, we headed back on our arduous journey down to our final destination, Pete's Eats, where they serve the some of the biggest meals I have ever seen.

We spent most of the next day relaxing with a trip to the beach in Llandudno. Here, we had a boisterous game of football which may have contained some elements of a rugby match. We then headed back to the Cottage with our newly bought chocolates and sweets after what was a brilliant day out. Sadly the next day would be our last, but we went out in style, with an amazing Tree Tops assault course that ended in a heart-stopping jump. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, and we buckled up for another long journey home. Thank you so much to Dr Spratley, Miss Evans and Swanny for helping us to have such an amazing week.

Thomas Yearsley, Shell Form





Staff Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge

During the first week of the October half term, fifteen intrepid staff members and two supporters headed north to the Lake District to begin the Coast to Coast cycle. Amateurs and more experienced cyclists alike set off from Whitehaven in persistent drizzle, a portent for the weather to follow. Staying in Youth Hostels and bunkhouses along the way, the group soon found their ability levels, and while the elite pack headed off up hilly terrain at a pace, the less experienced pedalled slowly but surely towards their target destination. All fifteen completed the challenge despite encountering gales, torrential rain and rivers emerging from nowhere, and arrived at the beach in Tynemouth where the sun graced us with its presence. Supported all the way by our trusty D of E volunteers Viv Lord and Stuart Swan, the team completed not only a tremendous challenge, but also raised over £4200 for the Solihull Marie Curie Hospice.



AAAS Science Conference in Chicago

During the February half term, 17 pupils, accompanied by Miss Ford and Mr Farrington, attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The theme this year was 'Global Challenges: Discovery and Innovation', and the programme highlighted the need to drive solutions to current and future global challenges in order to improve quality of life around the world.

What followed was a fascinating four days of lectures, symposia and seminars, with topics ranging from particle physics to psychology. Students were also given the opportunity to visit Fermilab and meet a theoretical physicist.

As well as attending the conference, we were able to experience the many cultural highlights of Chicago. These included an architectural tour of the city, visits to landmarks, snowball fights and, of course, deep dish pizzas!

Miss E Ford





Shell Form Trip to Corinium

On Wednesday 12 February the Shell Form Latinists visited Cirencester to expand their knowledge of Roman life. We were firstly taken to the Corinium Museum and were sad to hear that we were unable to visit the amphitheatre due to the bad weather. Therefore, we were split into groups and were allowed to explore the museum! We had booklets to fill in that led us around the museum and helped us to further our knowledge about the Roman era. During this, we learnt about the food, weapons, accessories, and life and death. We then had the opportunity to have a teaching session with an expert. She taught us about the many varieties of jobs and lifestyles and some of us were lucky enough to dress up as Romans! It was a very fun and interesting trip. Thank you to all of the staff that made this trip possible.

Phoebe Harland and Tabitha Botterill, Shell Form

Fourth Form Latin: a trip to Aquae Sulis

On 15 January the Fourth Form Latin pupils headed over to Bath to explore the ancient Baths of Aquae Sulis. While we were there we enjoyed examining some real Romano-British artefacts. We learned to both read and tell the difference between altars and gravestones of people who lived in the Roman era. The Baths themselves came from a natural hot spring at 47°C and they were thought to have healing powers by the Romans.

Next we looked at the under floor heating system that warmed the caldarium. Finally we toured the museum to find out firsthand what it was like living in Roman Britain. The day was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Hannah Wolverson, Izzy Conway and Paloma Benjamin, Fourth Form



Netball International

On Friday 27 September a group of pupils from School went to Worcester to watch England take on South Africa in an international netball match. It was an amazing evening, with England winning 53 - 41 and therefore sealing a 3 - 0 victory in the test series.

Kiante Lightbourne had the honour of holding the English flag during the national anthem and did a brilliant job!

Anyone for tennis?

On Saturday 28 June a group of Fourth Form and Lower Fifth girls were taken to Wimbledon by Mrs Roll and Mrs Brown. Having managed to secure tickets for Court 2, which promised some excellent matches, the girls were very excited and positive at the start of the day. However, as the photos depict, rain interrupted play quite considerably! In fact we only saw 20 minutes! Still, we were all cheery watching the big screen on Murray Mound during the afternoon and kept our eye peeled for a glimpse of David Beckham and David Tennant who were watching Rafael Nadal vs Mikhail Kukushkin on Centre Court.





German Markets Trip

At the end of a long Christmas term, 38 pupils and four staff eagerly set off on the biennial pilgrimage to the Christmas Markets of Aachen, Köln and Koblenz. A lengthy but uneventful journey meant a speedy lunch in the markets of Köln before very interesting tours of the city centre, which described its history from Roman times to the present day. Further investigation of the shops and markets whilst staff had a well earned 'Kaffee und Kuchen' followed before we embarked on the final journey to the hotel.

On Thursday we returned to Köln in order to visit the Olympic Sports museum, where pupils wholeheartedly threw themselves into the activities provided. A brief pause for lunch was followed by the ever-popular visit to the Chocolate Museum, where we stocked up on valuable supplies and presents. We travelled back to Aachen to visit its market, which spreads right through the city centre, in the dark. Lit up, it is a spectacular sight. The day ended with our meal back at the hotel. Our final full day took us further south to Koblenz. We started the day with a visit to the castle at Marksburg, perched high on a hill overlooking the Rhine. It is the longest continuously inhabited castle in Germany. A particular favourite of pupils is the visit to the torture chamber. We then adjourned to the centre of Koblenz where, after group photographs at the Deutches Eck, pupils were again allowed to investigate the delights of a different set of markets. Our return to the hotel was followed by our final evening meal and a quiz, which some teams took excessively seriously.

On Saturday we packed and, sadly, took our leave of the hotel, before making the journey back to England. I would like to



thank Mrs Cramb, Mr Dowsett, and a very young second Dr Troth for giving up their time to come on the trip, and I would also like to thank the pupils for their largely excellent behaviour and for embracing the market culture as thoroughly as they did. They were a pleasure to take away.

Dr J Troth

Art Trip to London

The Sixth Form Artists enjoyed a trip to Tate Britain and the Saatchi Gallery in March to support their exam research. The two galleries offer a wide range of artworks that cover over five hundred years of painting, sculpture, photography and installation.



Teams of the Week 2013/14

Chilean Exchange Students	<i>Excellent assistance given to Chilean students</i>
U15A XV Rugby Team	<i>Tremendous performance against Old Swinford Hospital School</i>
U15 Girls' XI Hockey Team	<i>Excellent victory over Royal Grammar School, Worcester</i>
1st XI Cricket Team	<i>Superb performance in becoming Warwickshire U19 County Champions</i>
1st XI Hockey Team	<i>Fantastic victory over Repton</i>
Girls' Ski Team	<i>English Dry Slope Ski Champions</i>
U19 1st Netball Squad	<i>Excellent performance in winning Solihull School Tournament</i>
Senior Shooting Team	<i>Tremendous performance at the Millfield Invitational Shoot</i>
Coast to Coast Cycle Team	<i>A wonderful charitable effort!</i>
CCF Team	<i>Representing the School in excellent fashion during Remembrance</i>
U12 Swim Team	<i>Excellent performance in the Warwick 50's Meet</i>
U12B Rugby Team	<i>A brilliant victory over Nottingham High School</i>
Cast and crew of Macbeth	<i>Three superb nights of Shakespearean Drama</i>
Chapel Choirs	<i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
Fourth Form Germanists	<i>First class performance at the Goethe Institute</i>
Oxbridge Preparation Team	<i>Fantastic guidance and support</i>
Girls' U13 Hockey Team	<i>Excellent performance (13-0) versus Arden School</i>
U15 Boys' XI Hockey Team	<i>Superb performance and victory against Nottingham High School</i>
U15 Maths Team	<i>Tremendous performance in the Regional Finals (1st & 2nd)</i>
The German Magazine Team	<i>An excellent 4th edition of 'Das Alles ist Deutschland'</i>
U14 Netball Team	<i>Excellent victory against Heart of England School</i>
Middle School Debating Team	<i>Tremendous victory in the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition Birmingham Finals</i>
U14 VII Rugby Squad	<i>Excellent performance in the Warwick School Tournament</i>
U15 Hockey Squad	<i>Superb performances and victories versus Dean Close School</i>
1st VII Rugby Squad	<i>Victory in the Solihull Tournament</i>
U15 VII Rugby Squad	<i>A fantastic series of performances</i>
Cast and Crew of Spamalot	<i>Five fabulous nights of music, drama and comedy</i>
Chapel Choir Members	<i>An amazing performance with Gary Barlow at the LG Arena</i>
1st XI Cricket Team	<i>Excellent 20/20 victory over King Edward's School, Birmingham</i>
U12 Girls' Rounders Team	<i>Fantastic performance versus Princethorpe College</i>
Benchers 2013/14	<i>An excellent team effort for 2013/2014</i>
Science Communication Team	<i>Winners of the GSK-McLaren Pit Stop Challenge</i>
U15 XI Cricket Team	<i>Crowned Warwickshire Champions after victory over Rugby School</i>
Girls' U12 Rounders Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory over King Henry VIII School, Coventry</i>
U12A XI Cricket Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory over Bromsgrove School</i>
Snowdonia School 289 Team	<i>Fantastic camaraderie and commitment</i>
Junior Maths Team	<i>Regional Maths Champions and National Finalists</i>



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