

Solihull School

Shenstonian

2011/2012

Teaching Staff 2011/2012

1970		2000	
1971	N A Cluley; P T Holt	2001	J S Brown; P G Gunning; R R Hadley-Leonard; M Worrall; E R Hurst
1972		2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer
1973		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
1974		2004	A Bussey; D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther; S J Phillips (Nov)
1975		2005	C E Checketts; S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); R C Wright (Apr); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; N Cheetham; G Cureton
1976		2006	A Jones; C H R Townsend; P G May; J Wilde; R J L Geldard; D W Jenkinson; J J Grandrieux; D L Trim (Jan)
1977		2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson; V J Gill
1978	M A Barrett	2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb
1979		2009	D L Hemp (Jan); H M Smith; R E Lowe; D R Harford; S E Smith
1980	J J Nickson; H J Thomas	2010	D E J J Lloyd; O M Walker; L C Wolsey; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; S L Mackie; P F Spratley; S R Phillips; H J Walsh
1981		2011	H C Johnson (Jan); S T Baddeley; C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Ford; E J Hadley; M Partridge; K R Sykes
1983	P D Brattle	2012	L J Rutherford; B Sandford-Smith (Jan)
1984	P J Irving		
1985	J Troth; C D L Davies		
1986			
1987	L A Benge		
1988	L M Fair		
1989			
1990	M J Covill		
1991	D Reardon; S J Perrins; S A Morgan		
1992			
1993			
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner		
1995	D H Wild		
1996			
1997	A C Hutchinson; L J Brough		
1998	C Steel; U Mynette; A M Vaughan		
1999	P J Davies; P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart; E Cassano		

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Headmaster's Report

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are now starting the academic year 2012-2013. Education at a national level has undergone considerable change in recent years, including the advent of university tuition fees, the addition of the A* at A-Level, a swing away from modularity back to linear study and, most recently, threats of legal action against examination boards for allegedly shifting the goalposts on marking. As well as keeping our eye on the national ball, much has changed at Solihull School too.

A number of staff left us at the end of last academic year in order to return to university study, for promotion, for retirement and in two cases to be closer to home. My mathematics suggests that between them they have clocked up an incredible 147 years of service to the School, with Phil Holt notching up 41 years alone. If Phil gets Olympic gold, silver goes to Hugh Thomas with 31 years and bronze goes to Cath Davies with 26 years. Thank you and bon voyage to all! At the end of this term, the Christmas term 2012, and after 9 years of service to Solihull School, Christopher Warren retires from bursaring. He will be missed by all and I will certainly miss his friendship, support and meticulous eye for detail. I tried to persuade him to stay a little longer, but failed and must wish him the very best of good fortune as he explores pastures new with plans to do charitable work, both for his regiment and locally. Fortunately, we were successful in replacing Christopher with Richard Bate, who is married to Ali and father of Chrissy (Third Form) and Tom (J2). Richard comes to us from Cambridge University and then industry and has a successful track record leading a number of different businesses. I wish all of our new staff – and they are very talented bunch – a challenging and rewarding career at this beacon of excellence!

Against a backdrop of continued economic austerity and prolonged recession, numbers on roll have risen (again) to well over 1000 pupils. In particular, the Junior School has broken through the 200 barrier and entry at 11+, 13+ and

16+ is becoming increasingly competitive, with nearly 400 pupils sitting the 11+ last year. In addition, we enjoyed sustained success in the examination room, with 85% A* to B grades at A Level (equalling our best ever) and 70% A* to A grades at GCSE (our second best ever). Our pass rate at both levels was 100% and at A-Level, 37 pupil achieved at least 3 A grades and at GCSE, 19 have started the Lower Sixth having achieved at least 8 A* grades. One final statistic I can offer is that 88% of our Upper Sixth went to their chosen university; good luck to all of our leavers in the next stage of their education. In terms of reporting results, I think I am accurate in stating that we made history this year, with national coverage in The Daily Mail, The Daily Star and even The Sun, on the same day Prince Harry received rather unusual and unexpected press coverage!

The School continues to evolve and a number of important changes have been recently made. We are seeking to professionalise some of our support services and started by recruiting Hayley Miles as our first ever Human Resources Manager. We plan to add to this very soon with the appointment of a Director of Alumni Relations and Development. On the topic of alumni, the Old Silhillians now have an office on site and the relationship between the School and the OSA continues to go from strength to strength. The OSA office is housed in the newly named Leonard Stevens Building (formerly the Old Music School) and we are very grateful to Leonard's son, Fred, who continues to support the School in memory of his father who was a pupil here in the 1920s. Also in the Leonard Stevens building is the recently opened Denis Tomlin Archive, which is a permanent tribute to past pupils and their parents, staff and governors and is well worth a visit – I guarantee you will be impressed. I would like to thank the Parents' Association for funding the Archive, the OSA for contributing vast quantities of memorabilia and artefacts and John Loynton, School Archivist, for cataloguing and presenting a truly fascinating collection.



The School has embraced social networking as an increasingly important communication channel and the numbers following us on Twitter and Facebook continue to increase. Both are accessible through our new website, which I hope you have visited. Whilst it is still work in progress, I'm sure you will agree that it is a big improvement on the last one which had successfully run its course. Very soon, we hope to add a VLE (virtual learning environment) enabling pupils to actively engage with learning through the internet, a virtual tour of the campus, and a sports module which will communicate fixtures, team lists, match reports and cancellations. For our governors, a facility similar to the Parent Portal (iSAMS) will also go live very soon.

So what else has changed? We have a new professional review system for all staff, we are systematically and annually canvassing pupil and parental opinion and a number of curriculum changes have been implemented. Drama and Classical Civilisation are now established as GCSEs, French is no longer compulsory to GCSE and A-Level Politics came on stream this year. Pupils joining the Junior School in J1, J2 or J3 will normally have their places in the Senior School confirmed at the end of J3, one year in advance and before the 11+ examination, and the entry threshold for the Sixth Form has increased from 6 B grades to 2 A and 4 B grades at GCSE. And let us not forget uniform; the Sixth Form look fabulous in their suits and the skirt length for all girls below the Sixth Form is now categorically 'on the knee'. Last year, some parents did comment on the difficulty of buying suitable Sixth Form suits and Mr Morgan has since written to all parents with details of a Birmingham-based retailer who has agreed to stock appropriate suits at a discounted rate, as well as making free alterations. Initial feedback suggests that this has proven to be very helpful. We have also added Sport Scholarships to our current Academic, Music, Art and Design Scholarships to further strengthen our national and international reputation for sporting excellence.

In order to make 'the school run' easier for our busy parents, and to extend our reach across the West Midlands, we have added to our school bus provision this year with two new routes, one coming from Wootton Wawen (via Henley-in-Arden) and another from Kenilworth (via Balsall Common). Of course, we still have the Sutton Coldfield bus, our minibus which meanders through the Warwickshire countryside and

the 899 from Edgbaston; we may add to these routes in the coming years.

I will not duplicate the information about our co-curricular successes provided in the Greyhound, Shenstonian and website, but would like to thank the staff for their commitment and energy and congratulate the pupils on their unrivalled success. This is a fantastic community to belong to and I feel immensely proud to be Headmaster. Whilst the media continues to report a gloomy economic outlook, I remain extremely optimistic about our future. In the past, you may have heard me refer to innovation meeting tradition and this strategic frame of reference remains unchanged. The governors are committed to developing our facilities and infrastructure, staff are working tirelessly to fulfil every ounce of pupil potential and the Old Silhillians are working with the School to communicate the important message that pupils never actually leave Solihull School. The bonds and friendships established here stretch far into adult life and the workplace and we are blessed with large numbers of past pupils coming back to offer university and careers guidance to current pupils. Our new programme of monthly Careers Lunches has been a great success and more innovative ideas are in the pipeline. Furthermore, and in addition to the School's extensive scholarship and assisted place provision, both the OSA and Parents' Association generously fund a number of scholarships and/or bursaries to pupils each year. 'Community', 'challenge', 'stretch' and 'risk' should be our watchwords and shortly before his untimely death Steve Jobs asked Apple employees to 'make a dent in our universe'. I remain concerned that learning has become too goal-driven and that all pupils are too anxious about so called 'soft subjects', and that choosing what to learn is in danger of becoming a decision similar to those we make every day in the supermarket and high street. Sadly, but understandably given university fees and the current economic crisis, pupils increasingly ask questions such as 'Where will it get me Sir?' 'What's in it for me?' and 'Is it on the syllabus Miss?' Learning need not have a point; it should be life-long, challenging and enriching. Moreover, we should encourage our pupils to take educated risks and view mistakes as valuable learning opportunities. The world is a richer place for having had 56 years of Steve Jobs and my message to Silhillians is 'ready, aim, fire' and not 'ready, aim, aim, aim....' The fence is not for sitting on and the universe is just waiting to be dented.



Phil Holt

It's fair to say that throughout his time here at Solihull School, Phil has played an integral role in the School's success on many levels.

Phil first joined the school 41 years ago in 1971 as a graduate of St. Peter's College, Oxford. He was appointed by the then headmaster, Bruce McGowan. Within a very short time he demonstrated the makings of a fine teacher with outstanding subject knowledge. His career progressed steadily and in 1982 he was appointed as Head of English to replace the legendary Ken Ellison. Ken's legacy was a formidable one, however, Phil showed that he was up to the challenge. During his time in charge, the Department enjoyed tremendous success and went from strength to strength. Those who worked under him during this period have said that he was a shrewd and perceptive Head of Department. They have also said that he was incredibly supportive and generous with his time, especially with new members of staff, as well as fiercely protective of his departmental colleagues. This sense of loyalty has continued up to the present day. Phil worked as Head of Department for an impressive 16 years until 1998 when he was appointed Senior Housemaster for Shenstone – a position he enjoyed for five years. In 2008 he was appointed as Deputy Head of the Lower School. During his time at Solihull, Phil has also been a Form Tutor in every year group of the School. He has also been a Lower and Middle School House Master.

Outside of the classroom, Phil has contributed much to the co-curricular life of the School. He has been responsible for cricket and rugby teams. He also established the 5-a-side soccer league when the Sports Hall was built in 1975, and set up the 'legendary' staff team. During his time at Solihull, Phil also led several Snowdonia School trips, as well as been party leader for a skiing trip and an educational cruise. In his time, he has taken rugby tours to Cumbria and the Netherlands. However, it is perhaps as master in charge of Cross Country that he has had the greatest impact. Since taking up the role in 1983, the squad has enjoyed notable success, winning a number of prestigious accolades. Under his charge, they were:

- Greater Birmingham League Champions – five times
- West Midlands Champions – four times
- Top Ten Schools Competition Champions – twice
- Runners up in Midlands and Northern Schools Tournament

During his time here, Phil has enriched the wider life of the School community through a myriad of other roles too. For many years he produced and staged numerous school plays in what was then called 'Big School', which is where the Kent Library is now positioned. He was also the School Librarian during which time he established the Sixth Form Library (1982) which was formerly in School House. Moreover, he held the position of Editor of the Shenstonian for two separate spells. For the last ten years or so he has also been responsible for organising the 'Jeans for Genes' day which has raised thousands of pounds for the charity which helps children with genetic disorders. Indeed, it was Phil who introduced this charity to the School.

Throughout his time at Solihull, Phil has seen several Headmasters come and go, just as he has witnessed the fortunes of his beloved Wolves come and go! As I said mentioned earlier, he was appointed by Bruce McGowan and has gone on to serve under seven other Heads (including Dennis Tomlin's brief spell in charge). During that time he has witnessed great change. He has also very proudly watched his children (Philip, Jane and Tom) successfully progress through the School. I know that this has been the source of much pride and happiness for him. Indeed, his son Tom is one of the kindest and most thoughtful boys in the School. He is a real credit to Phil and follows in his father's footsteps as being a true gentleman.

It will be tricky to think that Phil won't be here in September. After all, he is the wise old owl of the English Department. Above all else he will be remembered as an excellent, inspirational teacher of English whose subject knowledge is unparalleled. To this very day, Dr Hugh Adlington, a senior lecturer in the Department of English and former Head Boy of the School, credits Phil for inspiring in him his love of the 17th century poet John Milton. Hugh is now one of the nation's leading experts on Milton and he puts it all down to Phil's inspirational teaching all those years ago.

Within the English Department, Phil will be remembered as a wonderfully kind, selfless and supportive colleague and friend, for whom nothing is too much trouble. He is a true gentleman...a warm, charming and compassionate man. As he looks to the future, we wish him, Tracey and Tom the very best of luck. I'm sure that our loss will be Barney's gain... by which I refer to his beloved border collie.

Hugh Thomas

Hugh joined the Junior School in 1981 and has been a major force ever since. He has thrown himself wholeheartedly into developing and improving the sporting life of the School and has involved our teams, with an outstanding record of successes, in the many local community sports competitions. Anyone who has anything remotely to do with sport in the Borough knows Hugh personally. He is the 'Mr T' of sport and is highly respected for this! I don't know what the Borough will do without his expert hand in organising football, athletics, cross country and cricket tournaments.

For over 30 outstanding years Hugh has put his heart and soul, not to mention a massive amount of time, into sport here. He's always out there on the games field regardless of the weather. In fact, the colder and wetter it is, the more he seems to like it!

His Sports Days and swimming galas have become legendary events. They run like clockwork with tremendous precision and efficiency. He has ensured that our Sports Days not only offer competitive racing between children he has coached and improved, but also graded events aimed at involving those of lesser ability and fun events for parents and toddlers!

Perhaps his key overall legacy is that the general level of pupil fitness in this School is so impressive and that the opportunity to try a whole range of sports is so overwhelming. There is something for every child to do every day at lunch time or after school, every week in the school year. The number of children involved in Hugh's after-school fixtures has always been mind-blowing.

However, his fixtures and trips have taken children much further afield. He has organised and led football trips to the Netherlands and has run skiing trips to France and to the USA, bringing unforgettable new experiences to three generations of Junior School pupils. In his younger days he accompanied many residential trips to the Isle of Wight and in more recent years he has taken a keen interest in the J4 PGL residential trip to France where he has been the organiser of fun games on the beach.

Hugh's academic lessons are only ever quiet affairs during exams or tests. The rest of the time, his voice can be heard booming out enthusiastically, explaining some mathematical problem or expounding his knowledge about various issues of interest. Hugh loves practical lessons where the children are actively involved in independent research. Excited children can often be seen around the School measuring classrooms or running around the fields as hunters and gatherers for Geography in various kinds of dress.

Hugh is a very caring man and has always been passionate about charitable events. His assemblies on, and organisation of, shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse have become an important and integral part of our Christmas programme. His 'Copper Run' during Charity Week is rightly famous, promoting great interest and excitement, as well as being an important money raiser. He is always keen to devise new ways of raising money for worthwhile causes. He instigated a sponsored swim for Water Aid to build a well for a school in Uganda and has always shown huge enthusiasm in ensuring that our Marathon and Decathlon days are fun, action packed, hilarious events. His refereeing and goalkeeping in our annual staff versus monitors match during Charity Week is the stuff of legend. Oddly enough, the children are drawn to question his judgment and impartiality on this occasion, but possibly this has something to do with the fact that the staff always win!

Always the first to offer to help at concerts and events, Hugh has become the master stage manager behind our drama and music shows. He is always there with his clip board writing instructions and reminders for himself as to where music stands and bits of staging should go, adding largely unseen deft touches to the smooth running of events.

Hugh has tireless energy and enthusiasm for everything he does. The School has been an enormous part of his life for a very long time, but I know he will find plenty to occupy his time, whether it is his new project, developing a vacant warehouse into a performing arts centre, helping his wife and children with their theatrical work or just enjoying having more time to spend with his own family. He will be greatly missed and we all wish him the very best in a long and fulfilled 'retirement'.



Cath Davies

Cath joined the Junior School in September 1985 and has since been synonymous with J2D. Her form has been such a special part of her life that she even has a car number plate proclaiming this and I hope she will continue to keep it, as a visual reminder of her wonderful 27-year career here.

She has thrown her heart and soul into the Junior School, making a massive impact over the years. She is a thoroughly dedicated and committed teacher who demands the highest standards from herself and those in her charge. She cares deeply about the children she is looking after, and they know that she is always there for them. Parents, children and staff hold her in the highest regard. A conscientious, hardworking member of staff, she is the model of a true professional. Her especial interest has always been in Art work, where her own wide-ranging talent has enabled her to inspire generations of children. The constantly changing, assured and innovative displays of art work produced under her guidance, working in a range of different media, continue to make the Junior School a stunning and stimulating place to work for us all. She has led and cajoled her colleagues over the years to challenge the expected norm for Junior School children and to push the boundaries, allowing each child to excel up to their own

individual capabilities. Visitors to the School are constantly dumbfounded by the amazing standards achieved, especially with the annual J4 portrait painting which continues to achieve a new excellence each year.

Cath has always been a 'doer'. Quick to understand the great power of art in promoting important events, she has the talent to visually transform these ideas into reality. The wonderful mosaic that adorns the side entrance to the Junior School will be a longer lasting powerful testament to her vision: it was commissioned by Cath to commemorate the arrival of girls. Another impressive legacy, from her initiative in starting workshops for the J4s with working artists, is the giant landscape of the School by Gary Tonge, one of our latest visiting artists, which has pride of place on the stairwell and in the Bushell Hall. It was painted to commemorate our 450th anniversary.

Cath herself is a very talented and skilful artist, although she is very modest about her abilities. She is incredibly knowledgeable about art and artists and her passion and love for her subject shines through. She loves nothing better than helping a budding artist to achieve their potential and takes pride in all the work of her pupils. She often has visits from ex-pupils, thanking her for passing on her love of art to them and imbuing them with a passion which they have since followed themselves and made part of their own career.

More recently, she has thrown herself into promoting the new area of MFL in the Junior School, through organising French and German breakfasts with traditional food, music and decorations. These have always been very popular with children, staff and parents and because of this she has organised several very successful residential trips to France, which have been a great highlight of the summer term for the J4s.

Cath has also brought her culinary skills to the School which for many years have delighted staff and parents alike by encouraging scores of children to make delicious foods, filling the corridors with mouth-watering aromas. It's always a treat for the rest of the staff when the children make too many Brownies and they appear on the staffroom table at the end of a long day!

I am sure that she will find much to do when she retires, be it following her own artistic interests in pottery and painting, or more simply the chance to spend more time in her garden, or with her husband Alan. Because of her many and varied interests, she will never be at a loss. I know she is looking forward to having more time for herself at last. She has certainly earned it!

Cath has touched so many lives during her time here. Nearly 600 have been through her form and I know that there are scores of other children as well who have a wealth of fond memories of their time with her in the classroom and are grateful for her early influence on the whole of their educational development. She will be sorely missed by us all, but we wish Cath and Alan a long and happy retirement.



James Geldard

James joined Solihull School in 2006, coming to us from Leicester Grammar School. He quickly established himself within the Department as an excellent teacher of English. His lessons were rigorous and challenging. He encouraged the pupils to develop a precision of thought and clarity of expression. James's personal expertise is in the field of American fiction, and in particular the writing of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Legions of A-level students have benefitted from his lessons on *The Great Gatsby*. James is also an authority on the Lake poets Wordsworth and Coleridge, having previously worked at Dove Cottage in Grasmere prior to commencing his teaching career. Earlier this year he demonstrated his vast knowledge on the subject when he delivered an English Society address with Dr Spratley on the subject of *Romanticism: English Literature in the Period 1780-1830*.

Within the Department James has held numerous positions of responsibility. For several years he was the GCSE coordinator – a role that he managed with great skill and efficiency. More recently he has taken responsibility for the English Society, which has enjoyed tremendous success under his care, attracting world renowned academics such as the Shakespearean scholars Professor Stanley Wells and Dr Paul Edmondson, as well as published writers such as the critically acclaimed poet Esther Morgan.

In a pastoral capacity, James has been a thoughtful and sensitive Form Tutor in the Lower and Middle School. Moreover, he has spent several summers as master in charge of U12 cricket. During that time the pupils have benefitted from his passion for the game and enjoyed notable success. In recent years James has also been responsible for introducing the Extended Project Qualification, which he has done with great skill.

Above all else, James will be remembered as a generous, supportive and loyal colleague, as well as a much respected teacher. In the English Department we will miss his sardonic wit and dead-pan humour. However, we wish him the very best of luck as he looks to the future and commences his Creative Writing MA at the University of Warwick.



Vicki Gill

Vicki joined the Solihull PE & Sports Department as Head of Girls in September 2007 from Tudor Grange, after some gentle persuasion. She has never looked back and has pushed girls' PE and Sport to the level it's at now. Vicki has brought much to the Department during her time.

Her subject knowledge is superb and this naturally led to Vicki taking the reins of exam PE. With this came a change of exam board, such is Vicki's attention to detail in order to provide the students with the best possible chance of success. Her adaptability is such that if she was asked to teach any topic she could just read up on it and do the job needed.

Outside of the classroom Vicki proved extremely popular amongst staff and pupils alike. Her core PE lessons were enjoyable and always informative: the ultimate professional PE teacher. The saying 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail' certainly describes Vicki's approach to PE lessons. Hockey coaching sessions, regardless of the weather, were all action meaning the sport flourished under Vicki's watchful eye. Her fondness for Athletics could always be seen as she travelled the country at weekends to support individual students. Working hours were never an issue!

Such was Vicki's high level of organisation that quite often something had already been done before she had been asked. This skill, along with numerous others, was why she was deservedly selected to be a part of the SLT at Solihull School for a period of time. It was an experience she enjoyed thoroughly and an environment in which she flourished. I have no doubt in the long run that SLT is for Vicki.

PE and Sport at Solihull School is certainly far better off for having had the extensive knowledge and guidance of Vicki; we didn't gently pursue her for nothing! Her tireless work in the Senior School and Junior School will be sorely missed.

Vicki is now moving on to the next chapter in her nomadic life as Head of PE at Blundells School. We would like to wish her, Rick, Matthew and bump the very best of luck and happiness in their new start down south. Take care and thanks Vix.



Clare Townsend

Clare joined the School in 2006 and has been an integral part of the PE and Sports Department ever since. She has always been full of enthusiasm and ideas. From day one, Clare was keen to be included with many aspects of life at Solihull School.

In the PE and Sports Department, Clare has been very busy. After her NQT year Clare set up successful CSLA and HSLA courses which both now have a 95+% pass rate. This she has done alongside teaching GCSE and A Level PE, core PE and coaching numerous School teams in a variety of sports. Her pupils and team members clearly enjoy the lessons/sessions and have always been engaged by Clare's unique teaching styles.

Never afraid to shy away from work, Clare has led the past two overseas girls' Hockey/Netball Tours, giving freely of her time for the benefit of the students. In her quest to provide, Clare also organised a number of enjoyable trips to watch International netball matches which have led to the further development of netball at Solihull School. During her six years service, Clare has been in charge of many sports, initiatives and tackled the ball and chain known as Wednesday games. Her tenacious character has shone through on a number of occasions when accepting Departmental jobs others would rather not do!

In 2011 she became Head of the Third Form, a role she has excelled in due to her organisational skills and willingness to listen. Clare's pastoral duties provided her with new avenues to pursue and situations to deal with. Head of the Third Form has helped her grow in stature and maturity.

Clare is now moving on to the next exciting chapter of her life as Head of PE at Cheltenham Ladies College. We would like to wish her every success in her new role and have no doubt her mark will be made at her new school. Thank you for six years of committed service to the Department. We hope you have a happy future.



Rebecca Lowe

Rebecca joined the School as a teacher of Business Studies and Economics in September 2009. She quickly established herself as an energetic and enthusiastic teacher, passionate about her subject and extremely caring of those in her charge. She formed very good relationships with all her classes and worked particularly well with many of our girls as well as students who were less academically able. She gave of her time freely to support all those she taught and always maintained an optimistic view of them as they progressed through their AS and A2 level studies.

As a total non-sportswoman Rebecca focused her attention outside the classroom on leading the Young Enterprise programme and assisting with the running of the Charity Committee. In both areas she made a huge impact. The School's Young Enterprise teams achieved annual success in external competitions and the pupils gained very good examination results. Rebecca handled the team of advisors with professionalism and diplomacy and has bequeathed a system which is both popular with our pupils and recognised as something of real value. As a leader of the School's Charity Committee Rebecca's energy and passion for the chosen causes transmitted itself to our pupils and always ensured that the School community contributed generously. Neither of these areas of extra-curricular work necessarily attracted the same high profile attention within the School that others do, but Rebecca's commitment to both was wholehearted and much valued.

Having previously stated that Rebecca's knowledge of, and ability in, sport was on the negligible side of minimal, she still contributed to the games programme as an able body. During the cold winter months she would regularly be seen on the games field dressed in as many layers of ski wear as it was humanly possible to put on and always with head gear to prevent the nightmare of 'frizzy hair'. I must publicly thank her for enlightening me on the art and science of using hair straighteners; my life as a slightly balding middle-aged man is much the richer in this respect.

Outside of her teaching, but within the Department, Rebecca founded what is allegedly the most anticipated visit undertaken by any group of pupils at the School; namely the annual Business Studies trip to Morrisons (yes, the store that faces us across the Warwick Road). Hosted by the store's General Manager, George Liddar, Business Studies students enjoy an unprecedented insight into the workings of one of the country's leading supermarket chains. Upon leaving the School Rebecca will undoubtedly maintain her friendship with Mr Liddar and continue to receive the level of discount off her weekly shopping bill enjoyed by only the most senior of Morrisons' staff.

Rebecca moves on to a career outside of teaching, to work for the tuition company Explore Learning. She will be sadly missed within the Department but will make a great contribution in her new role. On a personal level I will miss her dedication to the pupils we taught together and the friendship we developed. Always a willing ear, her advice was down to earth and to the point. Rebecca's time at the School has enriched the lives of many staff and pupils alike and I know she has gained much in return. She enters an exciting new phase of her life, a phase with no marking to do at weekends, and one which she and her partner Leigh are very much looking forward to. As they begin the next part of their journey together I wish them all the very best for the future.



Cordelia Checketts

Cordelia joined the Modern Languages Department at Solihull School in 2005. She worked hard in the Department, teaching French and Spanish to all year groups. Students benefited from her organised and thorough approach to her lessons. During her time with us, she contributed to school life in many ways. She initiated the YASS scheme and many Sixth Formers enjoyed contact with University Departments through this academic programme. Within the Languages Department she organised French speaking and essay writing competitions at Birmingham University, where we gained some considerable success. Cordelia accompanied the French Exchange to Bordeaux and a Home Stay visit in Montpellier. Cordelia decided to resign from her full-time post after the birth of her twins in 2009 but she has continued to teach in local junior schools on our Outreach Programme. She has now been appointed as Head of Languages at Hallfield School in Edgbaston. We wish her all the best in this new turning her career has taken and we thank her for her conscientious service at Solihull School.



Sarah Mackie

Sarah joined Solihull School's Art Department as an NQT in 2010. Quickly establishing herself with her effervescent personality, she made an immediate impact on the Department. Textile clubs were initiated, an array of hitherto unknown materials was acquired and a contagious enthusiasm for trying new things swept through her various year groups. Her lessons were fast paced, creative and rigorous. Moreover, her expectations for her charges were always high, resulting in her pupils producing excellent and visually stimulating work. Sarah's teaching responsibilities extend to both GCSE and A-Level where she provided a wealth of insightful and supportive guidance to her sets.

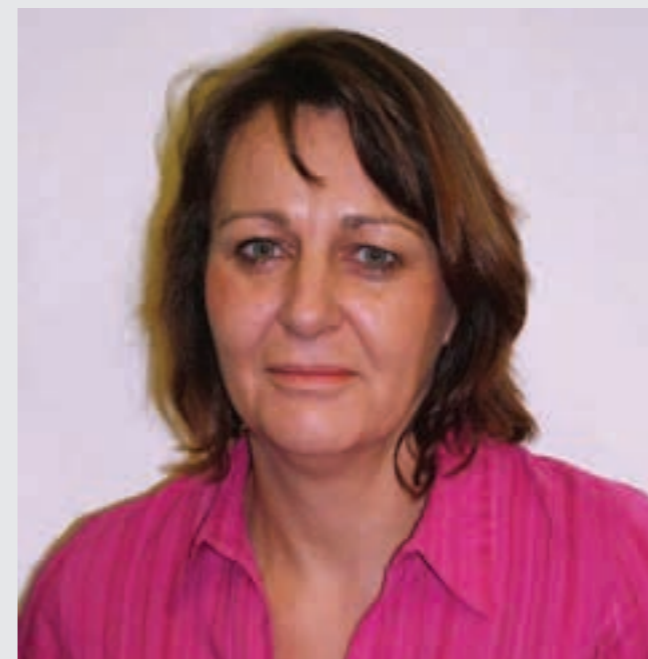
Sarah's commitment to the Sports Department in both Lower Fifth and Shell Form Games should not go unmentioned. Indeed, Sarah had limitless energy for co-curricular activities and she will also be missed especially on Snowdonia School. As a Sixth Form Tutor Sarah's wholehearted commitment extended way beyond mere administrative responsibilities. Her vitality and proactive contribution to many aspects of pastoral care will be affectionately remembered by her tutees.

We wish her well with her move to Loughborough Grammar School and in her promising career as a teacher of Art and Design.



Sarah Smith

It doesn't seem three years since Sarah joined the Chemistry Department as a fresh-eyed NQT. Sarah quickly fitted in to the Department and developed a rapport with the pupils in her classes. Her pupils have a great deal of respect for her and she has given up so much of her time during breaks, lunchtime and after school to help those pupils who have difficulties with the subject. She has become thoroughly involved in the co-curricular life of the School by joining the CCF and taking part in many trips such as Snowdonia School, the Third Form trip to Normandy, the German Christmas Markets trip and the visit to the AAAS Conference in Vancouver. She has been an excellent Form Tutor since joining the School and I am sure that the members of her Form will miss her greatly. We hope that she goes on to enjoy her Masters Degree in Environmental Chemistry and that at some point she brings her talents back to teaching.



Sara Parker

Sara joined us after initially working in the ICT Department of BMW, followed by a period working alongside her husband as an estate agent. She joined us as a technician and brought with her a calm efficiency that was needed in the Department. Whilst other members of the team might be more experimental, Sara always kept a level head and ensured that the job was thoroughly planned, tested and documented before rolling out. She helped me on two separate occasions on Snowdonia School, and she fitted into the team perfectly, getting involved with all that was going on. She left us to work for an ICT Support company nearer to home, and we wish her continued success.



Martin Moseley

Martin joined Solihull School in April 2007. The role he applied for was as a basic grade technician; a role that involved looking after the stock of printer cartridges and doing the more mundane elements for the Department, such as moving equipment around. Such is the dynamic nature of ICT and of Martin himself that he buried himself in learning all about the technical side of our network. The job that Martin did at the end was very different from the job he was employed to do. It is true to say that there are some things that you can learn, and some things that you are born to do. The sort of approach that Martin has and his affinity with technology is a gift. He tackled everything with enthusiasm and with a smile and he has a naturally helpful approach. He also undertook a self-study course and became qualified as a Microsoft Certified IT Professional at enterprise level and Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician in his spare time.

One of Martin's memorable moments was when he decided to run the 5000 metres without doing any training. To say he was an inspiration to younger pupils is no exaggeration. He had the ability to laugh at himself and when he finally came in near the back of the pack, collapsing in a heap on the grass, it was with a smile on his face.

Martin has an excellent and irreverent sense of humour. I will miss his diligence, his dedication and above all, his friendship. Our loss is definitely Warwick Prep's gain and I know that I speak for the whole Common Room when I say that he will be missed. We wish Martin all the very best for the future.

University & College Entries 2011

BANGOR

Benjamin Dickinson (Left July 2010) English with Creative Writing
Joseph Read Psychology (2012 Entry)

BATH

Cameron Buchan Aerospace Engineering
Katherine Dale Biology (Sandwich)

BATH SPA

Andrew Farquhar Creative Writing/English
Literature

BIRMINGHAM

Richard Ackroyd Dentistry (2012 Entry)
Mia Bowron English
Stuart Bradley Physics and Astrophysics
Georgia Brown Law
Usman Ali Chaudhary Accounting and Finance
Edward Johnson Physics with Particle Physics
& Cosmology

Roisin Noonan (Left July 2010) Law
Russell Edward Vanhouse Physics

BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN COLLEGE

Samuel Peter Troth BTEC Diploma in
Pharmaceutical Science

BRISTOL

Richard Bosworth Medicine
Jack Collini Aeronautical Engineering
Zoe Eales Biology
Emily Greig Law
Victoria Knight Geography

BRISTOL WEST OF ENGLAND

Stephen Alexander Bowland Business Studies
Sonali Philip Business Management
Robert Raymant Biological Sciences
Charlotte Street Mathematics

CAMBRIDGE

CLARE

Larissa Francesca Dior Natural Sciences

KING'S

Christopher Thomas Economics

CARDIFF

Sarah Bradbury Law and Sociology
Emma Johnson Medicine
Emma Noone Spanish & Italian
William Smith Mechanical Engineering

CHICHESTER

Alexander James Gaskell Human Resource
Management - Professional
Placement

COVENTRY

Michael Bulford Engineering
Clare Price Biomedical Sciences

DURHAM

Alexander Barnes Combined Honours in
Social Sciences
Christopher Hooper Natural Sciences

Frederick Howard Combined Honours in Arts
Benjamin James Trenchard Sport, Exercise and
Physical Activity

EDINBURGH

James Fletcher Scandinavian Studies and
Philosophy

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

Heather Catherine Dooley Fashion

EXETER

Myles Deacon Mechanical Engineering
George Droulias Economics
Florence (Rosie) Super Exercise and Sport Sciences

FALMOUTH

Matthew Bacon Art & Design
Fergus Wassel Art & Design

HULL

Phillip Simon Walton Psychology

KEELE

Thomas David Haines Biology

LANCASTER

Arthur Haynes Fine Art
Jonathan Richard Holland Philosophy and Politics

LEEDS

Harriet Bates Sport and Exercise Sciences
Laura Beasley Management
Alexander Gnyla Physics with Astrophysics
Jasmin Pidgeon Graphic & Communication
Design

Laura Rosin Art and Design
Andrew Waddell Biochemistry
Scott Alexander Walker Mechanical Engineering
Alexander Winter Economics

LEEDS METROPOLITAN

Georgina Morris (Left July 2010) Sport and Exercise Science
Emily Ryan Primary Education

LEICESTER

Miranda Botcherby Geography

LINCOLN

Michael Lucking Documentary Production
Jessie Hancox Business and Management

LIVERPOOL

James Joseph Bancroft Medicine
Emma Elisabeth Bengel Biology
Rupert George Dyhouse Veterinary Science
Kalpesh Prajapat Dentistry
Grace Talbot Combined Honours

LONDON

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Abhinav Gandhi Mathematics
Thomas Rooney Computing (Artificial
Intelligence)
Mrigank Sinha Medicine

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Ioana Manolescu English and French Law
Timothy Phedon Hispanic and Portuguese
Studies

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE LONDON

Lazar Krstic Medicine
Philippe Marks Medical Materials Engineering
Russell Scott Neal Medical Engineering

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Katie Louise Dobson Drama and Music
Emma Hodgkinson English and Drama

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Laura Blackburn Veterinary Medicine

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Joseph John Driscoll Mathematics with Modern
Languages
Isabel Whitehurst Law with Another
Legal System
Thomas James Wintle Economics

LOUGHBOROUGH

Laura Cox Sociology
Alex Currie Sports Science with Sports
Management
Patrick Higgins Innovative Manufacturing
Engineering
History and English
Laura Rose

MANCHESTER

Thomas Gerard Physics
Ashwin Parthasarathy Dentistry

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN

India Watson Marketing Management
Alastair Wishart Mechanical Engineering

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Isabelle Alice Iris Haley Dentistry
Olivia O'Malley Medicine

NOTTINGHAM

Gabriella Block English with Creative Writing
Olivia Madeleine Halcrow Politics
Adam Millner (Left July 2009) Management Studies with
Spanish

Patrick Owens (Left July 2010) Law
Tom Perkins Modern European Studies
Matthew Routledge Management Studies
Jonathan Simpkins Civil Engineering
Clare Jessica Whiting Music

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Katherine Sophie Busz French and International
Relations
Jonathan Coleman Coaching and Sport Science
Ben Crowe Business Management &
Accounting & Finance
History
Ross Fisher

OXFORD

ST CATHERINES'S COLLEGE

Robert Blake Experimental Psychology

ST HILDA'S

Elizabeth Culliford English Language and
Literature

PORTSMOUTH

Clare Louise Johnson Politics

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

Conor Joseph Joyce Part-time BA in Management
& Business Studies

READING

Amy Lange Consumer Behaviour and
Marketing
Law
Melissa Roberts

SHEFFIELD

Louis Cassem Business Management
Victoria Cox Medicine
David Harrison Geography
Sam Middleton English and Philosophy
Max Roberts (Left July 2010) Mechanical Engineering
Reuben Robyns-Landricombe French Studies
Sarah Smith Accounting & Financial
Management
Samuel Tatman Chemical Engineering with a
Modern Language
Biology
History
Phillip Thomas
Jonathan Watts (Left July 2010)

SHEFFIELD HALLAM

Jake Bond (Left July 2010) Business and Management
Emily Hull Early Years Education
with QTS
Design (Extended Degree
Programme)
Philip Peter Todd

SOLIHULL COLLEGE

Charles Steel Business
(Left July 2010)

SOUTHAMPTON

Victoria Lynch (Left July 2010) English

SUNDERLAND

Sajid Ali Pharmacy

SUSSEX

Kathryn Louise Marton Psychology with
(Left July 2010) Neuroscience

UNIVERSITY OF WALES IN CARDIFF

Jennifer Ross Sport and Physical Education

UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF

Business Management

WARWICK

Daniel Bruce Computer Science
Ryan Bushell History
William Michael McTighe Philosophy, Politics and
Economics
Philosophy
Rachael Ridler
Jessica Rowland (Left July 2010) Management

YORK

Michael Hawkes Psychology

Junior School



J1 Trip to Ash End Children's Farm

On May 31st the J1's went on a trip to Ash End Children's Farm as part of their Geography topic of farming.

When we arrived we were a bit early, so we had our drink and snack and a play in the play area – what a great start to a trip! After we had met our tour guides, we were divided into two groups and became farmers for the rest of the morning. During our tour we fed a kid with a bottle of milk and goats with leaves; learnt about different types of sheep and fed them grain; went to see the Shire Horses and were lucky enough to see a 3-hour-old foal; saw some tiny chicks and ducklings including one duckling hatching out of its shell; saw pigs and piglets which were really smelly; and we collected an egg from the hen house to take home with us. The main thing we learnt was that most of our food comes from farms.

Next we had lunch outside and some sweets as it was Mrs Steele's birthday!

We were then put into groups and had the opportunity to see all the animals again and spend a bit more time with them, as well as visiting the Gift Shop to spend our money. Finally we went to the play area, but unfortunately, as it had started raining, we didn't stay for long!

Having given our hands another good wash, we made our way back to the coach and journeyed back to School.



Mary Rose Experts Bring History to Life

History lessons came vividly to life when pupils from the Junior School were visited by two of the key figures involved in the excavation and recovery of the Mary Rose.

Christopher Dobbs, Head of Interpretation at the Mary Rose Trust, and Professor Hugh Montgomery, an intensive care doctor at Whittington Hospital NHS Trust who researched the skeletons of the crew, gave a talk about their experience of diving to retrieve objects from the wreck of King Henry VIII's flagship.

They brought with them both original and replica artefacts for the pupils to inspect including a canon shot, rope and a comb as part of a two-hour interactive workshop on what is believed to be the world's finest time capsule of life 500 years ago.



Around The World At Jimmy Spices

We have beaten Phileas Fogg! Starting off in the exotic destination of Solihull, we managed to travel to many different countries all around the world in just one single night! After school on 23rd January, all fifty-two J4 pupils and four lovely teachers travelled to Jimmy Spices in order to celebrate their recent triumph in the 11+ exam.

As soon as we arrived, we were seated in the large area opposite the tempting ice cream machine! Resisting temptation and raring to go, we sailed eagerly towards our closest destination of Italy. Filled with mozzarella, plenty of pizza and an abundance of pasta we worked towards the foreign realms of India. With balti, poppadoms and chicken tikka inside our stomachs, we headed starboard towards the Chinese border.

Becoming ever so slightly full, we kept going and began to replenish our plates with sweet and sour noodles, duck spring rolls and prawn crackers. Next, we swivelled port aiming for Thailand, and having docked safely, we devoured some delectable prawn toasts, fish cakes and noodle soups. Circumnavigating the hemisphere, we directed ourselves towards Mexico. Heating and eating our fajitas, we began to consider our retreat.

Appearing over the horizon, delectable desserts made our crewmembers moor their vessels. Kiwi tarts, tiramisu, pineapple, along with moreish melon and plump plums, we consumed the contraband!

At the end of the evening, we drifted home dreamily with a bursting stomach to conclude our divine continent cruise!

Sofia Cusack & Phoebe Harland (J4L)



Junior School Eco Club

Eco Club has had another busy year of non-stop green activities. The year began with a 'Bug Hunt' to count the number of spiders, woodlice, ants, flies, slugs and wasps that we could find in the School grounds. We were really pleased to discover that Solihull School has a very healthy Eco environment.

In December, Eco Club held 'Switch off Fortnight'. A few members of the Eco Club gave a talk to the Junior School about using less energy. 'Switch off Fortnight' is a national campaign aimed at saving energy, and over 3,500 schools take part every year. We explained how we all take energy for granted at school and at home. Leaving lights on isn't very bright. We learnt that one of the easiest things to change is to turn off the lights when nobody is in the room. We held a competition and J3P were the winners. Disappointingly, the Staff Room was the worst! We thought that the staff could all do better if they tried harder!



The members of Eco Club have managed to spend a lot of time outdoors in the fresh air. This year we learnt how to recognise the texture of tree bark by touch whilst being blindfolded. It was difficult to start with but we soon got better with practice. We also made 50 bird feeders using yoghurt pots, lard and seeds. The feeders were hung around the edges of the Junior School grounds and we were delighted to discover that they were soon empty. The birds must have been really hungry! Another activity that we enjoyed was planting seed potatoes. We are looking forward to harvesting them in the Autumn for the Harvest festival.

Recently, Eco Club has held a competition to design a poster to encourage children to recycle. The winning poster was designed by Sofia Cusack and will be sent off to try and win £1,000 worth of Eco equipment for the School. Eco Club has continued to collect printer cartridges and phones. So far we have almost got as many as last year. Even though we have had a lot of cartridges and phones we still need to work harder to beat last year's score. We have had lots of fun learning about the environment and we have really enjoyed making Solihull School a more eco-friendly place.

Max Dormon, Ewan Waddell and David Hughes





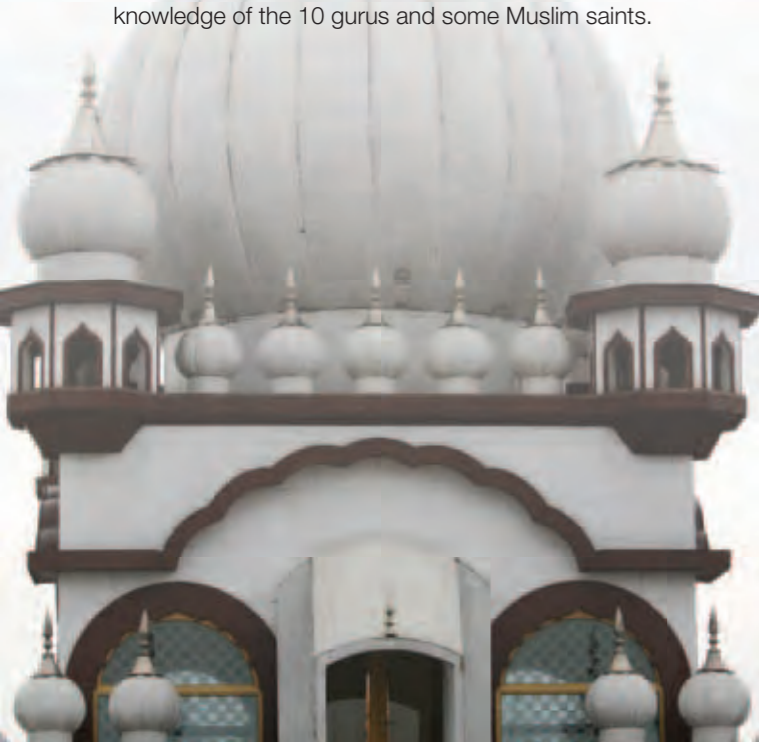
J2 Trip to the Gurdwara Sahib

As soon as we got to the Gurdwara, we were taken aback by the cleanliness and beauty of the building. Apparently, this magnificent place used to be a row of shops but now it was a huge white and brown building with a dome at the top. The only thing we could say was 'Wow!'

When we first entered the Gurdwara, we were lead to the Diwan Hall. This was a room where people were meant to take off their shoes and make sure that their heads were covered. It's considered rude to have your head on show inside the Gurdwara, so the J2 boys wore hats, while the girls wore scarves to cover their heads, to show our respect.

After that we were lead into the main Langar Hall, which was a very large dining hall where people share their food during weekly ceremonies. Here we were introduced to our guide, who was a young lady called Jaspreet who was devoted to God and, despite the fact that she was trying to get a degree at the University of Birmingham, spent most of her time at the Gurdwara helping out. Jaspreet told us how to act when we went into the main prayer hall and how to accept and decline the Prasad, a sweet dish which had been purified by God.

After having washed our hands, we were then ushered into the main prayer hall, the Darbar Sahib, where one of the many copies of the Guru Granth Sahib is kept. This is the Sikh holy book. The 10th Sikh Guru said that after he passed away, the holy book would then be their guru. It contains all the knowledge of the 10 gurus and some Muslim saints.



While the holy book was being recited – which takes a full 48 hours of continuous reading – a person came round and offered us the Prasad. The Granthi (a qualified reader) was reading the Guru Granth Sahib while we tried to suss out this different language. We were told that the holy book was to be treated like a person; he was put to bed and woken up, and there was a daily ceremony for this. In short, the Guru Granth Sahib was treated like royalty.

We then followed Jaspreet up the stairs into an open roof space. The wind blew wildly against us which made us feel kind of spiritual. We were lead into an absolutely awesome dome, delicately layered with beautiful mirrors. Interestingly, Jaspreet told us that a Muslim built it because he felt that the Gurdwara to him was another place of God. A different Granthi came in and started reading another Guru Granth Sahib, but this time inside the dome itself. The Granthi let us have a closer look at the book. The book was beautifully maintained and decorated.

Finally we went down stairs, had a biscuit and some orange squash, and then said our farewells to Jaspreet and the other volunteers who had made our visit such a very memorable one.

Jyotsana Dassondi (J2P)

J4 Video conferencing with the National Archives

On Tuesday 10th January and Friday 20th January, the J4 pupils were lucky enough to have a video conference with the National Archives. The National Archives collect thousands of historic documents (pictures, letters, diaries, maps, birth certificates, newspapers, objects, evidence and videos) that are used to find out what life was like in different periods of history. The National Archives store these documents in corridors, each the size of two football pitches and in waterproof, fireproof and airtight boxes.

The video conference host told us how to decipher what was happening in some mystery documents (a map and a piece of artwork). Then it was our turn to work it out, entirely by ourselves! After much deducing and prompting, we found out that the photograph was of a suffragette emerging from an art gallery. We then did 'spot the odd one out' with 10 suffragettes. The odd one out was the only suffragette that knew her photograph was being taken.

On our next video conference, we were given photographs based on World War II. The lady explained how propaganda was used in the war either to convince people that they should sign up for the war or to not worry and stay calm. It was possible that the Allies and Axis Powers would have different viewpoints. Using our photographs, we came up with an Allies newspaper caption and an Axis newspaper caption. We thought about how different they would have been!

Thank you to Dr Jukes and his team for setting up the equipment and enabling us to have the video conference, Mr Penney for organising the event and going round with the microphone and Mrs Atkins, Miss Lynch and Dr Partridge for also organising the event.

Lucy Fennell J4L



J1 Trip to the Botanical Gardens

On Wednesday 30th May, the J1's went on a trip to the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston as part of their study of Henri Rousseau in Art.

First we spent a very interesting hour in the classroom learning about the Rainforest and what plants can be found there. We saw an enormous seed which looked like a bottom, and also vanilla pods, cocoa beans, (which smelled like sweaty feet!) bamboo and sugar cane. Did you know that bamboo grows one metre in a day? Thomas Berrow turned into an old man when the lady held an old man's beard plant on his chin and Yusuf dressed up as a native in a skirt and pretended to kill Jack with a blow pipe!

After that we had our drink and snack before going to the Greenhouses to do some sketching.

The three houses included the Arid House where there were many different types of cacti, the Mediterranean House which had some beautiful flowers and the Tropical Houses

which were very hot and humid. We managed to do some lovely sketches of the different types of plants and we saw bananas growing, cocoa pods, a Venus Fly Trap which was disappointingly small, (but as the lady said it doesn't need to be big because flies are only small!) and some enormous fish in the pond in the Tropical House.

Next we had a picnic in the beautiful grounds sitting under trees in the shade, followed by some fun time in the play area. Feeling rather hot, we then walked round to the bird houses to see the parrots, cockatiels and many other species of birds. Finally, after seeing the peacock, we all lined up against the hedge at the top of the hill and were allowed to roll down it. This was great fun!

Wearily, we then went to collect our belongings and got onto the coach ready for our journey back to School. It was a great day of learning and fun, made extra special by the beautiful weather.



18 Lorely Burt Visit

Following an initiative by Junior School Council, the pupils of the Junior School have been busy making medals to promote the 'Send my Friend to School' Campaign. Lorely Burt, our local MP, has supported us with this campaign and came into our assembly to collect the medals. Little did we know that she would invite us to deliver them personally to 10 Downing Street, so a few lucky children will be visiting London later this year!



Top Solihull Designer Delivers View of the Future

The forces of tradition and innovation driving Solihull School have been encapsulated on canvas thanks to a world-leading digital artist from Solihull.

Gary Tonge used computer technology to create a stunning mural showing how the School and its immediate surroundings in Warwick Road might look in 450 years' time.

Entitled 'Tradition in Vision', the 8x6ft work is centred on the School's quadrangle and shows landmark structures including the Bushell Hall, David Turnbull Music School and war memorial within a space-age environment.

His gift, which celebrates the 450th anniversary of the founding of the School, covers an entire wall of the Junior School.

Gary Tonge is conceptual art director for Warwickshire gaming company Codemasters. He produced 'Tradition in Vision' in his own time after delivering concept design workshops over three days at the Junior School where pupils were able to explore the use of Adobe Photoshop as digital painting tools.



Artist Workshop- Stan Kaminski

Accomplished Coventry artist Stan Kaminski visited our School on Tuesday 12th June for the first of three days of Art Workshops to show and teach us art. On the Tuesday he did a demonstration in watercolour of a castle on a hilltop with a background of clouds and a foreground of a lake with rocks. We were amazed to see that he doesn't use a traditional palette like other artists, but instead uses an ordinary plate. The really stunning thing is that he only uses three colours – red, yellow and blue – in his paintings. He showed us step-by-step how to make a truly superlative watercolour painting. We were dumbfounded by his skill as with only a rough outline of the picture, he was able to create a magnificent work of art.

Firstly, he went over the outline in a yellow wash covering all the paper except for a part of the water which he left as just plain white paper to show the light reflecting onto that section of the water. This really made the water look so true to life it was hard to tell the difference between a photo and his painting! Stan kindly provided paints and brushes for us to work with. The rapid pace at which we had to work was strenuous on our arms! We had to work like this to make sure our paintings could be corrected if we made a mistake. Our attempts to paint in the style of Stan Kaminski were full of enthusiasm and an extreme amount of effort went into them. We all enjoyed Stan's visit and had a scintillating time watching him paint and are exceedingly proud of the results of our own masterpieces.

Thomas Williams J4L



PGL Weekend at Boreatton Park

At the end of April, the pupils of J3 went on a fun-filled weekend to Boreatton Park near Shrewsbury. Despite the rain, everyone had a weekend to remember full of adventure and physical challenge. Here's what a few children from J3 remember about their days at PGL...

'Do you remember PGL? That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.'

'Ahhh. You mean PGL, 'Parents Get Lost'?''

'None of us knew quite what lay ahead when we stepped off the coach.'

'And no one could have predicted the torrential rain that hardly stopped for the whole weekend!'

'Good job raft building was first on the itinerary, as we were soaked to the skin by the time we got to the lake anyway.'

'And the teachers certainly were the wettest as their raft capsized!'

'They still claim they did it on purpose just to amuse us... but we don't believe them. By the looks on their faces, it was definitely a shock. Anyone would think they could have worked out that Mr Penney was heavier than Miss Compton - even we recognised their raft wasn't balanced! Mrs Steele thought it was hilarious...from behind the lens of her camera!'

'And what about the Giant Swing?'

'I still don't like to think about it. My stomach is still hanging somewhere in mid-air at Boreatton Park!'

'Who in their right mind would be hoisted 100ft in the air in a harness, just sitting on a metal bar, to be left to free-fall into oblivion?'

'Well we all did it in the end, even if our screams could be heard in Solihull.'

'What about the treacherous Trapeze? Climbing that slippery pole to reach a platform the size of a dinner plate was certainly a challenge! For the ones who made it to the top, the descent was certainly a moment to remember.'

'My favourite was the colossal Climbing Wall. That was awesome! It was so high up at the top; it was the first time ever that Mrs Morgan looked small compared to me!'

'My favourite was 'Aeroball'. Basketball on a trampoline... flinging a ball into a tiny hoop whilst jumping in mid-air; you can't get much better than that!'

'Don't forget Jacob's Ladder. Team work and physical strength were the essence to success and only those who persevered made it to the top.'

'We were so lucky to have such great PGL groupies too. They made our weekend so much fun and organised so many great events like the treasure hunt, the talent show... and all those songs.'

'The PGL marching songs will stay with me forever.'

'We were so lucky to go on such a great weekend and it made us realise how well we work together as a team, even in the pouring rain. I'm glad it wasn't sunny because we would not have had half as much fun, and so many hilarious memories to take away.'

'It was one of the best times of my life, and I can't wait for the next opportunity to go away again!'





J4 France Trip

On Friday 4th May, J4 arrived at the Chapel car park full of excitement, despite the tedious task of packing keeping us all up late the previous night. Somehow, we managed to look relatively awake! We then boarded our PGL coach and departed for the PGL centre, Le Pre Catelan, in Hardelot, France.

Our journey came to an abrupt halt though as Mr Penney accidentally took too long to say goodbye and so was still on the coach. He had to jump off before we hit the Warwick Road! About three hours and a thousand Nintendo games later we reached the Channel Tunnel terminal. After Sparky, our driver, drove the coach into the carriage we eagerly exited and ate our lunch in a free carriage. Swaying from side to side, bodies and lunches tipped, as it bounced along the bumpy track. Some of us felt more seasick (or should we say train sick?) on the train rather than the boat coming back. It was very unusual!

Reaching France, we drove out of the carriage expecting to see a glorious French day, but instead found that it was raining! To be honest, it didn't seem like we'd left England at all. After about one hour we arrived at the centre. Hooray! We had a quick picture and were guided to our rooms where we settled in and went to dinner. We had the most authentic French dish...fish and chips! After some free time playing badminton and table tennis, we finally headed out on our first trip to the beach. Yippee!

After about three hours of wading in tidal ponds and playing rounders, cricket and all sort of beach games, we headed back to the centre raring for another day before our first day had even come to an end. Of course, as soon as the teachers sent us upstairs to bed, we were fast asleep...but not for long! With the thud of footsteps descending the stairs, the top floor came alive with the sound of children too excited to sleep!

Rory Portman



On Saturday 5th May, we all woke up bleary eyed at the crack of dawn ready for a long, eventful day ahead of us! Excitedly, we all scoffed down our cereal and croissants in about ten seconds flat! Soon, we would be in the coach on our way to Le Touquet Market!

Talking breathlessly, we discussed what each other's groups were going to buy for the challenge we had been set. We had to prepare an authentically French lunch with only 3 euros to spend each! The hustle and bustle of the vibrant market was extremely exciting and all the foreign voices made us feel like we were from a different planet, although it did not stop us making ourselves understood ordering the food! We all had to avoid the stinky cheese section, as it smelt worse than school changing rooms!

With an hour to prepare our mouth-watering lunches, we all had to work as a team (or in Mr Thomas's group, celebrate with a glass of French wine!) The two PGL instructors, or judges, had been eyeing our delectable lunches closely and the scores were in! By far, Mr Thomas's group won! We all agreed that the wine made the dish! Go Mr Thomas! Somehow, the salad was off the menu and nearly everyone gave up on their five-a-day!

With a quick turnaround, we headed off to Boulogne. Strolling into the walled town, we trudged towards the cathedral to complete a challenging quiz about the history of the town...in French!

After our adventurous walk we returned to the PGL centre to have a delicious tea! Tea could never beat our tasty lunch! As quickly as possible, we soon returned to our rooms to get changed so we could make the most of another enjoyable evening at the beach. We walked en masse towards the beach and as soon as it was visible everyone sprinted, shaking with excitement just to dive in the soft sand.

More frantic games, sand-filled shoes, and tired limbs followed, and it was quite an eventful evening. Two visits to first-aid (one by a teacher!), a ride in Rory's wheelchair and one ambulance later, everyone settled down to bed safe and sound and ready to re-energise for another jam-packed, but injury-free, day ahead! Phew!

Sophie Besford

Sunday morning saw us all wide-awake and eager to find out what the day was going to bring. We raced outside, ate our breakfast, wrapped up warm and packed our bags ready for a coastal walk. On the way to the beach, we played a huge game of 'Where's Wally?' in the sand dunes and it was great fun! There were woods to walk through, beaches to play on and great spots to get sights of the shimmering waters.

Later that day, we found ourselves at yet another beautiful beach with golden sand to play with! So, we all got to work making great pieces of art by burying each other under the sand! We were all very eager to get to the next activity, a visit to a traditional French sweet shop, but we tried to make the most of the time at the different beach while we could.

As it was slightly warmer, the teachers treated us to ice-creams and we were offered as many different flavours as we wished. It was great! It wasn't that long a walk to the sweet shop and our excitement levels kept us all speedy!

We squeezed into the quaint little sweet shop and waited to be amazed! The shop owner could make the sugar glass, which they use for films and lollies made into all sorts of shapes! Despite our numerous efforts of trying to make our lolly look nearly as good as his, we just couldn't do it! He had countless racks of jars of sweets and even little sculptures of swans, frogs and ducks, all made out of sugar. We all spent lots of money after he had finished explaining about the shop's history as a family-run business! It was a great history lesson too! The coach journey back to the centre was actually really short and we were all determined to enjoy our last full day in France. It was really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go away with our friends and we enjoyed the weekend to the full extent!

That evening we ate actual authentic French food – snails and moules and then went to a Creperie, 'The Grand Café.' Yet again, the teachers treated us to a drink and a choice of delicious crepe.

Fortunately, the café was just metres from the beach, so we spent the last few hours of daylight playing cricket, football and a great new invention by Miss Lynch and her team, 'Lynchball' – we highly recommend this game to the School Games staff, and possibly even the Olympics! It was an incredible end to our last night on the beach in France, and once it was finished we all trudged back to PGL, talking about the adventurous weekend, which was sadly coming to a close. We are sure that nobody will EVER forget our J4 Trip to France.

Mason Robinson

On Monday morning, we began our dreaded journey home. After one final picture and a quick goodbye to the PGL staff we boarded the coach and began our journey to Calais. After an hour-long journey to the buzzing port and a short wait in passport control, the coach was driven on to the ferry. After a quick shopping spree the beautiful white cliffs of Dover were in sight as we sailed in to port. Disembarking the ferry, we began our journey back to Solihull School and after just a few more hours, were reunited with our parents, ready to relive the experience all over again. On behalf of the year group I would like to thank Mr Grandieux and Mrs. Davies for organising the trip, Mr Thomas for being good old sir, Mr Mitchell for being our professional photographer, Miss Lynch for being our trip's matron and a special thanks to Keith Portman for accompanying us on the trip to push Rory Portman in his wheelchair.

Cormac McLean



J4 Coventry Motor Museum Trip

On Friday 27th January J4 went on a trip to Coventry Motor Museum to see the cars that were around in the Second World War and to witness the 'Blitz Experience' to find out what it was really like to have been alive during the Coventry Bombing.

First of all we were all shown in to the Education Room where we were split into four different groups. Two of the groups were to look around the museum and the other two groups started with the 'Blitz Experience'.

The two museum groups split up and went different ways around the museum trying to find cars that would have been around in the wartime. It was quite difficult, as the museum did not have many cars that were around in the Second World War.

Then we watched a video about the world's fastest car, Bluebird, and how it was beaten by another English car called Thrust. After watching the video we went on the Thrust simulator and it was really exciting watching the speedometer race up to over 200mph! Next we all trooped back into the Education Room where we had lunch and chatted to other groups to find out what we were going to do next.

In the afternoon the museum groups switched around with the other groups so that we were finally going to go through the 'Blitz Experience'. Firstly we clambered into an Anderson shelter. Inside the shelter were two bunk beds on each side and a hard, wooden seat at the end. It was very cramped and I could not imagine what it would feel like to spend an entire night in there.

Afterwards we entered the Blitz Classroom where a volunteer sat us down on tables and gave us each a suitcase. Inside the cases were different objects and letters from evacuees. We were all told to study the contents to try and uncover as much as we could about the evacuee from their belongings. Shortly after that each table stood at the front of the class and described our evacuee as much as possible to the remainder of the class. Finally we walked around the 'Blitz Experience', which was one of the highlights of the day.

Our senses were bombarded by the sights, sounds and smells of the Coventry Bombing.

It was an exhilarating day and we all agreed that it should become a regular trip for future J4s.

Isobel King

Splash!

Wednesday the 23rd of May was the date: shocked silence, nail-biting scenes and laughter rolling around the Bushell Hall. There wasn't a spare seat in sight and from fight to fright and start to finish, the audience was held spellbound by *Splash!*, the Junior School Drama Production. Due to the amazing efforts made by Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Morgan, the actors felt well and truly at home in the awesome ark.

In short, the story was about Preston and Polly Parrot (Tabitha Botterill and Grace Nicholls) who received a message from The Captain to warn of a great flood coming that would wipe everything off the face of the earth! They were forced to convince all the animals about the disaster. Tricky! First of all, they met George and Joan (Moiz Sandhu and Sofia Cusack) the dancing, fandangoing, and rather interestingly dressed, giraffes! This didn't turn out so well with both of them laughing at what they believed was a joke about a flood! Still, the parrots tried not to become disheartened and decided to persuade Bruce and Sheila the hopping kangaroos (Daryon Holland and Georgina Dalby) next. However, they still had no luck as the couple hurriedly hopped home to take their washing off the line!

Eager to save the colourful array of animals from suspicious armadillos to chilled-out love lions and scientific dodos, they gathered them all together with quite a task ahead of them. When the awful news was relayed, pandaemonium broke out. Hal and Hattie Hippo (Harry Wu and Emma Gilbert) stopped the chaos to reveal their thoughts that it was just a scam for selling umbrellas, at Polly's broly shop! They all turned on Preston and Polly, leaving the couple dejected. Luckily, a

brilliant idea occurred to Preston. He could get them on the ark by pretending that they had all won tickets for a luxury cruise! The animals fell for it, and boarded the ark two by two (with a catchy tune to accompany them!) However, little did they know that ten blood-thirsty, or rather pie-thirsty, Pie-Rats had crept on board!

When the passengers finally started to settle in, the two desperate parrots looked out of the portholes and spotted rain falling down already! To butter up the passengers and lighten the mood, they held a party before breaking the terrible news. One problem – the Pie-Rats had overheard the whole plan and decided to kidnap Polly Parrot! Mickey and Mindy's (David Hughes and Phoebe Harland) show-stopping dance routine distracted the crew and passengers as Polly struggled and squirmed in the grip of Scab and Bogeys! The Pie-Rats had kidnapped Polly! Only at the end of the song did anyone notice that Polly was gone! Polly...gone!

Suddenly, the ship's downtrodden cleaner Malcolm (Ewan, appropriately named, Waddell) rushed in with his mop in one hand and a letter in another. Cedric Seagull (Isaac Wright) read it aloud, revealing that the Pie-Rats wanted to take over the voyage and if they were not given command, they would kill Polly! The animals turned their backs on Preston once again. Preston and Cedric, along with fellow crewmembers – the hyperactive Cecile (Lucy Fennell), bossy Simone (Isabel Dodd) and lazy, and rather sarcastic, Seymour (Rory Portman) – left to look for Polly.

As soon as they left, the Pie-Rats seized their opportunity and burst in, wielding swords and daggers; behind them, Polly with a sword to her throat! However, Preston, ever alert, appeared suddenly with a mop held menacingly in both hands. With determination, the passengers and crew turned on Scab and his Pie-Rats, and prepared to fight! Scab's attention was on the angry mob and before he knew it, good-guy Pie-Rat Harry Tosis sneaked up behind him and hit him over the head until he was on the floor and out cold!

Suddenly, the ship rocked violently and Dotty Dodo (Niamh Smythe) and lovesick feline chef, Pierre Pusé (Max Dormon) were thrown over the railing and into the sea! Malcolm immediately sprung into action and swam out to save them, eventually managing to haul them both back to safety, in stunning slow motion! Seconds later, the boat shook a second time and they landed on a mountaintop. The rain had stopped! The animals named the mountain Mount Harryrat, after the brave rat that saved them all. They knew nobody would ever name a place Preston after all! Malcolm, Harry and Preston all became heroes and Malcolm's dream came true; he was granted permission to become an official member of the crew. So, after much excitement, an ark full of awful jokes and a journey full of spectacular singing, the travellers found themselves back on the ground and the cast of *Splash!* were rewarded with rapturous applause. The night was a true success and the audience's response was overwhelming, with glowing comments about the quality of singing, the standard of acting, the clever comic timing, and of course, the impressive dancing! Everyone left on a high, bubbling about the Junior School play.

The cast would like to give special thanks to Mrs Humphreys, who chose and cast the play and Miss Lynch and Miss Compton who directed the production, and without whom, the play would not have happened.

Nicholas Jones

Junior School Orchestra

This lively, friendly and often loud group rehearse in the Music School each Tuesday break time. No passing pupil or member of the music staff can fail to miss us!

The pupils range in age from J1 to J4 and from instrumental beginners to Grade 5 and above.

The children enjoy hearing different instruments and working together as a team to produce an exciting result.

This year we have given performances at the Junior School Concert and the Summer Concert, where our upbeat version of the traditional American song The Flop- Eared Mule was a brilliant success!

Helen Dolby

Junior School Choir

This year the Junior School Choir has had another busy year preparing for several concerts. In December we got everybody into a jolly Christmas mood with our two contrasting pieces: 'Shepherds Sleeping' followed by the very lively 'Christmas Rapping' which was great fun and made everyone smile. The Easter term saw the Choir taking part in the Christingle service in Chapel singing 'Searching'.

The Summer term was spent busily rehearsing four special Olympic pieces for the end of term Summer Concert, one of which was sung by a semi chorus. We also all performed one of these songs at the School's very own Olympic Day, where pupils and staff from several local feeder schools were invited to join in a day of celebration to mark the London 2012 Olympics.

All in all it has been an exciting year for the Junior School Choir with so many opportunities to perform. However, this has only been possible with the fantastic support given to us by members of the music staff who have given up so much of their time to accompany us so brilliantly. Our thanks go to all of them but a special thank you must go to our dedicated, hardworking and very patient choir mistress Miss Davies.

Fleur Street (J4H)

Junior School Wind Band

This year has been a fantastic year for Wind Band with many new members from all over the Junior School joining as well as some of our veteran members going into Seniors. We have had countless practices which led to us playing a tune named 'Concerto for Crash Cymbal' in the Easter Term. This featured Guy Sandler playing the smallest cymbals up to ones nearly bigger than him! Later in the year at the Summer Concert we performed the Star Wars theme as our grand finale.

Thank you to Miss Greswold for inspiring us to play our best.

Oliver Rooney

Junior School String Group

Much fun and laughter have balanced up all the hard work put in by the young string players of the Junior School this year. We meet in the Recital Hall at break time each Monday to rehearse and play a variety of string pieces.

The group involves children from complete beginners to more accomplished players. Everyone enjoys the variety of sounds and effects that it is possible to produce with all the different string instruments playing together.

This year the group has given three excellent performances. At the Junior School Concert we played some arrangements of American folk tunes and this term we played a new work called Going for Gold which has been especially written for the Olympics. We performed this at Solihull Sings and in the Summer Concert.

Helen Dolby

Junior School Brass Group

Brass Group is a musical ensemble where brass players are allowed to enjoy their time, not waste it! More and more people are joining which is great but there are never too many instruments in one room. At the moment we are playing 'Dust Down' and 'Gallop'. 'Dust Down' is a slow and calm piece, but 'Gallop' is a high-tempo piece always bouncing around. So if you play a brass instrument then come to Brass Group to have some FUN.

Fergus Roll

Junior School Saxophone Group

At the start of the year Sax Group halved from a quartet to a duo when Ellis Owen and Hari Ramachandran moved to the Senior School. Fortunately, Annabelle Dalby joined Oliver Rooney and Phoebe Harland to make a talented trio. We have taken 12 grades between us!

We have enjoyed practising together once a week, playing a great variety of pieces with Miss Greswold the Great! As well as playing in assembly, we have enjoyed performing in the Christmas Concert in Chapel and at Prizegiving. With Phoebe playing soprano sax (the straight one that looks like a gold clarinet!) and Oliver and Annabelle playing alto sax, we have produced a lovely sound. Our favourite pieces are Blues and the Folk Tune.

We would like to thank Miss Greswold for giving up her break time and for all the scrummy sweets and treats. She is a huge inspiration and we look forward to seeing her smiling face every Friday.

Phoebe Harland

Junior School Clarinet Group

This year, the Clarinet Group has been busy rehearsing, performing and playing many pieces and bringing beautiful music to the Bushell Hall. The members of the group are Nick Jones, Niall McManus (who recently joined), Georgina Dalby, Beth Penhallurick and Sophie Besford. All of these players have a special talent on the clarinet and come to Clarinet Group to enjoy playing and to learn more and improve on their skills. There may be a little reason to add to the fun with a sweet at the end of each meeting! At the moment the five are playing a lively piece called 'Marche Militaire' which they played in the Summer Concert.

Nick Jones



Junior School Flute Group

During the past year the Junior School Flute Group has worked extremely hard playing in concerts and an assembly. We have also had many new members over the past two terms including Ellie Couch, Guy Sandler and many more. At the start of the year we only had four members but now we have seven! In the Christmas concert we played 'Ding-dong Merrily on High' with the guitar group, which was a great success! Over the year we have also played many other pieces. At the beginning of the year we learnt 'Silver Bells' and 'Somewhere out there' but now, near the end, we are practising the James Bond Theme. The Flute Group is a good group in which to gain confidence because we have different pupils from different year groups and they are all at different standards. Under the guidance of Miss Greswold we all work together and we perform well at the end!

Emma Gilbert J4H

Junior School Guitar Group

Guitar Group is a fantastic place to spend your Thursdays after school to practise the guitar. Guitar Group is for beginners who want to learn the guitar and people who want to improve their skills. We play a mixture of different genres of music ranging from classical music to pop and rock. There are lots of talented people at Guitar Group including Cameron Hemp, Fraser Blackhurst, Adam Visram - Cipolletta and of course the awesome Guitar Group teacher, Mr Hudd!

So if you want to practise the guitar and play in concerts then come to Guitar Group and have FUN!

Jacob Yip

Junior School Games Report 2011-2012

Football

Boys	P	W	L	D	F	A
	114	74	26	14	326	136

- **Boys 'A' Borough 6-A-Side - 3rd Place**
- **Borough 7-A-Side - 2nd Place**
- **Olympic Day Competition - 1st Place**

Girls	P	W	L	D	F	A
	65	25	31	9	87	98

- **Girls 'A' Borough 7-A-Side - 1st Place**

Boys' Football

The J4 'A' team was strengthened this season by the arrival of much needed pace and experience in the shape of Callum Mortiboys, who formed a solid defensive unit with Alex Griffiths and Will Carrie. With three excellent goal keepers (Mason Robinson, Daryon Holland and Nick Jones) to choose from, the team was now capable of keeping clean-sheets. Going forward Liam Mingo was a thorn in the side of many defences, ably supported by Max Brown and Ethan Stretton. Good performances in the Borough competitions and success against such schools as King Henry VIII and St John's College, as well as the always very strong local Junior Schools, resulted in a very successful season. The season finished in June, with an excellent performance against eleven other schools in the 'Olympic' Competition, scoring 12 goals and conceding 2. The J4 'B', 'C' and J3 'A' and 'B' teams were always competitive and recorded some very good performances, even against 'A' team opposition. The J3 team have the potential to be a very strong team and remain unbeaten during a competitive Borough Festival. The J2 'A' team showed itself to be a very capable unit, remaining unbeaten throughout the season. Every boy in the Junior School was selected for a School team during the season.

Girls' Football

Girls' football goes from strength to strength, with five teams now playing regularly and the J4 'A' team winning the Borough Competition. In the first half of the season the teams operate as a mixture of J1 to J4 girls, allowing J1 girls to gain experience. J1 and J2 teams now play matches of their own and J3 and J4 girls play regularly in the House Football Competition. After Christmas the J3 and J4 girls play together and this allowed them to develop as teams. This resulted in an excellent performance by the 'A' team in the Borough Competition, winning it for the first time in the School's history. The team of Charlotte Rigg in goal, Grace Nicholls, Phoebe Harland, Georgina Dalby, Sofia Cusack, Alex Mills, Cayla Balfour, Fleur Street and Ellie Berrow combined well to remain unbeaten during the group stage of the competition and then win the final 2 - 0. The 'B' team, playing against 'A' team opposition, found it harder and were grateful for the contribution of Piers Smyth in their final matches! Colours are awarded to;

Boys

Daryon Holland, Mason Robinson, Nick Jones, Will Currie, Callum Mortiboys, Alex Griffiths, Max Brown, Ethan Stretton and Liam Mingo.

Girls

Phoebe Harland, Georgina Dalby, Sofia Cusack, Alex Mills, Cayla Balfour, Fleur Street, Ellie Berrow and Grace Nicholls

House Matches

J3/4

OUTDOOR - 1st - S, 2nd - F, 3rd - J, 4th - P and 5th - W
INDOOR - 1st - J, 2nd - F, 3rd - P, 4th - W and 5th - S

J1/2

OUTDOOR - 1st - W, 2nd - J, 3rd - S, 4th - P and 5th - F

League Competition

1st - Barundi
2nd - Japan
3rd - Mexico
4th - Iceland

Cross Country

The Cross Country season now runs throughout the Easter and Christmas terms and lays the basis for basic fitness of Junior School boys and girls in all their other sporting activities. Regular selection and training runs meant that the teams were as well prepared as possible, despite all the other sporting commitments of the Junior School, for the various competitions. The U11 Girls stole the show, winning at Birchfield, Hallfield and in the Borough Team competition. With the Boys also winning their team competition, it was the first time both teams have won the competition at the same time.

Birchfield Invitation

- **U11 Boys - 1st**
- **U11 Girls - 1st**
- **U9 Boys - 1st**
- **U9 Girls - 1st**

Borough Cross Country Relay Competition

A - 2nd, B - 3rd, C - 7th, D - 8th, E - 11th, F - 20th, G - 28th, H - 29th, I - 36th, J - 38th

Hallfield School Invitation

- **U11 Boys - 2nd**
- **U11 Girls - 1st**
- **U9 Boys - 2nd**
- **U9 Girls - 2nd**

Borough Cross Country Team Competition

- **U11 Boys - 1st, 5th**
- **U11 Girls - 1st, 6th**

House Cross Country

- **Individual winner - Charley Gregory**

Inter-form

J3/4

1st - J4L, 2nd - J4M, 3rd - J3M, 4th - J3T, 5th - J3P

J1/2

1st - J2P, 2nd - J2D, 3rd - J1A, 4th - J1S, 5th - J1C

House Matches

J3/4

1st - J, 2nd - F, 3rd - W, 4th - S, 5th - P

J1/2

1st - F, 2nd - J, 3rd - P, 4th - W, 5th - S

Biathlon

For the second year running, the Junior School was represented at the National Biathlon Finals, held at Crystal Palace. Charlotte Rigg finished 10th in the country, after a 50m swim and 500m run. Fraser Blackhurst and Fergus Roll also reached the final, finishing 48th and 38th respectively. All three qualified after semi-finals, held at Macclesfield, before travelling to London for the final. This was a great day out for athletes and parents and to be part of such a competitive programme will be remembered by all.

House Rugby

1st - F / J, 3rd - S, 4th - W, 5th - P

With Featherston and Jago finishing equal on points, tries and drawing their match, it was impossible to separate the two sides. A good standard was displayed by all the Houses and the competition was much enjoyed by all.

Swimming

The Swimming Squad was in action against Coppice School (1st), Edgbaston High School for Girls, home and away (two wins), Warwickshire School/ Warwickshire Girls School combined (both lost), St Martin's (twice) and at the Bromsgrove School Relays where we came 1st in the boys 'B' final in the Medley and Freestyle Finals, with our J4 Swimmers unavailable.

At the end of the Christmas Term all the boys and girls of the Junior School took part in a twenty minute swim, completing 93.1 Km at an average of 21 lengths per swimmer. At the beginning of the Spring Term, the Open Morning Distance Swimming event produced the following results:

- **600m - Rory Davis (J1)**
- **800m - William Sargent (J2)**
- **1 Mile - Sophie Besford (J4) Lainey Murphy (J1)**
- **2000m - Lauren Besford (J1)**
- **3000m - Katy Thomas, Claudia Reader (J1), Emily Baker, Louise Green, Annabel Dalby (J2), Alex Hart (J3)**
- **4000m - Louise Miles (J2)**
- **5000m - George Sunderland (J4), Jack Rootkin-Gray (J2)**

In the Summer Term, the 5-minute swim saw Oliver Rooney and Lucy Gerrard (J4) do 14 lengths, Charlotte Rigg (J3) 13 lengths, Ben Smith (J2) 13 lengths, Freddie Truman and Katy Thomas (J1) 10 lengths. At the end of the Summer Term 13 swimmers took on the 'Mile before Breakfast'.



House Swimming

1st - F (200), 2nd - W (198), 3rd - J (181), 4th - S (143), 5th - P (125)

New Records

• J3 Backstroke	A Morrison	18.39
• J2 Breaststroke	B. Smith	21.32
• J3 Breaststroke	C. Rigg	18.96
• J4 Breaststroke	L. Gerrard	39.39
• J4 Breaststroke	F. Truman	21.95
• Cannon Relay	Fetherston	2.35.35

Swimming Standards

1st - F, 2nd - J, 3rd - W, 4th - P, 5th - S

This was a really close event with only two points separating Fetherston and Windsor. A huge crowd of parents, brothers and sisters saw every member of the Junior School engaged in many exciting races.



Athletics

Despite the massive disruption to games and practices caused by the weather, the athletics squad took part in the Blue Coat School invitation meeting, with the J4 girls coming first, the J4 boys coming second, J3 boys first, J3 girls third, J1/2 boys second and J1/2 girls second.

At the Borough Olympic Sports no cups were awarded but the first 3 in each event were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals.

Gold	J4 girls relay	
	J3 boys relay	
	Fraser Blackhurst	J3 Long Jump
	Matthew Smith	J3 High Jump
	Thomas Williams	J4 Long Jump
Silver	Phoebe Harland	High Jump
	Mia Sukkasudha	100m
	Jack Talbot	75 m
Bronze	Lucy Gerrard	100m

On Olympic Day, the Athletics Squad recorded some excellent performances, with Phoebe Harland setting a new girls record of 1.33m in the High Jump and Mia Sukkasudha also established a new record in the 400m with 69.3sec. Both of their performances exceeded the boys' records. Wins also

came in the 'A' and 'B' 4 X 400m, the 'B' shuttle relay, Callum Mortiboys in the 'A' 300m, Alex Griffiths in the 'B' 400m, Lucy Gerrard in the 'A' 200m and Grace Nicholls in the 'B' 800m. James Topping and Ollie Rooney combined to win the Triathlon. Excellent performances from the rest of the Team resulted in an overall win by a considerable margin. Holding the Olympic torch and being awarded their medals from ex-pupil and double Olympian, Daniel Caines, brought the day to a very satisfactory end.

House Athletics

1st	Windsor	303 points
2nd	Jago	271 points
3rd	Shenstone	253 ½ points
4th	Featherston	249 points
5th	Pole	208 ½ points

Sports Day eventually took place, after two abortive attempts, on a Tuesday morning. New records in the Triple Jump (8.61m) and the High Jump (1.30m) by Phoebe Harland and the J2 Girls Long Jump (3.51) by Annabel Dalby had already been set. Mia Sukkasudha was seven hundredths outside the Girls 200m record and Jago matched the 'B' 4 X100m relay record. Despite the early start, a large contingent of parents turned up to support what turned out to be a very exciting and competitive event.

Cricket

The cricket season was devastated by the weather, with matches being rained-off and the opposition crying off. The 'A' team crashed out of the Warwickshire competition, losing too many wickets in our innings, allowing the opposition to shut up shop and win comfortably. The Warwickshire Softball competition was rained off and only the Girls managed any cricket, with two teams playing in the Warwickshire final finishing 3rd and 4th.

There was a good turnout for the "Cricket Before Breakfast" match, starting at 6am, on the last day of term, despite the continuous rain. A big thank you to Mr Phillips for umpiring.



Colours are awarded to;

Boys – Yusef Ali, Max Brown, Mason Robinson, Ethan Stretton, Alex Griffiths, Raees Hussain, Moiz Sandhu, Nick Jones, Callum Mortiboys, David Hughes, Liam Mingo and Mohan Deo.

Girls – Niamh Smythe, Ellie Berrow, Fleur Street, Lucy Gerrard, Sophie Besford, Isabel Dodd, Bellina Hunjan, Alex Mills, Grace Nicholls, Beth Penhallurick, Isabella Adderley, Cayla Balfour, Tabitha Botterill, Emma Gilbert, Sofia Cusack, Georgina Dalby, Lucy Fennell and Phoebe Harland.

Thanks ...

As usual none of the above could be done without the help and support of many teachers, parents, ground staff and catering staff. A special mention must go to Mrs Clarke in the Junior School Office, for her massive help over many years. I have certainly enjoyed myself, over even more years, being able to witness so much effort, skill and commitment being displayed by so many children in a massive variety of sporting activities. Watching someone swim their first length in the pool has given me as much pleasure as coaching and selecting teams capable of reaching National Finals at such prestigious venues such as Headingley, Old Trafford, Edgbaston, Ponds Forge and Crystal Palace and watching athletic, cross country and football teams, both girls and boys, winning Borough competitions.

Sport will always be exciting, frustrating, disappointing and hugely enjoyable and I hope that future generations of Junior School boys and girls will continue to give their best, work hard to win, accept both victory and defeat graciously and enjoy what they do – I certainly have!

Mr H. J. Thomas

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
8274	4650	2263	961

Head of PE/Games
Solihull Junior School 1981 - 2012



Junior School Hockey

The number of children involved in Junior School Hockey remains healthy and, as ever, the potential throughout J3 and J4 has been impressive. This year saw the introduction of more fixtures and the opportunity to play more tournament hockey against schools with strong hockey pedigrees.

We began the season strongly, with our A and B-teams defeating Warwick, 3-1 and 4-1 respectively. This was followed by playing in the Foremarke Hall Hockey Tournament for the first time, where we played some excellent hockey, displaying discipline in our defence and a good deal of skill on the ball. However, our inability to take our chances meant that we drew two games, the first against Foremarke U11A team and the second against Beeston Hockey Club U11 (both with a 0 – 0 score line) and lost the other 2-0 against a very skilful Foremarke U10A team. Despite not progressing to the semi-final, the Junior School gave a good account of itself and appeared quite at home against this quality of opposition.

Next came our annual fixture against Bromsgrove, where we took A and B-teams at U11 and U10 level. Unfortunately, our U11 sides lost both their games, with the B-team losing 8-0 and the A-team losing 7-3. Once again, it was our finishing that let us down, particularly in the A-team fixture where it could easily have ended as a draw! Despite these two defeats, the Junior School could take a lot of pride in the performance of both U10 teams, with the B-team forcing a very creditable 0-0 draw and the A-team winning very convincingly with a 4-1 hammering of the opposition.

Foremarke Hall were our next opposition and in both the A and B-team fixtures, some tremendous hockey was played. The A-team lost 3-0 – a score line that somewhat flattered the opposition – whilst the B-team won a fantastic match 3-2.

With the Warwickshire tournament looming there was time for another fixture, this time against Balsall Common where both A and B-teams won comfortably (4-0 and 3-0) in games that were played with good spirit and sportsmanship.

Finally, we come to the Warwickshire tournament. This year, there were more teams taking part, so the path to the final was a little trickier, perhaps, than in recent years. However, both teams played some good hockey with the B-team just missing out on reaching the semi-finals on goal difference. The A-team, however, did reach the semi-finals by playing some very disciplined and skilful hockey. Unfortunately, because the team did not top their group (despite being the best team there) due to not scoring enough goals, they were drawn against a very strong Bilton Grange side who eventually ground us down, winning 3-0 despite a great effort from the Solihull Team.

Overall, a pleasing season with a lot of promise for next year. My thanks must go, first of all, to all the enthusiastic and dedicated children involved in the Junior School Hockey Club; to Mrs Steele for her unwavering support and to Mr Mayer for his continued coaching expertise.

Mr S Mitchell

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 and Miss Pamela Davies, 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 calendar. The Junior School Christmas Carol Service and the Midnight Mass continue to be very popular as was the Advent Service, 'Home for Christmas' – a service of readings and hymns reflecting the Christian Aid theme of homelessness. 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 the Pet Service, where pupils brought their well-behaved pets into our hallowed precincts for a blessing. Junior School members participated, reading the lessons and prayers.

A number of budding chefs have been involved in the Faith Food club meeting on Friday lunchtimes during term. This has been a valuable experience of cooking, discussing the Christian Faith and a time of sharing.

The Governors were invited to a Sunday service when we celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist. We worshipped in style with a Solemn Eucharist containing sumptuous music and a stimulating sermon by Mother Helen, Team Vicar of St Helen's Church, Solihull.

I will take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to those leaving the School who have contributed significantly to music-making in the Choir. We wish them 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.



Eucharist on the Feast of St John the Baptist and Governors' Sunday

For some time now Dr David Cheetham (Head of the Theology Faculty, Birmingham University) has been preparing for ordination in the Anglican Church, having been confirmed in the School Chapel and worshipped with us for a while as he began to explore his vocation. Some of us joined Naina, his wife, as we celebrated David's ordination in Coventry Cathedral at the beginning of July. We give thanks for David's ministry and wish him well in his title parish at St John's, Kenilworth.

Similarly, Fr Gareth Powell, curate of St Alphege Church, was ordained to the priesthood in Birmingham Cathedral at Petertide and soon after presided at Mass for the first time in St Alphege Church. We wish Gareth well in his role as priest in the parish.

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. Only recently I was pleased to officiate at the marriage service of Adam Madeley and his wife Liz. We wish them every blessing in their life together.

Mr Martin Ayers has continued to support us as Warden, and for this we are very grateful. Similarly, we have appreciated the help and support of Mr and Mrs Lloyd.

Finally, could I take this opportunity to invite you all to a celebration in School Chapel on Sunday 14 October at 6.30pm when we will be welcoming Roly the priest clown. Roly has clowned all over the world in churches, chapels, cathedrals, prisons, hospitals, schools, conferences, clubs and theatres. All of his routines have some Christian basis, story or punchline. It is certainly an opportunity not to be 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

Chapel Choir

'Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord', proclaims Psalm 150. These words, sung by the Chapel Choirs in both the first and last services of the year, sum up the energy and commitment with which the Choirs have filled our Chapel with beautiful music, Sunday after Sunday.

The first evensong of the Christmas Term set an excellent tone for the year with the Boys, Girls and Chamber Choir singing Rutter's 'I will sing with the spirit' and Walmisley's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D Minor; quite an achievement with only two weeks of rehearsal time. This was followed closely by a sublime full choir performance of Fauré's Requiem for Remembrance Sunday, with the 'Pie Jesu' sung beautifully by Joseph Chamberlain. We soon found ourselves at our Advent Carol Service, which featured different sections of the Choir singing from all over the Chapel. Highlights included the Chamber Choir Girls' performance of Sumsion's Magnificat in D, as well as the Mattin Responsory with solos by Jessica Berry, Oscar Street, Conor Green and Charlotte Sasse.

The services of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas are always a highlight for any singer, with much expectation and significant preparation for all involved. Choristers often ask from September which pieces they will be singing that December, and this year we were delighted to have 'The Virgin's Lullaby' written for us by Simon Phillips. Other highlights of the services included Lauridsen's 'O Magnum Mysterium', Chilcott's 'Midwinter' and a lively performance of Willberg's 'Ding dong merrily on high'. We were grateful to all of the soloists over the two evenings, with the daunting 'Once in royal David's city' solo falling to Head Choristers Emma Rivers and Alexander Lavery.

So successful were this year's Carol Services that over three nights in February, we recorded a CD with a professional record label. These evenings were an exercise in focus, concentration and detail, and the final product will be available from November 2012, ready for next Christmas!

Tom Wilde and Oliver Walker

Chamber Choir

In November, the Chapel's Chamber Choir had the privilege of singing Choral Evensong in Keble College, Oxford, where the College's Director of Music conducted them, later saying 'There can't be many schools that can boast such a high level of singing'. All the members enjoyed performing in a new environment and hearing a different acoustic to our School Chapel. The Choir sang one of their favourite anthems, 'O thou the central orb,' by Wood, along with Ayleward responses and Walmisley in D minor.

The Chamber Choir Girls have enjoyed learning a range of different styles of music this year. For one service, and the Saint Cecelia Concert, they performed movements from Bob Chilcott's 'Jazz Mass' with a jazz band, while in the Summer Concert they sang 'Wherever you are,' by Paul Mealor, made famous by the Military Wives who took it to the UK number one at Christmas.

The Leavers' Service on 25th May was a sad occasion, and we performed 'I Was Glad,' by Parry (performed at the Royal Wedding last year) and 'The Lord bless you and keep you,' by Rutter. The Chamber Choir saw nine leavers this year, including some of the first girls to ever be in a Chapel Choir at Solihull School; Tom Wilde, Emma Rivers, Charlie White, Jessica Berry, Helen-Cara Younan, Alexandra Deol, Anna McNeillie, Georgina Russell and Polly Bewick. We thank them for everything they have done for Chapel Choir and wish them all the best in the future!

Emma Rivers





Boys' Choir

The Solihull School Boys' Choir provides a great opportunity for pupils interested in singing to come along and develop their skills. It is also the perfect chance for pupils to sing in new and unique places, as well as in our own School Chapel. This year we have enjoyed being part of some very successful concerts and services such as the Nine Lessons and Carols, which hundreds of people attended.

One of the greatest memories we have of this year in the choir is our extremely successful trip to Windsor Castle. The day started with a rehearsal in Eton College's ancient chapel, before walking to Windsor. We received a fascinating tour of the Castle and then rehearsed in possibly the strangest place possible; the dungeons. After lunch in the dungeons, we made our way to St George's Chapel where we rehearsed and sang Evensong. Many Kings and Queens are buried in this beautiful building, including Henry VIII and Charles I, who both lie between the choir stalls. The service was a huge success, and we sang Wood's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E flat (No. 2) and the anthem 'Blessed Be the God and Father' by Wesley, with solos by Alexander Lavery and Mark Lawrence.

On three occasions, the Boys' Choir took part in Solihull Sing! concerts, in which many local junior schools including our own joined us to put on a show to remember. Mr Walker has worked tirelessly on each occasion to make sure that the concert was a success. In each concert he somehow managed to gather over 150 pupils from across Solihull, and taught them to sing songs such as 'Hey Mr Miller', 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor?' and 'Believe'. As well as this, the parents and the children got a taster of what the Boys' Choir does, hearing us perform Lindley's 'Ave Maria' and Owens's 'Lord of the Dance'.

The final service of the year for the Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir was the Governors' Service, where they joined with the Men and an orchestra to sing Mozart's 'Sparrow Mass'. The music was really challenging, but we all sang well. The service provided many of the choristers with an opportunity to have solos. Abigail Humphries, Charlotte Sasse, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Alex Lavery, Conor Green, Henry Camm, Tom Wilde, Ben Newman, Oscar Street, Simon Turpin all sang beautifully.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Walker on behalf of the Boys' Choir, for everything he has done for us, and for giving us such incredible experiences in such amazing places.

Alexander Lavery and Thomas Carson

Girls' Choir

During the year, the Girls' Choir has maintained its numbers, with girls from J3, J4 and the Lower School becoming new choristers, lead by Deputy Head Choristers Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Charlotte Sasse and Head Chorister Abigail Humphreys.

One of the highlights of the year was being invited to sing Evensong at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-Upon-Avon, in October. This picturesque church is by the river, just past the famous theatre. After our rehearsal we went into Stratford to look around and do some window-shopping (Mr Walker was spotted in Jack Wills!). We sang beautifully and were all very proud of what we had achieved.

Another special service was the Pet Service in June, where both the Girls' Choir and Boys' Choir sang. This is always a noisy and unpredictable event, with assorted animals and their excited owners attending Chapel. Many of the choristers (and even our conductor Miss Davies) brought their pets along, including chickens, cats, dogs and even a tortoise!

All the girls would like to thank Miss Davies for organising and leading us throughout the year and we wish farewell to Grace Nicholls (J4) who has been in the choir for two years and is now moving on to a different school. Thank you for all of your efforts Grace; keep singing!

Abigail Humphreys



Community Service

Community Service plays an important part in the life of Solihull School and we are proud of the contribution the pupils make to the range of activities on offer. Our hope is that, through their exposure to a range of activities and causes, our pupils will develop a sense of the type and scale of need that exists in modern life.

A number of Sixth Form students have contributed significantly to this programme under the guidance of myself.

Some students have visited local primary schools assisting the academic development of children. Involvement with Calthorpe, Chapel Fields, Ruckleigh, Eversfield and St Alphege Schools has been fruitful and much appreciated.

Others have made their own arrangements for visiting hospices, hospitals and nursing homes – particularly beneficial for those hoping to enter the medical profession.

A large number of students have visited the elderly in their homes – having engaged in house-work, shopping and generally keeping them company. A number of our past students still keep contact with the elderly and make regular visits during university holidays.

A group of Community Service recipients visited School Chapel during the year for the performance of the School show, the Christmas services and the Harvest Festival. They also received food parcels from items kindly donated by parents. One of our students, Ben Newman, has demonstrated great interest and care in the community. This is what he had to say about his involvement:

My community service has been absolutely brilliant. I have been to Ruckleigh School every other week, juggling this with going shopping for Mrs King. All of it has been so much fun and it's been a great experience meeting new people and giving something back to the community. I've seen the kids' reading come a long way and it's a great feeling knowing I've helped them with it. We have helped to improve their fluency and confidence. Mrs King has been delightful and I have loved helping her with her shopping and hearing her wonderful and extraordinary stories. Overall it's been a fulfilling and joyous time and I loved every minute.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who make Community Service successful and encourage even more students to engage themselves in this worthwhile cause, as we aim to ensure that Solihull School fulfils its social responsibility to the whole community.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Charlotte plays for the Queen!

Virtuoso violinist Charlotte Sasse spent her summer half term playing music for the Queen! She was in the 114-piece National Children's Orchestra (NCO) that played light classical music during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch at Westminster Hall in London. She was 'thrilled' and 'honoured' to take part.

Charlotte also performed with the National Children's Orchestra and Julian Lloyd Webber at the Cadogan Hall over Easter.

Symphony Orchestra

This year has been a busy and successful year for Symphony Orchestra. From the first week of term, we knuckled down and began to learn the first movement, *Allegro Con Brio*, from Beethoven's first symphony in C major, op. 21. Led by Katie Clarke, we performed this exciting movement in the St Cecilia Concert in November. Playing this movement really benefitted the AS Music students as it is the set work for the AS exam!

After Christmas, we prepared for something completely different. In the Summer Concert, we would be accompanying David Cobbald as he played the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto in Bb. As we began to get to grips with this new challenge, David perfected the movement and also wrote his own cadenza. This cadenza was a mix of many different styles, themes and composers in order to show off his amazing talent. The Summer Concert arrived and led, once again, by Katie Clarke, we performed this concerto. It was wonderfully received and was an amazing experience for David to end his time at Solihull School on.

As an orchestra, we would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Perrins who has put in a lot of hard work over the past year, with marvellous results. We all look forward to next year.

Jessica Toogood

Concert Orchestra

Concert Orchestra performed in two concerts this year. In November's annual St Cecilia Concert we began the evening's proceedings with two grand marches by Handel and Mendelssohn. The orchestra sounded bold and vibrant and all the weeks of dedicated rehearsal were evident!

In the Summer Concert in May we had a very different repertoire: Latin American Tango and Cha Cha Cha! The percussion section brought a carnival flavour to the Bushell Hall and the Orchestra performed with great gusto and enthusiasm.

Lydia Roll has been a stylish and committed leader of the Orchestra and all players have worked very hard to make Concert Orchestra such a success.

Helen Dolby

Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band this year has had a great time and played a number of fantastic pieces with rehearsals on Tuesday lunchtimes. In the first performance of the school year, the St. Cecilia Concert, we played a *Pirates of the Caribbean* medley which was a joy to play and really livened up the audience. At the Christmas concert we played *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* with Santa himself making a cameo appearance. We then rounded off a brilliant year with the very challenging *Lord of the Rings* medley with fantastic solos from Joe Watson and Chris Baines on horns. Everyone in the band would like to thank our conductor Miss Greswold for her teaching, dedication and kindness. We all look forward to another great year for the Senior Wind Band.

Will Hughes

String Ensemble

String Ensemble is a group for the School's most advanced musicians and our aim is to rehearse and perform challenging works from the wonderful repertoire of both traditional and contemporary string music.

In this year's St Cecilia Concert we performed extracts from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in an arrangement by Edward Huws Jones. The soaring violins were beautifully balanced by the equally virtuosic violas, cellos and double basses!

In the Summer Concert the ensemble gave a superb performance of three movements from Holst's *St Paul's Suite*. So much dedication and hard work was put into the rehearsals by all the pupils and this was reflected in their stylish and polished playing.

Julie Whiting has been a calm and highly capable leader of String Ensemble this year.

Helen Dolby

Senior Clarinet Group

Tom Griesbach, Amy Parry, Jacob Small, Rob Comer and David Clarke have all met every Monday morning break without fail to practise the one talent that we all share... playing the clarinet. As a group we now make up the Senior Clarinet Quintet, and this year has been one of our best!

After taking part in the Christmas informal concert playing a peaceful combination of melodies from *The Sound of Music*, we were off to a flying start to the musical year. Other pieces that we have all learnt to perform this year include tracks from *Mary Poppins* and the cheesy *Cartoon Music*. As one of the favourites, *The Sound of Music* was also chosen for GCSE recordings in Easter and I think I can say on behalf of the group that it's not as easy as it seems to play in front of microphones perfectly throughout the whole piece... one mistake from any person and we had to repeat the whole five minute song again! It was very frustrating and the pressure got to some of us. But after several recordings and laughs, we got through it and we hope that Tom and Rob do well in their GCSE Music!

So now on to greater things! We look forward to playing in future festivals and concerts next year, especially the St Cecilia in the Christmas Term. Also, after recently adding Rob Jones to the team, we are in need of a new name (but I don't think the Clarinet Sextet has quite the same ring to it!). We are always trying to scout any gifted pupil of Grade 6 or above, so if there is a secretly talented clarinetist out there reading this, please go to the Music School as soon as possible!

On behalf of the group, a huge thank you to Miss Greswold is needed for organising the music and putting up with the many wrong notes played throughout the practices. Thank you for a great year!

Intermediate Wind Band

This school year has certainly been a successful one for the Intermediate Wind Band. Conducted and led by Miss Greswold, the band consists of flutes, clarinets, saxophones, percussion and occasionally, trumpets. We have played in many concerts, including the Summer Concert and the Saint Cecilia Concert. We have played pieces such as a John Williams trilogy, which contained extracts from *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler's List*, and *Indiana Jones*, and we have also played *The Simpsons* and are currently working on the theme from the Sydney Olympics in 2000. We have had a large number of new members join at the beginning of this year, and they have certainly added extra class and enthusiasm to the Wind Band. Everybody in the band would like to thank Miss Greswold for tolerating us and for conducting us so brilliantly.

Alex Lavery

Senior Guitar Ensemble

Senior Guitar Ensemble has made a lot of progress this year in both our classical and rock/pop endeavours. Classical pieces we have been working on – including music by Mozart and Bach – have been simple but effective, with the aim being to improve the playing ability of all members and give them the knowledge and understanding of how guitar can be used in a classical context.

The skills we learn by playing the classical pieces can then be applied to more popular music. Recently, with the help and guidance of Mr Hudd, we have been practising a classical guitar arrangement of Pink Floyd's *Another Brick in the Wall*, including areas where the group can improvise, which is a key skill to learn for any player in a rock context.

Finally on behalf of the whole of Senior Guitar Ensemble, I would like to thank Mr Hudd for his hard work and expert input into both sides of our playing. Also, I would like to wish all the best for all the members of the ensemble in the years to come.

Daniel Armstrong



Jazz Singers

It has been a busy year for Jazz Singers. We started this year with the Abba hit *Super Trouper* and it was just as much of a hit in the St. Cecilia Concert in the Autumn Term. As well as that, we sang a rendition of *Moon River* from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, which was loved by everyone, and greatly appreciated by all in the concert.

In the Summer Term, we were preparing for the Summer Concert, and we sang the more modern sounds of Coldplay's *Viva La Vida* with a string quartet to accompany us. We also sang Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World*, which was beautifully sung and enjoyed by all. As is tradition, the Jazz Singers sang the Leavers' song to get the tears flowing, which this year was the classic *You Raise Me Up*, famously performed by Westlife, with inspiring solos from Tom Wilde, David Cobbald, Amy Whittaker and Izzy McKenzie. As is another tradition, a few of the leavers – David Cobbald, Amy Whittaker, Abby Hinton, Emma Parry, Mark Goodwin, Jess Berry, Izzy McKenzie and Tom Wilde – all put together a rendition of *So Long*, *Farewell* from *The Sound of Music*, as a thank you and farewell to Mr Perrins for all his hard work.

On behalf of all the musicians at Solihull School, I would like to send a MASSIVE thank you to Mr Perrins for everything he has done to help us and guide us through, and also to Mr Walker, Mr Phillips, Miss Greswold, Miss Dolby, Miss Davies and all of the other staff in the Music School for making us proud to be musical.

David Cobbald

Samba Band

Samba Band is a unique musical group where students from the Junior School right through to the Sixth Form have the opportunity to play music together. There is no need for members to be able to play a tuned instrument, just the ability to play rhythms and feel the beat of the music! We meet every week after school in the Recital Room and have lots of fun using a large variety of instruments including surdo drums and agogo bells. It is great fun to create music together using different rhythms. In my opinion, Samba Band is one of the best clubs in the School! Thank you to Miss Smart for putting up with us and our noise each week!

Max Penney

Wind Ensemble

Every Wednesday break, seven musicians meet up and rehearse a wide range of wind ensemble music. We may be a small group, but we appear in all the major musical events and are currently designing our dresscode for next year! This year we were lucky enough to get a slot in the Summer Concert and performed some Haydn, which was a complete contrast to our *Magnificent Men* which we performed in the St. Cecilia Concert. We aim to be one of the most diverse ensembles in the School and are currently working on some jazz-influenced pieces. Without the leadership of Miss Greswold we certainly wouldn't be the talented ensemble that we are!

Amy Parry

Senior Choir

This year saw the renaming of the old 'Choral Society', now rebranded as 'Senior Choir'.

Our first concert took place in the Bushell Hall in December and was billed as 'A Christmas Concert'. The Hall looked very festive and we sang such classics as *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Jingle Bells*, *Waking in the Air* and *The Twelve days of Christmas* featuring the audience jingling their keys every time the words 'Five Gold Rings' came round. We even had snow falling from the roof to round the evening off (courtesy of Mr Jukes!). We also performed a couple of choruses from Handel's *Messiah* and in addition to performances from the Intermediate Wind Band, Saxophony, Wind Ensemble, Senior Guitars and the String Quintet, there was even an offering from a girls' vocal group, 'The Snowpranos'!

The Summer Term saw our performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Orchestra. Solos were given to Florentina Harris, Julie Whiting, Amy Whittaker, Emma Rivers and Jess Berry who all did a brilliant job, without forgetting the selected Orchestra members who contributed immensely to the success of the concert. As a group, we would like to thank Mr Perrins for the continuous help, support and enthusiasm during rehearsals, both with the Senior Choir and with the Orchestra.

Jess Berry



Saxophony

One of the best things about being in Saxophony is that there is always so much for all of us to do! We've been very busy with lots of performances this year, as well as the release of our second CD in the middle of the year. This project, which took place over two weekends, was a particularly enjoyable challenge as we practised some of our signature pieces to get them to 'recording standard'! We have appeared at a wide variety of events, including School-related events such as Speeches, but also private bookings and charity gigs. We even came a valiant second in our category at the Lichfield Music Festival and were placed first at Solihull's! However, what makes Saxophony truly enjoyable is the camaraderie and team spirit at 8:15 on a Thursday morning: good music, good banter. Special mention must go to Nick Wall, Emma Rivers and Sam Griesbach who are, like me, leaving this year and taking our saxes to new frontiers. Also, I'd like to offer a warm thank you to Miss Greswold, without whom we couldn't organise (or tune!) ourselves properly, or get anything done!

Adam T. Smith

Saxbeats

Saxbeats is a group which gives pupils, mainly between the Fourth Form and Upper Fifth, a chance to meet up on a weekly basis and play as a saxophone group. There has been outstanding attendance, especially from the current Upper Fifth who maintained the high standards.

It has been thanks to the support of Charlotte Beesley and the enthusiasm of Adam Smith that we have been able to perform such pieces as *Puttin on the Ritz* in an Informal Concert and *Summertime* during Prize Giving this year. Needless to say none of this would happen if it wasn't for Miss Greswold who has organised it all, and made sure that we will be there. On behalf of everyone in Saxbeats, I would like to say thanks to these three. I hope that next year there will be more success!

Oscar Haynes

Advanced Saxophone Quartet

The Advanced Saxophone Quartet's first year together has gone extremely well. We have enjoyed playing in assemblies already, highlighted by playing a piece called *Habenera* in a Spanish-themed assembly for the Chilean exchange students. We also featured in a Sixth Form recital in May and continue to accompany Sixth Form students in their ensemble pieces for their A-Level music studies.

The four of us – Charlotte Beesley, Will Hughes, Ben Perrins and Alanna Wall – have thoroughly enjoyed building our repertoire almost every week and are now preparing for the first graded ensemble exam the School has ever seen.

Great thanks and credit must go once again to Miss Greswold for her endless hard work, time and commitment. Hopefully in the future this will allow us to give Saxophony a good run for their money!

Low Brass Ensemble

The Low Brass Ensemble, which is run by Mrs. Brookes, has been a great success this year. It consists of trombones, a tuba and a French Horn of all different grades from the Senior School. Rehearsals are held each Thursday morning where we practise pieces which we then perform at various School concerts. This year we have performed in one of the informal concerts. Everyone has enjoyed playing the chosen pieces.

Flute Choir

This year, Flute Choir has gained enthusiastic players who have attended rehearsals every Wednesday break time. We have been playing lively pieces selected by Mrs Reynolds and we were also given the opportunity to perform 'Rockin' Flutes' in Senior School Assembly, which was a great success.

Under the guidance of Mrs Reynolds, we have improved from when we first attempted pieces at the beginning of the year and next year we hope to play more challenging pieces and perform in even more concerts.

We'd like to thank Mrs Reynolds for her leadership and the support that she has given us throughout the year.





Performing Arts

Fiddler on the Roof

Think of the musical Fiddler on the Roof, and the film version with Chaim Topol in the lead role of Tevye probably comes to mind. I'd seen this film version on television many years ago and that was the total of my knowledge of the piece. I was aware that it contained the song 'If I Were a Rich Man' but it was only when we started to rehearse it that I recognised many of the other songs as well. I also realised how well written the stage play is, being wonderfully warm and witty. Tom Wilde gave a superb performance in the lead role of Tevye. His comic timing was impeccable and the character he created totally believable. It was wonderful to see the rapport he established with the audience. Tom's singing was splendid and he delivered 'If I Were a Rich Man' with confidence and style. He showed his versatility in equally successful renderings of the poignant 'Chavaleh' and the beautiful duet 'Do You Love Me', sung with the talented Emily White as Golde. Emily worked well with Tom, and like him was able to find humour in the role but also the compassion. Her strong, expressive voice was clear in 'Sabbath Prayer', 'Sunrise, Sunset' and the haunting 'Anatevka'.

Sally Farrant, Florentina Harris and Julie Whiting were excellent as the daughters Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava. They created three clearly contrasting personalities and their rendering of 'Matchmaker, Matchmaker' was joyful and full of life. Florentina also sang 'Far from the Home I Love' with tenderness and passion. The daughters' three suitors – Motel Kamzoil, Perchik and Fyedka – were played by David Cobbald, Oscar Street and Joe Singer, respectively. Each created a carefully studied and executed character. David gave us a sparkling version of 'Miracle of Miracles', Oscar sang with conviction in 'Now I Have Everything' and Joe was commanding and powerful in the Inn sequence confidently leading the 'dance off' between the villagers and the Russians. Ben Newman was excellent as Lazar Wolf and sang 'To Life' with gusto.



Amy Whittaker was a joy to watch as Yente; she created a totally believable role and her comic timing and delivery were outstanding. She was also able to tug at the audience's heart strings in the final parting scene.

Emma Rivers as Fruma-Sarah and Jess Berry as Grandma Tzeitel were equally striking in Tevye's Dream sequence. George Morgan as Mordcha, Callum Fisher as the Rabbi, Oscar Haynes as Mendel, Sam Weighall as the Constable, Mark Goodwin as Avram, Giles Lawrence as Nachum and Isobel McKenzie as Shaindel all created well-defined characters and acted with conviction throughout. The company numbers including 'Tradition', the 'Wedding Celebration', 'The Bottle Dance', 'The Rumour' and 'Tevye's Dream' were great with the chorus adding vitality and life. Victoria McCormack and Holly Krober from the Lower School played the two younger daughters, Shprintze and Bielke with charm.



Besides having a fabulous cast we had a great team working on the show. Once again we were very fortunate to have the services of ex-pupil, Samantha Mason, who choreographed the show. As ever, I enjoyed working with Musical Director, Mr Stephen Perrins. I must also thank Mrs Eleanor Hurst whose costumes were wonderful and added much to the overall effect; Mrs Sharron Thomas, Mr Ron Smith, and their team of Sixth Formers for their make-up skills and especially for the fabulous beards they created; Laura Newbould, Jarleth Eaton and Joe Hadley for Stage Management; Jonathan Brooke for Lighting and Sam McCumiskey and Theresa Morgan for Sound. Last but not least: Dr Paul Jukes and Mr Paul Hadley for overseeing the production.

Mrs Wilde





Burial at Thebes

A translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, by Seamus Heaney, Sixth Form Play, December 2011.

'Money has a long and sinister reach. It slips into the system, changes hands and starts to eat away at the foundations of everything we stand for. Money brings down leaders, warps minds and generally corrupts people and institutions'. So declares King Creon, in Heaney's modern translation of the play *Antigone*, written by Sophocles in around 442 BC and performed to the citizens of Athens. Today, having experienced austerity measures and protests, rioting and violence between public and police, we realise that Sophocles knew a thing or two!

Greek tragedy seems fresh and alarmingly relevant to our own economy and society. And so, our version of Sophocles' *Antigone* was brought into a contemporary setting, the financial heart of London. Sam Weighall played our Creon, MD of 'Thebes Financial', a company a stone's throw from St. Paul's. *Burial at Thebes* is a play about a clash of loyalties – those of the patriotic citizen (in our case, employees of the great financial hothouse, 'Thebes') and those of a parent, sister or brother. Public and private duties are held in tension. Sam conveyed this very powerfully. He set out in his first speech to be a smooth, persuasive leader, corralling his team and demanding the utmost loyalty. His powerful use of rhetoric was captivating and he commanded the stage each night, convincing his audience as well as those on stage. Sam took on a challenging role. Creon is barely off stage and by the end of the play he is a broken man, faced with the truth that his headstrong words and actions have led to the deaths of all those he loves most. Sam more than rose to the occasion.

Nicola Cronin gave a poignant portrayal of Antigone, who seeks to honour and bury her brother Polyneices. He was a rebel, disloyal to the company and slain by one of Creon's Mafia-like acquaintances. In her depiction of Antigone, Nicola was feisty and acted with a sense of conviction equal to that of Creon, upholding her particular moral high ground to the point of death. Most memorable perhaps was her speech addressed to the chamber intended for her burial, and to Death himself; it was a painful and compelling expression of grief.



Other voices advise Creon and Antigone to take a more tolerant middle ground. Mary Montgomery played Antigone's sister, Ismene. As a personality, Ismene does not share Antigone's wildness. Mary played the role with a continual sense of dignity and loyalty that made the audience warm to her immensely. Similarly, Sam Foxall played Creon's son, Haemon, with the quiet confidence of a younger man who has reflected on things rather than acted in haste. Ultimately though, Haemon is driven by his grief to suicide. After his performance in *Blood Brothers* last year, Sam has requested that his next role does not end in yet another tragic death! The final great advisor of the play, prophet Tiresias, was played by Florentina Harris. With tremendous skill she brought an ethereal, spell-binding quality to this unusual role.

Creon's team was made up Chorus members, each an employee of 'Thebes Financial' and as integral to the tragedy as the leading figures of Creon and Antigone. We developed each character through improvisation. Each member considered how they would survive in this cut-throat corporate world. Some pushed and manipulated their way into Creon's inner circle. Some of the girls adopted masculine, competitive traits, in their battle to the top. Others chose to recognise that some women still get no further than Bridget Jones and her very little skirt. Not so for our talented Sixth Form cast and crew. All were imaginative, committed and worked generously together to bring out Sophocles' painful and significant themes. They were a pleasure to direct.

Miss H Pike



Oedipus

Middle School Play, December 2011

The Middle School Play in the Christmas term was *Oedipus* by Sophocles, a tragic tale of the downfall of the powerful king of Thebes, Oedipus, who sets out to find a cure for the plague that is destroying his city only to discover that he is not only the cause of the plague, but also the person who killed his father and then married his mother – all unwittingly. It is a complex and challenging play and the cast worked tremendously hard on delivering a mature and thoughtful production.

The Chorus, consisting of Imogen Hanson, Grace Lodge, Ellie Brown, Joanna O'Sullivan, Charlotte Spence and Jodie Meenaghan-Bell, created some very striking moments and the arguments between Oedipus, played by Harry Morgan, and both Tiresias (Matt Tyler) and Creon (David Herriotts) explored the nature of pride, anger and the desire for power. Aine Maher as Jocasta showed us the true horror of what Oedipus had done and Caroline Camm as the Priest provided the narrative between the key scenes. Of course no Greek tragedy would be complete without messengers telling the audience about the deaths that have occurred and here Olivia Eguiguren-Wray, James Green and Richard Bradley kept the action moving. It was an excellent production and one I was very glad to be involved with.

Mrs J Johnson





Lower School Drama

The Christmas term saw 50 Lower School pupils taking part in a double bill comprising an ensemble production of *Us and Them* by David Campton. This was a simple yet thought-provoking play with an anti-war message. In it, two 'tribes', A and B, discover a land of beauty and plenty but then ignorance, fear and prejudice lead them to destroy it. The production used projection which helped link the simple fable to events in the real world; lighting helped transform a bright, colourful world into one of nightmares. The second part of the bill, *Sherlock Holmes and the Emerald of Alcazar* by Geoff Bamber, was a complete contrast being a very funny spoof of the great detective and his right-hand man Doctor Watson, played in the style of melodrama. Both plays were directed by Mrs J. Wilde and the music was provided by Mr G. Cureton on the piano. Dr P. Jukes and Mr P Hadley managed the productions.

Lower School Drama Club has continued, with up to 30 Lower School pupils regularly attending on Tuesday lunchtimes. This is in large part due to the commitment of Sixth Form students and Fourth Form pupils who have run the sessions. Participants have enjoyed creating short improvised plays and developing their skills through theatre games.

In the summer term, 29 Lower School pupils put on *Rockafella*, a musical by Les Scott, Roy Oakes and Ken Bolam. Directed by Mrs J. Wilde, this was performed in the Leonard Stevens Building and played to packed houses for two nights. Mr G. Cureton was Musical Director and also played keyboard, Mr D. Farrington played guitar and Mr P. Hadley provided the set and lighting.

Mrs Wilde



Sixth Form Theatre Studies

As part of their A-level examination, on April 2nd Upper Sixth students presented two new plays, devised and produced by themselves. The first, *A Teenage Fairytale*, used the children's story *Snow White and The Seven Dwarves* to explore attitudes to young people and examine the pressures that they face in today's society. Amabel Buck, David Cobbald, Amelia Whittaker, Max Rodman and Jarleth Eaton worked excellently as an ensemble, producing a funny but thought-provoking play. Sam Weighall, Ellie Rowe, Sean Cordelle, Tom Wilde and Lily Moroney took the challenging topic of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers as a basis for their piece, *Remember, Remember the 11th of September. Where were you?* This resulted in a very powerful and controversial piece of theatre.

In the summer term, following their exploration of Stanislavski's system, Lower Sixth students presented three outstanding pieces of realistic theatre for the practical unit of the course. Sally Farrant, Nicola Cronin and Francesca Ward performed a powerful and gripping extract from William Mastro Simone's *Extremities*, a play which focuses on the victim of a crime and questions whether justice can be achieved. Tara Joyce, Hannah Beasley and Emily Hodge performed a piece from Shelagh Stephenson's *The Memory of Water* – beautifully capturing the humour in this poignant look at family relationships. The last extract was from Ibsen's classic *The Doll's House*. This was superbly performed by Oscar Street, Holly Cookson and Lucy Rosier.

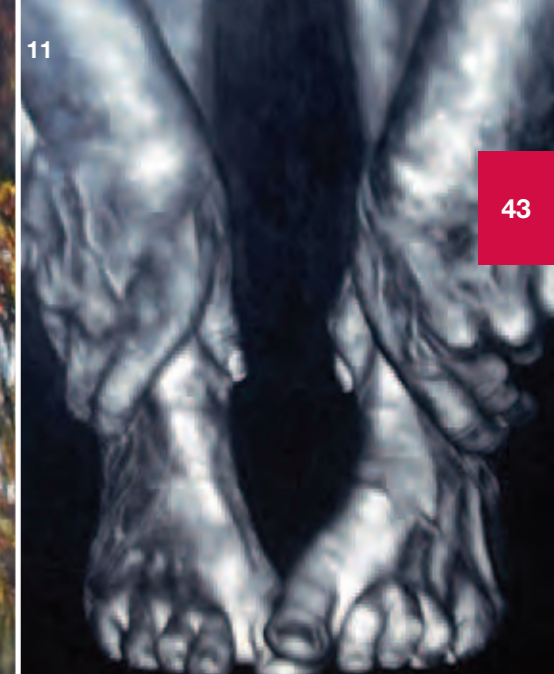


Lower Fifth GCSE Drama

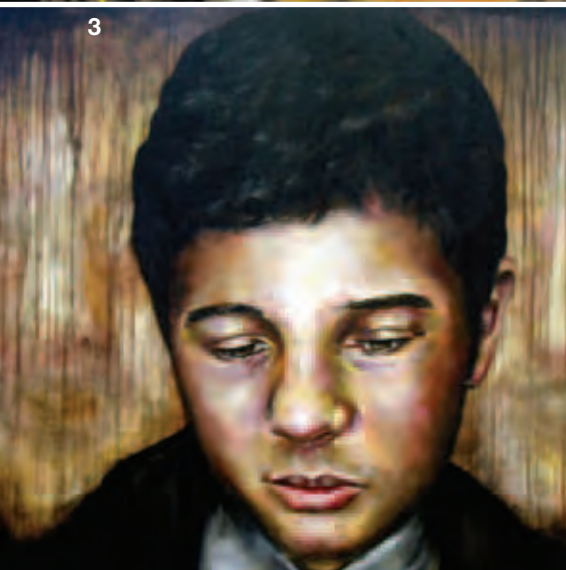
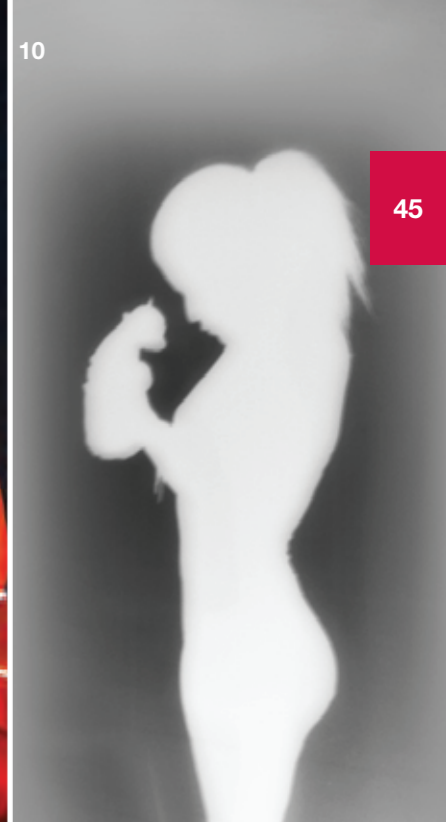
This year has been the first time that GCSE Drama has been offered and nine enthusiastic students have presented work from Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Whelan's *Accrington Pals* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for which students also successfully designed lighting, sound and costume. They concluded the year with an excellent piece of physical theatre, which they devised themselves. This explored the destructive side of human behaviour and used myths and legends as a foundation.

Mrs Wilde





- 1. ASHLEY FRASER UVI
- 2. CHARLOTTE SPENCE LV
- 3. ELLIOT DAVIS UVI
- 4. VICTORIA BEECH LVI
- 5. KARA ABDOU UVI
- 6. GEORGE MORGAN UVI
- 7. CAMERON DAVIES LVI
- 8. ELEANOR BROWN LV
- 9. DAVID COBBALD UVI
- 10. ELIZABETH HUNPHREYS LVI
- 11. EMMA RIVERS UVI
- 12. GEORGE TAYLOR UV
- 13. FRANKIE LEVEY UVI
- 14. EVIE MATTHEWS-JOLLY LVI
- 15. NICOLE ANGELIDES UV



1. SOPHIE REDFORD UVI
2. LUCY NIGHTINGALE UVI
3. STEPHANIE BIDDLE UVI
4. TOM WILDE UVI
5. LIBBY GANDHI LVI
6. TOM STARKEY UVI
7. MADISON ROBINSON UVI
8. HANNAH BUTLER UV
9. LAUREN MCHALE UVI
10. WILL HARTLEY LVI
11. DANIEL HOFTON IIIS
12. HANNAH NEWBY UVI
13. MARIA BARNES LVI
14. IZZY DOUGLAS SHELL P

Clubs, Societies & Academic Success



CCF (Army)

2011/12 was another successful year for the Army section under the leadership of CSM Edwards. It also included our Biennial Inspection which was held at Swynnerton Training Area. 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 Colour Sgt Swan they were able to compete on the Sunday after a couple of hours of tuition on the Marksmanship principles on the previous afternoon. The team shot well but unfortunately were not able to bring home any trophies.

The Brigade Military Skills Competition followed a couple of weeks later. CSM Edwards was ably assisted by a strong team of NCO's and conducted a couple of weeks' training prior to the competition. When they left on the Friday afternoon the team were in high spirits and looking forward to a challenging weekend. On arriving at Nescliff Training area the cadets had to deploy to their harbour area and put up their shelters which would be home for the next couple of nights. On Saturday the day started at 6.00am and involved a series of stands which tested the cadets in several military skills including: navigation,



weapon handling, first aid, section attacks, a patrol lane and CQB. That night there was a night orienteering exercise and finally at midnight the team was able to get back to their shelters. On Sunday another early start was followed by the March and Shoot competition. This was a forced march carrying the rifle and skeleton webbing for 5km followed by a shoot on the 30m range. A very tired but enthused team arrived back at School on Sunday afternoon but again there were no trophies won. The cadets had a great experience and will hopefully have learnt from the mistakes made to make us more competitive next year.

In October we held the Biennial Inspection at Swynnerton Training Area. The inspecting officer was Colonel Carruthers, who is the officer in charge of cadets for 143 Brigade. A major highlight of the day was the stand manned by the Fire Support Group of the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This unit is commanded by a former pupil, Capt Charles Mulira. Weapons on display included a grenade machine gun, a Javelin Anti-tank missile, mortars and the new sniper rifle.



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: the Battle Camp which is the highlight of the training year. This was held at Longmoor Training Area near Petersfield and involved Seaford College CCF providing the enemy. Once again the weather was kind to us and some excellent training was undertaken.

As always the year culminated in our summer camp, which was held at Crowborough Training Camp for 31 members of the Army section. This was an excellent camp and the weather was especially kind to us when we were on military training. The highlight of the week was the 24 hour exercise which was the culmination of all the training that had happened during the week. This exercise also allowed Sgt Emma Rivers and Sgt Anna McNeillie to lead the Platoon making them the first Female NCO's to be Platoon Commander and Sergeant for any training exercise! The activities that were laid on by the camp staff were some of the best we have had. The section attack stand was fantastic. The cadets arrived, loaded a magazine and were off firing in pairs. This was closely followed by doing it again: no talking or long explanation, just practise and do it again! The cadets eventually put this together in a section of 8 conducting fire and manoeuvre in the woods. The cadets had a great time and fired more blanks than ever before.

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 the other officers.

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)



RAF Section

This has been a very busy year for the RAF section. We have made great progress in raising the standard of the section and there have been a number of collective and personal achievements.

The year started after a very successful summer camp at RAF Coningsbury where we undertook a wide variety of activities including a visit to RAF College Cranwell - home to many of the Royal Air Force's most prestigious training organisations. SGT Conor Maher was promoted to Head Cadet of the section after completing the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership Course (ACLC) at RAF Cranwell.

The first event of the year was Field Day in early October. The new recruits had their first visit to an RAF base and felt the thrills of flying in a military plane for the very first time. Furthermore, each of them had the opportunity to take control of the aircraft while in flight. Since then there have been further opportunities to fly and the cadets have experienced the exhilaration of (in some cases even performing) aerobatic manoeuvres. While the newer members were flying, a group of senior cadets and NCOs made up the RAF's own section on the Army Field Day at Swynnerton and proved themselves to be a cohesive and efficient fighting force.

Over Easter 2012, two cadets, LCPL Sam McCumiskey and LCPL Jonathon Clarke, enjoyed further flying experience after they were awarded Gliding Scholarships and both went on to achieve their Silver wings.

The regular Monday parades have included an extensive range of activities to entertain and inform the cadets. We now look forward to another successful summer camp - this time at RAF Valley. After the summer camp our thoughts will turn towards September and another action packed year, by which time LCPL Sam McCumiskey will have completed his ACLC at Cranwell.

Cdt Sgt Conor Maher



The YASS Course

The Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS) is designed to give students a taste of university life through independent learning. There are over 60 courses available in 13 subject areas for you to choose from. Not only does it promote research skills, but it gives you a head-start if you want to graduate with the Open University.

I chose to study 'Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis' because it is a topic that interests me and it combines Geography, Chemistry and Maths (all of which I do at AS Level). Usually there are exciting television programmes on plate tectonics, and in the past it has been sufficient in maintaining my interest in the topic, but as soon as the YASS course became available, I didn't hesitate to enrol. The idea of plate tectonics has always fascinated me and being able to learn about it in my own time is a nice release from strenuous A-Level work. Not only has it reinforced my UCAS form, but it has inspired me to potentially read Physical Geography at university. The detail of the course is highly beneficial as plate tectonics is only superficially taught at GCSE and the course has helped me to further appreciate my interests as I can explore the topic further than I previously had done. Moreover, the Open University supply a range of resources to help guide you on your way, all of which are highly beneficial and essential for completing the course.

Overall, the YASS course is an opportunity to broaden your horizons through exploring a particular interest in much greater detail. It has been enjoyable as I have been able to investigate a captivating topic and get a qualification at the end of it. Essentially, you can get an extra qualification by learning about something that interests you, so there is nothing to lose.

Naryan Branch

Sixth Form Public Speaking

On 4th July Solihull School Sixth Form had their first ever 'Public Speaking Day'. The whole Lower Sixth Form went off-timetable for the day and split into their houses to learn the essential ingredients of a great speech, with the best speaker from each group competing in the Bushell Hall at the end of the day. Five specialist public speaking trainers made the long trip up from London to work with our students and they were suitably impressed with what they saw. Lots of icebreakers meant that the groups quickly felt at ease with one another and before long there were some compelling stories being told within the group format. By the afternoon, everyone had prepared a short speech for their group which had to be delivered without notes. What would have seemed like a nerve-wrecking experience at the start of the morning proved to be an incredibly reassuring exercise for most and the trainers had great difficulty in selecting a 'best in house' to compete in the Bushell Hall. This final house competition was a fantastic finale to the day and saw Mary Montgomery clinch the top prize for Windsor with her speech on the wrongs of Strip Clubs. The day was hugely beneficial to those students who took part and has hopefully equipped them with useful communication skills for the future. We very much look forward to repeating it in future years.

Mr Sandford-Smith



Young Enterprise

It's been another busy and successful year for our three Young Enterprise teams: Remix, Infinity and Rex Odores. Each of the teams has offered a diverse range of products including authentic jewellery, toiletries, headphones and cook books, with each enterprise being run very differently.

Once again, the Christmas Fayre and Trade events at Birmingham Bull Ring, Solihull Touchwood and The Mall in Sutton Coldfield offered great opportunities for them to market and sell their goods, with each team walking away having made a profit.

Rex Odores managed to bring yet more Young Enterprise trophies home to Solihull School including 'Best Company' at the Solihull Finals, and 'Best Company Report' and the 'Most Effective Financial Planning' awards at the Regional Finals. We were also delighted that our very own Bryan Thomas achieved the 'Best Business Advisor' award.

Rex Odores developed a fantastic 'Olympic Cookbook' containing Olympic-themed recipes from famous chefs such as Rick Stein and Nigella Lawson and even a recipe from our very own Mr. Lloyd. The recipe book has been a huge success. Should you wish to purchase a copy, please contact James Green.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteer Business Advisors James Murray, Paul Lucas and Bryan Thomas for their enthusiasm and dedication towards the programme – it has been a pleasure working alongside them during my time at Solihull School and I wish them every success for the future.

Miss Lowe



A range of activities is on offer during Terriers, which lasts from break until lunch on a Thursday. We wear a different uniform as a lot of the work we do is practical, not just written. It is split into two separate sections, yet both are equally fun and enjoyable. The first section consists of map work, mountain craft and Mission – where we have to find our way back to School from the countryside. A whole variety of different skills are required for this which are all very useful things to know when out camping or exploring. In section two however the fun went on and more skills were learned. After section one there was an exam, which I was rather nervous about. Nevertheless, we were told well in advance so I went into the test having revised everything I need to know. To my utter delight and satisfaction, I got a 100% pass rate and a Gold certificate. I now wear my Terriers gold badge proudly around School. I found survival skills very useful and I learnt to light a fire and make a shelter depending on the direction of the wind and rain. Having learnt to make a fire and shelter we also did cooking. We also took advantage of our water safety knowledge and went on to do kayaking in the swimming pool. To my delight, we were privileged enough to do shooting, inside a proper shooting range! It was great fun and we had a tour of the range and learnt about the targets we were going to be shooting. I also learnt that all cameras aren't the same, and there are so many little things to watch out for. When I really looked the drastic contrast of the quality between my picture at the beginning and at the end was almost frightening. In Terriers I loved that we got to try out different things and many of the activities were hands-on and through my mistakes, I learnt a lot. My favourite skill in Terriers was Command Tasks B as it taught me that I really need others around me and that working in a team is very important. Unfortunately my year in Third Form is nearly over, also meaning Terriers is nearly over, however the memories of everything I've done and all the skills I've learned will stay with me forever.

Cerys Stansfield



Terriers

Terriers is a group activity which separates Solihull School from the rest. It is run by Sixth Formers with the supervision of our School staff. In the first term, we had some tests on the eight activities that we had done and I got a gold certificate! In Terriers, we learn a lot of skills including survival, water safety and bike maintenance which we never knew before. We also do fun and challenging activities like 'Mission' where you navigate back to School from the countryside using just a compass and a map. We also do shooting where some targets are put up across a 25 metre shooting range, and you have to try to hit the bull's eye. After the first term came and went, I didn't think that Terriers could get any better, but it did when we did kayaking because it was a very enjoyable lesson. Many people capsized (including me). However, my favourite 'lesson' was shooting because it was challenging to control your breath and keep your sights focused on the target. Before Terriers, I didn't know what to do in an emergency, how to use a rifle, how to fix a bike, how to navigate only with a compass and a map, I didn't know water safety and I didn't know how to work very efficiently with a team to achieve a task. I think that Terriers is an amazing activity between break and lunch because it makes Solihull School unique but most of all, it is fun!

Yahvin Pillay





The English Society

The purpose of the English Society is to enrich the curriculum offered to those studying English Literature at A-Level by inviting guest speakers – academics, poets and novelists – to the School. This year saw three engaging events, and it was good to see a large attendance at all of them.

The first talk, in the Christmas term, was an in-house affair focusing on the nature and cultural legacy of Romanticism. This was given by our own Mr Geldard and Dr Spratley, both of whom have previous academic experience in this area prior to teaching. Also before Christmas we welcomed two highly-acclaimed academics to the David Turnbull Music School: Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, Director of Learning at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and Professor Stanley Wells. Professor Wells is the Chairman of the Trust and surely ranks as one of this country's – perhaps the world's – most eminent Shakespearean scholars. Despite competition from two other major events involving senior pupils, the evening attracted a considerable audience who were treated to a lively and engaging rebuttal of Roland Emmerich's new film *Anonymouse* and its sensationalist propagation of the idea that Shakespeare's plays were in fact written by the Earl of Oxford.

With celebrations of the bicentenary of Charles Dickens's birth in full swing, the English Society continued its programme of evening talks in the Spring Term with a visit from Professor Jon Mee of Warwick University who gave a talk on Dickens on film.



Professor Mee explored the way in which Dickens's novels have been adapted by film directors since the birth of cinema, taking in classic adaptations such as David Lean's 1948 version of *Oliver Twist*, the well-known version of *A Tale of Two Cities* featuring Dirk Bogarde and BBC TV's highly-regarded serialization of *Our Mutual Friend*. Professor Mee has been especially active in the commemoration of Dickens in recent times, leading the University of Warwick's programme of Dickens-related studies, and it was very interesting to hear his detailed analysis of the process which directors go through in order to translate text into moving images. With a combination of film clips and printed extracts from the novels, the talk was varied and interesting and much appreciated by those present.



Although Dickens is not currently on the A-Level syllabus, the evening's talk attracted a splendid audience of Sixth Formers and parents, and will have helped Solihull School's English students to think about the way literary narrative works and the challenges facing those who adapt novels for the screen.

It is to be hoped that A-Level students will continue supporting English Society events as willingly as they have done this year. There is much to be gained from looking beyond the confines of the syllabus, and evenings such as these give a sense of the pleasures involved in studying literature and the arts.

The Kent Library

Book and Biscuit Club

With its seventh year firmly under its belt, Book & Biscuit has retained its popularity with over 30 members starting the year with us. We kicked off exploring historical fiction, ranging from the Aztecs to the Victorians, culminating with the group producing some wonderfully vibrant pieces of art as bookmarks. Such was the enthusiasm for this topic that we decided to run with it for the rest of the term. After watching several episodes of the famous Horrible Histories Series we broke into small groups and produced our own version of the Horrible History books. The imagination and creative flair of the members in producing their books was amazing. There was even one shaped like an Egyptian mummy!

The year progressed with us reading fictional diary accounts including *Diary of a Wimpy Vampire*, *Diary of a Chav* and the ever present *Adrian Mole*. As a memento of our diary experience the readers decorated keepsake boxes in a dazzling array of colours.

To bring an end to our sessions, members of Book & Biscuit read a book of their own choice from a multitude of genres. The idea was to inspire the group to read a wider range of fiction by each discussing the book that they had read.



The Library has definitely been the place to be this year and we look forward to the start of the new year with anticipation, eagerly awaiting new additions to our group.

Book Week

Along with the fantastic Scholastic Book Fair that ran all week (thank you to all those who purchased items, the resulting commission enabled us to purchase additional fiction for our Library) we organised a number of fun and exciting activities to celebrate books and reading.

The highlight of the week was our Guess the Reader competition where staff and pupils were invited to turn detective and guess the identities of over 40 members of staff who were partially hidden by the book they were reading. Much frivolity abounded as pupils and staff moved from board to board, with even our own Headmaster taking part. It was no easy task to unmask their identity!



In our Banned Books competition pupils were given clues to the titles of books that have been banned throughout the world for varying reasons be it political, racial or just downright bizarre. This provoked much thought and discussion amongst the students and gave them appreciation for the free and open society we live in.

During the week we also ran our ever-popular Find Norman and Murder in the Library and also trialled a Book Swap Shop.

Mrs A Vaughan
Librarian



Lower School Keil Poetry Prize

800 Metres

Lining up, for the ultimate race,
And starting off, at a gentle pace,
The first one hundred metres ran,
Can I possibly win this? Yes, I can,
Two hundred metres completed,
Looking round the stadium, no one is seated,
But jumping in the air like gazelles,
Just one more trophy on my shelves.
Four hundred metres have just passed by,
I glance at my mum, a tear in her eye.
In seeing this, I push for the lead,
I glimpse my lap time, I'm trying to read.
One tough lap to go, I hear the bell ring,
I can sense the crowd now, starting to sing,
Final one hundred metres to go,
Everyone else is tortoise slow,
I see my chance, I see the line,
One desperate dash, and the Gold is mine!
As I step up on the podium block,
I am a ship, finally moored in its dock.
For my family, for me, my country and queen,
My medal upon me, I am the dream.

Charlie Hadley

Middle School Keil Poetry Prize

The Rain

There's whispers in the corner.
There's words that go around.
Pointing fingers from the darkness,
mutters in the background.

They judge you by your looks.
They judge you by your skin.
They judge you by your height,
but do not look within.

When they feel insecure
they take it out on me.
But how it hurts inside
they never seem to see.

They pick and pull at everything
we do or that we say.
It's grown into a habit.
It happens every day.

When I hear a nasty word
tears are behind my eyes.
I put up my four walls
but I still die inside.

They seem to think they're perfect,
or like a Barbie doll.
Do they know their judging
is starting to take its toll?

A 'joke' that's taken seriously,
The constant worded brawling.
The destruction of all happiness
coming from name calling.

Try to find some confidence
to take the larger stride,
to be the bigger person,
to be the one with pride.

Counter-act their teasing.
Juxtapose their sneers.
Prove their assumptions wrong.
Show them you don't fear.

Each person will be different,
with their own beliefs .
So I just want to say
please give them some relief.

Happiness is the goal
we all strive to achieve.
Everyone can reach it
if they just believe;

Believe in who they are,
believe in who they'll be.
believe in the innocent baby
with endless possibilities.

The deadline's round the corner.
Adulthood's on the way.
All the playground games
are only for today.

All these expectations
we have got to meet.
The endless hours of homework
Oh yes, life is sweet.

The pace is getting quicker now.
The future's always looming.
The clocks will keep on ticking.
The flowers ever blooming.

Each day will come and pass
even if it's pain.
But if you want the rainbow
You have to have the rain.

Grace Lodge

Sixth Form Keil Poetry Prize

May Baby

The radio was blaring. Morning news
of heat wave. A hosepipe ban.
No stoppering this though.
The clammy morning air
broke its waters with cries of
a daughter.

A sibling for the blonde boy on the stairs,
cowering while his mother was screaming.
The worry united brother-sister,
but each more fraught with their own fears
than with those of their mother
hen. Then it was over, and started.
Before the eggs had boiled and the tiger
who came to tea met
the blonde boy on the stairs.

It would be different now, son.
And the far off grandparents finally
arrived to support baby, mother,

child.

The infant watched none. For,
Ever stubborn, would not blink
for another week. No name then,
not until the curtains were opened
and the sun let in. Names, maybe,
for the May baby? Lily, Iris, Rose?
Surely not Flora, for the babe born
upon the kitchen floor.

Rebecca Took



1st place winner Cerys Stansfield

Third Form Trebuchet Competition

It was a rainy afternoon when a collection of Third Form pupils gathered on the astro-turf for the annual History department trebuchet competition. The aim of the competition was to catapult a squash ball the furthest distance across the astro, each team having three attempts each. The Trebuchets this year were made of a variety of materials including wood, bamboo sticks and even Lego and baked beans cans! Needless to say the Lego and baked beans can device did not stand the test of time to make its third and final shot but the boys (Luke Bryant and Will Hardie) did manage a sterling effort of 1 metre. Cerys Stansfield arrived with a trebuchet which was twice the size that she was, and so large it had to be transported via a van and then pulled to the astro on a buggy. The trebuchet itself was beautifully made and it was clear much time and effort had been spent on it. Cerys managed to score a fantastic 23 metres which was the winning distance by far!! All those that took part are to be congratulated on their efforts.

1st place - Cerys Stansfield 23 metres
2nd place - Simon Clarke & Adam Beaumont 9.5 metres
3rd place - Alex Sasse - 5 metres

The competitors, (Alex Sasse, Will Hardie, Luke Bryant, Simon Clarke & Adam Beaumont).



Charity

We had another jam-packed year of charity activities in 2011/12 and are proud to announce that we have managed to raise a record-breaking £24,359.35! This year the Committee has supported a wide array of charities including Macmillan Cancer Research, Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal, SCOPE, Woodland's Trust and Children In Need.

I have continued to be amazed by the continued generosity of our students and the support towards our events, and staff and pupils should be immensely proud of the amount of money raised.

Both myself and Mrs. Phillips would like to thank the Charity Committee members for all of their hard work, notably Ben Newman (who will act as Chairman of the Committee for 2012/13), Jess Berry, Izzy McKenzie, James Whitfield, Doug Griffiths and James Buckle; they have all worked tirelessly to make our events successful.

On a personal level I would like to thank Mrs. Phillips for all of her hard work and determination towards all things Charity. I shall miss working with my 'partner in charity crime' next year immensely.

Thank you once again to all involved!

Miss Lowe

Chess Club

This season the Chess Club has continued to thrive, with members from all years participating, particularly within the Lower School. We have a strong Fourth Form group of players and our U12 team was runners-up in the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League (B&DJCL), a notable performance which augurs well for the future.

With consistent improvement throughout the season facilitated by our excellent coach Nick Thomas, our teams have competed fiercely at all levels, admirably overcoming tough opponents.

There have been many excellent individual performances, but mention must go to Jake Humphries for his leadership at U14 level, and John Gilbert who finished the season with a 100% record.

The annual B&DJCL U14 Rapidplay tournament was hosted by the School again and was a great success. This is a National tournament and many of the strongest chess-playing schools in the country participated – coming from as far afield as London and Torquay.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Dr Powell for his continuing commitment and enthusiasm.

John Gilbert



Debating

The Sixth Form Debating Society has enjoyed an active year. Lunch times have been especially full, with training on Wednesdays, Mace debates on Thursdays and British Parliamentary debates on Fridays. This year has also seen the successful launch of Middle School debating on Tuesday lunchtimes. British Parliamentary debating has continued to increase in popularity with Friday sessions regularly drawing in a large number of spectators across all year groups. Thanks must go to Asfandyar Qureshi and Usama Rahman for providing the training and organisation that has made this possible. Asfandyar used these sessions to allow those newer to debating to benefit from his experience. Memorable debates have included 'This house believes that pornography serves a social good' and 'This house believes it is legitimate to ignore sovereignty in pursuit of a terrorist'.

Thursday lunchtimes have continued to be a showcase for Sixth Form debating and attendance has been high. Debates have been both entertaining and informative, addressing a wide range of topical issues. Motions have again been varied and included a debate against visiting Chilean students.

The level of commitment to debate within the School has been rewarded with a record-breaking year in which the debaters excelled in several national championships.

The year began with Solihull students becoming Birmingham University champions and Warwick University runners up. Jamie Wallis and Asfandyar Qureshi won the Birmingham title as one of three teams from Solihull School to reach the final four, beating the likes of King Edward's Birmingham and Latymer Upper School, while Helen-Cara Younan won the Best Speaker award.

Helen-Cara and Andy Pursley have had a particularly successful year, reaching the final of both Nottingham and Warwick University competitions. They were up against tough competition, beating King Edward's and St Paul's School in London to reach the final in the Warwick University competition. At Nottingham they again narrowly lost out in a final against Bradford Grammar, HABS Boys and City of London.

In March our students attended the biggest debating competition in the world at Durham University. Almost 300 students attended, including all of the big 'worlds' pairs. Helen and Andy reached the Quarter-Finals and ranked 10th in terms of speaker points in the competition, beating teams such as Eton, Bradford Grammar and all the central England teams. Sanika Karandikar and Katy Hatter (who debated competitively for the first time this year) ranked 29th which is higher than any previous School record. George Diwakar and Joe Halbert came second in the Novice finals, narrowly missing out to Dulwich.

In addition, the School has maintained its Oxford Union ranking as the number one debating team in Central England. At the Oxford finals, Solihull beat all of the central England teams with Asfandyar and Jamie ranking 39th (our highest Oxford ranking to date): impressive considering the competition started with around 600-700 teams.

Helen-Cara Younan, our President of Debating and Head Girl has summarised her experience of debate this year: 'Choosing to become involved in debating is undeniably the best decision I have made throughout my school career. It's a forum of free thought that allows you to think for yourself whether you're challenging the status quo or questioning moral ideas'.



Classics Society

Once again the Classics Society has had a busy year! Fuelled with excitement about what we had seen on our tour of Greece at Easter 2011, we were all keen to continue exploring the Ancient World.

Our first trip of the year was an architectural walking tour of Birmingham city centre, led by our tame architect Jim Bavin. Not very Classical you all cry! However Birmingham was built by the Victorians and they loved neo-Classical architecture – everywhere we looked we could see Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns. We also found out about the many plans for Birmingham city centre and realised that it really is a great city to live near.

Our walking tour was swiftly followed by the inaugural lecture of the Birmingham and West Midlands Classics Society. The speaker was local girl Lindsey Davis, the prolific author of the Falco books, about a private detective working in first century AD Rome. Lindsey told us a lot about why she loved Classics and how she went about writing her books.

Also in the Christmas term we went for our annual visit to the British Museum, where we explored many different aspects of the Ancient World, including artefacts from the Mycenaeans, the Elgin Marbles and the Lindow Man.

Our final trip of this year was to the newly refurbished Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, to visit objects from different periods of history such as Ancient Egypt, Nubia and Greece. We also saw some replicas of objects we saw on our trip to Greece from the Mycenaean period including the Mask of Agamemnon.

Particularly interesting was the 2000 year old Child Mummy which has undergone extensive research in recent years and has been turned into a piece of artwork made from glass plates that depicts the bones of the mummy.

After a short break for lunch, and a look round the busy streets of Oxford, we took the short walk to the neighbouring Pitt Rivers Museum. This contained a wide variety of exhibits with collections of anthropology and world archaeology.

Currently with over half a million objects donated by explorers and anthropologists all over the world, the museum was well worth a visit. Finds included a small bottle which was said to

contain a witch, vibrant Hawaiian feather cloaks, magic charms and amulets, tools and weapons, musical instruments and Mrs Johnson's personal favourite, the shrunken heads of the Upper Amazon!

Both pupils and teachers have really enjoyed our trips this year, and we are already looking forward to next year when we will be exploring Roman London and, of course, visiting Rome and Pompeii!

Mrs Johnson, Katherine Bridges and Georgina Russell

Gladiator Day!

On Thursday 1st March, the Third Formers went to the Bushell Hall to hear Kevin Hicks tell us about gladiators. It was our current topic in Latin, and was therefore really helpful for our understanding. We listened in admiration as he told detailed and exciting stories about the gladiators. He even brought in some armour the gladiators used to wear, and some of us got to try it on! He also showed us weapons and spears and told us how the gladiators would use them. He gave us shields to hold so we could feel how heavy they were. The afternoon was excellent and we all loved it and found him fascinating to listen to. Many thanks to Mr Baddeley for organising the enjoyable afternoon.

Alex Marshall





Arvon Creative Writing Course 2012

On the 9th of April, 16 pupils plus Miss Pike and Mr Cureton set off on Arvon, a creative writing course in Totleigh Barton, Devon. We stayed in a beautiful old cottage, where we were given the chance to expand our ideas and improve our writing skills. To help us, we had brilliant workshops from author Steve Voake, and poet Lucy English.

While both sets of workshops helped us a great deal in writing, they each taught us different areas to focus on. Lucy taught us about observation, by taking us on a nature walk through the grounds and asking us to record what we saw, or felt at the time. She also told us to draw a partner in a certain length of time while paying close attention to small details that we might not have noticed before. Steve focused on our character building, starting points in our writing, and building a narrative.

During our stay, everyone had to participate in cooking the evening meal for one night of the week. This was a great way to get to know new people, and it was a lot of fun!

The people on Arvon were extremely friendly, and we felt at home as soon as we got there. We received plenty of really great advice from our tutors, both in workshops and one-to-one consultations. We would thoroughly recommend Arvon to anybody who enjoys creative writing and beautiful scenery and countryside. We both really hope to go again in the future as it was one of the best experiences we have ever had!

Rebecca Rodwell and Isobel Serle

Lower School Arvon Prize

The Old Bone Orchard

Under the apple tree in the old bone orchard
the smell of dew and maturing cider.
In trees the larks sing their blissful songs.
The grass is damp but soft like a bed.
And the cider, it tastes sweet like honey.
It is truly the most beautiful place for her to spend her time.

Under the apple tree in the old bone orchard
sits a girl with hair the colour of ripe corn,
Eyes as beautiful as the sea and skin like that of a porcelain doll.
Leather book in her lap and a baby in her arms.
She lies on a soft bed of flowers, forget-me-nots,
A paint brush by her side and a teddy bear propped up nearby.

Tied with a velvet ribbon, a bundle of letters
addressed to a Miss Grace Williams.

She and the baby are still, unmoving.
It seems a crime to disturb them.
So I let them lie under the apple tree.
Under the earth, on a bed of wilting flowers.
The raw rope burns still on her neck.
A slate plaque reads "forever under the apple tree in the old
bone orchard."

Lydia Stephens

First Hour

What was I thinking in my first hour?
Was I nervous? Was I anxious?
Was I trembling and scared?
Or was I glad that I was finally free?
That some kind of liberty had been granted.
Was I just acting clueless, but secretly aware
of the complaining if my mother about the colour of my hair.
Was I questioning my existence
with philosophical enquiry?
Or was I just a normal baby;
Ginger, chubby, cheery?

Three Years Old

I look at you now, so young and naive,
concerned only by the man pulling a face to make you smile.
You could not contemplate the things that you do
as a small, slightly podgy, three year old child.
Or perhaps you already had hopes and dreams
of being a businessman with an Oxford degree.
Or maybe you wanted a simpler life,
a wife, house and a ginger baby.

The Present

You may not be sporty, or skinny, or popular
but the small things in life are the things that mean the most.
Like singing in chapel, or hockey, or clarinet,
or coming home to a cuppa and a piece of toast.
Maybe when I'm older my feelings will change,
but right now I'm enjoying life how it is.
I love my friends and I love my family.
What could I ask for that's better than this?

The Future

So what does the future hold for me?
Am I a singer or journalist to be?
Will I be stuck at 5 ft 3?
Will I be famous, will I be rich?
Will I get married to a witch?
Or will I live a hum-drum life
full of happiness, yet full of strife?
Will God be merciful, will God be fair?
Will I live out my days with this darn ginger hair?

Alexander Lavery

Middle School Arvon Prize

Black Flowers Don't Count

Before she met him, she couldn't write. She wanted to. About
the things she could not touch, the things she wanted to
touch, her mother being the only one like her, the only one who
could understand.

The boy with the black hair understood. He took her to the
empty room full of sunlight, and gave her the flowers in a glass
dome, because he understood that not being able to touch
flowers doesn't mean not wanting to be near them.

They went to the garden with only black flowers, the ones she
could touch, and he gave her the amethyst ring. But he didn't
know, and she didn't know, that she couldn't touch true love
either. So she disappeared with the ring on her finger, and he
went back to the empty room, that was so full of sunlight.

Jaipreet Deo

Sixth Form Arvon Prose Prize

The Young Faustus

Nathaniel Faust was searching. He knew he could find it. It
was real. His family had forgotten who they were, what they
were destined to become. One figure in his family's history was
the centre of his ambitions and research. Nathaniel Faust was
descended from the great sorcerer Faustus. And Faustus had
ensured he would provide for his family, however long it took.
Nathaniel paused for breath, his lungs working harder than
they ever had. Hiking up the Alps was almost enough to halt
his resolve, and send him scurrying back to his research in
Faustus's library, hidden beneath Stonehenge. Almost.

Having discovered the library, Nathaniel had all the knowledge
he would need, for now. What he was missing, was the ring.
His ring. The young would-be sorcerer knew he had power,
was practically overflowing with it. But his frustration lay
in not being able to access it. Nathaniel was smart. Some
biological factor, he theorised it was the magic in his blood
becoming polluted, prevented him from wielding the potentially
devastating power brimming just beneath his skin. The ring of
Faustus would grant him the ability to access his potential. The
arcane library had told him that not only would the ring grant
full magical ability, but Faustus had pooled his powers into the
ring, stored them. Powers which when added to Nathaniel's
own could rival the Devil's own, could overthrow any God in his
way. Then the fun would begin.

Joseph Singer



Solihull Hospital Medicine Workshop

2nd to 6th July 2012

A group of fifteen aspiring medics from the Lower Sixth were
lucky enough in the last week of term to be offered a fantastic
week of work experience at Solihull Hospital. The week was
organised by Dr Dev Banerjee and Mr Brattle, who co-
ordinates the medics at Solihull School.

We arrived on Monday morning, apprehensive but excited
to discover what the week would hold. Dr Banerjee, our
enthusiastic and inspiring team leader for the duration of the
workshop, gave us a warm welcome and an insight into his
passion for the medical career. Many of the students gained a
deeper desire for success and greater fascination for medical
science through his boundless energy and enthusiasm.

Through the morning sessions, we were given the opportunity
to listen to experts in a variety of medical specialisms give
a rare insight into their fields. These included hands-on
experience of learning CPR and life-saving techniques, a
moving and enlightening talk from a specialist in palliative
care and a compelling seminar on paediatrics. Lectures on
university-level medical physiology provided the means and
bases for students to think 'outside the box' in attempting to
diagnose issues found in x-rays and patient histories.

Every afternoon, students were split into pairs or small teams
and allowed to shadow consultants and junior doctors in
different clinics, such as those dealing with fractures and ear,
nose and throat clinics, and on the wards. After being taught
history-taking skills we were given the opportunity to speak to
patients and practise our newly-acquired diagnostic acumen;
to do so was a rare privilege. As prospective medical students,
this experience was invaluable and has given great confidence
in being able to approach patients and in developing
communication skills.

The week concluded with mock interviews that helped to
prepare us for our medical school applications, as well as the
awarding of certificates to commemorate the workshop. The
week involved much enjoyable hard work and was extremely
informative, exciting and fun, a great asset to any Personal
Statement and a unique experience. A big thank-you to
Mr Brattle, Dr Banerjee and to all his colleagues at Solihull
Hospital, and congratulations to the fifteen medics involved!

Dan Murphy and Sophie Tillman

Guests to the School



Opening of new Archive Room

Denis Tomlin, a teacher who became Second Master, Headmaster and Governor in an association of more than 50 years with Solihull School, has had a new Archive Room named after him. He was given the honour of cutting a ceremonial ribbon to officially launch the facility, which charts the history of the School from its beginnings in 1560.

The Denis Tomlin Room, partly funded by the Parents' Association, contains a stunning time-line wall chart depicting key landmarks in the life of the School as well as scores of fascinating exhibits including old uniforms, exercise books and photographs.



Britain's Got Talent!

On Monday 6th September, a full Bushell Hall was treated to the unmistakable sound of 'Britain's Got Talent' 2009 Runner-Up, saxophonist Julian Smith. With his four piece band, he treated the audience to his familiar mix of classical and pop crossover music. The audience was enthralled by his haunting playing and interactive participation: Julian even got the audience to sing along to one of his tracks.

Third Form pupil Jamie Francis unexpectedly found himself in the limelight when he was invited to duet with Julian, playing the clarinet (well, only pretending to play)!

A wonderful evening was further enhanced by the appearance of the School's senior saxophone group, Saxophony, for whom Julian was full of praise.



Lord Hunt Visit

Lord Hunt visited us for a second time to speak to Lower Fifth pupils about the importance of politics in our society. He spoke for forty minutes, covering how Parliament is structured, the difference between the two Houses, and how the House of Lords works. He then answered questions from the floor on topical political issues including HS2, the financial crisis, education, and the Leveson inquiry.

Sixth Form Question Time debate

On the morning of June 22nd Solihull School hosted a BBC style 'Question Time' debate, with the highly-anticipated event attracting students from Edgbaston High School, King Edward's Birmingham, Bablake School, King Henry VIII Coventry, Old Swinford Hospital and Tudor Grange Academy. The panel of five guests featured two non-partisan members: Professor Anthony O'Hear, Director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy and former Government Advisor on Education and Teacher Training, and Bishop Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston and a graduate of law from Cambridge. The three major political parties were also represented: Ms Lorely Burt MP (Solihull) member of the Liberal Democrat party, Mr Roger Godsiff MP (Hall Green) member of the Labour party, as well as Robert Hulland, Conservative Councillor for Silhill Ward. The debate was chaired by BBC Radio 4's Ritula Shah.

The debate was an enthralling spectacle, with the students being treated to an insight into the thoughts and beliefs of some of the region's top political minds. Solihull's Ellie Davies asked one of the most eagerly anticipated questions of the debate, regarding how Mr Godsiff saw fit to claim nearly £190,000 in expenses; however, in true MP fashion, it appeared that Mr Godsiff managed to evade the piercing question relatively unscathed. Other questions erupting from the students focused on the rise in University tuition, the lasting effects of the Olympic Games for the UK, as well as probing questions regarding Press standards and gay marriage.

The topic of gay marriage provoked an unexpected response from the panel, with the majority of the guests siding with the beliefs of Bishop Andrew Watson, in that marriage is only acceptable between heterosexual couples, much to the surprise of the students present, who were almost entirely in favour of allowing gay marriage. However, one of the most poignant moments of the debate arose from Ms Lorely Burt's voyage into the topic of feminism. She fervently stood by her feminist credo, stirring mixed reactions amongst both the panel and student body, with, to the horror of Ms Burt, a minority of female students admitting to aligning themselves with feminist beliefs.

All in all it was an extremely interesting and interactive debate, and we would like to thank Mr Sandford-Smith for his diligent organisation of the event. We hope there are plenty more similar debates to come in the next academic year!



Karren Brady Visit

On Friday 15th June a touch of TV glamour came to Solihull School in the form of Karren Brady, Britain's youngest ever football club Chairman, 'Apprentice guru' and international businesswoman. Ms Brady came to share some of the secrets of her success with the Lower Sixth.

A brief introduction was given by the Headmaster who shed some light on how Ms Brady had worked her way to the positions she now holds (including Chairman of West Ham United, and Non-Executive Director of Simon Cowell's production company 'Syco', and Sir Philip Green's 'Arcadia'). After this the students posed a range of questions, from juggling motherhood and business, to strategies for coping with sexism in the workplace. When asked about the key to her successful businesses, Ms Brady said that keeping a motivated workforce was the most important thing.

Interestingly, Ms Brady had never sought to pursue a career in television: this is something that has happened as a result of her successes elsewhere. The topic that she spoke most passionately about was encouraging equal opportunities for women in business.

Our short time with Karren Brady was enough to show that she is a remarkable person with an amazing, inspirational life story and we are extremely grateful that she could find some time to speak to us.

Alex White





Upper Fifth Form Prom

In June, a large proportion of the Upper Fifth students celebrated the end of their GCSE exams in style, with the first ever prom that Solihull School has hosted for Upper Fifth students. This was a student-led venture, under the guidance of Mrs. Lancaster, Head of Middle School. The Prom Committee comprised Chris Bevins, Katherine Bridges, Brogan Kelly and Harry Morgan. They did a wonderful job in planning and promoting the event, as well as organising tickets and decorating our lovely venue at the Village Hotel, Solihull.

Sunshine was relatively scarce in June, but we had a wonderful sunny evening and were able to enjoy a drinks reception and photos on the red carpet on arrival. Later in the evening, Charlotte Beesley and Ben Gee were witty comperes and made sure that the awards ceremony and crowning of Prom King and Queen was a suitably memorable occasion. (Well done Ben Gee and Ella Harthman!)

It goes without saying that the boys were dapper, the girls the height of elegance, and the parents and staff involved proud as punch.



Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF)

What is it?

Latin American Foundation for the Future is a small, registered charity in the UK. Its aim is to support vulnerable young people in Peru, by allowing them to develop life skills through sustainable development in their communities in and around Cusco.

Who runs it?

LAFF was co-founded by Sarah Oakes and Hannah Barrett (daughter of Mrs Barrett in the Modern Foreign Languages Department). LAFF is run by recent young graduates who are concerned for the education and lives of young people on an international level. They also provide valuable work experience in International Development for undergraduates and volunteering opportunities in the communities in which they work in Peru.

Casa Mantay

Donna and Martin Richmond and their two sons, Max and Freddie were lucky enough to visit Peru in summer 2011. They decided to visit the LAFF projects in Cusco.

Last year in his Geography lessons with Mrs Brown, Max was introduced to the charity called LAFF set up by Hannah Barrett. One project supported by LAFF in particular caught his attention and that was the Azul Wasi shelter for street boys. Max is going to tell you about Azul Wasi but I would like to spend a little time telling you about another project supported by LAFF that we also visited and that is the Casa Mantay home for adolescent mothers.

Cuzco is a vibrant city with snow-capped mountains around it and its ancient Inca ruins, and so it is very easy to forget that Peru is a very poor country with all the problems that poverty brings and, as so often happens, where there is desperate poverty the children are always the most vulnerable.

Casa Mantay is a home for very young mothers who have nowhere to go and no one to turn to for help. These mothers are often from desperately poor rural communities and have no education and no future without help. The director of the home told us that some of these young women come from backgrounds so poor and so disadvantaged that they have to be taught to clean their teeth and wash themselves. Before they come to the home the girls have been treated appallingly badly and there is a counsellor on the staff at the home to try and help these girls over the trauma and move on to lead as normal a life as possible in the circumstances.



The home itself is modern, bright and colourful with dormitories for the mothers and for the babies and children, a dining room and kitchen, a room for the mothers to do their homework and a room like a nursery school for the children to do their work when they are a bit older. There is also a garden for all the children to play in as well as a laundry area for washing the baby clothes – there are a lot of those.

The home allows the girls to bring up their children and gives them hope and support for the future. The mothers have to go to school and get their school certificate, and when they come back to the home after they have been to school they have to do their chores as well as their homework and spend time with their baby or child. The mothers take it in turn to cook dinner for the whole of the house. It is very hard work for these girls but their lives are transformed by the work being done by Casa Mantay. It gives them the chance of a future where they can support themselves and their child.

The girls are taught how to look after a baby, how to sew and cook and are educated in the basic skills that will allow them, once they are 18, to go out into society and support themselves and their child. The mothers are generally trained to work in the hotel and tourist trade although one very successful mother has come back to work at the home as a counsellor for the new mothers.

Whilst the young mothers are at school, the babies and children stay at Casa Mantay or go to nursery school themselves if they are old enough which allows the mothers the chance to get their education so that they can provide for themselves and their child.

The home has a very structured set up, all of which is aimed at giving the mothers and their children the best possible future, but the staff and the mothers have to be very dedicated to achieve this.

One of the excellent things that Casa Mantay has done is to invest in a leather workshop and those girls who have the aptitude are taught to work with the leather to make pretty bags, key rings, purses and even Christmas decorations. The quality is very high and they are getting more and more orders. This money contributes to the cost of running the home. Even with this money the home would not survive without charitable donations.

The director told us that the problem of very young mothers extends all through the poor areas of South America but Casa Mantay is one of only two such homes in the whole of Peru. Until the society there changes and young girls are treated properly the only answer to this problem seems to be homes like Casa Mantay which deserves all the help it can get.

Azul Wasi

Azul Wasi is a shelter for street boys on the outskirts of Cuzco. There are many street children in Peru and South America, generally because very poor families have many children and cannot afford to look after them. Once on the street their only way to survive is to beg or turn to petty crime and life is very hard indeed. Azul Wasi offers a safe haven to some of these boys.

The shelter offers protection, guidance and education to the boys. When we were there they had just received their test results and it was obvious that they take their education very seriously. At the moment the shelter consists of dormitories, showers and toilets, a kitchen and a dining room and a much used yard where the boys play endless basketball and soccer. New, warmer dormitories are currently being built because it is very, very cold at night in Cuzco.

Azul Wasi looks after boys from the age of six until they are twenty years old. Some of these children were living on the street and some taken from backgrounds of extreme poverty and abuse like Dante. He is 15 and has burns on his right arm from where his father burned him with cigarettes – this is an example of the abuse these children have suffered.

All of the boys have been exposed to problems completely unthinkable to you or me and they desperately need the educational, social and psychological support being offered at Azul Wasi so that they can overcome their fears and problems and stand a chance of a decent future. Even though to you and me these boys seem to have few luxuries at the shelter, they are well cared for and clearly very happy and friendly boys.

LAFF has given grants to Azul Wasi to provide bathrooms, kitchen equipment and a water tower. These may seem basic to you and me but they are luxuries to boys who have lived on the street. LAFF has also provided a green house and a small holding with chickens to try and make the shelter a little bit self-reliant and also to teach the boys about growing plants and looking after animals.

Even with the LAFF grant and the help of other charities, the shelter is over-subscribed and boys have to be turned away. It is really important that the shelter and those like it get the financial and social support they need. Without such homes these boys would have nowhere to go, nothing to eat and a future consisting only of petty crime and violence.

Max Richmond



LAFF – Shoe shining fundraiser

Worldwide efforts to improve the lives of street children have been boosted thanks to a polished performance from the boys and girls of Solihull School.

Pupils spent a day out of uniform and another shining shoes to raise a total of £1,450 in support of the International Day for Street Children.

The proceeds will go to the Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF). The money will help support Casa Mantay, a house for teenage mothers and their babies, and Azul Wasi, a house for boys who were once shining shoes on the streets.

Mrs Brown said: 'Our boys and girls responded magnificently to the call to help their disadvantaged peers who face a daily struggle for survival'.



Josee

When last year my school presented me with the opportunity to apply for a trimester as a Gap Student in Solihull School I wasn't convinced, since I didn't feel I was the right person for this amazing experience, however with the support of my family and friends I applied, and after many meetings I got the place, and that made me feel much more confident about myself.

When I knew that I had been selected I didn't only think that I was coming to Solihull School to improve my English, but also to know the British and the rest of the European culture. Without any doubt I have to take advantage of this experience as much as I can, because travelling to Europe is not something you can do every day, and maybe this is my only chance to be here. For example, during the Easter Holidays, Diego and I travelled around eastern Europe, visiting six countries in total, and we learned from different cultures and ways of living; it was an exhausting trip, nevertheless, totally worth it, and of course, once I finish my period as a Gap Student here in Solihull, I will keep travelling until September or October.

I have to recognise that with this trip I have learned to appreciate many things, including being independent and having more self-confidence. Another thing that I achieved with this experience is realising that family and friends are always there for giving their support, regardless of the distance. To finalise, I would like to say thanks to all the people that made this trip an enriching experience, especially to the family that hosted me and made me feel like home; Rihanna's family, Miss Sarah Smith and Miss Julie Brown and her sons Shaun and Iain.

I have only a few days left here in Solihull School, and the only thing that I hope is to have helped as much as possible in every aspect, because I am really thankful for this trip, and I hope more students can go through the wonderful experience I am living right now.

Josee
28 May 2012



made. A GAP year was just perfect for me at the time, not only for the experience, but it would also give me time to think a little bit more about the decision I had taken for university. My GAP period here in England is about to finish now and I can safely say that without a doubt I made the right decision. This experience has been incredible and it has taught me many things: independence, family life, language, just to mention a few, and it has given me the opportunity to do many extra things such as travelling around different countries of Europe like Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and England itself, and thanks to Mr.Brattle's help, attend a medicine career day at Keele University which helped me to confirm that medicine was the right thing for me.

When you are travelling on your own you learn to live by your own means. It gives you the freedom of deciding where you are going or what you are doing next, but it also comes with a great responsibility attached – nobody is going to plan those things for you, you have to book the plane tickets, the hotel rooms, the activities, the food, etc. Suddenly it isn't just getting in the family car and letting your parents do the rest of the work anymore!

Finally I would like to thank all the staff, students and families at Solihull School who were very nice to me, but specially Julie Brown, who made all of this possible. Also, I'd like to thank the Spanish department and my hosting families: the Jones and the Elkin-Richmonds. With both families I had the most wonderful time, learning about the different English traditions like Saturday football or duck racing, family life and many other things which made every single moment I spent with them feel special.

I regret absolutely nothing about my GAP experience; every single moment here has made me grow and I now feel prepared to go back and begin my university life.

Finally if you feel the same way I felt before my GAP year; why not take a couple of months to go to Chile? The Wessex School is always looking for GAP students to help with English lessons. I'm sure that if you do, you will have a very nice experience, just like mine!

Diego



Diego

My experience in Solihull School began when I came to England for the first time, more than three years ago, with the Wessex School group from Chile. In that opportunity we only stayed 3 days, but it was enough to completely interest me in the GAP possibility and at the end of my journey through England I promised myself that I would come back some day...

Two years passed and the moment came for me to decide what I would study at University. Not completely sure about what I would do, I finally chose Medicine, sat my exams and got accepted at Universidad de Chile, but then the possibility of a GAP year at Solihull School appeared and I guess you could say that it was one of the easiest decisions I have ever

Chilean Gap Year Students

Once again this year we were fortunate to welcome two Gap Year students from Wessex School in Concepción, Chile. Every year, these students make a fantastic contribution not only to the teaching of Spanish, but to so many other areas of School life. Needless to say, Diego Costenla and Josefa Montserrat were no exception.

Josefa's sunny personality and zest for life engaged everyone with whom she came into contact and I am sure that teachers and pupils alike would agree that their experience of Spanish and P.E. was enriched by working with her. Josefa supported the delivery of Spanish admirably and was an invaluable member of our team during the months she was here.

Diego brought a quiet assurance to all he did during his time at Solihull School, ably assisting Mr Irving in the teaching of I.C.T. and supporting and encouraging all the students he encountered while in Spanish lessons. Diego is a very accomplished young man who is destined, one feels, to achieve great things in the future.

Both Josefa and Diego told us that their time at Solihull had been 'unforgettable'. The months they spent here will have served as a tremendous learning experience for both of them and they go home with a much improved knowledge of the cultures and languages they experienced first-hand, both here and on the Continent. They also wished, through me, to give their heartfelt thanks to the staff and pupils who made them feel so welcome. Furthermore, I would like to thank the host families whose hospitality made Diego and Josefa's stay here possible.

Josefa and Diego return to Chile both with our very best wishes and with very fond memories of two tremendous ambassadors for their country and their continent.

Mr P E Morgan,
Head of Spanish



Wessex Visit to Solihull School 15th - 18th May

For the seventh year running forty-two students from the Wessex School, Chile, visited Solihull School for a four day stay in May. Twenty-two Solihull School families of both teachers and pupils hosted the students and gave them an authentic English family life experience in the West Midlands. Whether it was taking the Chileans out for dinner, bowling, staying at home playing games or serving up traditional fish and chips, the hosting families played their part extremely well and the Chileans enjoyed their stay very much.

During the first two days Solihull School took their visitors to historic places around Solihull, like the city of Coventry, Warwick University and Kenilworth Castle. It was for many their first time in a castle and they were all amazed by the beauty of the place – not a single possible photograph was left untaken. But not everything was history and culture, as the students were taken to Cadbury World one morning where they had their ration of chocolate-covered fun, returning to School just in time for lunch and a brief glimpse at school activities. With the help of Mrs Wilde, Mrs Fair and four Upper Sixth students, Wessex had a drama lesson, and with the help of Ms Harford and Diego (our GAP student from the same school in Chile) a group of the students had a little debate on the topic of 'should prisoners be allowed to vote?' After these activities the Wessex group had a one-to-one session with Shell Form Spanish students where they shared their speaking skills. Wessex students were amazed at how enthusiastic the Shell Form students were and complimented them on their Spanish.

That afternoon under a shining sun, both schools had their now traditional sports events, where the Wessex boys won the football and even though Wessex girls received help from Josee (the other Chilean GAP student) Solihull girls just managed to win the rounders. In the end the results lost all relevance when, in a very friendly spirit, Solihull School families, students and their Chilean counterparts enjoyed a buffet supper in the Pavilion.



Finally on Friday, the Wessex School delighted us with an assembly combining live music with a visual display of Chile from north to south, and a modern-day tribute song to Violeta Parra, the famous Chilean artist. The farewells were then made and after many group photographs the students left for Warwick Castle and other sights and locations on their month-long trip that would take them around England, Scotland, Wales and France.

Diego Constenla



Onatti Theatre Company

Primera Cita

In December 2012, the students of Spanish in the Shell, Fourth and Lower Fifth Forms had the opportunity to watch a play called *Primera Cita* (*First Date*). This was presented completely in Spanish, and for most this must have been their first chance to witness a Spanish production of any sort! The company, Onatti Productions, knows a great deal about producing theatre in foreign languages for schools. They are aware that younger pupils will be a little apprehensive about their ability to follow a whole play in Spanish, but they ensure that the scripts contain lots of words and phrases which beginners will have come across in class in their first few months of learning the language. The actors were native Spanish, both from the Valencia region.



German Exchange Trip

At the end of September 2011, the Lower Fifth German class hosted students from the Elizabethschule in Hofheim, near Frankfurt in Germany. Having had a taster of the hot English weather, it was their turn to play host the following March. The much-anticipated trip proved to be better than we first thought; with numerous shopping trips to Frankfurt, Sam Manek-Robinson speaking on live German radio station FFH, and other culture-themed trips including a Roman Fort and the Opel factory. Also, time spent with our German partners and families turned out to be time well spent, and the language barrier never caused the problems we feared it could. The Elizabethschule was, despite being much smaller than Solihull School, still an impressive, modern school. During our time there, we attended various lessons in German, where having to translate French lessons into German pushed our language skills to the limit!

We all left Germany feeling as if we understood the country and its language better. We are, of course, very thankful to Frau Cramb and Dr Troth for making it all possible!

Sam Ashby

News from the German Department

The Director of German from Aston University, Dr Uwe Schütte, gave the Upper Sixth German group a revision class on the Fall of the Berlin Wall, an A-Level Cultural Topic.

Dorothee Sachse, a German lecturer from Birmingham University, spoke to the Upper Sixth German class about The German Academic Exchange Service and updated us on the German Education System.

We are also proud to announce that the German Magazine *Das Alles ist Deutschland* has a direct web-link on the Best Practice Page of the Goethe Institut in London:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/lhr/pen/fir/de9046861.htm>



The stage was divided into two. On one side was a girl's bedroom and on the other was a boy's bedroom. The story was a hilarious observation of two love-struck Spanish teenagers, María and Carlos, getting ready for that most important date! In both bedrooms there was hysteria, panic, fear and apprehension. María had issues with her make-up, her hair, her clothes and a very untimely spot on her face, while Carlos, in his room, attempted his first ever shave!

The pupils seemed to really enjoy the experience and these are some of their comments:

'I enjoyed the humour and excitement of the play. The acting was brilliant and there was never a dull moment'.

'I loved the play because it was so funny and they entertained everyone. I learnt lots of Spanish'.

'The acting and the props meant that we could understand it without knowing a lot of Spanish'.

'The play considered our age group and it was easy to relate to. Also it made me laugh!'

'It was interesting and educational at the same time and I could learn whilst having fun'.

We are very grateful to the Onatti Company for their efforts to bring a genuine piece of entertainment within the reach of younger learners. We look forward to the next production!

Les Garçons

Les Garçons – The Boys. This is the name of the play that was watched on Wednesday 9th November 2011 by the Lower School. It was played by two people who were both native French. However, we were all concerned as the play was completely and utterly in French!

Natalie was coming to the Dulin's house to babysit two-year-old Bruno, whilst his parents went out to a cocktail party. After being given a long list of emergency contacts, Natalie was finally alone in the house with Bruno. The evening passed, however, Natalie then received a text from Tristan, her ex-boyfriend, pleading to get back together with her. Reluctantly she invited him to stay. Natalie, using three of Bruno's toys, showed us how she had been going out with Tristan until she had seen him with another girl. Just as this mini-show ended, a loud banging sound came from outside. Natalie was petrified and called upon a boy in the Fourth Form to save her. The pupil followed Natalie's orders and banged the person outside the window on the head with a saucepan. That person turned out to be Tristan who emerged through the door seconds later! From then on, Tristan had the worst luck ever.

The show was a huge success and everyone was engrossed through the whole of it, even though it was all in French! It was particularly impressive because all the parts were played by just two actors, cleverly changing in between scenes. A big thank you to the Onatti Theatre Company and we hope you come back soon!

Cerys Stansfield

Alles wird anders (Everything will be different)

This year we were fortunate enough to watch a play by the Onatti Theatre Company. The play is about a teenage boy who has a passion for singing. His friends think it's stupid and so do his classmates and parents, so he's stuck with a dilemma. He finds the flat next door which is unoccupied and practises there until a new girl and her father move in.

The girl is startled when he climbs in through her bedroom window and won't leave. Once he does, Mark realises he has to go back to the flat to retrieve some personal items he left there. He bumps into her again and they soon become good friends and she finds out about his singing talent.

He gets accepted to go to an audition but first he needs to build up his confidence. So, he goes and practises with Melissa and becomes more confident. When it reaches the audition he becomes nervous and will only go on stage with her. They both sing together.

A few weeks later Mark gets a letter saying he did not make the next stage in the competition, however Melissa does.

'The play was fantastic and very funny. Through the humour we learnt many new words and grammatical phrases'.

'It taught us how to put new vocabulary into sentences in the correct order and it gave us the opportunity to join in and get involved'.

'Even if we didn't know some of the words we could work them out by what was going on'.

'Everybody enjoyed it very much. The two actors were amazing and very funny'.

Rachel Hedley and Jade Gilmore



Solihull School / Colegio Oleza Exchange Programme 2012

Sunday 25th March 2012 – Sunday 1st April 2012
¡Nuestro programa de intercambio ya está en marcha!

Our exchange programme is underway!

On Sunday 25th March 2012 we welcomed our new Spanish exchange partners from Colegio Oleza in Orihuela (Alicante). Seventeen pupils and two teachers were met at Birmingham Airport on Sunday afternoon and from there they embarked upon an exciting week of cultural and linguistic exchange.

Monday 26th March provided our Spanish visitors with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the 'Shakespearean' aspects of our area, with visits to Stratford-upon-Avon, the home of the Bard, Wilmcote, the home of his mother, Mary Arden, and Henley-in-Arden, where on a beautiful spring day we enjoyed locally produced ice-cream. As if this wasn't enough, all the staff, pupils and parents involved in the Exchange enjoyed a typically English afternoon tea, after which all pupils and staff had their photograph taken wearing their new, specially commissioned exchange programme tee-shirts.

The following day, the Colegio Oleza pupils embarked upon a walking tour of Solihull in the company of John Loynton and Mr Gunning, while their teachers were given a guided tour of the School in Spanish by our A-Level Spanish students. Then, in the afternoon, thanks to the great efforts of Mr Thompson, the Director of Sport, and his team, all the pupils involved in the exchange took part in an exciting range of sports events.

One of the highlights of the visit was the trip to Cadbury World on the Wednesday. Our Spanish guests were taken to the famous Bournville factory by Mr Morgan and Mrs Brown, where they had the opportunity to learn about the production of chocolate and even sample some of Cadbury's most famous products. Following the visit to Cadbury World, the Colegio Oleza pupils attended lessons with their Solihull colleagues and learnt more about how teaching and learning takes place in this country.

Thursday was another exciting day. Mrs Campbell took our Spanish guests to Coventry Cathedral and the ancient town of Kenilworth, after which time, all pupils had another opportunity to show off their skills in sport.

On the final Friday of the Easter term, our Spanish friends attended the final assembly of the school term, during which our A-Level Spanish students gave a presentation in Spanish on the region of Valencia, which is where Orihuela, the home of Colegio Oleza is located. Moreover, our Spanish guests were entertained by our musicians who played a Spanish dance to everyone's delight.

After a final weekend with their English host families, our friends from Colegio Oleza flew back to Alicante on the Sunday morning, and while we bade them a fond 'adiós', we also said 'hasta la vista', as we will be seeing them all again soon when we visit them in Orihuela in October!

El domingo 25 de marzo 2012 dimos la bienvenida a nuestros nuevos compañeros de intercambio del Colegio Oleza de Orihuela (Alicante). Diecisiete alumnos y dos profesores fueron recibidos en el aeropuerto de Birmingham en la tarde del domingo y desde allí se embarcaron en una excitante semana de intercambio cultural y lingüístico.

El lunes 26 de marzo proporcionó a nuestros visitantes españoles la oportunidad de sumergirse en los aspectos shakespearianos de nuestra zona, con visitas a Stratford-upon-Avon, la cuna del poeta, Wilmcote, la casa de su madre, Mary Arden, y Henley-in-Arden, donde en un hermoso día de primavera, disfrutamos de unos helados artesanos. Como si esto fuera poco, todo el personal, alumnos y padres de familia que participan en el Intercambio disfrutaron de un té inglés, después de lo cual a todos los alumnos y el personal se les sacó una fotografía con sus nuevas camisetas puestas.



Al día siguiente, los alumnos del Colegio Oleza se embarcaron en un tour a pie de Solihull, en compañía de John Loynton y Señor Gunning, mientras que a sus profesoras se les dio una visita guiada al instituto en español por nuestros estudiantes de español de nivel A. Luego, por la tarde, gracias a los grandes esfuerzos del Sr. Thompson, el Director de Deporte, y su equipo, todos los alumnos que participan en el intercambio participaron en una excitante gama de eventos deportivos.

Uno de los aspectos más destacados de la visita fue el viaje a Cadbury World del miércoles. Nuestros invitados españoles fueron llevados a la famosa fábrica de Bournville por el Sr. Morgan y la señora Brown, donde tuvieron la oportunidad de aprender sobre la producción de chocolate, e incluso probar algunos de los productos más famosos de Cadbury. Tras la visita a Cadbury World, los alumnos del Colegio Oleza asistieron a clases con sus colegas en Solihull y aprendieron más acerca de cómo la enseñanza y el aprendizaje se llevan a cabo en este país.

El jueves fue un día emocionante. La señora Campbell llevó a nuestros invitados españoles a la catedral de Coventry y a la antigua ciudad de Kenilworth, después de lo cual, todos los alumnos tuvieron otra oportunidad de mostrar sus habilidades en el deporte.

En viernes, nuestros amigos españoles asistieron a la asamblea final del trimestre escolar, durante el cual nuestros estudiantes de español de nivel A hicieron una presentación en español sobre la región de Valencia, que es donde Orihuela, la casa del Colegio Oleza está localizada. Por otra parte, nuestros amigos españoles fueron entretenidos por nuestros músicos quienes tocaron un baile español para el deleite de todos.

Después de un último fin de semana con sus familias inglesas, nuestros amigos del Colegio Oleza volaron de regreso a Alicante la mañana del domingo, y mientras que nos despedimos de ellos con un caluroso "Adiós", también dijimos "hasta la vista", ya que los veremos pronto a todos, cuando los visitemos en Orihuela en octubre.

Rugby - The 1st XV

P19 W15 D1 L3 PF 700 PA 193

The new season began with the customary annual warm-up trial fixture v St Paul's School London. The hang-over from Twickenham had long gone and it was down to business as usual: who wanted to wear the 1st XV shirt with pride? We welcomed St Paul's for the first time to Solihull School and marked the occasion with a delicious succulent pig roast for after-match refreshments. On the pitch, Solihull School also laid on a good spread for the eye and all were relatively optimistic that this could be another epic season. The odd dust-up occurred but not a step backwards was taken. It was a trial, but we won!

A new leader had also been born, putting pay to the old adage that props have nothing between cauliflower ears! Tim Trace stood tall and willingly accepted the challenge of leading this new band of merry men into battle. The potential was certainly there to re-write the history books: more later.

As always, the Porsche-like School minibus fleet took us to the King's Macclesfield Tournament with some committed parents in tow. The day saw the XV play a mix of hard and fluent rugby. Lancaster Grammar School were brutes, but we outwitted them, whilst Dean Close are still emerging and we showed them why! Ellesmere College and Denstone College also learnt how to lose: and the Solihull School train was running smoothly. Next up, Old Swinford Hospital in our own backyard. We were going for 3 years on the trot!

They came as always with a swagger in their step and the tension could be cut with a hack saw, let alone a knife! The game was nip and tuck with both sets of forwards knocking chunks out of each other. However, the XV's backs were far more oiled and overcame an OSH backline with only one quality player. With us in the lead 11-7, OSH continued to pound our white wash and throw the kitchen sink at us but we were resistant in our defence. Yes, 3 on the trot: played 1, won 1.

The next opponents were confidence personified: King's School Worcester. Solihull School apparently stood no chance according to Facebook (whatever/whoever that is) and Twitter. KSW possessed an all-International back row. It was a thriller in Manila. Perfect conditions allowed for an expansive game which both sides duly accepted and laid on a true spectacle. At times the man in the middle struggled with the pace – Usain Bolt would have too! The off-side line was non-existent which allowed their terrier-like 7 to affect play. The score stood at 8-8...last ruck...their 7 comes in at the side...we have Lord Rodman...it's kickable...referee...I'll leave readers to conclude! The XV dusted themselves off after the draw and enjoyed a saunter down the highway to King Henry VIII Coventry. This was to be the last time the schools would meet in a block fixture. With both the 1st XV and 2nd XV barely moving out of 1st gear, it was an opportunity for the coaching panel to blood some new players. They accepted the challenge and the end result was a comprehensive 54-0 drubbing.

A new challenge lay ahead of the XV on the Wednesday, in the form of Hartpury College (basically Gloucester RFC Academy). Our XV would no longer be in their comfort zone. From 1 to 15 the boys were tested and put in the pressure cooker: what a steep learning curve! They were all taught tricks of the trade that no rugby manual could show – the dark underworld. We lost 5-24 but it was a credible result and had served

a purpose. Life was always going to be tough when they had another 15 players on the bench, some of whom were internationals.

The Daily Mail Cup saw us have a bye in Round 1 due to last year's day out at HQ. On the Saturday we tackled an abrasive Loughborough Grammar School but in the engine room and outside we were just too strong and won 35-10. And so to the Wednesday and another new opponent: the renowned RGS High Wycombe School, a school with great rugby prowess. It was a day to remember! Never have I been witness to such a display of awesome rugby. At times we couldn't believe our eyes. RGS High Wycombe were completely shell-shocked and bowled over by what was hitting them. On their fixture card were the likes of Harrow, Eaton and Oakham – this wasn't how it had meant to go. The closing moments, with us 27-15 to the good, saw an attack started behind our own try line: simply champagne of the highest order. It ended with a length of the field score and RGS just in tatters. We won 32-15 and it was pure class!

In a similar vein, Adams Grammar School were also put to bed with a score of 33-16 which took us nicely into Round 2 of the Cup against rivals King Edward's Birmingham. On a damp drizzly day, our spark plugs were clearly not firing properly and at times we struggled to change up through the gears. But slowly, our power and excellent running times began to destroy the opposition. On we went with a 38-3 victory. The snowball effect was now occurring with the XV sweeping aside, with panache, Magdalen College 45-14, King Edward's Five Ways 50-0 (round 3 of the Cup), RGS Worcester 59-3 and King Edward's Birmingham again 29-14. All was going to plan prior to our Round 4 Cup game against King's Worcester.

Wednesday 23rd November 2011: D-Day! The squad were confident they could write the history books by winning the Vase and Cup in consecutive years. Of course, initially nerves affected a few, especially the referee! But the boys soon settled down and began to play some of the rugby they were capable of. Heading into half time we were 14-0 up and control seemed to be ours. But again, the self-destruct button came out and we pressed it. Constant pressure saw KSW take the lead 19-14 with 15 minutes on the clock. Our 'never say die' spirit trawled us back to 19-19 but again KSW pushed ahead 22-19 with an easily taken penalty. But there was still time. We attacked and attacked! And...yes...penalty...kickable...last 2 minutes...I'll let the reader conclude.

After such a soul-destroying loss, Nottingham High School were always going to be a tough prospect away from home. The opposition were fired up like the Olympic flame and not even the gale force winds could put it out. The XV suffered a heavy 17-32 defeat but would use this loss to spur them on to the end of the season. The next team, Trent College, bore the brunt of the backlash with a humiliating 53-0 thrashing. Perhaps the Old Boys would present more of a challenge. To be fair they had all of the gear, but no idea! 45-10 was a fair reflection of the game as vintage players such as Carey, Trenchard and Winter struggled to cope with exceptional pace. King Edward's Camp Hill were then punished 57-7 in appalling conditions with standing water on the pitch. Again the team rose above this and put on an awesome display of complete running rugby. Against King Edward's Aston we put out the youngest XV ever (according to the new club stalwart Mr Covill) and won 55-3.

As always the final emotional game was against Bablake. The boys ended a golden year with a 55-5 victory, a fitting end to a fabulous season.

We have enjoyed every second with this talented group of players and wish them every success in the future. Thank you for some excellent memories. A huge amount of gratitude to Tim for his efforts this season: a true leader who always wore his heart on his sleeve. And finally, thank you to all parents for their support on this emotional roller coaster.

Congratulations must go to Lawrence Finch who was selected to play for England U16A XV and also Louis Roach and Jonathan Allen who played for the Midlands U16 XV. At U18 level, congratulations to Jack Hobbs and Maxwell Rodman who also played for the Midlands.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle



2nd XV

P16 W10 D0 L6 PF 406 PA 199

This was always going to be a difficult season. With a lot of the old guard having moved on, the team took on a younger look as the few stalwarts that remained – Charlie Poole, Usama Rahman, Callum Curtiss, Sam Weighall – were mixed with the dogged determination of Will Hughes, James Hornigold, Will Harland, Harry Pick and Conor Watt and the never-say-die attitude of youth in the shape of Sam Montieri, Connor Brookes, Elliott Botterill and George Gamlin.

As a consequence, the first half term saw plenty of endeavour and commitment but there wasn't too much finesse as the team had to play against older and wiser teams whose extra strength and weight often had a greater influence on the game, nullifying our attempts to play fast-flowing and expansive rugby. Despite such setbacks we managed to scrape two victories against Old Swinford Hospital and King's Worcester before cutting loose against King Henry VIII Coventry. Despite such promise we were taught some hard lessons against Hartpury College and RGS High Wycombe before capitulating against Loughborough Grammar School in what was by far the most disappointing performance of the season.

After contemplation over the half term break we returned determined to succeed and put up a good account of ourselves. The response was instant. Having learnt our lessons we had become fitter, stronger and smarter and began to play



with a swagger that resulted in a good win against Magdalen College, before cutting loose against RGS Worcester, winning 72-0. We scored three tries in the first half: they were from our own try line and involved wonderful inter-play between forwards and backs in a fast-flowing brand of handling rugby. Confidence was high and high standards were maintained in the following games against King Edward's Birmingham and Trent College. We took a very good Nottingham High School all the way before just missing out on an elusive second half-term grand slam.

After Christmas there was some unbelievable play and the season was wrapped up with fine wins against King Edward's Aston and Bablake.

Throughout the season individuals made much progress – Charlie Poole was metronomic in his consistency, Usama Rahman competed throughout, Nick Morris emerged as a dependable back row forward, Harry Pick used his experience to pull the strings at fly half for most of the season, and Oliver Griffin played his best rugby on the wing. The pace, tenacity and guile of Sam Weighall was also the hallmark of what was a promising year.

However, such a report cannot be complete without a mention of our captain and, in my view, inspirational centre and leader James Morris. James galvanised this side and moulded them into a fine rugby team. His enthusiasm was infectious and on all occasions he led from the front whether it be tackling, off loading, support running or scoring some memorable tries. Like all good captains he was a very good talker on the pitch, organising attack and defence.

My thanks go to the team for an enjoyable year, and especially to James for all his efforts both on and off the pitch.

Mr M Covill

Rugby – Sevens Squad

All the potential to be a Ferrari but happy to be a Robin Reliant! The VII were entered for six tournaments, culminating in the trip to Rosslyn Park. Spirits were high considering the free-flowing style in which we had played the full version of the game.

The VII had a slow start at the Hereford Marches Tournament and didn't qualify from the group. Our trip to the Fylde 7's also brought similar results and perhaps reality was dawning. Our trip to Cambridge RUFC was eventful: losing in the final of the plate on the same day our 2nd VII failed to qualify from the group at the KS Worcester 7's. The Solihull 7's was an epic, and we lost in the semi-final to Warwick. So many missed scoring opportunities! BLAST!

And so Rosslyn Park: why are rugby academies allowed in? It's never an equal playing field. The VII won games against schools but against Filton College we couldn't compete. A sad exit to the largest competition but the VII had made an excellent account of themselves.

Well done to all of the boys and thank you for your efforts. It has been thoroughly enjoyable.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

3rd XV

The younger members of the 3rd XV have had a comprehensive introduction into senior rugby this season and should be proud of their efforts. Often playing against more experienced and more physical 3rd XV's, they have always produced competitive performances. When the backs were allowed to play on the front foot, the team produced some excellent attacking rugby, with players such as Tom Griesbach, Cameron Powell and Alex Blake at the centre of free-flowing moves. The forwards also played their part, with players such as Charles Toher and James Jervis developing into effective ball-carriers by the end of the season. Such performances lead to impressive wins against Magdalen College and Warwick School and tight draws against King Edward's Birmingham, Stratford, Bablake and RGS Worcester. While the results card does reflect some missed opportunities, the future of Solihull rugby looks bright.

4th XV

P8 W5 L3

A new season brought a new team to Senior Rugby at Solihull School in the form of the 4th XV. Having an extra team did not mean a weakening of Senior Rugby at Solihull School, far from it. The results we secured over our inaugural season are testament to the strength in depth of squad players we have at the School. Key victories over Old Swinford, King's Worcester and, most of all, Warwick School provide the evidence of how strong Solihull is all the way through the Senior Squad.

Due to the coaching staff's willingness to ensure there was strong competition for places, the squad was always changing. This meant there wasn't really any regular member of the squad, but mentions must go out to the likes of James Jervis and Harry Morgan who always gave their all throughout the matches. Also to Matt Morris for giving sterling work be it at flanker or even scrum-half, when the need arose. Alex Cromie also put in good work when he played for the 4ths. Of course, there must be a mention for Dan Beck, who provided maturity with his captaincy. Special mention must also go to Nick Novak and Rhys Ponsonby, who instilled the esprit de corps of the 4th XV.

Dr P Jukes

U15

The U15 Rugby Season was a thoroughly enjoyable affair. The unity and bond which grew within the entire squad was amazing to watch, and goes a long way to explain why, for the first time ever, the tour party grew to 30 players! So I won't, for once, go through and mention each and every player in this report. Suffice to say that everyone played a huge part in U15 Rugby 2011 – 12.

It was on a beautiful, sunny September afternoon – our second match of the season, against King's Worcester - that something really special happened: an 80-point turnaround from a 40-point defeat at U14! But it was the manner of the performance that staggered us all. We were so physical, so confrontational, so much in control. And we scored some scintillating tries! It was stunning.

From this one hour of rugby, we gained huge confidence and self-belief. In fact, it carried us through the whole season. We went on to reach new highs – albeit in defeat - with fantastic performances against RGS High Wycombe, Ellesmere College, and a Warwickshire County XV.



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The defeat against Ellesmere knocked us out of the Daily Mail Cup in Round 5. To be more precise, the Ellesmere full-back knocked us out. It left a bitter taste. So when Bedford Modern asked us for a warm-up match prior to their Cup Quarter-Final we went out with a point to prove. Our performance in achieving a 30 -17 victory was as close to perfection as you're ever going to get. It was the 15-a-side highlight of the season, and our 'band of brothers' was totally united.

It was with this supreme sense of togetherness that we launched our Sevens campaign. Six high-profile tournaments began with an encouraging runners-up place at Nottingham. A bizarre refereeing decision knocked us out of our own tournament at the quarter-final stage. We topped our group at King's Macclesfield (beating MGS thanks to Harry Sharpe's amazing try, then Wilmslow with a team performance worthy of a 'Sevens Heaven' accolade!) only to lose in the quarter-final to Stockport Grammar, the eventual winners. We were losing finalists at King's Worcester and Adams' Grammar School, but reached a third final at Warwick...

What a day at Warwick! We won our group – I shan't forget James Hart's thunderous tackle on some poor Bablake fellow; I hope he's okay! Then there was more refereeing controversy in the knockout stages against Sedbergh. We scored the match-winning try with the last passage of play, only to learn that the referee had not recorded one of our earlier scores and declared Sedbergh winners! After lengthy debate, we were rightly awarded the match. We easily beat Adams' Grammar School in the semi-final, and went on to lift the Trophy in a glorious (and tense) final against Denstone College. Is the Sevens 2012 Team my 'best ever'? Oh yes! Over all six tournaments, the players became masters of their art. They can be truly proud of their Sevens' achievements.

Such success is borne of hard work, both on and off the pitch. And no one worked harder than the U15 Captain, James Hart. James was a wonderful liaison between players and coach; his authority and tactical acumen grew as the season progressed, and his pre-match speech in his final game at the helm was sheer majesty. James, thank you - your contribution was immense.

And so a fit, talented, successful 30-man squad landed in South West France for the annual U15 Rugby Tour. Much has already been said and documented through albums and DVDs, so I won't go on at length. It was fantastic; another thoroughly enjoyable experience. The boys were not only sensational ambassadors for School and Country, but great company, too. Their good humour and conviviality, combined with their professional approach to match days, made the tour an overwhelming success.





Written during the post-match hiatus prior to our evening banquet at Stade Bordelais, Giles Lawrence has allowed me to share with you, once again, his wonderful poem:

*We came here from a foreign land.
We ate your food, saw your sand.
But today we came to play
At your ground, Stade Bordelais.
We all fought hard, it was fair game
until it became more than rational.
Instead it was l'Angleterre - Français,
an International.
The game has finished yet there is
something to learn,
and we hope someday we can return.
Not as School, but Nations too,
We leave you with these gifts of thanks.
Their importance, for it is sincere
And thank you for letting us here.
But for now Au Revoir
And from all of us here, Bonne Soir!*

In writing my report, and reflecting upon this past season, my overriding emotion is one of sheer enjoyment. The tears shed, by one and all (me included), after our last game together in France, is testament to the passion, loyalty and friendships that grew over the course of the year. I truly will have the fondest of memories of the 2011-12 U15 rugby season, and I wish all the players the very best of fortunes as they embrace the world of senior rugby at Solihull School.

In addition to Mr Sean Morgan and Mr Andrew Wild, I really must thank all our 'U15 Parents' for your unstinting support. You were brilliant - I can't thank you enough!

Mr P Jackson

U14A

P15 W13 L1

Our hopes were high for the forthcoming season after two very successful years. The strength of the team lay up front. The front row was made up of Nick Chitty, Frank Fogarty and Nick Empson (who had never played in the front row before). The locks, Alec Ladbrooke and Alex Bevins, played well together in front of the back row, Charlie Morgan and Ollie Cottom were

excellent flankers, and the inspirational captain, Ben Fowles at Number 8, created a vital partnership with Ben Osborne at scrum half, creating and scoring many tries between themselves.

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

Will Davies, with the help of Ben Osborne at scrum half, controlled the back line. The season saw a powerful runner Adam Roberts at full back, with the skilful Ben Levett-Dunn on the left wing, and the new boy Ben Griffiths on the right.

This was a very successful season. The team were unbeaten up until the last game before Christmas which saw us lose to Trent College. There had been some excellent performances including a 60-point demolition of Old Swinford Hospital and several other high-scoring victories. The game against Adams Grammar was a very tight match and we managed to come away victorious. After Christmas we were unable to remain unbeaten, losing to a good side from King Edward's Aston.

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

U14B

Owing to prolonged injuries in both 'A' and 'B' squads, 2011/12 was a very tough season for the U14's second string. The team suffered some heavy defeats and both forwards and backs struggled to exert themselves in the absence of individuals who had been so influential last year. Despite these difficulties, many players stepped up to the mark and fought hard for the School - Matt Gibbons always led by example in the middle of the park, evading tackles and going over the gain line. In addition, Jennings Fantini injected much needed pace both from wing forward and wing and James Johnson was always prepared to put his body on the line in pursuit of a much needed ball. Ross McCormack's evasive running was also a feature well worthy of a mention in this report. Two results that stand out are a thumping 50-0 demolition of RGS Worcester and a very satisfying victory over King Henry VIII, Coventry. All the boys who represented the team should be proud of the contribution they made in trying circumstances.

Mr P Morgan and Mr S Phillips

U13

After the disappointing results of last year, there was an excitement and determination in the team to improve upon our performance.

The first game for the A-team was against Old Swinford Hospital, and Solihull gained their first win, 48-0. This was a great result and really boosted the morale of the team. We then went on to win against King's Worcester (31-22) and King Henry VIII Coventry (39-7). However, we struggled against Loughborough, losing 12-43, as we allowed their star player to break through our defence too many times.

Very disappointed with this defeat, we worked hard to improve, and the training paid off when we won the next six games, with highlights including beating rivals Bromsgrove 28-12 (reversing a heavy battering from last season), victory over King Edward's Birmingham 21-5 in a gruelling match, and then dominating RGS Worcester to win 50-0.

However, when we came up against Trent College, we were beaten at the breakdown with their huge number 8 breaking through many tackles. Learning from this experience, we took away the negatives of the match and worked hard to correct them before destroying Camp Hill and Bablake, both 50-0.

As the season drew to a close, we were denied the opportunity (due to adverse weather) of facing our toughest opportunity, unbeaten Warwick! However, we knew we had improved so much over the course of the season, thanks to the dedication and determination of Mr Jenkinson and Mr Bishop's great coaching. We had finished the season on a high after having won 11 out of our 13 games. The overall team performance was immense; this included Sam Kandola and Paolo Peschisolido impressing by scoring numerous tries and making deadly runs, Will Farnworth ferreting around the rucks and mauls and the accuracy of Benny Watson's kicking.

The B-team also had a very successful season, putting pressure on A-team members to perform, committing well to training and improving their performance in games. They won their first two matches but soon lost to Loughborough and then Bromsgrove. They worked hard to correct their errors and then succeeded in winning the next three games. Having been beaten by Nottingham High School, they finished the season with a well-earned win against Trent College. Out of ten games, they won seven.

The Sevens Season was also hugely successful. After two semi-finals and one final loss, we won the tournament at Adam's Grammar School with no defeats throughout the competition, which was a great achievement for us.

At the Solihull Schools Tournament we were looking to perform to use our home soil advantage. We won the group beating Arden, Old Swinford Hospital and King Henry's and then beat Magdalen College 31-5 in the quarter-finals. However, despite performing well, we were beaten by Aylesbury in a closely fought game.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly advancing through to the second day of the prestigious Rosslyn Park National Sevens Tournament. Amazingly, we won our group easily, beating Hampton School, De La Salle College and Barnard Castle School. We then faced Langley in the final 32 stage of the competition and beat them 38-5 and were buzzing. Next up we played Wimbledon and pulled out a great performance winning 41-7.

These fine performances took us into the second day but in the quarter-final we played the excellent Welsh side Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf and lost 18-33. They then went on to win the National Sevens, so the team of Charles Davies, Paolo Peschisolido, Harry Manek- Robinson, Sam Kandola, Joe Church, Benny Watson, Tom Ritson, Max Angelides, William Farnworth and Alistair Bevan can pride themselves as one of the top sevens U13s teams in the country!

Credit must be given to Mr Jenkinson, Mr Bishop and Mr Emmet for giving up their time and energy to ensure such a drastic improvement in our performance. The boys are all hopeful this improvement will continue into next year.

Alistair Bevan

U12A XV

P16 W12 DO L4

This was very much a developing season in which we blew hot and cold. The work ethic amongst the boys was a pleasure to see and a number of new talents were exposed. At the end of the day the squad were crowned joint Borough Champions... so basically have another year before they put that score right!

Notable victories came against Bromsgrove, Adams Grammar School, King Edward's Birmingham and Pates Grammar School when the boys played expansive running rugby with excellent off loads and quick ruck ball. There were hard lessons to learn against Nottingham High School and Magdalen College School. Against the latter we were physically intimidated and our game plan became non-existent. It must be said that all players' skill levels improved throughout and this must now be developed further.

Well done to all indeed. It was an enjoyable season and the students were a pleasure to work with.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

U12B XV

The U12B XV had a good season as they went from strength to strength. From small acorns grow mighty oaks: a perfect analogy for this year.

At the start of the season we were hampered not only by the yo-yo effect of playing personal as every attempt was made to see all players, but also the fact that for many individuals this was their first taste of Rugby Union. What was evident from the start was that amongst our brethren there was some skill, spread throughout the forwards and especially the backs, which when combined with good old-fashioned determination and spirit, saw some good victories. However, against Warwick and RGS Worcester we were not as fortunate, where despite our toil it was evident that these schools had players who had played a lot more rugby.

Nevertheless, as the team became more settled the effectiveness of our back line became more apparent. The match of the season was a close and hard fought victory over King Edward's Aston, with a try in the corner with the final play of the game resulting in a 28-26 win, having been 21-10 down at half time! This showed how far we had progressed with the technical side of the game. The back line hit some nice lines and the general level of defence throughout the team that day can only be described as tigerish. With players improving and earning selection to the A-team, competition for a starting place in the team remained relentless for the rest of the season.

Many thanks to all those players who played regularly for the B-team; for their commitment, hard work and above all their enthusiasm for training and playing.

Well done!

Mr M Covill and Mr T Emmet

spirit and as a collective body of players, really embody the School's motto of *Perseverantia* as their performance against KES showed.

Mr S Hart

U14A

P9 W4 L5 (5 rained off)

This has been a disappointing summer for cricket with the weather being so bad. Even when we did play it was cold and grey. Playing on a beautiful day was a rare occasion indeed. We recorded wins over KES Birmingham, King's Worcester, Fairfax and Bishop Vesey's. The team won through to the semi-final of the county cup but missed out after a poor batting display. This was after the team had bowled and fielded brilliantly, restricting King Edward's Aston to 83-8.

The strength of the team lay in its bowling, the fielding improved over the course of the season but our batting failed to live up to expectation. During the season only one half-century was scored, coming in the game against King's Worcester, where Adil Saeed top-scored with 81. Adil Saeed was the leading run getter with 245 runs in total, the next best was Liam McStay with 144 runs. In the bowling department we were much more consistent and our opponents found it hard to score runs freely against us. Oliver Banks had the best bowling performance taking 4 for 22 off 7 overs in the win over KES Birmingham. The leading wicket taker was William Davies with 15 and Oliver Banks finished behind him with 10. Thomas Brewer and Adil Saeed both took 9 wickets apiece. Archie Clay ended up with 5 wickets, but he was probably the most consistent bowler. He showed very good control for a leg spinner and teams found it hard to get him away.

My thanks go to all the team, their commitment was excellent and they played the game in a spirit that the School can be proud of. I have greatly enjoyed the season but part of me is disappointed as I believe that this team did not play to their full potential at any stage. I believe that there is more to come next season. In total, 17 boys played for the U14A team which was captained by William Davies. He led the team well.

Thank you to Mr Hemp and Mr Smith for all of their top class coaching of the team and to Jayne Round and the kitchen crew. My final thanks is to Karl Brotherhood and his staff: they did a great job in very testing conditions.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The U14B cricket team were limited to just 4 matches due to the weather but this gave them a chance to focus more on their skills in the net sessions. Straight away it was clear that we had a lot of bowling talent but batting proved less impressive. After a narrow loss in the first match they all worked hard in the nets, determined to improve their batting and score as many runs as possible. Unfortunately it was still not enough and, despite Matt Gibbons and Sam Orme's stubborn resistance with the bat, they were knocked out of the cup. A further loss to Warwick followed and this led to a greater intensity in the training sessions with them determined not to end the season without a win.

The last game was against KES Aston and this time they hit 18 fours in a total of 134 from their 20 overs, including 44 from Captain Cameron Blake. An impressive bowling performance followed leading to a 23 run win! An excellent end to a season



2nd XI

In a rain-affected season, the 2nd XI has struggled to find their stride out in the middle and at the time of writing the squad continue to work towards their first win. However, in all four fixtures the squad has competed admirably with a number of spirited innings. Of particular note was John Super's 48 against Nottingham High School and Usama Rahman's batting and bowling performance against King Henry VIII, Coventry. It has also been exciting to see a number of younger squad members experience competitive senior cricket for the first time. Mr Thompson and I want to give a special thanks to Usama Rahman, Tina Gough and Chris Pettman for their organisation and leadership before and during the 2nd team fixtures this year.

U15

The U15 Cricket Team experienced mixed fortunes this year. The A-team had twelve games scheduled. However, due to the inclement weather, six were cancelled. Of the remaining six, there were three wins and three losses. The highlight of the season was their successful run in the county cup where they reached the finals after a gripping victory against a strong KES team in the semi-final. Unfortunately they lost out on the title after losing to Warwick School on a very green and damp wicket which suited the latter's seam attack. Throughout the season the team was captained superbly by Nick Starkey whose field placements and bowling changes at key times played a crucial part in the team's success. He also batted with commendable skill and technical prowess scoring an impressive 40 against KES and 65-notout against Holte School. Other notable performances came from the all-round talents of Richard Bradley (43 vs KES, 44 not out vs Holte School) and James Newman (37 vs Bromsgrove). Further distinguished performances came from the seam bowling of Ahmed Qureshi and Jack Hines. Regrettably, though not surprisingly, the B-team's season was also hit by rain. There were seven games scheduled. Of those, four were cancelled due to the weather. In the remaining three, there were two losses and one win. Notable performances came from the captain, Philip Wreford who scored a majestic 71 against Warwick School, and Conor Brown who scored 26 in the same match.

It is fair to say that the season has been a disappointing one due to the weather, however, as the squad's run in the cup demonstrated, there are a number of very talented players in the U15 team. Many of these should be pushing for a 1st team place next year. Moreover, the boys have a wonderful

Cricket - The 1st XI

This season's preparations began back in October 2011 on a damp Friday evening in the Sports Hall. Specific batting and bowling drills were introduced in the early part of the winter training programme to enhance both technique and player awareness. It is paramount that players are aware of their own games, identifying not only shortcomings but also areas and skills that they perform well. Aligned with this, tailored fitness programmes for both batsmen and bowlers were also introduced. Net practice sessions with video analysis commenced after the Christmas break. The video analysis was once again a great success as it was embraced wholeheartedly by the players and as such will be an area in which we shall look to further develop in the future as part of the overall coaching programme. As such, the 1st XI 20/20 fixture against Warwick was filmed during the season.

In total 17 games were played which consisted of 9 wins and one draw. Unfortunately but not unsurprisingly, 11 games were lost to the unprecedented weather we experienced. This compared to only one fixture being lost to indifferent weather last season. Overall, twenty-six different players were used. This figure is slightly lower than last year but it goes without saying that this was not an ideal situation, as it can be unsettling when a team and its make-up are continuously changing. This was primarily down to the earlier start time of the exam period timetable coupled with several injuries that were sustained. The flip side of this however, is that many players have had an opportunity to show their skills sooner than would be expected and this experience may prove invaluable in the future.

The side was captained well by Darryl Brotherhood who was into his third season representing the School's 1st XI. As such, he has been awarded his 1st XI Cricket Colours. Similar to last year, there were a variety of games played; 20/20, 50-over and declaration. This variety undoubtedly gave the players an understanding of the various skills needed to perform successfully at these different formats. Sadly, the 2-day game at Monmouth School was abandoned due to an unbelievable thunderstorm which left the field looking more like a lake than a cricket field!

There were several individual highlights again this summer coupled with some very good team performances. Some of these team performances included impressive 50-over wins against both RGS and Nottingham HS. Individually, no one single batsman dominated as Dominic Harding had done the previous season. However, there were good contributions from both Jamie Hughes and Darryl Brotherhood who scored in excess of 400 runs. Disappointingly though, the majority of batsmen did not take advantage of good situations that they found themselves in with too many players getting to fifty and not converting to a hundred.

Jamie Hughes was once again the leading wicket taker, picking up 30 wickets at an impressive average of 16.5 runs per wicket. This once again highlights the significance and importance of demonstrating good control with the ball.

Many thanks once again must go to Head Grounds man Karl Brotherhood and his assistant Mark Bailey for the quality of the cricket pitches that they have produced this season across all the four cricket squares. I thought last season's surfaces were very good but in spite of the horrendous weather that we have experienced throughout the summer term, the surfaces again have been of very good quality. It is paramount for player development whether they are a batsman or bowler by trade that they get to play on the best possible surfaces. Batsmen will become more disciplined in their approach to batting as they will be able to trust the bounce whilst bowlers will learn and develop the skills necessary to bowl on true, even pitches. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hughes for stepping in and helping out as scorer from time to time.

Finally, my personal thanks go firstly to Chris Mayer for his continued commitment to cricket and its development within the School, and secondly to David Smith who again has shown an exceptional desire throughout both the winter and summer to carry cricket forward.

Mr D Hemp

that showed much promise and I hope that many of the players will be able to improve further and push their way into the A team next year.

Mr D Brough

U13

With wet weather taking control of most of the A and B team matches, there was not a lot of time for either team to show just how good they really were. Despite this, both of the teams showed they have a lot of potential to carry on the good form that they played this season and build on that for next.

Playing only 6 of the scheduled fixtures, the A-team managed their first win of the season away at King's Worcester with Solihull bowling out King's for 94. Following a wobbly start the team needed some batting stability and that was provided by Janjua who hit 55 and Goodworth 22, both not out.

All credit to the groundsmen that the 30/30 home match against Nottingham took place, as most matches in the area were cancelled. Solihull showed the strength of their batsmen when on form and won by 75 runs. With strong scores from Kandola 57, Watson 38, Davies 35 & Janjua 30, the opposition were outclassed.

In the 20/20 Cup match against Bishop Vesey's, Solihull struggled to find their form, scoring 93 for 5, with Davies the top scorer with 38. Although early wickets were taken by Pound, Farnworth, Farrow & Watson, Vesey's scored 95 for 5 off 16 and knocked us out of the Cup.

The A-team achieved their highest score of the season away at RGS Worcester, 223 for 8 off 35 overs, with good scores from Watson 53, Bevan 49, Kandola 40 & Davies 33. This was always going to be a hard score to beat and the bowlers including Farrow and Farnworth didn't let the team down - RGS were all out for 122 off 25 overs.

The B-team finished the season not having lost a match with wins against Langley, Princethorpe, Aston & Coundon and a tied match against Warwick. There were strong batting performances throughout the season including Shiels 35, Baloch 27, Stansfield 22 not out, Gregory 17 and Manek-Robinson 15 not out.

Warwickshire U13 B squad selected Fahd Janjua and there was District selection for Alistair Bevan, Cameron Pound, Will Farnworth, Tom Mitchell & Benny Watson.

The aims for next year are to build on the strength and power of the batsmen and to improve the pace, accuracy and consistency of the bowlers. With the help of all the cricket coaches including Mr Hemp, Mr Smith, Mr Mayer, Mr Bishop and Mr Phillips, I am sure we will return next season with stronger teams and give our opposition something to fear in the future.

Benny Watson
U13A Captain

U12

It would be fair to say that I had my doubts about the 2012 season even before it had started. Due to a clash with hockey training, the boys had missed out on our usual indoor skills sessions during which batting techniques are coached and refined. The result of this could be seen in some of

the matches played in what must be the wettest and most miserable cricket season in living memory. Footwork and shot selection were sometimes flawed and runs were consequently hard to come by. That the U12 A team managed to reach the county cup semi-final and to win two Saturday fixtures against major opposition is, however, a tribute to the boys' determination, teamwork and burgeoning skill. Victories against RGS Worcester and Bromsgrove are rare at U12 level and were all the more pleasing as a result.

A crushing defeat (by 162 runs) in the first Saturday match, against KES, did not bode well, but it is to the boys' credit that their form gradually improved in the coming weeks. The next match, against King Edward's, Stratford, also ended in defeat – thankfully a much less emphatic one this time – but marked the start of a period of consistent wicket-taking by off-spinner, Ellis Owen, whose bowling brought him 16 scalps during the season. He is certainly a bowler to watch, with nice flight and change of pace and the ability to turn the ball sharply.

Captain Will Rigg, who has skippered Warwickshire at U12 level, began the season as an opener with some success but moved down to number 3 after a few matches and began to show his outstanding talent. The highlight of his season was an innings of 80 against a strong Nottingham High School bowling attack which included 14 fours. He was always the wicket the opposition wanted, but conducted himself with maturity and modesty throughout the season, and I am sure he will score a great many runs in the future. He hits the ball incredibly hard and makes batting look easy. If others in this age group – Ellis Owen, Tom Serle (who both played promising innings during the season), Arthur Townend, George Armstrong, Elliott Morter, Finley Blake and Adam Beaumont, amongst others – can work on their techniques and gain more time at the crease, the future looks bright for U13 cricket next year. Elliott Morter will also have the chance to develop his promising wicket-keeping, his opportunities this summer having been limited by my decision to pick a Junior School player, Mason Robinson, who has played age-group cricket for the county. To my surprise, this drew some mildly disapproving comments from some quarters, but to pass over the chance to employ such a polished keeper would, in my view, have been foolish. Mason acquitted himself brilliantly, showing the value of a specialist wicketkeeper who has been doing the job from a very early age: his taking of the ball was smooth and he affected several slick stumpings and run-outs. He also batted calmly on numerous occasions, opening the innings against older and bigger boys but never looking out of his depth. It was good to have him in the team.

The turn-outs at Thursday evening practices were encouraging throughout the term, and suggest that there will be competition for U13 places next year. There was pleasing progress from many fringe players who represented the U12 B team and – with relatively few hurdles to jump, it must be said – reached the semi-final of their own cup competition. Rain, of course, had the final say on that occasion. Let's hope for a sunnier 2013!

I have enjoyed the many hours I've spend on cricket fields and in training sessions during the last six years and would like to thank Mr Hemp, Mr Mayer and Mr Smith for their support. The pupils – and staff – at Solihull School are very lucky to have such expertise at their disposal.

Mr J Geldard

Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

Having lost nine Upper Sixth players, we always knew that the 2011-12 season would involve a significant rebuilding exercise but the loss of three more players, including the goalkeeper, who left at the end of their Lower Sixth year made the task ahead all the more challenging. Nevertheless, the quality of young players coming into the first team set-up suggested that it was not an insurmountable challenge.

However, the pre-season Bill Buttle tournament at King Edward's School, so often the scene of Solihull success, provided an early indication of the size of the task ahead. Notwithstanding some spirited play, one win, one draw and two losses were not enough to earn success on this occasion and we finished an underwhelming fourth out of five teams.

Despite this, the first match of the season, against Queen Mary's Grammar School – a side who have caused us some trouble and embarrassment in recent seasons – provided a confidence boost, as we dominated the match and won 6 – 1 thanks to an Ollie Haley hat-trick and goals from Tom Starkey, Jamie Wallis and Dom Coghlan.

Unfortunately, the next fixture, against Warwick, provided the worst performance displayed by a Solihull first team in over a decade. Despite three well-taken goals, both our individual skills and team play were abysmal and every player was well off the pace. Warwick, whilst not at their best either, capitalised to net seven, inflicting the heaviest defeat suffered for many seasons and leaving us with some difficult questions to answer.

Despite this humbling setback, the squad showed tremendous character to bounce back in our next fixture. Playing some excellent hockey and demonstrating exceptional work rate and determination, the side earned an impressive 1 – 1 draw against the mighty Bromsgrove. Whilst the young side clearly had some progress to make, this encouraging result augured well for the side's potential.



Wins, however, continued to prove elusive, with a 3 – 2 victory over King Henry VIII Coventry – courtesy of Jamie Wallis and a Chris Pettman brace – providing our only other success prior to Christmas.

Some creditable but ultimately unrewarded performances earned draws against Bishop Vesey's, Bablake and Nottingham High School and defeats against Repton, King Edward's and Loughborough.

Probably the most memorable fixture of the second half term was the trip to halfway-house Cannock to face King's Macclesfield. After an energetic start from Solihull, captain Jamie Wallis collided with the King's keeper as both competed for the ball in the circle. Unfortunately, the resultant impact broke the goalkeeper's collar bone, forcing the abandonment of the match after less than one minute's play.

If morale was low by the end of term, January provided little to lift spirits. A squad depleted by exam absences lost 1 – 5 to Birmingham Metropolitan College, 0 – 1 to Adam's Grammar School and 0 – 3 to Bloxham. Complete despair, though, was staved off by a thumping 7 – 1 victory over Princethorpe College in the Warwickshire County quarter-final but, sadly, our involvement in the competition ended in the semi-final, on penalty strokes, following a hard fought 1 – 1 draw with Rugby, in which Angus Archer scored the goal and only Jamie Wallis converted from the penalty spot.

Just as we were about to get things back on track by teaching Bromsgrove and King Edward's a thing or two in the return fixtures, February's weather conspired against us and several fixtures had to be cancelled. However, the break and a rescheduled training programme seemed to have a positive effect and, as February drew to a close, the fog of a frustrating 'so near, yet so far' season began to lift. Energy levels, resilience and determination increased and the quality of hockey improved noticeably as a consequence.

led by Sam Bond along with John Gilbert and Greg Langley. Campbell Binning, Shaun Rodriguez-Brown and Matt Allison were the defensive linchpins and Josh McGillicuddy was outstanding in goal. Laurie Stumper really developed his game and was crucial in midfield. Will Baines was always reliable and played in a variety of positions. We were not always the better team but all members gave everything and contributed to a wonderful team spirit.

Mr P Brattle

U16

P10 W8 D1 L1

The U16 Boys had one warm-up game prior to competing in the County round of the National competition. We won this game easily and it set us up nicely for the matches to follow. We played well in the County round and defeated Warwick and Princethorpe 2-0, and then Bablake 3-0. This took us to the Zonal stage of the Midlands round. We needed to be at the top of our game if we wanted to proceed further in the competition and play well we did. We beat a talented Nunnery Wood side 3-0. This took us into the big game of the day against Oundle. After what was a very hard-fought match with plenty of skilful players on show, we came out on top by 3 goals to 2. Brilliant! To top this Zonal group, we needed to beat Meole Brace in our third game of the day. We dispatched them 8-0.

The Midlands Finals day was at Cannock Hockey Club. Repton was our first game in the group. This was a tense affair and we managed a last minute winner, which saw us home 1-0. Ecclesbourne were our next opponents and we drew 1-1. We did well to get a result here as we were not at our best in this match. We topped the group which meant we played Oakham in the semi-final. We lost 3-0 which was disappointing as it was a game that we dominated for long periods. We conceded soft goals and squandered several very good opportunities to score.

Overall, the team played some fantastic hockey. The captain, George Gamlin, marshalled his defence well and he forged a good understanding with his fellow central defender George Taylor. Oliver Haley, Sam Montieri and Harry Busz all excelled in midfield and Nick Hooper showed good skills up front. All the boys in the team played their part in producing hockey that was good to watch. The team was mainly made up of Upper Fifth boys but we did have Nick Starkey and Edward Bowen from the Lower Fifth, both of whom rose to the challenge and performed well.

I am hopeful that this group of players will want to work hard over the next two seasons to improve their game and that they will have the desire to be successful.

Oliver Haley went on to represent England at U16 level.

Mr C Mayer

U15

The 'game of two halves' is a long-established sporting cliché but, for the U15 A-team, 2011-12 proved to be a season of two halves.

For some reason, September seemed to herald a tactical regression, with little evidence of the good progress made during the U14 season. Whilst there were some excellent passages of play, performances were characterised by spells



A series of excellent performances yielded a 3 – 0 win over Wrekin College, a hard-fought and massively improved 2 – 3 loss against Warwick, in which Harry Busz scored his first goal, and wins against Bablake and Queen Mary's, 1 – 0 and 6 – 0 respectively.

As seems so often to be the case, the season's champagne hockey was reserved for the curtain-closing Bath Hockey Festival. Over a scorching weekend in late March, the side played four fixtures, beating Exeter School 2 – 0 (including a rare Dan Chamberlain goal) losing 0 – 3 to local boys Clifton College on their home turf and winning 2 – 0 against King's Wimbledon; an aggressive battle in which Dan Chamberlain scored another, now not-so-rare, goal and got sent off!

The last match of the season saw Reigate Grammar School despatched, somewhat wearily but effectively, 2 – 0. Callum Walker scored a memorable individual goal (for which he was in no way overly pleased with himself!) and captain Jamie Wallis fittingly netted the other in his final game.

On paper, our results do not read as our most impressive record of recent seasons but the progress made and the depth of character, determination and effort exhibited by the young, inexperienced squad actually made this one of our most satisfying seasons.

England star Ollie Haley finished as the first eleven's top scorer with a total of 17 goals.

Special thanks and best wishes must go to the Upper Sixth players who have represented us this year and are now leaving: Angus Archer, Dan Chamberlain, Dom Coghlan, Andy Pursley, Callum Walker, Christy McLean, Tom Starkey, Nathan

Marcus, Nick Morris, and especially Jamie Wallis who has been an exemplary captain, working tirelessly on the pitch, always leading by example and maintaining squad enthusiasm and commitment through even the most difficult periods. Thanks also to Olympian Chris Mayer for his tireless work coaching the squad and the tremendous help and support given to me.

All that remains is to wish new captain Chris Pettman the very best of luck for the forthcoming 2012-13 season.

Mr M Babb



2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a very good 2011/2012 season, building on the success of the previous year's campaign. In total, 18 matches were played with 13 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses. All the defeats came against either 1st XI opposition or very strong 2nd XI's, which underpins how well the squad of players actually performed throughout the year. Unfortunately, two fixtures were cancelled due to the inclement weather that we experienced in January.

The most pleasing aspect of the squad throughout the year was the way in which the team gelled, especially when losing key players both through exam commitments and 1st XI recruitment. It is naturally tough to build and develop a team if it is often changing, so the squad of players should be again applauded for their efforts. The manner in which the squad played improved game by game, culminating in some wonderful, skilful hockey by the close of the season.

The only criticism of the team would be their inability to get into the game quickly enough against the better teams. This often resulted in us being on the back foot and therefore chasing the game.

The team was ably led by Nathan Marcus whose job was made easier by the commitment shown from other senior players.

In concluding, I would like to thank all the players for their continuous hard work throughout the year. It was a pleasure to be involved with the squad. Also, I would like to personally thank Mr Nick Leonard who accompanied me throughout the year, as well as to Mr Chris Mayer whose continuous expertise and desire to drive players forward has made all our jobs easier.

Mr D Hemp

3rd XI

In my first year at the School I was delighted to be in charge of a great group of talented players. I'm sure in previous years many of the players would have been in the 2nd team and so it proved over the season as many players were promoted. Unbeaten up to Christmas, we suffered through our players' other commitments and ended the season with a record of 10 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. We did however score a total of 59 goals in the 16 games and this meant they were always entertaining to watch.

In the first half of the season we scored 48 goals, many through our potent forward line of Luke Owen, Alex Assinder and Harry Jones. The original captain Matt Blenkinsop was lost to the 2nd team for most of the season but Charlie Harvey marshalled the side from the centre of midfield in his absence. Chris Baines, Chris Bevins, Niel Dey and, later in the season, Campbell Binning were key to many of our strong defensive displays that resulted in the side conceding a measly 12 goals before the Christmas break. Our midfield was supplemented by the skills of James Berry, Nick Clay and Ollie Towers, among many, and Kevin McCormack stepped up to be a vital member of the team in goal. Many players who initially started in the 4th team have also stepped in to good effect with Matt Alison, Jonny Clarke and James Dalglish all particularly impressing with their tireless work rate.

Highlights of the season included two wins again Old Swinford's 1st team and two 7-0 thumpings of Warwick. Overall, it has been a very successful season and I have been very impressed with all the players that have represented the School this year. I hope to see many of them in higher teams next year!

Mr D Brough

4th XI

The team enjoyed another successful season. Ably led by Jonny Clarke playing in centre midfield, we won seven games, drew two and lost five. There were yet more memorable thrashings of Warwick and some great games against 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams of other schools. The forward line was capably

of concentration loss, elementary errors, poor decision-making and frequent loss of possession.

This led to an opening run of three consecutive defeats: 1 – 2 against King Edward's School, 0 – 1 away to Nunnery Wood and a dire 1 – 3 result against an average Bishop Vesey's side, in which Chris Barker scored our solitary goal.

Two well-taken David Clarke goals earned a pleasing 2 – 0 win over Warwick, but further successes were few and far between in the first term. The Warwick game was followed by a 1 – 1 draw against King Henry VIII Coventry, with captain Joe Price scoring, and another defeat, 0 – 2 to King Edward's, before an 8 – 0 hammering of Bablake with goals scored by Nick Starkey [2], Fraser Waddell, Phil Wreford, Richard Bradley and David Clarke [3].

A four game losing streak through December and January (1 – 4 to Loughborough, 0 – 3 against Nunnery Wood, 0 – 6 at home to Bloxham and 0 – 3 at Repton) left morale, if not commitment, at an all-time low. Coaching and tactics received scathing reviews and a whiff of mutiny threatened to sour proceedings. Instead, the team was galvanised by adversity and dug deep to earn a pleasing 3 – 0 win over Wrekin College on the skill-testing surface of Cannock's fine water-based pitch, with goals from Tom Vale, Phil Wreford and David Clarke. Although still afflicted by some of the lapses and errors evident in previous fixtures, the win proved to the squad that hard work and unselfish team play would be rewarded.

With morale raised, changes were made to positions and personnel and efforts in training redoubled. The first match in February brought a fine 5 – 0 win over Princethorpe, in which a dominant performance featured much better hockey and a hat trick from Joe Price. The well-deserved victory was only slightly marred by a sending off for violent conduct.

Confidence-inspiring coaching, coupled with excellent, effective team hockey, yielded an almost overnight change and resulted in an unbeaten run to end the season that stretched to seven games. The Princethorpe match was followed by wins over Newcastle-under-Lyme (2 – 1) and Queen Mary's (3 – 1), a tense 2 – 2 draw with Warwick, a 6 – 0 demolition of King Henry VIII and a 4 – 1 victory over Bablake, the latter two of which featured David Clarke hat-tricks.

Whilst things had looked grim for quite a time, the outstanding progress made in the second half of the season ultimately made this a very satisfying year's hockey and the boys should be proud of the individual and team development that they have achieved. The future of the senior teams is looking good! Top scorer was deadly David Clarke, with an exceptional 18 goals in 18 games. Without a calculator to hand, I'll have to leave you to work out how impressive a goal-per-game average that is...

The U15 B-team has provided an extremely enjoyable season's hockey, albeit from a much shorter fixture list than the A-side. Starting with an excellent 3 – 0 win over King Edward's, courtesy of an Anthony Szarmach hat-trick, enthusiasm, effort and commitment did not falter all season. The next three games were all against opposition A-teams, so the quality of performance and the record of a draw and two close losses, in which quality finishing was the decisive factor, was really pleasing. The fixture at Nottingham High School, however, is most memorable for Wajeesh Chaudhry literally shedding blood for the cause as he used his head to inflict considerable damage to an opposition player's stick!

A creditable 0 – 3 loss away against a very strong Repton side followed, before the season ended on a high with a 2 – 0 victory over Warwick (no mean feat!) and a 2 – 2 draw with King Edward's. The B-team boys have worked hard, with unfailing good nature, throughout the season and it has been a pleasure to coach them. It has been particularly pleasing to see them developing the skills and team play that each player has exhibited. I am also delighted that a handful of players earned A-team call-ups during the season, notably Andy Hooper who made tremendous progress and became a regular A-team player.

There is undoubtedly considerable potential amongst the B-team squad, so I hope that the majority will continue to pursue their hockey careers in the senior teams.

Thanks go to Joe Price, who has been an outstanding, mature captain and to the small-but-perfectly-formed band of loyal parental supporters, who endured some disheartening afternoons early on but were, hopefully, rewarded for their stamina by the season's finale.

Thanks also to Mr Anderton for his invaluable coaching contribution and to Mr Mayer for his additional coaching input and support.

Mr M Babb

U14A

W9 D4 L10 GF44 GA57

This year's U14 Hockey side had what could be termed a 'rollercoaster' season. However, whilst the highlights were notable, the depths of the 'lows' were canyon-like and, at times, difficult to take!

The season began solidly with an away fixture at Arden School, which was won comfortably, 4-0. This was followed by two draws, first against Lawrence Sheriff (1-1) and then against Nunnery Wood (2-2). At this stage, it was felt that things could only get better as the team wasn't losing despite playing not particularly great hockey. However, our defensive frailties soon came to the fore with a 3-1 defeat to Queen Mary's.

It appeared that the problems lay with a lack of structure in the team's formation and a lack of commitment in our tackling. Having addressed some of this in training, the boys went into the next match with more determination. This was just as well, as Solihull faced a competent and skilful King Edward's Birmingham side that began the match with confidence. However, after absorbing a great deal of pressure, the team gave one of its best defensive displays of the season, hitting the opposition on the break with three clinical goals. Solihull eventually won the game 3-1.

Buoyed by this victory, this was followed up with a resounding 6-1 win against King Henry VIII, Coventry. Confidence was now high leading up to the next game against Bablake. As it turned out, Bablake were probably the best team we played this year and Solihull were rather fortunate to receive only a 3-0 loss! Once again, defensive errors and wayward passing did not help our cause. Hopefully, the Christmas Break would draw a line under the patchy form the boys found themselves in... ..a 1-0 loss to Queen Mary's during the first week in January wasn't the ideal start to 2012! However, nothing could prepare the players or coaching staff for what was to occur, namely a 9-1 defeat to King Edward's, a team that had been well-beaten earlier in the season. Even though Solihull had lost a number of

players for a variety of reasons, there could be no excuses for such a heavy defeat. Poor tackling, organisation and execution of the basics led to an easy victory for the opponents. Things couldn't get any worse...could they? Of course, it didn't help that Repton were the next opposition!

After the realisation of some home truths, the boys went into this match in a more positive frame of mind and, despite losing 2-1, the outcome of the match was always in doubt until deep into the second half. It was a much more creditable performance and a true reflection of the potential within the U14 squad. This form continued into the next match where some more pride was restored with a 3-1 victory over Wrekin. Next came the U14 County Tournament, where Solihull were drawn against King Edward's (again), Lawrence Sheriff, Bishop Vesey and King Henry VIII. Drawing upon the positives from the previous few matches, Solihull put up a better fight against KES, but eventually lost the game 3-1. Undeterred, the boys won the next two matches, 1-0 against Lawrence Sheriff and 2-1 against Bishop Vesey. This meant that a draw against King Henry's would be enough to take the team through to the semi-final. Happily, this was achieved with a nervous, but well-fought 0-0 draw, meaning a semi-final match against Bablake. Unfortunately, we were no match for an excellent side that put us to the sword with a resounding 5-0 thumping!

The remainder of the season was a mixed bag of results, with wins against Newcastle (6-0), a weakened Bablake side (2-0) and Warwick (3-1); a scrappy draw against Loughborough (2-2) and two defeats, firstly against Bloxham (5-2) and then, very disappointingly, against Princethorpe (10-0). Here, Solihull fielded a weakened side but, again, it was the manner of defeat that was so upsetting, with too many errors and half-hearted tackling.

There is no doubt that the U14 squad has a lot of potential but, unfortunately, there was no consistency in the manner of our play and there was never a settled side throughout the season. This was highlighted in several fixtures when members of the U13 squad had to be drafted in to cover missing players. Hopefully, the experiences of this season will make the boys more determined and they can become more consistent performances. However, this will only come through hard work, application and a desire to be the best they can possibly be. Thanks must go to those boys who regularly attended training (they know who they are) and the coaching staff, namely Mr Brough and Mr Mayer for their unwavering commitment to the cause.

Mr S Mitchell

U14B

The U14B team had a good season. Commitment to the matches was good and the improvement throughout the season was encouraging. They learnt that their basic skills still need to be worked on as too often as a miss hit or a missed tackle can prove costly during a game. In the first matches they struggled to score goals so, even though the defence was solid throughout, they lost games by the odd goal. That all changed with an 8-2 thumping of King Edward's Stratford's A-team and the team finally displayed the attacking flair that was missing in those early games. They managed to add another 1-0 win against Loughborough B-team before the end of the season to leave them with a pleasing two wins from their seven games.

Next year I hope that they will continue to flourish and that some of the players will start to push for A-team spots throughout the course of the season.

Mr M Brough

U13

P13 W9 D2 L2

Early exchanges showed that the U13 XI was a little ring rusty in match situations. Training had gone according to plan. However, with a little WD40 the machine became well oiled. Our first game versus King Edward's Birmingham saw us lose 0-1 but we knew there would be revenge at a later date. We decided on our game plan being fast and expansive. This was soon accepted by all in the squad and oppositions were simply destroyed: Arnold Lodge 7-0, Bablake 6-0, King Edward's Stratford 16-0, Lawrence Sheriff 10-0. At times the quality of hockey was exhilarating and it would be wrong of me to single any one person out. The boys displayed complete focus and attention to detail which also brought about confidence on the ball.

King Edward's Birmingham obviously came alive on their home turf so we pulled all the stops out. Pure brilliance saw us claim a deserved victory 3-0. It has been a pleasure to work with these students and thank you to all.

I would like to congratulate Peachey, Owen and Blake on being selected for the County U13 squad. Well done to all three.

Mr S Thompson

U12

The U12 hockey squad had an excellent second full season building on the success achieved from last year's squad. The season consisted of ten wins, one draw and a single loss. Attendance at lunchtime and after school practices were again outstanding with over forty players in total attending the various sessions. This, in my opinion, was one of the main reasons why the squad was so successful and proved difficult to beat. There are undoubtedly some very talented players in this age group but the most pleasing aspect in reviewing the season was that in spite of losing key players to rugby commitments throughout the year, we had a sufficient amount of quality to cover when needed.

Practice and attitude to practice developed to the level expected after the initial weeks of the season. It is imperative that all players see practice sessions as an opportunity to develop their games.

There were comprehensive wins against Bromsgrove, King Edward's Birmingham, Bloxham, Loughborough and Queen Mary's. The game against Bromsgrove stood out in particular as the team was two goals down at half time and staged a remarkable comeback finally winning 5-3. In total, forty-three goals were scored and just ten conceded. The team was lead well by both Ellis Owen and Cameron Blake but all players should be proud of their individual contributions.

On a personal note, I would not only like to thank Chris Mayer for his input and hard work during the winter, but also all the players who not only performed well but made the season very enjoyable.

Mr D Hemp



Girls' Hockey - 1st XI

Captain: Ashley Fraser
Vice-Captain: Emma Rivers

The season started with a difficult fixture against Repton. With it being the first match of the season, the girls took time to get used to playing again and working as a cohesive unit. There were some excellent defensive performances and the communication between the players showed rapid improvement. Whilst the girls came away with a 3-0 loss, it was a good test for them and there were several points that we were able to take back to training and work on. The team soon picked themselves up and learnt from mistakes made against Repton. They recorded a 2-0 win against King's Worcester and lost narrowly to Bablake the following week. At the West Midlands Tournament the girls played some excellent hockey. The structure of team play was improving and the girls played some good passing hockey. Whilst there was an overall lack of goals, the girls emerged as West Midlands Champions for another year.

After the half-term break the girls played out a 1-1 draw with King Henry's and narrowly lost to a strong Princethorpe team 3-2. There were again some promising performances,

however, the key area of development was still on creating and taking advantage of goal-scoring opportunities. The team then recorded a 4-0 win against Bloxham and the goal drought came to a pleasing end! Whilst there were a series of mixed results in this term, the girls worked hard in all of these games and their work rate on and off the ball began to improve. This, along with the defensive capabilities of the team, was put to the test at the Midlands Round of the National Schools Tournament.

The team had to dig deep against strong Oakham and Trent sides. Despite losing 4-0 in both games, the girls could be proud of their efforts. Considering three goals in each game were down to short corners, the defensive efforts of the team were commendable. A disappointing 1-0 loss against Malvern saw the team out of the running of being able to progress further in the competition. However, the girls did raise their game in the final match of the tournament and they comprehensively beat Ellesmere 5-0. Whilst the team made good progress in this tournament it became clear that high standards needed to be set more consistently regardless of opposition or score line. This was a message that was carried forward into training and matches after Christmas.

The Spring term saw a mixture of results due to player unavailability, netball priority and public examinations. Commitment to training proved to be sporadic and regular attendance became low amongst a number of the team. This is a shame as there was much to play for in this final term and the progress made in the previous term lost some momentum. However, the girls continued to play some good hockey and had convincing wins over Wolverhampton (4-0), King Edward's (5-0), RGS Worcester (3-0) and King Edward's Five Ways (9-0). There were narrow losses against Wrekin College (1-0) and a dramatic loss against Bablake (2-1) where they scored in the final 20 seconds.

Overall, this season has seen a mixture of results for the girls. There have been some sterling team and individual performances and great progress in terms of team structure and organisation. Hopefully, with further hard work and commitment this can all be built on next year. Further attention must be paid next year by the players to their technical precision and execution of their skills. Congratulations must also go to those girls who have played representative hockey – Hannah Butler (West Midlands U17) and in particular to Julie Whiting for her selection for Wales U18.

To the outgoing Upper Sixth – Ashley Fraser, Emma Rivers, Tina Gough, Claire Christopher, Hannah Jesani, Lara Jesani, Anna McNeillie, Brooke Jones and Frankie Levey – thank you all for your efforts this year and we wish you every success in your hockey-playing futures. We look forward to seeing you at the Old Girls match! Thank you also to Ashley and Emma for your organisation and leadership this year. You have always given every match your all and have led by example. Hopefully the returning Lower Sixth and Upper Fifth have been inspired by some of the promising performances in the Midlands Tournament and will return in September refreshed and raring to go. It is vital that the girls continue to take responsibility for their fitness when not in School and should try and play summer league if they can.

Finally, a huge thank you to Miss Gill for all her hard work and commitment to girls' sport and hockey at Solihull School. She has worked tirelessly in order to help move girls' sport forward at Solihull and she will be greatly missed. A huge good luck and best wishes to her and her family and their new life in Devon.

P22 W8 D3 L 11

Team: Ashley Fraser, Emma Rivers, Tina Gough, Claire Christopher, Hannah Jesani, Lara Jesani, Anna McNeillie, Brooke Jones, Frankie Levey, Emily Hodge, Julie Whiting, Vicky Beech, Maria Barnes, Anna Trenchard, Nicole Angelides,

Player of the Year: Julie Whiting
Most Improved Player: Maria Barnes
Outstanding Contribution: Ashley Fraser

Miss H Smith

2nd XI

There was an optimistic buzz about the start of the season with 36 pupils competing to be selected for the 1st XI and 2nd XI squads. All pupils were excited about the forthcoming tour in the summer to Trinidad ad St Lucia. After many pre-season sessions and some intense fitness work, it was decided to involve all those who tried out for the squads an opportunity to play using a rotation system. We played ten fixtures and won three, drew one and lost six, but this is by no means a reflection on how the girls played over the hockey season as a whole. The commitment was outstanding and some of the girls who had only picked up a hockey stick for the first time in their lives this year were strong learners. Our first game was against King's Worcester and we lost 1-0. This did not dampen spirits and as the girls became more focused, suffered only a 2-0 loss to Arden; a well-drilled and highly competitive side with a lot of the girls playing for Olton.

King Henry VIII, Coventry was next on the fixture list and the girls just couldn't get the ball in between the posts, despite having 80% possession – this resulted in a 0-0 draw. Bloxham was the next team we challenged for a victory, and we succeeded, winning 3-1 with Katy Clarke and Sally Farrant sealing the deal. Princethorpe were up next. The defence began to link better with the midfield and we ventured out of the defensive third and into the attacking third. We had shots on goal and achieved some short corners! It was an excellent improvement, resulting in just a 1-0 loss. Rugby School was up next and we lost 4-0 but again the team were playing well, linking together and producing some beautiful play. Despite some excellent saves from our GK Laura Newbolt, Sophie Ward and Ella Harthman must be mentioned for their stick skills in holding the middle together. A new addition to the fixture list was next: Denstone College. We started the match off well and the girls' heads stayed high throughout the games. It was 0-0 at half-time and their work rate was exceptional. In the last 15 minutes they banged two in past us on short corners. Wolverhampton resulted in a 4-0 win – a superb effort and it could have been more! Anna Trenchard and Emma Rivers added themselves to the score sheet. I wish all those leaving the best of luck and for those who are staying, we will look to improve even further next season. I am proud of you all. Thanks to Sally Farrant and Alex Deol for captaining and vice-captaining the side.

Miss C Townsend



U14

The U14 girls had a good season and were crowned West Midlands County Champions. In total the team played 21 matches, winning 10 and drawing 6. Adina Bailey captained the team until injury curtailed her season. Shona Eaton took over the captaincy after the October half-term and led by example, scoring 11 goals and finishing as top scorer.

In total 18 players were used during the season. Great improvement was made by several players and I believe that the team got better over the course of the season. Attendance at training was good, the attitude of the players was excellent, and the group were a pleasure to work with. Well done!

Mr C Mayer



U13

It has been a very busy year for the U13 hockey squad with many matches and tournaments. We have played throughout the winter term and part of the Easter term and have been working hard to win as many matches as possible. We've been practising our skills and game-play every Monday lunchtime and as a result have become closer as a team. We have also been working hard in our Tuesday games lessons on individual skills and team play. As we look back on our performances we can definitely see an improvement, so all of our practice has paid off!

Early on in the season one of our best defenders, Lydia Jones-Brown, had a bad leg injury so we have missed her dearly in our matches. However Maxine, Rachel, Chloe and Alice held their own in defence and made a lot of improvements, particularly in terms of positioning. The forwards and midfielders also worked hard and overall we have scored a massive 30 goals this season and hope to achieve more next year. The top goal scorer was Scarlett O'Malley.

Overall we have played 14 matches this season, winning 7, losing 5 and drawing 2. A definite highlight was the match against RGS Worcester where we showed great team play and a better understanding of our positioning on the pitch. We came second to a strong St. Martin's side in the Solihull league and third in the County tournament.

U15

The U15 girls have played through a particularly hard season, facing a strong array of teams. The spirit and style of the team has remained fairly constant with only their personal work-rate having dips! Their ability to adapt to the opposition is an area in which they have gradually improved with various lunchtimes spent with the chalk board and metal players! Their knowledge of the game has improved and with 10 fixtures and a tournament the girls' results were won four, drew one, two cancelled due to weather and three losses.

First up were Bablake and Princethorpe. Both matches resulted in a loss but we got on the score sheet with Jess Lawton and Lottie Harland banging them in. The results didn't deter the girls and as they stepped up their training regimes, pulled off a win versus King's Worcester with Lottie Harland scoring both goals. The tournament had come around so quickly and with three draws and one defeat, finished 3rd overall. It just didn't happen on the night. We were in for a winning streak, beating St Martin's and Arden and drawing to Repton. Our result versus Repton really proved how far the girls had come – a fantastic result. Bea Farnworth and Alex Levey joined Lottie and Jess on the score sheet. The girls went on to beat Wolverhampton by a staggering score of 5-0. With tired legs after an action packed week of fixtures, it all took its toll when playing RGS Worcester and they lost 4-1. A disappointing finish to a successful season as the next two matches was cancelled due to weather.

Lottie Harland was top goal scorer and all the girls must be credited for their commitment and improvement over the season. Many thanks to all the girls involved in the side and we hope to make it another successful season next year, being a year older and wiser!

Miss C Townsend



This year's hockey squad consisted of Izy Douglas, Jessie Lloyd, Rachel Hedley, Scarlett O'Malley, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Chloe Horsburgh, Lydia Jones-Brown, Maeve Grogan, Hannah Quibell, Vicky Brewer, Lydia Roll, Alice Lodge, Lauren Kiely (GK), and for a couple of matches, Cait Casey. As a team we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped this season and especially Mrs Black, our hockey coach.

Izy Douglas and Rachel Hedley

U12

The smaller number of girls in this year's Third Form combined with a lack of hockey experience by the majority meant a difficult start to Hockey for the U12s. However, the commitment shown both in lessons and practices has paid dividends with the girls picking up wins as the year has progressed.

The A-team had a difficult start to the year, suffering defeat against a very strong King's Worcester side, before narrow losses to RGS Worcester and Princethorpe. The Solihull Tournament saw the A-team record their first win of the term, as well as a draw. After half-term, the girls' performances really picked up and they competed well against both Bablake and King's Warwick. It all finally clicked with a good 2-0 win over Wolverhampton.



The B-team performed consistently throughout, losing 1-0 to King's Worcester, before drawing 1-1 with Princethorpe. We also fielded a C and D-team against Princethorpe so for the first time we can say that every girl in the year has represented Solihull at hockey. The team followed up a loss to RGS Worcester with a good win over Bablake and a further convincing win over Wolverhampton.

The Easter term saw the move to 11-a-side hockey, with girls battling to get to grips with the positioning requirements. A 5-0 win against St Peter's was followed by a 2-0 win over Arden. Unfortunately, St Martin's halted our winning run, coming away as 1-0 winners, although we were unlucky not to get a draw after hitting the post. The final game against Tudor Grange saw the girls play some excellent hockey and gain an understanding of the 'W' in winning 4-0.

The County Tournament (7-a-side) was played at King Edward's in baking sunshine. With plenty of parental support (including cakes!) the team played really well throughout the morning. Wins over Tudor Grange (2-0), King Edward's B (3-0), Camp Hill (2-0) and EHS (1-0) were achieved. Unfortunately St Martin's struck again beating us 1-0, before we drew with King Edward's A 1-1. Overall we finished in 3rd place, just 2 points behind the winners, having scored 11 and conceded 2.

Well done to all the girls who have played with enthusiasm and determination throughout the year, showing great commitment to training and I hope this continues in the future!

P29 W14 D3 L12

Top Goal Scorer: Clara Miles

Team: Clara Miles, Georgia Brown, Mary Davies, Hannah Higley, Ellie Featherstone, Emma Hadley, Alex Marshall, Ella Stirling, Kate Stumper, Rebecca Monkhouse, Eleanor Sheils, Amy Edge, Eloise Burchell, Beatrix Huisson, Katie Lyth, Gwynneth Horbury, Hannah Currie, Annabelle Barker, Maddi Koral

Warwickshire U13 JAC: Clara Miles



Netball - 1st VII

The Sixth Form netball teams have been in full flourish this year. With a fourth team introduced for the first year, this season has seen four teams regularly playing competitive matches across the borough and regionally. Training has been efficient and vigorous at times with a greater focus on fitness than in previous years due to compulsory circuit training before school. The 1st VII began the season in good stead with assistance from new players who had just joined the Sixth Form. Momentous victories include a 27-18 thrashing of Wolverhampton and a 29-18 success against King Edward's Five Ways. The first team also came first in the Solihull tournament during October, beating all other teams in the borough which resulted in qualification for the next regional stage. However, due to illness on the day and a generally disappointing performance, the team was unsuccessful and narrowly missed out on qualifying any further. Thanks must go to Miss Smith, Miss Townsend and Mrs Hadley-Leonard for coaching and organising all four teams and offering great support throughout the whole season.

2nd VII

It has been an excellent season for the 2nd VII netball team. With the help of Miss Townsend, every player has improved their skills and ability, achieving great results in the majority of matches. Despite the two losses and two wins in the run up to Christmas, our final match against King Edward's Nuneaton where we won 42-0 showed the whole team's hard work and improvement. After returning from the Christmas break, the 2nds were on form beating Bablake 22-19, King Henry's 24-15, King's High 19-14, King Edward's Stourbridge 22-16 and Worcester Sixth Form 13-12, reinforcing the skills we'd learnt from both Miss Townsend and Miss Smith in the training sessions run every week. We were in good preparation for the tournament at the end of term. Despite getting off to a rocky start against Cadbury College and Bablake, we managed to win three out of our six matches by three goals, coming third place overall. Thank-you to Miss Townsend and Miss Smith for the hard work and dedication in arranging matches and training sessions, allowing us to achieve great results.



3rd and 4th VII

The 3rd and 4th teams have been a lovely squad! Yes, we did say 4th VIII! A new addition! With so many girls we decided to fill 4 sides. They have worked hard, attended practices regularly, never complained, and often carried out administration duties for the tournaments played by the 1st and 2nd squads. Well done must go to both teams who have been so enthusiastic in all their contributions to all the netball squads this year! Thanks must also go to Mrs Hadley-Leonard for umpiring, coaching and leading this squad. The 3rd and 4th VII have played in 10 fixtures this season winning half of their games. Every match was played in the true spirit of sportsmanship!

Thank you to Miss Townsend and Miss Smith for making all this possible.

U15

Captain: Laura Daghish / Poppy Eales

Injuries, injuries and more injuries combined with excellent commitment would probably be the most accurate way to sum up the U15's season!

Despite their practice time being moved to enable them to have more space and more coaching, the U15s maintained a core of players who trained week in and week out. By the end of the season 13 girls were regularly attending training and more players than ever before have represented the team in league competition.



The Netball term began with the news that both Poppy Eales and Hannah Shakeshaft (GA and GD) would be out for most of the term. A loss against King Henry's followed, with an U15 B-team managing a creditable 9-9 draw. Further defeats against Princethorpe, King's High and Lode Heath followed, as the team struggled to convert their training work into matches and players into new positions. However, slowly performances began to gel and a narrow 16-13 loss to Wolverhampton was a stepping stone to a comprehensive 23 - 2 win over Alderbrook.

The Solihull Tournament followed and the girls played some great Netball, finishing as group winners, beating Grace Academy, Lode Heath and Tudor Grange in their pool. A win in the semis over Arden brought a final against Tudor Grange. Unfortunately, tiredness crept in and so the team finished as Runners Up (again - 3rd year running!). Further league victories over Arden (12 - 6) and St Martin's (16-6) followed the tournament, before revenge was gained over Tudor Grange with a comprehensive 17-6 win in the girls' last game as a team.

I would like to thank all of the squad for being such a pleasure to work with over the last 2 years. Keep up the Netball into the Sixth Form!

P16 W8 D1 L7

Laura Daghish, Poppy Eales, Megan Seickell, Amelia Woolley, Lottie Harland, Lydia Jackson, Hannah Shakeshaft, Danni Blake, Harriet Crisp Jones, Annie Bewick, Georgia Lovett, Jenna Balfour, Grace Lodge

Miss V Gill



U14

This year, the U14 netball team has had an interesting season with many losses and wins throughout. We began the season by playing King Henry VIII, Coventry who were a strong side. We knew we had to enter the game with clear minds and put the little practice we had to the test.

Unfortunately, both A and B-teams lost 9-20 and 7-22. This was a devastating start and knocked our confidence. After this loss we trained hard and committed Monday evenings after school and some lunch times to solid practice and skills



work. In the upcoming weeks we had the Solihull Schools Tournament where we would play a number of schools in the area to regain our title as Solihull Schools Netball Champions. Our first game of the tournament was against Lode Heath who were a tough side. After a long 10 minutes we ended up with a 12-12 draw which was slightly disappointing due to the fact we had been on top throughout. Our next match was against CTC who we beat with an enormous score of 13-0, not leaving them a chance to score. We then went on to beat St Peter's 6-4 which was a good win. Regrettably, we lost to Heart of England 3-9 but the defeat only spurred us on to come back and hammer John Henry Newman College and Alderbrook 11-0 and 11-2. Much to our disappointment we missed out on the semi-finals and came away knowing we needed to spend the rest of the season improving our skill and ability to make accurate passes and interceptions.

Shortly after we played Langley who are renowned for beating us. It gives me great pleasure to be able to say we drew with Langley 16-16 after a game of stern umpiring and deep concentration and enthusiasm from both sides. We were pleased to come out with a well-deserved draw. Two weeks later we then went on to play Lode Heath again who we also drew with 7-7. Both these matches show how the hard work we did after the tournament paid off with only two losses to King's High and Wolverhampton. Although both were unfortunate losses they didn't darken our spirits and we still persevered with our training to win our penultimate game against Arden where we conquered them 21-4. This game was a great way to end the season and we were planning to end on a bang. Unfortunately, our final game of the year was cancelled by Light Hall School; they clearly must have heard about our strike against Arden!

On behalf of the team, I would like to say thank you to both Miss Smith and Miss Townsend for training us and for their support and guidance. Special thanks also go to Miss Gill and Miss Townsend who have helped us throughout the past three years in all aspects of Girls P.E and we wish them both well in their next schools.



U13

This year for the U13 netball team has been very busy. We've played a total of seven matches and one tournament. We have all been regularly attending training on a Monday after school and circuits on a Friday morning before school. The team has worked very hard this year. The tournament was a good result. We came second overall losing in the final to St Martin's. We won all of our matches by lots of goals in the tournament apart from when we drew with Heart of England. We played St Peter's, Lode Heath, CTC, Heart of England and Alderbrook. Unfortunately we did not do as well in the league matches. Despite the many injuries in the team we still battled on and tried our best. Well done girls! Thank you to Miss Townsend and Mrs Smith.

Scarlett O'Malley and Jessie Lloyd



U12

The U12 netball team has been working and training very hard this season. Having been defeated by Tudor Grange Academy in our first match, we knew we had to work really hard as a team to gain victory in our matches.

We then won our next two matches, 9-4 against Heart of England and 12-2 against Alderbrook. This was more like it. The team went from strength to strength, with some exciting wins against Princethorpe, Bablake, Lode Heath and St Martin's. The last two matches for the B-team were sensational with wins against Bablake 20-0, and King Henry VIII Coventry 21-5.

The U12 team finished the season with an exhilarating Solihull Borough Tournament. As winners of our group we went through to the semi-finals against St Martin's. We beat them and went through to the final against Tudor Grange. This was an exciting match with great performances from all the team, but we lost narrowly with a final score of 11-7.

Well done to the team and a big thank you to Miss Gill, Miss Smith and Miss Townsend for refereeing and coaching us. Let's keep it up for next year.

A-team: Annabelle Barker, Hannah Currie, Ellie Featherstone, Anushka Karandikar, Clara Miles, Elisa Mottram, Ella Stirling, Kate Stumper.

B-team: Georgia Brown, Mary Davies, Amy Edge, Katie Lyth, Alex Marshall, Elle Miles, Rebecca Monkhouse, Eleanor Shiels, Cerys Stansfield.



Rounders - U15

We have had an excellent season this year. Due to bad weather conditions, we have not been able to fulfil all our matches and training sessions, however, in the several we played we were victorious. We won the Solihull Rounders Borough Tournament making us undefeated champions for the last three years. This year we successfully qualified for the national tournament at Corby, a fantastic achievement for us all. It was a great day, with everybody playing exceptionally well. Unfortunately we did not make it through to the finals but it was understandable as we were playing against U16. We look forward to future success at next year's national competition. Overall, it has been a brilliant year. Special thanks must go to Miss Townsend, Mrs Smith and Miss Gill for their awesome coaching and support. We wish Miss Townsend and Miss Gill all the best at their new schools, and we will miss them greatly.

U14

This year the U14 Rounders team has had an extremely successful season. Winning all our games and the Solihull Borough Tournament, the team then went through to Nationals. Our first game was against King's High Warwick, who are known for winning. However, on this occasion, we won a staggering 11-2, leaving the games with confidence and an encouraging start to the season. We then went on to win the rest of our games so that when we came to the



92 tournament we had been well trained and were ready to put our skills into action. In the tournament we got through to the finals, and then won against Tudor Grange Academy. This year has been outstanding for the team and we hope to have an encouraging start next season. The team consisted of Adina Bailey, Amy Lewis, Harriet Marshall, Megan Lloyd, Nadine Wilkinson, Nakita Basra, Emma Whitfield, Shona Eaton, Helena Newbolt, Bea Cowley, Celine Simmons and Harriet Woolley (Captain).



UI3

This season has been a difficult one due to unusual weather conditions and clashes with several trips to the School's Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia. The girls have been raring to go but have been frustrated by the lack of opportunity to show off our skills. We have managed only two matches and a tournament, losing narrowly twice to local rivals and coming 3rd in a large tournament in which we won the group stage, only to lose to Tudor Grange Academy in the semi-finals. The highlights of the tournament were two convincing victories over stiff competition.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the whole squad to thank Miss Townsend and Mrs Smith for all their hard work, enthusiastic coaching and good humour.

Finally we would like to wish Miss Townsend the very best of luck in her new job at Cheltenham Ladies College: she will be missed very much.



U12

This season the U12 Rounders Team has played really well, winning two of our matches and losing two. It has been a frustrating season with all the rainy weather resulting in matches being cancelled. However, luckily the sun shone for the U12 Solihull rounders tournament. We won three out of four matches against John Henry Newman, Tudor Grange and Lyndon Schools. These were extremely exciting matches and these wins put us through to the semi finals. In the semi finals we were up against Lode Heath School and we did put up a strong fight but unfortunately we lost 6-2.5. The overall result put us third in the competition. The team look forward to developing their skills next year.

Annabelle Barker & Hannah Currie



Athletics

New School Records:

- Shell Form Girls:**
1500m: Lydia Roll
- Lower Fifth Form Girls:**
300m & Javelin: Danni Blake
200m: Lottie Harland
800m: Georgia Lovett
1500m: Charlotte Spence

New Sports Day Records:

- Third Form Girls:**
200m & Long Jump: Becky Monkhouse
800m: Clara Miles
Javelin: Maddie Koral
- Shell Form Girls:**
800m & 1500m: Lydia Roll
Discus: Alice Lodge
- Shell Form Boys:**
100m: Paulo Peschisolido
Triple Jump: Charlie Hadley
- Fourth Form Girls:**
800m: Emma Whitfield

- Lower Fifth Form Girls:**
100m & 200m: Lottie Harland
300m and Javelin: Danni Blake
800m: Charlotte Spence
Triple Jump: Poppy Eales.
4 x 100m: Fetherston

Sports Day Winners:

- Lower School:** Fetherston
- Middle School:** Jago
- Upper School:** Shenstone

West Midlands Champions:

- U16**
200m: Lottie Harland
- U14**
1500m: Lydia Roll
Long Jump & Triple Jump: Charlie Hadley

The following athletes also represented Solihull Borough in the West Midlands Championships:

- U16**
Danni Blake, Shona Eaton
- U14**
Annabelle Barker, Benny Watson, Paulo Peschisolido.

Unfortunately, the weather this summer played havoc with the Athletics fixtures. There was only one school fixture that survived and the School was victorious against RGS Worcester. Luckily we were able to compete in the English Schools Track and Field Cup. This proved to be our most successful season ever with three teams – U14 Boys and Girls and U16 Girls – qualifying for the Midlands A Final. In these competitions several School records were broken.

At the West Midlands Championships Solihull Borough won all the age groups again; a major achievement, and the teams were helped by some of our athletes, three of whom were crowned Champions.

Incredibly, we were able to complete the three Sportsdays and there were several records broken.

I would like to thank all the staff who braved the weather to help coach and officiate. It was much appreciated by the pupils.



Athletics - Senior Girls

Last year's highly successful season was always going to be a hard act to follow, but the girls this year continued to train hard and show enthusiasm for athletics practice and competitions. The first match of the season was held at Norman Green against RGS Worcester, Saint Martin's, Bablake School and King Edward's High School for Girls. The girls performed to the highest standard and finished 1st.

The second match saw the girls up against Arden, Tudor Grange, Lode Heath, Saint Martin's and St Peter's. School fixtures were suspended the following week, for the English Schools' Track and Field Cup. Only 12 competitors can compete in the U14 age group and 14 in the U16, and athletes have to be exceptional in two events! Selection was extremely difficult, particularly as exam clashes meant that the U16 team had no Lower Fifth Formers available. The Fourth Formers competed well to finish 1st overall. The U14s surpassed expectations to qualify for the Regional Final for the 4th year running. The U14's even scored more points than last year! With the last school match falling victim to the weather, it just left the Borough Championships for the girls to compete in as a team. With the sun shining, expectations were high. The U14s is a strong age group across the Borough. The team performed well to finish 2nd. Strong individual performances came from Dannii Blake, Lottie Harland, Poppy Eales, Georgia Lovett, Adina Bailey and Nicole Angelides. Overall the girls were in the top three which was a very good performance. Individually, there have also been successes. From the Borough trials, Shona Eaton, Adina Bailey, Megan Seickell, Lottie Harland, Poppy Eales, Georgia Lovett, Dannii Blake, Harriet Crisp-Jones and Nicole Angelides were selected to represent Solihull at the West Midlands Championships. In round 2 of the Track and Field Cups held on Thursday 21st June in Tipton there were some great individual performances, enabling the team to finish in a respectable place.

Thank you to all the girls for their hard work and effort this year and to their parents for their continued support.

Miss C Townsend and Miss V Gill

Athletics - Lower School Girls

The athletics season has been great this year with many achievements in all year groups. In the U14 West Midlands Championships Lydia Roll won the 1500m. Annabelle Barker also competed for Solihull Borough. Lydia ran a personal best of 5 minutes 17 seconds and an 800m time of 2 minutes 40 seconds, ranking her first for her age in the Solihull Schools League. Shona Eaton competed at the West Midlands Championships in both the hurdles and long jump, running and jumping superb personal bests. Another Fourth Form girl, Adina Bailey, has had a successful season. She competed as a West Midlands Pentathlete and qualified in 2nd place at a recent competition and so will take part at the English Schools Pentathlon in September.

Besides the individual success the girls' athletics team has had a successful season winning the Borough Competition and local fixtures at Norman Green. Many thanks to Miss Townsend for organising and training us.

Olympic Day

On 29 June, the School hosted its very own Olympic Day, with twelve schools taking part. The sporting extravaganza was matched only by the exciting Olympic lectures and science experiments in the Bushell Hall and our speakers – Miss Nadine Okyere (Team GB), Mr Daniel Caines (Sydney 2000), Mr Chris Mayer (Atlanta 1996), Professor Hugh Montgomery (The Olympic Doctor) and Mr Greg Foot (The Olympic Roadshow Live) – were inspirational as well as highly entertaining.



Solihull School at the Olympics!

Miss Smith and Mrs Hadley-Leonard spent part of their summer as Olympic volunteers or 'Games Makers' at the London 2012 Games. Miss Smith worked for the Venue Command Control and Communications team at the Excel Centre, and Mrs Hadley-Leonard was Events Organiser for the Olympic rowing at Eton Dorney. This summer, we've all seen the happy faces and joyful helpfulness of the Games Makers, whether in person or on television, and it's great to know that two of our own were there helping to make the Games a huge success. Both Miss Smith and Mrs Hadley-Leonard enjoyed their experiences enormously.



Boys' Tennis

This season has seen a determined attitude to play fixtures come rain or shine, resulting in only one cancellation over numerous games. The fixtures began with a friendly against Warwick, where we suffered defeats at both U13 and U15 level, but won at U12; so the future's bright! The league began in June meaning the squads had a fixture almost every week, right up until the last week of term. The U15s had a mixed season, beating Arden but ending up a man down against Tudor Grange, resulting in them being knocked out of the overall competition. The U13s however have progressed through to the knockout stages of the competition in September after going through the group stage unbeaten, with victories over Arden, Heart of England, Tudor Grange and Alderbrook. The boys have also been excellent in Tennis Club, with attendance from both squad players and many more as tennis continues to grow at the School. The use of professional coaches further improves our standards.

Girls' Tennis U15, U13 and U12

Tennis practice after school on a Friday has seen record numbers in attendance again this year. Squad players have enjoyed the sessions run by an external tennis coach, whilst more sociable tennis has taken place on the Astroturf. The mood is always friendly and fun, with an occasional match versus the teachers to create a little more rivalry! Attendance has been excellent and it is pleasing to see a sports club with such a good natured and positive spirit to it. We even saw the emergence of a group of Lower School students who provided some refreshments to the hungry players in between matches! The dedication and enthusiasm of those playing was most pleasing to see and improvements were definitely seen in all who played. Many thanks to all who attended and long may this continue.

The U12 girls have had a few fixtures this season with mixed results. Some inexperienced players have been involved but they have always given their all in some quite tricky fixtures against some much more experienced players. They have had away fixtures against Princethorpe and King's Worcester and picked up some promising results. With further practice, it will be good to see more of these U12 playing in the U13 squad next season. Special mention should go to Anushka Karandikar and Clara Miles who played in the U13 team this season and recorded some great results.

The U13 and U15 tennis teams were again entered into the AEGON Schools Championships. There has been a mixture of results with some good team and individual performances. At the time of writing there are a number of matches to still take place so final standings in the AEGON Schools Championship so far cannot be given. However, with some further hard work over the coming weeks, some more positive results should be achieved. Both the U13 and U15 squad improved steadily as the season progressed and both had a good season overall. Many thanks to all involved.

U12 squad:

Clara Miles, Anushka Karandikar, Gwynneth Horbury, Beatrix Huisson, Annabelle Barker, Katie Lyth, Hannah Currie, Hannah Higley

U13 squad:

Clara Miles, Anushka Karandikar, Alice Lodge, Cait Casey, Felicia Xu, Lydia Roll

U15 Squad:

Laura Daghish, Georgia Lovett, Amy Lewis, Rebecca Bradbury, Claudia Parsons, Camani Lall, Sally Warmington

Niall Crowned British Taekwondo Champion

Niall McManus won gold in the Under-12 (155cm-160cm height) point-stop sparring event at the Independent Taekwondo Schools British Championships, held at Forest Glades Leisure Centre in Kidderminster.

The J4 pupil also won silver in the synchronised taekwondo patterns for Under-16s and bronze in the Under-16 light continuous sparring events for all heights and weights.

A member of Verve Martial Arts Club in Bromsgrove, Niall has a black belt first Dan with silver stripe (the grade between first and second Dan) and assists his chief instructor John Swift in training the club's five to eight year olds at junior grades.

John Swift said: 'Niall's British Championship success has been the product of his continued hard work, dedication and passion for his martial arts. As always, he represented himself, his instructors and family impeccably and showed outstanding sportsmanship'.



Golf

Golf at Solihull School is continuing to go from strength to strength. For the third time in three successive years (2010: ISGA Matchplay, 2011 HMC Foursomes) the Senior Squad have become regional winners of one of the major independent school golf competitions. This year the boys became ISGA Plate champions after defeating Princethorpe in the final which was played at the Welcombe Hotel and Country Club in Stratford-upon-Avon. The team was captained by Will Harland (handicap: 6). The other members of the singles squad include George Taylor (handicap: 6) and Stefan Grylla (handicap: 3). Played according to a stableford format, Will scored 33 points, whilst both George and Stefan secured 34 points each. This gave the boys a total of 101 points, which easily defeated Princethorpe's 78 points. The team's performance on this day was made more remarkable due to the testing conditions that they had to face. They battled through driving rain and wind on an already challenging par 72 course to defeat their opponents. They now progress to the national finals which will be played at the prestigious Shire Golf Club near London. The course, which was designed by Seve Ballesteros was recently voted as one of the top 100 courses in the world. It is a wonderful opportunity for the team to have the chance to experience it.

Golf is also becoming increasingly popular among the younger pupils. Since the beginning of the year, boys and girls from the Lower School have been enjoying lunchtime lessons from the Warwickshire coach, Stuart Bottrill (professional at Shirley Golf Club). The aim of these sessions is to foster a love for the game as well as an appreciation of its fundamentals. The pupils have worked on basic aspects of technique such as grip, stance and full swing. They have also explored aspects of the short game. The sessions will continue again in September. It is hoped that in the coming year the interest demonstrated in these sessions will translate into a Lower School Golf Team that competes against neighbouring independent schools.



Fencing

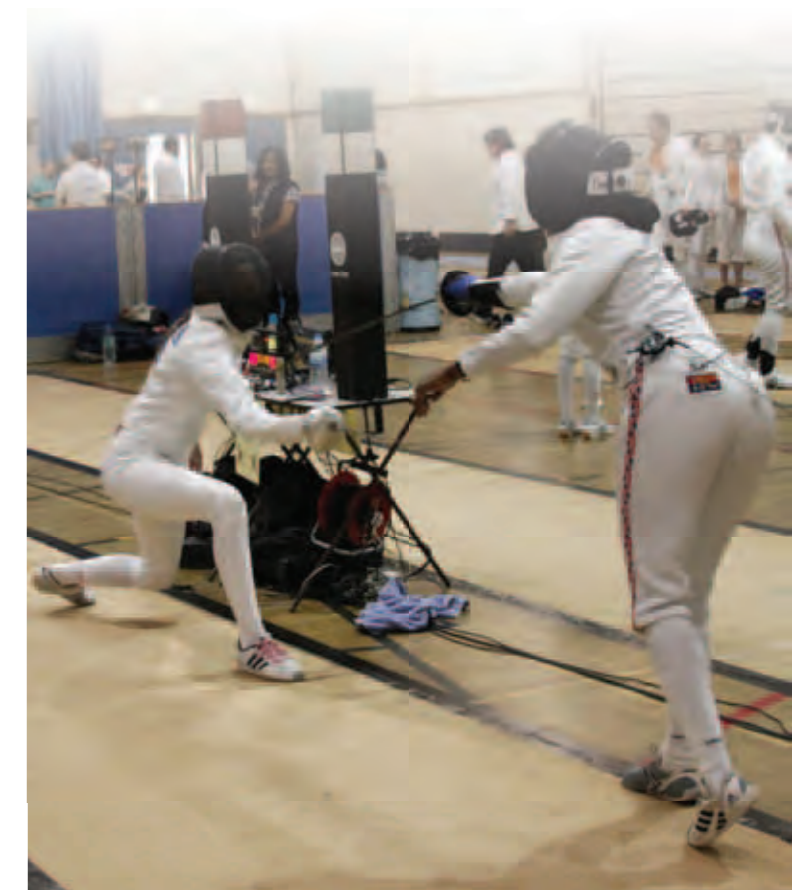
Fencing is an ancient form of armed combat that has developed over thousands of years into the modern Olympic Fencing we practise today. Fencing is one of the four sports which has featured at every one of the modern Olympic Games. The sport teaches three disciplines of swordplay – foil, epee and sabre – two of which are thrusting weapons, the third, the sabre, is both a cutting and thrusting weapon. Fencers wear protective clothing – masks, jackets, plastrons, gloves and breeches – which fully protect them from hits. Fencing bouts take place on a piste measuring 14-metres by 2-metres. Two fencers fight against each other attempting to land a successful and valid hit to designated target areas of the body while not being hit in return.

Fencing has been an extra-curricular activity at Solihull School since 2006. Coached by Raph Aldis, who has over 18 years of both competitive and coaching experience, the club offers foil, epee and sabre tuition using the latest electrical scoring equipment. Over the last few years the School can boast a number of successful competitive results:

- **Warwickshire Regional Champions**
- **West Midlands Regional Finalists**
- **West Midlands Regionally Ranked Fencers**
- **Nationally Ranked Fencers (British Youth Championships)**

Fencing competitions can be individual or team events with competitors grouped by age, sex and type of weapon. Most competitions take place on weekends and can last from a few hours to an entire day.

Solihull School's Fencing Club trains on a Wednesday afternoon 4.30-6.30 pm in the Sports Hall. Weapons and equipment are provided. Training shoes and long tracksuit trousers are essential (no shorts or outdoor shoes). Beginners are always welcome.



Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race 2012

Over Easter Bank Holiday four of our Lower Sixth students – Conor Maher, Tom Johnson, Nick Clay and Michael Fancott – competed in the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon. The DW (as it is affectionately known) is from Devizes in Wiltshire to Westminster in the heart of London. The route follows the Kennet & Avon Canal, joining the River Thames at Reading down to Teddington, where the river becomes tidal for the final stretch down to Westminster.

Training for the race started in October on the canal in Catherine-de-Barnes under the guidance of the coaches of Solihull Canoe Club. Even when the canal froze over in February they managed to carry on their training by paddling on the river Avon. The DW race is 125 miles in total: that's around 90,000 paddle strokes (give or take a few thousand). The race for Junior paddlers is undertaken over four days. On the first day paddlers cover 34 miles, then 36, 38 and, on the final day, a mercifully short 17 (though this is on the fast moving tidal section of the Thames). Each day sees intense racing and the cumulative toll this takes on body and soul is considerable. Over 150 Junior paddlers set out this year to test their fitness against the course. The last day of the race was on the tidal section of the Thames and because of the early tide times they had to start this section of the race at 5.30 in the morning whilst still dark. As a result, both crews and boats had to be equipped with navigation lights. Dry conditions this winter slowed the flow on the Thames, but despite this Nick and Michael completed the race in 23 hours 50 minutes and Conor and Tom finished in 24 hours 47 minutes.

The DW is much more than just a canoe race - it's an adventure! It forces competitors to dig long and deep into their reserves of physical and mental stamina which is why the race is often called 'the canoeists' Everest'. Having the technical skill to paddle a kayak or canoe is essential but the most important quality needed to complete DW is raw determination and the reward for making the mighty effort needed to cross the finish line is a sense of satisfaction so profound that many paddlers can't resist coming back year after year.



DW Senior Doubles is one of the longest non-stop kayaking races in the world. The event takes canoeists to the limit of mental and physical endurance, battling against the steady and inevitable onset of physical depletion. The race is rarely kind to newcomers. This year the course forced the retirement of Olympic rowing legend Sir Steve Redgrave and partner Roger Hatfield. The team left the course at Dorney, just upstream of Windsor after 16 hours 35 minutes and 87 miles due to tiredness. For those competing on the Solihull School team next year they may see Sir Steve Redgrave return to try again. He wrote on his website: 'Just 24 hours later, we decided to go back into training. This year, two overweight and under-prepared rowers failed miserably but look out for us next year. We will be back'. There are not many people who can say they completed an event that Sir Steve Redgrave was forced to retire from!

If training for six months and completing the gruelling course was not enough, the Solihull crews decided to use the adventure to try and raise some money for charity. Between them they have so far raised close to £1000 for charity. In 2013 we are looking to enter the schools team section of the race with a minimum of 3 crews and hopefully get a girls' team involved.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Clay Pigeon Shooting team has continued to go from strength to strength again this year. With the experience of long-term members and the enthusiasm of the new fresh recruits the year started with a bang (literally!). The ever-present camaraderie developed and it has been a genuine pleasure for me to take the group to our weekly shoot.

Success has continued within the sport and the School was proud to win the Butler Cup at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting ground, beating off teams from Millfield, Warwick and Bromsgrove amongst others. This was a tremendous result considering our level of experience in comparison to other schools. All credit should be given to the team: Henry Camm, Oscar Street, Alex Thomas, Christos Wild, Jamie Williams and the captain Conor Maher. Disappointingly, the team was unable to enter the Nationals this year due to the date of the competition but there are high hopes for next year with such a promising team. Unfortunately, due to a lack of competitions open to girls, the girls' team has been unable to compete this year but Abby Hinton, Alice Allcock and Zoe Bonehill have certainly been a force to reckon with! They have regularly beaten the boys on a Wednesday and always push everyone to improve, myself included!

Under the guidance and support of Colin and Gareth at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting ground, all members have made excellent progress this year and the group now has a more experienced team with which we can look forward to further and greater success in 2012-2013



Community Sports Leader Award

The aim of the CSLA is to create responsible, enthusiastic and confident people who will have the ability to lead sporting activities safely while providing enjoyment. The course concentrates on developing leadership skills. We were required to plan, deliver and evaluate activities to our peers and younger pupils throughout the School. Over the course of the year we had various tasks to complete to gain a range of qualifications. These include Level 1 in Athletics coaching and a First Aid qualification that lasts 3 years.

To complete and pass the course we had to complete ten hours of sporting service internally; these hours could be completed by helping at the Third Form hockey tournament, general sporting training and the School Olympic Day. Ten hours of sporting service had to be completed externally; this could be completed by helping at local sporting clubs and helping at the Old Silhillians mini and juniors festival. This year we have had a 99% pass rate, which is mainly due to the pure enjoyment of the course and we are thoroughly looking forward to progressing onto HSLA which provides us with UCAS points when we pass.

Thank you to Miss Townsend for organising the course.

Dan Kelly

The Higher Sports Leader Award

The Higher Sports Leader Award is a step up from the Community Sports Leader Award undertaken in the Lower Sixth at Solihull School. The aim of the Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership is to build on the skills and experience that candidates have gained from completing the Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership. It provides additional skills and experience for those wanting to deliver sport and recreational activities to a variety of community groups such as older people, children and people with disabilities. The syllabus also includes a detailed understanding and delivery of sports leadership, leading sessions to improve fitness and experience of planning and delivering a sporting event. On completion pupils receive UCAS points. This year there was a 99% pass rate. HSLA pupils helped on games afternoon and helped run the Olympic Day at Solihull School. Well done to all those who passed. An excellent achievement and a course invaluable on your C.V.

Miss C Townsend



The 13th Annual 5000m Challenge Race, July 2012

- 1st **Tony Haden** (Staff) **19min 41 sec**
- 2nd **Harry Peachey** (Shell Form) **19min 49sec**
- 3rd **Lydia Roll** (Shell Form) **20min 28sec**





Travel

Chilean Adventure, Easter 2012

At 7:30am on Sunday 1st April, thirteen students – accompanied by three members of staff – arrived, rather weary, at Santiago Airport Chile. This was not an April fool, rather the start of what turned into a memorable three week experience in Chile. After relaxing and refreshing for a short time at the Hostal Amazonas, our base whilst in Santiago, we were ready for the sightseeing: Cerro Santa Lucia, Cerro San Cristobal and, what most will remember, the sights, sounds and smells of the Mercado Central (Central Market). The central feature of the market, a bronze statuette, was made in Birmingham.

A blend of sightseeing, adventure and education formed one aim of our visit to Chile and on day two we visited the first of the three schools that were to cover education. The three schools were very different and the nature of their locations was reflected in their size and ethos.

The Grange School in Santiago – where two former Solihull School pupils, Jonathon and Josephine Walbaum were now studying – was founded in 1928. It's a bilingual, coeducational school with 1800 students, 300 staff and is situated in a leafy suburb of Santiago. The majority of the lessons were taught in English with our students joining in lessons involving Art, Drama and Science. Games followed lunch: volleyball for the girls and football for the boys. The afternoon session was enjoyed by all.



We left Santiago at 8:15pm on the overnight bus to Pucon, arriving at 7:15am the following morning. The word bus is quite misleading; rather a comfortable coach with reclining seats (Semi cama). In the words of one student (written on the blog): 'we arrived and had a massive breakfast at La Cassis, well needed after the journey. We had a chilled morning and then it was time for adventure. We went to the canopy (zip wire) and after this went to a thermal pool, good day!'

Accommodation in Pucon was in self-catering Cabañas, and our students did some shopping, cooked and generally looked after themselves, while all the time speaking Spanish. They survived!

Friday, 6th April: 'After rafting we were faced with the apprehension and anticipation of staying with our host families. Would our Spanish be sufficient? Our fears were groundless. The families welcomed us unselfishly and gave us a clear picture of their life. Some aspects have no language barrier like jigsaw puzzles and cards'.

The second school we visited was the South Oxford School, Villarrica. A much smaller school of approximately 300 pupils, it was founded 19 years ago, and is set in the countryside with many of the pupils having to travel considerable distances. Here time was spent in the Kindergarten teaching English words through song – 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' – in exchange for their Spanish equivalents.

On Tuesday April 10th we were on our way to the third of our schools and the final home stay, the Wessex School in Concepción. Concepción is the second largest conurbation in the country with an economy based on a strong manufacturing industry. This bilingual school of 800 students and 110 staff, situated in the built-up suburb, was founded in 1989 to fill a gap in English Education in Concepción.



It was in Concepción, with pupils from the Wessex School as our guides, that we saw the areas affected by the tsunami. We spoke to the elderly living in makeshift houses and chatted to the students, in schools that had been rebuilt, about their experiences.

We then journeyed from Concepción, via Santiago, to Calama and San Pedro de Atacama (2041km). Accommodation here was in two self-catering Hostels, one for boys and the other for the girls! After all the school visits the quietness of the Oasis of San Pedro was appreciated. The rest and relaxation did not last long for there was much to see and explore in this, the driest desert in the world: There was star gazing at a local observatory (it was cold), sand boarding in the Valley of the Dead (it was hot) followed by observing the colours of sunset at the Valley of the Moon, and swimming in a salt lake, trying to remove the salt from our skin afterwards.

Tuesday 17th April: three days left. What could be better than all that we have so far experienced? Today we found out. We had breakfast by the Tatio Geysers (we set off at 5:30am) as the sun rose and the geysers erupted, and to finish it all off, a swim in the thermal pools, by the actual geysers, at 4000m above sea level!



On Wednesday 18th April we made our way back to Santiago but not before visiting one of the largest open cast copper mines in the world. Chuquicamata is so large it can be picked out from space (4.3km long, 3km wide and nearly 1km deep)! Finally, on Friday 20th April after three memorable weeks in Chile it was time to leave Santiago and the sights of Chile to return to the UK. There was sadness to be leaving such a varied country but also excitement at the prospect of seeing our families again.

Mr R Smith



Chilean Adventure: the humanitarian side of our trip

On 3 April 2012 a group of Solihull School pupils and teachers visited the area around Concepcion, Chile, which had been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in February 2010. The information below shows before the earthquake and the effects of the tsunami on a small coastal resort and fishing village called Dichato, which we were able to visit.

Dichato had a population of about 3,000 residents, although this swells by 10,000 in the summer. The town was severely damaged in the 27 February 2010 earthquake and tsunami: 42 people went missing, 26 were killed and 90% of the town was destroyed.



Before

After

Approximately one hour after the earthquake, teenagers lounging on the beach observed the sea roll out of the horseshoe-shaped bay, and immediately ran through town to warn of an impending tsunami. This moved most of the town's population out of harm's way. Many people, who had evacuated for the tsunami, returned after the fifth wave, believing it was over, and were killed by the sixth wave. The tsunami was some 10m high. Vacation cottages were lifted off their pilings by the tsunami and smashed. Fishing boats were washed hundreds of metres inland.

Solihull School students visited El Molino Camp in Dichato in April 2012. We spoke to the people living in the wooden houses. Most of the elderly lived there and the conditions had deteriorated over the two years. They face the prospect of another winter in these houses because the government hasn't built the new homes they were promised. They have started



Emergency tents put up within first week.

but it is a slow process. We decided to spend the £3000 we had raised on a new wood burning stove for the Community Centre (shown in the background of the photo below). This has now been installed and is working at just the right time as Chile moves into winter and the rainy season. We are also having a toilet and shower unit fitted into the Centre to enable the elderly to have access to these facilities.

Back at Solihull School we asked the Junior School if they could donate any balls of wool and knitting needles. We had a fabulous response and were able to send these out to the Community Centre in El Molino Camp for the older folk to knit jumpers and scarves as part of their community activities. During our trip in Chile we also visited two schools that had been devastated by the tsunami. They have now been fully rebuilt due to international aid but were in need of reading books, in English, for the younger students. Our Junior School again came up trumps and donated lots of fiction and nonfiction books.



'Media Aguas' newly built in 2010 at El Molino Camp, Dichato. Solihull School donated £2000 which built two of these.



El Molino Camp, Dichato, Chile. Wessex and Solihull Students visited the elderly occupants of the 'Media Aguas'.

Chilean Adventure - Leticia's Reflections

Travelling 11649km across the world was the best decision I have ever made. Chile in South America is the most alluring country that I have ever set my eyes on. For school trips I would say this is one of the best. We experienced not just sights, but through contacts with local school children and their families, gained an insight into what makes Chile tick.

The first day I arrived we saw incredible sights in Santiago, from the beautiful grand buildings to the homeless in the back streets. We travelled from Santiago to Pucon, Villarrica to Concepción and San Pedro back to Santiago. As everyone knows it is a thin country on the map stretching 4,270 kilometres covering every climate: we witnessed snow, rain, sun and hail. We saw ski resorts, deserts, coastal communities, countryside, forests, settlements and the largest copper mine in the world. You name it, we saw it: all this in one country.

The main focus of our trip was the visit to Wessex School in Concepción, a large town which was very close to the epicenter of the earthquake in 2010, and Talcahuano, the main port affected by the tsunami. Despite the reconstruction work already done since the earthquake there were still camps of people in temporary accommodation who had lost everything. We visited the camps and spoke to the residents. It brought home to me the tragedy. It is not just a TV picture. The money I raised and collected through donations went to help people like Josephine who explained how in a few minutes her life had changed. From living in a modern 3-bed house to losing everything and having to create a new home in a wooden 'shed' called a 'mediaagua'. She told me how the local council promised her a new house a year after the earthquake; she's now been waiting two years! It's for people like this that we need the money, just for the essentials like a toilet outside their house for when winter comes, hot running water, gas, extra clothes. This lady and her son hadn't eaten a hot meal for over six months. They hadn't left their 'home' for over seven months because they both have necrotizing fasciitis, a disease where your tissues and limbs start to wear away. As they can't afford the medication to treat this disease they are unlikely to live very long. However, it is the fear that the world has forgotten them which is the worst thing. They pleaded for us to tell the world about their plight. It was one of the most moving parts of our trip. I was able to raise £300 for the charity and I have split the money into three parts for the camp, with a third used to provide a toilet, another third for wood to use in the stove and the other £100 still has to be decided.

On a happy note we also spent time with Chilean teenagers, who, as you can guess, were just like us! Influenced by the USA, we found the same fashions and music as here in England. Perhaps the greatest difference was that they know how to party! The whole day seemed to be shifted into the night and often you were not eating your evening meal until gone 9.30 pm. All of my host families were welcoming and interested to hear about Europe. Many of their Grand or Great Grand Parents had originally come from Europe to settle in Chile. Lessons at our hosts schools were in English and very similar to Solihull. However, there was a more laid-back attitude to life and people seemed more accepting of what will be, will be. There did not seem to be the same pressure to succeed. This might have been because we were visiting wealthy families but I think this general attitude probably was the same across all sections of Chilean life.

Apart from the people, Chile has some of the most stunning scenery. It is on a big scale. We saw the world's driest desert,

largest mine, bubbling hot springs and flew over the longest mountain range in the world. Staying in hostels was interesting since we met a lot of backpackers. Chile is so beautiful, I want to return for a gap year!

Leticia Salmon
22 May 2012

Mrs Cassano's personal reflections on her Chilean Adventure

El viaje a Chile el pasado mes de abril me permitió vivir varias experiencias todas súper interesantes en primer lugar compartir 3 semanas con un fantástico grupo de estudiantes y también con Mrs. Brown y Mr. Smith. Chile es un país que ha jugado una parte muy importante en mi educación en España y este viaje me ha dado la oportunidad de verlo con mis propios ojos y de conocer mejor su historia y a sus habitantes personas serias, si las comparamos con otros países de Latino América, muy simpáticos y generosas. El gran impacto del viaje fue poder ver y admirar su extraordinaria geografía nunca olvidaré el Volcán de Villarrica, El desierto de Atacama o la ciudad minera de Calama. ¡Ojalá! hubiera podido tener esta oportunidad cuando era estudiante y espero que todos los estudiantes en el grupo valoren la suerte de haber podido tener esta magnífica experiencia en este momento en sus vidas.

Translation

The trip to Chile last April allowed me to have various experiences that were all really interesting. First was the experience of spending three weeks with a fantastic group of students and Mrs Brown and Mr Smith. Chile is a country that has played an important part in my education in Spain. This trip has given me the opportunity to see it with my own eyes, to understand better its history, and to know its people, who seemed very reserved.

An enormous impact of the trip was to be able to see and admire its extraordinary geography; I will never forget Villarrica Volcano, the Atacama desert or Calama mine and town. I wish I could have had this opportunity when I was a student and I hope that all the students in the group valued the opportunity of being able to have this magnificent experience at this stage in their lives.

Chilean Adventure - Isa's Reflections

The trip has changed me as a person as now I am confident that I can do anything on my own, apart from cook for myself! I would definitely like to visit Chile again and if possible visit the Chileans that I hosted and the Chileans that hosted me. I am glad I hosted Rodrigo a year before the trip as it taught me and my family about the Chilean culture and it made me interested to go on the trip. Since my return I have enjoyed hosting another Chilean guest, Daniele.

I think more children in my age group should take part in a trip like this because it would help them to appreciate life and learn that they have a lot more than they think they do. It will also teach them a lot about the Chilean culture.

Isa Zaman

Barbados 2011 – Senior Cricket Tour

In July 2011, the senior cricket squad set sail (actually we flew!) for the Caribbean for a three week tour on the island of Barbados. This was our third such tour to the Sir Garfield Sobers International Schools' U19 Tournament. We arrived with two days in which to acclimatise and train. Once again the Blue Horizon Hotel, on the south coast, was our base. We were welcomed back and, under the coaching of Chris Mayer and Dave Smith, we went about our business.

Captain Dominic Harding was in top batting form, and seam bowler Duncan Wigley was splintering stumps with the pace of his attack. Veteran Matt Bacon was in fine form both with the bat and keeping wicket. Our other all-rounders – Chris Hooper, Callum Walker, Tom Starkey and Callum Curtiss – gave their all. Fergus Wassell, Martin Bullard, James Buckle, Miles Davis, Usama Rahman, James Whitfield and the young Nick Hooper all made massive contributions. Our fielding was razor sharp! We won our opening three matches and ended week one at the top of the leader board. Dom Harding's century in our second match was to earn him the Tournament Award for Best Innings. Consequently, our first weekend off was exceptionally special; the mood in the camp was high and we were treated as celebrities by the locals!

Unfortunately, we couldn't sustain the accuracy shown in week one, and we narrowly lost our week two round of games. We had to win our last two matches: cruelly, a tropical storm hit the island, and only half of one match was completed. We were out of the semi-finals but finished 5th in the overall standings – our best ever position in three tours! Furthermore, Dominic Harding's prowess with the bat earned him the prestigious award of Overall Top Run Scorer by any batsman in the Tournament.

The camaraderie and morale amongst the tour party remained high throughout the tour. The West Coast Catamaran Cruise (snorkelling over coral reefs and swimming with turtles), the Friday Night Oistins Carnival, the surf and picnic at Crane Beach, and the Golf Day were wonderful highlights. As were each of our many team-meal nights out together. And I shall never forget Callum Walker's invention of 'Pool-Rugby' with Matt Bacon's driving maul going the length of the hotel pool. I even had to get a whistle to referee their line-outs! Oh what fun we had! I can't wait for Barbados 2013.

Mr P Jackson



C I Mayer
(Team Manager)



D W Smith
(Head Coach)



P R Jackson
(Tour Manager)



Standing: Callum Curtiss, Usama Rahman, James Whitfield, Fergus Wassell, Miles Davis, Tom Starkey, Nick Hooper (inset)
Seated: James Buckle, Callum Walker, Martin Bullard, Dominic Harding (Capt), Matt Bacon (V-Capt), Duncan Wigley, Chris Hooper



Hockey and Netball Tour to the Caribbean, July 2012

July 2012 saw the Solihull Hockey and Netball girls taking the Caribbean by storm. On arrival at Piarco Airport, Trinidad, the girls were hit by the hot air and various welcoming faces as we boarded a fire engine to our hotel. We travelled through the streets to our destination, taking in the culture around us, and arrived at the Normandie Hotel early evening. We deposited our large, and in Molly's case very overweight, bags in our rooms and took to the pool which we later used for morning training sessions. That night we went to a local restaurant and enjoyed tasting shark, however, to the teachers' surprise most of us were too tired to try it! The following days consisted of several Hockey and Netball matches winning our first Netball game 36-12 to the Fire services youth club whilst unfortunately losing the Hockey game 10-0 to an extremely talented team. The girls remained in strong spirits and proved they were 'totes amaze' during the second Hockey match, losing only 6-0 to the Trinidad and Tobago national team, despite the tropical storm. On the first Tuesday of tour, the girls travelled to Matura where they went turtle-watching on a beautiful white beach. Though we didn't get to see any female turtles it was incredible to hold the baby turtles and set them free into the ocean. We sat under the stars and were told ghost stories by our tour guide, leading to Sophie and Nicole having to walk backwards through their hotel room as they were led by suspicion. The next day we played our final hockey match against St James Secondary School, improving our result to a loss of only 4-0 to a team that also consisted of national players. We then went on to win the second Netball game 30-25 against the Holy Name Convent, a great victory for the girls which was celebrated during the Panyard experience that evening. We played steel drums and tasted local food whilst we discovered Sophia- the undiscovered limbo champion. The evening also saw the creation of 'Phil's song' which I'm sure all the girls will

remain singing throughout the holidays! Trinidad was a great experience but we were now ready to head to the airport to board the plane to St.Lucia.

On arrival at our new hotel, The Bay Gardens Inn, the girls were thrilled to be located near a mall and a KFC as all the local food from Trinidad had begun to catch up with us! After our fitness session in the first morning we walked to the beautiful local beach and relaxed in the sunshine. We then took part in an extremely competitive round of volleyball where





experienced natural mud baths and visited a Cocoa plantation. Our final day of tour was taken up by the St.Lucian carnival, celebrating 50 years of freedom. We dressed up in bright colours using neon paint on our faces and danced to the loud reggae music, soaking in the culture. The colourful day brought our fantastic tour to an end and as we sat down to a formal dinner on the Wednesday evening, we were presented with awards reflecting moments of the trip. Unfortunately we had to say our goodbyes to Miss Townsend but spirits were lifted as we learned of her return to visit us hopefully in the winter term. The trip would not have been possible without the help of Miss Smith, Phil Evans and Miss Townsend and I'm sure all the girls will remember the Hockey and Netball tour forever, holding onto some unforgettable memories.

Emily Hodge



we mingled with some of the locals. That night the girls went dancing, and adapted to the popular dance style 'whining' - where Phil discovered his inner diva. The following day we went to a market where we were able to purchase souvenirs for our families and went horse riding, where we were fortunate enough to ride bare back through the sea. Our next Netball match was against a local team where the girls lost narrowly to a set of young, talented athletes. However, we were determined to improve our score and won the following match 17-15, celebrating our victory with a dress up night, where the girls dressed as Grecians. We enjoyed a night of Karaoke and dancing - where Miss Townsend gave an impressive rendition of Rihanna. The girls were then treated to a Boat trip which was labelled the 'best day of tour' as we went snorkelling,



American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada

Our largest group to date – eighteen Lower Sixth students and two staff – headed off to Vancouver for February half-term to enjoy this beautiful Canadian city, and to join in one of the largest international scientific meetings. Before the meeting we learned about the First Nation (aboriginal) peoples, attended an exciting local ice hockey match, visited the winter wonderland of Grouse Mountain and made the obligatory trip to the shopping mall (some of us anyway – the author managed to resist!)

The meeting provided something for all scientific tastes. Symposia were attended with titles like 'Chemistry in the Clouds: Impacts of Aerosols on Climate Change', 'Genomics and Cancer: A Global Challenge Needing Global Solutions', 'Things that go Bump: The Latest Discoveries in Particle Physics'. Lectures included 'The Power of Ideas' given by Mike Lazaridis, who launched the smartphone phenomenon with the Blackberry, and 'Good Natured: From Primate Social Instincts to Human Morality' by Frans de Waal, a Dutch American behavioural biologist, who gave a fascinating talk on the parallels between primate and human behaviour.

It is said that the AAAS Annual Meeting brings together the greatest number of PhDs and Nobel Prize winners under one roof – a great opportunity for our young people to be in such company.

We also met an 18 year-old American High School student who is a scientist of the future – already doing his own research at school!

Look out for information on Boston 2013.

Mr A Jones



USA Skiing Trip

In February 2012 a group of students from the Fourth Form to the Upper Fifth accompanied by Mr. Leonard, Mrs. Hadley, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Campbell flew to America for a ski trip. The journey began with a coach journey to Heathrow airport at 3:00 am after which we met up with our representative from the tour company Equity Ski, Dan. We had an hour or so in the airport before leaving on a seven hour flight to JFK airport in New York. We then had a seven hour coach journey to the hotel, Hampton Inn. A long day!

The next day we went skiing at Bretton Woods ski resort. We all split up into three groups: beginner, intermediate and expert. The skiing was great and the snow was in good condition for our time at the resort. Our instructor was called Phil. When we moved on to the Wildcat resort we started skiing on more challenging slopes such as double black diamonds. We got a new instructor called Carol who helped us move on from what we did at Bretton Woods.



The hotel was really accommodating but we spent a lot of time doing activities as a group. We did things like bowling and snow tubing with the teachers after eating at the Hillbilly's Southern Barbeque.

For the last two days we went to New York and did some sightseeing. We visited the Empire State Building, saw Times Square before going out to eat at Planet Hollywood. The next day we caught the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and we went shopping before heading over to the airport and catching our flight back to Heathrow. The journey back to Solihull was tiring but it really was a great trip. Thanks to all the teachers and Dan from Equity Ski.



Third Form trip to le Chateau de la Baudonniere February 2012

During February half term a very excited group of 38 Third Form pupils set across the channel to visit the beautiful Château de la Baudonniere in rural Normandy, France, accompanied by the group leader, Madame Black as well as Mr Baddeley, Miss Ford and Mr Hadley. We set off on Monday and made our way down to Portsmouth to catch the ferry to Caen. We finally arrived at the Château late on Monday where we were greeted with a hot chocolate (chocolat chaud) and an introduction to the house and the surroundings.

That night we all slept well, except for one room in particular (not mentioning any names!). One thing that makes the Château trip unique is that all of the leaders' native language is French and they hardly speak a word of English even when you are stuck at the top of the climbing wall and itching to get down!

As well as speaking lots of French, we had fun participating in many activities that you don't have the chance to do every day. These activities included: Aeroball (Aérobol), Climbing wall (Escalade), Assault course (Parcours de santé) and many more. Furthermore, every night we enjoyed an evening activity, including a camp fire (feu de camp), a disco (une discothèque), a treasure hunt (chasse au trésor) and a talent contest (concours de talent).



Another highlight of the week was when we visited the French market town of Villedieu, where we tried out our French on the locals. From the market we bought cheese (fromage), chips (frites), lots of sweets (beaucoup de bonbons) – yummy! (miam miam!) – and also some souvenirs for our families.

We then visited the magnificent Abbey of Le Mont St. Michel. We were blown away by the extraordinary sight that lay before our eyes! Following that we made a quick pit stop to the very well known Carrefour supermarket, where we stocked up on sweets and chocolate (bonbons et chocolat) for the final few days.

We all had a great time and learnt a lot, but more importantly we had fun!

Thanks to Madame Black for organising the trip, it was fantastic.

William Rigg and Arthur Townend

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull School

Over the last twelve months the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Solihull School has operated with just over 80 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 their Fourth Form and this year an unprecedented number have succeeded in making it through to attempt Gold in the Sixth Form.

In July last year, the annual summer expedition took us to a new area for the School which was the mid-Wales region around Plynlimmon and the Elan Valley. The area known as the 'Green desert' by locals proved to be less steep and rugged compared to the mountains of Snowdonia where most had trained the previous Easter but the remoteness and lack of distinct footpaths made navigating very challenging indeed. The wildness of the terrain meant that the groups saw very few people at all over the four day gold venture and the landscape proved boggy and unforgiving. This coupled with vast swarms of midges made the physical challenge asked of our students really high. Three groups of Silver candidates and five groups of Gold were nearly all successful. One boy unfortunately sprained his ankle on day two and so will be returning this summer to have another attempt. The Award officer from the mid-Wales area praised the positive attitude, the skill level and the equipment of all the Solihull School groups who attended.

On returning to School in September the focus was on enrolment for Silver and Gold candidates and on pupils getting stuck in to the other sections of their award. We always try to stress to the pupils that the 'Physical' (sporting), 'Skill' and 'Volunteering' sections are as important as the Expedition section and we make it a pre-requisite of attendance on camp that they have at least started them. Ceremonial drill, dog handling with the police and park management 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 medical placement in Ghana, taking part in a tall ships race, and assisting with a riding therapy charity in the New Forest to name but a few. These involve commitment and determination to complete and require pupils to initially be pro-active in setting placements up and then sometimes physically and emotionally challenged by what they are asked to do.

Expedition training in School is focused towards the Bronze and direct entry Silver candidates. This began in January with preparation for all of the Easter and summer ventures. Once again we had many Lower Fifth pupils partaking in Bronze practise and assessment ventures in the Long Mynd area of Shropshire and the White Peak whilst one group of pupils chose the weeklong Clwydian Mountains option over Easter. Aspects of first aid training, country code, stoves, tents and rucksack packing and expedition kit were all covered during training. The vast majority of the time, however, is spent using maps and compasses for route planning.

In April we had also five groups of Upper Fifth Silver pupils in the Berwyns alongside the Lower Fifth Bronze group and another six groups doing a Gold Practise through the Rhinog range of southern Snowdonia, starting near Harlech and heading south towards Cadair Idris. Such large numbers meant that the Golds were split into two halves with the first cohort walking south for four days and wild camping at altitude. When these had completed their practise, a second tranche of Gold award pupils then arrived to head back north again! The second half of the week was characterised by strong winds and blizzards. The Silvers especially found themselves ploughing through knee deep snow! At the same time several hundred miles away a seventh Gold group of



boys was achieving a first for the School and taking part in a sailing venture on the Solent. This included the practise and venture around the Isle of Wight and involved sailing/navigation at night and in some stormy conditions. Well done to all those involved: their presentation was the best that the centre had ever received.

As I write this a Silver practise expedition to Shropshire is planned for several days' time and then another to the Peak District a week later with 72 Lower Fifth pupils doing their Bronze assessment. There is also an eighth Gold practise group heading for Kinder Scout in the Southern Pennines and then in July we travel to Capel Curig for the seven Gold-assessed ventures during which we will make use of the School Cottage.

Apart from this very hectic expedition schedule, leader training in North Wales and further staff first aid training has occurred this year. e-DofE has been re-launched which we have had to implement and which has involved pupils now uploading evidence on to the web. As always a great deal of thanks must be given to the great number of School staff and the many external helpers who assist us and make all of this possible. Those staff who help do of course find the whole experience rewarding but they will always return to School emotionally and physically exhausted. The expeditions would not be happy without our staff or at best DofE here would end up being a minority activity at the School.



Congratulations must again be given to all the pupils who have completed a level and pushed themselves hard to achieve it. It always cheers me when I see pupils who despite being stuck on a remote hillside, exhausted, weather-beaten and bitten by swarms of nasty bugs, still manage to keep on smiling and push themselves to new limits! Hopefully you will have memories that will stay with you for a very long time! Well done to you all.

Mr O Bate and Mr P Dean MBE



Duke of Edinburgh Sailing Expedition to Wales

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an exceptionally rewarding program especially at Gold level. This year, Cameron Boterill, Campbell Binning, Ben Perrins, and Jordan Salmon undertook a Sailing Expedition into the Solent which lies between the English Coast and the Isle of Wight.

After an extremely long journey down we eventually arrived at the IYWAC (Island Youth Water Activities Centre). After getting kitted out with all the required gear, we boarded the 32-foot-long yacht. The look on our faces as we saw the small cramped insides of the boat was a sight to behold: it was far from the luxury yachting we had imagined the night before. Immediately we were plunged into the deep-end. Not literally of course; we set sail immediately from Cowes to Portsmouth. Our instructor Hilary began teaching us the ropes quite literally! After several hours of going round in circles we eventually cracked it and arrived in our first marina. This was where the sailing expedition truly comes into its own. Every night a five-star marina with showers and toilets were a godsend in comparison to the trenches the people who walk for DofE had to endure.

After several days of practice we were of a high enough calibre for our instructor to give us the daunting task of a night sail! Everything we had learnt about sailing was pushed to its limits: instead of following landmarks on the coast we now had the almost impossible task of trying to spot individual flashing lights out of the medley of red, green and yellow flashing buoys. It took us a few tries to successfully locate the green 4-second flashing 3-second break buoy amongst the maze of other flashes. Eventually we arrived, having only gone slightly

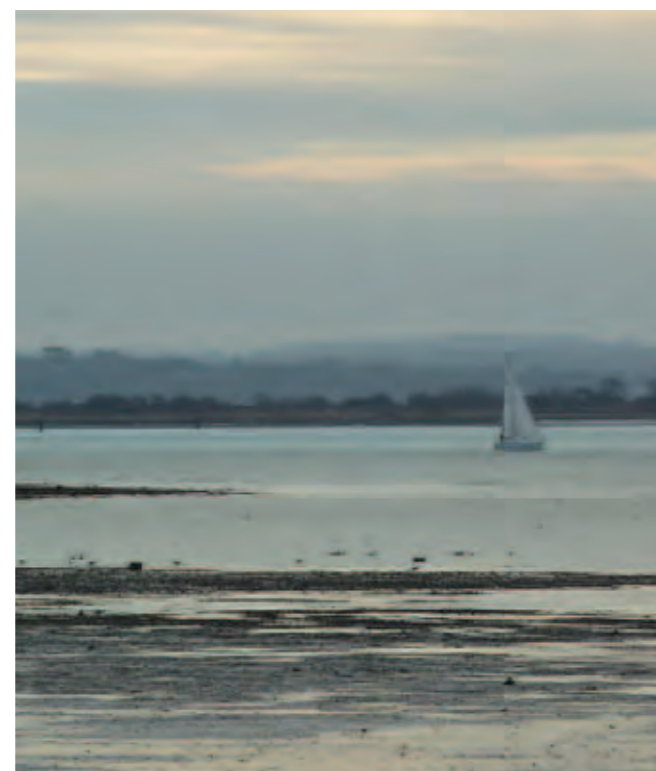
off course for a few minutes, at yet another glorious marina. A few days later we had our rest day full of fish and chips and card games and a briefing on our expedition to set sail the next day. We would head from Cowes to Poole, to Lymington, to Portsmouth, and back to Cowes. This was a very daunting idea as the journey looked very rough.

On the first day the wind was against us and we struggled to move at all as the tides were against us. After two hours of trying to move out of the harbour we used the emergency engine to keep on track. Jonathan must be congratulated on his dedication for steering the boat for 11 hours straight with no breaks at all but after those 11 hours we arrived successfully at Poole.

The second day was one of the most death-defying and scariest days of our lives. The weather could not have been worse: we were in Gale Force 7 with 6-foot high waves smashing against the yacht. None of us was seasick but we certainly looked green! We soldiered on and used the speed tactic to get through the storm as fast as possible until at about 18 knots (very fast) the boat after a sharp turn began to tip until it was vertical. Campbell and Ben were clinging on for dear life, inches from the cold sea. It was the joint effort of Cameron's quick thinking to release the sail pressure and Jonathan's skilful steering which brought the boat back to its horizontal positioning with no man overboard. We eventually arrived at Lymington Yacht Harbour where we enjoyed a shower and some sleep before the next day ahead.

On the final day we set off early as we had a boat to catch back home, so with a lack of wind at all the emergency engines were turned on to get us to our final destination of Cowes. It was a lovely sunny day and we were all in good spirits and so we finished by parallel parking the boat (no easy job!). Then we made our presentation and hurried home. It was an amazing experience and none of our team will ever forget it.

Cameron Botterill



School Trip to the Mountain Cottage, Snowdonia

On 23rd April, Shell A bravely set off to the great unknown, otherwise known as Snowdonia! Before we went to the cottage, we did our first activity- a rafting icebreaker. We split into teams, got changed and set off to the Menai Straits. Luckily for us, the tide and the wind were in one direction, making it plain sailing as we learnt to find eddies and more importantly, to control the boat. It was great fun and at the end we were very wet but happy! When we arrived at the cottage, we took our time unpacking and sorting ourselves into dorms, getting a good night's sleep ready for the next day. On Tuesday, we were coasteering, something that we were all looking forward to. We imagined ourselves as James Bond, fearlessly jumping off cliffs and being miraculously saved by helicopters! Fortunately for us, it was slightly less extreme. However it was still very enjoyable and everyone had an opportunity to get wet by jumping into the sea at the end- a very bracing and cold activity! We learnt to work as a team and those with fears of heights valiantly confronted them with the help of those around them.

Wednesday was the day we were all looking forward to – the day we would climb Mount Snowdon. Unfortunately, the winds were too high around the mountains so we resigned ourselves to a long walk around the slate mines and quarries. Though at first many of us hated the walk because of the awful weather, it soon calmed down and we took refuge in a slate museum. The slate museum was very interesting as we got to learn about the preparation of the slate, as well as studying one of the biggest water wheels we had ever seen, being as tall as about two storeys. The walk back was uphill but we

still had plenty of fun by secretly placing rocks into the bags of unsuspecting victims – naming no names! Unluckily for us, we still had to do the Maths Challenge on Thursday morning – somehow this was a lot scarier for us than other activities we had done so far! However, we braved the questions and came out feeling very pleased with ourselves. Having got the academic bit of the week out of the way we had a walk around a lake equipped, of course, with lots of chocolate bars. All good things must come to an end and so it was with regret we packed on Thursday evening. However, we still had one final thing to look forward to – the Treetop challenge! The pictures we had seen of this activity reignited our James Bond dreams. It was an obstacle course taking place high in the trees including a zip wire and a jump at the very end- a chance to practise the skills we had learnt coasteering. Everyone enjoyed it although many were scared in places but it was amazing to see people gain their confidence as they gradually let go of ropes and ran across the obstacles. It was a thrilling experience and a perfect end to our week. There were many new experiences and we gained confidence during the activities – it was fantastic to see normally shy people burst out of their shells with a bang. Good luck to all who will participate in this trip next year – we all envy you enormously!

Eve Colyer





Aachen, Christmas 2011

The Thursday evening of 15 December saw 36 pupils, 4 staff and 4 ex-Sixth Formers set off on the bi-annual pilgrimage to the Christmas Markets of Nordheim-Westphalen. A largely uneventful journey with little sleep through rain-soaked England, France and Belgium saw us arrive in sunny Cologne. Pupils investigated the sights whilst staff took a well-earned coffee break. A severe storm resulting in many inverted umbrellas curtailed a very interesting tour of the city centre and we headed for our hotel. As promised, snow arrived overnight. On Saturday we visited Marksburg Castle overlooking the Rhine. Here we had another interesting tour culminating in the torture chamber, which was the obvious highlight. This was followed by a visit to the markets of Koblenz (each town is different with different delicacies on offer). Returning to the hotel, the evening was taken up by Quiz Night, another trip tradition, followed by more snowballing. On Sunday, pupils were able to show off their physical prowess in various activities at the Olympic Sports Museum in Cologne. This was followed by what was probably the pupils' favourite visit, The Chocolate Museum, where pupils and staff stocked up in the museum shop. That evening we visited the expansive and stunning market in Aachen, which fills the city centre. Once again the trip was over far too quickly and on Monday we began our return to Solihull.

Birmingham German Market, Christmas 2011

Just before Christmas 2011, students studying German from the Shell Form were given the opportunity to visit the German Market in Birmingham. Everyone left School full of expectation and excitement. It was a bitterly cold day, however this did not dampen our spirits. We were dropped off by the coach driver outside the Town Hall so that we were as close as possible to the German Market. It was quite magical to visit the market so close to Christmas.

This was a new experience for most of us and my first surprise was the quality of the temporary buildings which really did look like a scene from a traditional Christmas card. The smells of pancakes, hot chocolate and cinnamon surrounded us and it really did feel like a little part of Germany.

We all had the opportunity to practise our German when talking to the stall holders. I was particularly interested to find out if everyone was German and started off by asking: 'Sind Sie Deutsch?' (Are you German?) Interestingly most were not German and I had a fascinating conversation with a Swedish stall holder selling pixie shoes and beautiful hats! The pancakes were delicious and the lady spoke German when we asked 'Wieviel Kostet das?' (How much do they cost)?

We were accompanied by our teachers who made the day an extremely enjoyable experience. They ensured that we had the opportunity to practise our German and to improve our confidence when speaking to German citizens. They allowed us some time to look around the market in controlled areas and ensured we all had a really lovely day out.

Thank you to all the teachers who organised the visit and accompanied us to the German Market. Special thanks must go to Frau Cramb for organising the event and ensuring everyone had a wonderful learning experience. We all benefited greatly and had a joyful time in the spirit of Christmas.

Jessica Browne



European Classes, Belgium 13-19th November 2011

In October ten Sixth Form French students, accompanied by Mr Paul Morgan and myself, set out by coach for London where we boarded the Eurostar to Brussels and then an intercity train on to Bilzen, in the Flemish speaking part of Belgium. There we were met and escorted to Alden Biesen, the spectacular castle that was to be our base for the next week. All the students had spent many weeks researching information on nuclear power in various EU countries, and had prepared a twenty minute long presentation in French that they were to deliver the following day. But before they had a chance to worry about this ordeal, they were greeted by students from schools from France, Germany and Belgium, and everyone started to mingle sociably whilst sampling regional specialities brought by each nation.

The following day, our students rose to the challenge and all spoke confidently in French, delivering a polished presentation designed to give background information to the other schools, and then lead discussions in four different breakout groups. This process was repeated three more times by each other school, after which each nation presented their proposal; an aspect of European Law that they wanted to amend. Ours was to phase out nuclear energy across Europe and increase renewable energy sources to compensate. The students worked on their proposal every day, often late into the evening, fitting sessions around visits to Brussels, Leuven, Aachen and Maastricht as well as a creative workshop afternoon, all in preparation for the 'Council of Ministers' role-play on the final day. Here, each school played the part of an EU delegation and had to debate formally in order to get their proposal passed by the Council. The UK delegation argued very well, amending their proposal to take on board member states' concerns, lobbying with other nations to convince them on some of the finer points, and eventually convincing even

France that their proposal was a good one, and the proposal was passed unanimously.

The final night's disco allowed all the students to let off some steam in either celebration or commiseration, depending on the success or otherwise of their proposal, and prepare for the long journey home the next day. All our students were excellent ambassadors for the School and thoroughly enjoyed their week, improving their spoken fluency and self-confidence as well as gaining a deeper appreciation of European culture. Vive la Belgique!

Miss E Campbell



Shell Form Latin Trip to Cirencester

On 31st January and 7th February, the Shell Formers taking Latin set off on a trip to Cirencester. Cirencester is home to lots of discoveries of Roman Britain. After we arrived at Corinium Museum, we talked about four different individuals who lived in Cirencester in AD75. When we were learning about them, we uncovered the translation to their gravestones, looked at what their job and life was like, and even dressed up as them! This involved the boys dressing up as ladies and girls dressing up as men. This was one of the funniest parts! Once we had learned about them, we all went into the exciting museum. During the museum visit we filled out a booklet about all the different aspects of how the people worked and lived. It was extremely interesting to see all the real tomb stones of people who lived in Cirencester in AD75. Whilst looking around the museum, I came across jewellery, food, mosaics and armour the soldiers wore. I was astonished at how heavy the armour was (I know that I wouldn't be able to wear it in battle!). I learned that Roman Britons liked to look their best. The men especially did, because they would go so far as to pluck every hair off their body! When we finished in the museum we ate lunch, and then started our walk around the town of Cirencester. Our walk started with seeing the remains of the Cirencester town wall. After this we all went and stood on a stone each, which we soon realised made the shape of an abbey church. Finally, we visited the Roman amphitheatre. This was my favourite part of the trip. As soon as we walked into the main entrance of the amphitheatre, I was astonished at the size of it, and later found out that it could seat up to 8,000 people. At the end of the day I learnt a lot about the history of how people in Roman Britain lived, and it was a really interesting day.

Lydia Roll

Fourth Form Roman Baths Trip

On the 23rd of January, the Fourth Form Latin group went to the city of Bath in order to learn about the Roman architecture of the Baths. Both Latin groups had the chance to study artefacts such as strigils, perfume bottles and pottery, which had been made by the Romans. We also looked more deeply into the study of Aquae Sulis and why the Romans made offerings in the Sacred Spring. In the museum, the Latin groups explored the different rooms in which the Romans bathed and massaged. We were also informed on how the baths were heated and how Roman plumbing operated. The audio tapes were very useful and shared many historical facts about the baths. This trip was a great success and the Fourth Formers really enjoyed it.

Sophie O'Kelly and Hayley Piggin



Shell Form Black Country Museum Trip, 2012

On 11 June, the Shell Form took a trip back in time when they visited the Black Country Museum in Dudley. The museum is one of Britain's leading open air heritage parks, commemorating the skills and industry of people who lived in the region at the time of the Industrial Revolution. Back then, the sun was sometimes blotted out by clouds of smoke, and soot drifted down from the darkened sky. With a less than promising weather forecast, we were more concerned about rain. However, we were lucky enough to stay dry and enjoy (intermittent) sunshine.

One of the highlights of the day was a canal boat trip into the tunnels and caverns under the local limestone hills. The network of underground tunnels was constructed so that raw materials could be transported from the quarries to the ironworks. Several students had a go at 'legging' the boats through the tunnels; Jonny Shiels and Harry Manek-Robinson made an especially heroic effort!

The visit also included a tour of the site with a costumed guide, a trip down a coal mine, and a fascinating demonstration at the chain making shop (sparks literally flew). A particular highlight for Mr Affleck was the lesson in the Victorian schoolroom. The students behaved impeccably as they practised their letter formation on slates and chanted their multiplication tables. Congratulations to Daniel Sandler for being able to recite the alphabet flawlessly, backwards.

Our visit to the Black Country Museum helped students to appreciate how the Industrial Revolution transformed the society, culture, economy and geography of the West Midlands. We would like to thank our guides for their lively and engaging commentary, on a very enjoyable day out.

Team of the Week 2011/12

Saxophony	<i>Superb performance in Senior School Assembly</i>
West Midlands Fire Service	<i>Sterling work in fighting the Old Gymnasium fire during the summer</i>
U15 Rugby Team	<i>Excellent performance against King's Worcester</i>
1st XI Hockey	<i>Fantastic performance against Bromsgrove School</i>
1st XI Girls' Hockey	<i>County Champions</i>
Ski Team	<i>Runners-up in the English Skiing Championship</i>
Swimming Team	<i>Excellent victory in the Stowe Gala</i>
Debating Society	<i>Superb performance at the Birmingham University Debating Competition</i>
CSLA	<i>Helping in the U12 County Hockey Tournament</i>
Shooting Team	<i>Excellent performance in winning the Butler Trophy</i>
Cast and crew of Oedipus and Burial at Thebes	<i>Two fantastic plays, performed over three nights</i>
U15B Rugby Team	<i>An excellent season</i>
Chapel Choir	<i>Wonderful performances in Nine Lessons and Carols Services 2011</i>
Refectory Team	<i>Providing a wonderful lunch service following a power cut</i>
U13 Boys' Hockey Team	<i>Excellent Victory v King Edward's School, Birmingham</i>
U12B Rugby Team	<i>Tremendous performance v King Edward's School, Aston</i>
Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team	<i>Excellent 9-0 victory v King Edward's School</i>
Senior Mathematics Team	<i>Excellent performance at the National Finals</i>
Senior Debating Team	<i>An outstanding performance in the Oxford University Schools Debating Competition</i>
The Team of Trip Leaders	<i>Excellent contribution to the Co-Curricular Life of the School</i>
U12A XI Hockey Team	<i>Excellent victory v Bromsgrove School</i>
U15 7s Team	<i>Winners of the Warwick School Invitation 7s Competition 2012</i>
Business Challenge Team	<i>Winners of the Aston University ACCA Business Challenge</i>
Lower Sixth Physicists	<i>Tremendous instruction of Junior School Pupils</i>
Cast and Crew of Fiddler on The Roof	<i>A fabulous five nights of drama and music</i>
Canoe Team	<i>Successfully completed the 125 mile Devizes to Westminster race</i>
Shoeshine Team	<i>Worked tirelessly to raise money for International Street Charity</i>
Children's Symphony Orchestra	<i>Fabulous Performance in the Summer Concert</i>
Young Enterprise	<i>Outstanding Success at Solihull Young Enterprise Final</i>
Chilean Hosts	<i>Fabulous hosting of our Chilean guests</i>
The Bench	<i>Outstanding service to the School</i>
History Society	<i>Fantastic work on the History Website</i>
Golf Team	<i>Superb victory in the Regional Finals of the ISGA Plate</i>
U15 Cricket Team	<i>Excellent victory v Bromsgrove School</i>



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