



Shenstonian

2015-16

SOLIHULL

THE COOPER
BUILDING





SOLIHULL

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Teaching Staff 2015/2016

| | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1978 | | 2005 | S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; N Cheetham; G Cureton |
| 1979 | | 2006 | A Jones; P G May; D W Jenkinson; D L Trim (Jan) |
| 1980 | | 2007 | J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson |
| 1981 | | 2008 | D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb |
| 1984 | P J Irving | 2009 | H M Smith; D R Harford |
| 1985 | J Troth | 2010 | D E J J Lloyd; O M Walker; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips; H J Walsh |
| 1986 | | 2011 | C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Ford; M Partridge; |
| 1987 | | 2012 | L J Rutherford; B Sandford-Smith (Jan); R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; L M Harper; E J Johnson; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; C W Thomas; D Wilcox |
| 1988 | L M Fair | 2013 | M D Jones; S E Walton; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Roberts; S J Gummary; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov) |
| 1989 | | 2014 | K A Berns (Jan); A T Kermode; L K Worth; W L Meigh; R H Smith; Y Canovas Canas; C E Mollison; S E Moule; M S Gledhill; L H Mesrie |
| 1990 | M J Covill | 2015 | L E Spratley (Jan); A Abid; C A Baden; J Collier; P W G Ford; J Hammond; P Roman-Blythe; A E Routledge; A Rudd; A Smith; E Stokes; F E Wernham; R C Whaley |
| 1991 | D Reardon; 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; | | |
| 1998 | U Mynette; A M Vaughan | | |
| 1999 | P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart; | | |
| 2000 | | | |
| 2001 | J S Brown; R R Hadley-Leonard; M Worrall; E R Hurst | | |
| 2002 | S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer | | |
| 2003 | M Smith; P J Higley; T J Bryan; K A Powell; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson; C Greswold; | | |
| 2004 | D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther; | | |

Headmaster's Report

The academic year 2015-16 has now drawn to a close and what a busy and unique year it was.

Some of you may recall the first cohort of girls joining J1 11 years ago; the passage of time is unrelenting and this group of trailblazing Silhillians has now left for university and we no longer feel the need to emphasise that we are a coeducational school. Quite simply, that's who we are and educating boys **and** girls is what we do, and I believe we do it very well!

In terms of public examination results, we had arguably our best year ever, with 79% of all GCSE grades at A* and A grade. At A-Level we achieved 85% A* to B grade and 55% were graded A* and A. The Junior School won the Bromsgrove Maths challenge for the third year in a row, 12 members of J4 were awarded Senior School scholarships and all 8 of our Oxbridge offer holders achieved their grades and places. Although school league tables should be handled with caution, *The Times* ranked us as the 16th best independent coeducational school in the country and the 56th for all independent schools, as did *The Telegraph*. With ongoing national reform at GCSE and A-Level, and with significant (and unsettling) changes to Examination Board remark and appeals procedures, the future is a little uncertain, but we remain optimistic and ambitious for the future. I believe that targeting 80% A*/A at GCSE and 60% A*/A at A-Level is within range and I look forward to celebrating further success in the years ahead.

This is a great school and a very successful one, but we don't always get things right and I am very grateful for the feedback provided – formal or informal and good or bad. The friendship and camaraderie shown by all members of the school community is marvellous. In an era when economics

and politics have inadvertently caused the closure of many independent schools, Solihull, now in its 456th year, has grown and currently serves a record number of pupils. However, rest assured that this is not at the expense of quality of provision and I am always mindful of the sacrifices families make in order to send their children to fee-paying schools.

In recent years, events at home and abroad have highlighted just how dangerous the world can be, and schools have been forced to adapt and equip staff and pupils with the skills necessary to identify, mitigate and avoid risk. The Department for Education and the Independent Schools Inspectorate now requires schools to instil a greater sense of 'British Values' and we are legally required to help prevent pupils being radicalised and brought into terrorism. In-service training is a valuable tool in this regard, although the themes can be heartbreaking. Fears around exploitation and extremism are much greater and the vocational journey I embarked upon 26 years ago bears little resemblance to the path I find myself on today.

However, you'll be pleased to hear that many things have not changed, including our commitment to improving facilities and our busy co-curricular programme.

The Cooper Building has celebrated its first birthday, School House now contains an exciting mix of teaching, pastoral, social and IT space, the Chapel and Queen's Court have been updated and improved, as has Learning Support in the Junior and Senior Schools, both teaching staff common rooms have enjoyed a facelift, two imposing art installations adorn the campus, and plans are underway to build a second artificial pitch, adjacent to the current (Gordon Wilcox) pitch. Doubling our pitch provision is important for a high profile coeducational sport and I'm delighted to report that plans have been bolstered by the addition of Jane Sixsmith, four-time GB Olympian, to the hockey coaching staff. With Chris Mayer, Ali Raza and Hannah Fair, that makes four hockey internationals!





medal and plate victory, in both hockey and cricket we were crowned county champions and regional runners up, and the athletes triumphed over 30 local schools to win the Director's Cup at the Borough athletics competition.

The sense of community at Solihull is very strong and last year we raised £54,000 for a range of charities. Similarly, the SSPA, through its calendar of events, raised £30,000 for co-curricular spending. Our (relatively) new Development and Alumni Relations Office is forging even stronger links with Old Silhillians and now that leavers auto-enrol in the association, the age and gender profiles of the membership is changing. One of my OSA highlights of the year was sitting with Mike Bullen, Old Sil and writer of the TV drama *Cold Feet*, at the London Dinner. Not only was Mike great company, but soon after the dinner he came back to Solihull to give the pupils a writing master class. This proved to be a great success, as did Tim Reid's visit the year before. Tim is also an Old Sil and co-writer of *Car Share*, starring Peter Kay.

We are blessed with a community of people whose love for the School is unquestionable and unassailable and quite frankly, it's a humbling experience. So, in conclusion, in short and in the words of our new school song, 'Perseverantia our Spirit'.

Heads of School

The Heads of School for the 2015-2016 academic year were Ben Northam and Leticia Salmon and their deputies were Moses Fakatou and Evie Townend.

Further plans, big and small, are under discussion and these include our indoor sports facilities, the Refectory and further updating of laboratories. The list is long and all have their merits, but funds are limited and priorities have to be established, so watch this space for news.

On the co-curricular front, debating, drama, music, outdoor education and sport continue to dominate and we have enjoyed much local, national and even international success.

In debating we now have one of the biggest societies in the country and at Durham University we won one of the two major finals contested. In drama, we enjoyed the musicals *Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits* and *Carousel* and the Senior Play was *His Dark Materials Part 1* by Philip Pullman, with Part 2 following this year. We also screened the British Premiere of *Close to Evil*, which tells the story of a survivor of the concentration camps trying to reunite with his captors, and Mindu Hornick, an Auschwitz survivor, came to school to plant our Anne Frank sapling. To have one of these rare saplings is a real privilege and we underwent a stringent vetting procedure by the Anne Frank Foundation. Thanks should go to Old Sil Holly Krober for leading this fabulous initiative. This term we've added RADA to our curriculum and early signs are very encouraging.

A further welcome addition to the curriculum is *wellbeing* – for pupils and staff – and after early excellent momentum in the Junior School, ably aided by mascots Scuffle & Twitch (squirrels, if you didn't know) this is now a whole school priority. Concepts such as mindfulness, resilience, growth mindsets and many more now form part of our weekly diet and I'm confident the initiative will yield significant dividends in the long run.

In music, we enjoyed several fabulous concerts, a master class at Steinway Hall, a further visit to St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong and following regular visits to BBC Radio

Manchester, the Radio 4 team came here for a live recording of Morning Worship, with Fr Andrew leading the service. The Chapel Choir sang beautifully and at the end of the academic year, they enjoyed a very successful tour of Normandy, which included singing at a local wedding!

The mountain cottage in Snowdonia remains an important part of school life. Usage is varied and includes academic and scholars' retreats, university preparation, Bencher training, team building and of course, mountaineering. The CCF, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Terriers continue to thrive and the most recent major expedition was to Ladakh in Northern India. Last term I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting St James' Palace to receive an award on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh in recognition of our excellent work as an accredited centre for the Award.

On the rugby field, the U12 Sevens squad finished top of the RFU national league table and the 1st XV finished in the top ten schools and were ranked as the highest coeducational school in the country, losing to only one team all season, albeit twice. In addition, we had much individual success with four pupils selected for their country: two for England, one for Scotland and one for Wales. Our golfers represented the Midlands in the HMC Foursomes at St Andrews and we are now recognised as one of leading ski schools in the country.

Sailing has been reborn and is now thriving again, and in hockey, three of our girls' teams were crowned county champions. The boys also enjoyed much success, culminating in a very successful outing at the Bath Hockey Festival, whilst in netball, our U12 squad got through to the quarter finals of the national cup. In cricket and under the leadership of Darren Maddy, our sixes competition is gaining national recognition and both U13 and U15 teams reached the national finals, with the U13 bringing home the winners' trophy! The Junior School also had many sporting victories: the Sevens season was very successful and included a runners-up



Development and Alumni Relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life

Events

We have had a fantastic year of events with Old Silhillians, former parents and former staff from ages 18 to 89 attending events held at the School, the Old Sils Clubhouse and in Birmingham and London.

The Official Opening of the Cooper Building

On 12 November 2015 Michael Buerk, journalist, broadcaster and Old Silhillian, returned to Solihull to officially open the Cooper Building. Old Silhillians and former parents and staff came together to see Michael open the new Sixth Form Centre; a four-storey building with teaching rooms and private study areas as well as social spaces and an external terrace with panoramic views of the School and the town. Guests also heard from the sculptor Matthew Lane Sanderson who created 'Leap', the sculpture outside the Cooper Building. We watched as the School's time capsule was lowered into the ground. Contents included a range of pupil memory pages, devised by the pupils during history lessons. There was also a ceramic poppy to symbolise 100 years of Remembrance, a Spanish flag to symbolise the School's shift in focus for MFL



provision, and a GoPro video of a day inside the new Cooper Building, produced by Head Girl, Leticia Salmon. This was included on a DVD and memory stick, along with a portable laptop to give it the best chance of still being viewed in 2060! As well as having the opportunity to catch up with old friends and see the developments that have taken place on the school site over the years, guests on the day also spent time reading the granite stones that had been laid in recognition of some of our donors who have supported the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places.



Birmingham Business Drinks

Old Silhillians from across Birmingham came together with staff from Solihull at Bar Opus at One Snowhill on Thursday 12 May for the biannual Birmingham Business Drinks. Alumni enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new connections over a drink after work whilst also having the opportunity to hear a little more about life at school.

Annual Alumni London Dinner

On Friday 20 May, alumni, staff and former staff came together at the Royal Thames Yacht Club for the Annual Alumni London Dinner. Having enjoyed reception drinks on the terrace, guests heard the Headmaster give a brief update on life at Solihull before moving up to the Mountbatten Suite for a delicious three course meal and the opportunity to catch up and reminisce with old friends. After dinner, Mike Bullen (Old Sil and writer of Cold Feet) entertained guests as he spoke about his time at Solihull and the links between his Solihull friends and the Cold Feet characters!

Alumni come back to help Oxbridge hopefuls

On Monday 20 June, six Old Silhillians came back to School to help our Lower Sixth Oxbridge applicants with their personal statements as well as give an insight into life at Oxbridge and top tips for interviews.



The Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places

At Solihull we understand the transformative power of a holistic education; its ability to inspire, motivate and unite. Solihull has a crucial role to play in the future success and happiness of generations of pupils. By drawing pupils from all backgrounds together it creates a community of Silhillians with shared ambition which inspires participation in the numerous opportunities available.

At Solihull we have set the standard for a complete all-round education since 1560. Pupils receive a first-class education in outstanding facilities and have the opportunity to participate in our wide-ranging and comprehensive co-curricular programme. We have built an exceptional integrated academic and co-curricular environment, bringing together excellence in teaching, on the field, on the stage, in the debating chamber and in the concert hall. We are rightly proud of our achievements both in the classroom and in our co-curricular activities and boast a remarkable network of alumni who have been successful around the globe and who continue to support pupils at Solihull.

At Solihull, we pride ourselves on ensuring that all pupils realise their full potential. Our central aim is to provide for every pupil as rich a life as possible, so that school fosters fulfilment, happiness and success; a preparation for life as a responsible adult in society. Our goal now is to widen our reach to more pupils across the Midlands. In short, to be accessible to all those who would thrive in the Solihull community.

It takes a talented individual's determination, encouraged by a supportive community, to find truly inspirational success and we understand the difficult path pupils must follow to achieve the most whilst at school. To ensure we can support these individuals, we want to expand our current assisted places programme. Assisted places range from 10% to 100% of the school fees and will ensure that those pupils who would prosper in the Solihull community can pursue their ambitions in an environment that maximises their academic and co-curricular development. These assisted places will also help to ensure that the most promising pupils, irrespective of their financial background, choose Solihull, where they can be supported in reaching their full potential.

Solihull is a truly great school, fostering ambition and providing breath of opportunity within a supportive and compassionate community that extends well beyond school years. We believe that by increasing the number of assisted places available, we will make a significant step-change in our accessibility and a measurable impact on the diversity of our community.

Your support is needed to help us deliver the increased number of assisted places. Our vision – past, present and future – is to transform the lives of future generations to encourage ambition, inspire through opportunities and grow our community.

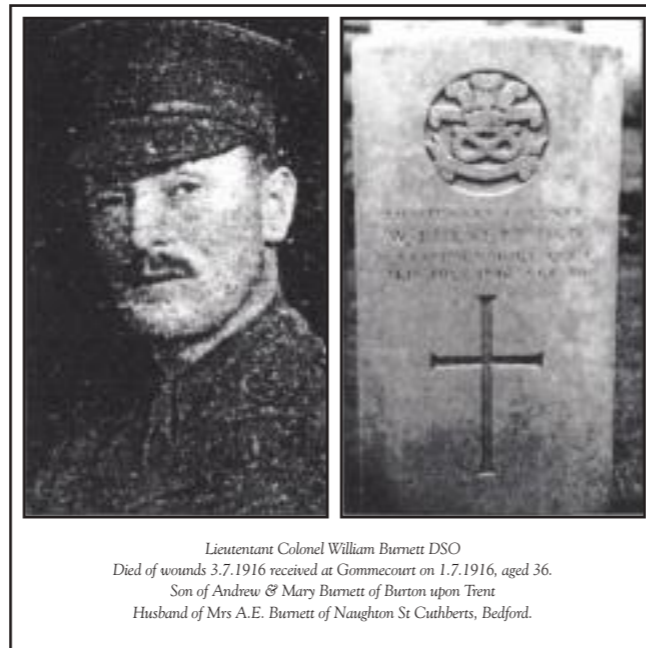
The greater the number of people who join us, the greater the impact we can make. This is your opportunity to be a part of something transformational. For more information about the Silhillian Fund and how you can support it, please contact Susie Jordan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

From the Archivist

On 1 July 1916, after a week of continuous bombardment of the German trenches, a series of explosions were detonated under the German front line at 7.20 in the morning. In the British trenches men waited with bayonets fixed; young officers, whistles in their mouths, waited to go 'over the top' and walk in an orderly fashion to take possession of the German trenches that had of course been destroyed by the artillery bombardment. However, this was to be the blackest day in the history of the British Army. The deeply-dug German trenches had survived the barrage of shells, nearly a third of which had failed to explode anyway.

Waiting in those British trenches, fully kitted out with pack, gas mask, rifle and bayonet, 200 rounds of ammunition, grenades, empty sandbags, spade and water bottle were former pupils of Solihull School dispersed in various Regiments along the 17-mile front. Only a few months ago most of these men had sat in lessons in School House, marched with the O.T.C. (CCF) and played cricket and football on 1st Big Side. When they emerged from their trenches German machine guns awaited them; it was not the peaceful parade that their superior officers had promised. 57,470 British soldiers were wounded on the first day, 19,240 of whom were killed. Four of those were Old Silhillians. One hundred years later we pause to pay tribute to our fallen school fellows, admire their bravery and pass on to the generation of Silhillians yet to come their memory, our respect and remembrance. As the Editorial of the Shenstonian December 1916 laments '...the horror of war hangs over us like a pall. Our Roll of Honour, alas, contains more names, tokens of valuable lives laid down for their country's good.'

Lt Colonel William Burnett was our oldest Old Silhillian to be killed in action on the Western Front. He was the son of Andrew and Mary of Burton-upon-Trent, and husband of Agnes Ellen. He attended School in the 1890s, a few years after the move from Malvern House to the present site. William was an engineer by profession and a long-standing member of the Territorial Army, which he joined in 1908 when it was formed. It is possible that he was one of the first members of the O.T.C (CCF) when he was at School. When war broke out he was in command of F Company of the 5th South Staffords. William's day job was as manager of the Cannock and Rugeley Collieries, but by November 1914 the Territorials were to see action on the Western Front. Major Burnett wrote home on 18 March 1915: 'We arrived at Havre and were put in tents at a rest camp for three days. We slept on the tent boards with one blanket each. Next morning, twenty-four hours in a train which brought us up within sound of the guns. I have slept in barns, on farmhouse kitchen floors, benches eight inches wide, and one night in the open. I am very well. We get good rations and about the only extras I buy are eggs, milk and butter. Officers have the same food as the men. We carry our own cooking utensils, and it is wonderful how handy one gets, especially at packing up and moving, as we have only been in one place for three days at the most'. He wrote again a week later after a trench instruction course: 'We have been in the trenches, and let me tell you that the trenches are nothing like I expected they would be and certainly not so awful as they are painted... In some places the German trenches are only sixty feet away from ours, and they continually shout across the space. You do all your watching through a periscope, which if held in one place all the time will soon be shot away-ditto your head if you put it over the top of the parapet for more than a few seconds. Of course all the work in exposed positions is done at night, and even then both sides keep up a continual sniping on the off chance of getting anybody. Then for a little diversion you



Lieutenant Colonel William Burnett DSO
Died of wounds 3.7.1916 received at Gommecourt on 1.7.1916, aged 36.
Son of Andrew & Mary Burnett of Burton upon Trent
Husband of Mrs A.E. Burnett of Naughton St Cuthberts, Bedford.

throw hand grenades and fire rifle grenades-also receive them. Then, there are periods of shelling, but you can take it from me that the war is not over, and does not look like being over yet. I am pleased you are still getting recruits-they are still wanted... This town where we are billeted has been knocked about considerably, yet many shops are open and doing a roaring trade with the troops'.

William was promoted to Lt. Colonel in the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment) in October 1915, following the death of the Commanding Officer at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, one of the bloodiest battles of the war, comparable in losses to the Somme. This fighting was part of the Battle of Loos, the soldiers of which were immortalised by the famous epithet as the 'Lions led by Donkeys'. Col. Burnett survived this and thereafter took command of a battalion of the North Staffords but died of wounds he received at Gommecourt (a failed supplementary action to the main Somme offensive of 1 July) on 3 July 1916. He was found on the battle field by Lt. W.A. Lawrence of the 6th North Staffords, himself wounded in the leg by shrapnel and who later wrote this vivid account: 'I got out (of the shell hole) and crawled towards our front line and it took two hours to cover 100 yards. I never thought I had the luck to stay alive as they were sweeping the ground with machine guns as you would use a hose pipe... every time I moved I got a bullet around my head and my uniform was torn in several places by various projectiles. I thanked God when I dropped into our trench... On the way there I had to crawl over Lt. Col. Burnett who lay there in the communication trench with a bullet in the stomach... Captain Graves the M.O. went up to where Burnett was lying and stayed with him, treating his wounds as best he could. It was late afternoon before the stretcher bearers started to bring him in'. He was hit again whilst on the stretcher, but his original wound proved fatal and he died two days later at No.20 casualty clearing station at Walingcourt Halte. Lt. Col. Burnett was a brave and valiant soldier. He was twice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the DSO on 3 June 1916, for distinguished service in the field. William was 36 years old and left £1654 17s 11d in his will to Agnes and their son, who moved to Bedfordshire after the war. He is buried in the picturesque Walingcourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, France, near the site of the clearing station where he died.

Lt. Col. Burnett was not the only Old Silhillian to be killed on the opening days of the Somme, a battle that lasted until 17 November, and claimed another 360,000 British casualties: 10 more Old Silhillians perished. The maximum advance in all that time was six and a half miles. We remember:

Lance Corporal Herbert Arculus. Like 77 other Old Sils, Herbert served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. 1 in 4 of the 47,650 men that made up this fine Regiment, founded in 1685, were killed during the First World War. Herbert left School in 1911 and was killed on 26 September 1916 aged 21.

Private James Burton. Left School in 1912 and served in the Middlesex Regiment. He was killed on 1 July 1916 aged 22. He was never found and is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial. Lt. William Furse. Left School in 1907 and served with the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was killed on 1 July 1916 aged 25.



Private Henry Troman. Left School in 1911 and served with the Royal Warwickshires. He was killed on 3 September 1916.

Private Charles Troman. Left School in 1906, and served with the Royal Warwickshires. He was killed on 23 July 1916 aged 27.

Lt. Cyril Williamson. Left School in 1912 and served with the Royal Warwickshires. He was killed on 2 July 1916 aged 22. Private Claude Messiter. Left School in 1896 and served in the Queen Victoria rifles. He was killed on 2 October 1916 and like Pte. Burton and Pte. H. Troman Claude is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial.

Lt. Harold Eyles. Left School in 1911 and served in the Worcestershire Regiment. He was killed on 6 November aged 21.

CSM Arthur Townley. Left School in 1908 and served in The King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was killed on 16 September 1916, aged 23.

We also pay tribute and remembrance to the following former pupils who were killed in 1916 in other areas of the war;

Captain Leslie Sands, Private Osborn Smith, Corporal Cyril Coombs, Lt. Glyn Robertson, Private William Machin.

'November 11th 1918- ARMISTICE DAY! Who will forget it? The strain of four long years has passed away. We mourn the loss of many but their memory will remain forever among us, and we shall often think of them in the happier days that are to be.' (*The Shenstonian* December 1918)

For the complete story of Solihull School one hundred years ago see the book *Solihull School during the First World War* (2014) by J. C. Loynton.



University & College Entries 2015

ASTON

Yashpreet Panesar
Bhavandeep Sunner
Law
Business & International Relations

BATH

James Green
Oscar Haynes
Jack Hines
Ben Priestley
Modern Languages & European Studies (French & German)
Natural Sciences (Sandwich)
Mechanical Engineering (Sandwich)
Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

BIRMINGHAM

Caroline Gerard
Amanda Kaur
Georgia Lovett
American & Canadian Studies
Biomedical Science
Business Management & Communications

BRISTOL

Ahmad Alani
Poppy Eales
Alexander Hurt
Fraser Mackie
Sam Mills
Vickneswaran Sarveswaran
Economics
Law
Law
Geography
History
Economics

CAMBRIDGE

Clare College
Emily Burbidge
Caroline Camm
St John's College
Isaac Webber
Anglo Saxon, Norse & Celtic History
Mathematics

CARDIFF

James Hart
Catherine Kiely
Samuel Montieri
Matthew Sargent
Hannah Voogd
Economics
International Relations & Politics
Mathematics
Medicine
Social Sciences

COVENTRY

Danielle Blake
Joseph Hadley
Physiotherapy
Aerospace Systems Engineering

DLA PIPER

Imogen Hanson
Full time employment Level 4 Apprenticeship in Graduate Recruitment

DURHAM

Annie Bewick
Joseph Lankester
Sociology
History

EDINBURGH

Joanna O'Sullivan
Jonathan Sandler
Biological Sciences
History

EXETER

Richard Bradley
Henry Eaton
Olivia Eguiguren-Wray
Lottie Harland
Harry Sharpe
James Sutton
Katie Williams
Philip Wreford
Politics, Philosophy, Economics
Geography
Medicine
Business & Management with Industrial Experience
Medicine (5 years)
Economics
English with Study in North America
Economics

HARTPURY COLLEGE

Anne-Sophie Gilson
Sports Therapy

HUDDERSFIELD

Joseph Sherman
Music & Sound for Image

LEAMINGTON COLLEGE

Isabel Cawley
Art Foundation

LEEDS

Sandie Garland
Benjamin Gee
Imogen Golsby-Taylor
Lewis Gordon
Caitlin Moylan
Peter Stansfield
History
Management & Philosophy
Advanced Psychology
Neuroscience
Psychology
Sport & Exercise Science

LEEDS COLLEGE OF ART

Anna Brice
Art Foundation

LIVERPOOL

Wajeeh Chaudhry
Lydia Jackson
Mechanical Engineering
Geography (Science)

LONDON

King's College
Áine Maher
London School of Economics (LSE)
Olivia Fordyce
Queen Mary
David Herriotts
Liberty Malley
University College (UCL)
Euan Argyle
Christopher Barker
Bobby Dhadwal
English
Anthropology & Law
Drama
Zoology
History
Economics
Economics

LOUGHBOROUGH

Connor Bruce
Lydia Cross
Lawrence Finch
Luke Hoey
Andrew Hooper
Jessica Lawton
History & International Relations
Psychology
Human Biology
International Business
Management Sciences
Social Psychology

MANCHESTER

Zoe Black
Philip Blenkinsop
Zeena Ismail
Thomas Murphy
Chloe Neuberg
Joseph Price
Nicolas Starkey
Archaeology
Music
History & Sociology
Psychology
Ancient History
Law with Criminology
Management (Marketing) with Industrial Experience

MANCHESTER MET

Amelia Woolley
Marketing

NOTTINGHAM

Charles Badham
Robert Comer
Katie Craddock
Laura Daglish
Daniel Dowell-Lee
Bernadette Farnworth
Sophie Fowler
Thomas Gill
Olivia Harris
Alex Levey
Grace Lodge
Samuel Manek-Robinson (MSci)
Ben Moat
Will Moore
Jack Sandilands
Muskan Shrivastava
Finance, Accounting & Management
Management
International Management
Mechanical Engineering
Management with French
Geography
History
Electronic Engineering
Music
Psychology
Industrial Economics
Physics with Astronomy
Management
International Management
History
Psychology & Cognitive Neuroscience
Geography
Chemistry
Management

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

James Newman
Christopher Rooney
Luca Walker
Crystal Wilkins
Business Management (1 year in company)
Business Management & Marketing
Marketing
Psychology

OXFORD

Madgalen College
David Clarke
Mathematics

OXFORD BROOKES

Jenna Balfour
Luke Duignan
Jodie Meeneghan-Bell
Anjali Parekh
Abdullah Sheikh
Art Foundation Course
Business & Marketing Management
Psychology
Education Studies/
Psychology
Architecture

PLYMOUTH

Shashank Chaganty
Medicine & Surgery

PORTSMOUTH

Jack Francis
Architecture

QUEEN'S BELFAST

Shivaali Karelia
Medicine

RAMBERT SCHOOL OF BALLET & CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Mathew Prichard
BA Hons in Ballet & Contemporary Dance

ST ANDREWS

Amy Parry
Classics

SHEFFIELD

Abigail Moise
SOUTHAMPTON
Edward Bowen
Lucy Davies
Victoria Steele
Fraser Waddell
Business Management with Placement Year
Geography
Psychology
Accounting

SUSSEX

Anthony Szarmach
Mechanical Engineering

SWANSEA

Eloïse Boblin
Freddie Sykes
Marine Biology
Business Management

TEESIDE

Jonathon Altham
Physiotherapy

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Adam Wolwark
Art Foundation

YORK

Alexander Clay
Business Management

Valetes



Jeremy Troth

Jeremy joined Solihull as a chemistry teacher in April 1985 – for one term. He is now retiring 31 years later! He began his teaching career with a brief spell at a school in Walsall following the completion of his PhD in organic chemistry, undertaken at the University of Birmingham.

Having devoted such a long time to the Solihull community, there will be much that may surprise those of us who are more recent appointees to the school about Jeremy's contributions to the life of the school. For example, Jeremy ran the now disbanded School Scout Troop for three years, and was also the leader of the Community Service Group for a similar period of time. Jeremy has been actively involved in the pastoral life of Solihull throughout his time here, having had a Form in all Sections of the School but also holding the now-disappeared posts of both Lower School (then Third and Shell Forms) and Middle School (then Fourth Form and Lower Fifth) Housemaster.

More recently, and within the current pastoral structure, he had a spell as a Year Head in the Middle School under the Head of Section, Ruth Lancaster. Ruth initiated the Middle School Bench weekend at the School Cottage and Jeremy has given of his time to assist with those events on a number of occasions. I know that Ruth has greatly appreciated all that Jeremy has done to support her in the Middle School, and I also know that the pupils have appreciated his time, patience and devotion to their wellbeing and development.

What is probably more well-known by many is Jeremy's interest in the German language and culture. Over many years he has taught himself to speak German and he has organised many trips to Berlin and the much-loved Christmas Markets of Aachen, Cologne and Koblenz. He has also assisted with many German exchange visits to Hofheim. The German Department has been very grateful for his enthusiastic commitment to providing these co-curricular opportunities. Until very recently, if you needed a minibus you went through Jeremy. And what about Refectory Warden? Well when that job existed Jeremy did that too. Indeed, there is not much that Jeremy has not done at Solihull.

However, he will be best known by most people as Head of Chemistry, a position that he took up when I arrived at the school ten years ago to replace Ron Smith who held the position of both Head of Chemistry and Head of Science. Indeed, in Ron's words: 'with JT what you saw is what you got - a teacher of Chemistry through and through and a very thorough one, using his knowledge to illustrate and amplify his lessons to make them more than a text book delivery'. What a lot of colleagues will not be aware of are the hours that Jeremy spends sitting with pupils one-to-one helping them through difficult passages of the subject. Jeremy has managed but never micromanaged the Chemistry Department. He has trusted his colleagues to do their jobs with the same professionalism with which he has done his – which indeed they have. Departmental meetings have always been collaborative and conducted with an air of mutual respect. Jeremy has been totally dedicated to his job and I consider myself privileged to have worked with him in my capacity as Head of Science.

Andrew Jones

A-Level and GCSE Results Days 2016





Rachel Hadley-Leonard

Rachel started at Solihull in September 1991 as a Junior School Class Teacher. She made a big impression very quickly, immersing herself in the life of the whole school community from the start, as well as carrying out her Junior School duties incredibly effectively. She was also committed to the School's Combined Cadet Force, the Senior School ski trips, athletics preparation, hockey training and much, much more!

Rachel left Solihull in 1999 to start a family but then returned in 2001 as a Learning Support and Study Skills Teacher. The Learning Support Department gained significant traction during this period and served an increasing number of pupils incredibly well. Rachel was pivotal to this and helped build an extremely important department in the process, before being appointed Director of Learning Support in 2006. Over a number of years our learning support provision developed significantly, becoming a vital part of what we offer. During this time, Rachel also developed an interest in and enthusiasm for marketing and acquired a number of skills and qualifications in the process. The result of this was that in 2013-14, Rachel combined her role of Director of Learning Support with being the School's first part-time Marketing Manager. In September 2015, Rachel then shed her Learning Support skin in its entirety and became the School's permanent Marketing Manager. Solihull's presentation of self (hard copy & electronic) improved considerably during this time and the hard work, expertise and commitment to the publication of the School's first branding 'style guide' will ensure that Rachel's work will be apparent for many years to come.

Rachel impacted upon so many areas of school life. Whatever she did, she did so with an unparalleled, infectious enthusiasm and energy; getting the job 'done' and moving us forward in the process.

Rachel moved on in 2016 to become Princethorpe College's Development Director and I'm sure that her professionalism and drive have very quickly become apparent and that Princethorpe with Rachel aboard will become better as a result. We wish Rachel and her family (Charlie, Emma and Nick) the very best in the future and look forward to keeping in touch as the years unfold.

Sean Morgan



Naina Cheetham

After many years of loyal service and friendship, the Religious Studies Department is saying goodbye to Mrs Cheetham. In her 11 years at Solihull, Naina has been instrumental in breathing new life into the RS Department. Her love of ideas has inspired countless pupils to ask big questions and study philosophy and religion at higher levels. She has always helped pupils to shine through offering endless opportunities for them to develop crucial skills, be it through creativity in the Lower School or critical independent learning in the Sixth Form. Naina's diminutive stature belies her feisty nature, and many of our pupils have her to thank for sharpening their debating and arguing skills in her lessons. Her love of the subject has ensured that even in an increasingly secular, materialistic world, Solihull pupils understand why it matters so much to study religion, philosophy and ethics, and I am grateful for all she has done to help the department to grow and thrive.

Naina has been a lovely colleague and friend – I remember comparing her to Tigger when we first started working together due to her ability to bounce from idea to idea and task to task, whilst she compared me to Piglet for worrying too much! Her energy and imagination will be missed by us and, I'm sure, hugely appreciated at Langley where she takes up the challenge of a new role.

Alongside her new teaching role Naina hopes to continue studying her favourite areas of philosophy, psychology and cognitive behavioural therapy. We will miss her commitment and friendship but wish her well on her new adventures.

Laura Rutherford



Dave Jenkinson

Dave retires from teaching after thirty-nine years in the profession and ten years at Solihull School. We lured Dave from Tudor Grange School in 2006 after having previously worked at Woodway Park School and Stoke Park School. Prior to teaching, Dave worked as a professional golf instructor on cruise ships around Puerto Rico – clearly a multi-talented man!

On joining Solihull School, it quickly became apparent that we had a quite brilliant teacher on our hands and the pupils he has taught have been very lucky indeed. Dave's internal and external examination results have been simply outstanding and he has inspired his classes to pursue maths outside of the standard curriculum. Dave's preparation and professionalism in the classroom have been exemplary and I always learned something from observing him in action. It hasn't always been plain sailing for him though - I taught next door to Dave in the E-Corridor, both of us with our doors open, and when he was in a bad mood some of his comments made me and my class laugh our heads off. 'Just sit down and shut up!' being boomed out at the top of his voice always made us chuckle.

Dave is an incredibly modest chap but was always the first to help out and support either pupils or staff. I remember back in June, Dave was sat outside the Upper Common Room helping a pupil for forty-five minutes with last minute preparations for their GCSE exam. The pupil wasn't in Dave's set but this did not matter; that's the sort of person he is. Dave has also led several maths trips and was always at the forefront when supporting colleagues and pupils with enrichment activities.

This kind of commitment is not only maths-based and it is fair to say that Dave has made an incredible contribution to the co-curricular life of the school. Dave is an excellent sportsman in his own right and has a profound knowledge of many sports and outdoor pursuits. He has been U13 Rugby Head Coach for many years – brilliant with the players, parents and other coaching staff. Dave coached (and often refereed) the U13A team every Saturday during the Fifteens season and was always proactive in attending courses on new rugby initiatives and coaching developments. He then turned his attention to the Sevens season and he led the boys in many successful tournaments including Rosslyn Park and Berkhamsted. He will be greatly missed for his expertise, sense of humour and tremendous dedication in this area but the school might well be ringing him to come and referee in the near future!

So what more is there to say? The School is losing a fantastic teacher, one of the very best, a true gentleman and a very good friend to many in the Common Room and wider community. All that is left from me is to formally set out his PDR targets for 2016 – 2017:

- (i) **Co-Curricular Target:** Go on holiday in September.
- (ii) **Pastoral Target:** Spend as much time as you can with your wife, Shirley, and your children, Rachel, Patrick and Catherine, doing the things in life you really enjoy.
- (iii) **CPD Target:** Come in and see us all for a coffee and chat sometime soon.

Dave, we have thoroughly enjoyed your companionship, words of wisdom and great sense of humour over the past ten years - enjoy a long and happy retirement my friend and don't forget us. We won't forget you.

Mark Bishop



Oliver Walker

Since 2010 Oliver has built up the Chapel Choirs enabling almost a tenth of the School's pupils to participate in the life of the Chapel. He has produced music for the liturgical life of the School of a very high standard and has enthused the pupils with a comprehensive repertoire of church music, continuing the outstanding success of his predecessor, Mr Peter Irving. He has taken the choirs (and a number of staff) to sing in Worcester, Gloucester and Lichfield Cathedrals; St George's Chapel, Windsor and Keble College, Oxford. He also arranged four visits to St Paul's Cathedral – all tremendous experiences. Aside from all that, however, and appreciated by the parents, Oliver took the choir to perform with Gary Barlow, singing to over 26,000 people.

Oliver has provided fantastic opportunities for choristers with expeditions to Norway and Normandy. He has starred with the choir on the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service on a number of occasions, together with the live Sunday morning BBC broadcast during the summer term.

Oliver has worked with a variety of professional groups, having released a CD of Christmas music and having commissioned several pieces of music by significant contemporary composers. This has done an enormous amount to enrich the choral tradition of the School Chapel. Oliver has conducted the Solihull Choral Society; been Head of Keyboard and taken a leading role in the purchasing of three Steinway pianos for the School.

Among his many initiatives, Oliver also established the Former Choristers' Association, generating much good will and financial support for the choir. He also introduced 'Solihull Sings!', an outreach programme introducing 1,500 local primary school pupils to church music. In 2012 he was given a civic award for this initiative.

Everyone at Solihull will miss him a great deal as he has given so much to the School. We wish him well for his new role as Director of Music at Repton School.

Andrew Hutchinson



Ben Sandford-Smith

Ben's teaching career has been nothing short of meteoric. Ben arrived at Solihull in January 2012 as Head of Sixth Form. He had previously worked for the MoD before embarking upon his teaching career which saw him spend his first four years at Haileybury.

Teaching is all about learning and adapting and Ben has shown these qualities in his numerous roles around school. There was his teaching of Psychology (which makes everyone feel very positive) his love of tennis, his coaching of the U13B rugby team, his fantastic acting in Sixth Form assemblies (Mr Gilbert's speech from *The Inbetweeners* springs to mind) and his role of an ageing rocker who enjoys playing virtuoso guitar solos in front of the Upper Sixth Leavers!

Throughout his involvement in the academic and co-curricular life of the School, he always showed integrity, and steadfastly worked in the interest of the pupils.

In the short time he has been here we have seen conflicts throughout the world, migration issues in Europe, China's lunar rover mission to the Moon, the US starting talks with Cuba, and the UK's first astronaut in space: all momentous events and occasions. During the same time Ben managed to curry favour by introducing table tennis to the Sixth Form community! In all seriousness, Ben has left a real legacy that may not be noted by all. He has brought the Sixth Form closer together, presided over changes through evolution rather than revolution and has developed a strong Pastoral Care system, and I am sure the legacy will live on. Perhaps his most significant contribution to the School was introducing Wellbeing to the Fourth Form curriculum, something that will undoubtedly benefit many of our pupils.

It is sad that he has left Solihull after a short time in order to take up his post on the Isle of Wight, and I wish him every success on his future journey.

Martin Covill



Emily Johnson

Emily joined the Solihull team in 2012 from Princethorpe College. She came with a highly regarded reputation and the PE Department has certainly benefited from her expertise. From the netball courts to the classroom, Emily's thorough approach and professionalism have ensured that girls' sport and academic PE have never been in a stronger position.

During her four years here, Emily has driven an increase in A-Level results. Managing a department on a part-time basis is no easy task, but the success of her role is testament to the endless time, effort and energy that Emily has put in.

Out of the classroom and onto the courts, Emily's passion for netball, and the quality of her technical knowledge, have benefited both the girls that she has coached and the staff that she has worked with. Her commitment is unquestionable and she has been a constant support to the department during her four years at Solihull. The success of Emily's netball squads is further evidence of her determination. The most notable achievements were our quarter-final place in the national cup this year with our U12s, as well as a quarter-final place in the prestigious IAPS tournament with the U11, along with being crowned Warwickshire champions with our U13s last year. Emily's work in the Junior School has built a strong foundation for us to build on and I have no doubt that we will benefit from this in the years to come.

Emily is an utter professional, as well as a kind and caring individual. Even up until this last week, she has not taken her foot off the gas and is still looking for things for us to implement next year. Working with her has been a hugely rewarding four years and she has left big shoes for others to fill.

As a department, we will miss our northern girl. The absence of her outbursts, jokes, rants, passion and determination to succeed will make break times a much quieter experience. Emily, we wish you every success in your new role at Danes Hill as a Year 5 teacher and English specialist. You will be amazing. Thank you for all that you have done here at Solihull. We will miss you a million.

Danielle Wilcox



Charley Thomas

Charley, a past pupil of our Senior School, became a colleague to some of those who used to put him through his paces when he joined us a newly qualified teacher almost 4 years ago, to take on the inherent challenges as Head of Junior School Sport. From that day till his last, he tried his very best to enhance the curricular and co-curricular opportunities available to the children at every juncture. In doing so, Charley went way beyond his brief as a matter of course, be it as a willing stage hand, a helper behind the scenes with Junior School concerts, a volunteer on residential trips across the school or, on three memorable performances, the back end of a cow!

Hitting the ground running was the only option on arrival and it's entirely fair to say that Charley hasn't stopped running since. Co-education was, by then, in full flow and therefore so too was the need to lead the charge to broaden our extensive provision even further. By floodlighting our netball courts and Junior School playing fields throughout the dark winter months, Charley, with the help of many Junior and Senior School colleagues, orchestrated the sporting co-curricular programme that allowed the children to carry on doing what they love most – playing sport and developing their skill base. On joining IAPS, Charley capitalised immediately by extending our fixture programme across a wider and more competitive geographical base, his radar constantly primed for opportunities for our boys and girls to compete in festivals and tournaments regionally and nationally.

Charley's meticulous planning and passion for sport go hand in hand, and I suspect, will always do so. His commitment to his own professional development and playing career burns brightly, and so too does his resolve to stay on top of significant administrative demands that are necessary to keep everything moving smoothly. He also put together, from scratch, two very successful U11 co-ed sports tours and made a very significant contribution to Senior School rugby and PE throughout his time here. Charley leaves us to take over as Head of the Sports Department at Alcester Grammar School. For all the reasons above, and many more, his promotion is entirely deserved. Charley, you have left an indelible mark on the Junior School, as I'm sure you will on every school you work at throughout the very promising career you have ahead of you. We wish you the very best of luck. You go with our blessing and a huge thank you for a job very well done.

Mark Penney



Kat Berns

Kat joined Solihull three years ago from St. Peter's School where she was Head of Girls' Games. Being an ex-pupil certainly helped her in the early days to move around the School and she also knew what foundations the School was built on. She was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, with a love of PE and Sport: so refreshing. Kat's ideology has always been simple: teach for the good of the pupils and there can be no time for idle chat! She has always been extremely committed and her lessons certainly innovative. In PE, teachers as forward-thinking as Kat can be few and far between; gold dust! Kat has also delivered RS lessons as well as being a popular tutor. In her short career at Solihull, Kat has left a hole that cannot easily be filled. She was loved by the students and the department.

Kat, good luck with the next stage and I know you'll be fine. Don't lose your positive outlook on life and keep teaching as you do.

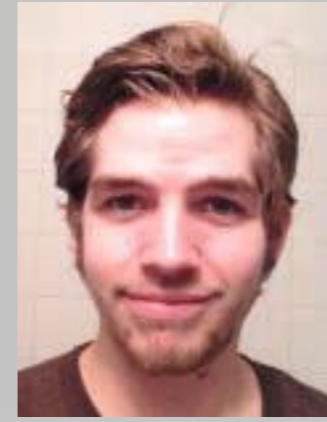
Steve Thompson



Lauren Mesrie

Lauren's time at Solihull School, much like herself, has been short and sweet! Her arrival last year provided an injection of youth and enthusiasm which has greatly added to the teaching in the History Department. She quickly established good relationships with her students (probably helped by the regular eating of cake in lessons!) and created a very positive classroom atmosphere – her students obviously enjoy her lessons and from my classroom next door I can often hear the sound of fun taking place. Lauren's friendly approach to her students is matched by her strong focus on establishing the skills they need to succeed in their exams and a fierce determination to ensure that they all do their best. She has spent many hours providing one-to-one assistance to students in need, and her students have felt the benefit – in her first year of teaching she taught two A-Level classes and every student achieved an A or B in the exam; an outstanding success. Outside of the classroom she has been a caring form tutor, always available to help her tutees with their problems, and she has been highly effective overseeing the School's Charity Committee. Lauren is going to Haberdashers' Aske's in London, one of the top schools in the country, and they are lucky to have her – we wish her all the best.

Gareth Affleck



Andrew Rudd

Andy has been with us for just a year, covering for a maternity absence. It can be difficult for schools to find good people in these circumstances but in Andy we struck gold. In the department he has taught History with great energy and dedication, taking on roles which would ordinarily only be expected of a permanent member of staff, and his students have clearly benefited from his lively and conscientious approach. He has also thrown himself into the wider life of the School, taking Terriers, Junior School Games, going on a Junior School Sports Tour and taking part in Snowdonia School. Andy's enthusiastic approach has won him friends amongst staff and students alike, and we wish him all the best in his new post at Camp Hill School.

Gareth Affleck



Amy Smith

Amy joined Solihull from Dulwich College in September 2015 as the Head of Economics and Business. She is a dedicated teacher who is passionate about her students and their learning. She very quickly introduced many new initiatives to encourage the students to take full ownership of their learning. Amy was keen to help the students to further develop their independent learning skills as they prepared for university education and beyond. She was also a form tutor to LVIIIF where she quickly became a great support to the students in her care as she guided them through the stresses and strains of joining the Lower Sixth. Amy leaves us to take up a position at d'Overbroecks College in Oxford. We wish her well in her new role.

Wendy Meigh



Emily Stokes

Emily joined Solihull in 2015 after completing her PGCE at Cambridge. She has taught all year groups art and photography as well as teaching in the Design and Technology Department and Thursday afternoon games. Emily is popular with the pupils for her enthusiasm and her open and engaging manner and ran a very popular art club with Ruth Whaley for younger pupils. Alongside Ruth, she also volunteered to make the puppets for the Lower School play, *His Dark Materials*, which was a great success. In the past Emily has run her own pastry business and brought her considerable baking experience to the Design and Technology Department with her inspired 'Bake Off' judging sessions at the end of her food technology lessons.

Away from the classroom, Emily has been a very enthusiastic helper with Snowdonia School and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Solihull. The pupils have appreciated Emily's pastoral care on these trips and her willingness to get 'stuck in'; for example, jumping into a freezing cold plunge pool when snow surrounds on the mountain tops has made her a team asset this year.

Emily has been a great support to the DT Department and has taught a wide range of different topics this year including structures, electronics, food and textiles and computer-aided design. As an Arts specialist the speed with which Emily has picked up the various topics was impressive indeed and the skills she brought with her helped pupils to produce some particularly creative work. This was especially evident in the tea light holder project where Emily's sculptural talents helped pupils to develop a broad and attractive range of designs. Her enthusiastic and friendly approach will be missed by staff and pupils alike.

Emily leaves Solihull to take the role of teacher of art and sculpture at Shrewsbury School with our very best wishes.

Donna Trim and Neal Corbett



Mary Thorne

Mary started at Solihull in 2003 as Assistant Matron. She very quickly became an extremely important part of the fabric, forming a very effective nursing partnership with Beth Haynes. Over time, Mary slowly but surely moved out of nursing and into counselling, becoming the School's first official Counsellor, blazing a trail for this crucial school position (indeed it speaks volumes for Mary that we have replaced her with a full-time version of herself!). Mary has been a tremendous rock and support to many, many members of the school community in her time with us; imparting expert, sensible advice over and over and over.

Mary's passion for travel, singing, gardening, dog walking and the Church are well documented, all of which, I'm sure, will be significant features of her retirement. Mary retires with our incredibly good wishes and we look forward to hearing of her trips around the globe, both holidaying and visiting family to which she is dedicated (as frequent dashes to Ely and York confirm). The opportunity now exists to spend more time with her husband (James) and her 3 fine Old Sil sons (Michael, Jonathon and Christopher) and their families. Always caring, always compassionate, always smiling and always making our community richer simply by being a member of it (something we all hope will never change). Mary is simply the nicest person you could possibly wish to meet and I don't say that lightly.

Sean Morgan



Louise Taylor

Louise started at Solihull in August 2008, taking up the position of Temporary Careers Assistant. Louise's expertise and eye for detail very soon became apparent: her hours increased and she moved across to join the Admissions Team, which was where she truly made her mark. She fulfilled a crucial role, ensuring that all applications were appropriately processed and that all supplementary paperwork was perfectly in order. A real team player, she quickly became an integral part of a very effective Admissions Team. She played a significant role in making the Headmaster's Wing the professional nerve centre and focal point of the School that we know it to be. Louise leaves us with our heartfelt best wishes and thanks and we wish her and her family the very best in the future.

Sean Morgan

Alex Smith

Alex started at Solihull in October 2010 as a Maintenance Assistant. Incredibly capable and versatile, Alex very quickly made his mark. It was clear he could turn his hand to any number of tasks! Always active, always busy, nothing was too much trouble for Alex and he very quickly became a part of the fabric of the School; known by all, irrespective of their role. Alex's talents were not confined to maintenance matters. An expert gymnast and tumbler, he 'tumbled' across the assembly stage a number of times 'wowing' the audience every time, and his mountain biking skills were also regularly put to good effect. Alex moves on to secure a promotion and become site manager at a local school, one which I am sure will move forward with his guidance and input. We wish him very well for the future!

Sean Morgan

Nicola Saunders

Nicola joined us in August 2014 as HR Manager, as the necessity for schools to have such a position on the roll became increasingly important. Nicola oversaw a number of appointments in a period extending just over a year. We wish Nicola and her family well.

Sean Morgan



Junior School Art

- 1. Alex Sethi
- 2. Olivia Reda
- 3. William Hughes
- 4. Mariella Scott
- 5. Jake Evans
- 6. Rose Davenport
- 7. Hugo Murphy
- 8. Jingtong Ye
- 9. Florence Pugh
- 10. Jane Woodley
- 11. Pippa Meigh
- 12. Daniel Youssef
- 13. Susie Green
- 14. Fabian Botterill
- 15. Cameron Holland
- 16. Thomas Burnett
- 17. Erin Jennings
- 18. Piers Kemp
- 19. Benjamin Wild
- 20. Hannah Greenwood

The Junior School

The Scuffle & Twitch Guide to Fulfilling Your Potential

Having spent the last academic year addressing the first of our two aims that all children in the Junior School will be happy here, we have spent this year unravelling the second of our two aims; that the children will also learn how to fulfil their potential during their time with us. It's been a journey in more ways than one and a journey that the children have embraced with characteristic enthusiasm and purpose.

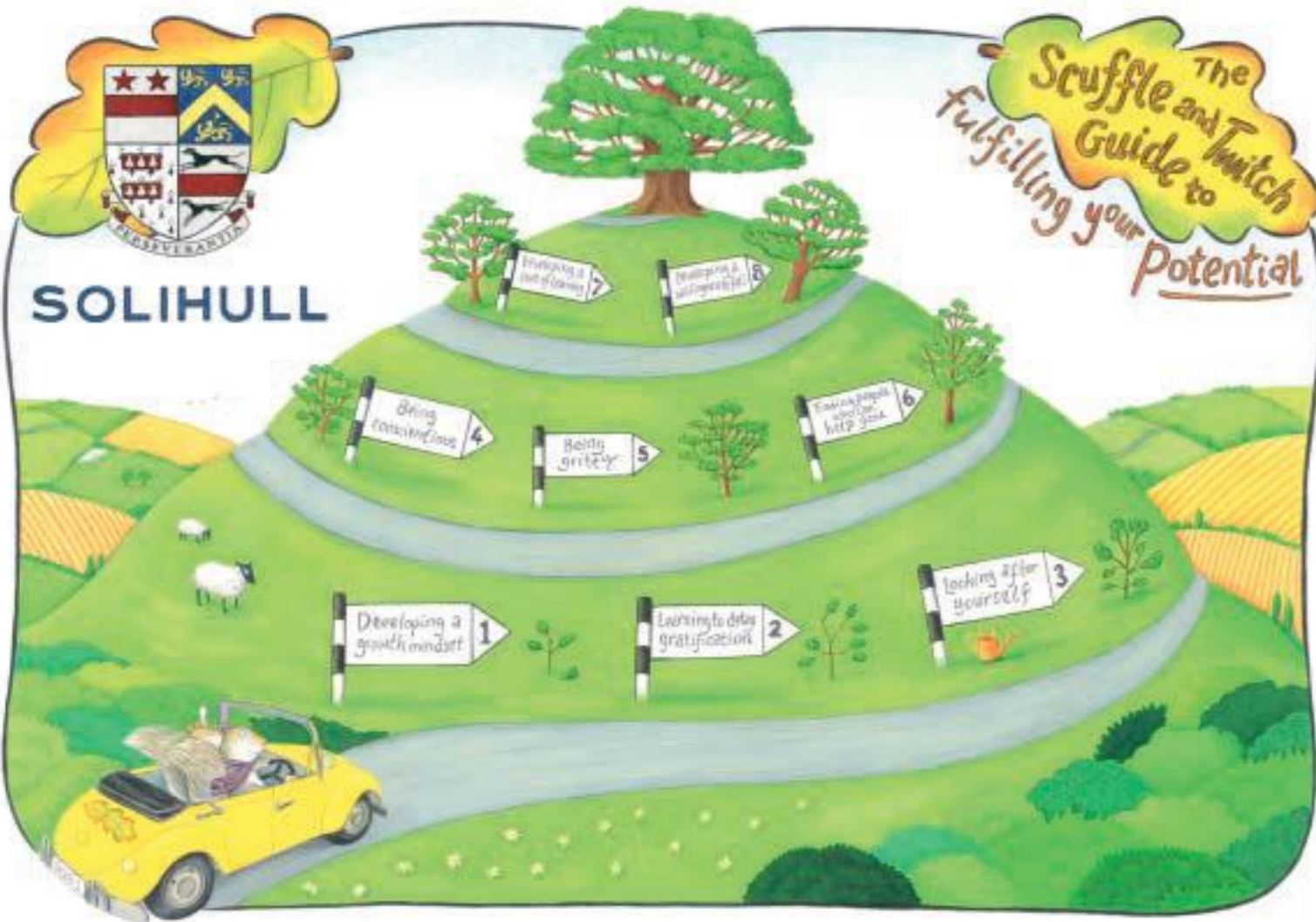
As interdependent as both of these aims are, how we set about achieving them is very different. To be happy we need to cultivate a kindness of being that softens the relationship we have with ourselves, others and the world we live in; whereas to fulfil our potential we need to develop a steely skill set to help us stay on track when the adversities of life would otherwise derail us.

Thankfully the last couple of decades have seen a wealth of psychological research into the essence of human flourishing, providing us with a substantively better understanding of what perpetuates authentic happiness and helps us to thrive. By using what the psychological sciences have discovered, we aim to nurture the core beliefs our community shares about success and learning, before working together to help the children be the best they can be. And by developing a



structured programme to nourish emotional wellbeing, our ambitions are to do so much more than just leave this to chance.

Mr M Penney, Head of the Junior School



Maths Success in the Junior School

The Junior School had another very successful year regarding results in the Junior Maths Challenge. This paper is sat by children up to the age of thirteen from all around the country and is designed to challenge even the most able of the oldest pupils. Each year, the Junior School enters some of the J3 and J4 pupils and this year, thirty-eight of these children achieved a certificate. Over the past two years, eleven children achieved a gold award, thirty-two children achieved a silver award and forty-seven children achieved a bronze award. A special mention must go to Conor Collins in J4 who not only achieved a gold award this year but also came top in the school; a fantastic accomplishment.

All of the Junior School took part in a workshop run by The Problem Solving Company. Each year group completed a carousel of activities designed to challenge their team work and problem-solving skills, and the children collaborated well to solve many of the tasks they were faced with.

On Thursday 9 June, two teams of four J4 pupils took part in the Year Six Team Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School, competing against eight other schools in the region. In total, sixteen teams took part. The day involved several rounds of solving challenging maths problems and both teams did very well. Eva Burrell, Jem Perry, Ben Pulley and Ryan Stephens came fifth overall and Blake Adams, Megan Croft, Conor Collins and Benjamin Raybould won first place. This is the third consecutive win for Solihull Junior School.

Miss J Hanlon



Junior School pupils celebrate scholarships

Congratulations to this year's J4 scholarship recipients. Junior School pupils were awarded academic, art and sports scholarships after a competitive and demanding selection process. The pupils also met with the Headmaster to share cookies and squash in his study, and to find out more about the Scholars Programme in the Lower School. We look forward to hearing of their future successes!

Mrs J Humphreys





Mindfulness in the Junior School

At the beginning of the academic year, all Junior School pupils were introduced to the concept of Mindfulness through a special assembly with a visiting speaker. Since then, this has been developed further with J3 and J4 pupils through the delivery of the Paws b Curriculum ('pause and be'). Following a three-day training course, five members of staff qualified to deliver the Paws b course which teaches pupils about the functions of different parts of the brain as well as introducing some short meditation practices. Through fun activities, discussion and personal reflection, pupils have had the opportunity to discover and understand that they can 'train their brain'! They explored how their mind and body are interconnected, tried to cultivate the ability to respond thoughtfully and, through focused practice, live in and enjoy the present moment.

Some pupils have also chosen to attend a weekly lunchtime Mindfulness Club. Here are the thoughts and experiences of some pupils who attend:

'Mindfulness inspires me to be a better person and make better choices'.

'Mindfulness helps me to focus. I think I learn and enjoy more when I can focus'.

'Since joining the club I have learnt a number of useful and easy techniques that I can use any time or any place. Each week we have practised simple exercises including finger breathing, finding a safe place, mindful eating and walking'.

'I have learnt that it is good to take some time out of the busy day just to be in the present moment and put thoughts into perspective. Mindfulness has been especially effective for me just before an exam, public speaking or when I just feel unsure'.

'I have benefited from Mindfulness Club and enjoyed it so much I have inspired my parents to start being mindful too'.

Mrs D Penney



Christingle!

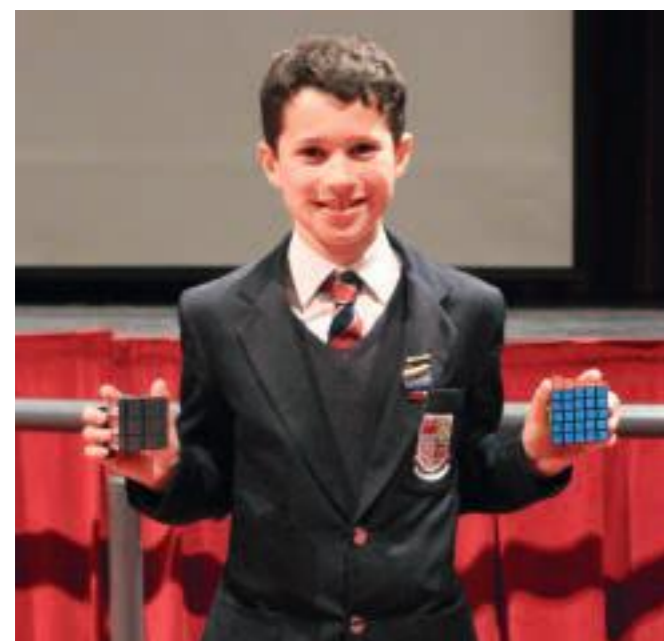
On Sunday 24 January, the annual Christingle service took place in Chapel. Many of the Junior School pupils had spent their lunchtimes in the preceding week in the 'Christingle Factory' in the Junior School Art Room, attending to the creation of 150 sweet-laden treats for the congregation to enjoy. During the service, a special cheque was presented to the Children's Society.

Mrs R Morgan

Junior School Public Speaking

This year's J4 Public Speaking competition contained a wide variety of topics and was hotly contested by six pupils, two from each J4 form. The Swain Public Speaking prize winner for 2016 emerged as Conor Collins, who entertained and enthralled the audience with an amazing array of facts and figures about the history, development and mysteries of the Rubik's cube. Mr Babb judged the competition this year and was very impressed by the pupils' confidence and knowledge.

Mrs J Humphreys



Junior School Science Week

At the end of the Easter term, the Junior School held their annual Science Week with various events and activities taking place. All pupils were given the opportunity to design their own unique invention for a place in a special Dragon's Den final! Despite tough competition from all year groups, William Cobb in J1 ultimately impressed the judges with his clever all weather-defensive umbrella! The whole school enjoyed an interactive and engaging show about forces from Thinktank Birmingham, with J3 continuing on a space-themed day, including activities led by Sixth Formers. It was super to see so many pupils curious about science!

Miss R Smith





Gardening Club

Gardening Club has been busy this year. In September, as well as looking after their much-loved tortoises, pupils were busy pulling up vegetables that they had been growing on their patch. In October they were delighted to receive some new hand-painted plaques to label the planters and beds on their patch. These had been painted by Mrs Morgan's Junior School Art Club.

Mr P Groom

J1 Tesco Geography Trip

The J1s learnt all about how our food comes from a farm to our plates. We were taken on a tour of the store, including looking at the different colours of fruits and vegetables and where they came from around the world. We also looked at the sugar content of cereals that we eat on a daily basis and learnt that packaging can persuade us to try foods that should be eaten in moderation! We then made a healthy breakfast to see the difference. We had a fantastic time!

Miss S Compton



J3's PGL Boreatton Park Weekend

The J3s once again took to their adventure weekend at Boreatton Park in Shropshire for the weekend. We went straight to discussing tactics for raft building and started to make our rafts. The teachers each went on a raft, and the majority of them stayed afloat! Those that didn't get wet enough were soon soaked by Mr Jones and the rest of the teachers with their water pistols! Thanks to the lovely weather, the rest of the weekend was great for canoeing, climbing, archery, aeroball, trapeze and the assault course. The J3s had a fabulous time!

Miss S Compton





Journey to the Stable at St Alphege

At the beginning of December, the J1s went to St Alphege Church to experience a 'Journey to the Stable.' They were told the Christmas story by a shepherd, a wise man, the inn keeper's wife, Mary and Joseph, with our very own Mrs Middleton starring as Mary! The children also did Christmas crafts, and enjoyed singing Christmas carols to the sleeping baby Jesus. A lovely time was had by everyone.

Miss S Moule



History trip to Mary Arden's Farm

This year the Junior School went to Mary Arden's Farm to experience life as a Tudor. We dressed up in traditional Tudor costume and tried our hand at different activities including bread making, Tudor cloth painting, candle making and lamb feeding. We learned how important wool was to the Tudors and what it was used for. We watched the blacksmith at work and then observed an authentic Tudor lunch. Afterwards, we made butter and sang along! Then, we met a beautiful eagle owl who swooped around. Our day came to an end, but we had time for a spot of Tudor dancing before popping into the gift shop!

Mrs N Atkins



Junior School Trips to Oxford

The J3 pupils travelled to Oxford to visit the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology as part of their Art project on Japanese/ Chinese ceramics. Whilst there, they sketched interesting design ideas and photographed their favourite exhibits. In addition, they visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and completed a series of tasks intended to challenge their observation skills. A great day out was had by all!

J1 pupils also enjoyed a variety of enjoyable activities on their recent trip to Oxford. They first visited The Story Museum, where they read books in their dressing gowns on a huge bed, dressed up as story book characters and visited Narnia! They then went to the Museum of Natural History and searched for fossils, minerals and shells. They had a brilliant day, and learned a lot!

Mrs R Morgan and Miss S Moule



J2 Trip to Handsworth Gurdwara

J2 visited Handsworth Gurdwara where they experienced first-hand the welcoming nature of the Sikh faith. They were given a tour of the Gurdwara and heard the Guru Granth Sahib being read in the Prayer Hall. They were offered prasad, blessed food, and listened respectfully to prayers. They heard a talk about life as a Sikh, and were shown the 5 Ks. The children had a really enjoyable morning and learned a great deal.

Miss S Moule





J4 Residential to Hilltop

On Friday 18 September, J4 went to Hilltop Outdoor Education Centre in Sheringham, Norfolk, for a four-day residential visit. The aim of the trip was to study coastal erosion as part of the J4 Geography Curriculum, as well as to embark on fun activities and team-building exercises. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring long shore drift and erosion processes on the beach, a boat trip to Blakeney Point Seal Sanctuary and ice creams at the local ice cream parlour, which sold a choice of 50 flavours! They also faced the challenge of the tree top trail complex, night orienteering and many more exciting tasks. All children were a credit to the School and had a wonderful time on their final residential trip in the Junior School.

Mrs C Mollison



World Book Day in the Junior School

World Book Day was celebrated with gusto in the Junior School this year – we all dressed up and had a Big Bumper Book Quiz in the morning, each class with its own team name competing against each other. J4A, known as 'The A Team' and J3H 'The Humphreys' Dumpties' were joint winners! Plenty more activities took place in English lessons and lots of fun was had by all.

Mrs N Atkins



Junior School Art Report

The creative energy demonstrated by the Junior School pupils all year, has been fantastic to see and has produced, yet again, a fabulous breadth of art work. It never ceases to amaze me how enthusiastic the pupils are when it comes to Art activities and 2015-16 has been no exception, witnessing great attendance in Art, Craft and Sewing Clubs, with high numbers and waiting lists to join, throughout the year. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Baker, Mrs Griffiths and the Senior School pupil volunteers who have enabled these lunchtime clubs to run so efficiently.

The year got off to a great start, with the J1s embarking on their Portrait drawing project, which proved challenging, yet rewarding, as they saw their skills develop and establish how far they had come when they saw their finished self portrait. The J2s also persevered, when printing onto fabric, having made their Collagraph printing boards themselves and much fun was had using the Art Room printing press! The work of Wassily Kandinsky was the inspiration behind the creation of the J3s' abstract canvases, which now provide a splash of colour around the corridors of the Junior School. In J4, with a view to transitioning to the Senior School, the pupils spent the term focusing on composition and adding tone and texture to their work, using the wonderful array of colourful glass bottles that reside in the Art Room, as their subject matter.



The Easter term heralded the beginning of a 'World Cultures' project across the age ranges, with the pupils exploring the significant impact that Art styles from around the world have on us all and it certainly inspired them to work imaginatively and with determination. The J1s looked to create an African tribal mask with a difference, using recyclable materials to make them eco - friendly. The J2s produced a decorative Egyptian clay tablet and worked hard to give it an ancient, authentic finish. An exciting trip to the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology and Museum of Natural History in Oxford inspired the J3s to think about Far Eastern ceramic design and fuelled them with ideas for their own papier mache creation. Indian textiles were the starting point for the J4s, who researched motifs used in traditional wall hangings and went on to lino print and embellish their own tapestry. Each of these exciting projects continued into the summer term, where the J1s also experimented with making their own fossils, having visited the Oxford Museum of Natural History too, for inspiration. All of this artistic endeavour culminated in a large selection of the pupils' work being displayed in the annual Summer Exhibition in the form of 'Solihull Junior School Museum of Art and Archaeology'.

The exhibition also housed the J3 'Springtime' postcard competition entries and these, as well as all the fantastic artwork on display, were enjoyed by many pupils and parents alike; a wonderful showcase for all this year's hard work and effort!

Mrs R Morgan



Junior School Summer Concert

Junior School concerts are always full of verve of promise, and this year's Summer Concert was no exception, and involved a large number of pupils. It was primarily for ensemble and year group performances, though there were a few solo performances from some J4 pupils. Eight of the Junior School music ensembles performed: Wind Band, Orchestra, Junior Jazzers, Flute Group, String Ensemble, String Quartet, String Quintet and Junior School Choir. Each year group presented vocal or instrumental items they had developed through their curriculum music lessons allowing so many of the pupils to perform in public. The concert concluded with the whole of J4 marking the end of their time in the Junior School with the song *Believe*, with such lines as: 'I can do anything at all, if I can just believe in me' and 'And with friends around to care, there is nothing I can't handle, and I'll face the future treasuring each day'. Knowing these wonderful young people, we have every confidence this will be the case; a tremendous finale!

Mr T Kermodé



Junior School Orchestra

Junior School Orchestra, led by Mariella Scott, meet every week and this year we have played many pieces from *Team Strings*, the favourite being *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* which we performed in the Easter Concert!

Mrs H Dolby

Junior School Brass

The Junior Brass Group consists of Ben Bednall, Ben Pulley, Jack Croft, Thomas Giddings and guest senior, Oliver Palmer. Our band is mainly cornet and trumpet, with only one French horn and one trombone. Our exciting pieces of music this year have been 'Royal March of the Lion', which is from the Carnival of the Animals, 'Dem Bones' and 'The Cat Came Back', which we really enjoyed playing in the Summer Concert. The band is also the newest band to the Junior School, and possibly the funkiest! Four of the five members of the team will be moving up to senior brass band next year, so Junior Brass Group needs you now! Many thanks to Mr Pascall for all the help he has given to the team this year!

Thomas Giddings, J4

Junior School Strings

Junior School Strings practise on Monday break times in the Recital Room. This is a lively and enthusiastic group that always show real joy in playing music together. We performed two pieces from *Going for Gold* in the Easter Concert and *Celtic Suite* in the Summer Concert. Both performances were excellent and reflected all the hard work that the players had put in during the year.

Mrs H Dolby

Junior Jazzers

The Junior Jazzers team includes Fabian Botterill, Tegan Gilbert, Oliver Baker, Ben Bednall, Ben Pulley and of course, myself. Between us we play the trombone, saxophone, trumpet and drum kit. The other member of the Junior Jazzers is our fabulous electric guitarist, Zara Johal, who has done a brilliant job of learning our piece outside of our group practice but has now joined our rehearsals in readiness for the Summer Concert. This year, our main piece has been '5 Note Blues', which is a very lively and funky piece that we have all enjoyed learning. We have especially enjoyed playing to children from Reynolds Cross School, who particularly took delight in listening to the different pitches our instruments make. We have also been pleased to play in the Junior School Summer Concert, which was lots of fun. Many thanks to Miss Greswold for all her time and support that she has invested in us!

Thomas Giddings, J4



Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits

The J4s performed two energetic performances of *Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits* to a filled Bushell Hall in January. The comedy had a twist on the traditional Aladdin tale, with a set of bandits who were on a mission to steal the precious ruby from the Sultan (Piers Kemp) so that the evil Vizier (Jem Perry) could take control of the Genie (Annabel Bagshaw). However, Ali Baba (Daniel Abrahams) soon worked out that the ketchup bottle was more than just a popular sauce, and off he went on a magical carpet ride! The J4s worked very hard throughout the Christmas term to attend rehearsals for the performance and they all had a fabulous time performing the show.

Miss S Compton





Decathlon Day

Once again, Decathlon Day was a very successful fundraiser for the amazing charities that we support. All the children from J1-J4 took part in raising money for charities such as Birmingham Children's Hospital, Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and the MND Association. We participated in a range of activities: shooting baskets, welly wanging, space hopper relay, target throwing, skipping relay, three legged relay, dribbling footballs, tennis ball balancing, obstacle course, javelin and shuttle relay. Once we had all the fun, we calculated the scores and J4M, J3H, J2W and J1S were the winning forms in each year but every class did an amazing job. Well done to everyone that helped to raise money. At time of writing our total had already surpassed £4000. We hope that everyone enjoyed all the great activities and had a great time.

Sarah Gahan and Harvey Blackhurst, J4



Junior School Sport 2015/16

It has been another hugely busy year for the Junior School pupils across a range of sports. With fixtures continuing to be contested on a weekly basis, alongside Inter-House competitions, there has hardly been a minute for the pupils (and staff!) to draw breath.

J4 Sports Tour

After the success of the inaugural sports tour last year, the time soon came around again for our J4s to jump on the coach and head out to test their skills against opposition from a different part of the country. This year it focused on rugby for the boys and netball for the girls, with the destination being that of the beautiful New Forest.

The fixture-list this year stepped up a gear and saw our pupils compete in 12 fixtures across 4 days against some of the strongest schools we have come across. We were welcomed on the first day, en route to The New Forest, by Oratory Prep School in Oxford. This saw narrow losses for the U11A rugby team (losing 3-1) and both netball teams (losing 17-14 in the 'A' and 21-19 in the 'B'). Our U11 rugby players put in a great performance to come out victorious at 4-1; a tough opening day!

The second day saw us hosted by Ballard School and this yielded 4 excellent performances across both sports, coming out with 4 wins out of 4, most notably the girls winning by a combined margin of 27!



Last up was arguably our toughest test against Twyford School. The boys thrashed out two fixtures of outstanding quality, winning one and losing one. The girls came up against a very strong cohort and unfortunately lost both matches. During the tour, all boys and girls enjoyed various activities including archery, climbing, abseiling, a trip to Marwell Zoo and a morning at Romsey Rapids! A great time was had by all and most importantly it was a great sporting education for all involved. Many thanks to Mr Thomas for organising the trip and also to Mr Mitchell, Mrs Johnson, Miss Hanlon and Mr Rudd for accompanying the touring party.

Already looking forward to next year!

Rugby

Rugby across the Junior School has really thrived this year, spearheaded by an extremely strong J4 cohort. All years had comfortable wins against Hallfield whilst both the J2 and J3 teams were narrowly beaten by strong Bablake teams. The J3 team replied strongly to this by winning a tight match against King Henry VIII. House Rugby has been as fiercely fought as ever, with Jago winning the J1/J2 Tag Rugby competition and Shenstone winning the J3/J4 competition. However, as previously mentioned, it was the J4 squad (both 'A' and 'B' teams!) who have taken the plaudits this year and quite emphatically so. They have had an unbeaten campaign, beating teams such as Bablake, King Henry VIII and Eversfield. Furthermore, they were just edged out in the final of the Bedford Modern 7s Invitational tournament, losing out to a sudden-death try! It was therefore great to see them pick themselves back up and go to Warwick and beat teams such as St Olave's, Prestfelde and Lincroft on their way to lifting the Plate. There is surely a bright future ahead for these players once they migrate to Senior School and really bolster their fixture list- very exciting times!



Football

There have been several pleasing performances for the Junior School football teams this year, in some horrendous conditions! Strong wins for the J3s against Arnold Lodge were followed up with good wins across the age groups against Hallfield. Our annual block against Foremarke Hall also produced an exciting set of matches resulting in two wins, one draw and one loss- a great fixture as ever. Our J2 squad also ground out a good draw against Hallfield and had a strong win against Bablake, coming out 3-0 winners. The bragging rights in the J1/J2 House competition this year had to be split between Jago and Shenstone as not even goal difference or head-to-head could separate them! Meanwhile, Pole took home the plaudits in the J3/J4 competition. An enjoyable season for all!

Hockey (Boys)

Junior School Boys' Hockey has seen a wonderful year in terms of development for both individuals and teams.

With a very busy season, the boys went from strength to strength with positive results against Warwick and Bilton Grange at the start of the season, and a string of notable achievements, including being runners-up in the Warwickshire Schools tournament. However, it was the success at the Midlands Schools Championships that really epitomised the huge strides made by hockey, as a whole, in the Junior School this year.

The tournament took place at Cannock Hockey Club with eighteen teams representing six Midland counties. The teams were split into three groups with the top two from each group contesting the semi-finals. Solihull came second in its group,

after winning two and drawing two of its games. This meant a semi-final against Bilton Grange – a team that had beaten Solihull in the final of the Warwickshire tournament. The boys really rallied, playing brilliantly, winning 1-0 in dominant fashion. With confidence coursing through them, the boys went into the final (a three-way round robin with Winchester House and Oakham) with a steely determination. The watching supporters weren't disappointed as Solihull played some stunning hockey on the way to a gritty 0-0 draw with Winchester House and a fantastic 2-1 win against Oakham. Unfortunately, due to goal difference, the boys ended up being runners-up overall... after not losing a match the whole day. Mr Mitchell was effusive following the season and is rightly excited at the prospect of this cohort heading in to Senior School with a great season behind them.

Hockey (Girls)

There have been many successes for the Junior Girls' Hockey teams this year and House matches were also fiercely fought! The U9 hockey team has shown notable progression since J1 and has thoroughly enjoyed their matches. They had two very close games against Hallfield, drawing on both occasions, and demonstrated true grit to beat Warwick 2-0. Both the U10A and B teams improved their game play and tactics which enabled them to beat The Croft 5-0 and 2-1 respectively.

The U11 teams played many matches throughout the season and have been consistently committed and keen to improve their skills and stamina. The A-team faced some difficult opposition early in the season at the IAPS regional tournament but achieved two notable victories over The Croft and Arnold Lodge later in the year. The B-team had three strong wins against Arnold Lodge and Hallfield, constantly looking for important goal opportunities.

Netball

All Girls' Netball teams showed significant improvement this season as a result of great enthusiasm and super commitment to training.

The U8 team has made excellent progress this year and enjoyed many successes, including their 6-1 win against King Henry VIII. The U9 A-team also played well, winning all but one of their matches. The U9 B-team has played with determination, resulting in some close matches.

Throughout the year, both U10 teams have shown great team work and developed their tactical play in several fixtures. The highlights for the A-team were finishing third in the annual Solihull tournament and beating The Croft 8-4.

It has been a successful year for the U11 A and B teams in netball. The girls had a promising start to 2016, competing in the Warwick tournament where they almost made it through to the semi-finals. Both teams went on the Junior School Sports Tour to the New Forest in February this year and played incredibly well against several schools. Shortly after this, the U11A team girls came top 15 in the IAPS Regional Netball tournament, narrowly missing out on a place in the nationals. Despite this, they continued to play well with a notable performance against King Henry VIII where they celebrated a 7-2 victory.

House netball matches have been close this year with Fetherston winning the J1 and J2 competition and Shenstone winning for J3 and J4.

Cricket

Unfortunately this year the cricket season has been a rather wet one! The vast majority of fixtures, across all age groups, have had to be cancelled with the J2s even about to go in to bat when there was a biblical downpour! The J4s have had a great run in the Lord's Taverners Pairs Cup, beating King Henry VIII and Bablake on their way to becoming County Champions! They now look to emulate the success of the U11 team from 3 years ago and win the upcoming Regional finals.

Rounders

All Junior Rounders teams have made tremendous improvement over the last term, showcasing super teamwork and eagerness to win.

The U9s have flourished as a team due to their hard work and commitment to club as well as their positivity during matches. They beat Eversfield 16-12.5 but really stood out at the recent invitational tournament at The Croft where they made it to the semi-finals.

The U10 team also took part in the same tournament for their age category and showed excellent fielding and batting skills. The U11 team had two victories against Arnold Lodge and developed their skills further in The Croft tournament.

Sports Day

This year we reverted to tradition and paraded out on a dry but somewhat ominous Friday afternoon for Junior School Sports Day. This year saw 57 races cross the finish line, including the continuation of an immensely popular Mothers' and Fathers' Egg and Spoon race (several heats' worth battled it out for a nice bottle of red!) As ever, immense crowds of parents witnessed all pupils competing in at least two events and giving their all for their House. There are again a number of individual achievements to celebrate with Erin Troop shining bright as the Junior School athletics beacon, breaking the High Jump record with a height of 1.35m and also the 200m record, posting a time of 29.87s. Kristian Hartland followed suit by breaking the boys' High Jump record with a height of 1.34m. However, as exciting as these are, it was the J4 Shenstone 4 x 100m relay team who took home the headlines this year, breaking a record that has stood since 1990! Together they posted a hugely impressive 59.98s and that will take some beating! The team consisted of Isabelle Mitchell, Harvey Blackhurst, Daniel Abrahams and Erin Troop- a fantastic achievement. Breaking that record in the final race, rather fittingly it was Shenstone who took home the winners' cup this year. The weather was kind to us and a great day was had by all.

Overall, Junior School Sport has enjoyed yet another hugely successful and busy year. I'd like to thank all staff for their hard work and support. Huge thanks to Mr Mitchell who has put an amazing amount of work in behind the scenes, and also to the female staff who, in the absence of Mrs Dickerson, and spearheaded by Miss Smith, have helped make this year run smoothly. Further thanks must also go to all the grounds and catering staff for making the whole Junior School Sport experience for parents and pupils an enjoyable one.

On a personal note I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved with Junior School Sport over the past 4 years in what will be my final Shenstonian article as I move on to pastures new.

Mr C Thomas
Junior School Sport Co-ordinator



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 with Mr Peter Irving at the organ console enabling us to promote excellence in celebration of the Christian Faith.

As usual, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a huge success and has become a highlight in the school diary. The Junior School Christmas Carol Service and the Midnight Mass continue to be very popular as was the Advent Service, a liturgy 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 the 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 annual Pet Service, when pupils brought their beloved pets into our hallowed precincts for a blessing. Junior School members participated very well, reading the lessons and prayers. We were able to support the local Donkey Sanctuary with a donation for their work from the retiring collection.

A recent initiative has been the chaplaincy discussion group, 'The Wheel', named after the symbol of our own patron, Catherine of Alexandria. The interest in this group has been most encouraging in welcoming people from different world religions and those with no particular religious affiliation at all. It has been a very healthy forum for discussing philosophical and ethical questions with honesty and integrity. This will continue during the next academic year, providing an excellent facility for all, particularly for those studying Religious Studies at GCSE and A-Level.

The Governors were invited to a Sunday service when we celebrated the inclusivity of the Christian life. We worshipped in style with a Solemn Eucharist containing sumptuous music and a stimulating experiential sermon. We were able to pray particularly for the victims, families and friends of those killed in the terrible Orlando shootings. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

I will take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to those leaving school who have contributed significantly to music-making in our liturgies. This, of course, includes our choristers and particularly Mr Oliver Walker, who moves to be Head of Music at Repton. We have flourished under his baton and been very blessed in our visits to a number of English Cathedrals and a recent choir excursion to Normandy. We were certainly privileged to appear on BBC Radio Four during our live broadcast. Thank you, Oliver, for all you have done. You will be much missed.

The School is very fortunate to have found another excellent musician, Alex Woodrow, who will replace Oliver in September. Here are some reflections from Alex:

I am greatly looking forward to joining the Solihull School

community from September 2016. I am struck by the emphasis that is placed on choral music at the school, and the work of the Chapel Choir, in its various subsections, is especially impressive in terms of industry, quality and breadth of opportunities and experiences. The Chapel Choir's work is not only a central part of the Music Department's co-curricular life, but, of course, is intimately tied-in with the Chapel's own liturgical rhythm and its wider musical ministry within the school community.

My background has been primarily in Cathedral music over the last decade or so, working variously as organist and choral director at Guildford and St Albans Cathedrals, Hexham Abbey, and latterly as Organist and Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral for the past 14 terms. I have always had a keen interest in the musical education of the choristers I have had the privilege of working with in these liturgical environments, believing strongly that a choral education can be transformative and horizon-extending, and so my move to Solihull School represents the wish to continue in my choral and organ work, but, at the same time, to make a foray into the world of teaching. For the past four years, I have run the

two senior choral ensembles at Bradford Grammar School alongside my Cathedral duties, and have enjoyed being within a school environment immensely.

The Solihull Choirs are already excellent ensembles and almost unique in their range of activities: from broadcasting, to recording and commissioning. I hope to carry on the excellent work that Mr Walker has undertaken over the last six years, and look forward greatly to working closely with all student members of the various choral ensembles at the school, as well as with Fr Andrew, Mr Kermode, Mr Irving, and other colleagues closely involved with the School's musical and liturgical life.

We look forward to Alex's contributions immensely.

It has been good to continue our friendship with St Alphege Church, particularly through our involvement with music and the exercising of my own priestly ministry. The pilgrimages to Walsingham and next year's venture to Rome and Assisi say something significant about the faith and joy of our congregations.

It is always a great privilege 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 services of Richard and Stephanie Bragg; and Daniel and Catriona Reardon. We wish them every blessing in their life together.

Mr Andrew Dowsett has been a great support to us, often acting as Warden and playing the organ. For this we are very grateful. Similarly, we have appreciated the huge support of Mr and Mrs Lloyd and of Jessie Lloyd and Matthew Farrow who have served regularly at the altar.

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
Chaplain





Chapel Choirs

'Lost in wonder, love and praise' are the final words of Charles Wesley's famous hymn which fittingly ended both the BBC Radio 4 'Sunday Worship' broadcast from our School Chapel and yet another year of glorious music from our Chapel Choirs.

The Chapel Choirs have maintained a very high level of membership, welcoming many new members at the start of the academic year. The life blood of the whole enterprise is the new intake from the Junior School into the Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir, and we are thrilled particularly to see a really committed group of younger members who will surely serve the Chapel for many years to come.

It is always a tremendous sound when the choirs are combined, as they were for the first Evensong of the year featuring Stanford's canticles in C and Rutter's 'I will sing with the spirit'; a memorable way to welcome new members. The full choir of almost 100 members came together again a few months later for a liturgical performance of Fauré's sublime 'Requiem' with orchestra on Remembrance Sunday.

The Advent Carol Service, also featuring the joint choirs, was a feast of seasonal music with singers performing from different parts of the building. The plainsong Advent Prose pieces



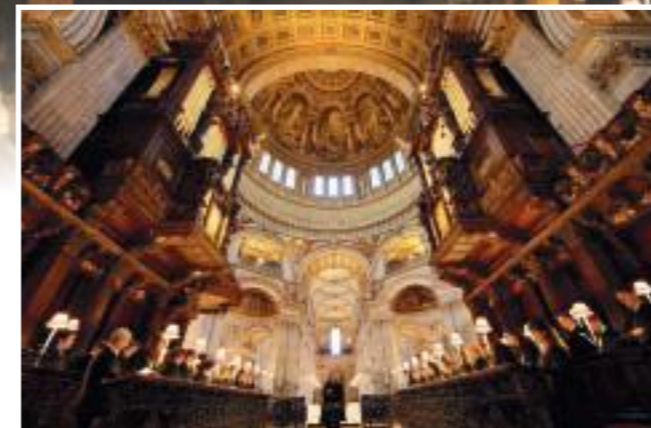
were sung at different points of the service, and the choirs performed pieces by Bach, Tallis and Handel. One particular highlight was the first performance of 'For Christ is coming soon', a lively piece written for the Chamber Choir sopranos by Mr Phillips.

This year's service of Nine Lessons and Carols was truly moving, and the choir rose to what is always their favourite occasion with a packed Chapel on both evenings. Jessica Boake and Benedict Barker opened the services with the solo first verse of 'Once in royal David's city', and choir carols included Chilcott's beautiful 'Shepherd's Carol', Gardner's catchy arrangement of 'The holly and the ivy' and 'Gabriel's Message' by Alex Hodgkinson. A magical way to start the Christmas period!

The next time that that whole Chapel Choir came together was for the final service of the year; a very special one indeed for the choir and whole school community, taking the form of a live BBC Radio 4 'Sunday Worship' broadcast, heard by an estimated 1.35 million listeners from across the world. The theme of the service was 'unbounded love', featuring a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme. The music included Mr Irving's 'For the fallen', Mr Phillips' 'Solihull Intercession', Nardone's 'I give to you a new commandment' and Allain's 'Prayer of St Richard of Chichester'. Prayers and readings were given by members of the choir and school community, and the School received many messages of congratulations from members of the public for putting together such a moving programme. It was very special indeed to welcome the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, to preach for the service.

The Chapel Choir is immensely grateful to Peter Irving for accompanying so sensitively and patiently, as well as to Fr Andrew for his support and encouragement.

Mr O Walker



and Jessie J. Singing alongside professional musicians and hearing about their career paths and exciting musical vision is a real privilege for our pupils, some of whom may well be inspired to make this musical journey themselves.

Shortly after Christmas the Chamber Choir took to the road, travelling once more to Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, in order to broadcast live to 250,000 people through the BBC's Daily Service programme. The theme of the service was 'Patience' and the choir performed Noble's 'Nunc Dimittis' in B minor alongside popular hymns. This was followed only a few weeks later by the Choir's fourth visit to sing Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, London. On one of the windiest days imaginable the Choir spent time exploring the Cathedral and then coming together to perform Noble's Canticles in B minor, Ayleward's Preces & Responses and a newly commissioned anthem 'I will sing with the spirit' by renowned Old Silhillian organist and composer, David Briggs. We are extremely grateful to the Parents' Association for funding this excellent new piece of music, and we were delighted to see many committee members and other parents in the congregation.

In April the Chamber Choir joined with many friends, parents and members of local choral societies for a massed performance of Handel's famous 'Messiah', accompanied by the excellent Sinfonia of Birmingham. The soloists were young professionals; Camilla Harris, Edward McMullan, Josh Cooter and George Coltart, and the large audience were extremely appreciative of the high standards of music-making.

The final Evensong of the year is always an emotional occasion as we say farewell to members of the choir who are leaving the School, as well as Mr Walker. This year we performed Stanford's 'For lo, I raise up', Parry's 'Magnificat' from the 'Solihull Service' and Stanford's 'Nunc Dimittis' in G and, for Mr Walker's farewell it was wonderful to welcome back many former choristers who came to sing. We wish Thomas Carson, Alex Lavery, Dominic Martens, Beatrice Cowley, Megan Lloyd, Leticia Salmon, Rebecca Timperley, Hannah Shakeshaft and Eloise Burchell well for the future and look forward to seeing them at many Former Choristers' Association events.

Mr O Walker

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir continues to go from strength to strength and has enjoyed a year packed full of performances and events.

During Speeches Evening in September the Chamber Choir launched the new School Song, 'Perseverantia our Spirit', with words by Megan Lloyd and music by Mr Phillips. During assembly the following week the Choir and sports teams delivered a dramatic joint performance to the School during assembly, with the whole community joining in for a rousing final verse. It is hoped that the song will now become part of the fabric of the School.

Later in the term the Chamber Choir performed in a special service held in the Chapel to mark the unveiling of 'Conduct', the sculpture designed and created by Matthew Sanderson which adorns the newly renovated Chapel forecourt. For the ceremony we welcomed Simon Halsey CBE back to the School to formally unveil 'Conduct', and were inspired by his speech about the importance of singing in our school community. During the service the Chamber Choir performed a newly commissioned work 'Sing, o heavens' by Judith Bingham – a very complex unaccompanied composition with text partly by the sculptor Michelangelo. Other music included Rutter's 'I will sing with the spirit' and the new School Song.

In November it was a real privilege to welcome acclaimed professional choir Voces8 to the School for an engaging masterclass and evening concert, featuring performances alongside our own singers of music by Tallis, Byrd, Cole Porter



Boys' Choir

The Boys' Choir takes members from both the Junior School and Senior School, and it is always impressive to see how boys across this age range work together with a very strong sense of team unity to produce singing of both quality and integrity. This year the Boys' Choir has benefitted from a particularly large number of Junior School members, making for a promising future.

In November, on a very cold and dark morning, we gathered at 5.45am outside the Chapel to make the long journey to Didsbury to broadcast live on the BBC's 'Daily Service' programme, as well as to record another service which went out at a later date. The themes of the services were 'God's Kingdom' and 'God's Bounty', with music including 'For the beauty of the earth' by Carter, 'Gloria' by Nardone, and four popular hymns. Impressive solo were provided by

Joshua Kermode, Aymbujan Srijothy, Jacques Barker and Benedict Barker, and Mr Walker received some lovely letters from members of the public who listened. We have to focus extremely hard to keep the producers happy, making sure our tuning is good and words are clear – it is very good for our singing!

In June we joined with the Girls' Choir to sing evensong in Worcester Cathedral; an amazing building with lots of history. We enjoyed looking for the tomb of King John, and Mr Walker set us the challenge of finding out which British Prime Minister was buried in the Cathedral – Stanley Baldwin! During the service we sang lots of Psalm verses, as well as 'Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis' by Byram-Wigfield and 'A prayer of St Richard of Chichester' by Allain. Mr Irving played the organ for us and Mr Walker conducted us for his last Evensong trip at Solihull School.

One of the events that the Boys' Choir regularly sing for is the Solihull Sing! concerts in the Bushell Hall, alongside the many visiting primary school children. We always perform a piece to the visiting children as well as joining in the fun songs they have been learning, for example 'Believe' and 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor'. This year we sang in three of these concerts.

As well as these exciting adventures, we do most of our work in the School Chapel and have sung for many memorable services there over the year. Without singing these services on



Sundays we would not have the experience we need to take part in the bigger events.

We have had another brilliant year and we are very sad to say goodbye to Mr Walker who has worked so hard with us since he arrived. Good luck Mr Walker!

Members of the Boys' Choir

Girls' Choir

This year, the Girls' Choir has shown much potential and talent, performing in many different services and events, both at the School and further afield. We have also shown commitment in all rehearsals, and enjoyed working towards performing at Worcester Cathedral and on BBC Radio.

On Tuesday 14 June, we left school at lunchtime to perform at Worcester Cathedral with the Boys' Choir. When we arrived we looked around the amazing Cathedral and then went on to rehearse ready for the 5:30pm service. Despite being nervous, the entire choir performed at their best and the service was both a success and an amazing experience. The Cathedral's Director of Music came to hear the service and said we were 'outstanding'! It was lovely to have lots of parents and supporters there to hear us.

The year ended with us joining the other Chapel Choirs to perform live on BBC Radio 4. This was an amazing event and, despite all the hard work, we really enjoyed the process of performing under such pressure!

We would like to thank the members of staff, particularly Mr Kermode, for their conducting and encouragement throughout the year.

Lily Evans and Harriet Toogood



Chapel Sculpture Unveiling

Our new Chapel sculpture, 'Conduct', designed by artist Matthew Lane Sanderson, was unveiled in the grounds of our Chapel on Wednesday, 14 October. The monumental sculpture, which stands approximately 5m tall and 3m wide, celebrates our School's strong link with choral music. The ribbon was cut by internationally renowned conductor Simon Halsey CBE who has worked with philharmonic orchestras across the world and currently holds the position of Chorus Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus.

Mr Lloyd said: 'The event was designed not only to show off the sculpture for the first time, but also to celebrate choral music at the School, so it was great to see performances from the choir during the full chapel service'. The School also commissioned Judith Bingham, a former BBC singer and 'composer in association', to create a special piece of music for the occasion. The piece, which was created in partnership with Matthew Sanderson, was performed by the School's Chamber Choir during the event. Matthew, who has been creating public art for more than 15 years, said: 'Creating a sculpture which would reflect the longstanding choral tradition held by Solihull was certainly a challenge but I'm thrilled that the School is pleased with the final result'.



Remembrance

This year's outdoor Service of Remembrance, as in previous years, was attended by 1,200 pupils, staff and guests in front of the War Memorial, where the CCF paraded and played the Last Post.



Community Service

The rewards from volunteering in the community can be great indeed. Not only have our Sixth Form students benefitted from being able to go into unfamiliar environments, build relationships and develop as individuals, but the School has been able to reach out to the wider community that we are part of. It has been particularly pleasing, therefore, that this year we have been able to develop a new and successful relationship with AgeUK in Solihull. They have been a wonderful, supportive host for three of our students, giving them superb opportunities for their personal development, such as learning to operate the tills at the shop and interacting with the other volunteers.

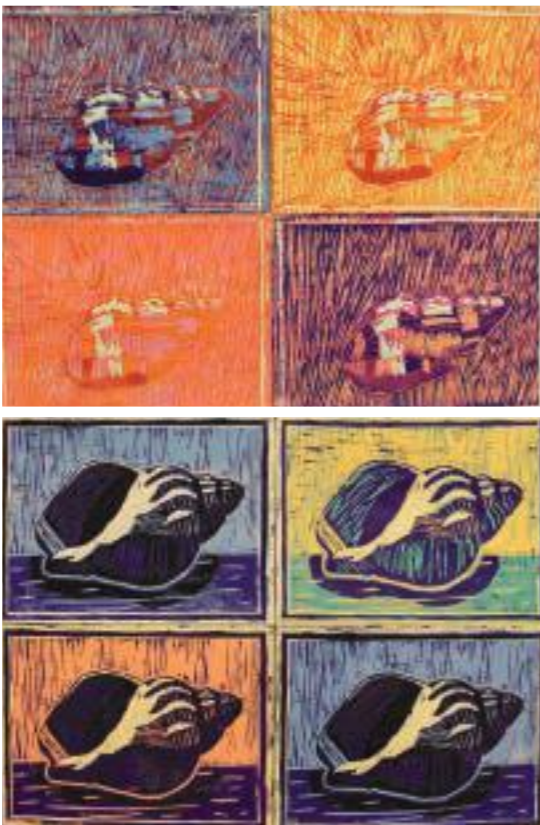
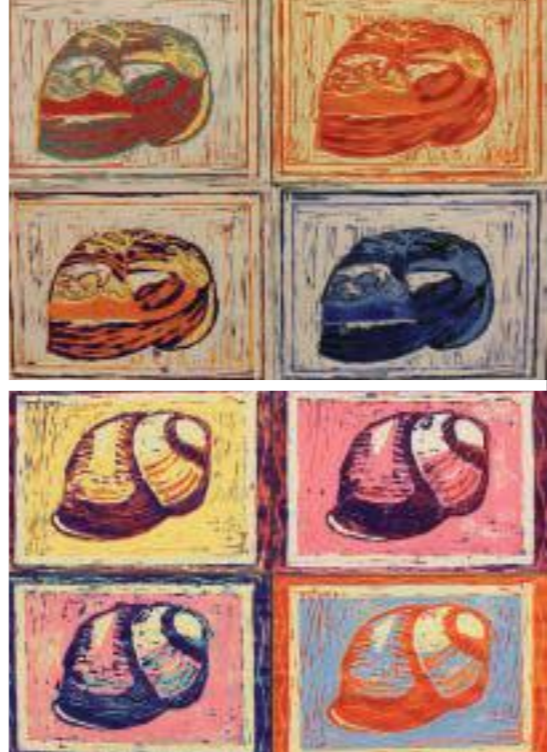
I am indebted to our other hosts, especially to Ruckleigh and Ulverley Schools, with whom we have further developed our links. I am grateful for their unstinting support as it is not always easy to host students over such a long time period. I know that the students who have been visited these schools have enjoyed their time greatly and grown due the experiences gained.



The sense of satisfaction that the Sixth Formers get from taking part in the community service programme is clear to see. It has been gratifying to see how much they have engaged with their hosts and the positive attitude with which they have fulfilled their placements. We, therefore, hope to continue to develop the programme yet further next year and offer an even greater variety of opportunities.

Dr S Sawicki





Music

Music at Solihull 2015 - 2016

The musical year here at Solihull is always a busy one and activities and concert performances continue to thrive. Nearly 10,000 instrumental lessons have been given over the year and over 200 instrumental music exams taken; this has been complemented by many pupils playing in the string, wind and brass chamber ensembles, as well as the eight larger ensembles and six choirs that have met each week. It continues to be a delight to see such commitment and excitement in solo and ensemble performances at all levels – in and out of the classroom, young and old, beginner and advanced. The range of events and successes has been wonderfully wide; the enthusiasm of the pupils and the staff prodigious; and the skill consistently impressive. Across the three terms, the five large-scale concerts involved over 300 pupil performers. Add to that the whole of J4 in the Junior School Musical and the cast, band and crew of around ninety pupils in the Senior School Musical, and it is clear that music is central to the life of the School. Barely a week goes by without a concert – indeed some have had two. It is not surprising to hear, then, that there were no less than twenty formal concerts over the year, as well as five performances of the Senior School Musical *Carousel*, two performances of the Junior School Musical *Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits*, weekly Chapel Services, three Carol Services, two 'Daily Service' live



This has been my second year here at Solihull and I can honestly say that I feel completely at home and greatly enjoy working alongside such wonderful colleagues and pupils. My delight is, though, tinged with the sadness felt by many that this is the last year for our wonderful colleague, Mr Oliver Walker, as he heads off to become Director of Music at Repton School in Derbyshire. Oliver has been our Head of Choral Music and Head of Keyboard for the past six years. He has brought so much to our community, especially to the music of the Chapel. He has championed the commissioning of new choral music and built links with local primary schools through the vibrant outreach programme 'Solihull Sings!' Our annual visit to London to sing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, the termly BBC live broadcasts on Radio 4 from Manchester, and other Cathedral visits and foreign tours have always been a thrill, as have the recent Choral Concerts. In particular, the performance of Handel's *Messiah* he conducted in April typically balanced energy, sparkle and musicianship in equal measure, and rightly received a standing ovation. We all owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his dedication and commitment to the School. We shall miss you, Oliver, not only as a teacher, colleague and friend, but also for your mischievous sense of humour! We wish him and his wife Emily all the best for the next stage in their lives.

Mr T Kermode

broadcasts and one 'Sunday Worship' live broadcast from our own Chapel on BBC Radio, and two Cathedral visits. In addition to the pupil concerts there were the five masterclasses given by professional musicians working, in each case, with soloists and ensembles to extend their interpretation and performance skills. Following the arrival of the three new Steinway pianos in February last academic year, twenty of our musicians travelled down to London to play in Steinway Hall in January this year – a real treat. What comes across in all these events is a real love of the music and a sense of great enjoyment – running through this, as a central core, is the tangible level of mutual support the pupils afford to each other. I hope that you enjoy reading about the pupils' experiences of all this in their individual ensemble reports. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved throughout the year.

This little light of mine



Solihull Sings!

The School's choral outreach programme Solihull Sings! has now reached its twelfth term, and over this year has impacted on 250 children from five local primary schools; Mapledene, Sharmans Cross, St Alphege, St Augustine's and Gilbertstone. It has been a privilege to work with Year 4 and Year 5 children from these schools, and to prepare them for the lively concerts in our Bushell Hall alongside our own J2s. Thank you to our Boys' Choir and various soloists and instrumentalists who enhance the music making and give the visiting children and our own J2s an incredible choral experience.

Mr O Walker

Symphony Orchestra

Over the past year Solihull School has seen the formation of the new and improved Symphony Orchestra. Combining the old Symphony Orchestra with the Concert Orchestra has led to a larger ensemble capable of playing a wider and more challenging repertoire of music. In our first concert of the year, the St Cecilia Concert, we performed Vaughan Williams's *English Folk Song Suite*, which was thoroughly enjoyable for the whole orchestra. This was largely due to the variety of parts ranging in difficulty, allowing everyone to participate despite the varying levels of experience. The enthusiasm and experience of our new Director of Music, Mr Kermode, was also a huge inspiration to all of the orchestra members, including myself. For our second concert, the Summer Concert, film music was decided upon as the theme. This created a lot of excitement across the orchestra. The pieces chosen for us to play were the themes from *ET*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and the *Dam Busters*. This was especially exhilarating for me, as a cellist, because one of my all time favourite movie music moments is the cello solo in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Soon afterwards we were asked to perform again in the full School Assembly the next morning. We played *ET* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* to an enthusiastic audience who enjoyed the performance almost as much as we did. This final showcase of what we had achieved was a thrilling way to end the school year.

Dominic Martens, Upper Sixth



St Cecilia & Summer Concerts

As part of the busy schedule of concerts over the year, there are two Senior School concerts held in the Bushell Hall for our larger instrumental and vocal ensembles. The first, in late November, was the aptly named St Cecilia Concert (St Cecilia being the patron saint of musicians and whose 'name day' is 22 November). 120 pupils playing and singing in 8 different ensembles came together to perform to a packed Bushell Hall. The programme featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres. Intermediate Wind Band's rendering of *All About That Bass* got the evening off to a great start, with youthful energy. Next up were the Percussion Ensemble, whose rendition of *Caravan* certainly got the audience's toes tapping, and then Saxophony, whose performance of a *Glenn Miller Medley* had some people so close to getting up to dance! Intermediate String Ensemble brought the first half to a close with purposeful performances of two *James Bond* theme tunes. Interval refreshments were most welcome after all than espionage! Symphony Orchestra opened the second half with characterful playing in Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance* and Elgar's majestic *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*. The vocal item of the evening was provided by The Twelve who displayed great skill in their secular repertoire in *Short People* and *And So It Goes*, nicely complementing the strong sacred music many of them sing in Chapel Choir. Advanced String Ensemble presented a beautiful performance of Vaughan Williams's *Concerto for String Orchestra*, with wonderful contrast between each of the five movements. Senior Wind Band completed the evening with their typically tight and characterful playing of *Pennsylvania 6-5000* and highlights from *Jersey Boys*. Throughout the concert all the ensembles combined both detail and musical sensitivity and balance, bringing off fabulously committed and effective performances on stage. In addition, they were all tremendous listeners – really supporting each other throughout. Huge congratulations to all concerned.

Later in the year, before the public examination period began, the Summer Concert brought together all of the ensembles that had performed in the St Cecilia Concert, along with a further four – the additional groups being Senior Guitar Ensemble, Senior Flutes, Saxophone Choir and Big Band. Repertoire included *Uptown Funk*; *Wilderland* (from *The Hobbit*); *Sheep may safely Graze*; *Mad World*; *Heswig's Theme* (from *Harry Potter*); *My Heart will go On* (from *Titanic*); *Sleeping Beauty Waltz*; *New York, New York*; *Abba medley*; *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*; theme from *Sesame Street*; selection from *The Lion King*; excerpts from Dvorak's *New World Symphony No. 9* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King* (from *Peer Gynt Suite*). In addition there were three sections from orchestral concertos with Sixth Form soloists accompanied by Senior String Ensemble. Hannah Shakeshaft and Charlotte Sasse wowed with two movements of JS Bach's *Concerto for 2 Violins*; Megan Lloyd was stylish in the first movement of Mozart's *Piano Concerto in A*; and Dominic Martens was sensitive and highly accomplished in Fauré's *Elegie for Cello and Orchestra*. Huge congratulations to them and to all the performers. Towards the end of the concert The Twelve sang *Loch Lomond* and *Blue Moon*. This was Mr. Walker's last big concert before his move at the end of term to Repton School to become Director of Music. As ever, his direction brought out heart-felt performances from the singers – many of them, themselves, leaving for the next stage in their life. As their own personal farewell to Mr Walker they sang one of his favourites from their repertoire – Billy Joel's *And so it Goes*. Another extremely memorable and enjoyable evening.

Mr T Kermode





Advanced String Ensemble

Advanced String Ensemble had yet another very successful year. We started off by rehearsing the very challenging *Concerto Grosso* by Vaughan Williams and then performing it in the St Cecilia Concert. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. For the Summer Concert, we played a number of things; a medley from *The Lion King*, Fauré's *Elegie* for cello with Dominic Martens as the soloist and Bach's famous double violin concerto with Hannah Shakeshaft and Charlotte Sasse. We also performed a movement of a Mozart piano concerto featuring Megan Lloyd as the soloist. These performances went extremely well and were a great way to finish off the year. All players have made an excellent contribution to the group and we are sad to say goodbye to four outstanding members: Hannah Shakeshaft, Dominic Martens, Ben Lyons and Nicholas Chitty. Thank you to Miss Dolby for rehearsing with us throughout the year.

Lauren Raybould, Shell Form

Intermediate String Ensemble

Intermediate String Ensemble, led by Aviva Sandler, rehearses for an hour before school every Thursday. Although we sometimes feel a little bit sleepy, we soon brush away the cobwebs and enjoy making music! This year we have explored a variety of classical and film music. In the St Cecilia Concert we gave a polished and stylish performance of the ever popular *James Bond* theme. This was very well received by an enthusiastic audience and we played it again for School assembly the following morning. In the Summer Concert we chose the Waltz from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* and the *Harry Potter* theme by John Williams. This performance showed how much the ensemble had refined and improved their playing during the year. The group has been disciplined, enthusiastic and committed and has been a pleasure to work with!

Mrs H Dolby

Senior Wind Band

It has been both a successful and enjoyable year in Senior Wind Band. The first term began in preparation for the St Cecilia Concert, where we played the Glenn Miller classic 'Pennsylvania 6-5000', memorable for its brief unison chant of the title. This was then followed by a medley of highlights from *Jersey Boys*. Our next significant performance came in the Summer Concert, in which we played 'Harlem Nocturne' featuring saxophone solos from Becky Timperley and Ben Northam. We followed this with 'Come Fly With Me' which was warmly appreciated by our audience.

Over the course of the year, we've definitely improved a lot as a band, becoming sharper and tighter in our playing thanks to the conducting and leadership from Miss Greswold in our weekly Tuesday lunchtime rehearsals. It wouldn't be anywhere near as entertaining without her and we're really grateful for everything she does!

Ben Northam, Upper Sixth

Intermediate Wind Band

At the beginning of the academic year, Intermediate Wind Band practised many pieces, including 'All About That Bass', which was conducted by Miss Greswold in the St Cecilia Concert. It went very well and was popular amongst the audience. Next, Wind Band moved on to practise 'Uptown Funk' and 'Wilderland' from *The Hobbit*. The group struggled with 'Wilderland' to start off with, but eventually got the hang of it and played it absolutely brilliantly. Everyone in Wind Band enjoyed playing 'Uptown Funk' because it was a relatively easy piece to play and everyone recognised it, which allowed us to familiarise ourselves with certain parts of the song before playing it. After the Summer Concert, we played extracts from *Harry Potter* as a reward for doing so well and in order to start to relax before the end-of-year exams.

Chris Cotes, Lower Fifth

Senior Brass

Senior Brass consists of Oliver Palmer, Luke Horgan, Marcus Wright and myself. We are a small brass group that plays arrangements of many different styles and genres. The pieces can range from marches to traditional hymns and original arrangements for brass ensembles. Pieces we have played this year include the traditional 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' and 'Liberty Bell' (a challenging march by John Philip Sousa which is more commonly known as the theme from *Monty Python*). We have all improved due to this challenging new repertoire. On behalf of Senior Brass I would like to thank Mr Pascall for organising the ensemble and conducting us every Wednesday break time.

Bethan Bown, Shell Form

Intermediate Flute Ensemble

At the start of the year, I joined Solihull's flute ensemble. It's a group where people come together and play all sorts of pieces. The pupils in this group include Rhea Bagga, Lucia Eguiguren-Wray, Joanne Wu and myself. For some pieces, we also require a clarinet part which is usually played by Tara Warrington. At the start of the year, we played 'Where is love', 'Pick a Pocket or Two' and 'Food, Glorious Food' from *Oliver Twist*. Currently, we are working on 'So Long, Farewell' from *The Sound of Music* and we recently performed in the Informal Concert by playing 'Chim Chim Cher-ee' from *Mary Poppins*. We practise during Tuesday break time (when we remember to bring our flutes!). We would like to thank Miss Greswold, our conductor, for all the time and effort that she has put in. Anyone who plays the flute is more than welcome to come and join us – it would be the best flute group that you ever get to play with, and even if you don't play the flute, you could come and simply listen to our practice.

Ziying He, Third Form

Big Band

This year was another swinging year for Big Band with older talent being joined by many newcomers, including new trumpet and sax players, a guitarist and a trombonist! Under the charismatic leadership of Mr Hugh Pascall, this expanded ensemble explored a wide repertoire of both classic and contemporary jazz pieces in both rehearsals and in a range of concerts, venturing into daring improvisations which wowed audiences. Highlights included the fast paced 'Sesame Street' theme tune and a challenging arrangement of Joe Zawinul's 'Mercy, Mercy, Mercy'. The band had a busy year, playing three times publicly: at the Summer Concert, the second annual Jazz Concert and alongside Saxophony to open for the Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra. Thank you Mr. Pascall! The band members look forward to more swinging times in 2016/17.

Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Lower Sixth

The Twelve

This year the Sixth Form a cappella group 'The Twelve' has performed at a number of school events and concerts, with an increasingly large and wide-ranging repertoire performed to a high level and close attention to detail. In the St Cecilia Concert they performed 'Short People' (causing a few raised eyebrows!) and Billy Joel's 'And so it goes', and later in the year performed these in Chapel with visiting professional choir Voces8. The Summer Concert saw performances of 'Blue Moon' and 'Loch Lomond', followed by a repeat farewell performance of the Billy Joel song; Mr Walker's favourite piece!

Mr O Walker





Saxophony

It has been another hectic year for Saxophony with numerous appearances in concerts, festivals and even a wedding. We have welcomed a number of new members to the group since the end of last year, with Oliver Rooney, Megan Perry and Alex Sasse all being assets to the team. We have also enjoyed performing in the St Cecilia and Summer Concerts, as well as the Summer Jazz Concert this year, playing some classic Saxophony pieces such as 'New York, New York' and, of course, 'The Glenn Miller Medley'. We were also given the privilege of playing at the Old Silhillians Over-60s lunch, playing many of our favourite pieces. Saxophony also performed excellently at the Solihull Music Festival in September, in which we achieved 1st prize in our category with 'The Bullfighter', with the judge particularly complimenting us on our interaction as a group. Huge congratulations must go to the team for this, but most notably Miss Greswold for her encouragement of our inner matadors! We were also given the opportunity at the end of the year to perform with the Midlands Youth Jazz Orchestra during their recent concert in the Bushell Hall, which rounded off what has been another incredible year for the group.

Despite the early Thursday morning rehearsals, attendance has been excellent throughout the year, and this has been due to the team work of the group, the great music, the moments of hilarity as half the group play one piece and the other half play another, but most importantly, due to the amazing direction of Miss Greswold. Her patience, humour, commitment and kindness cannot be praised enough, and so on behalf of Saxophony, but especially the leavers (Ben Northam, Amy Mitchell-Meades, Ethan Smallwood and myself), I would like to thank her for helping us every week. We wish Saxophony and Miss G the best of luck for the coming year and we hope you enjoy being part of the group as much as we have!

Rebecca Timperley, Upper Sixth

Saxbeats

Saxbeats has been working extremely hard to achieve their goals this year. The ensemble comprises Annabel Dalby (soprano), Hanaan Welch and Oscar Huissoon (altos), Ben Cusack (tenor) and myself on drums. After narrowly being beaten and coming third in the Solihull Competitive Music Festival last year, we wanted to start expanding our range of repertoire. We learned the famous 'James Bond Theme' and other pieces like 'The Woodcutter'. A highlight for us was performing in the annual Jazz Concert, helping to raise money for St Mary's Hospice. Our next appearance was in front of many other children from different schools in 'Solihull Sings!' We performed spectacularly well, and were praised by parents for our abilities. At the end of the year, we played outside at Open Morning, which was a great experience, and considering that that was the first time for Saxbeats, we did very well. This year has been good for us and we look forward to September under the direction of Miss Greswold.

Ewan Waddell, Lower Fifth

Oboe Quartet

The Oboe Quartet has embarked on some new and exciting repertoire this year including 'The Toreador Song' from *Carmen*, 'Dance of the Cygnets', 'Lark in the Clear Air', 'All about that Bass', 'Ashokan Farewell' and 'I see the light' from *Tangled*. The group has been focusing on their listening and general ensemble skills to improve on their performances. We have also focused on general balance and intonation within the ensemble which has enhanced individual interpretive and musicianship skills. As the group develops I look forward to them taking on more challenging repertoire and hope that it may expand into more of a double reed ensemble to include bassoons.

Mr L Morson

Clarinet Group

Advanced Clarinet Group meets every Monday and consists of Emily Dekker, Asha Abram, Sophie Besford, Emma Priestley and Charis Holland and we are led by Miss Greswold. We play a wide variety of music from 'The Entertainer' to a medley featuring songs from *The Sound of Music*, and we play regularly in various concerts at school. Playing these selections is always fun, and it's also refreshing to play in a small group – it really enhances our musical abilities in terms of leadership, and means we all get a chance to shine! We have also played in clarinet/woodwind masterclasses led by a professional musician, which has helped us improve our teamwork and our performance, and over the past year we have become a very close knit group despite two of us, including myself, only joining this school last September. Recently, we were also featured in the Charity Jazz Concert at school to raise money for St Mary's Hospice, which involved us not only playing, but modelling various prom dresses from the charity shop, adding a twist to the usual concert routine. Overall, the evening was a success with many musical groups performing, both in concert dress and prom dresses! Clarinet Group has been a really great experience this past year and I am looking forward to the year to come as I think we will reach new heights with our performances, as this term we are playing the technically challenging 'Queen of Sheba'. We would also like to thank Miss Greswold for all the work she has put in with selecting pieces for us to play and helping us to give a polished and enjoyable performance.

Emily Dekker, Lower Sixth

Blueshift

Blueshift is a new jazz ensemble at school, introduced by the innovative Mr Pascall, in addition to our Big Band. We did our first performance to a live audience at the recent Summer Jazz Concert. We performed three tunes: 'Watermelon man', 'Georgia' and 'Billy's Bounce'. These included improvisational solos on trumpet and piano, as well as other variations and adaptations that we added. We closed a very successful evening of jazz and lighter music, which provides an alternative to the School's traditional formal concerts.

Thank you to Mr Pascall for supporting the band in rehearsals throughout the year, where we have had the opportunity to improvise, and for teaching us the basics of jazz music. Throughout the year, we have studied and played a wide variety of jazz music, from the old classics to modern jazz.

We look forward to further performances next year, and to expand the group. Thank you to current members, Bethan Bown (trumpet), Oliver Rooney (saxophone), Maxine Perroni-Scharf (piano), Lili Mistry (double bass) and Simon Clarke (drums) for this year's successful performances and rehearsals.

Lili Mistry, Lower Sixth



Performing Arts

Carousel

With *His Dark Materials* ongoing during the Christmas Term, *Carousel* had a little bit of a slow start. Adapted from the play *Liliom* in 1945, Rogers and Hammerstein's second musical is often described as one of the best ever produced and an impressive cast of old hands and emerging talents was quickly assembled.

The musical tells the story of Julie Jordan and Billy Bigelow's doomed romance and the price that Billy pays for his poor decisions. Julie and Billy were played with great sensitivity by Maddie Browse and Joe Chamberlain. Maddie perfectly captured Julie's wistful optimism and her stubborn desire to stay the course no matter the obstacles, whilst Joe beautifully exposed Billy's crumbling self-esteem, masked by bravado and cruelty.

Julie's sole comfort was supplied by her kindly cousin Nettie, confidently played by Emma Hadley, whose tender rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' was the cause of many a shed tear in the auditorium.

As Billy and Julie's relationship suffers stormy weather, Carrie and Enoch are indulging in the perfect, if slightly old fashioned, love affair. Carrie's perky naivety was fantastically played by Eloise Burchell, whose fizzing energy lit up the stage from start to finish and Enoch's awkward tenderness and simple pride was brought vividly to life by Tom Carson in his final performance on the Solihull stage.

As rehearsals continued, the cast really took the show to their hearts and the dance numbers, masterfully choreographed once again by Sam Mabon, were testaments to their dedication and enthusiasm. It's unlikely that anyone who was lucky enough to witness 'June is Bustin'



Out All Over', will quickly forget the elegant press ups or the complex lifts. Certainly no one will forget the ballet of machismo that was 'Blow High, Blow Low' and the 'Hornpipe'.

Much of that sense of danger was supplied by the superb Chris Fowler, whose Jigger prowled the stage for the duration, alarming characters and audience alike with his scarred visage and permanent scowl. Only Izzy Serle's marvellously infatuated Mrs Mullin could stand up to Jigger when in pursuit of her forlorn love, Billy Bigelow.



Finally, as the day approached, the Bushell Hall was transformed into a fairground, decorated with bunting, lights and ribbons and with games and treats available for all. All of the tremendous efforts of the Cast, Crew (ably led by Dr P Jukes and Frank Fogarty) and Orchestra resulted in a number of really memorable evenings, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Next year's musical will be *Tommy* by The Who, to be performed on 22-25 March in the Bushell Hall.

Mr J Hammond



and committed to play her. Luckily we had Megan Davies, who poured all of her energies into an excellent portrayal, which really captured the character's intelligence, mischief and extraordinary courage. She had hundreds of lines to learn, she never complained, was always on time to rehearsals and held audiences rapt for two and a half hours.

His Dark Materials: Part One required the hard work and dedication of a great many people in order to make it the success that it was and particular mention should go to Dr Jukes as Production Manager, Mrs S Thomas who helped with the make-up, Mr Rudd and Ms Williams who led on the costumes and the assistant directors of Eve Colyer, Jack Edge and Megan Perry.

His Dark Materials: Part Two will take place on 7, 8 & 9 December 2016 in the Bushell Hall.

Mr J Hammond

His Dark Materials

At the start of September an enormous number of enthusiastic Lower and Middle School pupils auditioned for a part in *His Dark Materials: Part One*, the stage adaptation of one of the greatest books for young people of recent memory. In the end, over eighty pupils took on the ambitious task of staging a play that spanned different galaxies and grappled with complex philosophical concerns.

The play contained nearly thirty different scenes and numerous notable performances. Who could forget Joshua Newby's imposing lorek Byrnison, the growling and barking King of the Bears, or Cerys Stansfield's cruel and cunning Mrs Coulter? Some of the actors had up to nine scene changes and the make-up team, ably run by Alex Marshall, was working flat out for nearly the entire duration.

Many of the actors were bravely acquiring new skills, whether it was the fantastic chorus of younger pupils, largely composed of new Third Formers, or those actors whose job it was to operate one of the many specially-designed puppets built by Mrs Whaley and Miss Stokes in the Art Department. Aymbujan Srijothy deserves special mention in this context as he spent almost the entirety of the play's duration rolling around on the floor giving life to the puppet of Pantalaimon, Lyra Belaqua's Daemon.

Because, of course, Lyra Belaqua is at the very heart of *His Dark Materials* and it was going to take someone very brave



Lower School Drama Club

This year the Lower School Drama Club was very ably run by a selection of dedicated members of the Upper Fifth: Emma Hadley, Elle Miles and Anna Higgins. With an always enthusiastic group of dedicated followers, mostly from the Third Form, the trio explored a whole host of dramatic scenarios and skills, including improvisation, devising and physical theatre.

Every Wednesday lunchtime the atmosphere in the Drama Studio was full of laughter and energy and all participants learned a great deal from taking part, with particular progress noted in the focus, fluency and stagecraft of the younger performers, who will surely go on to grace the Solihull stage in future productions.

Emma, Elle and Anna have learned just as much from their young charges, developing as teachers and directors, and all three will be involved in the directing of the Lower School Play, 'The Wardrobe' on 9-11 November 2016, in the Drama Studio.

Mr J Hammond



Theatre Trips

Drama students visited the theatre on eleven separate occasions during 2015/16 and saw a great variety of world-class professional theatre. The Birmingham Rep was our most frequent destination, including for the production which many in the class considered to be the best of the year, *Dead Dog in a Suitcase*, presented by Kneehigh Theatre Company. Students also visited the RSC and went on two memorable A-Level trips to London to see four plays in two days, including the multi-award winning Headlong Adaptation of 1984 and the haunting one-woman adaptation of Eimear McBride's *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*, stunningly performed by Aoife Duffin. Over the course of the year Drama students have had their understanding of theatre challenged and re-defined by a selection of really interesting professional performances which have aided and enhanced their academic and practical studies; the results can be clearly seen in their very successful practical exams.

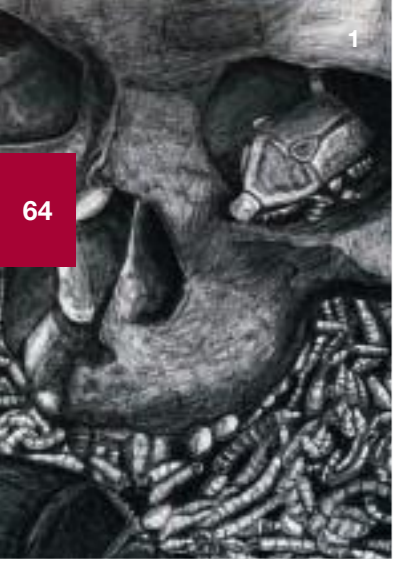
Mr J Hammond

Theatre Design Team

This year saw the creation of the Theatre Design Team, under the auspices of Mr K Hunton and Mr J Hammond. The Theatre Design Team, comprising about twenty pupils, helped to design the sets, costumes, props and puppets for both of this year's major productions, as well as making a tremendous effort to make and source them too.

Highlights included working on the witches' make-up for *His Dark Materials* and decorating the entire Bushell Hall for *Carousel*. The team are currently designing and making puppets for *His Dark Materials: Part Two* in December. Time was also made to help individuals pursue their own design goals and develop their own skills in an area of their choice under the careful guidance of Mr Hunton or Mrs Thomas, which has led to next year's Lower School Play being the first fully student-designed production in recent memory.

Mr J Hammond



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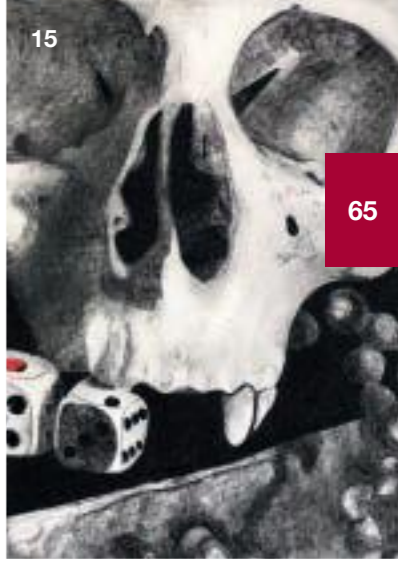
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23

GCSE Art

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. James Cusack | 14. Ziyu Ding |
| 2. Rennae Du | 15. Ben Nuttall |
| 3. Milad Amel-Kashipaz | 16. Anushka Karandikar |
| 4. Theo Villepontoux | 17. Eleanor Shiels |
| 5. Elisa Mottram | 18. Hannah Currie |
| 6. Gwyneth Horbury | 19. Finley Blake |
| 7. Hannah Wolverson | 20. Georgia Brown |
| 8. Ellie Ajao | 21. William Hardie |
| 9. George Armstrong | 22. Rebecca Monkhouse |
| 10. Thomas Whitfield | 23. Arun Johal |
| 11. Lily Jackson | |
| 12. Patrick Kelly | |
| 13. Natasha Jones | |



Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

CCF (Army)

2015/16 was another successful year for the Army Section. This year there were again numerous training events including Military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

The contingent also raised over £2000 for the local charity Troop Aid by organising a bag-packing day and a sponsored Fan Dance. This is a famous part of the SAS selection process and involves running up and down Pen Y Fan whilst carrying full kit. The cadets and adults, however, only had day sacks and didn't quite run all the way. The weather was typically Welsh and waterproofs were essential! I would like to thank Cdt Cpl Olivia Tennant who came up with this idea and who then carried it through to an excellent conclusion when the Contingent bought an iPad for Stewart Harris who sustained brain injuries whilst serving in Iraq.



Cdt Sgt Leticia Salmon was also responsible for organising the distribution of our old sleeping bags to the homeless hostel in Birmingham. It is especially sad to think that some of the men in the hostel were ex-servicemen but they all appreciated the chance to use a sleeping bag to keep out the cold whilst sleeping outside in the winter.

The first weekend training saw our newest recruits spend a night under shelters in Hopwas Woods near Lichfield. In October we held Field Day at Swynnerton Training Area. On the Friday night we conducted an ambush and this was followed by a really successful day. All the cadets were able to put their training to good use. The cadets undertook a round robin of activities that included a patrolling exercise, a camouflage and concealment exercise, a Section Attack Stand, a CQB lane and they also had the opportunity to use the 30m range, in order to practise their shooting skills. It was a long but enjoyable day.

The next event on the calendar followed very shortly which was the AT weekend at Capel Curig. This involved walking up Moel Siabod and Tryfan.

In March the section had a military training weekend at STANTA. The cadets all had the opportunity to take part in an ambush and a Platoon advance to Contact.



In July we attended Summer Camp, which was held at Wathgill Training Camp for 23 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 activities that were laid on by the camp staff were some of the best we have had. For the first time we had two regular Fusiliers attached to the section for the camp. Fus Black and Fus Halbert were excellent ambassadors for the 1 Battalion RRF. They certainly helped the cadets improve their skills in the field and even the cadets' drill!

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

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)

RAF section

RAF Camp this year was another great success. Ten cadets went to RAF Coningsby for a week of adventure training and learning about how an RAF station operates. They were lucky enough to be part of a parade for the new 'Chief of the air staff' as he visited Coningsby in July.

We look forward to an exciting 2016-17 in the RAF Section. Many events will be on offer to cadets this year, including the Air Cadet Leadership course, trips to both Cyprus and Gibraltar and hopefully gliding will recommence after a restructuring of the Voluntary Gliding Sections around the UK.

Flying has commenced this year with 9 cadets taking to the air at RAF Cosford in October as part of the RAF section Field Day. More flying will be available in December and the new season will commence shortly, hopefully seeing more slots available with the completion of the overhaul of the Tutor aircraft fleet.

Flt Lt Paul Hadley





As the weather improved (albeit only slightly) the programme moved on to a mix of different outdoor pursuits such as climbing and kayaking. Some activities were designed to test the Third Formers' ability to solve various challenges by working together as a team. This required good communication skills and cooperation – a skill that they definitely developed with each task. Camp cooking always proved to be very popular, with many a bacon bap or burger consumed before heading to the refectory for seconds.

The Terriers staff are a brave bunch and whilst the weather was not always in our favour, carried on regardless. For those pupils learning how to build shelters, a little rain actually proved to be a bonus. Those trying to light fires however, were less impressed.

Mr Rudd introduced the use of GPS devices to the pupils and taught them how to locate Geocaches – which they did so extremely quickly once they learnt what was hiding inside the various boxes hidden around the School site. Mr Bate showed pupils how to set up a rope traverse and avoid the dangers of shark-infested custard. He took his role very seriously and gained no pleasure whatsoever in rocking the rope as they crossed.

Huge thanks goes to all the staff as well as the Lower Sixth instructors who have led a large number of the sessions this year with great professionalism and confidence – the Third Form certainly learnt a lot from their various experiences and I know that many will take up the Duke of Edinburgh Award and CCF later in their school career as a result of their combined enthusiasm.

Mr N Corbett

Terriers

It has proved to be another action-packed year for Terriers, with the Third Form escaping the classroom and donning bright red fleeces for a double session each week. In the lead-up to Christmas, pupils covered a wide range of topics including first aid, mountain craft, water safety, communication skills and map work. The highlight for most was Mission, where small teams of pupils were dropped off around various parts of Meriden and tasked to find their way back to the School using the navigation skills they had learnt. Survival skills are not taught until the Easter term, so it was probably a good thing that the Lower Sixth instructors had done a good job of training each team. Most pupils completed the task first time, making it successfully back to school in time for lunch. Phew!

At the end of 14 weeks training, each Terrier completed a series of tests to assess their understanding of the various topics. There were some particularly impressive overall scores, with the Terriers prizes going to Freddie Truman and Cara Moment. Other top scorers included: Sean McHugh, Katy Thomas, Louie Green, Hassan Janjua, Lauren Besford and Hari Pnaiser, all of whom achieved an impressive average of over 95%.

Young Enterprise

Thirteen Lower Fifth pupils established and successfully managed the 'Echo' Young Enterprise Company. Sadly, we saw the departure of our long-serving business advisors, James Murray and Bryan Thomas. They have both supported us ably for many years, giving freely of their time to help our budding entrepreneurs. Fortunately, they have been replaced by James Connell and James Bush from the company ARUP. Under their guidance and with their valuable insights as recent participants in the Company Programme, they have pushed the pupils to ensure that deadlines were met and that documentation and reports met the judging criteria for the competition. Echo made products which were sold at the School PA Christmas Fair and at the YE Touchwood Trade Fair. At the Solihull area competition, Echo won a prize for giving the best customer service on their stall and at the presentation evening.

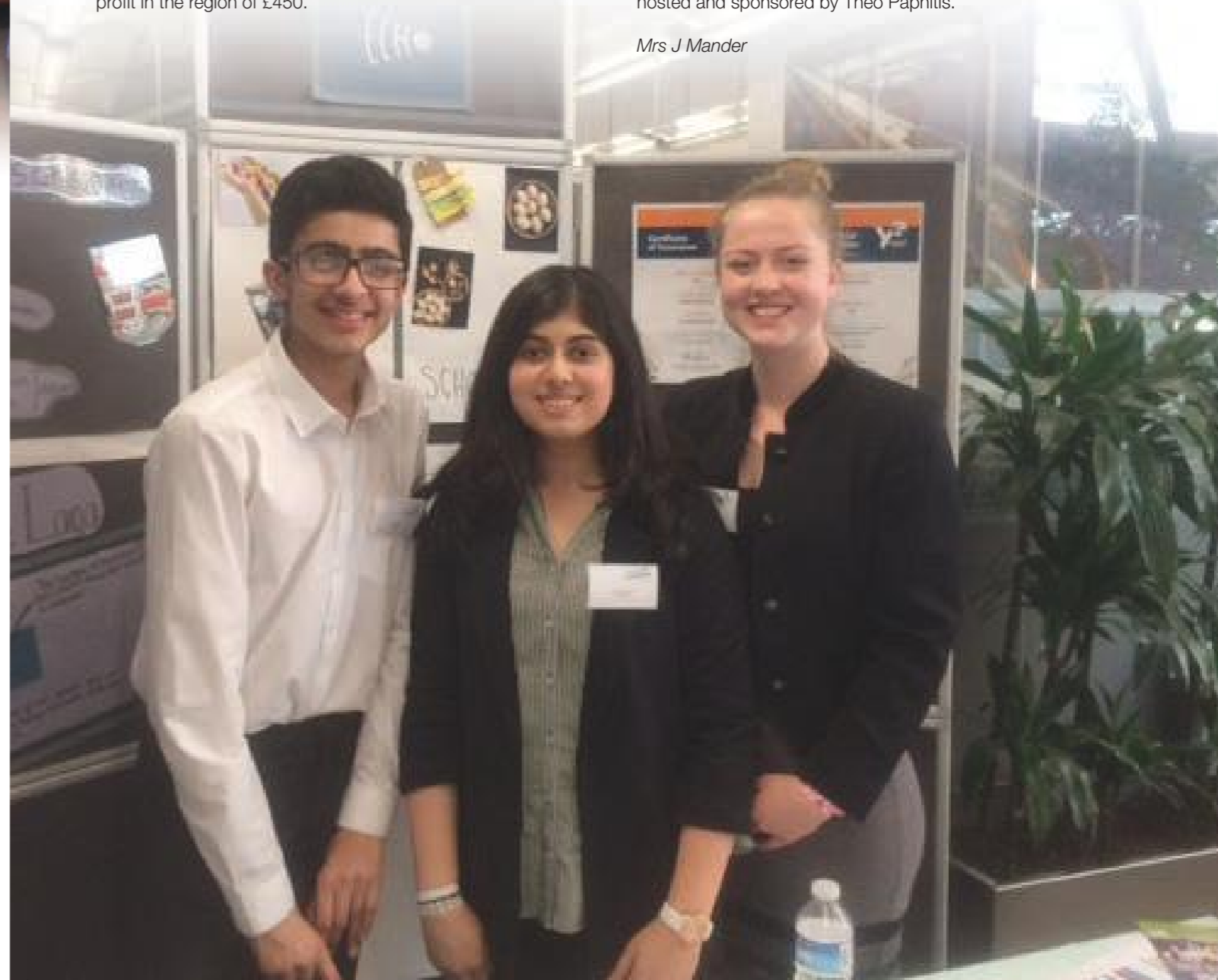
With a strict agenda to make sure that pupils were involved with making a physical product, pupils successfully produced several products this year and ensured that they experienced a wider variety of business functions and issues. Products included Perspex mathematical puzzles which were created with the help of Dr Atkinson and the DT Department, Christmas baubles with the Solihull logo and some professionally-turned wooden bowls and ornaments. Together with the usual tuck shop takeovers, the company achieved a profit in the region of £450.

Mrs J Mander

young
enterprise
start something

It has been particularly pleasing to witness the growing confidence of the group, and their motivation to succeed. Special mention should go to Haris Khan, Leesha Majid and Olivia Tennant for their significant efforts towards the end of the programme to complete all the administrative activities and compete at the regional competition. The team has overcome many obstacles along the way. They adopted a highly democratic approach, and while it is not usually recommended to take a hard autocratic line, this was necessary at times to make sure that the team delivered. This is certainly not an easy thing to do when working closely with your peers! All should be congratulated for the spirit in which they took part and the lessons they have clearly learned.

In 2017, all Fourth Form pupils will take part in the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge, with a PSHE day being used to deliver an enterprise project in a day. The winning Solihull team will then take part in the national final of this prestigious event, hosted and sponsored by Theo Paphitis.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2015/16

It has been the biggest year ever in terms of pupils enrolling and then participating in Expeditions as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull! Before the school year started in September, two teams of Upper Fifth and Sixth Form pupils who had completed their practice in Snowdonia were successful with their Silver expedition in Ladakh, India as part of their two-week Himalayan trek. This was incredibly challenging at high altitude and was an unbelievable accomplishment for those involved. Back in the UK and several weeks later during October half term, thirty-two Lower Sixth pupils took part in a four-day assessment in the Capel Curig area of Snowdonia. Despite our concerns of shorter days and groups potentially being caught out by early dusk times, the weather was kind and all our pupils were successful.

This year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has launched a national pilot in which Year Nine pupils could enrol to do their Bronze Award. Traditionally this has been something that occurs in Year 10 (minimum age 14). After some deliberation we decided to take part in this pilot, particularly as it meant that pupils who would be successful would have longer to achieve their Silver Award if they carried on with the scheme, because over the last two years the Upper Fifth has become much more exam-focused with the move away from modules towards terminal examinations. This was not a decision taken lightly as it would mean two year groups and twice the number of pupils doing Bronze, and also half of them a year younger which, given the huge physical demands of carrying full expedition kit, would prove even more challenging.

Seventy-eight Fourth Form and sixty-five Lower Fifth pupils enrolled at Bronze level, forty-one at Silver and thirty-nine at the very challenging Gold level.

Other than the trips already mentioned, expeditions have also taken place to North Wales over Easter with Bronze and Silver candidates, to Shropshire and the Peak District with our Bronze candidates and three weekends later, a four-day practice venture with Gold pupils to the Rhinog mountains of Southern Snowdonia. In July we had many more Silver groups and two Gold groups returning to Wales for their assessment. The remaining four Gold Assessment groups will partake in an expedition week to the Lake District in October where they will traverse the National Park from the coast on the West to the Northern end of Ullswater in the East.



A special mention must be made about our Fourth Formers who visited Snowdonia at Easter and how they coped magnificently with the challenges that the terrain and Welsh weather threw at them. There is no doubt that despite their training, the shock of what 'hit them' was clearly evident in the faces of some pupils but they all 'dug deep' and their elation at completing their assessment route was wonderful to behold! The Bronze weekend assessment to the Peak District involved over one hundred staff and pupils scattered over a wide area of Derbyshire and a huge number of tents camping in a very large cow field!

The Award is not simply about the expedition section of course. Pupils complete a Skill, a Volunteering, and a Physical activity for a specified amount of time and at Gold level there is a fifth Residential section which must be completed. In all of these the candidate's assessor looks for commitment, resilience and determination to develop; all of which are key life skills of course. Gold residentials have seen pupils attending various centres on their own including cookery courses, Eton Choral School, veterinary placements and holiday camps for children with learning difficulties. Pupils must organise these themselves, attend on their own and then show commitment and determination to stay the course. Well done again to all involved. Through the other sections of the Award, many pupils have learned new skills or taken up new sports helping them to develop into well-rounded young people. For the volunteering section a great deal of good work has been done in the local community and further afield working in old people's homes, animal shelters or working with younger pupils.

Expedition training for our pupils in January has included first aid training, knowledge of the country code, the safe use of stoves, tents, rucksack packing and expedition kit and a great deal of time on map and compass work for route planning.

Operating the DofE Award at Solihull would simply not be possible without the wisdom and experience of so many dedicated staff and volunteers and for that we are deeply grateful. Well done then to all our pupils who have completed their Award at any of the three levels; you have achieved a very special and unforgettable thing.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE



The Classics Society

Ecstasy for the secret seven: *The Bakkhai*, Almeida Theatre: Lower Sixth Latin

Early on Saturday 12 September 2015, seven intrepid adventurers, led by Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts, headed off to London to learn about the mysteries of *The Bakkhai*; a group of imbibed and ululating women dedicated to the worship of their lord Dionysos. Initially, the ecstasy and liberation promised by Dionysos was in short supply, as the control and order of Pentheus, and the London Midland Train service, held them in their grip. Arriving in London and freed from the rigidity of timetables allowed some respite, and following an excellent meal at Zizzi, our intrepid band arrived at The Almeida Theatre in Islington, primed and ready to see Euripides' masterpiece.

The play focuses on the confrontation of wildly opposing forces, with the God Dionysos leading the free-living, free-loving camp against King Pentheus who stands for law, order, and control. Ben Whishaw as Dionysos raises the blood and emotions of the Bacchant chorus; ten revelling, panting, a cappella singing ladies in the hillsides, whilst Bertie Caval's Pentheus remains spectacularly strait-laced in the face of Dionysian provocation.

Eventually, Pentheus agrees to dress up as a woman to spy on the Bacchanalian orgies in the hills, and ends up being ripped limb from limb by his mother, his aunts, and the other crazed Bacchantes, who then regret their actions as the impact of Dionysos wears off, and they return home.

Our seven, whilst never reaching the heights of ecstasy on stage, were relieved to still have two arms and two legs and made a happy, satisfied trip home, having thoroughly enjoyed the play and the excellent acting of the cast.

An excellent production of one of the greatest works of Greek drama.



A lecture on Julio-Claudian Imperial Women

On Thursday 1 October 2015, twenty pupils studying either Classical Civilisation and/or Latin took a trip to The University of Birmingham to listen to a lecture by Professor Catharine Edwards from Birkbeck, University of London, on Julio-Claudian Imperial Women.

Within the Classical Civilisation course, particularly at AS Level, we heavily explore Greek women, but not many Roman women; those who do feature as part of the curriculum include Eumachia, Julia Felix, and Naevolia Tyche. However, there were no royal women studied as part of the course, such as the matriarchs of the Imperial family, who were explored in this lecture. Therefore, it provided a further look at the perception and roles of Imperial women in society.

The lecture focused on the lives of two particular women. These were Livia, wife of Augustus and mother of Tiberius, and Agrippina the Younger, wife of Claudius and mother of Nero. Instead of providing a stale analysis of the political day-to-day lives of these two remarkable women, Professor Catharine Edwards instead focused on the power-hungry and determined nature of these women, detailing the criticism they received for the power which they held over the male rulers of their time, constantly elevating and securing their positions.

Professor Edwards explored two key types of Imperial woman – the lusty, desiring type, and the ambitious power-hungry type. Both Livia and Agrippina the Younger were the latter; we learned how Livia was given great honours similar to those of the Vestal Virgins, and how Agrippina supposedly poisoned her husband with a plate of mushrooms. Additionally, the lecture looked at the circumstances surrounding the fall of these women, which often stemmed from resentment surrounding their power.

Overall the lecture was one thoroughly enjoyed by all the students. The dramatic and interesting power-play of Ancient Rome is a subject often omitted, especially from a female perspective, and therefore a useful and fascinating opportunity. The Classics Society eagerly awaits our next trip!

An Architectural Walking Tour of Birmingham

On Saturday 3 October 2015, 10 pupils, 4 teachers and some parents went on a walking tour of Birmingham given by a local architect called Jim. Jim decided to make the tour based on the popular television series *Peaky Blinders* which was set in Small Heath and Bordesley just after the First World War. Despite the tour being in Digbeth there were a lot of old and interesting places to see, like the oldest pub in Birmingham 'The Old Crown' which dates back to 1368!

We started from the recently opened Grand Central in New Street Station and we walked through the Bull Ring out to St Martin's Church. Jim was very knowledgeable about the local area so was updating us with pieces of information about the different buildings as we went. We then walked through Digbeth and saw places such as The Custard Factory, The Old Crown Pub, The Bordesley Railway Viaduct and The Electrical Supply Station. What was so amazing about the tour was that we were only walking distance from the Bull Ring and there were so many old buildings.

We started heading towards Millennium Point and saw The Banana Warehouse along the canal, The Gun Barrel Proof House, Curzon Street Station (reputed to be the oldest surviving railway building in the world) and finally Millennium Point which brought the tour back to the modern day. Jim also showed us what they plan to do with the HS2 station.

The trip was an enjoyable day out for everyone who went, and everyone found out a little bit more about the lesser known areas of Birmingham!

Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation Study Day at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and the University of Birmingham

In December the Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation class teamed up with the Classicists of Saint Martin's School to explore what could be offered to us right on our doorstep. The morning began with a visit to Birmingham Town Hall which is known as one of the best examples of Roman Revival Civic Architecture. So, with clip-boards at the ready we put our artistic skills to the test, sketching the building's architecture and labelling its features, which are based on the Roman Temple of Castor and Pollux! Next we headed into the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery which happens to contain a replica of the Parthenon frieze, as well as numerous examples of beautiful Black and Red Figure pots. Again we all showed off our artistic flair by sketching what we saw (Mrs Johnson certainly won the prize!). There was time for a dash around the German market for lunch before we headed to the University of Birmingham for a private pot-handling session with Meagan who manages the collection at the University's museum. We were given the unique opportunity to handle the University's private collection of pots and vessels - as well as taste some natural chewing gum made from tree-resin (Mastiha) which Meagan had picked up from her travels. I can't say that we all took to the flavour though!



The Odyssey by Splendid Productions

On 22 February, we attended a performance of *The Odyssey* at the MAC in Edgbaston. We were told that we would see a screening from a performance in London. But to our surprise, we were confronted with three women with strange, large fake grey beards, as their voices could be heard throughout the small auditorium. The performance included interactive actions for all the storms to attempt to engage the interest of the audience, including screaming, rowing to safety, and even Mr Jones running across the stage with a blue rain poncho screaming 'Panic Panic!' The overall performance was very good, as it included a lot of very swift mood changes. The costume and simplicity of the stage design added to the fun, and if the bearded women weren't weird enough, the main character was played by a spoon! It was unlike any theatrical performance we had ever seen, and was interactive, humorous and even emotional at times. Our personal favourite part was Mr Jones's overall enthusiasm for being such a key part to the storm! Thank you to the Classics Department for an experience none of us will be forgetting in a while.

Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation Study day at the University of Warwick

On 25 January 2016 the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation group attended the ancient Greek Drama day at Warwick University. The day is run by the Classics Department at the University, with a guest appearance from Dr Michael Scott. The aim was to develop student understanding of the ancient world and the historical and political context surrounding the drama produced in the 5th century BC. Our students enjoyed a morning of workshops recreating ancient drama, followed by a performance of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* in the afternoon. We look forward to attending the day again next year!



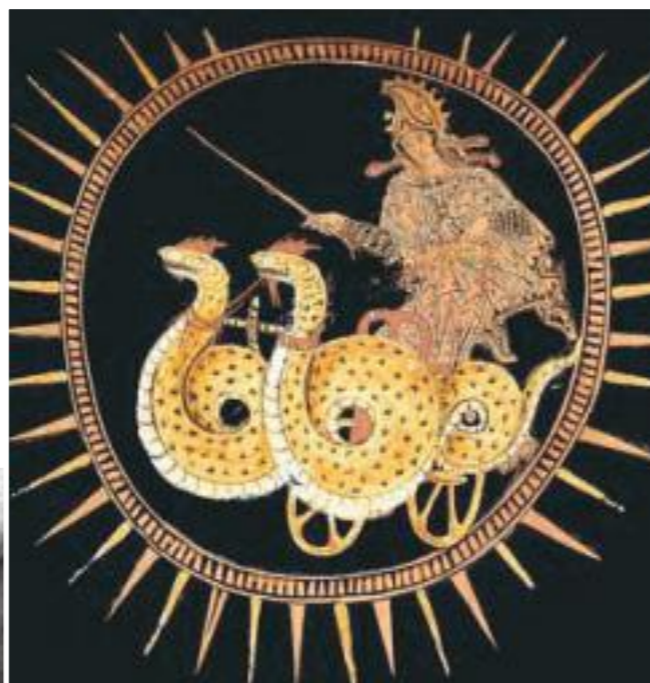
BMCA January Lecture: How to end a Greek Tragedy

In the Easter term Miss Roberts, Dr Spratley and some intrepid Classicists, as well as some members of the Upper Sixth English class, attended a lecture at the University of Birmingham by Felix Budelmann from Magdalen College, Oxford. The subject of the lecture was 'How to end a Greek tragedy'. This was useful to those studying Classical Civilisation in the Lower Sixth, where we study Greek tragedy, and by the Upper Sixth who consider tragic elements of Virgil's *Aeneid*. Dr Spratley's class also benefited as they are studying *Oedipus Rex* in English – luckily, this was the play that Dr Budelmann used the most to examine how tragedians end their plays.



There was a broad scope of tragedies covered by the talk. Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Aeschylus' *Oresteia*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Euripides' *Hippolytus* were all considered, and concepts such as the *deus ex machina* and the messenger speech were all questioned. A number of students asked questions, ranging from the questioning of Medea's exit on a dragon-pulled chariot, to what Dr Budelmann himself thought was the most effective way to end a tragedy.

Overall, the evening was enjoyable, interesting and very useful for those studying Greek tragedy and English. He suggested new interpretations of characters and scenes, such as offering a distinct and inhuman image of Medea that the class had not before considered. The Classics Society looks forwards to our next lecture at Birmingham University.



Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation Study Day at the British Museum

On March 16 2016, the Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation class, consisting of Lydia, Annie, Jack, Matt, Izzy, Mrs Johnson and Mr Jones, all spent a day in London at the British Museum, to study many of the works of Greek art there. We spent the journey completing work on the things we were about to see. Once in London and in the Museum, everyone was amazed to see the actual pieces they had been studying in their book in the flesh / stone. Personal favourites of the group were the Erectheium Maiden or Caryatid, an over-life size woman-shaped column sculpted entirely from marble, which once held up the porch of an Athenian Temple. We also saw several of the metopes and pediments that we had been studying. Hiding on a different floor was the Apollo at Bassae frieze. In the dark light of the museum with our phone torches we attempted to re-create the flickering candles that would have illuminated the frieze. Elsewhere was a copy of Myron's famous Diskobulos statue, as well as a whole floor of Greek Vases. After lunch at Pizza Express, we returned to the Museum, for one last look around, before catching the train home again. Once again it was another busy and exciting trip. Not only did it help us with picturing the pieces of art we had been studying all year, but it also introduced us to new ones. Although we are often out and about with the Classics Society to universities, museums and plays, arguably this was one of the best trips of the year!

Adam Bruton, Lydia Stephens, Jack Edge, Freddie Collini, Annie Johnson, Kouros Shoja-Assadi, Miss Roberts and Mrs Johnson

Latin Graduation Day

On Monday 20 June 120 Year 3 pupils from Coleshill Heath Primary School and Fordbridge Community School came to Solihull School to celebrate their year of learning Latin. Both these primary schools have been studying Latin throughout the year, using the *Minimus* text book, and have not only learnt all about the little Latin mouse *Minimus* and his family who live at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall, but have also improved their knowledge of the Roman World and their literacy skills.

The day started in the Bushell Hall with a welcome assembly. All the pupils were in tribes and so Mrs Johnson explained where each tribe was from. After that it was quickly onto a day full of activities. In the morning pupils took part in a drama session based on Roman myths, had a Latin masterclass on verbs and adverbs, and either made Roman biscuits or a Roman bulla – an amulet that children wore to protect them from evil spirits.

After lunch it was time for some Olympic sports – but the heavens opened! However, the sun came out just in time and the pupils all had a go at the stade race – the Greek equivalent of the 100m sprint, although we didn't run that far! We did however think about how Greek athletes are shown on Greek vases with their knees and elbows up high, and tried to run like they did. The pupils also had a go at the javelin and the standing long jump, both of which were events in the pentathlon.

After lots of fun and cheering with the sports, it was time for our final assembly. Mr Lloyd and Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos from the University of Birmingham both spoke to the pupils and presented them with their certificates marking their year of studying Latin. The pupils from Colsehill Heath also sang 'Old McDonald had a Farm' in Latin, which everyone enjoyed. The pupils all left having had a really fun and interesting day. Thanks to Mrs L Fair, Mrs H Fair, Mrs Hallworth, Miss Stokes, Miss Bryan and Miss Williams for the sessions they led on the day.

Mrs J Johnson



History Squad

On Thursday 8 October, almost 949 years to the day after the Battle of Hastings, Kevin Hicks of the History Squad visited the School to deliver a vivid presentation about the events leading up to the battle, and the events of the battle itself. As a former soldier, Kevin offered plenty of personal insights into how the soldiers fought, and delighted his audience with lots of gory details! Pupils got to handle the weapons and armour of the time and gained a practical appreciation of the difficulties of medieval warfare. Health and Safety legislation may have prevented a full-scale re-enactment of the battle but this was the next best thing!

Mr G Affleck



Equality Society Starts Up At School

With the recent news articles about gender equal pay and growing pressures to look at equality for LGBT groups, two Sixth Formers have started up an Equality Society. Evie Townend and Freya Harding set up the society to discuss issues regarding inequality both within the School and the global community. The group will consider issues around sexism, sexuality, xenophobia, race, gender identity and privilege.

The Kent Library

To mark the beginning of the academic year we displayed all the Summer Reading Challenges received from our new intake of Third Form pupils. Our initiative was a 'Reading Rollercoaster', where they were asked to fill in 20 'Wow' words on their own cart about the best book they had read over the summer. Beautifully decorated carts and riders arrived and each participant was rewarded with their very own Professor Kent pen.



Another source of entertainment was the 'Catch Your Pet Reading' competition. Great fun was had trying to photograph your pets as they donned their spectacles to read their favourite books. Emma Gahan (IIICR) with Cookie took first prize with Dr Atkinson and Ruby in a close second.

Adding to our School-wide initiative for wellbeing and mindfulness, we have started a relaxing colouring club on Friday lunchtimes, which has proven particularly popular with our Third Form pupils. Feel free to join us in this drop-in club which will continue next year each Friday lunchtime.

Finally, the accolade of 'Most Avid Reader' this year goes to Amelia Mohammed (IIIAL) for the girls and Asad Iqbal (IIWV) for the boys. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

Alison Vaughan, Head Librarian



European Youth Parliament

The European Youth Parliament, independent from the European Parliament, aims to promote tolerance and citizenship through discussion. This year Solihull entered an extremely strong team to the Regional round, held in March at Birmingham's Council House. After a long day spent grappling with issues such as reducing Europe's carbon footprint and alleviating the migration crisis, Solihull was one of two teams to advance to the National Session for the first time, and they were particularly praised for the strength of their teamwork and the constructive nature of their contributions.

A four-day trip to Liverpool Hope University's impressive Creative Campus followed in July. This time, the mood perhaps a little more sombre with Brexit fresh in our minds, the focus was on 'promoting diversity'. Each delegate was assigned a

committee made up of members from other schools. After long hours spent teambuilding, drafting resolutions, and debating a common path of action, we were again commended for our friendliness and intelligent contributions in the face of the pugnacious challenge presented by London's finest day schools. Rightly recognised for their outstanding leadership, Joseph Gilyead and Tarran Dhillon were invited to attend an International Session as a Delegate and a Chair respectively: prestigious achievements both. Well done to all participants and we look forward to further success this year.

The delegates were: Tarran Dhillon, Alistair Bevan, Jessica Browne, Patrick Robinson, Thomas Robinson, Amelia Diccico, Jacob Gilbert, Joseph Gilyead, and Jim Garbett. Oliver Altham & Bianca Oberheim also competed at the Regionals.

Mr P Ford



Debating Society

2015-16 has been an extremely successful year for the Debating Society. In the Sixth Form, Darius Shoja-Assadi and Jessica Browne competed in the English Speaking Union (ESU) Mace Debating Competition, becoming Regional Finalists. Representing Central England, Zershaaneh Qureshi, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Cerys Stansfield, Eveline Townend, Arjan Baines and Lydia Stephens took part in the Oxford University Finals Day. At the Cambridge University Finals Day, Lydia Stephens and Arjan Baines represented Central England again.

Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead were Novice Finalists at the Warwick University Debating Competition, where Jessica Browne also won Best Novice Speaker. At the Nottingham University Competition Solihull School took a clean sweep of the top positions. Joseph Gilyead and Eve Colyer won the Grand Final, with Georgia Greenburgh and Ed Bates winning the Novice Final. Later in the year, at Durham University, Joseph Gilyead and Eve Colyer were Novice Final winners.

In the Middle School, Alexander Sasse, Cerys Stansfield and Eloise Burchell broke to the Birmingham round of the ESU Public Speaking competition. For the first time, Solihull School hosted an Under-16 British Parliamentary Debating Competition and a number of local schools came to debate in and around the Bushell Hall. On home-turf Oliver Rooney and Thomas Williams beat 54 other competitors to first place with Oliver Rooney also winning Best Speaker.



In the Lower School, Katy Thomas, Alex Warburton, Emma Gahan, Jenny Hodge, Ciara Savage and Freddie Truman participated in the Solihull Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. It was the first time the School has entered a Third Form team in the competition, and they all performed superbly.

At the end of the year, the Debating Society said goodbye to several members. We wish them the best of luck. The Society would like to thank the members of staff who dedicate time to Debating. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Joseph Gilyead



The Big Debate

This year we hosted our second annual Big Debate and once again, we were privileged to have Michael Buerk, President of our Debating Society, chairing the proceedings.

The motion for this fascinating and important debate was 'This House Regrets the Government's Pushing of British Values'. Proposing the motion was Old Sil George Diwakar with Megan Lloyd, and opposing was Old Sil Katy Hatter (now the youngest university president of a Debating Society) with Zershaaneh Qureshi. The proposition emerged victorious, managing to win the support of the majority of the Bushell Hall audience.

Ms D Harford



War Hero Inspires Pupils at Speeches Day

Cassidy Little, the Royal Marine amputee who was crowned champion of the first ever *People's Strictly* on BBC One, was the inspiring guest speaker at this year's Speeches evening. Mr Little, who lost his right leg below the knee during a tour of Afghanistan in the summer of 2011, spoke about his battle to regain both his fitness and mobility, which culminated in him winning the nation's vote in the *People's Strictly for Comic Relief* in March. Mr Lloyd said: 'Despite his horrific injuries, Cassidy selflessly attempted to tend his colleagues on the ground. He was well-known for his upbeat attitude during rehabilitation, which kept up the spirits of those around him. He was a true inspiration to our pupils'.

The evening was a special one for the School, as it marked the first ever performance of the new School song, 'Perseverantia, Our Spirit'. The rousing anthem – with words by Megan Lloyd and music by Mr Phillips – was sung by the Choir to a packed Bushell Hall.





Extended Project Qualification

This academic year has been a great success for pupils undertaking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The OCR Extended Project aims to inspire, enthuse and motivate students by giving them the freedom to complete a project on a subject they're studying or in an area of personal interest. It is a stand-alone qualification that is worth up to 70 UCAS points. As students have the freedom to select their subject, it can support their practical, work-related approach to learning or be an extension of their A-Level studies.



The Extended Project offers a range of exciting opportunities for students: it provides them with the skills that higher education is looking for, by encouraging independent study, critical thinking and teamwork; it may also be useful when they're applying for university to help them 'stand out from the crowd'; and it gives students flexibility and choice in the selection of their project topic. Undertaking the Extended Project Qualification encourages students to apply appropriate technologies in their studies and it is ideal for improving transferable skills such as planning, research, analysis and evaluation – all of which are skills universities value in their undergraduates.

This year over 20 students wrote research projects on a variety of topics. Some of these included:

Anna Georgiou

The Beat Generation of Literature & 1950s American Social Values

Jack Edge

Fates and Floods: a Comparison of World Mythology

Lydia Stephens

History and Hysteria: Mental Illness in Literature

Michael Earle

Video Games: Where Did It All Begin?

Chris Fowler

Rebirth of an Empire: the Maya Civilisation

Hannah Clarke

Scouting for a Different Stereotype

Annie Johnson

Women and Witchcraft: An Ancient Ideology

Rebecca Timperley

Misrepresentations of Minorities in Shakespeare

Luke Sheeran

Building an Emulator for Dummies

Kim Tomlins

The Gendercide? (the Witchcraze)

Nick Chitty

India: A Video Journal

Josh Samuels

1992: the Beginning of the End for English Football?

Darius Shoja-Assadi

Western Media: the Hidden Weapon

Rebecca Rodwell

Why Do We Obey the Law?

Holly Krober

To What Extent is God Evil?

Hasina Khan

Psychological Experiments of the 20th Century and Modern Society

Jack Martin

NATO-Russian Superpower Relations

Victoria Newbery

Should the UK reintroduce the Death Penalty?

It was a particularly successful year for Solihull's EPQ cohort, as they received an Award of Excellence from the University of Southampton, who recognise the EPQ as a fundamental bridge between A-Levels and university degree study. In addition to this, the examination board, OCR, came to film the presentation event, held on 7 March, and have used the footage as material for other schools to learn from. The students have a lot to be proud of. There are high hopes for the next academic year when over 100 pupils have chosen to complete an EPQ.

Miss S Roberts

¡Felicitaciones! To Maeliss

Upper Sixth student, Maeliss Villepontoux, came third in a national competition searching for the best A-Level Spanish student in the UK, run by the Spanish Embassy in London. Schools and colleges from across the UK entered, where candidates had to evidence their academic achievement in Spanish at GCSE and AS-Level, and supporting A-Level work was provided to highlight Maeliss's credentials. The Embassy commented on the extremely high level of her submission and overall Spanish command after six years of study at school. ¡Felicitaciones!

Mr M Gledhill





Oxbridge Success

Congratulations to the following students who successfully achieved Oxbridge places this year:

- Leticia Salmon** - History and Education, Cambridge;
- Ben Northam** - Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Oxford;

- Isobel Fuller** - Natural Sciences, Cambridge;
- Luke Sheeran** - Computer Science, Cambridge;
- Lydia Stephens** - English, Oxford;
- Jack Edge** - Classics, Oxford;
- Zershaaneh Qureshi** - Mathematics and Philosophy, Oxford;
- Dominic Martens** - Music, Cambridge.

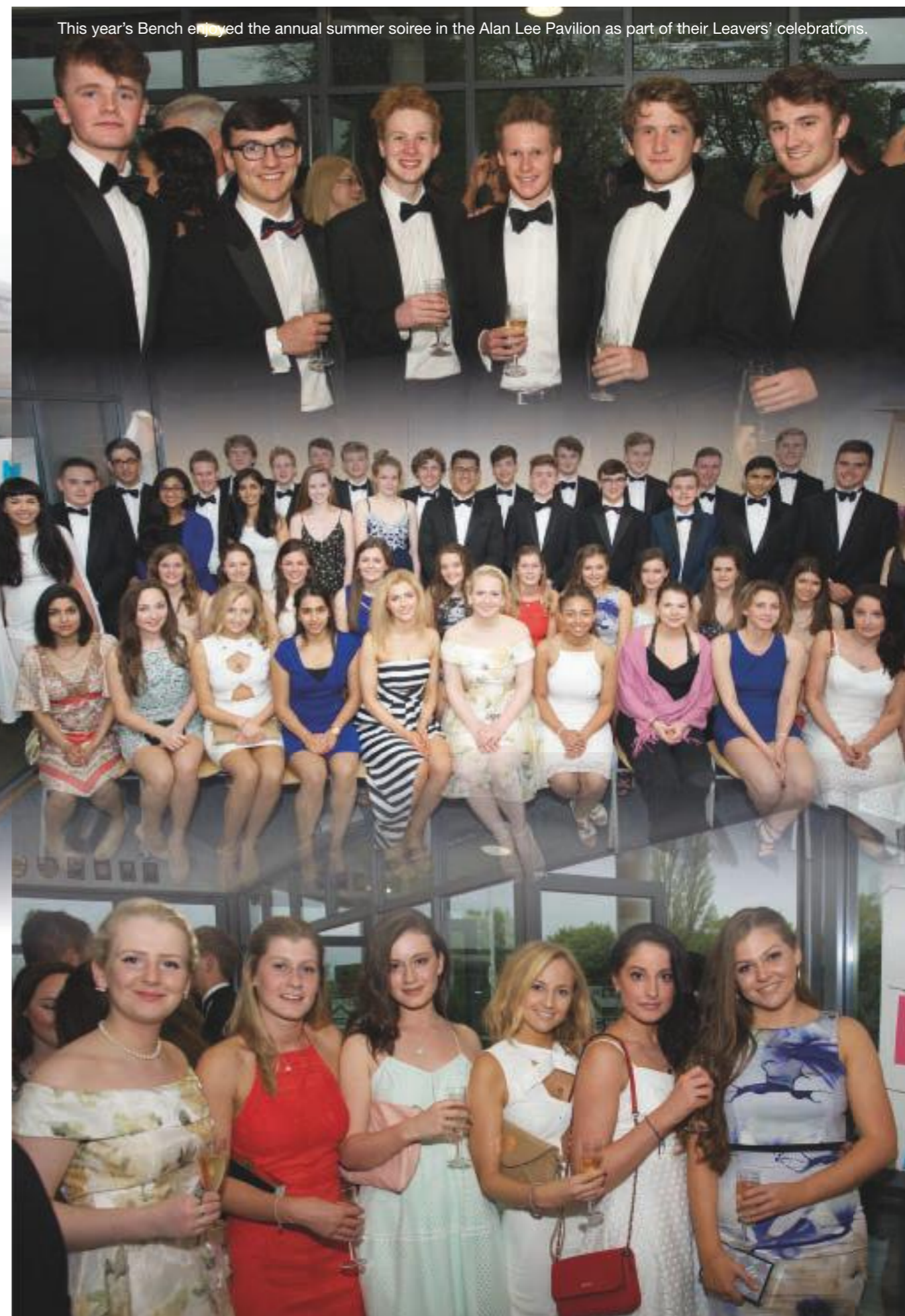
Schools' Challenge

After months of practising, and having fought off strong competition from other members of the School, two teams travelled to King Edward's, Birmingham in order to compete in this year's Schools' Challenge Competition. Despite their lack of experience on the big stage, the B-team (comprising co-captains Elliot Harris and Freddie Collini, and Juniors Isaac Miller and Kiarn Turner) did incredibly well in their closely-fought battle against Camp Hill, losing to the opposition by only the narrowest of margins. The A-team (consisting of captain Josh Samuels, Eva Penhallurick, Tom Daniels and Saul Greenburgh) experienced a slightly more successful campaign, comfortably beating their first challengers, before facing the hosts and reigning regional champions, KES. A shaky start from the Silhillians meant we fell behind a little too quickly, though we managed to keep our focus and gather some momentum as the match went on, with some great answers from all members of the team, and an extra five minutes could have led to a very different result, but sadly it wasn't to be. Had we played anyone other than KES, I am confident that we would have progressed beyond the quarter-finals and beyond, but nevertheless, this proved to be a great experience for a very youthful squad. Special thanks must go to Mrs Johnson, Miss Rutherford and Miss Mesrie, not only for their time and dedication, but also for their patience – quite how they managed to refrain from losing their cool was, at times, beyond me, especially when we had answers such as 'Dolmio' for the question 'Which pasta sauce is named after a region in Italy?'. It has been an honour and a privilege to captain the team during my final year at Solihull, and I expect to be hearing great things from them in the not too distant future.

Josh Samuels, Upper Sixth



This year's Bench enjoyed the annual summer soiree in the Alan Lee Pavilion as part of their Leavers' celebrations.





Geography Lectures

The Lower and Upper Sixth Geographers attended a series of lectures at the Institute of Education, UCL, on November 24 entitled 'Around the World in 5 Case Studies'. The key speaker was Professor Iain Stewart, MBE, Fellow of the Geological Society of London and President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Described as geology's 'rock star', he is best known to the public as the presenter of a number of science programmes for the BBC, including the BAFTA nominated Earth: The Power of the Planet.

Lectures included the topics of energy, oil and fracking, flooding, migration, globalisation, and the ethics of climate change (food for thought ahead of the Paris Conference on climate change in December). Students were inspired to consider really challenging questions. The day gave us a valuable insight into university style lectures, and having experienced London traffic congestion, we can fully appreciate that London is an example of an unsustainable city!

Mrs A Roll



Mathematics Lectures

Solihull's aspiring mathematicians have been attending public lectures at the Mathematical Institute at Oxford throughout the year. We have listened to various well-known mathematicians deliver a wide range of lectures, spanning from practical problem-solving to explaining complex mathematical concepts.

Standout lectures included Marcus Du Sautoy's Christmas lecture 'The Travelling Santa Problem and Other Seasonal Challenges' (in which we even had a chance to get on stage to demonstrate various matching algorithms) and Tadashi Tokieda's lecture on toy models, which showed how mathematics can shed light on several anomalies we observe in nature through the idea of a singularity. From these lectures we also learned a number of neat tricks that we were able to show off to others after getting home!

The lectures this year have been a fantastic experience for all who attended, and we would like to thank Mr Bishop, Mr Worrall and Dr Atkinson for organising the trips and accompanying us. We look forward to another great year of lectures at the Mathematical Institute!

The Three Mathsketeers (Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Lili Mistry and Charlotte Sasse)

Japanese Cultural Studies Club

Japanese Cultural Studies Club is a new and exciting lunch-time club that offers pupils a light-hearted and fun exploration into the popular culture of Japan. From the folding of paper to fancy food, each week pupils explore a variety of arts, food, technology and traditions from Japan. These activities change seasonally to reflect Japan's close ties to the seasons. Activities include the Japanese tea ceremony, learning the Japanese language, the art of Calligraphy and Origami, creating a Bento Box (the traditional Japanese lunch box), and cooking the popular comfort food Ramen.

Mr L Worth

Sixth form Biology Trips

In the Christmas term two Sixth Form extension trips took place. The first was to the Royal Society of Biology lecture held at Aston University. 24 students attended a lecture entitled 'Obesity & Diabetes: the paradox of wealth and health' by Professor Clifford J Bailey (a leading international expert on type 2 diabetes, a Lunar Society medallist, a Banting Memorial Lecturer 2015 and Professor of Clinical Science at Aston University).

On 9 November, 28 Lower and Upper Sixth Biologists attended a full day of lectures at Warwick University. It was a fascinating day at the cutting-edge of modern biology with students learning about new technologies and breakthroughs, discussing social and scientific issues, and seeing what the future holds.

Lectures included: 'Life, death and the limits of the human body', 'Could we? Should we? A tour through the moral and ethical maze', 'Epigenetics - why DNA isn't your destiny', 'More than the sum of our parts: how microbes make humans (and animals) work!' and 'Bring back the king: the science of de-extinction'.

Mrs D Parker





Careers Events

A varied and inspiring range of careers events took place this year. We welcomed visitors from a number of global corporate firms, small to medium sized businesses, universities, the Forces, medicine and veterinary disciplines, the creative industries and companies offering sponsored degrees and apprenticeships. Each was very well attended. Our CV and interview evening was oversubscribed and a number of very experienced recruiters in the corporate world put our students through their paces in an interview situation. Their feedback was glowing and our students rated highly on their responses and their ability to present themselves. In the summer term a number of professionals came to the Junior School to present at Careers Morning. They showcased their industry and role and touched on how their professions may have changed by the time our students enter their world. Our younger students were captivated and asked excellent questions.

Mrs J Skan



Joseph Tastes Sweet Success

Former pupil Joseph Vaughan has begun an exciting career in chocolate. He left Solihull in the summer of 2015 after sitting his GCSEs to embark on a career as a chocolatier with a shop on the High Street in Knowle. This year, his old school chums dropped in at 1683 Chocolate Place to sample some of his goodies. Joseph's interest in making chocolate started when he was on a baking course his mother bought him for his 14th birthday. 'Matching different chocolate from all over the world to different flavours is really exciting and I am constantly trying to develop new combinations. It has endless possibilities and that is what makes it so much fun', he said.



Chess Club

The popularity of chess at Solihull is continuing to increase, particularly in the Lower School. Numbers attending Chess Club on Friday lunchtimes are higher than ever and this is made up primarily of Third Fourth Formers. Along with the success of Chess Club in the Junior School (membership is over-subscribed) the future outlook is as promising as it has been for a very long time.

In the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League, our U12 team – which contained two Junior School pupils – won the Runners-Up Trophy in their division; a highly commendable performance.

Our U14 pupils, who were so successful last year and won the U13 trophy, are now required to compete in the Open Age Divisions. They met this challenge head on, and whilst unable to quite win a trophy, acquitted themselves admirably and continued to make very good progress.

As a final comment, despite their lack of competitive success this year, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank those stalwart Upper Sixth Leavers, who have been the backbone of Chess and Chess Club, for their unfailing commitment and enthusiasm since joining in the Third Form: Jake Webster, Mohammad Khimji, Alex Cvijan and Jeremy Sha. Good luck to you all for the future.

Dr K A Powell

Telescope Fascination

On Monday 14 March at the beginning of science week, the Junior School welcomed Martin Mayer who came to talk about the working of his telescope which he is kindly donating to the School. Martin, who was previously a wing commander test pilot and involved in training astronauts, showed the pupils the impressive telescope and discussed its use with example viewings of our solar system. The children were fascinated by images of planets that the telescope produced and showed a huge interest and enthusiasm during the question and answer session. The telescope will be kept in the Senior School for all pupils to use.

Miss R Smith



Holocaust Survivor visits Solihull

Solihull School hosted the British premiere of *Close to Evil*, a documentary marking the journey of Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental and his efforts to engage with one of his former jailers. Joined by his partner Joyce and director Gerry Gregg, the film was shown twice on Monday 1 February and followed by a Q & A session to combined audiences of over 500 members of the School and wider community. The film focuses on Tomi's discovery that his former jailer, SS guard and convicted war criminal Hilde Lisiewicz, is alive and protesting her innocence, claiming to be a victim of victor's justice. The feature unexpectedly takes Tomi to where it all began, his native Merasice, where he meets ghosts from his past and embraces a German woman related to the man who had a direct role in the deaths of 35 members of his own family. It was a day that all of those present are never likely to forget.

Mr M Penney



Anne Frank remembered as Solihull School plants Memorial Tree

A sapling taken from the tree that Anne Frank could see from her hiding place in Amsterdam was planted at School as part of this year's Remembrance Day commemorations. The tree was planted by Auschwitz survivor Mindu Hornick, who at 86, is the same age Anne Frank would have been today.

The tree was the idea of Upper Sixth student Holly Krober who was so moved by her recent school trip to Auschwitz concentration camp, that she was determined to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. 'I was so overawed by what I saw that I wanted to educate others of my generation and future generations that we might all learn from the lessons of the past', she said. She contacted the foundation and asked if there was any possibility of receiving a treasured sapling. The planting of the tree this year is particularly poignant as 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where Anne Frank died only weeks before British troops captured the camp.

Mr Lloyd said: 'This is an amazing thing for Holly to have done and the whole School is full of admiration for her immense achievement. The tree will stand as a lasting memorial to those who perished and an inspiration for generations to come'.



Cold Feet writer returns to Solihull to deliver workshop to pupils

The writer of ITV drama *Cold Feet* returned to his old school to deliver a screenwriting workshop to pupils. Mike Bullen, who wrote all five series of the extremely popular 90s drama, and is currently working on its upcoming revival which airs on ITV in the autumn, based a number of the leading characters on himself and his friends from Solihull School. Bullen worked with drama and theatre studies students, talking about his career in the industry and sharing fond memories of his time at the School.

He said: 'When I left school I didn't think screenwriting would be my future, and it wasn't for some years, but the seeds were definitely sown with drama at Solihull School. My fondest memory of my time there was probably when we did a Sixth Form play – the School's first I believe. We were encouraged by the headmaster at the time but it was all organised by the students. As I remember it, it was pretty good. It's great to see that the students today are still just as passionate. One of my favourite moments in the workshop was when the pupils were discussing a piece they'd written. They were talking about their motivation and I saw the spark suddenly catch fire – it was very satisfying'.

The School has gone through many changes since Mr Bullen attended in the 1970s. He stated: 'It's a weird experience coming back to somewhere which is so much a part of my DNA. I thought it was grand when I was here, but it is much grander now. There are parts I still know so well, and parts I don't know at all – but the values remain the same. It's a very forward-thinking place. While many schools will focus on churning out kids with good grades, Solihull encourages its students to think, and looks to develop them as people. It provided me with a great sense of community, which I think translates into what I write about, and gave me the confidence to have courage in my own convictions. It means a great deal to me'.

All Blacks Rugby legend visits Solihull

This year we welcomed All Blacks legend Sean Fitzpatrick to the School. He addressed the Parents' Association Sportsman's Dinner with tales of rugby attitude, mentality and success.



Physics Success for Emily

Congratulations to Emily Dekker in the Lower Sixth who was awarded a place at the Cambridge University Physics Summer School through Isaac Physics!

Professor Cofone returns to Solihull

In January Albin Cofone, Professor of Social Science at Suffolk County Community College, New York, returned for the third successive year to deliver a series of fascinating talks to supplement the curriculum studies of students across the School.

The Upper Sixth Politics students were treated to a very insightful look at 'The Good State and the Lunatic Fringe'; 'Decoding Iowa and the 2016 Presidential Primary' and the Upper Fifth History students enjoyed a talk entitled 'Mr Khrushchev Comes to Iowa', addressing the historic and contemporary influence Iowa exerts on US domestic and international politics.

In the Junior School, Professor Cofone used his experience as a pilot to capture the imagination of all pupils from J2 to J4 in his talks on 'The Death Valley basin', 'The Planning of the Great American Cities' & 'The Rain Shadow effect of the Sierra Nevada mountain range'.

All talks were very well received and stimulated many questions and discussions afterwards.

Mr M Penney



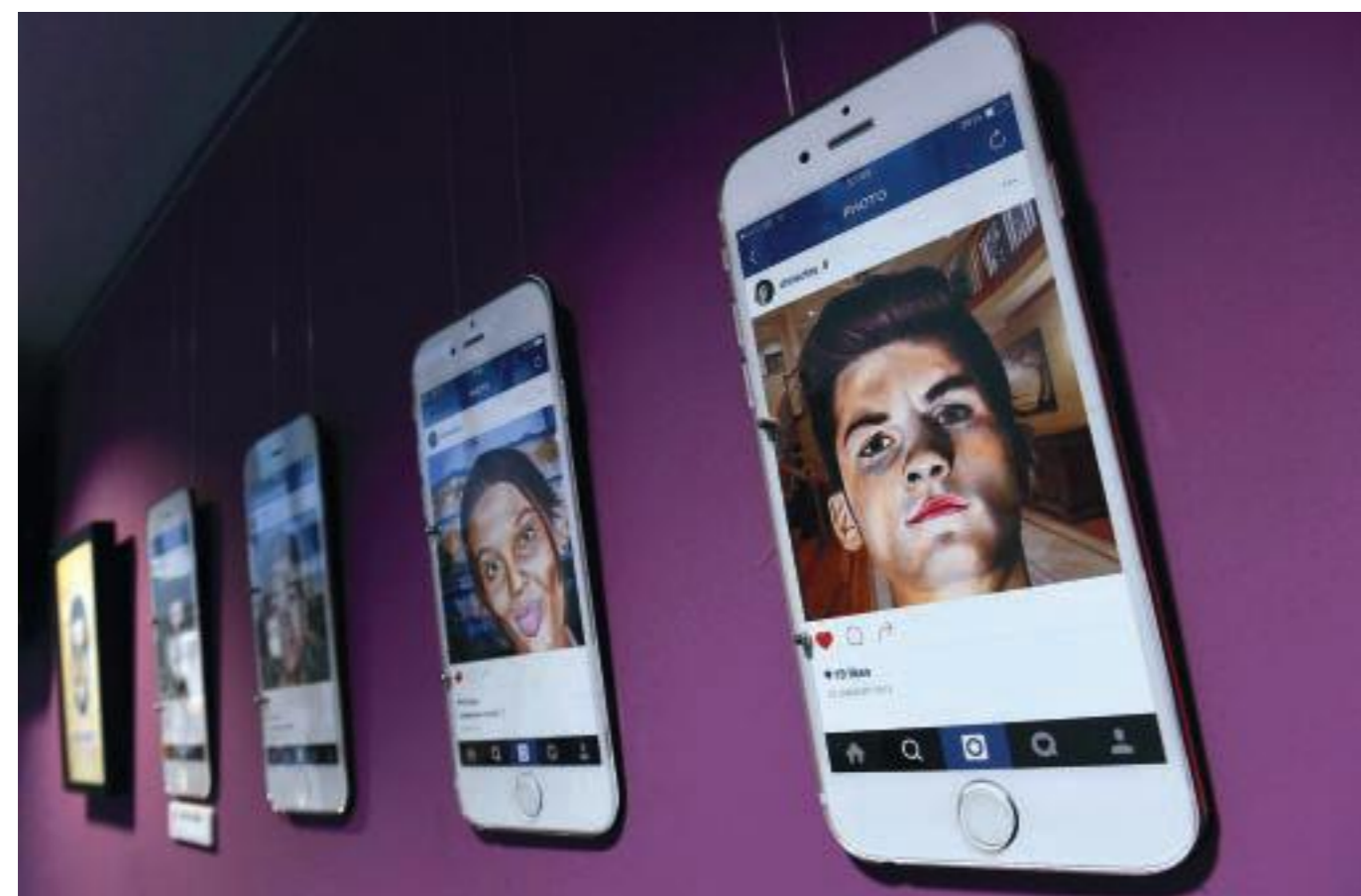


Summer Art and Photography Exhibition

The Summer Exhibition was a great celebration of the Art and Photography students' work from the year. The George Hill Building was adorned with new paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and digital drawings for parents and guests

to view. Local junior schools came to collect prizes from the Mayor for our annual postcard competition and this year there was the addition of the poetry competition which was very successful.

Mrs D Trim



The Big Read 'Book Bench' Initiative

Alongside the plethora of ongoing Art projects this year, the Senior and Junior School pupils also had great fun lending their artistic talents to designing and painting a large bench each in the form of an open book, as part of a Birmingham Art and Literacy project named 'The Big Read', encouraging reading and creativity.

The Junior School pupils voted for their favourite author, with David Walliams being the overwhelming winner. A design competition ensued to create the front and back images of the bench. Many pupils' fantastic ideas were used in the final design, ably drawn onto the surface of the bench by Mrs Baker, Junior School Art Technician. Then followed a period of earnest, enthusiastic painting by every single Junior School pupil and member of staff.

In the Senior School, four Lower Sixth Artists, including two Art Scholars, produced a stunning celebration of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream in conjunction with the English



Department. This bench depicts scenes from the play with quotes and characters in the style of the artist and illustrator Arthur Rackham.

The artists were Amnish Sall, Austin Henderson, Jessie Lloyd and Emily-Jayne Watson.

The third Solihull-commissioned bench, by local artist Laura Adkins, is entitled 'Bedtime Stories', and is inspired by the Junior School's two mascots Scuffle and Twitch. It is a celebration of the joy and benefits of reading and of being read to.

Over 180 benches have been commissioned and all are out 'on tour' at various locations in the region (a special trail can be followed to catch sight of them all) before returning to school in the autumn. The Senior School bench, entitled 'The Magic of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream' can be seen in 'The Core', Theatre Square Solihull, the Junior School bench, named 'Our World Of David Walliams' is located in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Laura Adkins's beautifully painted bench is being displayed in John Lewis, Solihull.

Mrs R Morgan



Rotary Club Photography Competition

Our pupils had great success in the Rotary Club Photographic competition with Matt Deakin winning the Senior Competition and Charlie Hadley gaining a Highly Commended. In the younger section Emily Geens gained a Highly Commended prize for her entry and all of the photographs were displayed in the Touchwood Shopping Centre.

Mrs D Trim

Birmingham Mailbox and Solihull Photographic Society

For the third year running the Birmingham Mailbox asked the Photography students to provide work to go on display in the public areas of the shopping centre. This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their work to the public and it looks great on the CV for our budding photography, film and television undergraduates.

In February the School hosted the Solihull Photographic Society's 38th British Open Exhibition with some stunning examples of portraiture and wildlife photography for the pupils to see.

Mrs D Trim

Mitch Griffiths visits the Art Department

The School's artists were very excited to meet the acclaimed realist artist Mitch Griffiths in February. Mitch gave two lectures to the Art Scholars in the Upper Fifth and Sixth Form where he discussed his drawing and painting techniques. He also explained how he developed his striking compositions and gave the A-Level students individual guidance on their exam work. Mitch's stunning paintings are exhibited nationally and internationally with his first major retrospective currently showing in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Russia.

Mrs D Trim



Lower Sixth Photographers create Cyanotypes

The Lower Sixth Photographers learnt how to create Victorian style Cyanotype portrait prints of themselves during a hands-on workshop with Emma Bowater. It was a very successful day and lots of the students went on to use the process in their exam work.

Mrs D Trim



Art Success for Melissa

Melissa Yip, an art scholar in the Shell Form, entered a national competition run by the Body Shop to produce a piece of artwork celebrating their campaign 'Enrich not Exploit'. She came first and not only won a weekend break for her family but also £1000 for Solihull School! The Judges' comments are below:

'This is a really strong graphic that instantly and effectively communicates the issue. You've brilliantly incorporated the idea Enrich not Exploit. The detail from your map work to pencil blending is fantastic. Well done – a worthy winner'.

A massive well done to Melissa and thank you from the Art Department and the School.

Mrs D Trim



Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Visit from Wessex School, Concepción, Chile 8-11 June 2016

We were fortunate to have another visit from Wessex School this June. We didn't see them last year and really the visits have now become bi-annual. Mr Terrence Martin, the Headmaster, brought over 32 delightful 16-year-olds and two teaching colleagues, Mariela and Ricardo. Despite a month-long trip and visiting the length and breadth of Britain with a final three days in Paris, they all look forward to visiting Solihull School. We give them the warmth and hospitality that is at the heart of our community. 23 Solihull families got involved and provided a cultural and interactive four days for our visitors with events like BBQs, pool parties, bowling events, trips to the funfair and cricket matches, to name just a few. During the day they were whisked off to the Black Country Museum and Stratford-Upon-Avon after first giving us a wonderful Adele-like rendition of 'Someone like You' during both Lower School and Middle School Assemblies. Of course we had to have the

football and rounders matches which has become a bit of a ritual. Normally, Wessex win the football and Solihull win the rounders, but this year our boys really did pull all the stops out and scored a victory over a much older Chilean team! The girls chose to mix their teams and had fun getting to know the game with the help of a few willing and sporty parents.

I asked both hosts and hosted to write a few comments about their time together and below are a few of the comments:

As part of their visit to Solihull the staff and students from Wessex School were escorted to the Black Country Museum by Mrs Lloyd, Mr Loynton and Mrs P Roman-Blythe. They were fortunate to experience not only a glorious English summer's day, the like of which we haven't seen much of since, but to learn a little of the birth place of the Industrial Revolution; from early steam engines to a taste of education Victorian-style and the thrills of a 1950s fairground. Perhaps best of all was a lunch time treat of fish and chips relished by students and teachers alike. For Wessex Headmaster Mr Martin, it was a trip down memory lane as many of the exhibits offered him a personal nostalgic journey of days gone by.

Mr J Loynton



We had a lovely time with Dimitry. He was very quiet but luckily Francisca was with the Kandolas so we all teamed up on Thursday and Friday night. It was a shame that we couldn't have them for the weekend too. We are looking forward to next year now.

Mrs Ratledge

Me gustaría empezar diciendo que al principio tenía mucho miedo de quedarme con una familia inglesa porque no tengo mucho dominio en el inglés pero apenas hablé con la familia me sentí muy cómodo y me acostumbré de inmediato, me encantó la experiencia que viví porque en la familia todos eran muy simpáticos y muy amables, me hicieron sentirme como en casa y les doy muchas gracias por eso. Y sobre el colegio Solihull puedo decir que me encantó porque era muy grande y tenía muchos deportes.

I would like to start by saying that in the beginning I was very nervous at the thought of staying with an English family because I don't speak that much English but as soon as I started talking with the family I felt very comfortable and I adjusted instantly. I loved the experience because the family was really warm and friendly; they made me feel like I was in my home and I thank them for this. And about the School, I can say that I loved it because it is so big and has loads of sports.

Dimitry



Along with the proper salutations I, here, write to you about my stay in Solihull. Never, even in my wildest thoughts, would I ever imagine how big this school really was. I knew that it was bigger than mine (The Wessex School), but I didn't know it was that big. When I jumped off the bus I was astonished by the giant buildings that surrounded me. My 'new family' is very kind and funny, I've been having an amazing time with them and I've had delicious meals and lots of fun. The Montgomery family is wonderful, unusual but brilliant, and I'm glad to be received by them. I thank you, and every person in Solihull School for having us here. Greetings!

Carlos

Querida familia Mills,
Quería agradecerles por la muy buena bienvenida que me dieron, tan alegre y cariñosa. Aprecio la manera en la que me trataron, se preocuparon por mi, y la comodidad que me han dado es espectacular. Pese a que hayan sido solamente 3 días, fueron muy divertidos.



¡Charlie es un perro hermoso que también me dio mucho cariño! Saben que apenas tengan la oportunidad de ir a Chile los estaré esperando con los brazos abiertos! Ya que es un país muy bello para visitar y ver nuestra cultura y muy rica comida.

¡Se lo agradezco montones!

Alex Mills and family

I would like to thank you for the excellent welcome you gave me, so happy and affectionate. I really appreciated the way you looked after me, were concerned for my well being and the spectacular hospitality you have given me. And what's more, this was all in only 3 days, which were really fun. Charlie, your dog, is gorgeous and also gave me much affection! Do you know what – if you ever have the opportunity to go to Chile we will be waiting for you with arms out wide. Chile is a very beautiful country to visit: come see our culture and sample our delicious food.

Teresa

It has been a great experience hosting Felamir as it has given us the chance to improve both our global experience and our Spanish-speaking skills. We played football, strolled in the country side, ate hamburgers, went bowling, and exchanged gifts. Felamir became part of the family within the first day he arrived at our house. ¡Felamir es una persona maravillosa!

Mr and Mrs Pingree

I really liked my time at Solihull. In truth I was very nervous at the beginning meeting my hosts, but by the end of the afternoon with my 'family' I found them to be very friendly and they looked after me. I would also like to add that they were very concerned about me.

Felamir Bravo



These days with the family that I was being hosted by, have been the best in all the whole trip due to me being so positively accepted in their house and giving me all I needed to make he feel like I am in my own home. Without a doubt I feel I have formed a big bond of friendship with them. I will never forget the good moments that I have had with them and that they were always concerned about us. Also I will never forget Gwynneth.

Alejandro

Mi experiencia con la familia Hass para mi ha sido muy linda y entretenida ya que me recibieron muy bien y lo he pasado fenomenal. Además han sido muy atentos y pacientes conmigo y con mi prima, agradezco que nos hayan recibido a las dos, fuimos al coro de su mamá y al carnaval ayer donde lo pasamos muy bien con Olivia. La verdad es que han sido muy atentos con nosotros y lo agradezco mucho.

Sofía Hazbun

Estimados amigos de Solihull: Para comenzar quiero agradecer a todas las familias que nos alojaron, sobre todo a la familia de Lucía, me sentí bien y feliz, viendo diferentes costumbres que lleve a cabo muy bien. Supe como adaptarme, solo un poco nerviosa pero se me iba pasando rápido. Esta nueva experiencia es muy hermosa para mí y se que también para los demás. Voy a extrañar mucho a "mi familia". Espero que también haya sido grato para ellos tenernos.

Isidora

These are just some of the comments from Wessex students or Solihull parents. I have left the last two for enthusiastic Spanish speakers to practise their Spanish on! Many thanks to all the hosting families for their wonderful hospitality! I apologise for not including all Wessex students' comments – there were too many – and all were complimentary!

Mrs J Brown

Machu Picchu trek raises £3000 for Charity

Julia Skan, Head of Careers, and Liz Whitfield, parent and former president of the School's Parents' Association, raised more than £3000 for charity with a sponsored trek following the Inca Trail to the Lost City of Machu Picchu in Peru. They completed the four-day challenge having already raised much-needed funds for charities Sense and Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF). Julia said: 'Both organisations are extremely close to our hearts. Sense works with deafblind children and adults here in the UK, while LAFF supports marginalised children in Peru, helping them to create independence through education and knowledge. While in Peru we visited the LAFF charity in Cusco where we handed over clothing and school equipment, as well as a cheque which will go towards providing children with the chance to make it out of poverty. We're extremely grateful for all the donations we've received'.

The School has strong charity links, raising almost £55,000 in the last academic year for local, national and international charities.



Working with LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) to provide educational assistance to the orphans at Azul Wasi

Following a visit to LAFF last summer, and 3 Solihull students volunteering at Azul Wasi, it was very clear that the 16 children in Azul Wasi would really benefit if their education could be guaranteed. Furthermore, extra teaching would help them reach a literacy standard they have been denied due to years of living on the street. Solihull School students have responded with enormous generosity this year by raising lots of money. They took part in a huge variety of events including donating pocket money, running tuck shop takeovers, selling candy canes and sweets at the School plays/musicals, and putting on a dance performance. Teachers and parents have also done their bit by selling DVDs of the School Choir's performance at St Paul's, holding cosmetics and clothing sales, and putting money in the collection dish at Sunday Chapel services.

The OSA has also been sponsoring Dante, an 18-year-old from Azul Wasi who has left the orphanage and is trying to get to University. So far they have raised £987.50 towards his tutoring in an attempt to get him through his exams so he can achieve his dream of becoming an engineer.

The table shows the money raised from Year groups, Houses, Staff, parents and the OSA (as of 4 July 2016).



Sam, James and Iain (Solihull volunteers)

Sponsoring the children in Azul Wasi, Peru 2015-2016

| 2015-2016 | Names | Ages | Totals |
|----------------------|-------------|------|----------------|
| Junior School | | | |
| Fetherston | Andys | 7 | 200 |
| Jago | Carmen Rosa | 9 | 200 |
| Pole | Nilo | 9 | 200 |
| Shenstone | Alfredo | 9 | 200 |
| Windsor | Gustavo | 10 | 200 |
| Total | | | 1000 |
| Lower School | | | |
| Fetherston | Dani | 12 | 423.87 |
| Jago | Valerio | 13 | 266.21 |
| Pole | Jack | 13 | 164.9 |
| Shenstone | Nelio | 11 | 255.1 |
| Windsor | John | 11 | 308.81 |
| Staff | Yuliño | 13 | 135.6 |
| Staff/Parents | Fredy | 14 | 144.72 |
| Total | | | 1699.21 |
| Middle School | | | |
| Lower Fifth | Eddy | 15 | 200 |
| Upper Fifth | Ana Rita | 15 | 200 |
| Total | | | 400 |
| Upper School | | | |
| Lower Sixth | Hernan | 17 | 2358.13 |
| Upper Sixth | Raul | 18 | 28.5 |
| Total | | | 2386.63 |
| OSA | | | |
| OSA | Dante | 18+ | 987.50 |
| TOTAL 2016 | | | 5485.84 |
| Plus OSA | | | 6473.34 |



Chiara, Sam and Sarah (LAFF team)

Olivia, Emily, Eve and Charis



Our target was £3200 which has been surpassed and means Solihull will be able to provide all the requirements for the the Azul Wasi children. Chiara, who is running LAFF in Cusco, sent a breakdown of the requirements:

- School fees: 800 PEN (excluding students studying in non-mainstream schools)
- Uniforms: 3,185 PEN
- School materials: 5,880 PEN (including notebooks, pens, books, art material etc.)
- Academic and pastoral tutoring: 10,800 PEN

Total: 20,665 PEN/ £4,397

One of the volunteers at LAFF doing an internship for 6 months asked if Solihull School students could describe what they did and how they felt it helped them. Below are some of their reports.

We (Libby, Harriet, Lily and Eden) wanted to improve the lives of the boys and girls at Azul Wasi, especially Nelio who is about the same age as we are. We realised how fortunate we are here in Solihull so this was our inspiration for doing the tuck-shop takeover. In the end we raised over £170 which we hope will go towards Nelio's education, wellbeing and quality of life at Azul Wasi. We also hope that all the money everyone has raised will contribute towards the boys' and girls' futures, making them healthier and happier too.

Libby Shepherd, Fourth Form

Shell Fetherston pupils also held a tuck-shop takeover. Toby explained how everyone in the Form brought in something, whether it was cans of drinks or bags of crisps or packets of sweets. He believed this event 'helped us to learn responsibility, organisation, and good mathematical skills. We needed to quickly work out totals and the monetary change needed. We also worked as a team'.

Olivia Hass, another pupil in Shell Fetherston, got involved in a dance performance which took place on 16 June and involved over 40 young people.

"Four friends and I decided to take part in this dance show. We had been working on it for many weeks and were very prepared for the evening. The evening was full of different types of dance and there was a show of Silks with Beth

Penhallurick. We also had a raffle, enabling even more money to be raised on top of the £5.00 entrance charge. Overall, it was a really successful night and I am extremely happy to have helped Azul Wasi. It has given me the opportunity to be creative and have fun, while giving something that can help other boys and girls like Dani. I felt privileged to be part of it.

Olivia Hass, Shell Form

There have been many drama productions this year and we took the opportunity to sell bags of sweets at these events. Aymbujan and Harrison sold popcorn and sweets during the interval at *Carousel*.

'We did this because we believe that helping people who are less fortunate than us is very important. It has also helped us to become better people as it has helped us to see that giving rather than receiving is essential to make the world a better place. We hope that the money we have raised has gone to Azul Wasi to help improve their educational opportunities'.

Aymbujan Srijothy, Fourth Form

The Junior School collected £1000 which they presented to me in an assembly on LAFF. The girls and boys have sent a video clip to Azul Wasi of them reading a story in Spanish and 5 pupils wrote long letters to their 5 kids: Andys, Carmen Rosa, Nilo, Alfredo and Gustavo.

The very first pupil to donate her money was Olivia Featherstone:

The story of every orphan at Azul Wasi inspired me to help the boys and girls get an education. I wanted to do my best to raise enough money. So I started selling homemade cup cakes to people on my street. I raised £37.00 which isn't a lot but it was a start. I hope they get a good education which leads to a great life.

Olivia Featherstone, Shell Form





Probably the climax of the fundraising for LAFF was Emily-Jayne Watson's initiative to put together the Dance Show which has been mentioned in Olivia Hass's report. Emily has put her thoughts down:

At the start of the year the Lower Sixth were asked if anyone was willing to run the J1 and J2 Dance Club. Olivia Gordon, Kashee Mistry and I volunteered. It gave me great satisfaction to see the pupils being so enthusiastic and energetic during the sessions. Running the dance club certainly boosted my confidence as I have never had the opportunity to do anything like this before.

The next step in my dance journey was a large one for me. I performed a ballet solo called 'Cry' during Senior School Assembly. I wanted to do this to firstly prove to myself that I could achieve much more than I thought and to secondly show to other pupils that they can do anything they want and have the support to do so. I got lots of amazing feedback from the performance and I also learned that there were many students who showed an interest in dance.

With the help of Olivia Gordon, Charis Holland and Eve Colyer, I set up the Shells, Thirds and Fourths Dance Clubs which we run during lunch times. Many of the students who joined were new to dance and it gives me a great sense of pride to see them grow and blossom into the performers they are today.

I heard about the work by the Latin American Foundation for the Future after an assembly by Mrs Brown. I learned about a shelter for street children called Azul Wasi which offers them a home, safety and an education. I think the charity is amazing and the children are so grateful for everything they have so I wanted to do my part to help. I approached Mrs Brown with the idea of doing a dance in order to raise money and had to see Mr Garner. The next thing I knew a date had been booked- Thursday 16 June!

So, 50 pupils gave up their lunchtime once a week to prepare for the big show called 'No Laffing Matter' which showcased a range of dance styles from ballet to hip hop (with a bit of gymnastics and a silks routine). The students involved were amazing on the night and all danced like true professionals.

The aim of the show was to not only raise money but to also show how talented the Solihull School students are. We raised a total of £1208.50. Plus, a kind benefactor in the audience offered to add an extra £1000 to this sum.



Due to the success of the show, we are now planning the next one which I know will be bigger and better! Mrs Brown has also mentioned how I could go and volunteer in Peru which I think is an amazing opportunity, to be at the very heart and soul of where the money raised is going. It is now a long-term goal of mine.

I feel very fortunate to attend a school which supports every aspect of student life. What I have achieved in such a short time (I joined in the Lower Sixth) at Solihull School could not have happened without the encouragement I have received. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me. Without you I couldn't have done it.

Emily-Jayne Watson, Lower Sixth

Solihull has been supporting LAFF over the last 6 years but this year we have really focused our efforts on education where progress is now really starting to happen. A lot has happened since those early days when Max and Freddy Richmond (2011), then Nick Chitty (2012) and Rebecca Vidal (2014) visited and reported on life in Azul Wasi.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported this cause and let's hope we can be as successful next year.

Mrs J Brown

European Day of Languages

On Friday 25 September we celebrated the annual European Day of Languages. As in previous years, students had the opportunity to enjoy a menu based on food from Spain, France and Germany and spoke to members of staff in a wide variety of languages. A number of very brave members of staff taught their normal lessons using the medium of a foreign language they speak. The main event of the day was a series of language workshops offered to Year 5 pupils from a range of local primary schools together with a number of our own J3 pupils. They took part in fun songs, plays and conversations in French, German, Spanish, Polish, Mandarin and Italian.

Mr P Morgan



Intercambio Español 2015 /16

**17 - 24 octubre 2015 - España /
12 - 19 marzo 2016 - Inglaterra**

In October 2015, fourteen Fourth Form students of Spanish, accompanied by Head of Spanish Mr P Morgan and Ms Cánovas Cañas, travelled to the town of Orihuela in the Spanish province of Alicante to visit their Spanish exchange partners at Colegio Oleza. Whilst there, we engaged in a diverse range of activities, including a fascinating ascent of Cruz de la Muela, the mountain that at over 600m towers over Orihuela, a visit by train to the nearby city of Murcia, visits to local churches, shops and places of interest, and a day spent on the beach.

Although we were sad to say goodbye to our friends from Orihuela, we did so in the knowledge that everyone concerned had learnt a great deal about the language and culture of Spain during a fascinating week and that moreover, bonds of friendship had been strengthened during the course of an unforgettable seven days in Spain.

In March 2016, it was time for the second leg of our Exchange programme, with our Spanish partners coming here to Solihull. During their stay, they visited Warwick and Stratford, did plenty of sport and went with their Solihull partners to Cadbury World, always a highlight of their visit to the West Midlands!

The Lower School Spanish Exchange is one of the pillars of Spanish teaching at Solihull, so many thanks to all the parents and pupils who took part with such enthusiasm, and thanks to Ms Cánovas Cañas, our colleagues in Spain, Juani, Amabel and Yolanda and all the Spanish teachers at Solihull for working together to make the whole venture such a success.

Mr P Morgan





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Lower Sixth Art

- 1. Meredith Hanson
- 2. Amnish Sall
- 3. Lydia Roll
- 4. Amnish Sall
- 5. Jessie Lloyd
- 6. Austin Henderson
- 7. Gemma Kentish
- 8. Maxine Perroni-Scharf
- 9. Emily-Jayne Watson
- 10. Abigail Humphreys



1



4



6



2



3



5



VOGUE
THE 1000th ISSUE
Vogue celebrates with a male issue
Inside: Austin Mahone on gender equality and his new found fame.
BEAUTY: We discover what's inside the modern male's beauty bag.

7



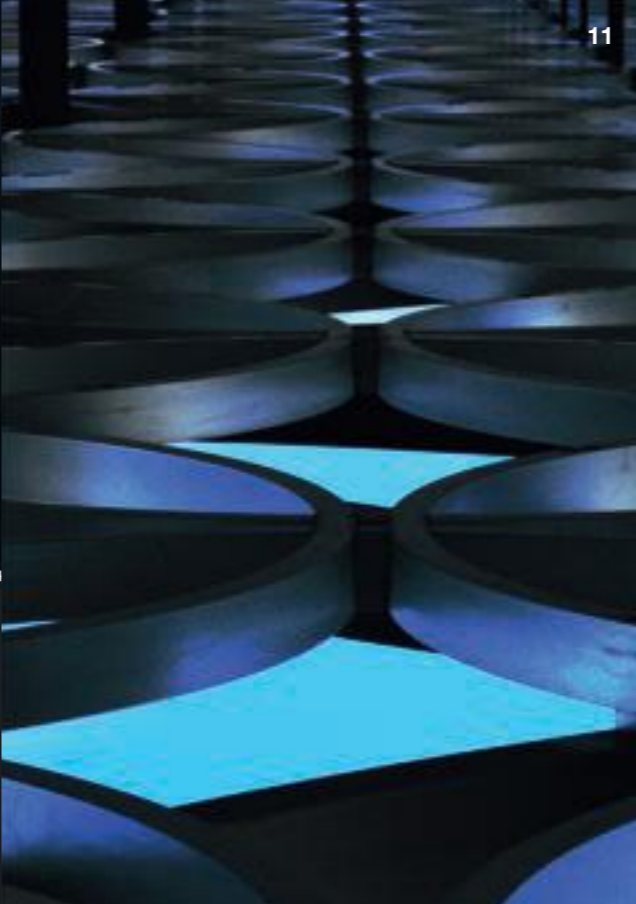
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9



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11



12

Lower Sixth Photography

- 1. Megan Stretton
- 2. Michael Balfour
- 3. Charlie Hadley
- 4. Conor Green
- 5. Maeve Grogan
- 6. Maeve Grogan
- 7. Sophie Shakeshaft
- 8. Isabel Douglas
- 9. Harry Manek-Robinson
- 10. Georgia Greenburgh
- 11. Jacob Arnold
- 12. Sam Miller



Sport

Rugby - The 1st XV

U18 XV

P22 W14 L7 D1

Hopes were high in the camp heading into the 2015/16 season with Charlie Morgan at the helm. There were a number of players in the ranks with plenty of senior experience, which would surely prove invaluable! The usual fixtures were ahead; a mouth watering challenge.

King's Macclesfield was the perfect building block for the season with 24 players establishing a superb rapport with each other. The Fifteen came out of the festival feeling positive having won their matches. As part of the pre-season campaign we added in a 'dust up' against RGS High Wycombe. This certainly proved a challenge upfront but a worthwhile exercise. A quick blow out at the home of English Rugby was next on the agenda; Rugby School. Over 4 x 20 minute sessions the Fifteen established themselves well and the patterns were beginning to come. There were glimpses of the magic this crew could produce. Even Mr Emmet was happy!

Buoyed by the extensive and successful pre-season, the ever-dependable and reliable skipper Morgan had a small swagger of confidence as the Fifteen entered the two Worcester derbies. Against King's Worcester the game proved to be a slog in which we misfired but managed to get over the finish line with a 10-8 victory. Certainly character building! RGS Worcester proved a stern test at their place but with some direct route-one rugby we broke down their barriers and took the scalp 0-10.

The next string of matches emphasised even further the highs and lows of schoolboy rugby. Northampton School for Boys was our supposed warm-up game before the visit of Bromsgrove. The banana skin almost slipped us up but a last-minute penalty kick by Watson earned us a hot victory 22-25. Fond memories of our previous encounters against 'Grove', and I don't mean 'Biker Grove' with Ant and Dec!

The Fifteen were rightly confident following some solid wins and a great preparation week. Bromsgrove were again being tipped as the favourites for the Natwest Cup... more about that later! It proved to be a great match between two teams intent on playing open fast rugby. Some silly mistakes, at crucial times, eventually cost us the scalp we felt capable of taking. We lost 11-21. The following two matches were all about hitting the groove again and putting icing on the cake prior to the St. Joseph's festival. St. Peter's from Gloucester were blown away in the last third 3-25 and Q.M.G.S Walsall were destroyed 0-47 by a young Fifteen; a new era clear for all to see.

St. Joseph's festival proved yet again to be as brutal as ever. The Fifteen earned a credible place in the main cup for day 2 with a draw against St. Joseph's (last year's winners), a win against Eastern Counties 24-0 and a loss against Hampton School. A bruised Fifteen rose on the second day to be confronted with fixtures vs Dulwich, Millfield and RGS High Wycombe. Each of the three games could have gone either way but sadly we fell the wrong side in each one. But again, an amazing experience!

Early November saw us travel to Ellesmere College with its Fijian contingent; not the best in winter. An amazing fixture took place with the Fifteen showing the resilience and

endeavour to hold on to a 16-17 victory. Plenty of grunt and flair on display, before KES Birmingham were destroyed 6-46 and Nottingham 3 - 44, two great wins away from home. Between these matches was the demolition of KECH in Round 3 of the Natwest Cup, 18-53. Again, a young side had finished the job. So, this all led perfectly to another 'clash of the titans' in Round 4 of the National Cup; reigning champions, Bromsgrove. Despite a 8-22 loss, Bromsgrove had been pushed right to the final whistle in a game they will say was their hardest in the whole competition, including the final! A credit to the Fifteen but sometimes you can do nothing against a catch and drive!

But as was the case all season with these players, they dusted off like gladiators and jumped back into the arena. Trent felt the heat step up and were methodically pulled apart by a ruthless Fifteen 41-10. Every blade of grass was touched that day and both forwards and backs were rampant. Adam's GS were seen off in a 50-0 victory which enabled us to achieve 10th position in the Daily Mail National Merit Table; awesome for a co-educational day school. Fully deserved by these men! After Christmas, fixtures were hit hard by the good old adverse English weather conditions: STR, Bablake and RGS High Wycombe all fell foul of the frost! Bishop Vesey's proved a stern test as expected but eventually the competitive season

was seen off with a 23-19 win. The end of season jamboree against The Old Boys saw the Fifteen exert pressure and high fitness levels on their wiser opposition; the outcome was a comfortable win to the School.

The 7s season provided all players with some much-needed skills practice, especially our international brethren.

Special congratulations must go to the following: William Talbot-Davies - Wales U18 XV, Charlie Morgan and William Cutbill - England Counties U18 XV and Tom Serle - Scotland U16 Squad. Much deserved reward!

I would also like to thank Mr Emmet for his tenacity and astute coaching, both of which brought due reward to the Fifteen. These, along with the huge efforts of Karl (Grounds), Jayne (Refectory), Sarah (Senior Nurse) and Phil Evans (Physio) all made 2015/16 a great season.

And now to Charlie Morgan!! Quite simple... **HE WILL GO DOWN AS A LEGEND!**

Thank you and good luck one and all!

Mr S Thompson





International Rugby Success

Congratulations to William Talbot-Davies (Wales U18) capped against England and Scotland, and William Cutbill and Charlie Morgan (England U18 Counties) capped against Ireland and France.

2nd XV

P11 W7 L3 D1 PF 282 PA 142

As another season of playing hard competitive rugby dawned, there was a genuine air of expectancy and an overwhelming desire from the battle-hardened stags of the Upper Sixth – especially Messrs Phillips, Roberts, Gibbons and Fogarty – to pass on the never-say-die attitude of the 2nd XV to the young pups in the Lower Sixth, under the passionate leadership of Chris Clay.

Optimism was high, and the whole squad once again adopted the mantra of 'No retreat, No surrender, No defeat' as we turned Pavilion Changing Room 4 into a sacred inner sanctum of the 2nd XV where all became united in a single cause. However, the start was disjointed with over thirty individuals playing in the first three games due to players moving up to the next level. We managed to win two from our first four games.

Desperate to get back on track after half-term, our fortunes were soon to improve for the better. The game against KES Birmingham was a must-win encounter and in reflection this was perhaps one of our best games. The tightness of the squad huddle on the pitch and the steely determination set the tone for the belligerence, focus and determination that was to serve us well throughout the rest of the season. Indeed, the ferocity of the tackling and sheer will to win laid the foundation for the season that lay ahead as backs and forwards integrated seamlessly as the opposition was brushed aside in an emphatic 48-0 victory. It is best remembered for an outrageous Matt Farrow try which involved him receiving the ball in the 5m channel and side-stepping two tackles!

What followed were clinical displays against Stowe, Nottingham, Trent College and Nottingham High School, all in part due to the emergence of a very complementary half back pairing of William Farnworth and the metronomic accuracy of Aled Phillips, who was very much laying a strong foundation for the player of the year. There was also the evolution of a physical pack led by Chris Clay and ably supported by Ted Warner-Knowles and Alex Holland who as open side became a thorn in the opposition sides. Awful conditions saw a 5-5 draw at King's Macclesfield when swimming would have been a better option, before the post-Christmas game against Bishop Vesey's, at home on the hallowed second team pitch. This was a very impressive game of rugby, despite the conditions, in a favourable 18-17 victory. Determination, character, resilience and no shortage of skill was best epitomised by Ross McCormack stepping his way through the mud and scoring with a last kick of the match penalty to secure victory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole squad for all their efforts throughout the season, culminating in what was a most enjoyable year. My thanks also to all the Upper Sixth boys for their commitment which was passed down to the younger players, and of course to Chris Clay and his wing man Aled Phillips for all their efforts, on and off the pitch, throughout a very demanding but ultimately successful season.

Mr M Covill

U15

Whilst the U15s finished low in the All-Comers 15-a-Side League, they achieved a most respectable, and thoroughly deserved, 15th place in the 7s League.

With only a handful of players available in August, pre-season matches were cancelled. Even when term started, we had such a small squad, any hope of putting out a B XV was quickly scotched. To add to our woes, we had an unlucky run of injuries in late September/early October. So, not the best of starts, yet credit to the boys for their hard work in training, as performances steadily improved. The matches either side of Christmas were our best, against King's Macclesfield and Bishop Vesey's.

Our domestic season reached a peak over the 7s Weekend Tour. Fourteen boys ventured, first north to Macclesfield, then south to Worcester. We were asked if we could put out a B VII up at King's Macclesfield; we did, proudly and with honour. Our team meal at TGI Fridays on that Saturday evening was a truly pleasant occasion. And boy, do these lads have appetites! From that weekend, memories of outrageous 20m-long reverse passes, wonderful sequences of off-loads, overhead basketball passes, leaping like a salmon to reclaim our restarts, thunderous tackles and tackle clear-outs, and sheer tenacity to sprint from afar will live long in my memory of a truly wonderful, tense and exciting weekend of 7s Rugby! I'm so proud of all the boys who took part that weekend, and I'm sure the lads will treasure the memories as much as Mr Phillips and I do.

Next up was the France 2016 Tour. Seventeen players for three matches in four days! We did it, and without injuries. Phew! We landed on time, and left Bordeaux Mérignac Airport at 16:30; two hours later, we were ready to KO our first match v US Le Bouscat. But no sight of the referee! So, yours truly stepped up to the plate. Did I miss a late tackle by our very fast prop? Possibly. Did I miss their forward pass at the end of the match? You decide; it's on the DVD. Doesn't look forward from the camera-man's position on half-way, and I wasn't much

further down the pitch from him! Well, it was the end, and I'm old, and only have one knee that works...! Needless to say, we were 31 points down at one point, yet, through stoicism and skill, we brought it back to a narrow 36-27 defeat. With his opening words, the Captain's post-match speech brought further respect (indeed silence from our opponents) such was the quality of his delivery and accent. Well done, James, for the best post-match speech, ever!

With early morning kit laundry successfully achieved, we utilised the facility of the beach for a jog, debrief, training session, finishing with the now not-so-dreaded 'aquarobics'! I was surprised how 'warm' the sea was! After lunch, we departed for match two, against the 2014-15 National Champions, St Médard-en-Jalles. Glorious pitch, fantastic weather. But we weren't up for it; our pre-match body language was evident of this. Yes, they were really good, but as good as they were, we were equally as poor, and, regrettably, individually poor. Even given two matches in two days, the score against us should never have been what it was. No matter: onwards and upwards, another day, another dollar.

With early morning kit laundry done again, Thursday was our (so called) 'rest day'. Instead, we climbed the highest sand dune in Europe, currently 110m high, and then, in blizzard conditions, played our beach football tournament in the afternoon. Seemingly, all went well. I wasn't present for the football (but I was for the Dune du Pilat, as my right knee is still telling me!) as I was scouring the shelves of the local supermarket for plastic dinosaurs, baby dummies, and other toys! Suffice to say, our one and only Team Meal with the 'Serious Awards' Ceremony, was another brilliant highlight of the week! It was a great evening, and the boys conducted themselves superbly. Once again, Mr Phillips and I left the restaurant feeling so proud of the guys.

And so to our final match, in the wilderness and forests of south-west France. Our coach driver took a short-cut and we arrived three hours early. To be fair to him, he was quite happy to stay (very) late into the night; perhaps he fiddled his tachometer, I don't know. But, as it turned out, I think our last night at US Salles will be a defining moment in the boys' lives. In my humble opinion, it was the embodiment of all that is good about being 'on tour'. Back to the match. After 15 minutes of full-on rugby, and although Salles were one try up, we were all over them. Their coach approached me and said that this was too tough; Salles had a cup game the following day. Could we downgrade it to a training match? I said no. He insisted. I agreed! So, over the ensuing 45 minutes, each team in turn had three consecutive phases of possession. I have to admit, it was incredibly tense and exciting! Wonderful to see us race away with an interception try, and a clever line-out move gave us the match-winning try!

After the match, we were treated to wonderful hospitality, and it was great to see all the Solihull and Salles players chatting, exchanging stories so freely. It was a superb evening, and a great way to finish the penultimate tour to this region of France.

France 2016 Tour Awards:

Best Try: **Thomas Slater**

Outstanding Defence: **Tom O'Hanlon**

Perseverantia (Forward): **Oliver Bevan**

Perseverantia (Back): **Mohan Deo**

Captain's Award: **James Lewis**

Player of the Tour: **Harry Mitcham**

Finally, my sincerest thanks to all the parents and my colleagues Mr Phillips and Mr Morgan, for all your wonderful support throughout an incredibly long season.

Yes, the season started slowly. But, without any doubt, every single player improved as the two terms unfolded. It was great to see the boys exhibit their full repertoire of skills during the 7s Weekend and in France.

The U15 Rugby Player of The Season: **James Lewis.**

I wish all the players the very best of success next year. As the DVD song says, it's gonna get better!

Mr P Jackson

U14A

This season the U14 Rugby A-team has had a very successful season. We have won 10 out of 13 games this year. The season started off slowly with us losing a pre-season game against RGS High Wycombe, however we learnt from our mistakes and went on to win our first game against King's Worcester. For the rest of the half term we continued to do well and we only lost twice, both away games, out of a possible four games. After the half term we came back determined to win as many games as possible. From then on we didn't lose a single game for the rest of the year, winning seven and drawing one to Bromsgrove U15A.

One of the great wins we had was against Bishop Vesey's away. We won the game 14-0 in terrible conditions. We retained the ball very well and we were 7-0 up at half time. We faced good defensive pressure from their defence but we managed to score another try to seal the game off.

Another game that was a great win for us was the game that started off our unbeaten streak against KES Birmingham. We started the game off with a couple of tries which demoralised the opposition. We then piled on the tries in the second half. They scored a try but the game was already won by us. We won the game 45-5.

The success of this team was down to teamwork as opposed to just a few individuals playing well. All the players knew what was expected of them and they all delivered when it mattered. This was epitomised in the 7s season when with darkness falling we were leading Bishop Vesey's in the final of the Old Swinford competition. With 30 seconds left Vesey's best player broke down the wing and looked certain to score but after a fantastic effort by one of our players he was tackled into touch resulting in the final whistle.

Mack Perry, Fourth Form

U14B

After a slow start, the season proved to be fairly successful. We lost our first few matches by quite a large amount. However, the team maintained a positive attitude and persevered week after week despite losing the first four games. The most memorable match of the season was against KES which was our first win. Before the game we all thought that we lacked the ability to defeat them, but we did not let this dent our confidence; we were ready to try our hardest and play a good game.

It was a delight to see the players' ability and maturity on the pitch develop. Tom Carter drove the pack forward in scrums and mauls, frequently weaving through opponents and scoring tries. Among the backs, Fin Bristow made fast breaks through the opponents' defence. I would like to thank Mr Morgan for always believing in us and always pointing out the positives in the match and keeping our spirits high.

Cameron Lo, Fourth Form

U13

P13 W6 L6 D1

Although the results do not read well it is not a true reflection of how the U13s performed this season. The team made a lot of progress this year and were unlucky in a couple of matches to end on the losing side.

The rugby in the first half term was a mixed bag. A very difficult start against a very strong King's Worcester side ended up being a very steep learning curve for the boys. In the long run such matches will do the boys more good than harm as it indeed proved to show as the season progressed. The next game was against a physical RGS Worcester side and we responded well by winning the game 28-14. Losses to Northampton and a strong Bromsgrove side were to follow. An excellent victory was well-earned against Bishop Vesey's away in the Cup (17-10) and there was a great comeback against our local rivals KES Birmingham. We were 14-0 down at half-time but ended up winning 19-14 in a thriller.

The highlight of the season was our return match against Bromsgrove in the Cup away. Every Solihull player put their heart, soul and body on the line throughout the match in an outstanding defensive display, losing narrowly 12-3. A lot of harsh decisions went against us and we were very unlucky indeed. The last three weeks have seen some very good defensive work, coupled with expansive free-flowing rugby. The forwards, led by Kyle Trainer, often laid the foundations for our victories and we started to secure more quality possession providing quick rucks, which enabled Jacob Gordon to take the ball going forward and release our backs to use the pace of Josh Denton-Creasey and Archie Brown. The season finished with victories against Trent College, Adams, a draw against Bishop Vesey's and a loss against a very strong King's Macclesfield.

The 7s season was a great way to finish, with us reaching the final of the Plate at the Solihull Sevens. The boys really enjoyed the experience of the National 7s Tournament at Rosslyn Park which ran over two days. Our star 7s player was Oscar Montgomery.

The B-team had an enjoyable season, led superbly by Frederick Albrighton. I was very impressed with the brand of rugby they played; not afraid to take risks running the ball at every opportunity. They have all shown a high level of commitment in training and have consistently played well, winning 5 and losing 4. Two of the matches were narrow losses to Trent 35-34 and Nottingham 29-22. I would like to thank all the players for their enthusiasm, determination and dedication to the cause. My sincerest thanks to all colleagues and parents who have supported U13 School Rugby this year.

The last paragraph must be dedicated to Mr D Jenkinson who is retiring this year. I have been privileged to work alongside this true gentleman this season. Many thanks for all you have done: you will be sorely missed.

Mr S Hifle

U12 7s

P24 W23 L0 D1

Winners of:

Warwick 7s (final v RGS High Wycombe 22-14 W)

Nottingham 7s (round robin)

KES Birmingham 7s (final v Ivybridge 25-0 W)

Bishop Vesey's 7s (final v MGS 45-12 W)

National Ranking = 1

A quite astonishing 7s season and certainly not one I have been fortunate enough to be a part of before. Each and every player deserves huge credit for their part in this professional set-up. The success was certainly brought about by a positive mental attitude and everybody buying in to a style of play that suited us. And of course, having the attitude of 'WANTING TO WIN'.

Well done boys and thank you for such an enjoyable time on the practice paddock. Please don't let complacency set in at any point because that is a weakness that ruins.

I would finally like to thank all of the parents for being so supportive in every way they possibly could be. It all helps gain this level of success. Thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

Mr S Thompson

U12 XV

P12 W10 L1 D1

This proved to be the most successful season for the U12s in my 10 years as Head of Rugby. It was all built on the excellent leadership of Cameron Rees in conjunction with the whole squad's ability to absorb feedback and put these changes into operation. The 15-a-side version of the game saw a free-flowing style of play, very much in the mould of Eddie Jones. Lots of ruck-and-run with decision makers in all positions.

Scalps during the season included Bromsgrove 38-17, KES Birmingham 55-10, Trent College 25-5 and King's Macclesfield 24-7 to name but a few. Yes, there were some fine individual performances but it was the whole team ethic that brought about such a grand set of results.

Mr S Thompson





Netball - 1st VII

P18 W15 L3

This season the 1st team began very strongly with convincing wins over Princethorpe College and King's High School. After an unfortunate loss to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School the girls showed good courage to obliterate all the competition in the Solihull Borough Tournament and qualify for the County Rounds of the National Schools competition. Over the coming months focus was on forming the strongest team for the County Rounds and so many non-league fixtures were held in preparation. After a series of wins we went into the tournament more positive than ever before. The girls pulled together to win the County Round tournament for the first time in the School's history, sealing progression to the Regional Rounds. As many of the team members were at the regional rounds the previous season we had high hopes of progressing to Nationals, especially since this squad possesses so much talent and a versatility that we didn't have last time around. Our preparations for the Regional round in January was stunted by a few injuries and, of course the holidays and mock exams.

On a gloomy Sunday morning a rather anxious Solihull team arrived at Bromsgrove ready to earn our place in Nationals. Unfortunately, the day didn't go as we had hoped although everyone worked their hardest and left it all on the court. After analysis of our performance, we took away many positives from this experience and were able to dig deep to remain undefeated for the remainder of the season. Victory in the end of season Borough Tournament was the icing on the cake after a strong, competitive season. We ended the season with the annual Red Nose Day and Old Girls matches. After being



cheated out of a win against the staff (it was for a good cause), we finished on a high with a win against the Old Girls.

Thanks must go to Mrs Smith and Miss Wilcox for getting us in line and helping us to achieve all that we did, along with the additional jobs they took on to make our season so successful.

The 2015/16 Squad: Kianté Lightbourne (Captain), Hannah Clarke (Vice-Captain), Adina Bailey, Chloe Houghton, Katie Saunders, Sarah Walbaum, Sophie Shakeshaft, Megan Stretton, Clara Miles, Annabelle Barker, Maddie Koral, Ellie Featherstone

2nd VII

The 2nd VII Netball team had a good start to the season with a 25-13 win over Princethorpe College, followed by a 16-9 win against King's High with some excellent goals from Sarah Walbaum and Hannah Currie. Although we faced many challenging matches this year, we played well as a team and continued to improve our skills and technique throughout. All of the players showed commitment, determination and enthusiasm in training and matches to ensure that we were playing to the best of our ability. A huge thank you to our coaches Mrs Baden and Miss Smith and we are looking forward to next year to continue our successes.

U15

The U15 netball teams have had some ups and downs this school year. We were entered into the National Cup for the first year and were drawn against Bromsgrove School. They proved tough opposition in such an early stage of the season but we were determined to learn from this experience. We acknowledged where our faults were and improved upon them in training. We had a tough season, struggling with our shooting and defending but we bounced back, winning the Borough League and the County Tournament. We were all so happy and proud as we've had a tough season but we've all improved so much! This year's A-team consisted of Tabitha Botterill, Sofia Cusack, Georgina Dalby, Phoebe Harland, Isobel King, Katie Phillips, Mia Sukkersudha, Aoife Mackew and Prudence Dixey. This year's B-team consisted of Cayla Balfour, Lucy Fennell, Holly Simkiss, Niamh Smythe, Rebecca Toher, Sophie Besford, Christina Bate and Isabel Dodd.

Georgie Dalby, Lower Fifth





U14

This year the girls in the A-team have demonstrated excellent teamwork and skills against some tough opponents. We started with some difficult teams, losing the first few matches. After training for a couple more weeks and getting back into the swing of things, we had a great victory over Radcliffe College, winning 18-11. Soon after we won against Light Hall, giving us confidence to face the harder teams that we would come up against. Losing only narrowly 9-11 to Kingsley School, we finished the season on a high, winning against Alderbrook 11-8. The U14s also gained a place in the Borough Tournament, losing only in the semi-finals to Tudor Grange. Over the season we have played some fabulous netball and look forward to a successful season next year.

Libby Shepherd and Lily Evans, Fourth Form

U13

The U13 team has had a mixed year with 7 wins, 5 losses and 1 draw. There was a bit of change due to an injured India who had been instrumental at the start of the season. This meant looking to train a B-team player to replace a very consistent India in the circle. The chosen player, Zara, came out to every practice and worked hard to ensure she did not let the team down. She stepped in to India's shoes brilliantly and became more aware of her movement around the circle and holding her space.

The girls came up against opposition that had improved since U12 season and with a little inconsistency in the team due to various injuries, Solihull found themselves in an unfamiliar position. This affected them psychologically as the team were not used to losing. However the girls fought back to win the last 3 games in a row and won the Borough Tournament convincingly.

The team consisted of India Armstrong, Louise Green, Georgia Jones, Nicole Dann, Louisa Miles, Sophie Lamaison, Zara Houghton, Olivia Smith, Bethan Bown and Georgia Thorpe.

Mrs K Baden

U12

The U12 A-team had a very successful 2015/16 season. Due to our focus, commitment to training and excellent coaching, we managed to win all of our games (11) except for 3 unfortunate losses and 2 draws.

Having faced many intense matches, we paraded through the first term with only one loss. Our most memorable game in that term had to be our round 2 match in the recently formed School Sport Magazine National U12 Netball Cup against Bromsgrove School. The thrilling game took place at our very own Sports Hall which meant many parents, teachers and students came to watch us. By the 4th quarter, we were neck and neck with the score being 12-12 so we had to go into extra time. We were given clever tactics and inspirational speeches by our coaches before beginning the extra time which led us to a delightful victory of 14-12. We advanced to the 3rd round against Wrekin College where we won by 6 goals. We then went on to beat St Faith's School, winning the



regional round. In the second term of the season, we finally got to play our long-awaited match against Berkhamsted School in the quarter-finals. We fought hard however we lost. Nevertheless, we left with our heads held high knowing that we tried our best. Another notable victory was the Borough Tournament where we gained 1st place.

The U12 B, C and D teams also had a fantastic season, with a total of 25 matches being played. The C team won all their games and collectively 75% of the matches were victories. Well done!

Our team has had a lot of fun training and playing together over the season. We also work very well as a team and are good friends on and off the court. We are looking forward to continuing the hard work next season! I would like to thank the team for their hard work and commitment. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mrs Johnson, Mrs Baden and Miss Wilcox for their support and dedication to the team. We wish Mrs Johnson the very best at her new school.

Squad: Izzy Gardner, Isabel Fennell, Jenny Hodge, Aimee O'Malley, Rachel Chanji (C), Paige Fletcher, Claudia Reda and Isabel O'Malley,

Rachel Chanji, Third Form

England International star trains with the netball squad

This year we had the amazing experience of having a session with Loughborough Lightning and England defender Ama Agbeze. This was a brilliant experience for all of the girls throughout the School who took part and we were very privileged to have such an opportunity.





Girls' Hockey - 1st XI

The 1st XI has demonstrated great enthusiasm, determination and development throughout the season. From pre-season at Cannock it was clear that we had a strong squad. There was new strength from the Upper Fifth with Clara Miles, Alex Marshall, Georgia Brown and Cait Casey as well as some very talented external pupils – Fiona Foulkes and Megan Stretton – who really added power, pace and skill to the team.

We started off by playing some tough opposition with the likes of Repton and Loughborough High School but showed real promise with our attack, gaining goals against experienced opposition.

Notable achievements that stood out within the season include wins against Bablake 3-0, King Henry VIII 2-1 and Nottingham High School 5-0. All results highlight a solid defence and some excellent goalkeeping and organisation from Cait Casey. With a tough fixture list the team were also able to gain confidence from draws against RGS Worcester, King's Worcester and King's High School for Girls.

These fixtures put us in high hopes to remain county champions in the Borough Tournament and it was here that Solihull played some of their best hockey of the season. We won the tournament with comfort and class and were through to the Midlands zones rounds.

Unfortunately we were third in the Midlands rounds tournaments and missed out on qualification to the next round by one place.

The team was led well and captained by Rebecca Hicks with Nakita Basra as Vice Captain. The girls were excellent with communication and motivating the team throughout the season.

The team will very much miss Rebecca Hicks, Nakita Basra, Beatrice Cowley, Harriet Marshall and Clara Miles who are all off to pastures new but we wish them and their hockey careers all the best.

Next year the team will be captained by Lydia Roll and vice-captained by Fiona Foulkes and I'm confident that they will lead the team to some fantastic achievements and successes. Good luck girls!

Miss K Berns and Miss S Walton

2nd XI

This year, the 2nd XI squad has seen great improvements in our skill and collaboration as a team. Starting off the season with new members, cold dark nights and still aching bones from pre-season, we tackled the winter months with some spectacular wins, namely against RGS Worcester 5-1 to start off the season in high spirits. Another highlight included a win against Denstone College 2-0; a tough opponent with a 0-2 loss in the previous season.

It has been hard for the girls balancing school work alongside training but this hasn't stopped us and we have seen clear developments in our techniques, which has made girls' hockey even more competitive than ever.

In our awards ceremony at the end of year, Isabel Douglas won 'best goal scored' against Wolverhampton Grammar School, after deflecting the ball into the goal on the left post. Most improved player of the year went to Katie Lyth. The match of the year was against Wrekin College where we won 5-0, a game which was drawn in the previous season 0-0. This game cemented our successful season.

Having played 16 matches, we won 9, lost 6 and drew 1. Overall, I would like to thank the girls for their commitment and perseverance throughout this year. It has been a pleasure acting as Captain: good luck for next season.

Leticia Salmon, 2nd XI Captain

U15

It has been a great season for the U15 hockey squad this academic year, with a total of 10 wins, 1 draw and unfortunately 5 tough games which resulted in a close loss. We managed to score a huge total of 48 goals throughout the season, with our main goal scorers being Sofia Cusack, Phoebe Harland, Lucy Fennell and Georgie Dalby. We conceded only 26 goals thanks to our fabulous goalkeeper Ellie Couch who stepped up from the U14 to play for us. Some major highlights of this season would have to be winning the County Tournament with a close final against King Edward's, and some fantastic wins against St Peter's, Arden Academy, Wolverhampton Grammar School and King Henry VIII School.

This year's U15 squad consisted of Sofia Cusack (Capt), Phoebe Harland (Vice Capt), Sophie Besford, Georgina Dalby, Pru Dixey, Lucy Fennell, Alex Mills, Katie Phillips, Rebecca Toher and Cayla Balfour. We have also had a few of the U14 step up to play alongside our squad. This consisted of Imogen Houghton, Lily Evans, Libby Shepherd and Ellie Couch. Finally we would like to thank our coaches Miss Berns and Miss Walton for helping us to develop our skills throughout the season, and always giving us confidence for our games.

Sofia Cusack, U15 Captain

U14

Throughout the year the U14 Girls' A-team has demonstrated great determination and enthusiasm both in training and in matches, with many of the girls also occasionally playing in U15 matches to improve their skills.

We started off by playing some challenging teams but soon gained our confidence and won against Wrekin College with a very commendable 4-0. The girls found some strong momentum soon after, winning against Tudor Grange School with an outstanding 7-0 victory. This was the start of three consecutive wins, with further victories over Wolverhampton Grammar School and Princethorpe College, 2-1 and 2-0 respectively, and all the girls played exceptionally well.



This year has been a highly productive year for our U14 squad and well done to all the girls who played. Our team consisted of Tiegan Pound, Scarlett Humphrey, Lily Evans, Libby Shepherd, Imogen Houghton, Eden Lupoli, Alyssa Morrison, Ellie Couch and Charlotte Hope with additional players from other years stepping up to add extra strength to our squad. Thank you to all our coaches for inspiring us this year and we look forward to continued success next year.

Lily Evans, U14 Captain

U13

The U13 Girls' hockey teams had a successful and eventful season, and I can say, as one of the team members, that the girls thoroughly enjoyed representing Solihull School in the hockey fixtures.

The girls showed commitment during the Christmas term, in training and matches. They also showed determination in games afternoons, showing desire to improve fitness and hockey skills.

The A and B-teams had a kick to the start of the season by winning various matches. The A-team later went on to qualify for the West Midlands Zones and returned home regional winners.

As well as team achievements there has been a number of superb individual accomplishments with Louise Green and Bethan Bown being selected for Warwickshire County U14s and Annabel Dalby and Louisa Miles being selected for Warwickshire County U13s, who ultimately went on to win the Warwickshire County Tournament. A special mention must go to Annabel Dalby who has also been selected for the Midlands Elite Academy Training for Warwickshire.

A big thank you to Mrs Hallworth for coaching the team this year. We have watched the team develop over the past two years and I hope that there are more triumphant years to come.

Georgia Jones, U13 Captain

U12

This year the U12 Hockey A-team's performance improved steadily throughout the season. This was demonstrated when in our first match of the season against Bablake School we drew 1-1, but later in the season we played them again and won 4-0. Another example was when we played against one of our main rivals, King's High School. The first time we played against them we lost 3-0, but the second time we played them the score was 2-1 to them. Although we did not beat them we managed to close the goal difference from 3 to 1. The whole team was pleased with the result and felt as though there was a huge difference between our first and second performances.

The team grew greatly in confidence and as we began to realise our potential, we also began to gain some very convincing wins. Our biggest win in terms of goals was against Edgbaston High where we won 10-0. Other convincing wins include matches against Wolverhampton Grammar School (5-0) and Arden Academy (8-0).

Arguably, our best team performance was against King Edward VI High School where we won 5-3. In this match everyone played extremely well, both individually and as a team.

Another strong team performance was in our first U12 tournament where we came third. After a very promising start to the tournament, we were drawn against another one of our rivals, St Martin's. After drawing with them at the beginning of the year we knew that they would be a tough opponent. After a nail-biting 20 minutes and extra time, the score was still 0-0, which meant penalties. Izzy Fennell, Izzy Gardner and Aimee O'Malley each stepped forward to take penalties. Only one penalty was scored, which unfortunately wasn't enough to take us to the finals. A tough way to lose, but we took it in our stride and enjoyed the experience.

Overall, the team has worked extremely hard and persevered, showing great promise for seasons to come. The whole team would like to thank Miss Wilcox and other staff who have put in so much time and effort with training and organising our fixtures. They have helped us to improve our hockey and to come together as a strong team.

Izzy Gardner, U12 Captain

Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

P 27 W 17 D5 L5

The 1st XI enjoyed a good season; it exceeded expectations but in the end we were disappointed not to win the Warwickshire League and go further than the 3rd round in the National Cup. The team scored 95 goals and conceded 46, there were 11 different goal scorers, Charlie Hadley top scored with 28, and Benjamin Green was not far behind on 20. In total, 18 players were used during the season. Following on from the previous season, demands were thrust upon the players in term of tactics and having a good understanding of the game. Commitment to training was very good, and this was a major factor in seeing us improve greatly over the course of the season. The team was built upon a strong goalkeeper and back four, an industrious midfield and a forward line that created and scored goals.

The season started with two days of intensive training at Cannock Hockey Club and was followed by a practice match with the Old Silhillians. I believe that this preparation was the foundation for us to enjoy a successful first half of the season. This took us into the regular season feeling confident and we won our opening match against Warwick 3-2. However, we did learn some very valuable lessons about how to play the game when we came up against the reigning National Champions Repton. They were even stronger this season than the previous one and could boast having 9 England players in their ranks. We lost 1-9. The team was hurt by this result, but luckily we did not have to wait too long for the following fixture to put things right. The very next day we played Bablake in the league. The players came out firing on all cylinders and ran out winners by a 7-1 margin. This was a great turnaround in the space of 24 hours. During this first half of the season we won 10, drew 2 and lost 2. The two most impressive wins came against KES Birmingham in the league and Shrewsbury Sixth Form College in the 1st round of the National Cup. These were two good sides and we had to play very well to win; 3-2 and 3-1 respectively. This was our first win over KES Birmingham in six seasons.

Post-Christmas saw us start with a fixture against a very good team from Magdalen College Oxford. On the day, they were sharper than us and they ran out 1-5 winners. This was a wake-up call for us, to which we responded well by beating Adams GS 3-1. We went a week without a game due to a frozen pitch, which meant we went into the 2nd round National Cup match with KES Birmingham a little under-prepared. Having said that, we did start the game very well and went into half time 2-0 to the good. KES came at us hard second half and levelled the match at 2-2, only for Conor Gregory to score from a rebound at a penalty corner. KES continued to press and won a penalty corner on the final whistle. Much to our relief, they fired wide and we had recorded our second victory of the season over our local rivals. This meant we faced Loughborough GS in the next round. In a game we dominated from beginning to end, we only managed to score once from the numerous chances that we created. This always provides the opposition with a chance and rather fortuitously they scored from a corner to level the score. We continued to push for the winner, but we did not stay calm in front of goal and chances went begging. The game ended in a draw and we went straight to penalty strokes. After the first set of five, the score was 4-4. We scored our first attempt in sudden death, they responded with a goal and then our second was saved. They won the contest by scoring their penalty flick. This left the team devastated as we had lost a game on penalties that we should have put away in normal time.

We won our next two fixtures, one of them being Warwick in the league. This 3-1 win set us up with a must-win game with Princethorpe. Victory would give us the league title. We were superb first half, but again we squandered several chances. Against the run of play, Princethorpe scored on the stroke of half time to lead 0-1. Unfortunately, we panicked a little and we played down channels rather than spreading the play and we lost the game 2-3. Having played so well for vast parts of the game, this was a bitter pill to swallow.

The end of the season saw us compete at the annual Bath Festival. This was a fantastic way for the team to complete their season and for the Upper Sixth boys to finish their hockey careers at the school. It was a successful tour with 3 wins and 1 loss to a very good school from Northern Ireland. Our most complete performance of the season came in the fixture with Wellington School. We won the game 9-0 with the players putting into practice all the things that had been asked of them throughout the season. It was a joy to watch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leavers – Cameron Blake, Edward Price, Samuel Brown, Matthew Rice and Benjamin Northam – for all that they have done for hockey at the school. I do hope that they will look back at their time playing hockey for Solihull School with great fondness and that they do continue to play. I think that this set of players have achieved a great deal. For the players that remain, as ever, the challenge ahead will be great.

Cameron Blake was Captain of the team and Edward Price was Vice-Captain. Cameron Blake, Edward Price, Samuel Brown, Matthew Rice and Charlie Hadley were awarded full School Colours. Thank you to Mr Raza for his help in

the running of the team and to Jon Cloke for umpiring the vast majority of the fixtures. Finally, I would like to thank the players for their efforts and for making it a very enjoyable and rewarding season.

Mr C Mayer

2nd XI

P19 W6 D4 L9

The results don't accurately reflect the progress made by this team. When playing at their best they produced some excellent hockey but unfortunately they were not able to maintain this level for the duration of a game. The side was captained well by Dave Thomas.

In goal Elliot Morter made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled his defence with aplomb. Ed Bates and Sam Orme defended very well throughout the season, ably assisted by Tom Loughran, Jack Davidson and eventually Harvey Wilson. Ramyank Chaganty will be remembered more for his attacking prowess than his defensive skills. In midfield Dan Hofton and Conor Green were influential players and they were ably supported by James Cusack, James Halford, and Dave Thomas on the flanks.

Fraser Waddell, James Hurt, Oliver Daniels and Tom Brewer were strong in attack throughout the season. At times we were unable to make the most of our chances and this eventually cost us victory in some of the games.

Mr N Leonard



3rd XI

This year was a tough one for the 3rd team and we ended the season with a record of 6 wins, 1 draw and 15 losses. This was despite a very promising start where we achieved 4 wins from our first 7 games. Unfortunately throughout the season we really struggled to score goals, despite creating a good amount of pressure on the opposition's goal, and this often led the opposition to grow in confidence, finishing off their own chances in the process.

With the lack of a regular goalkeeper, Henry Lee nobly volunteered to take up the pads to try to fill the void left. He was helped by the defensive experience of Captain Jack Berry, Alex Lavery, Joe Treanor and Shaun Watson, with the ever-versatile Hector Brooke able to fill in whenever needed. Our constant midfield pair of Jayant Kumar and Ethan Smallwood was ably supported by a number of the versatile players that we had available. Upfront we had ever-willing runners in Adam Holmes and Matthew Roberts, and the find of the season in Liam Donaghue who (despite having never played before) ended the season in the 2nd team.

Highlights of the season included two big wins early on, beating Warwick 7-0 and Bablake 8-1. Overall, it has been a tough season but I have always been very impressed with the attitude of the players that have represented the School this year and in particular the fact that they always kept going when things weren't going their way. I hope that they will continue to improve as players and I look forward to seeing many of them in higher teams next year!

Mr D Brough

Olympic Medallist Named New Coach

Celebrated hockey professional and Olympic Silver medallist, Ali Raza, has joined Solihull School as an additional hockey coach. Raza, who was made Pakistan's Player of the Year in 1996 and 1997, observed his first match as coach in September. The appointment of the top-tier Level Three coach has kindly been supported by the Old Silhillians Hockey Club.

Mr Mayer, Director of Hockey, said: 'I am delighted to welcome Ali Raza on board to the hockey coaching staff at the School. I am sure that his wealth of experience in the game will be of great benefit to the players and teams alike. I really look forward to working with him. We are extremely grateful to the Old Silhillians who have made this possible'.



U15

The U15A hockey team had a tough start to the season with no less than six losses on the trot. Throughout the arduous start, the team persisted and their improvement was clear. On 23 November, we faced King Edwards Five Ways and emerged 4-1 victors; this began a more successful streak. In the next eight games, six were wins and one was a draw, with the team pulling together and showing great skill and determination throughout. Tom Williams and Ethan Brookes showed pace up front, with Ethan often moving up from a B-team position to join the A-team. Shivam Marwaha was continuously dangerous by the post, with Moiz Sandhu providing excellent skill to generate opportunities. Max Brown captained the team excellently, commanding the back four to provide a solid wall against opposition attacks, with Noah Belling showing great progress throughout the year, with impressive wide runs emerging from defence. Overall it was a pleasing season, with clear improvement from the boys and I would like to thank Max for his excellent captaincy.

The U15B hockey team were always in danger of lacking numbers in a year group that doesn't have a vast number of hockey players. What has been wonderful, however, has been the commitment of the boys across the year as a whole to help out and get involved in what might not be their first sport. This loyalty and team spirit has resulted in the team being unbeaten since 5 October and that loss was against KES Stratford's A-team. The team was captained by Mansukh Singh who did an impressive job of motivating the players and finding team members who were available to play. Notable performances came from Hamza Nazar, who had an incredible consistent shot throughout the season and Tom Day who has established himself as someone who can not only defend as an A-team player but also do an incredible job as goalie in the B-team as well. Overall, a season that the boys can be proud of!

Mr O Anderton

U14A

This year I was delighted to be in charge of a talented group of players and we finished the season with a record of 7 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses in the regular season. This saw us finish a respectable 3rd in the league, as well as reaching the semi-finals of the County Cup.

We had a strong start to the season with wins over Warwick and Lawrence Sheriff, before suffering a set back with an unexpected loss against Nunnery Wood. The next match against KES saw our players produce the performance of the season in a 4-2 win. A hammering of Bablake followed before we ran into an in-form Bishop Vesey's side who proved too strong for us and handed us our 2nd loss of the season in the final game of the Christmas term.

We started the Easter term strongly with a 9-0 win over Adams Grammar before a rematch with KES, that was unfortunately abandoned due to floodlight failure with the match finely poised. Next saw us in action in the County Cup where wins over Rugby and Bablake got us into the semi-finals. Unfortunately, despite an outstanding performance from Jamie Morrall in goal, we were knocked out on penalty strokes by a strong KES team. There was still time for another two wins in the remaining part of the season and there is definite cause for optimism for future seasons with this group of players.

The team was captained by Fergus Roll and he led the side by example, demonstrating his skills and work rate in some strong

displays in the centre of our midfield. Will Daglish marshalled the defence whilst Jamie Morrall turned in some impressive performances in goal. A number of other players chipped in with impressive individual displays throughout the season and I look forward to seeing their continued improvement and success next year.

Mr D Brough

U14B

P6 W2 D1 L3

The U14B squad showed great determination throughout all of their fixtures with the team recording their two victories against Warwick and Loughborough GS. In the fixture with Warwick, the team overcame the opposition 3-2 with great team-play rather than individual brilliance. This same team-play saw us dominate Loughborough, a game in which we came through as 1-0 winners. The match saw us squander several chances throughout and then with five minutes to go, Solihull put together a magnificent passing move culminating in a sledgehammer of a shot from top D by Max Penney. Surely, it was a contender for goal of the season taking all things into consideration. Charlie Cook was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Brough for running this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U13A

P18 W6 D1 L11

The U13A team made great improvement over the course of the season. The team had to rebuild from the previous season due to several players no longer playing hockey for the school. This new group of players showed an enthusiasm for the game which was evident in the amount of time that they all spent on the artificial pitches at lunchtimes practising their skills. The confidence to try these skills in matches grew stronger and improvement was also seen in the type of hockey played. The standard of several of the opponents was very high and the boys must be given credit for the fact that they never gave up nor let their heads drop. I believe that the experience of playing so many strong teams enabled the players to make great strides and will serve them well in the future.

The team did record two fantastic wins over KES Birmingham, the first being 2-0 in a friendly and the second a 2-1 result in the league. Both performances saw us battle hard and play some very good hockey to create the opportunities to score. The best team performance of the season came in the league game with Bablake. We won 2-0, having lost 0-3 against them earlier in the season. This was a great turnaround from the first fixture where we were completely outplayed and dominated by the opposition. The rematch was a different affair; we deserved the win because of our superior team play on the day. Further improvement made was seen in a fixture with Princethorpe at the back end of the season. They needed to beat us to win the league, and we lost 0-1. Our 2nd half performance was superb and we completely dominated the fixture and so were extremely disappointed not to get a result.

The boys created a great team spirit over the course of the season and were a pleasure to work with. Yann Belling was captain of the team and thanks must go to Mr Raza who helped to run the team.

Mr C Mayer

U13B

P8 W3 L5

The U13B team played all but one of their fixtures after Christmas. There were two good wins over Warwick and a splendid 6-0 victory over Rugby U14E. Great improvement was made by the players individually and collectively when it came to team play. This was seen by several players being moved up into the A-team at various points during the season. The team played with spirit, enthusiasm and were tenacious to the final whistle of every match. The team was captained by Thomas Smith and thanks must go to Mr Leonard and Miss Black who both helped to run the team.

Mr C Mayer

U12A

P13 W9 D1 L3

This was a very enjoyable and successful season. When playing at their best, the team produced some excellent hockey. In goal, Louis Dale made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled his defence with aplomb. David Balogh, Dhillon Virdee-Oakley and Harry Higgins defended very well throughout the season, ably assisted by Tom Bate, Uzair Mir and Adhi Ahuja. In midfield, James Gardner and Louie Bould were influential players and they were ably supported by Pierce Ryan and Yusuf Skinner on the flanks.

Added to this group of players were Charles Villanueva, Ben Whitfield and Josh Golsby-Taylor in attack who all certainly tested the oppositions' defence. At times we did make it hard to score by trying the complicated move rather than keeping it simple. This team certainly has the potential to do very well in the future and I have really enjoyed working with them this year.

Mr N Leonard

U12B

7-a-side: P3 W2 D1

11-a-side: P5 W2 L3

This year group demonstrated great promise throughout the season. This was reflected in the results and performances of the B-team in both the 7-a-side and 11-a-side versions of the game. In the 7-a-side format, very good team performances resulted in 3-1 and 6-1 wins over Bablake and KES Birmingham respectively. The best performance came at Bromsgrove where we managed a 3-3 draw against very strong opposition. The transition from the 7-a-side to 11-a-side format is always difficult for the players: a bigger pitch and more players all takes time to come to terms with. The team recorded two wins, 3-2 against Princethorpe and 2-1 versus Nunnery Wood A-team. Yusuf Skinner was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Leonard for running this age group and to Mr Raza for his help with the coaching.

Mr C Mayer

Cricket - The 1st XI**P16 W8 L6**

The 2016 season proved to be successful in many ways, despite having 12 games cancelled and 2 abandoned. It seemed that every time we found a little bit of form and momentum we were then hampered by either the weather or exams. This however, didn't stop us from recording impressive victories against Monmouth, KES Birmingham, Nottingham High School and the MCCC. We also enjoyed another successful County Cup run; beating Moseley School, Joseph Chamberlain and KE VI Camp Hill in the semi-final. The final of this competition will be played in September against Solihull 6th Form College.

For the 2nd consecutive season the team was led admirably by Captain Will Talbot-Davies who has had a successful career during his time at school. His knowledge and all-round ability will be sorely missed now that he has moved on to play professional rugby.

It was disappointing that a century was not scored during the season, however there were some notable performances from Will Rigg, who was the leading run scorer with 352 runs and a top score of 92 against Monmouth, Ethan Brookes who is continuing to show his quality and who topped the averages with 40, scoring 283 runs with a top score of 75 against the MCC, and Will Talbot-Davies who scored 275 runs with a highest of 82* against KES. Benjamin Watson and Elliott Morter both made useful contributions at the top of the innings and who could ever forget the memorable innings from Morter when he smashed 81 against Nottingham High School.

With the ball, the spin twins of Archie Clay and Oliver Banks were the leading wicket takers with 15 and 14 wickets respectively. Both have become reliable bowlers who have developed into good senior spin bowlers. It will be a big loss to the attack next year, especially when they have developed into such fine bowlers. Harry Goodworth supported them well with his off spin and Thomas Brewer and Will Talbot-Davies were the spearhead of the bowling attack.

The introduction of awarding a 1st XI cap on debut proved to be a success and I hope it will inspire others to represent the School at senior level. This year we saw 29 players play in the 1st team, which included debuts for cricket scholars Dan Bevan, Alfie Blundell, Jacob Gordon, Fergus Roll and Matthew Smith who all impressed and have had outstanding seasons for the U13s and U14s.

I would like to thank all the senior players who are leaving for their continued efforts and support during their time over the past couple of seasons. I am certain that their legacy will be remembered and we will continue to build on their success. Finally thanks to David Smith for all of his help and assistance this season.

*Mr D Maddy***2nd XI****P4 W2 L2**

This was a short season due to exam commitments and weather disruption. The team were ably led by Will Cutbill who captained with great enthusiasm and the School was always able to field a team. The best performance was the win against Stafford GS. The fielding was often good during the season with only the occasional lack of concentration. The encouragement for the bowler was excellent. Of the bowlers, Will Cutbill took 3 wickets for 9 runs against QMGS, and Harry Goodworth took 3 for 15 against QMGS. The other bowlers bowled consistently well but with little reward over the season. The batsmen all made reasonable contributions at some point during the season. Unfortunately, no one was able to make a fifty this year but many players got into the 30s before making a mistake or by getting out trying to build a high score to defend. I would like to thank all the players and especially Will for their commitment to school cricket over the last couple of years, and in some cases, since they joined the School in the Third Form.

Mr N Leonard**U15**

The 2016 season has been a very successful one for the U15 Cricket team. Captained by Oliver Nesbitt, the team reached the National Finals of the ESCA Competition after defeating Northampton GS and Bromsgrove in the earlier rounds, and then Durham in the semi-final. Unfortunately, the boys were defeated in the final, which was played at Oakham School, by a formidable side from King's College, Taunton. After winning the toss, Solihull batted first but were bowled out for 117 which King's achieved for the loss of only three wickets. Ethan Brookes provided the highlight for Solihull with a masterful 40 off 74 balls before being caught close to the wicket. The team also enjoyed a successful run in the County Cup before they were cruelly denied victory over Arden School in a rain-affected semi-final which saw the boys lose in a bowl off.

Throughout the course of the year, Oliver Nesbitt has captained the team with great integrity and wisdom. His fielding placements and bowling changes have been instrumental in the team's success. Ethan Brookes has played a key role in the team's cup run with his authoritative and commanding batting – the highlight being his score of 117 against Bromsgrove in the ESCA semi-final. Other notable contributions have come from the all-round talents of Zakariya Saleem and Ikhlās Ahmed. Special mention must also be given to Harvey Meacham whose middle-order batting destroyed many a bowling attack.

*Mr S Hart***U14A****P15 W7 L7 Tied 1**

The U14A Cricket team had a season that contained many highs as well as several lows. Commanding victories were recorded over King Henry VIII, Wolverhampton GS, Nottingham High School, Princethorpe College, Washwood Heath and Bablake. We managed a tie in a low scoring game with RGS Worcester and in the County Cup semi-final with Warwick, but we lost on wickets after the scores were level.

The team played superbly throughout the Solihull School 6-a-side tournament but unfortunately lost in the final to a very strong KES Birmingham side. It was a great day and it was enjoyed by all.

Our bowling was very strong throughout the season, with six players taking ten wickets or more. Guy Tomlinson was leading wicket taker with 18 wickets at an average of 16. Daniel Gaffney took 14 wickets at a very impressive average of 8.71, Matthew Smith got 13, Thomas Gardner and Charlie Cook both took 11 and Fergus Roll ended up with 10. The best figures were achieved by Matthew Smith in the victory over Nottingham HS, where he recorded 6 overs, 0 maidens, 5 wickets for 21 runs. This included a remarkable 4 wickets in 4 balls!

The batting was less consistent. Matthew Smith topped the batting averages with 40.6 and was also leading run scorer with 406 runs. Fergus Roll achieved a total of 341 runs at an average of 31 and was the only player to score a century; 112 not out against King Henry VIII.

Fergus Roll captained the team and in his absence Matthew Smith took over the reins. This is a team that improved their cricket over the course of the season. I wish them all the best for the 2017 season.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The U14B Cricket team were limited to just 3 games (with 1 other abandoned because of rain) due to fixture cancellations, but this gave them a chance to work on their skills during net sessions. Unfortunately, this effort in the nets failed to translate to a win in any of the games, although not for lack of trying on the part of the players.

The first full game against Leicester Grammar School was hard fought and contained some good bowling displays although we did let the total get away from us towards the end of the innings, allowing them to reach 141 for the loss of 5. Unfortunately, despite a late cameo from Tom Carter, this total proved too much for us and we lost by 12 runs. We came up against a strong Old Swinford Hospital side in the 2nd game and ultimately lost by 9 wickets. In our 3rd and final game against Bishop Vesey's, despite 24 from Aman Birdi and 20 from Charlie McGrellis, we only managed to muster 66. Some good bowling, from Max Penney in particular with 3 wickets, helped to restrict them initially but eventually they managed to scramble over the line and we lost by 5 wickets.

Despite the results it was an enjoyable season and I hope that many of the players will continue to improve and push for some wins next season.

Mr D Brough

U13

What a season the U13 have had, packed full of exciting matches which have culminated in both the County and National Finals!

The season started poorly with an initial disappointing defeat to our rivals Warwick. But the team quickly picked themselves up and had a convincing win against King Henry VIII with Marcus Osborne smashing a rapid 50 with 2 sixes, alongside Ben Stockdale's 29 and Oscar Ratledge taking 3 wickets at the

start of the second innings. We were also victorious against KES with Ethan Plain scoring 32 and Dan Bevan 72*. A close game against RGS Worcester was saved when Woody Pugh and Simon Duffy had a match-winning partnership.

Having won last year's Sixes tournament, we were keen to defend our title, and thankfully we managed to win all our games, beating Monmouth School narrowly in the final. In the first round of the County Cup we had a comfortable victory over Bishop Vesey's before beating Warwick in the quarter-finals where we restricted them to 76, thanks to the fantastic bowling of Kyle Trainer (3 wickets for 2 runs) and Patrick Meigh (2 wickets). In the semi-final, we challenged KES, bowling them out for 55 thanks to 3 wickets from Jacob Gordon, 2 apiece for Alfie Blundell and Ben Whitfield and not forgetting Louie Bould's amazing boundary catch! With an excellent whole team performance, we were now looking forward to playing against Langley School in the County Cup Final. In the final we batted first and scored an impressive 178 for 2 off 20 overs. The highlight was Alfie Blundell's excellent 100 and also Ethan Plain's 52 not out. We bowled Langley out for 58 and were crowned County Champions!

Meanwhile, as reigning champions of the Warwickshire County Cup, we were entered into the National Cup. In the first round we played Magdalen College, and Jacob Gordon scored a match-winning 92*, with a total score of 185 and Ashish Chakrapani and Alfie bowled superbly to keep the opposition under this. In the next round of the Nationals, we thrashed Nottingham, posting 201 off 25 overs with Dan Bevan scoring 113 not out. This total proved too high and Ashish returned amazing figures of 6-9 and they were bowled out for 38! No resting was allowed for us as on the next day we were against Bromsgrove in the Regional final and batted first. We posted 155 in 25 overs with Ashish scoring 59 alongside Alfie's 36. Thankfully, although play was abandoned due to rain, we won with our comfortably superior run-rate. Representing the Midlands now in the semi-finals, we were pitched against Newcastle School for Boys, who were representing the North. Playing at home on the first team pitch, we fielded first and



their top order was blown away by Alfie's unplayable opening spell of 4 wickets for 5 runs. Two wickets each came also for Ethan, Ashish and Ben Whitfield and this meant we were chasing 57 (35 overs). This proved to be an easy run chase and Solihull scored the required runs in 8 overs with the loss of 1 wicket. The season ended in the most perfect way: at Oakham School, we beat New Hall School, Chelmsford to be crowned National Champions. Ex-England Captain Nasser Hussain was there to present us with the trophy.

It has also been great to see the success of the U13B team who lost only 1 game all season and this was against Old Swinford Hospital U13A and by only 1 run. There have also been many players from the B-squad who have played very well for the A-team - Yann Belling, Sean Casey, Jacob Langford, Oscar Montgomery and Miles Humphrey.

This season has been hugely successful with a fantastic, encouraging team spirit helping us to thrive and the prospects look bright for our upcoming tour of Sri Lanka next Easter where we hope our successes can continue. Thanks must go to Mr Bishop, Mr Maddy and Mr Smith as we couldn't have done it without their encouragement, dedication and support.

Dan Bevan, U13 Captain

U12A

P 12 W 10 L 2

This has been a very enjoyable, exciting and exceptionally good season! Despite the pressure of the cricketing world demanding a successful season, the coaching panel dominated by Messrs Covill and Emmet cajoled, galvanised and moulded a squad that can be justifiably proud of their achievements this year.

Under the leadership of Ashish Chakrapani, an encouraging 8-wicket win against Warwick ensured a positive mood from the outset, in the main due to some fine bowling by twins of spin Ben Whitfield and Louie Green, both of whom also batted intelligently. Reality soon set in with a desperate 6-run defeat to

KES Birmingham before fine wins against Magdalene College and King Henry VIII. Louie Bould showed his cricketing ability in a match-winning innings against Bishop Vesey's in the Cup before we won an epic against Nottingham High School by 9 runs, largely due to a fantastic knock of 73* by the captain who also scored heavily against RGS Worcester (75), the Holte (61*) and King Henry VIII (75) in the Cup. He was ably supported in the field by the tight bowling of Alex Morrison and Pierce Ryan throughout the season, as well as the agile work behind the stumps of Declan Kelly. Dhilon Virdee-Oakley also made key contributions with James Gardner outstanding in the field. Tom Bate and Uzair Mir contributed with both bat and ball, and the season culminated with a fine WSCA Cup final victory over KES Birmingham by 3 wickets.

The victory was fully deserved and I would like to thank all the players for their efforts throughout what was a very enjoyable season.

U12B

P 8 W 8

When Charles Villanueva volunteered to be the captain, little did anyone realise the incredible journey he and his team were about to embark upon. To go undefeated throughout the season against some good cricketing schools, as well as giving up players to the A-team throughout the season, shows the depth of talent in this year group. He was ably assisted by Adhi Ahuja who scored a memorable 50 against Bablake, a match which also saw the tenacious bowling of Louis Dale. Archie Serle was dynamic in the field, and with the bat and ball, and good contributions were also forthcoming from Tom Boake, Luke Woodley, Tom Berrow, Cameron Rees with James Shakeshaft behind the stumps. Regular players included Kieran Daly and Jack Pitchford, and all of them were pushed by the emergence of a very strong C-team. They were headed up by William Couch and included the batting talents of Harry Higgins and Dan Giles, the all-round ability of Dan Batterbee, Hari Praiser behind the stumps, and the guile of Dara Dhadwal, Josh Golsby - Taylor, Dhilan Patel and Harry Jones. This is a very strong squad of talented players and the future of Solihull cricket looks very bright. Many thanks to all players for their efforts and commitment throughout the season.

Mr M Covill





Rounders - U15

It has been a great season for the U15 Rounders squad this academic year, with a steady start against a tough opponent in King Henry VIII School, which resulted in a draw. We then played a further two games which unfortunately resulted in two close losses. In these three games we managed to score a huge total of 40 rounders, however conceded 50 despite our great team efforts.

As the school year came to an end, we celebrated a successful result of winning the U15 Solihull Borough Tournament even though we came up against some very strong teams. We started off on a high by winning our first match against one of the favourites for the tournament, Arden Academy, winning 7 1/2 to 3. We then experienced a little dip in our batting, making our next three games extremely tense, however, our excellent team effort resulted in us winning all our games in our group, taking us through to the next round of the tournament. We were then up against the strong opposition of St Martin's School in the semi-final, and with great suspense and perseverance all throughout the game, it concluded with us winning 4 1/2 to 4. The tournament ended with a very exciting game against Tudor Grange who beat us in the final last year, making us even more determined to come out on top. Thankfully, we won 5 1/2 to 4 1/2! The B-team also participated throughout the season, putting in great effort and enthusiasm.



Hanaan Welch, Shell Form

This year's squad consisted of Sofia Cusack (Captain), Phoebe Harland, Georgina Dalby, Tabitha Botterill, Isobel King, Lucy Fennell, Prudence Dixey, Eleanor Berrow, Katie Phillips, Fleur Street, Alex Mills and Rebecca Toher.

Many thanks to Mrs Baden, Mrs Smith and Miss Wilcox for coaching and motivating us throughout the season, and leading us to many successful games!

Sofia Cusack, Lower Fifth

U14

This season the U14 Rounders team has improved exceptionally in both fielding and batting. Even though they have lost every match they have played, when they played the matches they tried their very hardest and pushed themselves. Furthermore, going to training has helped them learn new skills and then to apply them in a match. The team consists of Imogen Houghton (Captain), Gemma Radburn-Todd (Vice Captain), Lily Evans, Libby Shepherd, Harriet Toogood, Beth Currie, Tiegan Pound and Ellie Couch. The U14 still have a few matches left and are hoping to win them all and end with a bang.

Mrs H Smith

U13

The U13 Rounders team has had a very successful season, starting off by winning convincingly against King Henry VIII School. Unfortunately, the British weather did not always help the team, as a few matches were cancelled due to rain. Sadly, the team then narrowly lost a number of matches to Bablake and St Martin's. However, the U13s came back to redeem themselves by flying through the Solihull Borough Tournament, ultimately coming top by beating St Martin's in a tense, nail-biting match. Thanks must go to Amita Rao, Louisa Miles, Rebecca Vidal, Georgia Jones, Annabel Dalby, Isabelle Collins, Olivia Smith, Sophie Lamaison, Zara Houghton and Hanaan Welch for a fantastic season. We hope to repeat it again next year.

Hanaan Welch, Shell Form



U12

The U12 Rounders teams have had an exceptional season, and all teams have played with determination and spirit. The A-team has won six matches out of seven with one draw, scoring over 110 rounders. We finished the season with second place at the Borough Tournament after a very tight final against St. Martin's. At the end of the game both teams had scored 2.5 rounders and the winner was determined by reference to the number of players each team had managed to get out. Sadly, this meant that St. Martin's won. The U12 B-team were undefeated all season with over 80 rounders in total. The U12 C-team won both of their matches comfortably. The U12 D and E-teams have each had one match and both beat their oppositions. We have a rounders club on Monday night attended by everybody who would like to be in a team. All teams have improved tremendously over the course of the season: well done to everyone. Thank you to Miss Wilcox for training us and helping us to do our best in matches. Overall, a great season and we are looking forward to building on this success next year.

Jenny Hodge, Third Form





Athletics

Boys - Overall Borough Champions

Boys - U14 Borough Champions

Borough Championship records:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------|
| A Dalby | U14 800m | 2.32.0 |
| A Visram Cipolletta | U14 800m | 2.20.0 |
| U14 Boys | 4x 100m | 50.7 |

West Midlands Champions:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| E Furber | U14 200m |
| S Mhende | Junior Boys Triple Jump |
| M Reeve | Junior Boys Shot |
| P Harland | Inter Girls Triple and High Jump |
| G Armstrong | Inter Boys Shot |

West Midlands Team English Schools:

P Harland, G Armstrong,

Multi Events

A Visram Cipolletta, T O'Hanlon

School Records:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| S Duffy | U14 Hurdles | 11.8s |
| A Visram Cipolletta | U14 800m | 2m17.0s |
| | U14 1500m | 4m37.3s |
| A Dalby | U14 800m | 2m32.0s |
| P Harland | U16 Hurdles | 11.8s |
| | U16 High Jump | 1.66m |

| | | |
|------------|----------|-------|
| T O'Hanlon | U16 200m | 22.7s |
| | U16 400m | 51.6s |

Sports Day Records:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|
| L Bould | 100m | 13.0s |
| A Crampton | Javelin | 17.33m |
| A Visram Cipolletta | High Jump | 1.56 |
| C Rigg | 1500m | 5m19.6s |
| P Harland | High Jump | 1.56m |
| | Triple jump | 11.14 |
| | Long Jump | 5.11m |

Sports Day Winners:

Windsor

This was a successful season with both U14 Boys' and Girls' teams winning through to the Regional Final for the ESAA Track and Field Cup. This is for the top 8 teams in the Midlands region.

Highlights of the season were the many record-breaking performances and the willingness of pupils to volunteer to step in to compete in an event to gain points for the team.

In the inter-school matches the Boys' teams achieved victories over RGS Worcester, KES Birmingham, KE Camp Hill, KE Aston and Bablake. The girls achieved success over St Martin's, Edgbaston HS and RGS Worcester. The U14 Boys' relay team were unbeaten over the season and deserved to break the Borough Championship record. Both Annabel Dalby and Adam Visram Cipolletta also broke the U14 Girls' and Boys' 800m records.

Congratulations must go to those athletes selected to represent the West Midlands in the English Schools Championships: Phoebe Harland (High Jump) and George



Armstrong (Shot). Adam Visram-Cipolletta, Tom O'Hanlon and Adina Bailey were selected to compete for the Multi-Events team.

I would like to thank all those staff who have helped officiate at the matches this year as these successes could not happen without their assistance.

Mr N Leonard



Boys' Tennis

Once again the U13 and U15 boys' tennis teams entered the Aegon Tennis Championships and fought hard throughout, particularly given the absence of some strong players in a few matches. The opening match was against Heart of England which went to a tough tie break where the U15 team provided a dramatic comeback to attain victory, whilst the U13s gave an impressive display to win convincingly. As the season progressed the U13s continued to demonstrate real talent and have a good chance of progressing to the knockout stages of the competition. The U15s had a tougher time and a significant amount of player absence, for various reasons, means that it is unlikely that they will progress unless results go their way elsewhere. This year we also maintained our friendly fixtures with Warwick and KES Stratford, giving the U12 boys a chance to play high calibre matches and demonstrate our strong potential for the future.

Carlo Giordanengo has done an excellent job captaining the U13 team this year, fostering a great team spirit and managing a consistency of players that has been instrumental in their success. I would particularly like to thank Alex Griffiths for his captainship of the U15 boys' team this year; he has been committed and hardworking as a player and captain and will be missed when he moves into the senior squad next year. Overall, a good season and one where we have avoided match rearrangements due to weather, which is quite possibly the biggest success of them all. My thanks to all players.

Mr O Anderton



Girls' Tennis

The U13 tennis squad has had another successful season, with Nicole Dann (captain), Hanaan Welch, Olivia Smith, Louise Green, Annabel Dalby, Isabelle Collins and Louisa Miles all participating. Having successfully progressed to the regional round in October 2015, the new summer season of 2016 was full of promise. Matches played included St Martin's in late April, where unfortunately we only had the chance to play doubles due to weather. Later on, in early May, we played against Arden Academy where we won all our doubles games and three out of the four singles, resulting in an overall team win; both schools played exceptionally well. Our match against Tudor Grange Academy also resulted in a win. Overall, the tennis season has been a success with talented players such as Olivia Smith winning nearly all of her matches. The U15 team has had a more challenging run in their matches, accruing a win against Tudor Grange and a loss against Arden. Libby Shepherd (captain), Lilly Evans, Harriet Toogood and Holly Simkiss really played well together winning one singles game against Arden and one doubles match. Unfortunately, the match against St Martin's was rained off half way through. Finally, against Tudor Grange we won every singles game and every doubles game. Well done girls!

Nicole Dann, Shell Form



Ski Team

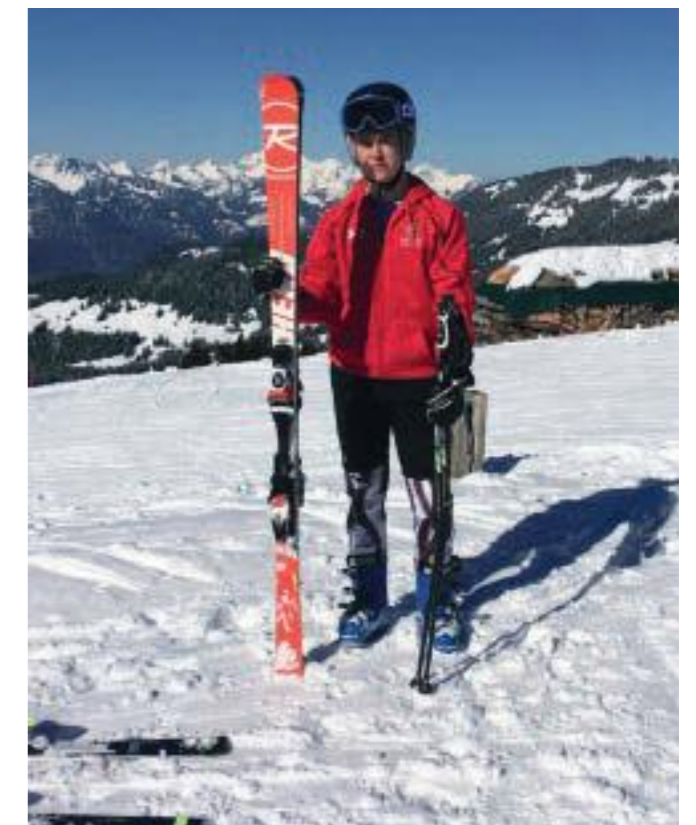
In the Christmas term Solihull pupils took part in the British Schools' Open Championship held in Pontypool. The Boys' and Girls' Ski Teams were amongst the youngest teams competing, with Helena Newbould becoming the fastest girl in Britain for the 3rd time.

All of our skiers did exceptionally well and show much promise for the future. Bella James, in the Third Form, went from being a non-skier at the start of the year to completing the course with style and confidence.

In March, the Ski Team left to participate in International School competitions taking place in France and Switzerland. Our first location was Les Houches, nestled in the Chamonix Valley, where we had two days of training. Racing started on the

Monday, with the U18s and U12s racing Giant Slalom, while the U14s raced Slalom. On Wednesday we travelled to Villars in Switzerland, where more members of the team joined us to compete in the Aiglon College Cup. On Thursday all skiers competed in a Giant Slalom, which was followed on Friday by a Combi-Slalom for the U12s and a regular Slalom for everyone else. Over the four days of racing, all did exceedingly well in very large age groups. Ella Giles achieved excellent results in Les Houches, Dan Giles skied consistently well all week, and Tom Lawrence competed for the first time after sustaining a serious knee injury in January. Special mentions go to John Patrick Gallagher, Erin Jennings, John Jennings, Alex Horne, James Shakeshaft, George Daly and Alex Johnson who all competed in their first snow races.

Tom Lawrence, Lower Sixth



Canoe Team

Solihull Canoe team is enjoying its best season to date. In the regional Hasler marathon races, our students have been racing over a four-mile course. In division 7, Beatrix Huissoon and ex-student Tom Gill frequently dominate and have scored a number of first places. Their continued success should see them promoted to the next level, covering the eight-mile course. The Shell Form team of Freya Webber and Oscar Huissoon was successful in being promoted to division 8 early in the season. In their first season over the four-mile course Ellie Lawley and the Solihull Canoe Club paddler Rhys Tipping are competing well in division 9, frequently beating adults in their class.

In the Junior School, Jem Perry has achieved a number of good finishes in the Lightning class and we expect a strong group of new paddlers to join him from this term's trials thanks to Miss Lynch's enthusiasm and encouragement.

Mr P Higley



Clay Pigeon Shooting

This year has seen Clay Pigeon Shooting expand significantly with the introduction of the sport to the Fourth and Lower Fifth Forms on Thursday afternoons. As ever CPS has been very popular with a waiting list for spaces to join the groups. The new pupils have all enjoyed the sessions with a weekly competition held between the two groups. Over the course of the year, the two most consistent shots were Hafsa Ahmad in

the Fourth Form and Max Dornon in the Lower Fifth. These young shots show much promise for the future and whilst too inexperienced to enter formal competitions this year, hopefully they will have the opportunity to represent the School next year.

The established Wednesday afternoon shooting groups again has shown dedicated shooters attend training sessions in all weathers throughout the year. Again they have represented the School in competitions. This year's Butler Cup, held at our home shooting ground at Hereford & Worcester, culminated in a very exciting shoot off between Lauren Packham and a shooter from King's High Warwick, and a second tie between Vini Vinod and Lydia Stephens for 3rd place. After a tense shoot off Lauren took High Gun with Vini placed 3rd and Lydia placed 4th. This year sees the departure of many of our established shooters as they leave us for university: Lauren Packham, Lydia Stephens, Amy Mitchell-Meades, Odile Webber, Georgina Brownsword, Jack Martin and Luke Sheeran. Their experience, expertise and camaraderie will be missed.

Mrs D Parker



In April the School's Golf Championship was held at Olton Golf Club and what a thrilling competition it was. In the gross competition, James Scagell and Tom Brewer both shot a 79 with Scagell winning on a countback on the back nine holes. In the nett competition, Benny Watson and Alex Morrison both shot a nett 73 with Benny winning on a countback. April also saw the annual School vs Old Sils match. Fielding a team of twelve pupils, of which several were girls, the School were victorious winning 3.5 points to the Old Sils' 2.5.

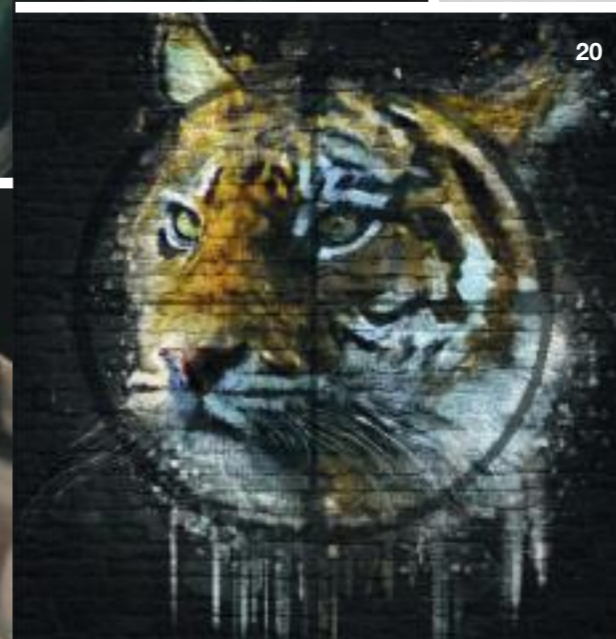
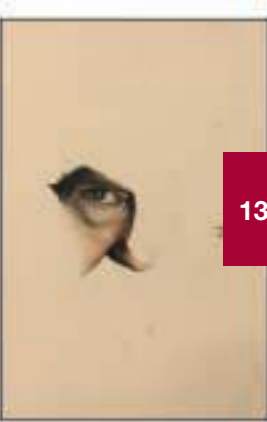
Throughout the course of the year, the Warwickshire PGA coach, Stuart Bottrill has continued to provide lessons to our younger players on a Tuesday lunchtime. In doing so, he is laying the foundation for the School's future success. As the year comes to an end, it is fitting that we say goodbye to James Scagell, Tom Brewer and Stefan Gnyla who are leaving to go to university. All three of the boys have played an integral part in the School's success over the last five years. We look forward to playing against them in the School vs Old Sils match in the years to come.

Mr S Hart

Golf Team

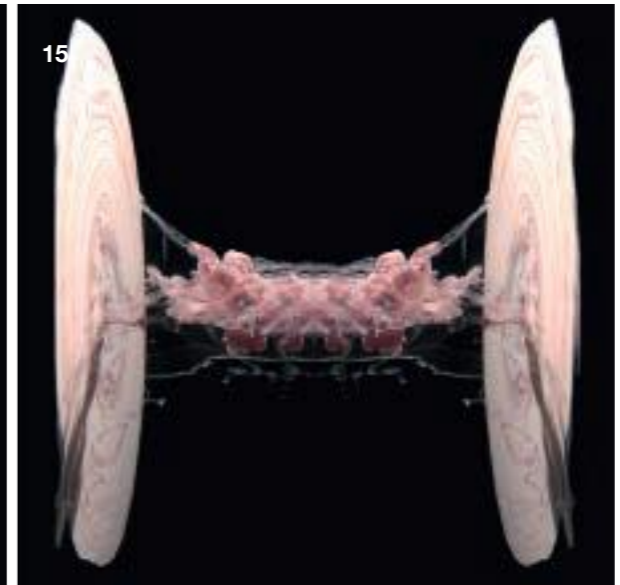
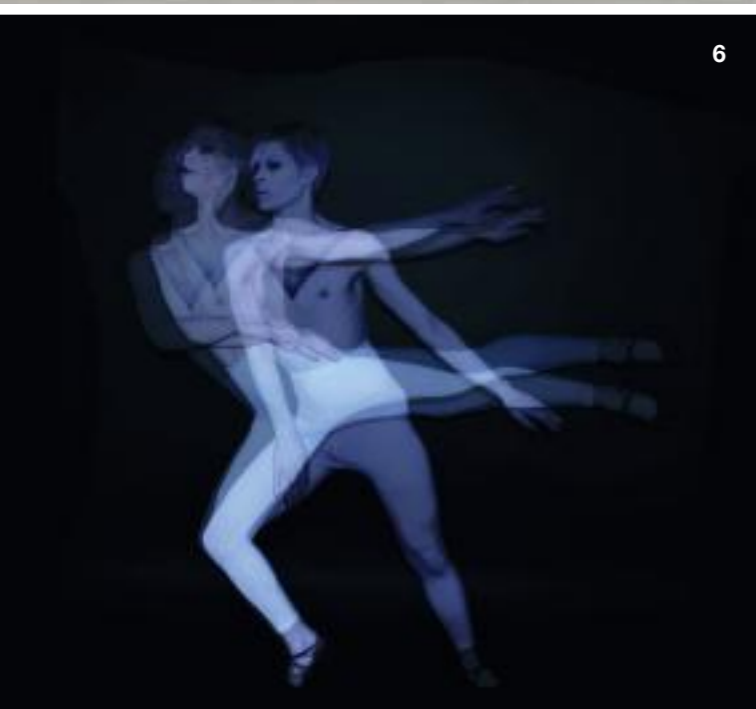
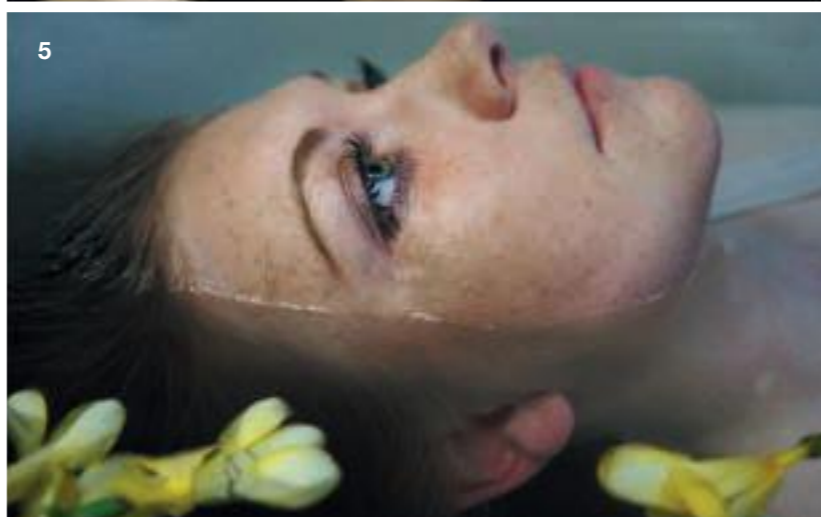
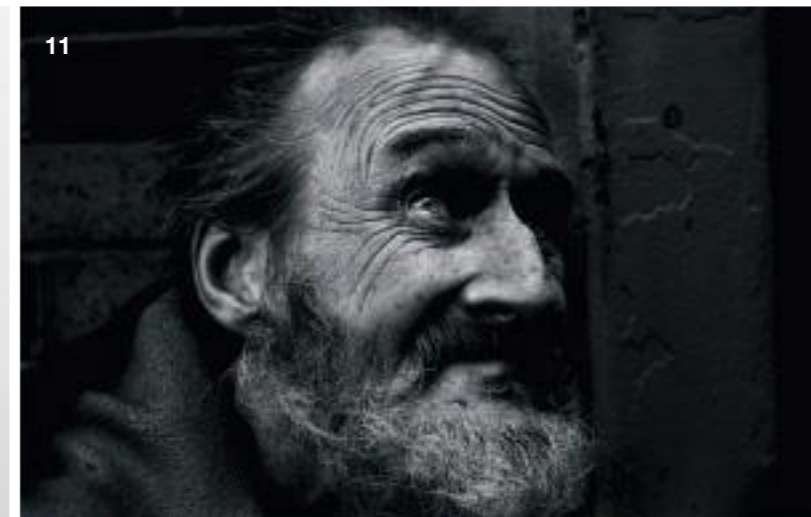
2015 / 2016 has been a very successful year for golf at Solihull School. In April, the School Golf Team travelled to St Andrews to compete in the ISGA National Golf Final. The team, which consisted of Tom Brewer, James Scagell and Jacob Arnold, qualified for the event as a result of being crowned regional winners of the Midland division. The final was played over two days, and the field was made up of the top twenty golfing schools in the country. In terms of the team competition, the School finished in a commendable 11th place. In the individual competition, Tom Brewer won a Golf Medal for coming in the top 20, Jacob Arnold received a Silver Medal for being placed in the middle 20, and James Scagell was awarded a Bronze Medal. Tom's Gold Medal placing was an excellent achievement considering the quality of players there and the toughness of the courses and weather conditions. The School also enjoyed a successful run in the HMC Foursomes competition where they reached the regional semi-finals by defeating Warwick and then Uppingham. However, their run came to an end at the hands of a strong Loughborough GS Side.





Upper Sixth Art

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Vini Vinod | 14. Megan Woolley |
| 2. Vini Vinod | 15. Megan Woolley |
| 3. Vini Vinod | 16. Isobel Serle |
| 4. Vini Vinod | 17. Bradley Monk |
| 5. Holly Marsh | 18. Bradley Monk |
| 6. Annie Johnson | 19. Sashpal Nandra |
| 7. Alexandra Finnegan | 20. Ben Tenna |
| 8. Chris Clay | 21. Bradley Monk |
| 9. Annie Johnson | |
| 10. Jacob Piggan | |
| 11. Annie Johnson | |
| 12. Amy Mitchell-Meades | |
| 13. Amy Mitchell-Meades | |



Upper Sixth Photography

- 1. Megan Woolley
- 2. Katie Saunders
- 3. Jack Berry
- 4. Frankie Phillips
- 5. Ciara Mahoney
- 6. Adina Bailey
- 7. Michael Earle
- 8. Nicholas Chitty
- 9. Rebecca Hicks
- 10. Harriet Woolley
- 11. Siraj Ahmed
- 12. Archie Clay
- 13. Ben Osborne
- 14. Stefan Gnyla
- 15. Nick Empson



Travel and Trips

Boys' Summer Sports Tour – South Africa

A tour party of 32 senior rugby players and 5 staff recently completed a successful 17-day tour of South Africa, playing 10 matches, winning 7 and losing 3. The areas visited were Johannesburg, Cape Town and Pretoria. Whilst on tour the boys gained valuable memories with day trips to Robben Island, Table Mountain, Langa Township and numerous safari drives to see the Big Five. Every boy was touched by what they saw and heard; it was an unforgettable experience.

Mr S Thompson



Girls' Summer Sports Tour – Singapore and Malaysia

On the last day of term, twenty-five girls and three staff left Solihull at 5am for our flight to Singapore from Heathrow Airport. Eighteen hours later, we arrived in sunny Singapore- a little jaded, but ready for the adventures ahead. In Singapore, we played the first of our five matches in scorching conditions. We also had a trip to the Botanical Gardens, Little India, Merlion Park and Universal Studios. After four busy days, we had a long coach journey, through the border, and into Malaysia. The girls spent a challenging, but worthwhile, night in a local village homestay. They participated in activities such as rattan basket-weaving and they learnt to tap a rubber tree. Whilst in Malaysia, the girls were also fortunate enough to visit an Orang-utan sanctuary, bathe baby elephants and taste the delicacies of the local food in Kuala Lumpur. The final three nights of the tour were spent in the beach town of Penang- this provided the chance for some much needed relaxation on the beach after a hectic schedule. In total, our hockey team won four and drew one of their five matches. The girls had the fantastic experience of playing in some local stadiums and adjusted well to the soaring temperatures. Our netball team won two, drew one and lost two of their five matches and made great progress throughout the tour. Our end of tour awards dinner was a chance for us to share some highlights and appreciate what an amazing experience the last thirteen nights had been.



Miss D Wilcox



Paris Trip

During the October half term, forty Shell and Fourth Formers took part in the annual French Department trip to Paris. This year, we had an action-packed itinerary consisting of the Eiffel Tower, a Seine river boat cruise, shopping on the Champs-Élysées and at Montmartre, a trip to the Stade de France, a visit to the Catacombs and a day trip to Disneyland. It was a fantastic experience for all the pupils, who had a real taste of life in the French capital. The 'not-so-French' day trip to Eurodisney was probably the biggest hit for the pupils. All the pupils got back in one piece, absolutely exhausted, but buzzing with exciting stories to tell – mission accomplie!

Mr A Dowsett



Château de la Baudonnière

At 3:30am on 12 February, 39 pupils set off on a 15-hour journey to Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy, France. It was a French immersion trip which meant we had French lessons every day! However it also meant that we got to go to Mont St Michel and a French market. We even visited a French Carrefour! Some of the activities included bread-making, climbing, archery and aeroball but indisputably the best was the assault course involving wriggling through a tube that was three-quarters submerged in murky water, sliding on your stomach through commando nets and being hosed down with freezing cold water to get the mud off us afterwards. The evening activities included a French night where we tasted snails, a treasure hunt around the Château and bowling. On the last night, we enjoyed a talent contest. It was a great week and everyone had lots of fun. We would like to thank the teachers for using their half-term to come with us. Secretly, we think they rather enjoyed running around after us!

Katy Thomas and Chloe Mander, Third Form





Normandy Choir Tour 2016

On the final day of the summer term, a group of nearly thirty choristers and staff set sail to Normandy for a week of singing in some of the region's most prestigious venues. We started our visit by singing at a wedding in Coutances Cathedral, which was a particular challenge for us all as we had no music and had to sing some of the pieces in French! We all rose to the challenge, especially in the gospel hymn 'Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul', with the clapping section, which the tenors especially enjoyed. We then continued to Millières Church set in a small, rural Normandy village, where we performed an intimate concert. This was met with a fantastic response from the audience, many of whom became avid supporters at our concerts throughout the rest of our stay. We then enjoyed a wonderful meal generously paid for by Old Sil Alan Francis and his wife during which we were entertained by some of the local children playing guitars.

The following day was again very busy, with a mass in the morning at Coutances Cathedral, and a concert in the evening at the incredible Lessay Abbey. This was a particularly exciting moment for Mr Walker, not least because he had had a picture of Lessay's organ on his childhood bedroom wall! Once again, the audience was very complimentary about our performance, with many coming to congratulate us afterwards, and even buying our CDs!



After two days of singing we were in need of a day off. So, on the Monday we visited the historic Mont-Saint-Michel, which was such a memorable experience. This was followed by a wonderful barbeque at the home of Alan and Mad Francis, and their dog Harley. Now retired, Alan is a former chorister of the School and an accomplished singer, and we were privileged to have him sing with us throughout our visit. Alan was also key in setting up the whole tour with Mr Walker. Perhaps one of the most memorable moments that evening was Mr Walker falling over whilst chasing Harley, who had just stolen one of his shoes! We then returned to the hotel where we all participated in a quiz set by Mr Phillips, which featured some highly academic rounds such as 'Disney films' and 'The life and times of Mr Oliver Walker'.



We spent our final day immersed in history, visiting Gold Beach, one of the most important sites during the D-Day landings, as well as the American War Cemetery. Both of these sites were very moving. The rows and rows of crosses in the cemetery brought it home to us how much was sacrificed to build the modern world. We then moved on to Bayeux, where we saw the wonderful tapestry before performing our final concert in the packed cathedral. Another highlight for all of us was Mr Hodgkinson's highly informative and enthusiastic guided cathedral tour, which was apparently improvised in some parts! Our concert ended with a standing ovation and, on the return ferry crossing, we rounded off a successful music tour with a song composed by certain members of the choir in tribute to Mr Walker.

On behalf of the choir, I would like to extend our thanks to: Eddie, our driver, for tolerating our singing on the coach and for transporting us safely to every concert; the choirs and clergy from the cathedrals, churches and abbeys for allowing us to use their fantastic venues; Alan and Mad Francis for their generosity during our stay and unceasing support of the choir; and all the members of staff who accompanied us: Mr Kermode, Mr Phillips, Muskan Shrivastava, Katie Williams and Mr Alex Hodgkinson (our organist for the tour), all of whose hard work helped to make the trip unforgettable. Last, but not least, this trip would not have happened without the inspiration of Mr Walker, whose enthusiasm, guidance and kindness have made the Chapel Choir the community it is today. We all wish him the best of luck in his new job at Repton School.

Rebecca Timperley, Upper Sixth



Marie Curie Hospice visit

Lower Fifth Religious Studies pupils visited Marie Curie Hospice in March to learn about the spiritual side of hospice care and how a hospice helps to prepare patients and their families for the end of life whilst helping them live their lives to the full. Pupils received a tour of the hospice and learned about holistic care, encompassing everything from medical intervention to pet therapy and spa treatments. They also received a talk from hospice chaplain Reverend Charlie Radburn about spirituality and ultimate questions that are a central part of life for many people, but especially those facing terminal illness or a difficult time. The pupils responded extremely maturely to the hospice experience and reflected very sensitively on the trip.

Miss L Rutherford





Snowdonia School

The Summer term is a busy one for Snowdonia School, with Shell Form groups occupying the School's Mountain Cottage for most of June and early July. Group 307 had an amazing week in late June, with lots of adventure, fun activities and glorious weather. We canoed on Llyn Padarn, walked up Snowdon, explored slate mines, visited the Dinorwig Power Station and Caernarfon Castle, had fun on the beach, and completed a high ropes course in Llanberis!

Dr P Spratley





American Association for the Advancement of Science 2016

It was early, dark, and cold when the party (17 pupils and 2 staff) assembled at Birmingham Airport ready for the flight to Washington. We arrived at Dulles Airport, after what seemed like forever, in an even colder Washington to be transferred to the hotel. Our first day consisted of a bus tour and a visit to one of the many Smithsonian Museums in the city. That evening we attended the opening ceremony of the AAAS Conference, with the hotly-awaited announcement that gravitational waves had finally been discovered. The next three days saw the party attend whichever lectures/seminars interested each of us. The temperature continued to drop towards a record low of -18OC. A foot of snow on the Monday closed many things including the Capitol, where we were due to have a guided tour. It was good to see that they find snow hard to cope with as well!

By popular demand we had our evening meal together at the Hard Rock Cafe; a strange experience of conveyer belt dining as the ever-growing queue of people were led in, fed and encouraged to leave. On Tuesday we again tried to visit the Capitol, but torrential rain caused us to head for the Library of Congress just to get dry. Finally we got in and joined one of the many production line tours. On Wednesday we unanimously agreed that we wanted to visit the Air and Space Museum – an absolutely fascinating visit for a space nut like myself. In



the afternoon we had a guided tour of the Pentagon – a very surreal experience. You have two guides, one at the front and one at the back. However, they do not take their eyes off you, requiring the leading guide to walk backwards, but without looking once in the direction we were walking. They just know how many steps there are between each turn.

Sadly, the visit was over all too quickly and on the Thursday we had time for some last minute shopping and the return to the airport followed by another long journey home. We all had a fantastic time and I was very pleased to lead a trip with so many mature, intelligent and articulate young people. My thanks go to them for making my life so easy and to Mrs Durkan for her superb support during the trip.

Dr J Troth



Madrid 2016

In February 2016, 23 Upper Fifth, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students spent 3 days in Madrid with Mr P Morgan and Mrs Roman-Blythe. On arriving in Madrid, we went to a small town on the outskirts of the capital, Pinto, where our hotel was. Pinto is also the town where Mrs Roman-Blythe used to live. After checking in, we went to meet some of Mrs Roman-Blythe's teachers and we were introduced to some students from Colegio Mirasur. Our pupils had the chance to practise Spanish whilst taking part in the activities that were organised for us. Before dinner we had the chance to see 'El entierro de la Sardina' (The sardine's burial) which represents the end of the Carnival period and the start of Lent.

On our second day, we had an early start and made our way into Madrid to visit the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Real Madrid's home ground. The students had the chance to see the trophies, learn some history about the club, visit the changing rooms and go down to the pitch. That day, we cooked our own lunch. We attended a cooking lesson in which we prepared traditional dishes such as paella, croquetas, tortilla de patata and almond cake (tarta de Santiago). After lunch, we had the chance to walk around the city and see some of its most beautiful landmarks such as: Puerta del Sol, the Royal Palace, El Mercado de San Miguel and Plaza Mayor. To finish off a really busy day, we had the chance to relax and try some lovely tapas.

On our final day we headed to Colegio Mirasur in Pinto. They made us feel very welcome and prepared a series of activities for our students as well as a lovely breakfast. Our students had the chance to see a Spanish school as well as practise the language. We had lunch in Madrid, right next to Neptune's Square and enjoyed a lovely afternoon visit to El Prado museum. To finish our last day, we went out for a delicious Tapas dinner before packing our bags to head home early the next day.

Mr Morgan and Mrs Roman-Blythe really enjoyed showing the students what Spain's capital has to offer and received extremely positive feedback from the hotel, restaurants and activity leaders.

Mrs P Roman-Blythe





Shell Form Latin Trip to Cirencester

One of the greatest perks of Shell Form Latin (other than the Latin itself) is going on a trip to Cirencester. A town of Celtic origins and Roman developments, Cirencester has much to offer to many a pupil and gave us a full insight into how the Romans truly changed British life (a textbook doesn't tell you everything!). The main centre of operations was the Corinium Museum, but our visit also included the remains of a Roman Amphitheatre and a look at how the Romans helped to plan the town.

A significant section of this trip was to explore, study and appreciate the ancient amphitheatre. After a muddy walk to get there, we found ourselves in the middle of a circle with hills all around, which we found were once towering walls of stone, impossible to grasp with its grandeur lost and worn down by the test of time. We learnt that in Roman times these hills would have been made with lots of stone, making them very impressive to both look at and be inside. There are quarries all around the whole site, from where the Roman builders had dug the stone they used. We set out to find a patch of exposed stone, and this activity made us feel like true archaeologists.

We also went on a town tour of Cirencester to see where some Roman buildings would have been. We saw some stones in the ground which formed a semi-circle shape and marked where a minor part of the Roman basilica stood long ago. As many modern houses obscured the view, we could not grasp the sheer enormity of Roman architecture. Also, we saw the worn-down remains of a wall that would have protected the town from intruders. In addition to this, we were all very eager to touch the remains of a Roman pillar – just think, a Roman would have touched it too, how exciting!

Two fascinating events occurred in the main body of the museum. Firstly, a walk through the artefact show rooms gave us a true understanding of how the Romans changed life in Britain, worshipped their Gods and built buildings like palaces and temples. We saw the column of Jupiter (that's the equivalent of Zeus for all you ancient Greeks out there!)

and the mosaic of Achilles. The many ancient objects gave us an insight into Roman life in Cirencester. After this, we had a teaching session with one of the Museum staff who showed us how the Romans took control with forts, and portrayed how the wealth system worked in ancient Britain. We even got to examine replicas of real Roman items. We held jewellery, brooches, and even a blunt dagger. To end the lecture, four lucky people in our group dressed up as a Roman doctor, a soldier, an important woman, and a slave.

We all found it very interesting and a great bonus to Shell Form Latin. We would like to thank many teachers who helped the trip run so smoothly: Mrs Johnson, Miss Roberts, Mr Garner and Miss Rutherford. Overall, we had a great time!

Isaac Miller, Lauren Raybould and Patrick Meigh, Shell Form

Fourth Form Latin trip to Bath

On Thursday 28 February, those studying Latin in the Fourth Form embarked on a trip to Bath, which we had been studying throughout our course. The trip centred around the ancient Baths themselves, and all activities were based in and around the museum. The morning began with the museum, where we completed a booklet filled with questions relevant to our end of year exam (the background knowledge is based on Bath). The morning museum tour took us around the main hot spring, open to the air, and to some of the objects inside, from Bath and its Roman inhabitants. After a short lunch break, the tour continued, taking us underground to the original Roman Baths. Here we learnt about the temple that was nearby, and also about the Gods and Goddesses worshipped in the temple. We were able to taste filtered Bath water that the Romans considered sacred and to have healing powers. The day was concluded with a teaching session from museum staff, where we looked at Latin inscriptions in and around the Baths, and were able to handle some of the objects recovered from the Bath. A great day was had by all. Thank you to all the staff who made it possible.

Tom Daniels, Fourth Form



Politics Department Trip to Parliament

On Tuesday 13 October the Politics Department braved the horrors of the London rush hour to visit the home of our democracy. Upon arrival we made our way to Parliament Square where we recorded our visit for posterity. We then visited Downing Street before breaking for lunch – the staff dined on the Terrace of the House of Commons, the students in McDonalds! Following a tour of the House during which we saw Michael Gove speaking in the Chamber of the House of Commons, we had an entertaining workshop about the impact of different electoral systems.

Mr G Affleck

Bosworth Battlefield

On Monday 14 September the History Department took 48 eager Lower Sixth students to Bosworth Battlefield to see for themselves where Henry Tudor defeated Richard III and began the Tudor dynasty. A tour of the battlefield gave a good insight into the impact of the landscape on the outcome of the battle, and the visitor centre put the battle into context (and offered the opportunity for a bit of dressing up!). An excellent start to the A-Level course!

Mr G Affleck



Lessons from Auschwitz

We recently participated in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. We attended a seminar designed to prepare us for the trip, where we had the privilege of hearing a Holocaust survivor, Susan Pollack, give a very moving account of her experience. Several weeks later we boarded a plane to Poland for our visit to the camps. After arriving in Kraków we went straight to a Jewish cemetery. What really stood out to us were the small symbols on each grave. We learnt that the symbols represented that person's occupation. For example, a harp showed that they were a musician. The Holocaust dehumanised millions of people, so these symbols stood out to us because they did the opposite, they represented the lives these people lived, and not just the tragedy of their deaths. We then made our way to the camps.

Auschwitz 1 is the early section of the camp. The buildings are brick-built and the horizon is blocked by perimeter fencing and barriers. Walking beneath the 'arbeit macht frei' sign, you feel enclosed. Within the buildings, images of prisoners hang on the wall. The number of photographs did not even come close to showing the vast numbers of people who suffered there. We found the individual exhibits of personal belongings particularly affecting. The collections of shoes, suitcases and spectacles reminded us that everyone who suffered at Auschwitz had a personal story. Visiting a gas chamber was particularly harrowing. Walking through the empty room you feel a sense of dread and fear. The extent of the evil inflicted at Auschwitz is beyond comprehension.

We then followed our guide over to Auschwitz II, or Birkenau. It is here that the true extent of the atrocities committed by the Nazis begins to become apparent. It extends as far as the eye can see, with row upon row of huts, which served as grossly inadequate and overcrowded living quarters. We saw the familiar entrance building, so often depicted in film and television, but to see it with your own eyes is a different experience entirely. At Birkenau, the neat rows of huts mean that the sickening efficiency of the horror is evident.

We ended the day at Auschwitz II with a remembrance service led by a Rabbi. There were prayer and poetry readings which encouraged us to reflect. He played music from Schindler's List whilst giving an incredibly powerful speech. He wanted to truly open our eyes to the fact that although we had visited the Auschwitz site we hadn't truly been in Auschwitz; we came in 2016, not when it was a concentration camp with the aim of slaughtering innocent people. It was one of the most sobering moments of the whole experience. We all came back with the realisation that individual actions can influence a global future, and that it is up to our generation to ensure that we practise love and tolerance in all things. We now begin to consider how we can share what we have learned.

Megan Lloyd, Megan Perry, Lydia Jones-Brown and Joe Gilyead



National Holocaust Centre

As part of their module on Evil, Suffering and God in GCSE Religious Studies, Upper Fifth pupils visited the National Holocaust Centre in late September. They toured the memorial gardens where hundreds of white roses are planted to remember victims of the Holocaust and laid stones at the children's memorial. The museum guided pupils through the history of anti-Semitism in Europe and used artefacts and survivor testimonies to show how the Holocaust unfolded. However, the most powerful moment of the day was meeting survivor Martin Stern, who as a five-year-old was taken from school by the SS and taken to Westerbork and Theresienstadt camps, where he only survived due to the kindness of strangers who risked their lives to feed him and his baby sister. The visit had a visible impact on the pupils and they did some incredibly mature and thoughtful reflective work afterwards.

Miss L Rutherford



New Hampshire and New York Ski Trip

Thirty-seven pupils from the Lower Fifth to Upper Sixth ventured across the pond to enjoy five days of skiing in New Hampshire during February half-term. With temperatures ranging from -20c to +7, we experienced every kind of weather, and all the pupils skied really well despite some very challenging conditions, honing their skills thanks to great instruction from the American coaches. Before heading home we had an action-packed stop in New York, staying overnight just off Times Square and taking in many of the best known sights of the Big Apple. With plenty of shopping opportunities and some great food throughout the week, the pupils really did get a taste of American life, as well as having a great time on the slopes. With impeccable behaviour and great camaraderie throughout, they were all excellent ambassadors for their School.

Ms E Campbell



Sailing at Itchenor Schools' Week – RS Fevas – June 2016

The sun shone that weekend in so many ways. We'd been to Itchenor Schools' Week, a 3-day long regatta for school sailing teams to compete in.

We formed the sailing team back in September just as the summer began to fade and we were full of hope and optimism for the year ahead. We held a meeting for interested sailors one Tuesday afternoon and the weeks of training followed. Week after week in rain, snow, ice they came. Never once complaining and always full of smiles. Maybe the biscuits and squash helped. Who knows? But by the time we hit the regatta, they had firmly formed a team.

But so had we. As I boarded the school minibus to travel to Itchenor and climbed in the back, I smiled to myself for we also had Mrs Skan, Rob, Deb, Ian, Rich and Mr Reardon. What a back-up team! We were putting out 2 boats with 4 sailors, yet we travelled as a team of 13. Each and every one of us had a role to play. From coaching, launching, rib driving, feeding, tying knots, taping, you name it, we had it covered.

We had hired boats, but had never had expected to receive brand spanking new boats. Their faces lit up as they unwrapped the boat and stuck the sail numbers and sponsors' stickers on. We launched them for the practice race and followed in the rib. It was blowing quite hard, we all felt a little sick, were they capable in these winds? They'd had very little practice in their correct pairings and almost none in the Fevas. Had we done the right thing? As it was an official school trip, we brought Mr Reardon, an extremely experienced master and school tripper. What on earth would he think?

We trailed the boats to the start line, 54 in total. 5 metres from the launch we spotted both boats in trouble on a safety pontoon: both of their brand new kickers had snapped. All of our hearts sunk a little. As ever, the safety team were right on them, fixed the kickers and released them. They surpassed all of our expectations that afternoon knocking out a 10th and a



23rd. We were jubilant as we came in. We could do it and we had every right to be there. The real racing was due to start the next day and an influx of another 50 boats straight from the Inland Nationals began to make it feel very real with 103 boats in total. We sat in the bar that evening, full of optimism.

The next two days they raced hard. We watched and counted them round the windward mark, held our breath as they launched the spinnakers and flew down the downwind leg. Between races they came alongside, we fed them, buoyed them on. In-between we laughed, joked, ate jelly babies and shared stories.

We came off the water salty, tired and changed, maybe for the better. We were exceptionally proud of the kids; they had achieved more than we had ever anticipated. Toby saved the day admirably leaping into another school's boat allowing them to sail. In the final placings we had one boat in the top half and the other not far behind and a final race 21st for George and Pru. I don't think we've ever cheered quite so hard.

We've vowed to come back next year, with more kids but maybe fewer jelly babies. It's been a blast. Thank you Itchenor; thank you team.

Mrs J Sunderland





Woodlands Adventure!

On 10 September, the first Thursday back at school, the Third Form – dressed in their pristine Terriers uniforms – embarked upon a trip to Woodlands Camp near Aldridge. After a short coach journey, we split into our respective house groups in order to participate in a number of activities. These included orienteering, archery, assault courses, zip wires, canoeing and walking 'The Wobbly Planks' suspended 1.5 metres above deep water without a harness! The aims of the day were to make new friends and to have a good laugh settling into life at Solihull. It's safe to say that both of these objectives were fully achieved.

Katy Thomas, Third Form



Third Form Geography Fieldwork – Cannock Chase

Yet another day of dreary June weather was not enough to dampen the exuberance of the Third Form in their approach to Activities Day at Cannock Chase. The aim of the day was to use fieldwork equipment to measure and record stream and valley characteristics, entering the data directly onto tablets in the field, thus pioneering our first paperless fieldwork. Pupils also used various apps such as Skitch to draw and annotate field sketches from photographs they had taken, and decibel and clinometer apps to record sound levels and measure slope profiles. Two other exciting activities were built into the day: Go Ape ropes course, and orienteering at the forest centre to practise skills learned during the year in Terriers.

Whilst splashing about in the stream chasing the not-so-technical dog biscuits used as floats to measure stream velocity, one pupil was overheard to declare 'This would be great to do in the holidays!'. The day was a resounding success, with pupils enjoying the outdoors and having a fantastic fun day whilst learning some practical geography skills at the same time.

Mrs A Roll



Teams of the Week 2015/16

| | |
|---|--|
| U15 Girls' Hockey Team | <i>Excellent performance & victory against Bablake School</i> |
| Chamber Choir | <i>Fantastic first performance of the new School Song: Perseverantia, Our Spirit</i> |
| Golf Squad | <i>Excellent victory versus Warwick School in the HMC Foursomes</i> |
| Clay Pigeon Shooting Team | <i>Superb performance at the Heart of England Young Shooters Championships</i> |
| U12 Netball Team | <i>Tremendous performance and victory against Bromsgrove School</i> |
| Fencing Team | <i>Winners of the Warrior Challenge Trophy</i> |
| German Magazine Editors | <i>A marvellous 5th edition of 'Das Alles ist Deutschland'</i> |
| Boys' U15B Hockey Team | <i>Excellent victory versus Warwick School</i> |
| CCF Guard of Honour | <i>Wonderful performance in the Wreath Laying Ceremony 2015</i> |
| London Stock Market Team Challenge: | <i>Excellent performance in the National IFS Student Investor ranked 17th out of 7000 teams competing.</i> |
| U12 Netball Team | <i>Superb performance in reaching the last 16 of the National Cup</i> |
| Cast and Crew of His Dark Materials | <i>3 nights of fantastic drama in the Bushell Hall</i> |
| Chapel Choir | <i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i> |
| U15 XV Rugby Team | <i>Excellent performance versus Bishop Vesey's Grammar School</i> |
| U13 Girls' Hockey Team | <i>Superb performance and victory against King Henry VIII School</i> |
| Lower Sixth Spanish Team | <i>Tremendous help provided to the Junior School Open Afternoon</i> |
| Senior Golf Team | <i>Excellent victory over Ellesmere College to reach the ISGA Matchplay Finals</i> |
| Debating Team | <i>Fantastic performance in the Nottingham Debate</i> |
| 1st XI Boys' Hockey Team | <i>Excellent performance and victory against King Edward's School, Birmingham in the National Cup</i> |
| AAAS Scientists | <i>Outstanding contribution to an excellent trip</i> |
| Fetherston Charity Team | <i>An excellent tuck shop 'take-over' in aid of LAFF & Azul Wasi Orphanage</i> |
| U12 7s Rugby Squad | <i>Fantastic series of 7s Tournament victories</i> |
| European Youth Parliament Team | <i>Outstanding victory in the West Midlands Championships</i> |
| CSLA Team | <i>Excellent organisation of Lower School sports event</i> |
| Cast and Crew of Carousel | <i>Five fabulous nights of drama and music</i> |
| School Golf Team | <i>Excellent victory v Old Silhillians G.S.</i> |
| Sixth Form Spanish Team | <i>Assisting Spanish Exchange students on a treasure hunt & tour of Birmingham</i> |
| Fourth Form DofE Bronze Team | <i>Great resilience and determination shown on a very challenging expedition to Snowdonia</i> |
| Lower Fifth Queen's Birthday Party Team | <i>Excellent ambassadors for the School</i> |
| Athletics Team | <i>Superb victory in the Norman Green event</i> |
| Young Enterprise Team 'Echo' | <i>Winners of the 'Best Customer Service' Award in the Birmingham Area Young Enterprise Competition</i> |
| Lower Fifth DofE Bronze Team | <i>Excellent performance from all Bronze candidates in the Peak District</i> |
| U13 Cricket Team | <i>Winners of the Solihull Six-a-side Competition</i> |
| Sailing Team | <i>Fantastic performance in the OMSC fixture</i> |
| Benchers 2015-2016 | <i>A fantastic team effort for 2015-2016</i> |
| LAFF Dance Team | <i>Excellent performance and fundraising</i> |
| U13 Cricket Team | <i>National Champions</i> |
| U15 Cricket Team | <i>National Finalists</i> |



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