



Solihull School

Shenstonian

2012/2013



40 years of girls at Solihull School

Teaching Staff 2012/2013

1970	
1971	N A Cluley
1972	
1973	
1974	
1975	
1976	
1977	
1978	
1979	M A Barrett
1980	
1981	J J Nickson
1982	
1983	P D Brattle
1984	P J Irving
1985	J Troth
1986	
1987	L A Benge
1988	L M Fair
1989	
1990	M J Covill
1991	D Reardon; S J Perrins; S A Morgan
1992	
1993	
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner
1995	D H Wild
1996	
1997	A C Hutchinson; L J Brough
1998	C Steele; U Mynette; A M Vaughan
1999	P J Davies; P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart; E Cassano
2000	
2001	J S Brown; P G Gunning; R R Hadley-Leonard; M Worrall; E R Hurst

2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer
2003	M Smith; P J Higley; H E Pike; T J Bryan; K A Powell; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson; C Greswold; V Taylor
2004	A Bussey; D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther; S J Phillips (Nov)
2005	S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; N Cheetham; G Cureton
2006	A Jones; P G May; J Wilde; D W Jenkinson; J J Grandrieux; D L Trim (Jan)
2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson
2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb
2009	D L Hemp (Jan); H M Smith; D R Harford
2010	D E J J Lloyd; O M Walker; L C Wolsey; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips; H J Walsh
2011	H C Johnson (Jan); S T Baddeley; C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Ford; E J Hadley; M Partridge; K R Sykes
2012	L J Rutherford; B Sandford-Smith; R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; L M Harper; E J Johnson; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; C W Thomas; L M Thomas; D Wilcox

Contents

Headmaster's Report & Heads of School	Page 2
Development and Alumni Relations	Page 6
University and College Entries 2012	Page 10
Valetes	Page 12
Junior School Art	Page 18
The Junior School	Page 20
Third Form and Shell Form Art	Page 34
School Chapel	Page 36
Fourth Form and Lower Fifth Art	Page 40
Music	Page 42
Upper Fifth Art	Page 48
Performing Arts	Page 50
Lower Sixth Art	Page 56
Societies, Visitors and Academic Success	Page 58
Lower Sixth Photography	Page 76
Languages and Cultural Exchanges	Page 78
Upper Sixth Art	Page 86
Sport	Page 88
Upper Sixth Photography	Page 112
Travel and Trips	Page 114
Teams of the Week	Page 132



Headmaster's Report

In last year's *Shenstonian*, I made reference to the ever-shifting education landscape and 12 months on it is fair to say that schools are still grappling with change at a national level. Modularity at GCSE has gone; pupils are now embarking on linear courses akin to those many parents themselves will have followed, and a return to linearity at A-Level is not far behind. As Headmaster and parent, what does cause me some concern with change of this nature is consistency of public examination marking and the inherent difficulties for universities or employers when selecting candidates who have gone through quite different regimes, sometimes only one year apart. However, you may say that this is not a departure from the past, given that education is permanently on the Cabinet agenda and subject to fervent political debate - you would be correct in this assertion. I still remember my own childhood when O Levels and CSEs were replaced by GCSEs; how time flies! Also under discussion is the future of AS-Levels taken at the end of the Lower Sixth. There are calls for their end, although many universities, notably Cambridge, have come to their defence as very important for making conditional offers to school leavers. IGCSEs have been popular with independent schools for several years and increasingly are being offered in the maintained sector too. The rhetoric around IGCSEs emphasises their international recognition, rigour (and foundation for A-Level study), lack of controlled assessment and linear nature, the latter now being a feature of GCSEs too. Be reassured that curriculum evolution dominates our thinking and, if nothing else, the stream of edicts coming down from the Coalition Government certainly keeps us on our toes.

Against this ever-changing backdrop Solihull School continues to provide stability for over 1000 pupils and their families. Our results go from strength to strength and amidst gloomy national reporting we have achieved some of our best ever results. At GCSE, we achieved a record-busting 77% A* - A grade, beating our previous best by 5%. 10 pupils achieved 10 or more A* grades, 25 pupils achieved 8 or more A* grades and 38 pupils achieved 10 or more A* - A grades. We are delighted with these results, particularly given that this is the first year of the higher entry threshold for our Sixth Form. For many years we have stipulated 6 B grades at GCSE, but from now on pupils must achieve two A grades and 4 B grades, including B grades in English and Maths. Joining Solihull School remains a privilege and the gulf between GCSE and A-Level study is such that pupils must embark upon Sixth Form life with the strongest possible foundation. Complacency is never an option and there is no such thing as standing still, only moving forwards or backwards. The Midlands is awash with excellent schools for parents and pupils to choose at age 7, 11 and 16, and school improvement is a permanent priority agenda item. I did write to you at the end of last term thanking you for your feedback in the parental surveys. At the risk of repeating myself, the response rate was significantly above the national average and it was wonderful to receive so much positive feedback. However, none of us are perfect and the process of discussing and addressing issues raised started in earnest at the beginning of this term during whole school in-service training. There are many things that make Solihull School special and one of several changes last year was the appointment of Hannah Fair (née Smith) as Transition Manager. This was a new role, designed to help new pupils and their parents settle in and make the most of their time at Solihull. Hannah has not only achieved this, but is forging strong relationships with many of our feeder schools.

At A-Level, we achieved 83% A* - B grade and matched our best ever performance at A* - A grade with 58%, putting us firmly in the top 100 independent schools nationally according to *The Daily Telegraph*. 52 pupils achieved 3 or more A* - A grades and 11 pupils are going to Oxford or Cambridge, with 3 going to Oxford to read Medicine. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating pupils and staff for their hard work and dedication. Regardless of role, all staff are demonstrably committed to providing Solihull School pupils with the best foundation upon which to build successful and happy adult lives.

At the end of last term we said farewell to a number of staff. Sam Baddeley (Classics and Windsor, 1998-2005) and Lydia Wolsey (Design Technology) left us after relatively short spells, with Sam winning a prestigious scholarship at Oxford University, researching New Testament Greek and Hebrew, and Lydia setting up her own jewellery-making business. Eric Hadley (Languages), Jacques Grandrieux (Languages), Lindsay Brough (Junior School), Paul Brattle (Biology) and Niall Cluley (Careers) all retired and have notched up an impressive 104 years service between them! If Niall wins the gold medal for 42 years, silver goes to Paul for 30 years and bronze to Lindsay for 23 years.

Lindsay first welcomed girls to the School in 2005, laying the foundations for the successful transition to coeducation at Solihull and under her leadership the Junior School has grown in size from 143 to its current 209 pupils. Congratulations go to Mark Penney, formerly Deputy Head of the Junior School, on his appointment as Lindsay's successor.

Paul has worked tirelessly in the Biology and Sports departments for three decades, and more recently established and ran our very successful Medics Programme. This is the envy of many schools, identifying aspiring medics and helping them to prepare thoroughly and successfully for Medicine,

Veterinary Science or Dentistry at university. Paul is with us this year on a part-time basis to coach and induct a new Medics Coordinator and maintain momentum in this important part of school life.

The Rev Canon Niall Cluley joined in 1971 as a teacher of Economics and has also been Housemaster of Pole House, 1st XV rugby coach, a prolific writer for the rock music press and latterly, Head of Careers. Moreover, he remains a Magistrate and a member of the Renewal Christian Centre, recently celebrating his Doctorate as a Biblical Scholar. Niall has given his working life to Solihull School and service of this kind is an example to us all.

Sir Alex Ferguson once said of Manchester United: 'It is important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done so'. Well, the same and more can be said of Solihull School and its leavers. Thank you and bon voyage to all!

I don't think members of the Old Silhillians' Association would attack me for stating that the relationship between the School and OSA is currently purposeful and exciting. The OSA office in the Leonard Stevens Building (formerly the Old Music School) is increasingly busy and our first ever Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Alison Bond, is 9 months into the job. All leavers now become automatic life members of the Association and Alison is successfully establishing university, regional, international and occupational alumni groups with more and more pupils benefitting from work experience offered by former pupils. We are very grateful to our alumni for enriching the pupil experience and the message we are increasingly emphasising is that when pupils join the Solihull School community they are making a lifetime decision, with a seamless transition at 18 from Silhillian to 'Old Silhillian'. When we appoint our new Careers Advisor, the brief will be to provide careers guidance across the whole School, beginning



in the Junior School, and to support alumni through university and on to the first rung of the workplace ladder.

In addition to parental and pupil surveys, I recently asked staff, pupils and alumni to consider what they think makes Solihull School special. The aim was to encapsulate who we are and where we are heading and the feedback was very helpful. Without trying to sound glib or following the latest corporate trend, I wanted a few words to sum us up when asked what we are all about. Well, it wasn't hard to agree that those words should be AMBITION, OPPORTUNITY and COMMUNITY, each one underpinned by our school motto PERSEVERANTIA. So, if you hear me using these words in future, you will appreciate their derivation and place in Solihull School language. Allow me to elucidate (a little).

Pupils and staff should be reflective and ambitious, acknowledging areas for improvement and aspiring to be the best they can, whether hitting hockey balls, singing on stage, teaching History or sitting in the examination hall. In addition, the breadth of opportunity here at Solihull is unrivalled and pupils and staff are encouraged to take full advantage of our rich and varied co-curricular programme. Professional development of staff is also a high priority and we aim to produce school leaders, catering managers, school accountants and many more who go on to bigger and better things, here or in other institutions. Good schools should help all staff to fulfil their potential, even if it means losing them to other schools (as long as they are not too close!). And finally, this is a community, a life-long community, in many cases beginning at age 7 and through into retirement. Pupils, staff, parents and governors, whether past or present, should enjoy a sense of belonging and are always welcome.

The new Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has gone on record suggesting that due to prolonged recession, UK interest rates are unlikely to increase until 2016. This economic austerity has adversely impacted upon the independent school sector, but I am delighted to inform you that numbers here remain strong and firmly over 1000. I told you last year that the Junior School broke through the 200 barrier; well we are now running waiting lists in several year groups across the School. Clearly, this is disappointing for some families but we are constrained by external regulations, facilities and, of course, pedagogy.

In terms of infrastructure, we have just received planning permission to build our new Sixth Form Centre and this summer we have invested in more changing room facilities and Wi-Fi connectivity across the site. The Sixth Form Centre is scheduled to open in September 2015 and we 'break ground' next summer holiday. Looking to the future, we are constantly debating future builds and both Sport and Science are making strong claims for pole position. Watch this space.

As well as benefitting from a hugely supportive and active alumni association, we are also fortunate to have a very committed Parents' Association and last year the annual calendar of PA events raised nearly £30,000 for new school equipment, ranging from telescopes to fishing rods, all of which enhance the curricular and co-curricular experience for our pupils. In addition, both the OSA and PA are on hand to provide scholarships and bursaries, which allow some families to access the School and all it has to offer. It is vitally important that Solihull School is an integral part of the wider community and not just appended to the Town. Events such as 'Solihull Sings' and a range of collaborative initiatives with local schools and colleges are high on our agenda and

important for sharing best practice, attracting talented pupils and fulfilling our moral and charitable objectives.

Staffing plans include the appointment of a new Careers Advisor, as stated above, and we are looking for someone equally adept at guiding Sixth Formers through the UCAS process as introducing different careers and occupations to our Juniors. You may be aware that we did recently fill this role but for reasons that are uncontroversial we are once again looking for the right person.

We have also invited Sally Walton back to the sports coaching staff this year, and she will continue to coach hockey throughout the School. Sally has recently returned from England duty in Europe and looks set to be an integral member of the Commonwealth Games team next summer. As Sally will be busy juggling coaching and training, we have also added Will Murray to the hockey coaching team. Will is coaching a number of local clubs and universities and is also on the staff for England Hockey.

Staying with sports news, I must inform you that our cricket professional and coach, David Hemp, is leaving us at the end of this term. The Hemp family are packing up and heading for a new life in Melbourne, Australia. This is great news for David, Angie and their family but a huge loss to us. However, I am delighted to inform you that we have recently appointed Darren Maddy of Warwickshire (formerly Leicestershire) and England, to carry on the marvellous progress made by David and his team of coaches. Darren has very recently retired from county cricket and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him and his family to the Solihull School community.

The School has embraced social networking as an increasingly important communication channel and the numbers following us on Twitter and Facebook continue to increase. Both are accessible through our website, which now includes a virtual tour of the School campus and a new section devoted to alumni relations. The VLE (virtual learning environment), which is tantamount to a 'virtual rucksack', continues to gain momentum and staff and pupils are increasingly engaging with learning through the internet. For our governors, a facility similar to the Parent Portal will also go live very soon.

Turning to all matters co-curricular it has been another action-packed year. However, I will not duplicate the information about our co-curricular successes provided in the Greyhound, website and other parts of the Shenstonian, but would like to thank the staff for their commitment and energy and congratulate the pupils on their continued success. If I were pressed on my favourite this year, it would have to be The Phantom of the Opera. The singing, acting, costume, set and professionalism of all involved were fabulous. Coincidentally, the 'real professionals' were concurrently performing The Phantom at The Hippodrome in Birmingham and a number of them came to watch our pupils performing, claiming that whilst theirs was better (obviously), it was only marginally better. Even if they were being a little generous, all 5 nights were super and a great advert for the performing arts at Solihull School.

To give you a flavour of how varied life is here, we need only look at this summer's trips and this is not untypical of most years. As well as annual CCF and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Gold and Silver camps, and pre-season sports training and festivals, our boys and girls travelled the globe, ranching in Colorado, trekking in Cambodia, playing cricket in Barbados, enjoying water sports in South West France and fishing here in the UK. Clearly, success is not just

measured in A*s and As and this year nearly 30 pupils travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

I am more proud than ever before of the herculean achievements of all involved with the School and look forward to celebrating many of these successes and new ones at Speeches and beyond. Keep up the good work and have a super 2013-14 year.

Finally, and unexpectedly, I finish on the very sad news of the recent death of Michael Maxted, who was Bursar here from 1981-1996. Michael was a great friend of Alan Lee (Headmaster) and George Hill (Governor) and was instrumental in the strengthening the School's financial position, from which we still benefit considerably today. He died peacefully, aged 81, and leaves his wife Annette who lives in Penryn, Cornwall. Our thoughts go out to Annette and the family at this sad time.

Heads of School

The Heads of School for the 2012-2013 academic year were Sanika Karandikar and Ross Edwards, and their deputies were Joe Watson and Sophie Tillman.



Development and Alumni relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life

The Development and Alumni Relations Office was established in January 2013 to advance the strategic vision and long-term ambitions of the School. The office, led by the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Alison Bond, is responsible for developing external relations and partnerships to enable Solihull to meet its long-term aspirations as a centre of excellence in the region and to strengthen its relationships with former pupils, current and past parents and other supporters of the School. The office works closely with the Old Silhillians' Association in managing the alumni relations programme and enhancing the pupil experience at Solihull by encouraging successful alumni to continue to engage with the School.



Former pupils of Solihull go on to achieve great things, both in their professional and personal lives. They create and transform businesses and lives, leading and contributing to our global society.

The Solihull School Alumni network seeks to enrich the professional and personal life of former pupils, as they go through University education, into their first job and beyond, into later life.



Girls' Reunion - 40 years of girls at Solihull

Former female pupils living as far away as Australia, Canada and the USA were reunited at a gala event to celebrate 40 years of co-education at the School on 22 June 2013. The memorable day included tours of the School's arts, teaching and sports facilities as well as the new Denis Tomlin Archive Room.

Guests, including current and former teachers, also enjoyed a strawberry tea in the School refectory where they were able to exchange memories and listen to performances by Solihull Junior School's Girls' Choir and flute ensemble, as well as the School's string quartet.



The celebrations continued into the evening at the Old Silhillians' Clubhouse, where former girls and boys enjoyed a gourmet buffet and entertainment from Solihull School's jazz band Saxophony and rock and roll band Freehold.

Julia Skan of the OSA said: 'The event was a tremendous success and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with old friends, reminisce and strengthen their links with each other and the School'. She added: 'I hope this will lead to even more girls attending events arranged for former pupils'.

Former Choristers' Association Day 2013

Many of us will treasure the memory of the first Former Choristers' Association day, back in November 2012. (See a full report in the Chapel section). On 24 November 2013 we will be holding our second Former Choristers' Association event at Solihull School, featuring a 'Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem' with the School Chapel Choirs, organ and chamber orchestra. The day, led by Oliver Walker, will run from 12.30 – 8.00pm and will include a buffet lunch, piano rehearsal, full rehearsal with choir and orchestra and a concert in the School Chapel.

International Ambassadors

The School and the Old Silhillians' Association have appointed a number of International Ambassadors to help us to maintain a close relationship with former pupils living, working or studying overseas and to help them foster relationships with other former pupils in their area. We also wish to support current and former pupils interested in living, working, studying or doing business overseas in the future. Our International Alumni Ambassadors are at the heart of this work.

Solihull International Alumni Ambassadors, based in Australasia, America, Asia, Africa and Europe, offer an informal contact point for present and former pupils considering moving to the country for personal or work reasons, a network of former pupils within the country and help with international careers support.

The School's London Alumni group is also going from strength to strength, thanks to the excellent leadership of Mark Lucas over the past few years. Mark now hands on the baton to a new London Committee and future events will include an Autumn gathering at the Jazz Café, Camden in September, hosted by former pupil and leading jazz musician Andy Dickens.

As well as International Networks, the Development and Alumni Relations Office is establishing Professional Networks in the areas of Law, Medicine, Finance and Engineering, and University Groups at the top ten University destinations for Solihull pupils.



In memory of Eric Peyman

On 15 March 2013, friends and family of Eric Peyman gathered at the School for a tree-planting ceremony in memory of the former Art Master. The tree, which now stands proudly in the Quad, was planted by Eric's son and daughter, Hugh and Michal Peyman.

Afterwards, Hugh said 'My abiding thought is that my father would have been so pleased to see how art has become such a central part of the School, even whilst academic standards are maintained'.

Parents supporting future generations at Solihull

Solihull has a long tradition of academic excellence and takes pride in the talent and diversity of pupils who come to the School. Some come from families who are able to afford school fees whilst others attend the School because of the support of the Silhillian Fund, which, until recently, was funded by the School's endowment.

The School is now actively seeking donations to help increase the level of financial support we can give to future pupils, so that this very special mix of pupils remains a part of Solihull School life.

This year, twenty parents of Upper Sixth pupils have chosen to donate to the Silhillian Fund, as their child leaves the School.



The money donated will be used to support pupils starting at Solihull in September 2013. This will create a powerful connection between past and future generations.

Sam Weighall, Head Boy 2011-12, came to the School on an Assisted Place and says:

'I cannot thank Solihull School enough for giving me the opportunity to attend such a prestigious and outstanding institution. The Silhillian Fund enabled me to join the School, which I thought would never be within my family's reach. Solihull School gave me countless opportunities; playing rugby to the highest of standards, performing in front of hundreds of people in musicals and debating in national competitions'.

Donating to Solihull - meet two of our supporters



Ben Perry

Ben Perry will be helping to fund a Sixth Form pupil over the next two years, through his generous donation to the Silhillian Fund, which has been established to support talented pupils,

who would otherwise not be able to come to the School. Ben was a pupil at Solihull School from 1985-1992, and a one-time editor of the *Shenstonian!* After leaving school, he read law at Merton College, Oxford and subsequently qualified as an English solicitor and New York attorney.

Ben is currently a partner at the law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, where he has worked since 2000 and been a partner since 2008.

Ben said: 'I am very conscious that, without the support that I received at Solihull School, and in particular the encouragement to read Law and apply to Oxford, my career would not have developed in the same way. I am therefore making a donation to the School over the next few years as a way of saying thank you'.

Philip Tallboys

Philip Tallboys was at Solihull School from 1974 to 1985 and went on to read law and to be an academical clerk (choral scholar) at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Philip became a corporate solicitor, initially working for Margaret Mountford of 'The Apprentice' fame, at Herbert Smith in London, and later became a partner.

Thanks to Philip's generous donation, the School has recently commissioned a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, to be called The Solihull Service. The composer is Ben Parry, Director of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the Junior Royal Academy of Music as well as a successful singer, composer and arranger who has worked with The Swingle Singers, Paul McCartney, and London Voices. He worked on the soundtrack of Harry Potter and the Deathly Harrows.

The Solihull Service will have its premiere during Evensong in early 2014, shortly followed by its first London performance in St Paul's Cathedral soon after.

Opening of the Leonard Stevens Building

The Leonard Stevens Building, which now houses the School's valuable Archive Room, was formally unveiled by his son Fred in September 2012.

Leonard Stevens was a friend and supporter of the School, generously funding several prizes for deserving pupils going on to study Engineering, Science, or Geology at university. Headmaster Mr Lloyd said: 'Leonard was an outstanding student at Solihull School and enjoyed an impressive career in the oil industry, rising to Senior Executive Vice-President for Mobil Oil's International Exploration and Production Operations. Until his retirement, he was the only British senior executive in the company's history. The School is privileged to have such a lasting legacy'.

Fred was accompanied on his visit to Solihull School by his cousin and a past pupil Charles Whitehouse and his wife Ann, who live in Bentley Heath. They were welcomed by the Headmaster and retiring Bursar Christopher Warren. Fred was also presented with a specially framed photograph of his father as a member of Solihull School's First XI Hockey team in 1927.

Fred said: 'Father was extremely proud of his background at Solihull School and when he reached a top position with one of America's three leading oil companies he decided it was time to recognize the roots of his success in life. He wanted young people to aspire to a career in science and engineering and for the subjects to be more highly valued. I hope his endowment will continue to encourage budding scientists and engineers'.



University & College Entries 2012

BATH

Emily White Business Administration

BIRMINGHAM

Callum Curtiss Geography
Anant Khanna Chemistry with a
Foreign Language

Usama Rahman Medicine
Adam Smith Law

BIRMINGHAM CITY COLLEGE

Caitlin Hillman Early Childhood Education
Studies

BOURNEVILLE COLLEGE

Kate Bradley Art & Design
Madison Robinson Textiles

BRISTOL

Alex Blake Mechanical Engineering
Sam Griesbach Geography
Samuel Griffiths Chemistry
Jack Kalewski Economics
Oliver Towers Mathematics
Nicholas Wall Mathematics

CARDIFF

Katherine Busz Journalism, Media & Cultural
Studies

Katie Clarke Mathematics
Jack Hobbs Economics & Finance
Hannah Jesani Medicine
Lara Jesani Medicine
Keshan Pillay Dentistry
Charles Poole Civil & Environmental
Engineering

Maxwell Rodman Marketing Management
Amelia Whittaker Genetics

CITY UNIVERSITY, LONDON

Joseph Bitter Management

DERBY

Sean Cordelle Primary Education

DURHAM

Polly Bewick History
Matthew Davis History
John Gilbert Modern Languages
Mark Goodwin Psychology
Alastair Lowson History

EXETER

Georgina Amabel Buck English
Daniel Wilkes Politics & Geography

FALMOUTH

Kara Abdou Fashion Photography

HUDDERSFIELD

Abigail Hinton Extended Science
James Hyde Business Management
Samuel Jones Business Studies

HULL

Jessica Berry Music

KEELE

Elliot Davis Computer Science & Maths

LEEDS

Angus Archer Human Geography
James Arney Law
Stephanie Biddle Psychology
Miles Davis Philosophy, Psychology &
Scientific Thought
Geography
Alex Deol International History & Politics
Jennifer Hawkins Sport & Exercise Sciences
Kathryn McIntosh Chemistry (2013 entry)
Isobel McKenzie Civil and Structural
George Morgan Engineering
Lucy Nightingale Graphic & Communication
Design
Rhys Ponsonby Economics
Eleanor Rowe Psychology
Gavin Waddell Economics & Management

LIVERPOOL

Rio Bird English (2013 entry)
Louis Eyles Mechanical Engineering

LONDON

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Rachel Sleet Physics
Helen-Cara Younan Medicine

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE LONDON

Ella Hamilton English

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Claire Christopher Geography
James Kelly Geography

LOUGHBOROUGH

James Buckle Management Sciences
Tatiana Cardoso Management & Business
Studies
Nathan Marcus Management Services
(2013 entry)
Lauren McHale Information Management &
Business Studies
Geography
Anna McNeillie Sociology Psychology
Lauren Pindar International Relations
Matthew Prowse Art Foundation
Sophie Redford

MANCHESTER

Sam Bond Biology
Luke Frankham Physics
Matthew Meredith Engineering
Michael Mullan Physics with Astrophysics
Shanath Ramachandran Medicine
Thomas Starkey Geography
Samneet Takhar Biomedical Sciences

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Alice Hagyard English Literature & Language
Nicholas Morris Art/Bus St/Maths

NORTHAMPTON

Francesca Owens Sociology

NOTTINGHAM

Elizabeth Adcock Ancient History &
Archaeology
Matthew Blenkinsop Law with German &
German Law
Simran Branch Physics & Astronomy
Niel Dey Chemical Engineering
Frankie Levey Architecture
Hannah Newby Art History
Chloe Stewart-Robinson Healthcare Services
Jamie Wallis Medicine

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Oliver Blundell Business Management &
Marketing
Daniel Chamberlain Economics
Jarleth Eaton Broadcast Journalism
Amy Lange Business Management &
Marketing
Jack Murphy Business Management &
Entrepreneurship
Luke Tapper Business Management &
Entrepreneurship
Rhiannon Thomas Primary Education
Timothy Trace Business Management &
Marketing
Callum Walker Coaching & Sport Science
James Whitfield Business Management &
Entrepreneurship

OXFORD

EXETER COLLEGE

Asfandyar Quereshi Philosophy, Politics &
Economics

KEBLE COLLEGE

Andrew Pursley Human Sciences

St HILDA'S COLLEGE

Tina Gough German

WORCESTER COLLEGE

Jack Cane Mathematics

NEW COLLEGE

Anna Cooban Human Science

PENINSULA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Emma Bengel Medicine

READING

John Cox Building Surveying

SHEFFIELD

Daniel Armstrong Theoretical Physics
Christopher Baines Biology
Millie Duck History & Politics
Douglas Griffiths Psychology
Jennifer Train Chemistry
Charles White Law with German

SHEFFIELD HALLAM

Sophie Spragg Sport & Exercise Science

SUSSEX

Emma Parry Psychology

TECHNICAL MUSIC SCHOOL, LONDON

David Cobbald Song Writing

WARWICK

Christy McLean History
Jacqueline-Ellen Rushe Law & Business Studies

YORK

Brooke Jones Applied Social Science
Georgina Russell Historical Archaeology
Sam Weighall Philosophy, Politics &
Economics (2013 entry)



Lindsay Brough

In 1978, the year *Grease* was a sell-out at the box office, the first mobile phones were used, and 'Space Invaders' became a popular computer game, Miss Lindsay Richards joined the Junior School as a newly qualified teacher. She soon became a well-respected and dedicated teacher in J2, running the choir, organising music concerts, becoming housemistress for Windsor, and producing the annual musical. At School, she met her husband, Martin, as he had also started teaching at Solihull, and they married in 1980. Lindsay nurtured many boys who passed through her form, inspiring them to go on to achieve future success. On Open Mornings and at Alumni events, many Old Silhillians speak fondly of her kindness; many return with their children who join the Junior School, as a second generation of pupils comes to know Mrs Brough. Lindsay then went on maternity leave in 1985.

In 1996 (and three sons later) Lindsay was back in the Junior School when she became a J1 Form Tutor and the English Subject Leader, and ran the library. However, Lindsay's aspirations were not just for the pupils in her care, and in January 2002 she became the first female Head of the Junior School. Her vision for its future success and development has led the Junior School from strength to strength. Lindsay's excellent management skills, coupled with her undoubted passion for teaching and learning and relentless pursuit of the highest standards, have meant that pupil numbers have risen from 143 on her first day in charge, to 204 on her last, a rise of over 30%! Her leadership has adapted to changes in education over the past eleven years to ensure that the Junior School remains at the forefront in the locality. Her wise contributions to meetings have been appreciated by all of the School's Senior Management. Her management has been viewed as a resounding success by pupils, parents and inspectors alike.

When the School became co-educational in all junior year groups in 2005, the numbers of girls in the Junior School quickly grew; a factor which played a significant role in the success of co-education across the whole School. As pupil numbers continued to swell, Lindsay instigated the appointment of the first Deputy Head of the Junior School, Malcolm Swain, to assist her with its management, and share her passion for Welsh Rugby! Lindsay has led many treks and expeditions, sharing her love of travel and exploration with Sixth Form pupils in Machu Picchu, on the Everest Trail, and in Ladakh. She has organised numerous ski trips all over Europe and accompanied Hockey tours to South Africa and Australia. Having participated in many J3 residential trips to CAT and PGL, often spending her evenings reassuring pupils experiencing being away from home for the first time, she recently accompanied the Boys' Choir on their visit to Norway.

Lindsay's assemblies reinforce the values she instils in all her pupils. Sometimes they don't always go to plan! During the last inspection, Lindsay prepared an assembly about honesty, using a story called 'The Tissue of Lies'. Two J4 monitors were asked to come out to the front and one was asked to wrap the clasped hands of the other round and round with tissue paper every time a lie appeared in the story. According to the instructions Lindsay used, as the paper wrapped round the child's hands, if they tried to pull it apart, this would become increasingly difficult, and eventually impossible, demonstrating that telling one small lie can easily escalate into a 'tissue of lies'. When Lindsay had used the story previously, everything had run like clockwork. Unfortunately, on this particular day, the strength and determination of the two J4 pupils meant that the tissue paper came apart immediately every time and the entire Junior School (and staff) collapsed into hysterical laughter. Fortunately the inspector saw the funny side of things too!



Having seen all three sons progress through the School, the Brough legacy will remain at Solihull, as Lindsay and Martin's eldest son, David, now teaches in the Mathematics Department. During the summer, Lindsay will also become a mother-in-law! She has exciting plans to travel to the Far East in the Autumn and explore new places.

Most importantly, what everyone associated with the Junior School in any way over the past thirty-five years will remember most about Lindsay's teaching and leadership is her caring and warm-hearted nature. Her door is always open for pupils, parents and colleagues, and she is never too busy to give advice or support, even at the most hectic of times! This year's Upper Sixth were the first pupils to enter the Junior School under her leadership, and many still come back to share their successes with her or seek her guidance. Every morning and afternoon throughout the year, whatever the weather, Lindsay greets and dismisses each pupil with a smile and kind words. She is always encouraging, motivating, welcoming and inspiring and her energy and enthusiasm seem to know no bounds.

Thank you, Lindsay, for everything you have done to shape and inspire the youngest of our pupils and develop a dedicated team of staff to take the Junior School into its next chapter. The Junior School will seem a very strange place without you, but everyone wishes you a very long, relaxing and exciting retirement full of laughter, happiness and fun!

Janet Humphreys





Niall Cluley

Niall retires this year after an incredible 42 years of service. Having accepted a post at Solihull in 1971 to teach Economics, Niall continued to spend the rest of his working life here; always professional, always committed, irrespective of the subject, task or activity.

Niall's presence was very quickly felt both inside and outside the classroom. Inside, his meticulous preparation, willingness to 'go the extra mile' for his pupils and his external examination results were testament to the excellent schoolmaster he most certainly was. Outside the classroom, he coached the 1st XV for many years, producing many outstanding sides. He proved his worth very quickly as someone who could provide sound career advice, and so it proved...

Niall was appointed as assistant to the Careers Master in 1979 and very quickly assumed the title himself in 1982, a position he held for 30 years. His annual meetings with parents, extensive GAP fairs, and the wise counsel and advice he provided for the pupils are all shining examples of the effectiveness of his tenure.

Whilst attending to all duties previously mentioned, Niall also found time to be a Housemaster for Pole House. All pupils under his charge were looked after incredibly well, both academically and pastorally.

Niall has been a Magistrate for many years, a testament to his sense of fair play and justice. His membership of the Renewal Christian Centre is also hugely important to him and indeed, as a Biblical scholar, he very recently celebrated receiving his Doctorate.

Somewhat less known about Niall is his past experience in the world of rock music writing. As a former writer for Sounds, he was known for his astute appraisal of up-and-coming bands as well as many more well-known groups and artists.

The mark that Niall has left on Solihull is considerable, not just because of his many areas of expertise but also his generosity of spirit, his wholehearted willingness to serve and perhaps most of all, his good humour, never more apparent than during his excellent farewell speech to staff.

We wish Niall and Jean a long, healthy and happy retirement; if anyone deserves it, then Niall certainly does!

Sean Morgan



Paul Brattle

Paul Brattle joined Solihull School 30 years ago. During his time here he has taken on many roles including Housemaster for the Lower and Middle School and of course Head of Biology for 18 years until he stepped down to become Deputy Head of Biology in January 2007.

Paul is a passionate Biologist, caring deeply about his subject, but he is also passionate about the pupils he teaches. The pupils have always come first for Paul and he is determined to see the right thing done by them. As many of you will know, he speaks his mind and is frank and honest to the end. Over the years he has fought the corner for many a pupil and member of his department, taking up their battles for them and ensuring that he does all he can to resolve their problems. The pupils worship him, as demonstrated by the Upper Sixth giving him a standing ovation at the end of the Leavers' Chapel Service, and again as he left the celebration BBQ: he is a legend.

Paul has inspired many pupils to continue their studies in Biology and none more so than the many, many Medics and Vets and Dentists that he has guided over the years. Recently, the Biology Society has become the Medics Society and it is down to Paul that many of our students have gained their coveted places at Medical Schools across the UK. Many of his students return year on year to visit and let him know how they are getting on – they recall incidents and events of their time here and all of them look back fondly on his dedication to them and to their futures.

His passion for sport is evident to all of those that meet him, particularly for hockey and cricket. During his time here he has run many hockey teams, including the 2nd XI, but most recently the 4th and 3rd XI. I am told he has been reliable, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about the game

(well, of how it was played back in the 1970s). All of Chris Mayer's attempts to bring him up to date with contemporary ideas of how to play the game have fallen on deaf ears! His teams have probably been the most successful in the School over this period and the boys have all loved him for tremendous team spirit, brutal honesty in his assessment of their skills and his genuine passion for the game. He will be sorely missed by the hockey staff and the boys that played for him.

Outside of sport Paul has also set up various local community initiatives, firstly being our own Animal Man, taking the Biology animals out to local community schools with the assistance of our Lower Sixth pupils, and more recently inviting local junior schools in for Science taster days to experience hands-on Science in labs. Paul was also heavily involved in the Terriers programme for 10 years.

On a personal level I will miss his friendship and support and of course his ability to offer well-meant advice (but somehow it didn't always come out quite the way he meant it to). He is a warm, supportive colleague who is always generous with his time and guidance, not to mention his jokes and pranks he delighted in playing on members of the Science Department.

Teachers such as Paul, who are caring, enthusiastic, proud of their School and put the pupils at the centre of all that they do, make Solihull School what it is today. I am sure that friendships forged at Solihull School between staff and pupils alike will continue to last for many years for Paul. As Paul steps down from full-time teaching, his eldest daughter, Kate, will enter the profession and this is something of which Paul is very proud. From everyone at Solihull School and especially the Biology Department, we wish Paul and Hilary a long, healthy and contented retirement.

Dawn Wild



Lydia Wolsey

Lydia Wolsey joined Solihull School in 2010 after completing her teacher training at Brighton. However, Lydia has had a long relationship with the School. She first became involved through her passion for sailing as an instructor with Youth Afloat back in 2006.

Whilst training at Brighton she undertook one of her teaching placements with Solihull School and on the retirement of John Belcher we were delighted that she was able to join the Design Technology Department.

Lydia made an immediate impact on the style and nature of the project work undertaken in Design Technology and quickly established jewellery-making alongside a range of other creative projects across the School.

Lydia also had a significant impact on the new Food Technology course that started in 2010 and she will be fondly remembered for the inclusion of such practical topics as millionaire shortbread and her famous brownies!

Pastorally, she will be particularly missed by members of her form who regularly used to drop in to see her during lunch up at the Fort.

Lydia made a significant contribution to a wide range of extracurricular activities whilst at Solihull School. She would hold regular lunchtime workshops to help students help keep pace with their examination coursework. She also had a big impact on the sporting life of the School where she helped to develop Watersports and coached netball. She was also a regular member of staff on the Shell Form Snowdonia expedition. Lydia has now moved on to pursue her own design interests nearer to home though she has not said goodbye to Solihull School and is currently helping teach Girls' games.

Phil Higley



Jacques Grandrieux

Jacques joined the MFL Department at Solihull School in 2006. He had come from the heady heights of Deputy Head at a local school, in search of 'real teaching'. His experience was tested on interview when he taught an able group of Third Form pupils; they gobbled up the ample material he had prepared and left him kicking for touch! Never once did he regret that decision to get back in the classroom. Jacques has always been keen to encourage students to learn French and to appreciate the cultural delights of his country of birth. In the classroom he has been patient, organised and caring and he has turned his hand to any new topic we have embraced.

Jacques has been a key player in nurturing the love of languages in the Junior School, where he has become a story teller, an actor, an I.T. guru and a French waiter. He has relished the chance to create exciting learning opportunities for young learners of French. The Junior School has enjoyed French breakfasts, theatre performances, and cultural and linguistic activities in Normandy. The pupils' enthusiasm reflects Jacques's own enthusiasm in his teaching.

Outside of the classroom, he has thrown himself into School life, both for the Languages Department and the Sports Department. Jacques has organised and accompanied the French exchange to Bordeaux; he has done this 'for the pupils', never seeking glory. Likewise, he has organised Murder Mystery outings in French, and has always been keen to support films and talks in the Department. Jacques is ubiquitous; he is a keen sportsman and the Sports Department will miss his expertise in squash and his help with matches. Recently, he has joined colleagues in cycling challenges. He does not lack energy and drive!

It would be inappropriate not to mention Jacques's strongest cards. He has been a stalwart colleague, always ready to drop what he is doing to help someone else. He is the epitome of the charming Frenchman; the only male I know to offer up his seat, open a door or remove burdensome parcels from the clutches of exhausted colleagues (all female!). Jacques came to England as a young student, as a French assistant, he met his wife, stayed on and has become British. He loves English beer, English humour, English schools - but a big part of Jacques is still the cultured, charming Frenchman who came to England and stayed, the better to share two great cultural heritages. Jacques will not stay still in retirement: he will be busy with cycling, squash, the South of France and, above all, friendship. Jacques, the Languages Department will miss you but we wish you well in your newly found leisure time. It's been a full seven years at Solihull School!

Merilyn Barrett



Eric Hadley

Eric taught German, Russian and French at Westcliff High School for Boys from 1974 until 1990. He was Head of Modern Languages for eight years during this time. He moved to Warwick to take up his second post as Head of Modern Languages in 1990, teaching also occasional Latin, A-Level History and Politics. He contributed to the Schools' Council Russian textbook for GCSE (Iskra) and also co-wrote two books entitled Germany 1918-1949 and Warwick School: A History.

In 2011 Eric came to Solihull School where he shared the German A-Level course and also taught Lower School Latin. We appreciated his linguistic expertise and incredible insight into the history and culture of the languages taught. We wish him well in his second period of unofficial retirement back at Warwick School!

Petra Cramb



Sam Baddeley

Sam Baddeley has only been at Solihull School for two years - if we discount his time here as a student - but in those two years he has made a massive impression. Right from the word go, Sam threw himself into the life of the School, getting involved with so much more than just teaching Classics.

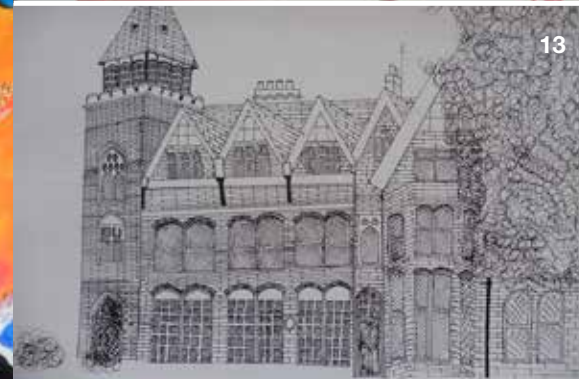
Sam will leave a great gap in the Classics Department. He has always been enthusiastic - whether about Third Form Latin or the latest trip - and he has been really keen to learn and develop as a teacher. He took on a huge timetable in his first year, teaching everything from Third Form Latin to A2 Latin, and the literature modules for AS and A2 Classical Civilisation. He has also been on nearly every Classics Society trip that's happened in the last two years, with the highlight being the recent trip to Pompeii and Rome, where he was a huge support, as well as resident expert about Hadrian's Villa.

Outside the world of Classics, Sam has become an honorary member of several other departments: he has been on many theatre trips with the English and Theatre Studies Departments, he has been twice to the Chateaux as a member of the MFL Department, and he has regularly played the organ and sometimes even taken Junior School Singing practice to help out the Music Department. It's a wonder I ever managed to get him to teach some Classics!

Sam has also been keen to become part of the pastoral life of the School, and this year he has very much enjoyed being form tutor to 3W. He has done a fantastic job of settling that set into the School and training them in how to behave properly!

There are many people who will miss Sam - colleagues, the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation set, his tutor group 3W to name but a few. However, I will probably miss him the most. He has been a joy to work with, not only reminding me why I first came into teaching, but also being someone who has listened carefully and really tried hard to learn what makes a good teacher. He has always been willing to take on board advice and to improve as a teacher, and I think that the world of teaching will be a less bright place without him. I'd like to wish him all the very best for his studies at Oxford, and thank him for everything he has done - for the pupils, for the School and for me. Good luck Sam: we will miss you!

Joanna Johnson



Junior School Art

- 1. Aditya Kaul J4
- 2. Annabel Dalby J3
- 3. Isabella Mo J2
- 4. Olivia Mueller J4
- 5. Jessica Anderson J3
- 6. Patrick Gransbury J3
- 7. Louise Green J3
- 8. William Sunderland J2
- 9. Charlotte Hope J4
- 10. Zak Brew J4
- 11. Eloise Davidson J4
- 12. Kavya Thomas J4
- 13. Melissa Yip J3
- 14. Mabel Mendonca J3
- 15. George Sunderland J4
- 16. Penny Goodman J4
- 17. Tegan Bristow J2
- 18. Tara Warrington J2



Junior School



Down on the Farm

On Tuesday 11th June, the J1s went on a trip to Ash End Children's Farm in Tamworth as part of their study of Farming in Geography. There was great excitement when the coach arrived as it was an Executive Coach with leather seats and tables to sit at! When we arrived, the children filed off the coach and were taken into a barn to have their drink and snack before the tour began! At 10 o'clock, our guide for the morning came and collected us and took us straight to The Hatchery where the children had the opportunity to hold chicks and ducklings which were only a few days old. After that they went to the Hen House to collect a fresh farm egg to take home, but only after they had sung 'Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick Chicken, Lay a little egg for me' all the way through! Next we went to see the goats, where the children had the opportunity to feed a kid (a baby goat, not one of them!) with a bottle of milk, and the other goats with some grain. Then they went to see the sheep and lambs, fed them and learnt that sheep wool has a substance called lanolin in it to make it waterproof. The Pig Shed was next - very smelly, but with some very cute piglets! We also went into a classroom where we learnt about wheat grain being ground into flour. Lastly, before lunch, we saw many different varieties of ducks and geese - some of

them had a very interesting hairstyle! We then ate our lunch in the barn and after that the children had time to go on the play area and let off steam! The afternoon started off with us visiting the Falconry Centre, where Ben Raybould and Mariella Scott wore a special leather glove and had the opportunity to have a Tawny Owl perch on their hand. Then came the shop, where the children mooched around and bought some souvenirs. We then put the children into groups and they had the opportunity to have another look round and go to see the Shire Horses and foals, rabbits and Guinea Pigs.

Last but not least, the children were lucky enough to be allowed to go on the play area again, as well as the 'Giant Pillow' before wending our weary way back to School. It was a great trip and all the children (and staff) had a fantastic time.

Mrs C Steele



Botanical Gardens Trip

On Wednesday 22nd May, all the J1s went on a trip to the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston as part of their study of Henri Rousseau in Art. Their first activity was a Backpack Challenge in the Tropical and Sub Tropical Houses, which involved the children being put into groups and using clues in their Backpack to find out the answers to questions they had been given. All the groups successfully completed the challenge and it was then time for a drink and a snack! After that the children were all given a clipboard, paper and pencil and their task was to carefully sketch some of the plants and flowers in each of the four Glasshouses - Tropical, Sub Tropical, Arid and Mediterranean. They did some fantastic sketches which would prove to be very useful for their following Art lessons. Next they had lunch, followed by a Nature Trail around the gardens which finished at the play area. The final activity was running down the steep hill to the Bird Houses where they took many photographs of the many birds, including parrots and macaws. This was a great trip and was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and pupils.

Mrs C Steele



Top Children's Author Delights Juniors

Junior School pupils revealed their literary skills when children's author Adam Guillain dropped by to lead a workshop. The writer, best known for his popular *Bella Ballistica* adventure stories, was the guest on Author Day. More than a hundred pupils listened to Adam's storytelling before taking part in mime, drama, music and drawing exercises to help improve their creative writing skills. They were also shown basic plot and story structures used by authors and finished the day working collaboratively to write story openings. Adam also took the opportunity to sign and sell copies of his latest adventure *Bella Ballistica and the Itza Warriors*.





Space Day

On the 22nd of May all the J3 and J4 pupils took part in a Space Day run by Lower Fifth pupils and the National Space Centre. For the whole morning the J3s enjoyed exciting activities related to space, the stars and the planets. In the afternoon it was the turn of the J4s, who found the activities just as interesting.

Firstly we were separated into two groups; one started off the day with the Lower Fifth, and the other stayed in the hall with Will from the Space Centre. One of the activities we did sent us out on the fields and we were assigned a planet, moon or the sun. We found how far away the planets were away from each other in space, and we had to stand in the correct order of planets, but we only had to stand metres away from each other! Fast runners wanted to be the planets on the end because the person who was the sun had to turn around and we had to orbit them.

The other activity the other Lower Fifth group ran was just as educational. This time in the science room, we learnt about stars, constellations, the sun and the different types of stars. Drawing and, of course, learning lots of new information were involved in this bit of the day.

Probably the best part was joining Will in the hall. At the start, he taught us about the different phases of the moon and the different shapes. With his special equipment, he showed us how we get day and night, the seasons and different time zones.

By far the bit we all remember the most about this fun-packed day was the star dome. The star dome was a dome filled with air, so it inflated, and we all got inside. Will made it pitch black

inside, but soon he projected pictures on the top of the dome. Each picture was what the Ancient Greeks thought the stars looked like. They made up stories about the Gods and why they were in the sky. Afterwards, Will took the pictures off and then projected stars on the top of the dome. We had to find all the pictures in the stars that Will had told us about.

Sadly, we were having so much fun that the day went extremely quickly. Soon we had to stop doing all our activities and go home. I would like to say a huge thank you to Will and the National Space Centre for letting us enjoy their amazing facilities. Also, we would like to thank the Lower Fifth pupils who gave up their time to make us laugh and teach us facts we didn't already know. Another thank you has to go to the staff that helped, especially Mrs Middleton. We all had an amazing day filled with fun and education that we won't forget in a hurry.

Eden Lupoli (J4H)



PGL Weekend at Boreatton Park

The highlight of the J3 year for most children is PGL. The prospect of a day off school and a weekend away and no parents, meant that the school week prior to leaving was totally unbearable, due to the anticipation and excitement of what was to come. Paddling down lazy rivers, scaling ladders to heaven, spine-tingling giant swings and energetic Aeroball Trampolining are just a few of the many challenges and activities we all faced at Boreatton Park. The English weather did not let us down and we experienced glistening sunshine, icy hailstones and drizzly rain adding to the adventurous atmosphere. We all returned home with the feeling of being invincible, experiencing the elation of conquering our fears and having had an amazing time with special friends.



Junior School Council

Junior School Council has had another busy year listening, investigating, problem solving, generating new ideas and responding to suggestions! This academic year has seen the introduction of a new lining up rota outside, sandwich monitors, homework tokens and Lost Stationery Boxes. With food always on our minds, Mrs Round supported us in a very productive meeting and as a result, we have experienced some scrumptious new additions to the food choices in the refectory: baby carrots, mini sub-rolls and bagels have particularly been a real hit! Mr Thomas also visited us, and is keen to try to fulfil some of our ideas for Sports Clubs next year too.

With support from the mentors, we organised a range of awareness activities and competitions for Anti-Bullying Week, and have also recently been involved in creating characters, slogans, games and posters for 'Drivesafe', an organisation to help save lives and prevent dangerous driving on the roads. Perhaps our most rewarding project was visiting the Norman Laud Association, our chosen charity for the sponsored Decathlon event. It was a thought-provoking trip, which fuelled a passionate assembly which was presented to the Junior School pupils to persuade them to do all they could to raise money for this amazing charity. The pupils in the Junior School raised over £5200, making all our efforts extremely worthwhile. We look forward to lots more exciting projects next year!

Max Penney on behalf of Junior School Council

Junior School Charity Fundraising

As ever, it was a busy year of fundraising activities in the Junior School.

The Christmas term saw the annual 'Charity Week' – the week before half term – kicking off proceedings when the Junior School became a hive of activity. Throughout the week the children took part in, and supported, a variety of events including the Staff v. Monitors football match, the Classroom Copper Chaos, the Junior School Talent Show and, of course, the Great Big Junior School Tuck Shop that took place in the Refectory. This year, the enthusiasm and teamwork of the children meant that records were broken and the final total raised was a magnificent £4037. This was split between two charities: *Winston's Wish*, a childhood bereavement charity, and *JDRF (Junior Diabetes Research Foundation)*.



Following on from this, the children were soon filling shoeboxes with toys, games, stationery and hygiene items for *Operation Christmas Child*. Each year, this charity sends out Christmas shoeboxes to children from impoverished backgrounds all over the world. Each child that completed a shoebox chose whether they would send a box to a boy or a girl and the age range they thought their shoebox was suitable for. The final count of the shoeboxes was a staggering 167!

The Christmas fundraising did not finish there, as the build-up to Christmas saw children raise money for *Sightsavers*. Instead of sending all their friends festive cards, children donated a total of £1,625 to this very worthwhile cause - another amazing effort.

The final major charity event of the year saw the children take part in the now-traditional Junior School 'Decathlon'. A jaw-dropping £5243.11 was raised for *The Norman Laud Association*, an organization that provides quality short break services for children and young adults with special needs and support services for their families.

Well done to everyone within the Junior School and thank-you to all the parents, pupils and staff within Solihull School who supported the Junior School and donated throughout the year; your efforts are truly very much appreciated.

Mr S Mitchell



J2's visit to a Gurdwara

On the 30th of January we set off in a minibus to the Gurdwara. When we arrived we were greeted by our Sikh guide who asked us to cover our heads, take off our shoes and wash our hands to show respect for God. The girls wore brightly coloured head scarves and the boys wore hats.

In anticipation, we made our way down an embellished corridor, adorned with patterns as well as spicy smells tempting our taste buds from the kitchen. Guiding banners were suspended from the ceiling but nobody knew how to read them because they were mostly written in Punjabi. Luckily, we had a helpful guide to show us the way.

Next, we arrived in the Langar Hall, which is a very large dining hall where people share their delicious blessed food during the week and especially during special occasions, such as baby-naming ceremonies, baptisms and weddings. Sikhs volunteer to cook free food for anybody who would like to eat it. In here, our guide gave us a fascinating talk on the Ten Gurus and the Five K's: Kesh, Kara, Kangha, Kirpan and Kacchera. These are five rules that Sikhs follow. We listened attentively to these to see if we could find them in our next destination, the Prayer Hall.

As we entered the Prayer Hall, we immediately walked onto a ruby red carpet. This carpet led to a brightly coloured stand where the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Holy Scripture, lay. The 10th Sikh Guru said that after he passed away, this holy living book would then be their Guru. It contains all the knowledge of the Ten Gurus. While the holy book was being recited by the Granthi, we paid our respects by bowing down to the Guru Granth Sahib.

After we paid our respects, we were invited to sit on the carpet. We had to ensure our feet did not face the Guru Granth Sahib because it is considered to be really impolite. Whilst we were sitting down, most of us tried the Karah Parshad, a sweet dish which had been blessed by God. It is sweet flour and we agreed that it tasted a lot like cookie dough. We were told that once we had agreed to taste some, we were not allowed to waste it as it was a gift from God which had been blessed and it would have been disrespectful.

Did you know that the Guru Granth Sahib takes 48 hours to read from beginning to end? Also, the Guru Granth Sahib is to be treated like a person and he is put into a real bed and woken up in the morning. There is a special room where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept and we were lucky enough to see it. We visited this special room which is right at the top of the Gurdwara. We walked up what seemed like an endless stairway, until we were on the roof! It was a very blustery day and Mrs Jenkins's scarf blew off. Then we went inside a white beautiful dome where the ceiling was made out of small shards of glass. A massive glitter chandelier hung from the splendid ceiling and lit the room to reveal another Granthi with a second copy of the Guru Granth Sahib.

We all enjoyed our visit to the Gurdwara and learnt a lot from our special day. Did you know that the Gurdwara is always open to everyone from all faiths and all religions and that you can visit it at any time of the day? We hope we have persuaded you to visit a Gurdwara one day; we know you will be made to feel very welcome, like we were.

Freddie Truman, Isabel Fennell and Joshua Kandola with a little help from the rest of J2.



J4 France Trip

Finally, after a long hard term of work, the J4 France Trip was upon us. Eventually, after rummaging through our suitcases one last time to make sure everything was in check, we all waved our parents off as the comfy coach pulled frustratingly slowly out of the Level.

Upon arrival, the centre looked to us like a welcoming mansion to cater for our needs and provide us with entertainment. That evening, we went to the seaside, doing ridiculous activities for fun, such as the onesie catwalk and the races. These weren't ordinary races; these races were the slow arms, fast feet race, the fast arms, slow feet race and the chicken race.

Saturday was market day. The thought of having the opportunity to buy ingredients for our own lunch filled us all with excitement. Not only could we choose what to buy but we got to try out our French skills, ordering from the market sellers. Le Tourquet market was obviously popular with the locals as it was jam-packed.

In groups, we navigated our way through the bustling crowds, ending up with armfuls of delicious French fromage, baguettes and jambon. We couldn't wait to put together our delicious feast! Back at the centre, competition was fierce between the groups, all trying to be the next Jamie Oliver! To walk off our delicious food, we set off on a challenge to find the answers to a quiz around the town. An enjoyable afternoon was spent in the sunshine finding our way around the town. That evening, we had a fantastic time playing games on the beach again. For many of us, this was the best part of the trip.

On Sunday, following a scrumptious breakfast of croissants and pain au chocolates, we set off in groups to the forest for our next adventure – den building. Initially, we scoured the ground for large logs to be the main frame of the den and we hunted for a colossal tree to build it against. An exciting half



hour of construction and teamwork whizzed past until we were finally called back together. We all examined each other's dens and, as tough as it was, the teachers finally came to a fair decision for the winners.

The Sweet Factory was next on our itinerary, in Berck. The smell tantalised our taste buds as we entered and the vast array of machines was fascinating. A demonstration of how to make sweets was given in French (with a lady translating). Our mouths were watering as the sweet maker poured the sticky, jelly-like liquid onto the cooling table. When we finally got to taste the sweets, they were absolutely delicious!

Next stop, a French café for traditional crepes. Again, we practised our French when placing our order. More than 50 children all trying to order their crepes certainly entertained the locals! Later we headed back to the beach, where, this time, we found many pleasant things such as dead fish and dead crabs! Finally it was time for the sun to set. All of J4 stood on the beach to watch the sun bid us goodbye. We did a countdown and then the sun was gone. Soon we would also be gone from France...

After a jam-packed weekend of excitement the J4s were all very sad to leave the glorious sunshine of France. On the journey home, the second mountain of sweets was demolished, and as the littered coach pulled into the car park, it felt like a normal Monday again. Fortunately it was after half past three. What a relief! Our parents were all patiently waiting and we were pleased to see them... until we found our brothers and sisters standing next to them! It was an amazing trip and it was thanks to the brilliant teachers who made it such a wonderful experience. Special memories were made. Memories that will stay with us forever and will never disappear from our hearts.

William DGLISH and Thomas Daniels, J4L, and Lily Evans, J4M



Go For Gold

The Junior School year kicked off with fun-packed rehearsals for the phenomenal J3 and J4 production, *Go for Gold*. This starred the athlete, Suzie Swift (Charlotte Rigg) and her training coach Phil O'Sophie (Beth Miles).

The production began with the breaking news that Suzie Swift, the gifted young athlete, had pulled out of the Olympic Games due to a row over sponsorship money. This resulted in a flashback to Ancient Greece, 557 BC, where we were introduced to the intellectual Athenians (Sophie Borman, Ellie Couch and Olivia Mueller) and the stupid Spartans (Mitchell Reeve, Fraser Blackhurst and Cameron Hemp), who were ruled by the epic rapping god... ZEUS, played by Max Penney. Living on Mount Olympus were the great Gods of Ancient Greece and although Dionysus (James Morrall) didn't live on Mount Olympus, he still brought the life and soul to all of the parties. However, Hades (Matthew Smith), God of the Underworld, tried to destroy the Olympic Games altogether because he didn't want his rival's champion, Milo, to win the games. He did this by trying to force the Athenians and Spartans to fight among themselves. Trying to beat Milo (William Thompson) was Georgeous Michaelous (Thomas Daniels), being trained by his 'trainer' Nikos Allottacus (William DGLISH). The comedy duo never stopped making everyone laugh with their love of food...not a good recipe for being a top athlete!

The athletes in Ancient Greece competed in the Olympic Games for the honour of being crowned a winner, not for the sponsorship money. After the flashback, Suzie began to realise that the Ancient Greek athletes were right, and that you should take part for the honour and praise of being a winner, so she decided to compete in the Olympic Games. This resulted in



some very embarrassing dancing from the Swift family (Fergus Roll, Penny Goodman, Anna Mitchell and Saul Greenburgh). Many teachers and pupils (including over 75 J3 and J4 children!) worked very hard for the production since October. We would like to thank Mrs Morgan, Mrs Jenkins, Miss Hanlon and Harry Morgan for creating beautiful scenery for the stage and making all of the props, and Mrs Dodd for putting in such a tremendous effort to make the wonderful costumes. The skilled Sixth Form band, conducted by Mr Phillips, delivered the outstanding live music.

As Athenians, we were honoured to be able to contribute to this year's Drama production. Miss Lynch and Miss Compton did an amazing job helping us and put so much time and effort into making the play perfect, and it all paid off, with the production running for two nights for the first time due to popular demand! This year is our last year in the Junior School, which means that *Go for Gold* is our last Junior School production. We are sure that everyone will return to watch next year's Junior School Drama production, which we hope will be just as fabulous as this year.

Sophie Borman and Ellie Couch, J4L



J2 Science Morning

On Monday 11th March the J2s experienced an action-packed Science morning with some Sixth Formers.

Firstly, we used our imagination to make our best parachutes out of paper, string and sticky tape. The aim was to be able to drop the parachutes from a height, without breaking an egg. Excitedly, we walked over to the Bushell Hall to test them by dropping them from the top of the stairs.

After that, we quickly ran over to the fields, burning with excitement about the next activity! We were testing water-based rockets and making them fly across the field when we pumped them with enough water. The girls always managed to lose their rockets and the boys accidentally hit the top of the Bushell Hall roof with theirs.

Next, we sprinted inside and walked to Mrs Middleton's classroom where we made force and friction posters. They were multicoloured and showed how gravity worked. We learnt why Isaac Newton is famous and how he discovered gravity because an apple fell on his head. We stood in front of the class, burning with pride, and explained our posters to the rest of the group.

Finally, we walked into the Junior School Hall to discover friction and how it works. We were told that the more friction an object has, the less likely you are to fall over. Did you know girls have less friction than boys? Girls have less grip on their shoes because they are not expected to run around all day! We worked with a partner and tested the friction of our shoes with a Newton meter and measured this using different surfaces. However, to make the test more reliable we put three two-gram weights in each shoe. We found out that the boys still had more friction because their shoes measured four Newtons and the girls mostly measured three Newtons. In this room, some of us were lucky enough to test the hovercraft. We sat on the board and zoomed around the room, powered by the Sixth Formers and their leaf blower.

We all enjoyed our Science morning and can't wait for J3 Science Day!

Ellie Lawley J2M



Junior School Mock Elections

On Thursday May 2nd, the Junior School voted for their new Prime Minister.

Our Mock elections have become an annual event and are always greatly enjoyed by everyone. This was another hard fought campaign with seven excellent candidates participating. They represented the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, as well as some highly imaginative and innovative independent groups named Imagine, Aspire, The Voice, Army for the People and Smile. The candidates and their teams clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into preparing their speeches and their campaigns of action. In fact, the speeches and their proposals were highly impressive. I can see them being future politicians!

They all had plenty of interesting ideas to make their Junior School an even better, fun-filled place. Max put forward policies ranging from having a Junior School gardening area and a School pet to introducing iPads in the classroom. He also called for pupils to be able to assist their hard-working teachers and fellow pupils even more by expanding mentoring and monitoring. All their suggestions will definitely be put to the School Council to see if they can be actioned.

We had another full turnout at the polling booth with everyone voting, including the teachers. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the same happened in the local and general elections? Max Penney, the Lib Dem candidate, was duly elected to be our new Prime Minister. Obviously, the tips and wise advice he received from Lorely Burt stood him in good stead and prepared him well for success. Emily Baker is the Deputy Prime Minister and will take on the full Prime Minister responsibilities in September when Max moves into the Senior School.

We wish them both well and wait to see what election promises they manage to keep.... Good luck!

Mrs L Brough

RS in The Junior School

In the Junior School, pupils in different year groups have enjoyed finding out about different religious beliefs throughout the year. Visits to Solihull School Chapel, St Alphege Church and Handsworth Gurdwara have all helped us understand more about worship and commitment.

As part of our lessons, children of different religious faiths have been encouraged to help in lessons to make them more meaningful, by sharing knowledge and experiences of religion with their friends. This has included reading from sacred texts and bringing in artefacts and special foods from home to share with others. The Junior School pupils have sampled lots of interesting foods including traditional Jewish fish balls and challah bread, Diwali delights and prashad at the Gurdwara!



We have learned that sharing and understanding one another's beliefs is important in helping us to learn tolerance, respect and kindness. It also helped us to understand how our friends' lives outside school may be different from our own. I enjoyed telling my classmates about being Jewish and it made me feel special when all my friends wanted to hear about my religion. I think I proved how sticking to religious rules can be rewarding, but also hard when not everybody else is doing the same thing!

Guy Sandler, J3P



Junior School Brass Group

The Junior Brass Band is an extremely fun musical group where people who learn any brass instruments can join in. We welcome anyone, friend or foe! At the moment we are practising for the Summer Concert. The pieces we are playing are Super Trooper from Mamma Mia and Easy Winners. We play a range of music from classical to jazzy. Remember, you can be a complete beginner or Grade 5 genius to join. Our rehearsals are in the Ensemble room at 8:30 to 9:05 on Tuesday mornings and are directed by Mr Pascall. I hope many of you who play brass instruments will join at the start of September!

Fergus Roll J4H

Junior School Flute Choir

On the 22nd of January we started Flute Choir. We were all burning with excitement! It takes place on Mondays at 12:30. Our teacher is Miss Greswold and she's the best music teacher ever. Even if we make the odd mistake she gives you delicious sweets!

After a few weeks of playing, a J3 girl joined our group of J2s. We are very pleased to have more people join our enthusiastic group. As we learn more and more pieces so our music folders get bigger and we are looking forward to playing in assembly very soon.

The four of us have only played for a few weeks, but we are doing very well so far. Miss Greswold would be very pleased to have more people to join our group in September.

Joanne Wu J2M

Junior School Guitar Ensemble

The Junior School Guitar Ensemble is just what all young guitarists need to help them boost their confidence. With both boys and girls, this ensemble plays a variety of pieces from Green Day to Greensleeves and from Beatles to Pirates of the Caribbean, all skilfully arranged by Mr Hudd. Here, you are bound to find a piece for your style. Mr Hudd is the coolest guitar teacher, meaning you just can't resist joining this ensemble!

Jessica Anderson J3M

Junior School Orchestra

The Orchestra performed two pieces from *Bats, Cats and Broomsticks* by Edward Huws Jones in the Summer Concert. In *Something Behind the Gravestone* the children showed how they could play a variety of dynamics from very soft, right up to deafeningly loud, helped considerably by Jessica Anderson and Fergus Roll on trombone and trumpet and clarinetists Lauren Besford and Daniel Sanderson in the latter! The string section showed off a new technique called 'col legno': playing with the wood of the bow to depict the bats in *Bats in the Belfry*, with the melody beautifully accompanied by Guy Sandler on the flute.

Helen Dolby

Junior School Wind Band

Junior School Wind Band kicked off the year in style. We started with our first tunes, 'Christmas Present' and 'Good King Rocks', ready for the Christmas Concert. After a brilliant performance, we started on our next piece, 'Penguin Promenade'. As the Easter concert arrived we got ready to perform the piece. We all played brilliantly and we were very proud of ourselves. This term we are getting ready for the Summer Concert with our piece, 'Yes, Bar Limbo' a Jamaican tune. We have had a great year with Miss Greswold who has conducted us so well. All the J4s in Band have loved their experience and we all hope Wind Band continues to run amazingly.

Wind Band consists of: Gemma Radburn-Todd, Izzy Blake, Charlotte Hope, Harriet Toogood, Ellie Couch, Guy Sandler, Imogen Houghton, Anna Mitchell, Daniel Sanderson, Olivia Mueller, Lauren Besford, Sam Day, Jessica Toogood, Tom Carter, Annabel Dalby, Fergus Roll, Emily Baker, Jessica Anderson, Isaac Miller, and Will Thompson.

Harriet Toogood J4

Junior School String Group

We meet to practise every Monday at break time and all Junior School string pupils of any level are very welcome to come along and join in the fun! This year we performed *A Celtic Suite* in the Easter Concert and two traditional folk tunes in the Summer Concert. Both performances were very polished, lively and well received by the audience! We now say farewell to Alyssa Morrison, Eloise Davidson, Eden Lupoli and Raoul Bagga who have been outstanding and committed members of string group throughout their time in the Junior School and who are now moving up to Senior School. Lily Ashby has also been a real asset to the group during her year in J4 and we wish her well in her new school in Dubai.

Helen Dolby



In addition, this term, all the children were involved in secret projects, culminating in wonderful gifts made for Mrs Brough on her retirement. The J1 pupils created a super silk triptych of a floral design, based on their observations at the Botanical Gardens. The J2 pupils worked hard to produce clay tiles for her garden, inscribed with special words about her. The J3 pupils produced a book of detailed 'Pen and Ink' drawings of Solihull School buildings, special to Mrs Brough over the years. Finally, the J4 pupils presented her with two specially-printed deckchairs, showing butterflies fluttering off to pastures new – as are they, and more importantly, as is Mrs Brough!

Finally, to round off a very successful year, pupils from J1 to J4 exhibited their fantastic art work in the Summer Exhibition alongside amazing work from our own Senior School pupils and other local primary schools. They had started work on the cohesive theme of 'Fruit and Vegetables' in the Easter term, all beginning with observational drawing, but then subsequently interpreting the subject matter differently: J1- Clay Sculpture, J2- Collage, J3- Papier-Mache and J4- Textiles. The exhibition was a great success, attracting many proud pupils and their family and friends to observe all their hard work – a great end to a very creative year!

Mrs R Morgan

Junior School Art 2012-13

Art in the Junior School has flourished this year, with many artistic collaborations taking place across all year groups.

On Saturday December 15th, the J4 children held an extra special exhibition of their art work in a professional Solihull gallery. They had spent the Christmas term working on a project linked to the work of renowned local artist, Paul Horton, and had produced some very effective pastel drawings, linked to his work and our own School environment. This project culminated in their fantastic work being exhibited for over a week in Castle Galleries, Solihull, where the children met and chatted to the artist himself.

The summer term saw the J3 children being inspired to become great artists of the future, when local 'Pen and Ink' artist, Steve Lister, came into School to amaze the children with his fantastic eye for detail. Steve ran a workshop for all three J3 classes to demonstrate how he creates his contrasting black and white images of various locations, and the children then worked on their own images of St Alphege Church, applying and adapting Steve's techniques. It was a fabulous opportunity to learn how to draw more technically, and the J3 pupils will hopefully be far better artists because of this experience.



Junior School Sport 2012/13

It has been a busy and rewarding year for all those involved with Junior School Sport during this 2012/13 season.

Swimming

The Swimming squad has spearheaded what has been a successful year across a range of sports by posting an unbeaten season. This included wins against Coppice, Edgbaston High School (home and away) and Bluecoat School. The pick of the bunch, however, was a nail-biting win over Warwick School involving students from J1 all the way through to J4! Charlotte Rigg has captained the Swimming Squad excellently throughout the year and has been an inspirational figure for the younger students to look up to. Special mentions go to Charlotte (J4) and also to Fraser Blackhurst (J4) and Ben Smith (J3) who were all chosen to represent the Senior School this year.

Football

The Football squads both enjoyed good seasons, recording the following results:

P - 20 W - 12 D - 1 L - 7

Excellent team, and individual, performances contributed to what has been an enjoyable year of fixtures. Solid performances in the A-team from the likes of Cameron Hemp in goal, Matthew Smith and Guy Tomlinson saw the side put in some very pleasing performances. On this occasion, however, it is the B-team that takes the plaudits. By posting an unbeaten 2012/13 season (a fantastic achievement in itself), it meant that the team members have gone the entirety of their Junior School football careers without losing a match! This has all been fittingly capped off by a thoroughly excellent captain in the form of James Morrall. He performed consistently well but his captaincy saw him stand out from the crowd. Organisation, leadership and desire are but a few of the qualities he displayed week in, week out.

Rugby

With the Junior School taking part in more Rugby fixtures than ever this year across all year groups, it was an encouraging year all round, posting the following results:

P - 12 W - 7 D - 1 L - 4

Fixtures included tough tests against King Henry VIII, Coventry and The Grange, Worcester with all Solihull sides putting in great team performances. Again, as with all sport across the Junior School, it was a combination of excellent team and individual efforts this year that reaped rewards. Mitchell Reeve deservedly won the most improved player award and went from strength to strength every week. Woody Pugh, playing a year above his age, put in some very strong performances, along with Dylan Bryant, also in J3. We now look forward to building on solid foundations in the year to come with some exciting talent coming through the ranks!

Hockey

With more fixtures and greater participation across the year groups, the future of Junior School hockey looks bright.

P - 26 W - 8 D - 7 L - 11

The boys did particularly well by reaching the final of the Warwickshire Schools U11 7-a-side tournament where a hard fought and close contest against Bilton Grange was, unfortunately, lost 2-0. Nevertheless, this meant that the boys qualified for the Regional Tournament held in Nottingham.

Here, some tremendous hockey was played and the Solihull Team reached the semi-finals by winning its group with two wins and two draws (without conceding a goal). Unfortunately, one breakaway goal was enough to put the team out of the tournament. Fourth place, however, was a creditable result and the boys should be proud of their achievements. Well done to everyone involved and to the Captain, Fergus Roll, who played with real heart despite only just coming back after a nasty injury above his eye inflicted by an opponent's stick...ouch!

Girls' hockey has also gone from strength to strength. We have some talented J3 girls coming through the ranks which bodes well for next season and we have also been able to run a separate Girls' hockey club with the introduction of Bronze Medal Olympian Sally Walton to the coaching staff. As a result, we were able to field more girls in mixed teams, as well as playing all-girls teams against Bromsgrove and Bablake (drawing 2-2 and winning 3-0 respectively; fantastic results!). Well done to all players this season.

The 2013 Players of the Season were Sam Day and Lily Evans and the Most Improved Player was Cameron Hemp.

Netball

The U11 Netball team posted another year of great results, seen below:

P - 9 W - 5 D - 2 L - 3

After a slow start, the girls really worked hard to become more competitive and 'upped' their game tremendously, giving their opposition a good run for their money.

These results meant Solihull finished the league season in 3rd place overall. This is a huge achievement for the girls involved, as most of the other schools are much bigger than our Junior School and therefore have more girls to choose from. A great season girls!

The 2012- 2013 Player of the Season was Beth Miles and the Most Improved Player of the Season was Eden Lupoli.

The summer term saw yet more outstanding performances by multiple Junior School athletes in both Cricket and Athletics.

Cricket

The U11 Cricket team has battled hard all season and became County and Regional champions! This is an amazing achievement and the boys now look to go one step further when they travel to the National finals! This was a huge team effort, with camaraderie, support for each other and a desire to win being key to their success. Cameron Hemp shone in both tournaments, even taking a hat trick of wickets in the regional finals! Special mentions must also go to Fergus Roll and Matthew Smith (along with Cameron) for their selection in the U12 team this season, who also made the County finals.

Athletics

Borough Sports was yet another huge event in the Junior School calendar. All students selected performed fantastically well, whether it be in an individual discipline or team relay. The team ended up winning the Director's Cup which means we were crowned Borough Champions! Individual/Team Borough Champions in their chosen events were as follows:

Alyssa Morrison (U11 Girls 75m sprint)

Ella Furber (U10 Girls 75m sprint)

Matthew Smith (U11 Boys High Jump)

Fraser Blackhurst (U11 Boys Long Jump)

Annabel Dalby (U10 Girls Long Jump)

Louisa Miles (U10 Girls Bullnose Javelin)

Fintan Bristow, Guy Tomlinson, Tom McDonagh, Jack Talbot (U11 Boys 4 x 75m relay)

Sports Day

All of this success was capped off by a Junior School Sports Day which saw all students competing in at least two events and giving their all for their house team. Windsor eventually emerged victorious. It was a day enjoyed by students and parents alike, and we even got the weather!

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

Final thanks must go to the students themselves. They are ruthlessly committed, hardworking and, above all, enjoy their sport. These are qualities that cannot be coached and make our jobs as teachers even more enjoyable than they already are.

Mr C Thomas
Junior School Sport Co-ordinator

School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The School Chaplaincy has continued to play a fundamental role in our life over the past year, involving many students in the liturgies and musical presentations together with pastoral support and celebration of the sacraments. The Chapel Choir has grown under the leadership of Mr Walker and Miss Davies with Mr Irving often at the organ console. We thank them all for their unstinting support.

Advent and Christmas, as usual, were celebrated with great panache beginning with a wonderful Advent Procession and Carol Service involving many staff, pupils and friends in the reading of lessons. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a marvellous witness to the dedication and expertise of the Choir. Indeed, many have commented about this 'gem' in the life of the School and have particularly appreciated the use of the traditional Biblical translations of the readings.

The Junior School Christmas Carol Service was a huge success involving many young people in dramatic and musical expressions. A large collection from this service, together with other monies previously raised in School, was sent to Sight Savers, a very worthwhile appeal enabling the restoration of sight for people in the developing world.

The Junior School were again in Chapel during January for a delightful Christingle Service to mark the conclusion of the Christmas festivities. Mrs Morgan organised a workshop for the making of the Christingles where we were able to reflect upon the message of Christmas and Epiphany. Again, this was a fabulous service and a tradition we now sustain. A large collection was sent after the service for the work of the Children's Society.

During the Easter Term we joined the congregation at Hampton-in-Arden church when the Bishop of Aston confirmed three of our pupils: Sophie Besford, Fleur Street and Rebecca Vidal. This was a very happy occasion and a milestone in the lives of our young people.



The Chaplain of the Marie Curie Hospice, Revd Charlie Radburn, came to preach during the Easter term and a presentation was made to him for the Big Build of £1,000 from a concert and chapel collections.

The Summer Term saw the return of a 'Pet Service', when pupils brought their well-behaved pets into Chapel for blessing and we gave thanks for all God's creatures. Such opportunities provide a welcome for those who previously may not have attended worship with us but who appreciate our prayers and support.

During the term Mr Graham Smith (a member of the St Alphege congregation) gave a talk in Chapel explaining the parish appeal for Malawi. We previously supported this project with donations of text books and other necessary items for young people in some of the poorest areas of Africa. We will continue to support Graham in this cause and, whenever possible, offer storage for goods awaiting shipping.



On a number of occasions throughout the year the Chapel Choir has performed musical items during assembly which have enriched our worship. I am particularly grateful to them for this.

Our links with the Anglican Diocese of Katakwa, Kenya and the Province of West Africa have continued to develop. We hold them in our prayers and give thanks for their fellowship.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to so many people who have assisted in the life of the Chaplaincy this year. First of all to the Upper Sixth members of the Choir who have now embarked upon their chosen university courses and careers: Henry Camm, Oscar Street, Simon Turpin, Florentina Harris, Imogen Harrison, Rebecca Took, Julie Whiting and Tom Wilde. May I also express my appreciation to our altar servers, Jonathan Allen, Jess Lloyd and Isabel Douglas, who have regularly and faithfully carried out their duties.

Mr Martin Ayers has found time in his busy retirement to support us as Chapel Warden. We are continuously grateful for all his industry. Thanks, also, must be expressed to Fr Tim Pilkington, who preached at the Governors' Service and continues to be a friend to the chaplaincy community.

May I also thank Mr and Mrs Lloyd for their support and kindness – particularly for their hospitality and for Debbie's rallying of the troops for the beautiful Chapel flower arrangements.

I continue to exercise a busy ministry in the Solihull Team of churches and support St Alphege regularly by celebrating the Sunday Eucharist, funerals and pastoral involvement. The Walsingham pilgrimage group continues to grow and flourish, enjoying an annual visit to Norfolk plus a number of services and meetings in the School Chapel. Many members hold strong associations with the School.

As you have gathered, the life of the Chaplaincy has been full and varied. Many thanks to those who support us with their presence and prayers.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson

Joint Chapel Choirs

'Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; Give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb'. These words from Christopher Smart's 'Jubilate Agno' open Benjamin Britten's choral masterpiece *Rejoice in the Lamb*, performed by the Chamber Choir at the final Chapel service of the year. No words sum up better the strong sense of purpose and commitment shown by the Chapel Choirs over the last twelve months, and what an epic twelve months it's been!

Our rendition of *Rejoice in the Lamb*, with solos (feline, rodent and horticultural) performed by leavers Julie Whiting, Tom Wilde, Simon Turpin and Henry Camm, was one of many performances of the choral music of Benjamin Britten in celebration of the composer's centenary year. Other works performed include the joyful 'Psalm 150' with orchestra, and the complex *Missa Brevis* (Benedictus solos: Maxine Perroni-Scharf and Charlotte Sasse) at the Governors' Eucharist. The Britten celebration also took the Solihull School Boys' Choir to the Bergen International Festival to sing the *War Requiem* alongside the Bergen Boys' Choir, about which more below.



Perhaps the highlight of the Choir year was the launch in November of the Solihull School Former Choristers' Association. Eighty former Choristers, Organ Scholars, Organists and Choirmasters, Chaplains, Headmasters and supporters joined together for an epic day of singing, celebration and reflection on the School's unique choral tradition. The day featured two choral events in Chapel. The unforgettably loud Choral Evensong, sung by current and former choristers, was conducted by CBSO chorus-master Simon Halsey and accompanied by prestigious former Organ Scholars John Butt OBE and Paul Hale. We were delighted that our most 'former' Chorister, Bishop David Tustin (1944-1955), was able to lead this service alongside Fr Andrew. The day ended with a full choir performance of *Requiem* by David Briggs, another distinguished former organ scholar who played the organ alongside an orchestra, conducted by Oliver Walker. Memorable solos were provided by former choristers Sam Troth, Simon Litton and Julie Whiting. The Former Choristers' Day also saw the launch of the Choir's latest CD of music for Advent and Christmas *The Virgin's Lullaby*, with over 400 copies sold.

The annual Advent Carol Service followed shortly afterwards, with the various sections of the Choir performing around the Chapel. Solos in the Palestrina 'Matin Resposory' were provided by Katie Williams, Amelia Diccoco, Ben Davidson and Oliver Streton. The two services of Nine Lessons and Carols were a tremendous success, with much preparation necessary to ensure the highest quality of singing. The Chamber Choir Girls performed a new composition, 'Nativity Carol' by Head of Academic Music Simon Phillips, with the text written by English teacher Helen Pike. Other highlights included 'Riu, riu chiu' (soloists Simon Turpin, Oscar Street and Ben Davidson), Darke's 'In the bleak mid-winter' (soloists Florentina Harris, Julie Whiting and Henry Camm), Matthew Owen's 'The holly and the ivy' (soloists Chris Bevin and Maddie Lavery), Rachmaninov's 'Bogoroditsye Dyevo' and Gardner's 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day'. The daunting opening solos for 'Once in Royal David's city' were provided admirably by Tom Carson and Hannah Shakeshaft.

Oliver Walker



Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir, now with 50 members, has enjoyed a highly successful year of performing in a variety of places and events, as well as maintaining its share of the regular round of Chapel services. While much of the Christmas Term was spent learning and performing the David Briggs Requiem, which was heard for Remembrance Sunday as well as the Former Choristers' event, the Choir had a unique opportunity to perform a comedy opera, 'Too hot to Handel', alongside Armonico Consort's professional soloists and orchestra, conducted by former organ scholar Christopher Monks. The opera features the music of Handel in a modern and highly comic context, with the Chamber Choir performing three chorus numbers (including the infamous 'Hallelujah Chorus' with new words) at unexpected points in the story.

The year saw two very different outings for the Chamber Choir. Shortly after the services of Nine Lessons and Carols, we took our favourite carols to John Lewis to entertain the hordes of passers-by (mostly parents). In February we had the honour of singing Choral Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, London – Solihull School's debut in that fabulous building. Music included Peter Irving's Responses, Howell's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis 'Collegium Regale' and the sublime 'O nata lux' by Morten Lauridsen. With Oliver Walker conducting, Peter Irving playing the organ and Fr Andrew Hutchinson reading a lesson, a team effort resulted in a glorious occasion for all concerned. Feedback from the Cathedral was flattering, with a letter stating that 'both the singing and the conduct of the Choir was exemplary'. We look forward to a return visit on 10 March 2014.

Events in the summer term included a service in April to mark the Queen's Birthday, with music including Schubert's 'Mass in G', Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and Walton's 'Crown Imperial'. The Summer Concert, also with a royal theme, saw a performance of Parry's 'I was Glad'. Finally, the Leavers' Service saw a range of pieces including Bob Chilcott's 'Every time I feel the spirit', Parry's 'I was glad' and Rutter's 'Go forth into the world in peace'. We are very sad indeed to say goodbye to Choir leavers Henry Camm, Oscar Street, Simon Turpin, Florentina Harris, Imogen Harrison, Rebecca Took, Julie Whiting and Tom Wilde. Good luck!



Boys' Choir

The Solihull School Boys' Choir is a fantastic place to develop your vocal skills. In the Choir you also have the chance to sing in a variety of memorable places besides our own School Chapel. It is indeed hard work, but it is also great fun!

The most memorable moment for us was the trip to Bergen in June, to sing in the 'War Requiem' by Benjamin Britten as part of the Bergen International Festival, alongside the Bergen Boys' Choir, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Choirs conducted by Andrew Litton. The exchange was in two parts; for the first part of the trip the Bergen Boys' Choir visited us and helped us to perform a choral evensong in School Chapel. We also rehearsed jointly in Coventry Cathedral and learned about its destruction during World War II. After that it was our turn to visit them. We arrived in Bergen with a warm welcome but straight away started rehearsing hard. As well as singing, we saw lots of incredible sights and enjoyed getting to know the Norwegian families. It was a great week, and an experience to remember forever.

But the Boys' Choir hadn't finished yet! Before term was over we had the Pet Service (thanking God for creating our 'little friends'), Governors' Sunday where we sang more Britten with our own mini orchestra and finally the Solihull Sings outreach concert, run by our very own choirmaster Mr Walker. We sang many pieces including 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor', 'Believe' and 'Hey Mr Miller', but we also sang a 'Magnificat' by Malcolm Archer as a taster of what we do in the Boys' Choir.

Over the year we have welcomed eight new boys into the Choir, meaning we are very strong in numbers. As always, we would like to thank Mr Oliver Walker for conducting us, supporting us and organising our trips (it's not an easy job!). Thanks also go to Mr Peter Irving for playing the Organ in the services. We hope to have more choristers joining next year, and more fun events to take part in!

Alex Sasse and Benny Wu



Girls' Choir

The Girls' Choir is for the younger members of our Chapel Choir with ages ranging from 9 to 14. Although a very young group of singers, they still manage to tackle a wide and varied range of choral music and are not afraid to sing in 2 or 3 parts. Over the year they have sung several services on their own, and many more combined with either the Boys' or Men's sections, plus the 'massed choir' services such as the Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas which are, for every chorister, the highlight of the year. In the first two terms we still had our members of the Fourth Form with us and Charlotte Sasse and Maxine Perroni-Scharf were Head Choristers in each respective term. At the end of the Easter term the Fourth Formers moved up into the Chamber Choir and the remaining girls worked tremendously hard to maintain the standard without their more senior counterparts. Several new Juniors and Third Formers joined the ranks and the Choir has gone from strength to strength with Eloise Burchell taking over the mantle of Head Chorister, assisted by Bea Huissoon as deputy.

In October the Girls' Choir were invited to entertain the Old Silhillians at their 'Over 60's lunch' and this was extremely well received. The girls are now eagerly looking forward to visiting Lichfield Cathedral next term – the fun never stops in the Chapel Choir!

We are delighted that a donor has given the Girls' Choir the Kineton House Cup for 'an outstanding girl chorister', awarded for the first time at Lower School prizegiving in July to joint winners Charlotte Sasse and Maxine Perroni-Scharf.

Pamela Davies

New Carol for Christmas!

This year's Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols featured the premiere of a new carol composed by Mr Phillips, with lyrics by Miss Pike.

Nativity Song was written for treble / soprano and alto voices. The carol was sung in the School Chapel by the Girls' Choir on the evening of Sunday, December 9 and the Boys' Choir on Monday, December 10, and it was a huge success.

Miss Pike said: 'This is my first attempt at writing the lyrics for a song or carol. I chose to tell the Nativity story, beginning with Mary and Joseph's weary journey to Bethlehem and culminating in the angels proclaiming the good news of Jesus's birth. Mr Phillips has worked tirelessly on the composition, creating a very beautiful piece of music that I feel proud to be associated with'.



Community Service

Community Service has continued to flourish under the guidance of Dr Sawicki and Father Andrew. A number of Sixth Form students have volunteered to visit the elderly on a regular basis, engaging in household chores, gardening and shopping.

Some students have visited several local schools, enabling the academic development of children. Our involvement with Ruckleigh School has been very much appreciated, especially with regard to student participation in games lessons. Our association, also, with St. Alphege Infants and Juniors, Calthorpe and Ulverley has been much appreciated. Students have shown great commitment, even travelling to their placements in the worst of the weather over the last year – remember all that rain and snow! All the pupils involved have responded well to the challenge of new situations and have grown in confidence over the year.

Some students have made their own arrangements for visiting hospitals, hospices and nursing homes. This has been tremendously beneficial for those embarking upon medicine courses. Our links with the Hospice have grown considerably during the year together with our links with neighbours at Deerhurst Court.

A number of our recipients of Community Service visited the School Chapel earlier in the year for the Harvest Festival and received food parcels (items generously donated by parents). Likewise, a good number of the elderly attended the Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols, participating in one of the highlights of the calendar.

May I extend my gratitude to all those who make Community Service worthwhile.

Dr Sawicki
Canon Hutchinson



Hannah Quibell

Fourth Form and Lower Fifth Art

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Abigail Humphreys | 12. Edward Warner-Knowles | 23. Nakita Basra |
| 2. Hannah Quibell | 13. Lydia Roll | 24. Vini Vinod |
| 3. Austin Henderson | 14. Maeve Grogan | 25. Amelia Diccico |
| 4. Kashee Mistry | 15. Michael Woolley | 26. Emily Shepherd |
| 5. Isobel Douglas | 16. Rachel Hedley | |
| 6. Lydia Jones-Brown | 17. Scarlett O'Malley | |
| 7. Eamon Martin | 18. Victoria Brewer | |
| 8. Zershaaneh Qureshi | 19. Jade Gilmore | |
| 9. Shona Eaton | 20. Zebedee Trett | |
| 10. Jessie Lloyd | 21. Annie Johnson | |
| 11. Georgia Greenburgh | 22. Hayley Piggin | |





Music

Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Orchestra has had a superb year and has consistently played to a high standard. As new members were settling in, we began to rehearse the music for our first performance, the Saint Cecilia Concert. The chosen piece was Holst's *Mars: Bringer of War* and we performed this very successfully in the Concert, led by our leader Julie Whiting, with Mr Perrins conducting. To accompany the performance, Mr Jukes screened images of the planet Mars, linking with the mood of the music brilliantly.

After the Christmas break we began work on learning music for the Summer Concert. The second half of the concert featured a celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee so we played such stirring English classics as Walton's *Crown Imperial* and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March in D. This features the famous tune 'Land of Hope and Glory' sung enthusiastically by a flag-waving patriotic audience. At the very end there were cannons of streamers fired from the roof of the Bushell Hall to conclude an amazing concert!

The year has been a huge success and on behalf of the Orchestra I would like to thank Mr Perrins for his guidance and enthusiasm.

Amy Parry, Upper Fifth

Concert Orchestra

Concert Orchestra rehearses on Friday lunchtimes and is open to all musicians throughout the Senior School. The repertoire we learn is suitable for players from Grade 2 up to Grade 6 standard and introduces the pupils to a variety of classical and light orchestral music. In the St Cecilia Concert in November we performed two Medieval Dances by Praetorius followed by the totally contrasting traditional American melody 'Shortnin' Bread'. The orchestra worked very hard to rise to the challenge of playing Dvorak's well known 'Slavonic Dance' in the Summer Concert. This demanded great technical skill and difficult ensemble playing from all the Orchestra but they gave a stunning performance! Lydia Roll has been an exceptional leader for the past two years and she is now moving up to Symphony Orchestra.

Helen Dolby

Advanced String Ensemble

This year has been one of the best ever for String Ensemble. The group has developed a real sense of being a supportive and enthusiastic team who take great pride in the high standard that they aspire to. The group assemble at 8am on Monday mornings for an hour of concentrated work on the pieces being prepared for concerts as well exploring other repertoire. This year we gave outstanding performances of Britten's *Simple Symphony* and Greig's *Holberg Suite* in the Bushell Hall. Julie Whiting has been an excellent leader and member of the ensemble for many years and will be much missed as will Florentina Harris, Jess Toogood and Jamie Williams, who are all leaving for university.

Helen Dolby

String Chamber Music

There have been several Chamber Music groups rehearsing and performing this year. The string quartet comprising Amy Parry, Charlotte Sasse (violins), Jess Toogood (viola) and Dominic Martens (cello) has met every Monday lunchtime, worked on some very advanced repertoire and played in assembly a few times. Amy Parry and Charlotte Sasse were joined by Imogen Hanson and Lydia Roll for a performance of a concerto for four violins by Telemann at the Summer Concert. There has also been a Lower School string group practising each Monday break. We are looking forward to presenting a Chamber Music Concert next February involving groups from throughout the School.

Helen Dolby



Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band got into the swing of things early on this year with rehearsals for the annual St Cecilia Concert in November. Percussionists Ross Edwards and Jamie Relph acted in their usually 'impish' way by performing 'The Two Imps' as a duet on the xylophone accompanied by the band. Halfway through the piece, Ross and Jamie put down their xylophone sticks and carried out the theme of imps by mimicking the actions of the musicians whilst they were still playing. Ross went a little further in the Senior School assembly performance, almost knocking conductor Miss Greswold off the stage as he tried to take over the role of the conductor. The performance was a great hit with the audience and it will certainly be something to remember for all those involved. As Christmas passed, the focus turned to the Summer Concert, and a daringly classic mash-up of famous rock songs. And who better to aspire to than Queen? 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'We are the champions' and 'Crazy little thing called love' all featured, capped off with 'We will rock you'. It was great to see the audience becoming so involved and enthusiastically clapping their hands to the songs. On behalf of all members of the Senior Wind Band, we would like to thank Miss Greswold for her dedication and friendly leadership this year!

Ross Edwards and Jamie Relph, Upper Sixth



Saxophony

This year has been a busy one for Saxophony, with the group playing at the Saint Cecilia and the Summer Concerts as well as various Open Mornings, but also at other events too. There were the Solihull Sings Concerts – a fundraiser for the charity Winston's Wish – playing carols for Christmas shoppers in John Lewis, as well as the recital by two of Saxophony's members, Ben Perrins and Will Hughes. The group has come on leaps and bounds in terms of ability and skill and will no doubt become even better in the coming year.

However, this year sees many of Saxophony's senior members, including myself, hanging up the famous black and gold waistcoat in order to start university. On behalf of all of us, we would like to wish all of the remaining members the best of luck for future events and special thanks must go to Miss Greswold for all of her hard work and dedication for making Saxophony such a fantastic group.

Sam Foxall, Upper Sixth

Saxbeats

This year Saxbeats welcomed several new members including one from the Junior School. We have improved throughout the year and performed in several concerts, most recently opening the Informal Concert in May. We would like to thank Charlotte, Tom and Will for their effort and time but especially Will for his continuous enthusiasm, dedication and good humour. We look forward to further success next year and welcoming more new members.

Caroline Camm, Upper Fifth

Senior Saxophone Quartet

This year, the Advanced Saxophone Quartet performed for the first time at the Upper School Speeches in September, playing 'The Lone Arranger Goes Sax Mad!' The quartet then entered the Lichfield Music Festival and achieved a fantastic first place. As a result of our success we were then invited to play at Solihull Library Theatre with 'Britain's Got Talent' star Julian Smith on Valentine's Day. This was a wonderful evening and a great experience for us all. In the Summer Concert, we performed *Largo Al Factotum Della Citta* and will shortly be

performing at Baddesley Clinton. It has been a successful year for the quartet and special praise must go to Miss Greswold for all the hard work and effort which goes into making everything a huge success!

Ben Perrins, Upper Sixth

Intermediate Wind Band

The Intermediate Wind Band has had an enjoyable and exciting year. Our conductor, Miss Greswold, has led us through several concerts, including the St. Cecelia Concert in November and most recently, the Summer Concert. All the musicians in the Wind Band have a key role in creating the music. There are flutes, saxophones, French horns, bassoons, trombones, clarinets and a variety of percussion. In the Summer Concert we played some fun and fruity pieces – 'Crazy Coconut' and 'Poppy Peanut'. We are currently working on a piece entitled 'Skyfall' which was a popular choice with the players. The Wind Band continues to improve, and the new members have been an added bonus to the group. After such a successful year I am sure the whole Wind Band is looking forward to September. We would like to thank Miss Greswold for conducting and pulling all these pieces together.

Asha Abram

Big Band

After another brilliant year of playing swing and jazz tunes every Wednesday morning, Big Band regrouped after the summer, refreshed and ready to pick up exactly where we left off. However, it was time to say goodbye to our beloved Mr Bennet and hello to Mr Pascall as director of our group. Mr Pascall immediately impressed us with his incredible trumpet improvisation skills and we all knew very early on that we were about to experience a very different year to what we were used to.

Big Band had its first gig at the St Cecilia Concert, performing *Freddie Freeloader* and *In a Sentimental Mood*, entertaining the crowd with several impressive solos. Having built up a small repertoire, our year was only to get better with short but memorable appearances at Will Hughes and Ben Perrins's Saxophone Recital and the Summer Concert. One of the clear highlights of the year was, however, the formation of 'Blue Shift' – the improvisational group that meets before Big Band to simply jam and enjoy creating jazz on the spot.

With a huge thank you to Mr Pascall on behalf of the group, the future looks bright for both Big Band and Blue Shift, who will certainly hit the ground running again come September.

Tom Greisbach, Lower Sixth

The Senior Clarinet Ensemble

Clarinet Ensemble meets once a week, consists of five boys and one girl, and is led by Miss Greswold. Over the year we have broadened our repertoire and enjoyed playing pieces from well-known musicals such as *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music* to the more contemporary side of music featuring 'American Patrol' and 'The Entertainer'. This year we have been lucky enough to perform in both the St Cecilia Concert and Summer Concert in which we played 'The Sugar Plum Fairy'. To top all this off, at the end of the summer term the Clarinet Quartet will be the first Clarinet Ensemble to take an Associated Board Ensemble Exam for the School and we have all been working very hard so that we can achieve our best. Without all the hard work and dedication of Miss

Greswold, we would not have this opportunity and I would like to thank her on behalf of the whole group.

Amy Parry, Upper Fifth

Senior Choir

Senior Choir has seen the arrival of many new members, particularly from the GCSE music groups. Having a larger choir has meant a stronger sound and the opportunity to tackle more demanding works. In November we performed the contemporary piece *The Peacemakers* by Karl Jenkins, written as a follow-up to his famous *Mass for Peace*. This is a large-scale work for chorus, semi-chorus (beautifully sung by the Girls' Chapel Choir) and soprano solo. Julie Whiting performed the evocative solo, with great control and sensitivity.

In the New Year we pressed on with our next piece of music *The King Shall Rejoice* by Handel, composed for the coronation of King George II in 1727. We sang this piece in the Summer Concert in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. This was a very different piece from *The Peacemakers*. Full of festive pomp and fanfares, it really did conjure up Westminster Abbey and a triumphant atmosphere. The great thing about Senior Choir is that whether you are Grade 2 or Grade 8 singing, you can benefit from the challenge of sight reading and the building of strength in the voice. On behalf of the Senior Choir, thanks go to Mr Perrins for his encouragement and inspiring teaching.

Florentina Harris, Upper Sixth

Jazz Singers

Jazz Singers has continued to thrive this year, despite the change of rehearsal time. For the Saint Cecilia Concert, we tackled a *Les Misérables* medley, finishing with the full version of 'One Day More'. This was a highlight of the concert for many, ending the first half with glitter cannons and tears!

Rehearsals then continued in preparation for the Summer Concert which would also be the final School Concert for Upper Sixth singers. Again, we ended the first half, singing 'For Now' from *Avenue Q* and 'Make You Feel My Love' by Adele. As a farewell for the Upper Sixth, the concert ended with the emotional 'Climb Every Mountain'; an apt choice seeing as *The Sound of Music* was the first School musical Jazz Singers stalwarts Oscar Street and Julie Whiting were in.

Once again, we would like to thank Mr Perrins for his continued hard work and enthusiasm this year and wish the next generations of Jazz Singers every success.

Jess Toogood, Upper Sixth

Solihull Sings!

Solihull School's choral outreach programme has now completed a second year, with a vibrant and highly energised celebration concert concluding each term's work in local primary schools. Greswold, St Alphege, St Augustines, Ulverley, Chapel Fields, Lapworth and Kineton Green primary schools have all participated, as well as all of our own J2s. Popular songs include 'Hey! Mr Miller', 'You raise me up', African melodies, a Gospel Medley, a Grandma Rap and many, many more. The Easter term's programme had a Phantom of the Opera twist, with pupils learning and performing a medley of songs from the musical in the Chapel, before moving to the Bushell Hall to be inspired by highlights from the Senior School production.

The celebration concerts have been enriched by the Solihull School Boys' Choir, Saxophony, Junior School String Ensemble as well as countless Sixth Form individuals. Sixth Form leaver Jamie Relph deserves a special mention for acting as our drummer in all six outreach concerts: he will be missed. We look forward to working with new schools in the new year.



Violin Maestros!

Aviva Sandler in the Third Form entered a national music competition, the Emunah Young Musician of the Year and was runner-up in her class. She was the youngest performer and impressed the judges with her stunning violin playing.

Also, congratulations go to Charlotte Sasse. At the age of just 14, she achieved success in her Associated Board Grade 8 violin exam, the highest level of study before musicians move up to diploma level and rarely attempted before the Sixth Form.

She is a member of the School's Symphony Orchestra, String Group, String Quartet and Violin Quartet and, outside school, performs with Vivace - the Solihull Music Service Senior String Ensemble - and the Solihull Symphony Orchestra.

Charlotte, who also plays the piano, sings with the School's Chapel Choir and has started learning the viola, performed in 2012 with the National Children's Orchestra in front of the Queen during the Diamond Jubilee Lunch at Westminster Hall. She is now a member of the NCO's alumni group Encore.



Recital by Florentina Harris and Oscar Street

On Monday 20th May we were treated to a splendid evening of varied music from Florentina Harris and Oscar Street when they presented their joint recital in the David Turnbull Music School, with Miss Pamela Davies and Miss Helen Dolby accompanying. Both students have achieved advanced levels in singing, and also in violin (Florentina) and trumpet (Oscar) so we had high expectations and were definitely not disappointed.

Florentina's selection of music included opera (Mozart), French melodié, show songs (the humorous 'The Physician' by Cole Porter and 'Villa' from *The Merry Widow*) and violin pieces by Vivaldi & Tchaikovsky. Oscar gave us a rendition of a bluesy piano number, 'Blueprint' by Mike Cornick and was joined by his trumpet tutor, Mr Hugh Pascall and fellow Sixth Former Joe Price for a very effective trumpet trio by Britten. His songs ranged through early music, romantic 'Widmung' by Schumann (composed for his wife-to-be), English song and the lively 'Something's Coming' from *West Side Story*. The two performers also started and ended their programme with vocal duets, and their final one 'The Spider and the Fly' was hilariously presented. Possibly the highlight was their encore number with their 'return of Christine & Raoul' from *The Phantom of the Opera* singing 'All I ask of you'. It was certainly an evening to remember!

Miss P Davies



Double success for Charlotte

Congratulations to Charlotte Beesley who has been accepted into the prestigious National Youth Theatre. Furthermore, her musical talent was on show this year as she composed a piece of music, 'Remembrances', which had its premiere at the Summer Concert.

Vocal and Informal Concerts

The Music Department held another of its regular Informal Concerts on Wednesday 15th May. These concerts are designed to offer performance opportunities to pupils of all ages and abilities, and this concert encompassed various instruments and singers, covering all age groups within the School. There were some really excellent performances, even from some of our youngest performers.

The Vocal Concert has become an annual event and was held on Thursday 20th June. Junior and Senior School pupils took part in this varied evening of song; some items were from the shows, some pupils sang charming little items written especially for the younger voice, and there were also some incredibly mature and accomplished performances from our senior singers, with 'farewell performances' from some of our Upper Sixth. This was another enjoyable evening to round off the term and the school year.

Miss P Davies





Upper Fifth Art

- 1. Abdullah Sheikh
- 2. Megan Seickell
- 3. David Herriots
- 4. Olivia Eguiguren-Wray
- 5. Jenna Balfour
- 6. Harry Sharpe
- 7. Jack Francis
- 8. Ellie Rush De Jesus
- 9. Harriet Crisp-Jones
- 10. Ellie Brown
- 11. Charlotte Spence
- 12. Olivia Harris
- 13. Liberty Malley
- 14. Oscar Haynes

Performing Arts

The Phantom of the Opera

Note from the Musical Director: Stephen Perrins

I was thrilled to be involved in our production of *Phantom*, something I never imagined happening, as current West End hit shows rarely become available for others to perform. My enthusiasm for this show was clearly shared by the cast, who from day one threw themselves whole-heartedly into this difficult and very demanding work. This show is quite possibly one of the two most musically challenging works in the music theatre repertoire (the other being another Solihull School success story from the past, *Les Misérables*).

Phantom has a wonderfully memorable score but also a phenomenally complex and difficult one, both in terms of vocal range and stamina and also in its rhythmic intricacies, that would challenge any professional performer. That our pupils (both cast and musicians) rose so amazingly to this challenge is a source of genuine pride and admiration. They deserved their success in bringing this iconic musical to the stage. I enjoyed working with this amazingly talented group of youngsters!

Director: Lisa Fair

Lesson number one: never agree to put on a production you've never seen! Of course, I 'knew' *Phantom* – after all, I'd grown up watching Sarah Brightman on Top of the Pops sailing across a misty lake... for weeks on end! But it was only when I went to check out the real thing that I realised what an epic and demanding production this was: flying, exploding chandeliers, fireballs, walls of flame, floating boats, full scale ballet pieces and those top notes! Daunting is hardly an accurate description!

Yet, somehow, we have found students here who were more than equal to the task. I am full of admiration for their talent – and total lack of fear! The principal roles in particular were superb. Tom Wilde had possibly the hardest task: to make the Phantom appear a pitiable – rather than feared – character and his final scenes when left alone and abandoned in the Labyrinth were a real tearjerker. Florentina, playing the role of Christine, looked and sounded as though she had just stepped off the West End stage. The number of people who commented on the quality and range of her singing, but also on the way she brought the character to life on stage was truly staggering. She is the consummate professional: dedicated, conscientious, talented and willing to experiment to get things



right. Her final scene with Raoul and the Phantom, when she is forced to choose between them, showed the strength of her acting ability. Oscar Street, playing Raoul, also had the difficult task of making his character sympathetic and believable. His scene with Florrie on the roof of the Opera House showed the quality of his acting, as well as a beautiful singing voice. It was difficult to believe we were watching Sixth Formers.

Add to these the likes of Julie Whiting as Carlotta (who provided some of my favourite comedy moments!), Chris Bevins as Piangi, Georgia Cherry as Madame Giry and the comedic brilliance of Joe Singer and Callum Fisher as the Managers, and we had a full cast of talent. In addition to the demanding vocal score and technical issues to contend with, Isobel Hands took on the daunting task of choreographing several ballet scenes which were, in themselves, little productions. Mathew Prichard drew gasps from the audience as he leapt effortlessly across the stage. The pointe dancers were magnificent and all combined to create a real spectacle of a show.

As an added bonus, James Bisp (brother of our own Claire Black) and Simon Green (an Old Boy of the School), two stars of the current touring production, took time out of their busy schedule to visit and work with us in rehearsal. This made a huge impact on the cast, who suddenly began to appreciate just what they had achieved in a few short weeks.



As well as my phenomenal cast, I must thank Paul Jukes, Karl Leach, Kevin Hunton, Sam Mason, Karen Perrins and all those other staff who make evenings like this possible. And now I rest...!



Beauty's large and fractious family was enacted brilliantly. Charlie Morgan, Ben Levett-Dunn and Ben Osborne played the three brothers, respectively - Geeky, Sporty and Mummy's Little Favourite! Isobel Serle and Tanya Sebastien were wickedly funny as Beauty's spiteful sisters.

Isabelle Kent and Richard Beaty gave the play its momentum as Mother and Father. Isabelle took on the role of Guardian Angel, watching over the family, guiding our responses and working her magic when hope seemed to be dwindling for the family. Richard let his character evolve beautifully, from a vain wealthy merchant to a loving father figure. He may have grappled with endless lines to learn, but he entirely mastered his comic timing.

Finally we come to the two characters at the heart of this tale. Gemma Kentish played Beauty as uncompromising in her determination to uphold duty and love, a sharp contrast to her fickle siblings. She embraced lots of physical theatre and was a tender partner to Gianni Baldi, who played both Beast and Prince. We were concerned for Gianni's vocal chords as he roared out Beast's lines! However, his Prince was every bit as compelling. Gianni's movements were dancelike and graceful - the antithesis of his Beast. At its heart, this is a story about valuing each other and realising the beauty inside each of us.

This cast was the most energetic and fun group I've had the pleasure to direct. Callum Fisher was a fabulous assistant director and my thanks also go to Miss Rutherford's Stage Management team and Mrs Wilde and Mr Baddeley who turned the serving of Pimms into an art form!

Miss H Pike



Beauty and the Beast

The Middle School drama outdoor production of *Beauty and the Beast* took place during the last week of the summer term and our prayers for sunshine were answered. The venue of the Junior School outdoor theatre was packed and the Headmaster and Deputies were spotted relaxing on the lawn with a glass of something cool.

There was nothing Disney about our interpretation. This was a magical tale of larger-than-life characters, witches and beasts, funerals and wedding bells. The cast of 22 pupils used physical theatre to bring the fairytale to life, creating everything from the palace arches and stairways to a rose bush. As a result, this became a huge team effort and every contributor, both on stage and in production, was vital.

However, special mention must be made of several of the cast. Zershaaneh Qureshi and Georgia Greenburgh became 'clockwork', each with a large key in the back to wind up when required! They mastered the mechanical movements with aplomb, as did Eva Penhallurick when faced with the challenge of being a convincing and somewhat frisky horse!



The Ash Girl
by Timberlake Wertenbaker

This year's play, *The Ash Girl* by Timberlake Wertenbaker, was directed by Mrs J Wilde. It took the Cinderella story, added the Seven Deadly Sins and a character called Sadness, and made the central character, Ash Girl (Cinderella) as much a victim of herself as of others. However, just like in the traditional story, the heroine gets her Prince and there is a happy ending. The play contains themes about growing up, self-esteem, being prepared to take risks and questions society's images of physical beauty; it urges young people to accept who they are, to like who they are and to make the most of what they have.

For three nights students played to appreciative audiences. Sally Farrant and Lucy Rosier were fabulously funny as Ruth and Judith, Ash Girl's cruel sisters, with Nicola Cronin as their elegant but cold-hearted mother; it was to all three's credit that we felt a little sorry for them at the end. Lauren Buchan gave



us an earnest and sincere Ash Girl with Joe Singer suitably stropky as Prince Amir. Tara Joyce was a dignified Princess Zehra, delivering a moving speech about relationships. Matt Tyler added comedy as the entrepreneurial Paul. Harry Morgan, Florentina Harris, Tom Beasley, Hannah Beasley, Jessica McCormack, Charlotte Beesley and Faye Kent were wonderful as the monsters, embodying the Seven Deadly Sins through their physical and vocal skills. Emily Hodge made a delightfully down-to-earth Fairy Godmother and Oscar Street played the sinister figure of Sadness superbly, bringing a chilling atmosphere to the piece. We also had a variety of endearing animal characters, each being created effectively through physicality and voice: Sophie Hicks was Otter, Isobel Henry was Owl, Cerys Stansfield was Girl Mouse and Federico Collini was Boy Mouse, and Isabella Adderley, Tabitha Botterill, Georgina Dalby, Nicola Frankland, Haris Khan, Liam Mingo and Rebecca Toher played Spiders. Ella Harthman and Sophia Peschisolido played Guests.

Costume and make-up added to the success of the show, helping create the fantasy world of the play and the larger-than-life characters. Thanks to Dr Partridge for the costumes and to Mrs Thomas, Mrs Marks and their team of helpers for the make-up. No show could be successful without excellent and committed backstage and technical support. Scene changes, lighting and sound cues, and special effects including pyrotechnics, were executed with precision. Many thanks to Dr Jukes the Production Manager, Mr Hadley the Technical Manager, and Laura Newbould the Stage Manager. Congratulations to all those involved in the show.

Mrs J Wilde





Lower School Drama

During the Christmas term around 50 Lower School pupils took part in a production of *Homer's Odyssey* by David Calcutt. Cerys Stansfield was excellent in the lead role of Odysseus who, with his trusted band of sailors, battles his way home from the ravages of the Trojan War. Along the way, watched over by the gods of Olympus, his resolve is tested in encounters with a variety of monsters, witches and sirens – the Cyclops, Circe, Leukosia, Agalope, Kharybdis and Skylla. Eventually however, his courage sees him safely home and united with his wife Penelope and his son Telemakhos and restored to his throne in Ithaca. The production used projection to create the world of the gods and clever lighting to create a variety of mythical locations. The play was directed by Mrs J Wilde and the music was provided by Mr Cureton on the piano. Dr Jukes managed the production.

Lower School Drama Club has continued, with up to 30 Lower School pupils regularly attending on Tuesday lunchtimes. This is in large part due to the commitment of two Sixth Form students, Sally Farrant and Nicola Cronin, who have run the sessions. Participants have enjoyed developing their stage craft through improvisation and theatre games.

Mrs J Wilde



GCSE Drama

In their final year of GCSE Drama, Upper Fifth students (the first cohort in the School) presented devised work – 'Pandora's 7' – a piece of physical theatre created by themselves, exploring the theme of creation; improvised pieces – 'What Would You Do?' and 'End of the Line' – that raised questions of moral choices; and for their final assessed piece they performed *Blue Remembered Hills* by Dennis Potter. For all performances students also successfully designed and operated lighting and sound.

The Lower Fifth have approached the course with equal enthusiasm, starting with improvised work on the theme of homelessness and working towards performances of extracts from *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, *The Dumb Waiter* by Pinter and *Fairytale Heart* by Philip Ridley.

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

Mrs J Wilde

A-Level Theatre Studies

For the final assessed practical piece of their A-Level examination, A2 students presented a play devised, designed and produced by themselves. *The Diamond As Big As The Ritz* was an adaptation of the short story of the same name by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Emily Hodge, Sally Farrant, Lucy Rosier, Hannah Beasley, Tara Joyce and Oscar Street worked superbly as an ensemble to create a memorable piece of theatre that examined the lure of wealth, the results of greed and the redeeming nature of love. It was at times funny and poignant and engaging throughout. The standard of acting was high and the design of the piece was superb with lighting and sound being used as an integral part of the performance. This was an original piece of theatre and one of which to be proud.

In the Easter term, following work on Stanislavski's system of acting and the directorial approach of Max Stafford-Clark, Lower Sixth students presented six outstanding pieces of theatre for the practical unit of the course. Lauren Buchan and Esther Domingo performed in an extract from Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, capturing the bond between the sisters Blanche and Stella beautifully. Emily Reddi and Ben Gee created admirable tension as they performed a gritty piece from Simon Stephens's *Punk Rock*. Harry Morgan and Bethany Roberts were delightful in Leonard Gershe's *Butterflies are Free*, a gentle story of a blind boy trying to become independent. Charlotte Beesley, Callum Fisher and Tom Beasley thoroughly engaged the audience in their tense and shocking scene from *Orphans* by Dennis Kelly. In *Rat in the Skull* by Ron Hutchinson, a play set against the Irish Troubles in the 1980s, Kieran Joyce and Lawrence Finch were totally believable as RUC man Nelson and policeman Harris. The last extract was from William Mastroianni's *Extremities*. This gripping piece was performed excellently and with appropriate menace by Charlotte Taylor, Sophie Hicks, Jessica McCormack and Louis Roach.





Lower Sixth Art

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



Solihull School
art and design

A year in the RAF section

It has been another great year to be in the RAF section. We started off the year with a weekend camp at Rough Close, navigating, making fires and sleeping under Bashers.

For the first time in many years we competed in the Air Squadron Trophy at RAF Cosford and despite our inexperience we came 1st in the first aid section of the competition. We hope to re-enter next year and build on our success.

Sadly in June, we said goodbye to one of our longest serving cadets. CDT Warrant Officer Maher had been the senior RAF cadet for several years and was 'dined out' with a special meal joined by cadets old and new.

June also saw our first outing to Blackwell Adventure, where cadets took part in Archery lessons and had fun on the new longer Zip Wire. The evening was finished off with one of Mr Hadley's famous BBQs.

In September, I was awarded a prestigious RAF Flying Scholarship. This took me away for two weeks to Dundee learning how to fly on a Grob Tutor, a two-seater training aircraft. It was great fun and an experience I will never forget.

Cdt Corp Sam McCumiskey



a visit from 457 Battery 106 Royal Artillery (TA unit based in Southampton) who demonstrated the Army's close air defence weapon. This unit is used to support a battle group as it moves. The weapon can be fired from the shoulder, a mobile stand and an armoured vehicle. The missile travels at 3.5mach and contains 3 Titanium darts. Each missile costs over £30,000. The cadets had the opportunity to hold the weapon and simulate a missile launch!

Everyone managed to survive this exercise and learnt many new skills which will be tested on Camp this year.

In July 2012 we attended summer camp which was held at Warcop Training Camp for 31 members of the Army Section. This was an excellent camp and the weather was especially kind to us when we were on military training. The activities that were laid on by the camp staff were some of the best we have had.

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

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)



Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

CCF (Army)

2012/13 was another successful year for the Army Section under the leadership of CSM Edwards. This year there were again numerous training events including Military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

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

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

The next event on the calendar followed very shortly which was the Battle Camp, the highlight of the training year. This was held at Mindley Manor Training Area near Aldershot and involved Seaford College CCF providing the enemy. Once again the weather was kind to us and some excellent training was undertaken.

In June the military training weekend was replaced with a bushcraft and survival skills training event. The cadets had instruction in cooking in the field, how to build improvised shelters, collecting and purifying water, signalling and the equipment needed for survival. During the weekend we had



Leticia's Kenyan Adventure

Congratulations to Leticia Salmon who this year won a nationwide Ministry of Defence competition. She will be spending three weeks during summer 2014 in Kenya to partake in charity work in a local school. While in Africa, she will also climb Mount Kenya.



Terriers

In the Third Form we do Terriers every Thursday between lessons four and five. Terriers involves learning a variety of different survival skills that may be useful later on in life. These activities include mountain craft, cooking, fires, kayaking and much more. These activities are all based on teamwork, responsibility, co-operation and perseverance. In the first half of the year we do winter activities ending in tests where you will either receive a bronze, silver, or gold. Then, in the second half of the year we have summer activities.

I believe that one of the most enjoyable activities was survival skills: fires. In this, we went in groups of three and were given the following: cotton wool, kindling wood, crushed wax, timber sticks and maya dust. With these materials we had to try and make a fire and sustain it. We were also given a flint to start the fire. In this activity, you had to have a lot of perseverance because it was hard to begin with but sustaining the fire was really quite easy, and if we did that, we got to toast marshmallows on it! Moreover, every member of the team had to co-operate and work together.



Another activity that was really thrilling was Mission. Before Mission we had two weeks of map work practice, and then we had the real thing and got dropped off in the middle of nowhere. We then had to make our way either to the School or to a nearby garden centre. Our team were not the best at map reading (to say the least!) and ended up lost by a desolate farm in the countryside with the Sixth Formers searching for us! But a few weeks later we did it again and after about two hours of walking we finally reached the School and had passed our Mission.

Terriers has made me more confident with heights as we did climbing and ropes, where we had to make our way along a high ropes course with lots of different obstacles along the way. Also, it has made me work better in a team and individually. Moreover, Terriers has encouraged me to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award later on in my life and take more challenges. However, mostly I would like to help out new Third Formers when they do Terriers too.

Katie Phillips



young enterprise

start something

It has been a successful and rewarding year for our three Lower Fifth Young Enterprise Companies; Mydas, Spotted Zebra and Synergy. We started the year with over 40 participants on the scheme and many product ideas were discussed. The three companies decided to concentrate their efforts on buying products and selling them on at a profit. All teams managed to turn a profit and make charitable contributions from their activities. Given the time available the students felt that making products from scratch would not enable them to make as much profit and so focused their efforts instead on sourcing products and retailing. The teams were ably assisted by external volunteer Business Advisors and we are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

The Managing Directors – Amy Lewis, Josh Samuels and Leticia Salmon – soon realised the difficulties associated with managing a group of peers and learnt much about the power of persuasion and the art of delegation. All company members operated under tight time constraints and they should be commended on their approach to meeting deadlines given their other academic and co-curricular commitments. A range of business skills across marketing, finance, human resources and I.T. were developed and this learning was put to the test in the Young Enterprise examination, where students were required to analyse and evaluate the performance of their respective businesses.

Companies participated in the Parents' Association Christmas Fayre and the Solihull YE Trade Fair, held in the Touchwood Centre. In addition, companies also sold confectionery at various School events. Companies sold a range of products including personalised hoodies, jewellery, pocket money toys, wristbands, origami decorations and Easter egg gift sets.

Mydas, who by their own admission were not the most creative or profitable group, managed their company very well and set their sights on winning a prize at the Solihull YE



Competition. They worked hard to achieve this goal and duly delivered a great performance which resulted in the prize for Best Presentation.

Synergy at an early stage set their sights on selling products that would deliver a large profit. They duly delivered on this target and were our most profitable entrepreneurs. They spent a significant amount of time researching products and their customer service and professional sales techniques helped them to sell most of the items procured.

Spotted Zebra were successful in the Solihull area YE Competition where they won the prizes for Best Company and Best Company Report. As a result of this success they went on to represent the School at the Birmingham area final, where they secured the award for Best Financial Management. Their success was particularly remarkable in light of the fact that most of the competition came from teams made up of Sixth Form students.

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

Mrs J Mander



Dog biscuits, footballs and sun screen – a year in the life of the Geography Department at Solihull School

Geography is all around us and it is not possible to gain a true appreciation of the processes which shape our world without actually being able to go out and see them in action. We have been very fortunate with the field courses we have been able to take our pupils on this year and the pupils have learnt a lot from their experiences. It has also been great seeing our pupils interacting with unfamiliar landscapes and also with members of the public.

Strangely enough, some of our pupils are not exactly keen to get up close and personal with unfamiliar landscapes. To the average pupil, the topic of limestone is unlikely to seem like the most exciting of subjects to study. Despite a bright, colourful display in the Geography corridor, I am sure that most of the Shell Formers were not exactly keen to take a trip up to the Peak District on a dank October morning. It was amazing to see how a tour in a cavern learning about the mining of Blue John and being able to see stalactites, stalagmites and other limestone features in situ fired the imagination of our pupils. Feeling the drip of icy, limestone-rich water on your head was all part of the multi-sensory experience. The Shell Formers clearly had an excellent time if the quality of their project work was anything to go by. I think we have managed to make a few converts here. Soon, they will be dragging their parents off to all sorts of places to enjoy the landscape.

Our Sixth Formers got a similar experience during our four-day visit to the Lake District in April. This field course was an important step in their preparation for their AS exams. One of the days was spent on the River Eea undertaking research into the river's dynamics. I don't think that our pupils thought that fieldwork was such a dangerous business, particularly the need to chase away hordes of ducks that were eager to eat our dog biscuits (a key tool for measuring river velocity). We also had a day walking on the Copperhead trail by Coniston, which provided an interesting test of stamina and endurance. It was a very worthwhile day, even if it did lead to some blisters, as it enabled the Sixth Formers to gain a better understanding of glacial landscapes through being able to see various features in context.

More recently we have had two excellent visits to Malvern (with the Lower Fifth) and to Old Trafford (with the Third Form). The pupils went off into Malvern to complete their traffic counts, questionnaires and other research. On their return, along with bulging bags of information, the pupils had also acquired large Iceland shopping bags full of ice-creams! Clearly our pupils had taken on board our comments about engaging with their surroundings and that Geography is all around them, but perhaps a little too literally in this example. Joking aside, the pupils on all the trips we have taken should be praised for their committed approach to completing their allotted tasks and for representing the School most admirably. The visit to Manchester United was a great climax to the year, where our Third Formers were able to experience the theatre of dreams whilst it is still imbued with the spirit of Fergie. The pupils were well behaved and attentive all day, despite the constant drizzle! If Manchester United ever need a new business manager to overlook the future development and expansion of the stadium, they just need to employ one of our Third Formers.

Given the great experiences this year, I am already looking forward to trips and visits with the Department next year.

Dr S Sawicki

This year, 4B have been studying the Global Fashion Industry and to finish the year off we decided to have a debate so the motion was set for 'This House Believes that Globalisation is Good for Us'.

The class selected three speakers for each side of the argument and two summarisers. We asked for a little help on debating from Maddie Lavery who was the chairperson. Speakers for the motion were Lydia Roll, Luke Kent, and

Bart Payne with Gemma Kentish summarising, and speakers against the motion were Jess Lloyd, Isabel Douglas and Cameron Pound with Alistair Bevan summarising. All sides spoke extremely well with 'Points of Information' called by Charley Hadley and James Davenport, Conor Gregory and Charles Davies. In the end Maddie concluded from all the discursive points that the motion was passed. With such passionate speaking skills, the next generation of debaters will be waiting for their opportunity to join the Debating Society and engage in more topical issues.

Lower Sixth Geographers have been learning about local conflicts as part of their A2 course which enabled the Department to initiate a discussion over the debate concerning Sainsbury's coming to Forest Court in Dorridge. Sue Bailey, representing Sainsbury's, came to talk about the reasons why the development should go ahead and Ian Spencer of the Dorridge District Residents' Association talked about the considerations that were needed if the plan were to go ahead and how the planning application has had to be amended and adjusted over the course of the last five years. It seems that yet another amendment will be needed before all parties can decide when and how it will go ahead. As part of their research, students visited the area, completed questionnaires to find out the local attitudes, and did environmental surveys to ascertain the likely impact in the future.

Mrs J Brown

Lower Sixth Public Speaking Seminar

For the second year in a row, our Lower Sixth Form went off timetable for a day after their AS exams to focus on public speaking, a fundamental life skill that is all too often forgotten by schools focused on examination success. So why devote so much school time and money to a non-academic discipline? According to national surveys, public speaking ranks among the UK's top fears, surpassing the fear of illness, flying, terrorism, and sometimes the fear of death itself, and yet it is one of the most fundamental of all life skills. Most students leave Solihull School more than able to express themselves on paper, yet when they reach the job market most will be required to present information verbally to groups of people; whether they go into marketing, law, medicine, management consultancy, or dare I say it teaching, the ability to speak out and present information in an interesting and engaging manner is essential. Add to this important life events like weddings, or just the mundane day-to-day of story-telling amongst friends, and it is easy to make a strong case for public speaking training in schools.

As was the case last year, the School brought in professional speaking coach James Marshall from 'Talking Ape' along with his associates. Each coach was allocated one House, who spent the day with them building up their skills and confidence, including working on structure, content, body language and handling nerves. At the end of the day the best speaker from each House was nominated to compete in the Bushell Hall in front of the whole year group and a panel of staff judges. Once again this event was a huge success and all of the students have developed skills which we hope will be of great use to them in the future.

Mr B Sandford-Smith



Stretch and Challenge

It has been a fantastic year in terms of the School's Stretch and Challenge opportunities; from Classics Society trips to Rome and lectures on Pompeii through to a Maths and Mountains trip run by Mr Worrall, there have been opportunities for all. The Oxbridge Programme led to fantastic success with 11 students having offers from Oxford and Cambridge, and the Medics Society was also brilliantly successful with 14 students gaining offers for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. In addition, there were two academic retreats to the Mountain Cottage, a trip to Oxford for Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth students for a Gifted and Talented Conference, Scholars sessions on subjects as wide ranging as 'What is Art?' through to Neuroscience and Robotics, and a Redesigning Education project led by Miss Evans. The Stretch and Challenge Blog has continued to have a wide range of opportunities (www.solschstretch.blogspot.com) and individual students are engaging in everything from a Greek Summer School through to being selected for an Oxford Physics Extension course over the summer. Thank you to all the staff who have given up their time to support and challenge our pupils.

Ms D Harford

Schools' Challenge

On Wednesday 14th November, two teams of pupils headed towards the annual Schools' Challenge competition at King Edward's School, hoping to regain some honour from last year's crushing defeat. The A-team consisted of Sam Foxall, Richard Bradley, Oliver Daniels and Josh Samuels, and the B-team was Simon Turpin, Casey Davison, Ethan Smallwood and Chris Fowler, with subs David Herriotts and Angus Young. Unfortunately the B-team did not fare too well. After a scandal involving the King Edward's Stratford team which resulted in their disqualification, the B-team played against Shrewsbury and was knocked out after a hard fought match, leaving them out of the whole competition.

The A-team marched on, being picked to play King Edward's School in the semi-finals. Sadly, the opposition team was simply stronger and took a convincing win against the Solihull team, knocking them into the 3rd place final. Even though morale was low, the team managed to rouse its spirits in the final game, and make one final win against King Edward's High School, to ensure a pleasing 3rd place finish for Solihull but not allowing them to progress into the next regional round. I would like to thank Mrs Sykes and Mrs Johnson for all their help coaching and acting as quizmasters during the competition and to Mr Garner for driving a minibus full of loud quizzers to the competition.

Sam Foxall



Classics Society

This year has been packed full of exciting trips and lectures attended by the Classics Society. Pupils have had the opportunity to explore all aspects of the Greco-Roman world through university talks, museum visits and even a performance of Greek Tragedy.

Last October, the Classics Society attended the Autumn Lecture of the Birmingham and Midlands Classics Association (BMCA) held at the University of Birmingham to listen to a fascinating talk by Professor Edith Hall. The lecture was entitled 'Why do Women in Greek Tragedy still speak to us today?' and featured female criminals of our era linked back to the female protagonists in several Greek Tragedies. This proved especially beneficial for the AS Classical Civilisation students as they were able to relate what Professor Hall discussed to their study of Euripides' Medea.

The following month featured a visit to the Museum of London. Students were able to explore numerous artefacts, spanning through the centuries from pre-historic London through Roman Londinium and right up until the modern day. After a short break for lunch in the Barbican Centre and coming across the accredited 'Lord Mayor's Show', parading the streets of London, we spent the afternoon looking around the remains of Londinium, including the remains of the Roman city walls. One of the highlights of the day was the remains of the Roman amphitheatre that lies hidden beneath the Guildhall Art Gallery. It was a captivating experience to gain an insight into the archaeology of our capital city.

In the new year, we returned to the University of Birmingham for the BMCA's New Year Lecture. This time we heard Dr Andrew Bayliss speak about the mysteries of Sparta. 'Sparta – Separating Fact from Fiction' included an insight into the real world of the Spartan soldier without the gloss of a Hollywood screen.

In March senior members of the Classics Society revisited the University to attend the BMCA Texts and Topics Sixth Form Conference. Latin and Classical Civilisation students attended a series of stimulating lectures presented by a variety of university professors. One of the lectures included a vase handling session, which allowed students to examine Greek and Roman pottery without the restrictions of a museum case. The conference concluded with a talk on 'Epic and Hollywood' by Dr Liz Gloyn, in which the storylines of the Iliad and the Odyssey were brought into a modern perspective through comparison with recent films and literature.

The final trip was the visit to the British Museum to see the 'Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum' exhibition. Following the society's trip to Italy in the Easter holidays, students

found the event a relatable and enjoyable experience, as they were able to examine artefacts that haven't been on display before. This experience added to what the students had learned previously, contributing to a very insightful day out, not forgetting the museum cake recommended by Mrs Johnson!

We would like to thank Mrs Johnson and the Classics Department for arranging so many engaging trips and visits. We look forward to the events planned in the future!

Katherine Bridges

Debating Society

This year, the Debating Society has enjoyed yet more success, arguably competing with last year's achievement of producing the best competitive results ever seen at Solihull School.

In the Christmas Term the senior teams, made up from Sixth Form and Middle School pupils, were very busy. At the Birmingham competition, in the final debate, three out of four teams were from Solihull, with Sanika Karandikar and Katy Hatter emerging winners. Jack Fowles also claimed the prize of Top Speaker on show. Warwick was the next competition and on this occasion Amy Middleton and Megan Lloyd were victorious in the Novice final on the topic of polygamy. At the Nottingham competition, Solihull featured in yet more finals, this time with Arun Baxter and Joe Halbert breaking to the semi-finals of the tournament. Solihull School also took an active role in hosting competitions. Megan Lloyd and Zershaaneh Qureshi broke in first place to the regional final of Cambridge University's ICYD, a well-established tournament



open to pupils under the age of 16. Finally in this term, the School played host to the regional rounds of the Oxford and Cambridge competitions. Sanika Karandikar and Katy Hatter made it to the finals days of both prestigious tournaments and they were joined in Oxford by Arun Baxter and Joe Halbert.

In the Easter term, the School returned to the second Birmingham competition. On this occasion, Richard Bradley and Nick Hooper broke to the final, only losing out to a strong Eton team. Aside from the respective Oxbridge finals days, the term was capped off by the weekend trip to Durham, the world's largest competition at school level. Maddie Lavery and Ben Piggan made it to the Novice final, and just missed out on claiming the esteemed title. Four Middle School pupils – Caroline Camm, Megan Lloyd, Richard Bradley and Olivia Eguiguren-Wray – reached the final following victory in two regional rounds of the Taylor Trophy.

However, the Society's role in School life is much wider than news of competition successes. Numbers are flourishing throughout the entire school. Junior School pupils regularly attended Committee-run sessions to tackle complex human rights issues that would challenge the Sixth Form, as well as enjoy more light-hearted debates. The Third Form, split from the Lower School for the first time, have produced an encouraging standard of debating, and the inter-House Competition title was won by Phoebe Harland and Oliver Rooney of Shenstone. The Shell and Fourth Form Competition was won by Jessica Browne and Adam Bruton, while the Middle School Competition was won by Megan Lloyd and Camani Lall. Attendance and quality of debates remains strong in the Lower and Middle School, which no doubt spells more success for the future. A final highlight must be the brilliant show debate at Christmas, which pitted Mr Lloyd and Sanika Karandikar against Mr Morgan and Sophie Tillman, all in the name of charity. Mr Lloyd's elven-clad team were eventually able to defeat the Father Christmas side by a conclusive audience vote.

Next year will no doubt continue in the successful trend established over the past two years, with Maddie Lavery now taking on the role of President. Our thanks of course go to the staff involved throughout the School, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Joe Halbert



Chess Club

Solihull School has completed another successful year at chess. In the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League (B&DJCL) Under-13 division, we won two matches, drew one and lost two. The young side showed great talent and promise for the future. In Division Four of the League, our 2nd team won three, drew one and lost one, thereby finishing a close second and winning the Runners-up trophy. The Division Three team also played some excellent chess, competing well at the higher level.

Attendance at Chess Club has expanded its numbers this year, with new faces coming in from most year groups. We have also seen a number of girls joining for the first time, several of whom won representative matches for the School. Over the course of this year our professional coach, Nick Thomas, has continued to provide specialised training resulting in the continued improvement of all players. As always, many of our members have qualified for the local Gigafinal of the UK Chess Challenge. To grow chess further in the School and consolidate our position of being one of the best chess-playing schools in the area, there are now chess lessons in the Junior School. The annual B&DJCL U14 Rapidplay tournament was hosted by the School again and was a great success. This is a national tournament and many of the strongest chess-playing schools in the country participated – coming from as far afield as London and Torquay.

Our thanks must go to Dr Powell for his continued enthusiasm as well as organisation and coaching. Thanks also go to our Upper Sixth leavers, despite whose loss there is plenty of talent to strengthen our position in the coming seasons.

Jonathan Clarke



Oxbridge Success

This year the School celebrated an outstanding set of Oxford and Cambridge University offers.

No less than eleven Sixth Formers won conditional offers to study at Oxbridge colleges, almost doubling last year's success rate and tripling the figure for 2011.

Headed for Oxford are Dan Murphy, Sophie Tillman and Joe Watson who have all been offered places to study Medicine, plus Jack Fowles and Joe Halbert who are both looking forward to reading History.

Oxford offers have also been awarded to Naryan Branch (to read Geography), Mary Montgomery (Psychology and Philosophy), Hannah Smith (Physics) and Rebecca Took (English). Alex Lloyd and Arun Baxter have offers to study Maths and Philosophy respectively at Cambridge University.



Art Exhibition Celebration

The School welcomed parents, pupils and friends to one of the biggest summer art exhibitions in its history this year. More than 1000 pieces of artwork and photography created by 800 pupils from all years were on show at the exhibition. 'Recognising Creative Achievement' was the theme of the display which extended from three floors of the George Hill Building to adjoining School House, and for the first time included works submitted by nine other local schools.

Visitors were able to view A-Level and GCSE entries ranging from self-portraits to landscapes, while enjoying wine and canapés and live jazz from talented Sixth Formers. Solihull Junior School shared its section with works by boys and girls from Coppice Junior School, Dorridge Junior School, Eversfield Preparatory School, Greswold Primary School, Hallfield School, Knowle CE Primary School, Monkspath Junior School, Oak Cottage Primary School and West House School.



Upper Sixth Leavers' Celebrations

This year, celebrations for our Upper Sixth Leavers were held over two days filled with fun, laughter and tears. In the final Chapel Service, J1 troopers were presented with a special award by two current J1 pupils and Jerusalem was sung at great volume for the last time collectively. Mr Brattle and Mrs Brough, who are both retiring, received an impromptu standing ovation from the Upper Sixth. On the Friday morning students gathered in the Assembly Rooms for a breakfast reception and informal photographs before moving back to School for a final assembly in the Bushell Hall. They then made their way to Balsall Common Rugby Club for a final BBQ and a chance to sign each other's leavers' books and to wind down. It was a fantastic celebration of all that the Upper Sixth have achieved in their time here.

Before the Leavers' celebrations at the end of the summer term, this year's Sixth Form Bench enjoyed the annual soiree in the Alan Lee Pavilion.





A Date with Royalty

Pupils from the School enjoyed a date with Royalty when they were invited to the official opening of the new Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull.

They were welcomed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who congratulated them on their efforts and those of their fellow pupils in raising more than £5,000 for the Marie Curie Big Build Appeal.

As Patron of Marie Curie Cancer Care, Prince Charles cut a ribbon to open the new £20 million state-of-the-art hospice in Marsh Lane, the construction of which was made possible by the successful £7 million public appeal.

The School has played a big role in raising funds for the Hospice: activities have included filling 100 clothes bags, selling cakes and doughnuts, and non-uniform days. The Junior School also contributed part of the proceeds of its Charity Week to the Appeal.



Lord Hunt visits the School

Lower Fifth Formers and A-Level Politics students at the School boosted their inside knowledge of the House of Lords after a visit by a prominent local peer.

Lord Philip Hunt, Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Chairman of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, spoke to more than 100 pupils in the Bushell Hall about the role of the chamber in scrutinising, debating and shaping Bills as they pass through Parliament.

The Labour peer, who is also Opposition Spokesperson for Health and President of the Royal Society of Public Health, also answered questions on topics ranging from education and health policy at local and national level to British involvement in Afghanistan.



Solihull School at the House of Commons

On 23rd November 2012, UK Youth Parliament had their annual debate in the House of Commons. As the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) for Solihull and after being selected as the debate lead by the West Midlands region, I was able to speak from the despatch box in the chamber.

The whole experience was amazing. In the morning before the debate I got to meet with Rt Hon John Bercow MP, speaker of the House of Commons. I also talked to many MPs throughout the day. At lunch we were also asked to do television interviews. The entire day was geared around us, and improving lives for young people.

Members of the UK Youth Parliament are the only people other than MPs who are allowed to sit on the green benches and debate in the chamber. Therefore being guaranteed a speech, after being voted to represent our region, was an honour. It is an experience I will never forget, and I am pleased to have been fortunate enough to have been granted this opportunity.

Natasha Browne

Speeches Evening

At this year's Lower and Middle School Speeches evening we were pleased to welcome Professor Hugh Montgomery who spoke to a packed Bushell Hall and awarded the prizes to the students. Professor Montgomery is the Director of the UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance, but is also a celebrated polymath. Among his numerous achievements, he is an ultra marathon runner, a published children's author, he has climbed Everest and he holds the world record for underwater piano playing!



Simon Mayo visits the School

In the summer term, Simon Mayo came in to speak to Lower School pupils about his series of books based on a character called Itch. Simon, an Old Sil (1970-73 Windsor) finished the morning with a book signing session. It was a great way for the Lower School to start exam week.



The English Society

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

Dr Stephen Purcell from the University of Warwick spoke to Sixth Form English Literature students about Tragedy, focusing on Sophocles' *Antigone* and Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Dr Paul Prescott, also from Warwick, spoke to an Upper Fifth and Sixth Form audience about Christopher Marlowe's masterpiece *Doctor Faustus*, and made some fascinating arguments about the play's contemporary relevance. We also welcomed the poet Caroline Bird. Caroline is a strong role model for our aspiring writers and literary scholars because she studied English Literature at Oxford University and her first collection *Looking Through Letterboxes* was published when she was only 15. Caroline was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize for Writing in 2008 and 2010 and was the youngest writer on the list both times. Caroline performed her work and led us all in a stimulating poetry workshop which produced some exciting first drafts. She also welcomed Rebecca Took into her new position as Poet Laureate for Solihull School 2012-13.

Charity at Solihull School

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of many people, Solihull School has raised around £30,000 this year for a wide variety of local, national and international charities.

Yet again, the Junior School has raised a large amount of money through many initiatives, including tuck shop activities, cake sales, football matches, a sponsored decathlon involving over 200 children, and a talent show that shows that not only Britain, but Solihull, really has got talent. They raised just over £2,000 for Juvenile Diabetes, over £5,200 for the Norman Laud Association which provides equipment and activities for adults and children with a wide range of disabilities, and as usual, their continued support for Sightsavers raised £1,625. Their efforts and energy are very, very much appreciated.

Solihull School has also raised money for our local Marie Curie Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Fund, Save the Children, Jeans for Genes, Movember, the Imibala Trust, and the Uzbekistan Project which holds workshops teaching women traditional crafts so that they might support their families. Also, money has been raised for the Sick Children's Trust, a charity that supports the families of sick children: a charity close to Mr Babb's heart following the death of his godchild. Similarly, Battle of the Bands raised £457 towards a baby life-support machine for Birmingham Children's Hospital: a charity close to Miss Rutherford's heart and in memory of Ellie McAusland who sadly lost her battle for life at only 7 weeks of age.

A special mention goes to Miss Evans and her helpers who staged a 'sleep-out' in aid of Crisis – a charity for the homeless – and raised the magnificent total of £2,116.

We look forward to raising more money next year.

Mrs S Phillips

Sleep Out for Charity

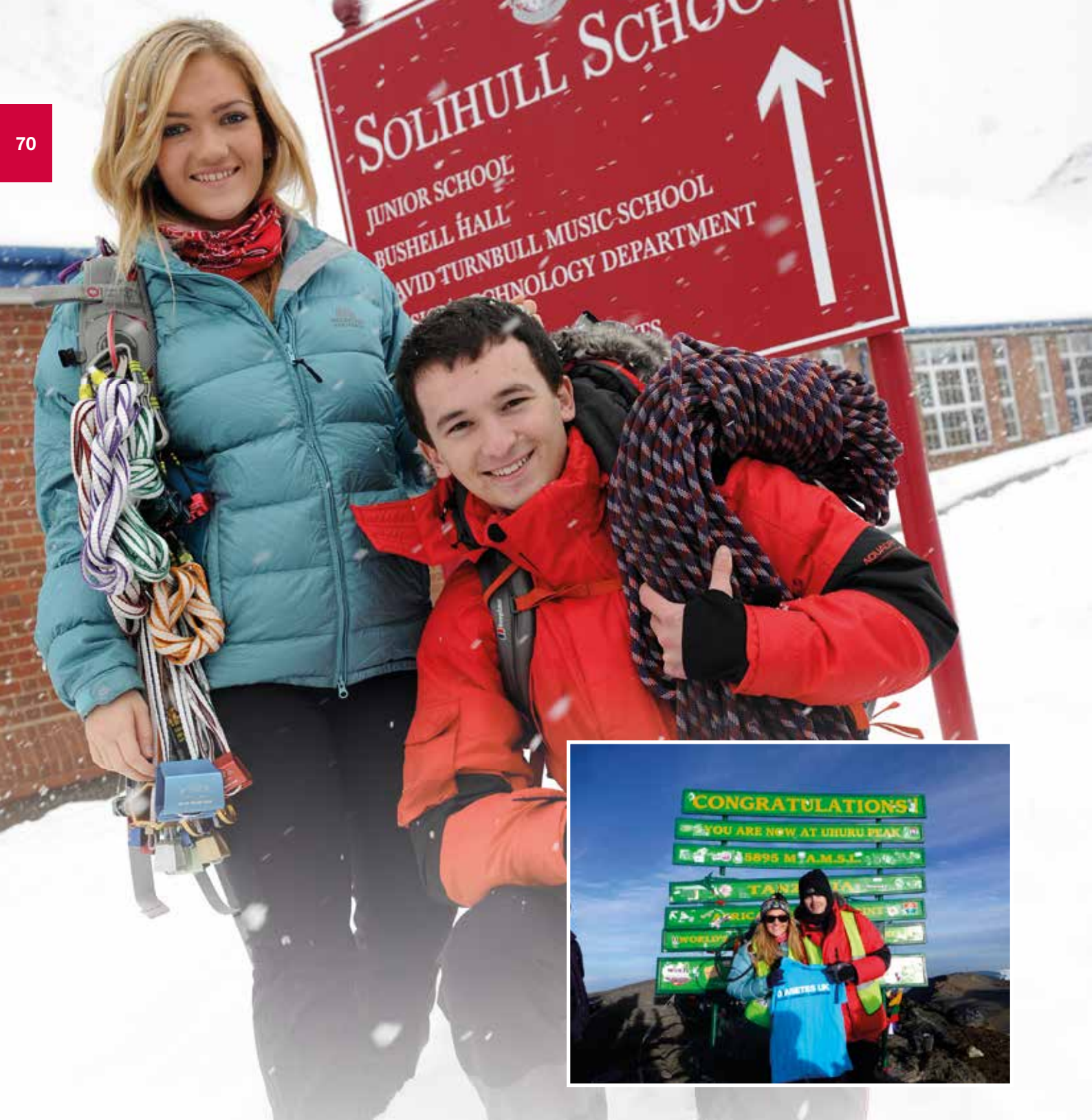
The summer term saw the inaugural Solihull School Sleep Out. Pupils from the Fourth Form initiated the event after reading the novel Stone Cold by Robert Swindells. Over 70 pupils and 10 staff slept in the School Quadrangle for one evening on Friday 3rd May, with nothing to protect them from the elements except for a sleeping bag and cardboard boxes. The School was supported in this event by generous donations of breakfast from the local branch of Pret a Manger and much needed cardboard from the John Lewis Solihull store. Money raised from sponsorship of the evening has exceeded over £2000.



Ross's Charity Work

Climbing Kilimanjaro to raise money for Diabetes UK has allowed me to get involved with their charity. As part of this, I was invited to speak to MPs, diabetologists, young children with diabetes and their parents in the House of Commons. The purpose was to launch a new campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of diabetes in young children. It gave me a great opportunity to speak about my own experiences and how with the right mindset, diabetes can be managed and doesn't have to stop you from doing anything you set your mind to

Ross Edwards



SOLIHULL SCHOOL
JUNIOR SCHOOL
BUSHELL HALL
DAVID TURNBULL MUSIC SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Trekking for Charity

During the Easter term, Sophie Tillman and I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa. It was the hardest thing either of us has ever done, requiring up to 15 hours of trekking a day and a climb to the summit starting at midnight, through the darkness, in half of the oxygen concentration at sea level. But it was an amazing experience which we would gladly relive. We have also raised £5500 so far for Diabetes UK, a charity which supports people with diabetes and their families. Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this target!!

Ross Edwards



The Kent Library

With yet another year done and dusted, the Kent Library has been a hive of activity. Way back in September our new cohort of Third Formers returned their summer reading postcards which were displayed in the Library, letting us know where in the world they had been reading their books!

Our next venture was 'Pets Win Prizes', which drew in vast crowds of students and staff to vote for Solihull School's Best Pet! It created a wonderfully electric atmosphere with Archie the cavachon a clear winner and our very own Miss Evans and Mr Jackson taking silver and bronze respectively with Trevor the Airedale and Tiddles the cat.



English Gifted and Talented Day

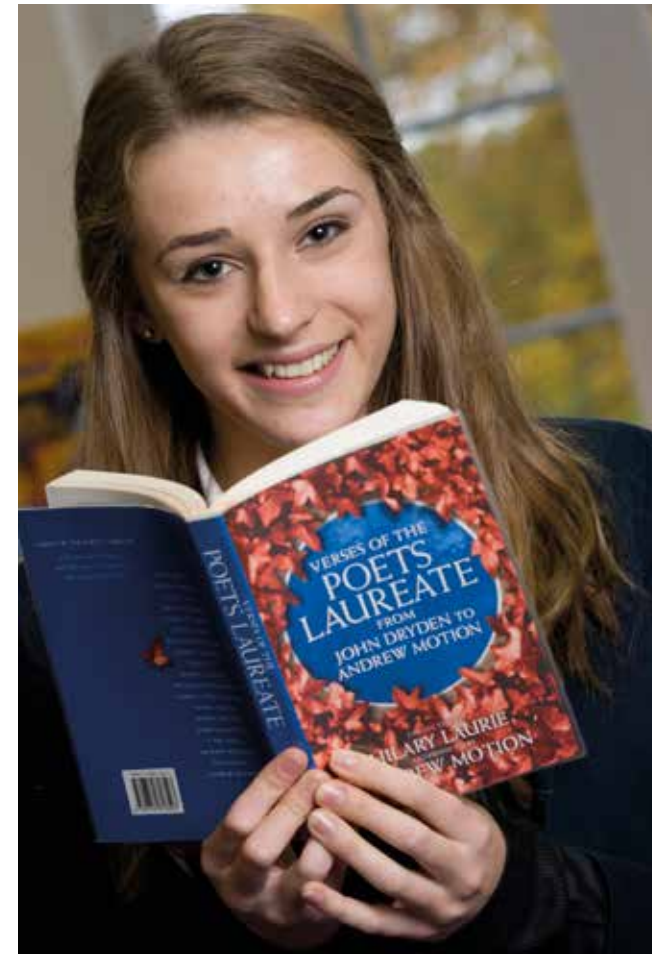
In November, children's author Steve Voake came to the School for a day of storytelling, creative writing and fun! During the morning sessions he ran a workshop along with Miss Pike for visiting local primary school pupils. Sixteen Year 5 pupils, selected by their primary school for their talents in English, came for the whole day. They took part in activities alongside six of our J3s who were also selected to take part in the Gifted and Talented day. The whole event was jam-packed with different activities including a book signing with Steve Voake in the morning, games at lunchtime run by our CSLA pupils and a drama session with Mrs Wilde in the afternoon. Our J3s then enjoyed Steve's company for the rest of the afternoon, where he ran a writing workshop and talked to them about his books and where he gets his inspiration for his work. Everyone involved would agree that it was a great day and Steve Voake was a fantastic guest!



The year swiftly moved on to Book Week where students enjoyed a variety of activities ranging from a visual literary quiz to decorating a gingerbread man as their favourite book character. Those that made it back uneaten showed great imagination, with the winning design entered by Lili Mistry in the Fourth Form. Congratulations also go to Olivia Gordon on her detective work in solving 'Who's Coming to Dinner', Eve Colyer for tracking down over 25 Easter bunnies that were hidden around the library, and Charlotte Sasse, the winner of our Literary Quiz. All winners received chocolate Easter eggs as their prizes.

Finally, the accolade of 'Most Avid Reader' goes to Eve Colyer in the Fourth Form for the girls and Mohammed Khan in the Third Form for the boys. Keep up the good work for next year!

Mrs A Vaughan Librarian



Poet Laureate for Solihull School

For the first time, the English Department has run a competition to find a Poet Laureate for Solihull School. A Poet Laureate is a writer worthy of honour and distinction. Originally, he or she was crowned with laurel sprigs woven into a wreath or crown. A Poet Laureate writes to mark occasions of national importance and some of you will have studied poems by Britain's current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. Our new School Laureate will do just the same, writing poems that celebrate important moments in the Solihull School year such as Remembrance, while being mentored through the process by Miss Pike.

We invited entries from Upper Fifth and Sixth Form students and asked the competitors to write two poems – one on a subject of their choice, the other on the theme of perseverantia. The field was very strong and attracted some impressive entries from all three year groups. Amongst the shortlisted entries, Campbell Binning and Lauren Buchan were strong. However, Rebecca Took's poems were particularly impressive and she won the position of Poet Laureate for this school year.

Rebecca first performed her winning poems at The English Society on National Poetry Day. It is about a writer who is fated to fall in love with the moon goddess, Phoebe, who is the sister of the God of the sun. She identifies him as different to all of the other humans on earth, who don't have the same insight he does, and so she makes him fall in love with her. But, as he's human, the only way to get up to the moon is to build a staircase out of his own stories and climb up, which he does, and it takes him all of his life. To reward him for his perseverance and dedication in writing for so long for her, she

immortalises him in planet form, so that the two can eternally orbit one another – evidence of their mutual devotion. As the stories he wrote aren't needed any longer, they become the dreams of the humans below.

Phoebe and Perseverantia

The Sun traced a finger along the monochrome silhouette, hushing close page-heavy eyes. The moon-child breathed cloudy the sky's sighs, settling her crown into laurel leaf lullabies.

Beneath, birth-hot bodies watched in blindness, making whispers and white confirmations, counting out pebble promises on their fingers- wishing for vinegar kisses and burning stones- and staring, staring at ceilings, forgetting they slept under stars.

The wooden-eyed wordsmith drooped on his desk, his hands in slumber on the black-and-white type keys. The letter box was opened: all had flown out, except one sole utterance, sitting knee-clasped lonely on the page. Like those printers who twinned two letters on one plate, the writer's life folio was written in one word.

The moon-child, hearing her name, awoke, wiped constellations from her eyes, and gazed at the man made from wood. The moon smiled- with one sad eye and one stone. A mercury drop trembled down her cheek, as an orb fell through the stars.

He on the flat forgot all language: He knew only her name, yet his calls echoed bluntly into the unstabblable sky. From the edge of the earth, there he would plunge, like the fool imitating Gabriel in wax.

The man was knotted in longing, And spoke, unheard to his love. He told her all the tales his headiness could conceive: tales of fantastical forests, of lily-laden lakes bathing daisy-hearted depressives, of banshees, Iguanas, and artichoke-hearted serving girls, bespectacled cobblers, boys sprouting leaves and babes making fire from seas. Of great trees running in reverse, leaden will-o'-the- wisps, revolutionary-minded toadstools, and birds who were blinded without song.

cont...

Each letter recorded was told on
His face- the author wore his work
on his being. Paper-man became
Parchment as pages became volumes.
Devotion wedded time, and impregnated
Unrequitement. The writer's eyes grew
muggy from clouds of constellation
dust, but light de la lune let him
keep writing, and write until he could
see over the banister of the globe.

While she slumbered, the lone paper-man
Had composed his penultimate myth.
His story bound, the book-brick was
Placed at the head of the stairs.
He left behind the word-type composer,
Left those other sweaty souls and their
White-noise sayings. Yet though he could
Climb up new-land ladders into the realm
Of the moon-child, he was mute: he was
Only man.

But, as she stroked the cheek of the human,
His carnation curve bloomed into celestial
Being. A new-formed planet, though a
Wordsmith no more, orbited with elliptical
Verse. The stair-stories were redundant, so
Rifted across the sky like fabled confetti,
Letting dreamers be shown not ceilings,
but stars.

Forgotten

Let there be forgetting
So infants remain muted
And sugared poison stays unspoken.
So photographs won't walk and
Blushes of yesterday will seep arousal.
Let whispers come out of the closet.

Let there be forgetting.
So antelope and lion might
Go out to dine and the
Cub carried still by the neck.
Let storks bring back babies,
Delivered to cabbages, sleeping.
So the bride might wear
White on her back.

Let there be forgetting.
Let the shadowy man be a
Trick of the light and the
Space under sleeping be spare.
So the purple-blue flowers that
Sprout on her back see the bees
More curious than her.

Let Us Remember

Remember those whose coffin
Bathed them in the soil of the
'Other', cremated their identity
With a naked, upright cross
If lucky.

Poppy tears christen burnt-out
Ground, red petals grieve for
The death of the earth.

Honour those who have age
Induced stories to tell. Their Alzheimer
Wars are reminiscent of the former
Enemy's language. Madness.

From his eyes spills white spirit,
Burning his sacrificed cheek.

Remember those hearts that
Returned home beating but are
Treated as barely alive.

Remember not only the black-and white
Blitz, which is easy to put on a memory
Sail boat, and push, far out to sea.
But, those in our lifetime.

We are the guardians of memory.
We're in loco parentis of war,
Past, future and present.

Push through the pain barrier to
Remembrance: it's not a stamp
On the passport for forget.

Anthem of the New Light

Candlelight flickers. An ignition drift
escaped to the heavens returns with
a spark of the sun. A match's strike
breaks into flame steam tears.

Tears waver thrice and peter. Bright
bright bright sang the sun snatcher,
flame catcher, singing the anthem
of the new light. Wick's dissolving.

Dissolving wax dissipates and drips
chalky mornings. Ink splutters of fiery
oblivion bears smouldering dew of
Resurrection. Waxen worship revellers.

Revellers congregate, eager for the next
'Alleluia' to amount to their mass.
Smokey sermons drift upwards, escaping
to the heavens in flame stream smiles.

Keil Poetry Prizes

The Last Meal of an Owl

Swooping and sliding through the air,
The ease of going here or there.
The world is in my step and stride,
Do what I have to, to survive.

A mouse, some prey, hidden in bush.
The adrenaline shock, the sudden rush.
I dive and slice through the air,
And impale the meal with the claws I bear.

I dash and dive and swirl in flight,
Riding back to the cloak of night,
Here, I will be safe from sight,
Tucked away, no fear or flight.

Here, I consume my hunted prey,
But when light comes in form of day,
I give a cry, I give a weep,
For when my eyes do close, I'll forever sleep.

Eleanor Shiels

Car

I am a safe angel.
Thank me.
I crumple and bend to protect you,
To lock you in place.
As you brake hard I release airbags.
Think of me not as a killer. Take one for team.
Thank me.
I am a safe angel.

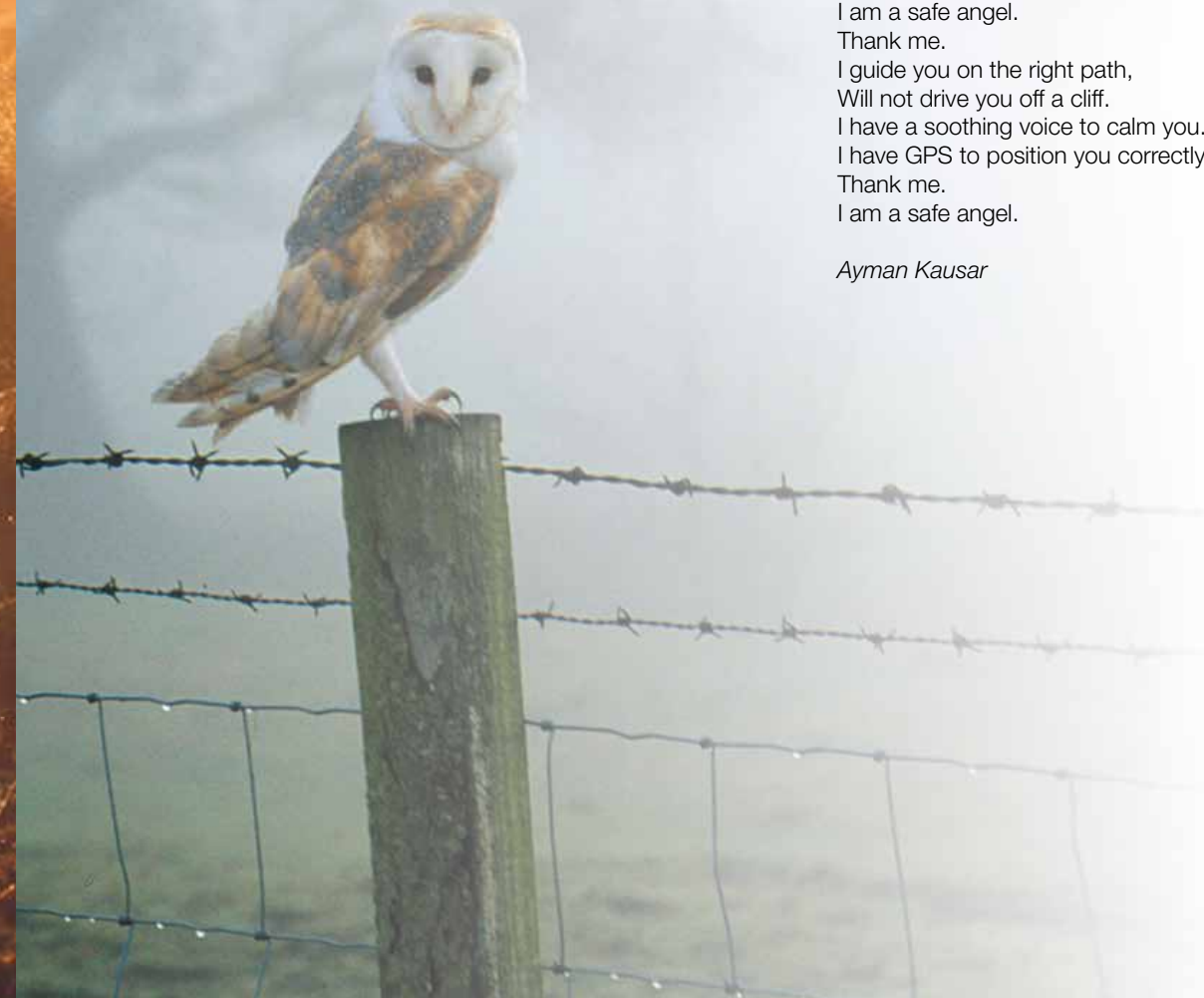
I am a comforting wife.
Love me.
For I provide you with everything.
I act as plush pillows.
Think of me as comfy,
Whistling to you in your distant dreams.
Love me.
I am a comforting wife.

I am a reliable safe.
Harness me.
For I click and lock with technology.
I have strong windows.
I stop thieves breaking into me.
I lock the steering.
Harness me.
I am a reliable safe.

I am a tough soldier.
Fight with me.
For I fight on with dents and scratches.
I serve my duty, then I retire.
Think of me as patriotic
Fighting on towards the goal.
Fight with me.
I am a tough soldier.

I am a safe angel.
Thank me.
I guide you on the right path,
Will not drive you off a cliff.
I have a soothing voice to calm you.
I have GPS to position you correctly.
Thank me.
I am a safe angel.

Ayman Kausar





Lower Sixth Photography

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Charlotte Wilson | 6. George Gamlin |
| 2. Ella Goodworth | 7. Lydia Jones |
| 3. Esther Domingo | 8. Nicole Angelides |
| 4. Katherine Singleton | 9. Oliver Haley |
| 5. Grace Walden | 10. Tom Beasley |



Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Wessex School visit to Solihull School

This year was the eighth year of our partnership with Wessex School in Chile. Thirty-four Chilean students were hosted by Solihull pupils and their families. Two teachers and the Headmaster of Wessex School, Mr Terrence Martin, accompanied the group on their month-long tour of Britain and Europe. During their time in Solihull they visited the local sights of Stratford-upon-Avon and The Black Country Museum, participated in Spanish lessons and challenged us to the annual football and rounders matches. Surprisingly, Solihull won both these matches this year! One Wessex student, Christell Rodriguez, participated in the Music School's informal concert on Wednesday 15 May, playing a guitar and singing a popular folk song. Christell was able to repeat her performance on Friday during the Lower School assembly. Looking Christell up online, it is clear to see why she had a rapturous applause from the Solihull School audience:

Christell Jazmín Rodriguez Carrillo (Talcahuano, January 2, 1998) is a Chilean child singer. She became known in the popular Chilean TV Show 'Rojo Fama Contrafama', imitating the young singer Maria Jose Quintanilla in a contest. She has recorded three albums since then. She was nominated for the Latino Grammy for her second record.



Terrence Martin, Wessex Headmaster, reinforced the link between our two schools in the Assembly and invited students from Solihull to visit Wessex School in Concepcion either on exchange or as GAP students. He reminded Solihull students of how the link was established. Iain and Shaun Rodriguez-Brown, students at Solihull School who are half Chilean, visited Wessex School in Concepcion and studied there for three months back in 2004. Their mother Julie Brown, who is a teacher at Solihull School, established the partnership.

This summer, two Solihull Lower Sixth Spanish students, Lydia Jones and Jamie Turpin, took up his offer and assisted in the English Department at Wessex School.



Chilean Gap Year Students

This year, we have again welcomed three Gap Year students from Wessex School in Concepción, Chile as full-time teaching assistants.

Ani Eguiguren, Pablo Hernandez and Coni Rubio have been busy helping pupils studying for their GCSE and A-Level Spanish and Geography exams for a full five days a week throughout their four-month placement.

The trio have been leading debates in Spanish to improve conversational skills and helping individuals with their grammar while improving their own knowledge of English. They have also been assisting in Geography lessons on Latin America. Links with Chile have continued to strengthen since Vanesa Rios, the first of 13 Gap Year students, came to the School to assist one day a week in 2007.

All three Gap Year students have been involved in the life of the School, with Pablo on the rugby field and Coni and Ani playing hockey, netball and rounders.

Ani's Reflections

It all started last year when I came to England for a holiday with my brother, Ignacio. Fortunately, our cousin Olivia is a student at Solihull School and so we were able to spend three weeks helping in Spanish classes. It was an incredible experience. The staff must have liked our work as they told us that we were always welcome to come back and help again. Last October I decided to take a gap year and return to Solihull School.

I arrived in February and unfortunately time has flown by. My time here has been fantastic.

I have been fortunate to spend time working in the Junior School, for example learning French with them and accompanying them on their PGL trip to France. I had a great time! I will never forget the stories, good food and company of that trip. I would like to thank all of the J4 pupils, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Lynch, Miss Compton, Mr Grandrieux, Mr Mitchell and Mr Thomas for being an excellent group!

I'm very thankful for all the opportunities that I've been given and the fantastic experiences that I've had. Just before Easter I had the pleasure of taking part in the incredible School musical The Phantom of the Opera, as one of the ballet dancers. It allowed me to get closer to many students and





Gap Experiences in Chile

For many years Solihull School has had the great privilege of visiting and receiving GAP students from its sister school, The Wessex School, in Concepción, Chile. This summer, Lydia Jones and I were fortunate enough, with the aid of the School travel bursary (and some additional funds raised by Lydia's 'Chilli for Chile' sponsor evening) to spend a month at The Wessex School, teaching, helping and getting to know students of all ages. Although we were far from home, the friendly and sociable community of Vilumanque was very easy to settle in to, and we soon found ourselves feeling comfortable living a new lifestyle, meeting new people and immersing ourselves in the complex and fast-paced Chilean dialect. The experience of expanding our language knowledge to a completely different variety of spoken Spanish was very interesting and, indeed, as A-Level Spanish students, the opportunity to practise our Spanish continuously with authentic speakers proved to be a great gift. But language was not the only benefit. We took part in a great number of activities with our host families and friends from Wessex: highlights of our trip included a journey to the snowy mountains of Chillán, a private flight-tour over the city, and exploring Santiago, the country's incredible capital. We both found the whole experience thoroughly enriching, enjoyable and well worthwhile, and we would keenly recommend it to students in the Sixth Form, particularly those studying Spanish!

Jamie Turpin



know more about new cultures and they had very funny kids, Morten and Jeppe. In my second family, the Barnes family, I stayed only for one week but they were very nice - very funny and always a laugh. The last family with whom I stayed for six weeks were the Lawrences, a very English family who host Gap students every year - either a student from the Wessex School or both.

I think this experience is one of the best opportunities you can have when you are student, as it helps you a lot in so many ways, helping you to make friendships and contacts that can last a lifetime.

I feel sad, but at the same time happy. I'm sad to leave the School, and my friends of Solihull School who I will miss and maybe never see again, especially the Fourth Form who I taught. But at the same time I am happy because I gave 100% to the School and am happy to end another stage in my life. Finally, I want to say thanks to all the families who hosted over those three months and to all the students and teachers of Solihull School.

Pablo Hernandez Aravena

Coni's Reflections

I thought that my experience at Solihull School had already started when I came over three years ago on the school trip, but in the last three days while travelling around Europe, I have realised that what I've learnt on my Gap year is far more than I could ever have imagined. There aren't enough words to describe how grateful I am to everyone who has been there for me: the great Languages Department I worked with, Mrs Brown and her family, and all the amazing friends I have made who have given me so many unforgettable memories. Most importantly I would like to say thank you to the great family that hosted me during my whole stay in England. The Lee family (Shona Eaton) were the absolute best family I could have ever asked for and they know they are always welcome in my own home in Chile.

I'm writing this now that I have left Solihull School, as in my final days I was too busy making the most of my last days in England with my friends and family to write. The only thing I'm sure of is that I have had the most wonderful experience ever and that I regret absolutely nothing about it. I've enjoyed every single moment, learnt so much about life, friends, family and also about different cultures during my travels around Europe for one month. I feel that I have grown up a great deal during this time and also have so much more confidence in myself as a person.

I will never forget or be grateful enough for the experience I have had with all of you.

Thank you again Solihull School,
All the best

Connie



starting and that I shouldn't bring warm clothes, but when I arrived at Birmingham Airport, it was freezing - 2 degrees! After a few days I heard in the news that this was the coldest winter ever.

The first day they introduced me to the all the Spanish classes, I was quite nervous. However, after a few days, I began to gain confidence and started talking with the students - soon the kids were shouting Pablo! Pablo! I felt I was very welcome. Before the Easter holidays, I was invited to go to Snowdonia with the Shell Form - there I made some really good friends. In the Easter holidays I had the opportunity to go to Alicante, Spain with some older students who were studying Spanish. Another interesting aspect of life as a Gap student is the families you stay with. In my case I stayed with three great families. The first ones were the Brendstrups, who I stayed with for six weeks - this family was very keen to help me to

make some great friends. I am very grateful for all of my friends and was very surprised at the amount of talent they all have.

I was also given the opportunity to take part in many different classes during my free time: sporting activities, helping every Tuesday with athletic tournaments, going to the Malvern Hills with the Lower Fifth, helping in other School shows, etc.

The best way to say goodbye to all my friends from the Upper Sixth was dancing and having a great time at their Leavers' Ball. It was a very good night!

Thanks to all who have helped me to reach my goal of learning and improving my English, you have made me very happy indeed! I hope that those who are interested in taking a gap year and going to Chile enjoy it as much as I have here. Thank you to everyone for everything,

Anita Eguiguren Smulders xx

Pablo's Reflections

The first time I came to Solihull School was in 2010. I came with the Wessex School and was amazed by what I saw. At that time, Nicolas and Camila were here as Gap students and this began to get me interested in the idea of being a Gap student here. In 2012, when I started applying for this GAP experience in Solihull, I was not very confident, firstly as I would be far away from my family and friends, and secondly because I'd be losing a year of university in Chile. But as it got nearer and nearer, I started talking with previous Gap students and they told me what a great opportunity it was and about all the friendly people I would meet as a result of taking part in the program.

When I start talking with Diego - last year's Gap student - about the program, he described his experience to me, telling me about everything he remembered. One of the things he told me about was the weather - he said that spring would be





Exchange Visit of Solihull School to Colegio Oleza (Orihuela, Alicante)

On Sunday 21st October 2012, seventeen Middle School students from Solihull School, accompanied by Head of Spanish Mr P Morgan and Mrs E Cassano, travelled to the town of Orihuela in the Spanish province of Alicante in order to visit the Spanish exchange partners with whom they had spent such a wonderful week in Solihull in March 2012.

Having arrived in Spain on the Sunday, Solihull students spent the rest of the day acquainting themselves with their new surroundings and settling in to what would be their home from home for the rest of the week. The following morning, the Principal of Colegio Oleza and a member of the Department of Physical Education led a fascinating ascent of Cruz de la Muela, the mountain that at over 600m towers over Orihuela. The views from the summit were breathtaking, taking in the surrounding towns and landscape and extending as far as the Mediterranean. Later in the day, the staff of Colegio Oleza staged a welcome tea for all the students and both Solihull and Oleza pupils and staff were presented with a commemorative t-shirt.

On Tuesday, Solihull pupils were taken on an historical walking tour of Orihuela, encompassing local churches, museums and places of interest, followed by a day spent in school with their exchange partners and at home with their host families. After having spent a fascinating morning in lessons with their exchange partners on Wednesday, Solihull pupils travelled to the University of Orihuela in order to take on Orihuela RFC. The boys acquitted themselves incredibly well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of taking on some very impressive adversaries, some of whom play at representative level for the Valencian regional team.

On Thursday, the pupils and staff of Colegio Oleza said 'Vamos a la Playa,' and that is exactly what we did, as we spent the day on a beautiful beach on Spain's Costa Blanca, playing football and volleyball and even dipping our toes in the



temperate autumn waters of the Mediterranean. Later in the day, we were taken to La Zenia Boulevard, a recently opened retail complex where all our exchange pupils had the chance to shop, snack, and stroll, Spanish-style.

Friday was a day spent in school, and after helping in lessons, pupils from Solihull had the chance to show off their football skills, as both girls and boys pitted their wits against their opposite numbers from Colegio Oleza. Having spent Saturday with their host families, Sunday saw everyone from Solihull head for Alicante airport in order to catch their plane home to Birmingham. 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.

Mr P Morgan

Spanish Study Visit to Orihuela

During the Easter Holidays, Esther Domingo and Lydia Jones from the Lower Sixth and Poppy Eales, Iain Rodriguez-Brown, Joseph Lankester and Fraser Waddell from the Upper Fifth visited Orihuela in the province of Alicante in the Valencian region of Spain.

Orihuela is the home of our partner school, Colegio Oleza with whom we have a well-established exchange programme, and the principal kindly offered our GCSE and A-Level students of Spanish the opportunity to spend some time in the school preparing for their oral examinations.

During their stay in Orihuela – during which time they were accompanied by Coni and Pablo, our Chilean Gap Year students – Solihull students spent quality time practising their Spanish with students and teachers from Colegio Oleza, enjoying some very warm Spanish sunshine and hospitality, climbing a mountain and visiting Alicante, the capital city of the province.

All the members of staff with whom Solihull students came into contact were very impressed both with their linguistic ability and with the open-minded way with which they engaged with Spanish people. Mr Morgan and Ms Campbell greatly enjoyed accompanying the students concerned and both agree that they made a great deal of progress and represented the School very admirably indeed.

Mr P Morgan



German Department Visit to the Goethe Institute in London

Friday 18th January was a day dedicated purely to German and its diverse culture and language for the seventeen students who were lucky enough to travel down to London. We visited the Goethe Institute, the world-renowned German language learning centre, accompanied by Mrs Cramb, Mrs Mynette and Mr Hadley. Our group leader spent the morning teaching us about the culture of Germany using fun interactive activities including mapping out the shape of the country with string. People were also able to use their creativity by inventing dialogues in German with a musical soundscape to go with it. We were then given a tour of the building which included a visit to the impressive library where we browsed German literature, films and music. After lunch we were again given an exciting lesson where we looked closely at Berlin and even pretended we were on the Berlin underground. We finished off the day with an interview with one of the directors and found out more about the Goethe Institute. Overall, an informative and enjoyable day was had by all and we hope to visit again soon.

James Green



Visit of Yapeyu School, Corrientes Argentina 1-5 July 2013

Our adventure started off just last week when we left Buenos Aires and landed in London, but we have been preparing for this trip for the last six months. We have had weekly meetings and even a whole weekend together with the fifteen students and two teachers, Jeronimo Gonzalez and myself, Patty Getzrow, to closely plan and prepare ourselves. We took care of every detail and got in touch with everyone from Solihull to Penzance to Clitheroe, the three schools that so nicely had offered to host us during our visits here. Most of the teenagers had never been to Europe and some had never been on a plane so one can only imagine the anxiety and expectations that they must have had. Our first glimpse of England was of course London where we were awed by a vibrant and historical city and then Oxford for a day. Then we came to Solihull where we were greeted with open arms by not only our host parents and teachers but by the smile of students who struggled with their Spanish in making an effort to make us feel welcomed. This is Jeronimo's and my second visit to Solihull so we knew what we were in for but most of the students hadn't the vaguest idea, in fact some of them could not stop asking where they would be and with whom. Their anxiety had got the better of them. Who would their hosts be? What would they be like? How would they understand each other? This and many more questions were asked.



Henceforth our visit went on, and from the first day it was magical. Students and hosts immediately spoke to each other and smiled; understanding each other in English or Spanish was never a problem. We had the chance to sit in on classes and talk about cultural, economic and geographical aspects of Argentina not only with older students but also with the Middle School. We cooked traditional recipes and even shared in eating them. The School and homes gave us a warm and pleasant reception. Were students surprised? Of course they were; they had never thought of how similar we all are, everyone had some preconception of what to expect and all of that was set aside. Of course we might eat different things and at different times but teenagers are the same all over the world, they smile they have fun and they love to make friends.



This experience is not just a trip or a vacation but a chance for mutual understanding among young people, something that will be cherished and remembered for the rest of their lives. Here are some of their thoughts:

- 'We were so surprised at how warm everyone was'.***
- 'They were always willing to help us when we needed'.***
- 'The families were so close and they were quite open to let us in'.***
- 'The trips to Jaguar, Stratford-upon-Avon and Coventry were great'.***
- 'We learned so much about England and English schools'.***
- 'We enjoyed going to an Indian restaurant for the first time'.***
- 'We enjoyed cooking with the help of Hannah's mum'.***



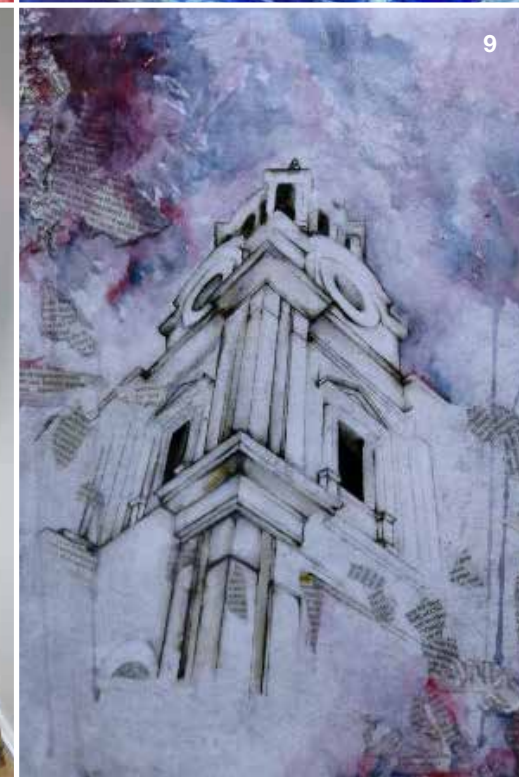
'Visiting the Middle School was great: the kids asked interesting questions and enjoyed our chat'.

We are all so grateful for the time and effort that everyone has put into our visit and hope you will come and visit us in Corrientes, Argentina to be able to continue our friendship and show you our country.

Thank you: Solihull School, the families of Hannah Butler, Mike Kiely, Esther Domingo, Leticia Salmon, Bethany Willman, Ian and Shaun Rodriguez-Brown, Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Cassano.

Patty Getzrow
English Teacher, Yapeyu School





Upper Sixth Art

- 1. Katie Cogley
- 2. Alexander White
- 3. Katie Cogley
- 4. Elizabeth Humphries
- 5. Maria Barnes
- 6. Rachael Morris
- 7. Victoria Beech
- 8. Laura Newbould
- 9. Conor Maher
- 10. Libby Gandhi



Sport

Rugby - The 1st XV

P23 W13 D0 L10

The mood was positive ahead of the new season. The boys would be tackling the hardest fixture card ever for Solihull School RFC 1st XV. New schools and colleges had been added to the mix: Llandoverly College, Bromsgrove, Ellesmere College, RGS High Wycombe and Coleg Morgannwg. What a cocktail!

The senior rugby squad returned from a successful tour of Canada, having played 10 fixtures and won all handsomely. The scenic side of the tour was quite breathtaking and there would be no doubt that the Rockies were the memorable moment. White water-rafting in subzero water is not to be recommended. Silly idea! Lake Louise, however, was a much more sensible suggestion; calming, immense, transparent, smooth and a delight to view!

Our Lake Louise for season 2012/13 was Jon Super, who had led admirably both on and off the field in Canada. He knew the task ahead and was eager to attack with venom. The season began with our customary Pimm's by the Thames at St Paul's School. This pre-season livener was certainly well contested and gave the bodies the early knocks needed. Barely a breath had been taken before we took to the field again in Macclesfield. A mixed bag of results gave the squad hope and with plenty to work on, the Fifteen turned their attention to Old Swinford Hospital.



And so the 2012/13 season had arrived. The reception at OSH was its usual hostile self but this group of players used it as a shot of adrenaline. The day was perfect: sun, warmth, a referee and numerous vocal parents. The Fifteen, a young band of men, played attractive attacking rugby stretching a chunkier opposition over every blade of grass. Scores were tied as Mr Hifle's Breitling counted down! Enter Mr Todd Bonehill: cut a beautiful line off Jonny Allen's shoulder, sliced through OSH like a knife through butter! The win was in the bag and OSH's four-year drought continued.

Passports packed, the Fifteen were now on route over the border: our first Welsh hosts, Brynteg College, the alma mater of Gavin Henson. A 2.5 hour coach journey could potentially affect a team, but not the case if you have Sky TV on board! This was a superb experience which brought the players new challenges: aggression at the breakdown and not being able to understand a single word the opposition were saying. It was like playing 15 Mr Hemps! Again the band of merry men pulled together in the face of adversity and closed out a 0 - 6 victory. Played 2, won 2.

The following three matches were lessons learned! King's Worcester: how much can happen in 30 seconds! It was a great team performance but the occasion overwhelmed in the last bit of play. A loss by the narrowest of margins. Against Landoverly College: it's not all brawn, you need some finesse. 10 mistakes meant a 40 point loss! For the Fifteen it was a refreshing experience to see the game played at pace and such a high skill level. Against RGS Worcester the lesson was

simple: if you want to win you have to turn up! The same could be said in relation to the Bromsgrove episode.

Loughborough Grammar School was next in town and the Fifteen were able to exorcise some demons and put right a few wrongs. With aggressive rugby and a touch of flair, the Fifteen claimed a 39-0 victory to lead them into their Round 3 Daily Mail clash against Kenilworth College. A young squad progressed through to Round 4 with a comfortable 72-0 win. The improved confidence reaped due reward against the next opponents, St Peter's School, Gloucester. On a slightly muddy paddock the Fifteen showed grit and determination, exposing the opposition's frailties and putting them to the sword: 23-0. Round 4 of the Daily Mail Cup saw the Fifteen visit John Cleveland College, Leicester Tigers production factory and home of Manu Tuilagi! But it was Solihull who had the roar, running away with the victory 48-0. Into Round 5 we meandered with a clash against Warwick to whet the appetite. But there were bigger challenges to overcome in the form of Ellesmere, the best team in the country results-wise! What a bone-crunching epic. Boys became men. The large crowd at times winced, such was the commitment shown by all 30 players. It was nip and tuck, end-to-end passionate rugby. The Fifteen sadly lost 10-18 but had grown in stature. It was by far the highest quality encounter of the season.

And so off to Warwick we travelled! Was this to be our year? No. So much possession, so many chances, so much passion and so much disappointment. Lost 10-8. But so much learned! We'll return. King Edward's Birmingham and Nottingham High School bore the brunt of the backlash, cast aside 24-0 and 13-0 respectively. The Christmas festivities began early and the Fifteen were looking forward to playing the turkey called the Old Boys XV: all the gear and no idea. A 49-10 victory hushed players and the crowd. Lord Rodman had lost his knighthood...till the evening. Merry Christmas!

The new year commenced and with it came Coleg Morgannwg, fielding at least 11 schoolboy international players. A 6-24 loss certainly was no disgrace and again lessons had been learnt. It was these lessons that the Fifteen then put into operation against Bishop Vesey's, winning 41-0.



The final two matches of the season rounded it off perfectly, a 15-5 win over Bablake and then a 47-5 win over Leicester Grammar School with some exhilarating rugby. It showed the 2012/13 season had been totally worthwhile.

Our thanks must go to Jon Super for his hours of work off the pitch and also his complete professionalism on it. Congratulations to Rory Grogan, Jon Super, Louis Roach, Jonny Allen, T J Regan and Lawrence Finch who were selected for Warwickshire U18 XV. Finally, a huge thank you to all of the players, parents and of course the ever dependable support staff.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

2nd XV

P21 W18 D0 L3 PF 591 PA 195

We always thought that this was going to be a difficult season what with last year's old guard having moved on but with an emphasis on youth coupled with the stalwarts that remained - Will Hughes, Raj Chohan, Will Harland, Harry Pick, Dan Younan, Jake Lupoli and Conor Watt - the 'never say die' attitude of the 2nd XV was handed down to the young stags in the shape of Elliot Botterill, George Gamlin, Luke Hoey and Ahmed Alani.

With an updated fixture list, the first requirement was an atlas and a pillow for the journeys we were about to endure on the road. However, it was made all the more palatable by the fact we were travelling in the elite executive coaches that regularly ferry around the Leicester Tigers as well as other professional sporting teams from across the Midlands.

With 'Work to Win' firmly engrained in our psyche following a successful Canadian Adventure, the first task was to appoint a captain. The mantle was accepted by James Shorthouse who immediately stamped his authority on the team with our first outing in Blighty at the home of the old enemy Old Swinford Hospital. On reflection, this was perhaps one of our best games. The tightness of the squad huddle on the pitch straight off the bus before we had even got to the changing room set the tone: belligerence, focus and determination were to serve us well throughout the season. Indeed the ferocity of the tackling and sheer will to win laid the foundation for the season that lay ahead. The 28-19 victory was well deserved but was tainted by an early season injury to the wrist of Harry Pick. Enter George Gamlin who became responsible for pulling the strings in the backs as we travelled to Wales to play the Welsh and Lions production factory that is Brynteg School. A hard-fought 15-0 victory kept us honest and workman-like and the hard graft needed to secure victories was evident in the following wins against King's Worcester (33-7), Llandoverly College (45-0) and RGS Worcester (19-0). By now several leading lights were having sorties into the rarefied atmosphere of the 1st XV but their desire to contribute to our cause upon their return never faltered. Different captains came and went but the focus never diluted as witnessed by LGS who we beat 58-0. This game saw the most audacious score of the season: Ryan Lovett collected a tap down from our 5m line, ran hard to the 22m, by which time he became unsure what to do so he hoofed the ball up towards half way. The opposition left it for each other so Ryan half volleyed the ball and out-paced their full back to score under the posts. Apparently it was planned?!

Bromsgrove also suffered with our efficiency and no-nonsense approach before the small trip to Gloucester to play St Peter's to round off the half term, where we had a 38-0 win.

Throughout the second half of the Christmas term we played with real swagger, with backs and forwards complementing each other and showing good skill levels. However, we did have to come to terms with the reality check of losing to Hartpury College but despite fielding a Development side we competed throughout and were rewarded with Toby Wassell's fine try. With the weather changing and the pitches becoming heavier we were forced to work even harder. With perpetual dynamo Jack Powell driving the forwards at every opportunity, and Will Hartley using all his experience to solidify the midfield, complemented by the guile of James Morris and the return of Harry Pick to lead the backs, we held firm against Ellesmere College (17-14) before forcing King Edward's into submission. The game against Nottingham High School was played in driving rain, it was bitterly cold and the pitch was a mud bath but against a heavier pack we competed well, and won 15-0. We thought that the 32-5 victory against Trent College, and the emergence of James Ward was the perfect way to end the term before we were told to travel to Adams Grammar School to play a team that contained a few first teamers! With our thoughts on the Old Boys' game in the afternoon it turned out to be a game too far and we lost 19-14.

In the post- Christmas matches we were confronted by wind, water, ice and postponements but had some victories against the likes of Leicester Grammar School. However, we were also confronted by a new, never-before-seen obstacle, in the form of a 'sorry I can't play, I've got to revise' syndrome. Still, the squad dug deep and faced these challenges. We had a bruising encounter with Bishop Vesey, resulting in a 28 -12 victory, with Matthew Sargent the new try-scoring kid on the block.

Unfortunately Mother Nature intervened to ensure the game at Warwick was dominated by poor weather, a bad pitch and indifferent decision-making by all parties.

This season the squad progressed really well. The forwards were supported by Michael Kiely and Harry Morgan who maintained their Canadian partnership in several games, Connor Brookes, Kieran Daliwal and Joe Lankester, whilst the backs benefitted from the contributions of Cameron Powell, Daniel Dowell-Lee and James Hart.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole squad for all their efforts throughout the season, culminating in what was a most enjoyable year. Statistics don't lie and we were on the Schools Rugby website as the best team in the Midlands and nationally we were very successful and had beaten some of the teams that were above us!

Mr M Covill

The 1st VII

With numerous tournaments entered, this Sevens season would prove to be the perfect opportunity for players to hone their skills, even prop forwards. A mere seven players travelled to the Marches Sevens and made an excellent account of themselves but it was possibly a tournament too far, and many were playing in a Regional Cup Final for Old Silhillians RFC.

The squad showed their true colours in the main two National Tournaments of the season; namely Fylde RFC North of England Sevens and Rosslyn Park RFC. At Fylde the VII narrowly lost to a strong Kirkham GS VIII in the semi-final, having beaten Adam's GS and Manchester GS en route.

At Rosslyn Park the VII won their group, playing some hard line defensive Sevens against typically tough Welsh Schools. They qualified for the second day and met a competitive Whitgift School. Lawrence Finch was lost early with a dislocated finger and the lynchpin was lost. Sadly the VII crashed and burned but had put up a brilliant and gallant fight.

Our thanks to all those who played and gave of their time so freely. It was certainly enjoyable.

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

3rd and 4th XV

The 2012/13 season for the 3rd/ 4th XV will be remembered as a quantum leap in terms of the quality play. Along with the rest of the senior squad, there was an intentional increase in quality of opposition. Teams of the calibre of Bromsgrove, Hartpury College and Ellesmere were added to the fixture list. This meant every minute of every game was of a standard that our players have never faced before. The experienced players like Sam Ward, Harry Morgan and Michael Kiely had to up their game and inspire the newcomers like Joe Lankester, Matthew Sargent and Harry Sharpe. I can say with confidence that these players and many others were up to the task. The 3rds got wins against the likes of King's Worcester, Ellesmere and King Edward's Birmingham, while the 4ths notched up a brilliant win against our rivals, Warwick.

As with everything with the 3rds and 4ths, this is a transition area. You have players of the likes of Sam Ward who are in their last year but want to give it their all, and you have players like James Ward, who are stepping up to Senior level. The older players can pass their experiences on to the younger ones, while the U16 can instil new energy into the squad. Next year's season looks bright as we venture to the more demanding fixtures.

Dr P Jukes

U14A

This was a successful season for the U14A team under the captaincy of Harry Manek-Robinson who certainly followed the Martin Johnson style of follow-me leadership! There were some excellent team performances but the highlights were the victory over Bromsgrove and the hard-fought victory over Adams' Grammar School.

The front row proved to be a bedrock upon which the team could play some good rugby. It didn't matter which combination of Mark Lawrence, Dan Sandler, Joe Vaughan and Bart Payne was used as there was little to choose between them. They could all scrummage and were able to make their presence felt in open play. Behind them, the second row of Sam Kandola and Charles Davies excelled in open play and were able to win good lineout balls as well as being the powerhouse in the scrum. Both players complemented each other with Sam's free-flowing running style and Charles's battering-ram style. In the back row Harry Manek-Robinson was a highly influential No 8 who had the uncanny knack of always being in the right place at the right time, whether in supporting a runner in attack or making a crucial tackle in defence. James Davenport made excellent progress during the season and played with great courage. Ali Bevan played like Richard Hill: not always noticed, but if he wasn't on the pitch the team would struggle because of all the unseen work he was doing in thwarting the opposition. Josh Gee was a real thorn in the side of the opposition and he was perpetual motion when we were in possession.

The half-backs of Will Farnworth and Benny Watson controlled our attacking play and were both influential in many of the victories. Will's pass gave Benny the time to assess how to launch the next attack to great effect. During the season Benny's tackling improved tremendously and Will harassed the opposition scrum half at all times. In the centre, any combination of Paolo Peschisolido, Tom Ritson and Oscar Blundell was highly effective. Paolo's pace and powerful running was always a massive threat in attack and his tackling was superb. Both Oscar and Tom were able to feed off Paolo's runs and were more than capable of making a searing line break themselves. On the wings the pace and strength of Joe Church were a revelation and Gabriel Lupoli showed intelligence and bravery. At full back Dan Lee was solid under the high ball and an excellent last line of defence.

The Sevens season proved to be very successful. The team were pool winners at Old Swinford, finalists at Solihull and semi-finalists at Warwick. It would be hard to pick out the best performance but the highlights were the semi-final win over Warwick in the Solihull tournament and the quarter-final performance against Stowe in the Warwick tournament with a last-play-of-the-game try to win the match!

This was a highly successful season and I am sure the team will continue to develop next year.

Mr N Leonard

U14B

The U14B rugby team had a largely positive season, with many examples of good play and outstanding commitment throughout, as exemplified by the two outstanding performances against the Worcester schools: King's and Royal Grammar. The Solihull forwards ran the ball tirelessly and overpowered their opponents with good off-loading and good ball retention. Even in defeat against good sides, the boys kept going and tried to do the right things and Mr Phillips and Mr Morgan were often proud of the performances they oversaw.

Mr P Morgan

U13

After a long summer, the U13 boys came back unaware of what the new season would hold. After some training, the team was fit and they wanted to get the campaign off to a victorious start against Old Swinford Hospital. From the sound of the whistle the boys went all out, hitting everything that moved and running at every gap. They were focused in attack and scored two early tries. More tries were scored after some excellent sniping from the Solihull scrum half, Tom Serle. Later on in the game Solihull started to tire resulting in Old Swinford scoring a soft try. It was too late for the comeback and with great determination and courage the players held on to win 43-7. It was a well-earned victory and got the A-team off to a great start. The next week held an even greater challenge, King's School Worcester. After being beaten last year by them, there was a determination to set the score level. Kick off began with the pack, being led by Arthur Townend, giving as good as they got in the loose. For a while the scoreboard was even, but after a while the Solihull wall broke and the Worcester boys capitalised, scoring two tries within five minutes. At the stroke of half-time a well-worked try made the scores more even. Worcester went in at half-time winning by two tries to one. It was all to play for in the second half. With about twenty minutes to go, Solihull scored a vital try to get back into the game, but soon after conceded a try from the Worcester winger. As the game progressed, Solihull scored two more

tries and were camped on the opposition line for the last five dying minutes of the match, but couldn't break the wall and lost narrowly 30-26. Despite this, mistakes were learned from and the team managed to get some convincing wins against RGS Worcester 36-22, Loughborough 22-5, Nottingham High School 20-5, and Bishop Vesey 27-17. The best was to come with a 50-0 destruction of Leicester Grammar School, with great tries from George Armstrong, Tom Serle, Ben Harding, and Arthur Townend. Due to the snow in the latter part of the season, a lot of games were called off, resulting in fewer games than planned. The A-team had a disappointing end to the season, losing to a very formidable Warwick side who hadn't been beaten all season. Despite this, many players stepped up to the mark, including an outstanding performance from George Armstrong and excellent contributions from Waqaar UI-Haq and Adam Beaumont. After the fifteen-a-side season came the Sevens tournaments, although two were called off, including our own, due to adverse weather. The team enjoyed the Sevens tournaments, doing reasonably well in all of them, and improving their skills considerably.

The B-team also had a successful year, beating many sides with the help of key players: Tom Whitfield, Myles Simmons, James Spence and Matt Bond. The side was managed by Mr Bishop and Mr Sandford-Smith. A high level of commitment was shown by this side and eventually it paid off, with them winning the majority of their games. By the end of the season the B-team had become a respected group and had put pressure on many of the players in the A-team. Without the efforts of Mr Jenkinson and the rest of the coaching team and the commitment of the A and B-team squads, the season wouldn't have been as successful as it was. The A and B-teams have a bright future ahead of them, with many players joining clubs and improving their skills considerably as a result of the hard work put in during training sessions.

Mr D Jenkinson

U12A

'Development' was the buzz word for the 2012/13 season. For many this proved to be their first experience of rugby but amongst those were some seasoned pros!

The results don't reflect the closeness of some of the games but in the majority of cases the side fell at the last hurdle. The U12A XV soon realised after King's School Worcester that this was a serious business and not for the faint hearted. Bromsgrove, St Peter's School Gloucester and Nottingham HS all provided the XV with valuable lessons. Against King Edward's Birmingham the players demonstrated true grit and determination to claim their one victory of the season 31-17. Many thanks to all of the players for their effort. Our final comment would be 'you get out of rugby what you put in'!

Mr S Thompson and Mr S Hifle

U12B

The U12B XV had a difficult introduction to their Senior School rugby career. Many had not played before but after a few training sessions their skills improved. As a result, the team was unrecognisable at the end of the season from the one that started in September, in terms of the manner in which they played the game. In all, 34 boys represented this team with Noah Belling becoming our most potent back, and Tom Williams the most improved forward. Perseverantia!

Mr M Covill

U15

P18 W14 D0 L4 F572 A203

This was a season when we all learnt the true meaning of the School motto 'Perseverantia'. The injury list was incredibly long, we had to dig deep into our resources, hockey players resumed their rugby careers, and teams started matches with fewer than 15 players and just battled it out. Every player deserves heaps of praise for their commitment to the cause and despite all of our injuries, we still produced a number of magnificent performances. Against RGS High Wycombe we dominated the breakdown to achieve an impressive 26-10 victory. St Peter's Gloucester had been an unbeaten side since the Third Form – we matched their physicality and came out 33-5 victors. On a gloriously sunny Saturday morning in February, the players demonstrated exquisite handling skills to destroy Leicester Grammar School 42-0 and the following Saturday we put in the performance of a lifetime against our local rivals, and Daily Mail finalists, Warwick!

The injury crisis continued well into the Sevens season, whereupon our dogged determination and stoicism attained new highs, and we reached the knockout stages at every tournament.

The U15 season ended with its annual tour to South West France and what another great experience it was for all concerned.

My thanks go to everyone for their support and commitment and I wish the players the very best of rugby fortune next year.

Mr P Jackson



on occasions. In the bowling department, Tom Brewer has bowled consistently well all season in his role as a medium pacer, as have the spinners Oliver Banks and Archie Clay, who have worked hard to develop their techniques. In Will Davies's absence, the team has been nobly captained by Bradley Monk and Tom Brewer who both did a splendid job in difficult circumstances.

Mr S Hart

U15B

The U15B cricket team had a difficult season, with many matches affected by the bad weather. The team was ably led by Cameron Blake and the stand-out performance has to be the 3 wickets taken by Dominic Martens at King's Worcester. Well done to all the boys who represented the School.

Mr P Morgan

U14A

P13 W6 D1 L6

The U14A cricket team enjoyed a season which saw us being competitive in all fixtures. The matches were certainly not boring with five of them going to the last over.

During the season Ben Watson top scored with a magnificent 110 out of a team total of 137 in the Saturday fixture at King Edward's, Birmingham. This was a special knock. There were five half-centuries scored by the team, two came from Ben Watson, Fahd Janjua hit two and Tom Mitchell scored 62 at RGS Worcester. Many players came to the crease, played themselves in and then played a rash shot to give their wicket away. This was probably the reason we did not win more games.

The team is strong at bowling with many players chipping in with very useful spells. Fahd Janjua bowled well throughout and may not have been rewarded with the weight of wickets that he deserved, but he did bowl tightly. Sami Baloch, Will Farnworth, Harry Goodworth, Ben Watson, Matt Farrow and Cameron Pound all did well with Ben Watson achieving the best figures of 4-26 in the fixture with Nottingham High School. This is a team that consists of good sportsmen who have good skills. The more they play, the better they will get, as they will improve their understanding of the game.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The team were ably led by Jonny Shiels and had a fantastic season, especially in their run to the final of the Cup. Due to cancellations, friendly matches were few and far between, but the team did manage a solid victory against Bromsgrove, albeit leaving it to the wire and only winning by 2 wickets. The real highlight of the season was the fantastic Cup run. After getting a bye through the first round, we hammered Kings Heath, getting the runs required in only 12 overs and with 8 wickets to spare. A comfortable 7-wicket win against Coundon Court followed and set up a semi-final against Warwick. After the 20 overs, both sides were level leading to a tense Super over, which Solihull won by 1 run. Unfortunately our excellent form could not carry us to the Cup as we came up short in the final but it was nevertheless a successful season!

Mr D Brough

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

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

Mr D Hemp

2nd XI

It was a strange season for the 2nd XI this year. Rain-affected matches, cancelled fixtures and an ever-changing group of players meant that there was an unsettled momentum to the season. With eight matches played, the squad drew one at a rainy King Edward's Birmingham, won three (against Bablake, King Edward's Aston and Bromsgrove) and lost four. The statistics don't necessarily tell the whole story, and there were some excellent standout performances from numerous players. In terms of batting, special mention must go to Max Richmond's plucky 40 against Loughborough, Phil Wreford's sturdy 46 against Warwick, Joe Lankester's superb knock of 88 at King Edward's Aston, and finally Sam Montieri's phenomenal 117 against Bromsgrove. In terms of bowling, Oscar Haynes was solid and consistent all season and was unlucky not to get a hat-trick. Tom Johnson's 4 for 7 against Aston was an incredible tight session of bowling. While the constantly changing lineup made for a somewhat disjointed squad, it was good in the sense that it gave younger players further down the School the opportunity to play at a higher level. A final mention must go to captain Joe Lankester, who led his team admirably all season. He batted and bowled with conviction and proved himself to be a firm, level-headed and mature captain whose bowling choices and fielding positions demonstrated an excellent understanding of the game.

Dr P Spratley

U15A

The 2013 season has been a mixed one for the U15 cricket team. The A-team played seven matches and won two of them, losing the remaining five. This included losing in the first round of the T20 cup to Bablake School. Largely, the team's lack of success has been down to selection issues. The captain, Will Davies, rarely played for the U15 team this year as he was largely on 1st XI duty, as was Adil Saeed. Their absence was sorely missed, especially following Will's 49 and Adil's 33 against Warwick School in the opening match of the season, as well as Will's 46 against Trent College. Nevertheless, there were notable batting performances from Oliver Banks who demonstrated his ability as a hard-hitting batsman off the front foot. Liam McStay scored a stylish 58 not out against Bromsgrove. Archie Clay, Cameron Blake, Bradley Monk and Edward Price have also shown much talent

Cricket - The 1st XI

Preparations for the 2013 season began back in the first week of October 2012. Generic batting and bowling drills were introduced in the early part of the winter training programme to enhance both technique and player awareness. It is paramount that players are aware of their own games, identifying not only shortcomings but also areas and skills that they perform well and that can be enhanced further.

Aligned with this, fitness sessions for both batsmen and bowlers were also introduced. Net practice sessions with video analysis commenced after the Christmas break. The video analysis once again proved to be a great success and it was embraced wholeheartedly by the players. As such, this will be an area in which we shall look to develop further as part of the overall coaching programme.

From a purely results perspective, the 2013 season turned out to be largely disappointing with the team losing 9 games. In total, 19 games were played which consisted of 7 wins and 3 draws. The weather accounted for 4 games but this was significantly less than the 11 games that were lost to the unprecedented weather we experienced last year. Overall, twenty-five different players were used. This figure is slightly lower than last year but it goes without saying that this was not an ideal situation, as it can be unsettling when a team and its make-up are continuously changing. This was primarily down to the earlier start time of the exam period timetable coupled with several injuries that were sustained. The flip side of this however, has meant that many players have had an opportunity to show their skills sooner than would be expected and this experience may prove invaluable in the future.

The side was captained well by Darryl Brotherhood who was into his fourth and final season representing the School's 1st XI. Similarly to last year, there were a variety of games played; 20/20, 50-over and declaration. This variety undoubtedly gave the players an understanding of the various skills needed to perform successfully at these different formats.



There were several individual highlights again this summer coupled with some very good team performances. Some of these team performances included impressive 50-over wins against RGS Worcester, King Edward's Birmingham and the MCC. Individually, no one single batsman dominated but there were good contributions from Oliver Haley, Jamie Hughes and Darryl Brotherhood who all scored in excess of 500 runs. Disappointingly though, the majority of batsmen did not take advantage of good situations that they found themselves in, with too many players getting to fifty and not converting to a hundred. However, both Oliver Haley and Nick Starkey did manage to complete their maiden 1st XI hundreds.

On the bowling front, no one bowler stood out but there were at times good performances from our leading wicket takers, consisting of Darryl Brotherhood, Jamie Hughes, Oliver Haley and Duncan Wigley. William Davies also recorded his best 1st XI figures of 4 wickets for 13 runs in a match-winning performance against RGS Worcester.

There were several disappointing results and performances, especially early on in the season. However, it was pleasing to see the side finish the season well. As such, we can now look forward to the Warwickshire U19 County Final in September

U13

The U13 cricket season started well with an excellent 10-run win against King's Worcester, with Rigg scoring 97 and Owen taking 3 wickets. It was a good platform for us to build on. Another win followed against Princethorpe with Rigg scoring 55* and a very useful contribution from Townend and Wright taking two wickets. We also beat Arnold Lodge in a close game by 10 runs.

Against Warwick and King Edward's Birmingham we were outclassed; blown away by the bowling attacks. In both matches we were beaten convincingly. Our poor Saturday form continued with heavy defeats to RGS Worcester, Loughborough, Nottingham High School and Bromsgrove. However, there were some terrific individual performances. Against Loughborough, Elliot Morter scored 44. Also, there was some good tight bowling from Whitfield, Wright and Morter.

While our Saturday performances have been disappointing, our Cup run is something quite different. The Cup campaign began with an excellent victory against King Edward's Aston, Rigg scoring 55 and Townend a very useful 18. But it was the bowling that deserves the praise, in particular Tom Whitfield who took 4-10. This victory set us up for a semi-final match versus King Henry VIII, Coventry where we displayed our best performance of the year. We batted first with Rigg scoring 75, alongside a quick-fire 21 by Tom Serle. Our bowling and fielding performance was terrific. There were also some excellent catches by Armstrong, Bevan, Nesbitt and Ul-Haq, and an excellent run-out by Tom Serle. Unfortunately, the U13 Warwickshire Cup Final has not been played yet and is likely to take place in September.

The U13B squad have performed very well and showed great determination, although matches were unfortunately cancelled due to the weather.

Turn-outs at practice sessions have been terrific and I do wish for it to continue next year throughout the winter and into the summer, where we can continue our good work.

I would like to thank Mr Bishop, Mr Phillips, Mr Hemp, Mr Smith, Mr Mayer and any other teachers who have helped us throughout the season.

William Rigg, U13A Cricket Captain.

U12A

P 14 W 9 D0 L5

In general this has been a very successful year for the U12A cricket team. This was a well-balanced team with the hard hitting of Ikhlaas Ahmed and Harvey Meacham offset by the stroke play of Oliver Nesbitt and Oliver Bevan. This talent was also supplemented by the stoic doggedness of Sam Shepherd and the competence of Fergus Roll, Cameron Hemp and Matt Smith. Our bowling attack was measured, with the two Olivers' bowling softening up the opposition before the introduction of the sublime Moiz Sandhu, whose efficiency and accuracy was a pleasure to behold on his way to becoming our leading wicket taker. He was backed up by Siv Marwaha and the emergence of Hamza Nazar.

The season got off to a disappointing start with a loss to King's Worcester, but that was avenged later in the year with a thoroughly dominant display, eventually resulting in a win by 58 runs. King Edward's Birmingham were defeated by 7

wickets as they were reduced to 117: Cameron Hemp took 4-20 and Oli Nesbitt 3-19, before Oli Bevan scored 52 not out to secure victory. Victories were further secured against Warwick (with the last ball in the final over!), King Edward's Stratford and Princethorpe. An impressive game followed against Old Swinford Hospital with Ahmed making 45, Nesbitt 36, and Bevan 25* to set a total of 144-2 off 20 overs. In a game that ebbed and flowed, the opposition made 139-5 thanks in part to Nazar's 2-19 off 3 overs. Victories were hard to come by against Bishop Vesey's and Bromsgrove, which left us with our Cup run to extend. Having beaten King Edward's Aston previously, in part due to Ikhlaas Ahmed's unbeaten 59 and Bevan's 43, we set an imposing 188-4 off 20 overs. Tight bowling and an impressive 2-20 from Moiz Sandhu resulted in victory by 75 runs.

We were next drawn to face King Edward's, Birmingham in the semi-final. On a bowlers' wicket and slow outfield, we managed to post 101-6 with Nesbitt contributing a belligerent 20 at the end of the innings. However, tight bowling and excellent ground fielding restricted King Edward's to 83-9 with Sandhu again the pick of the bowlers returning 3-11 from his four overs, assisted by Bevan's 2-8 from his allotted allocation. At the time of writing we are awaiting news of when the final is to be played but it will be against Bishop Vesey's or Warwick, probably in September!

U12B

P10 W 6 D1 L3

The B-team has had a successful season. Admirably led by James Topping, they have played inventive cricket with a desire and passion to live up to the School's motto of Perseverantia.

Despite an initial set back against Queensbridge in the Cup, the squad have applied themselves to each game. The first victory against King Edward's Birmingham saw the emergence of Alex Griffiths who hit a stunning 81 out of a total of 137-5. In reply, Liam Mingo showed what an accurate bowler he was by taking 3 wickets as the team won by 38 runs. A draw followed against King Henry VIII before returning to winning ways against Princethorpe as we reached 100 thanks to contributions from Harry Hollier (17) and Hamza Nazar (12). In the field we were very tight, and exceptional bowling from Callum Mortiboys (2-9 off three overs) backed up by Robbie Monk, Captain Topping, Jack Hughes and Tom Yearsley resulted in a 33-run victory. A loss to Nottingham High School didn't put us off despite good bowling from Mortiboys again (2-4 off 4 overs). Our adventure then took us to Old Swinford Hospital. We set a target of 102 (Zak Saleem top scoring with 23) and we had them 90-10 at the eighteenth over mainly due to Mingo (3-10) and an outstanding runout from James Topping to wrap up proceedings. King's Worcester fell foul of our intensity as we set 98 off 15 overs, mainly due to Robbie Monk's quick-fire 20 before we restricted them to 75; Topping securing victory with 3-11. The final game of the season was at King Edward's Aston who were no match for the determination and skill of the team. King Edward's were restricted to 64-all-out mainly thanks to a hat-trick from Robbie Monk (3-5) and tight bowling from Jay Madhar (2-2). Having done the hard work we ran out eventual winners by 6 wickets.

We would like to thank all the players for their commitment, determination and enthusiasm throughout the season. This is a talented bunch of cricketers and they have laid down a solid foundation on which to build in future years. Well done and good luck!

Mr M Covill, Mr T Emmet & Mr C Thomas



Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

The pre-season Bill Buttle Tournament at King Edward's School, as is now customary, provided the first competitive action of the new academic year. A newly assembled, young side, with relatively few Upper Sixth players, battled gamely and earned mixed results in the group stage; a 5-2 win over Birmingham Metropolitan College and a 0-5 defeat to touring Irish side, Ashton School. Nevertheless, with several late drop-outs reducing the number of teams in the tournament, this was enough to earn a semi-final place against the hosts. Although evenly matched for the most part, we approached the game nervously and lacked spirit, eventually losing 1-2 despite George Taylor's early goal. Some consolation was provided by a 1-0 victory over a spent Loughborough side, which earned a third-place finish in the tournament overall.

The following week saw the commencement of the regular fixture programme, beginning with a confidence-boosting 5-1 win over Queen Mary's Grammar, courtesy of Chris Pettman, Harry Jones, Nick Hooper, Jonathan Foulkes and a generous opposition defender. This was followed by an evening fixture against the Old Silhillians 1st XI, as part of their league preparation which, despite a strong performance, we lost 1-6 but which toughened us up, ready for Solihull School's first ever League hockey match in the inaugural season of the Warwickshire Schools U18 Hockey League. Fittingly, perhaps, this took place against long-time rivals Warwick and, happily, ended in a victory as Warwick's best efforts were not enough to prevent a 3-0 result, Oliver Haley netting his hat trick.

The win-loss-win-loss pattern continued for a total of eight matches, with further League victories against Bishop Vesey's (5-2) and Bablake (4-0) and losses in the tough 'friendly' fixtures against Bromsgrove (1-3) and Repton (0-1). The

final loss of the sequence was, disappointingly, our first in the League, against our likely closest rivals for the title, also unbeaten at this stage; King Edward's.

Bouncing back from this disappointment we thrashed Camp Hill (5-0), King Henry VIII Coventry (4-0), in the League, and Nottingham High School (4-1), in which Oliver Haley scored another hat trick and Harry Busz netted the other. Another defeat against the mighty Repton followed (0-3) before a thumping 8-1 demolition of Lawrence Sheriff in the league fixture, with two goals apiece from Oliver Haley, David Clarke and Jonathan Foulkes and one each from Harry Busz and Nick Starkey.

Rounding out the fixtures for the first term were a truly dismal 1-1 draw against King's Macclesfield and an excellent performance against the Old Boys' side, which the School won 6-3, followed by the County quarter-final round of the England Hockey National Schools Championship, against Bablake. Despite beating them comfortably two months before, or perhaps because of it, we failed to match Bablake's passion, grit and determination and ended up losing a closely contested game by a solitary goal. Although this represented our shortest cup run for quite some considerable time, we were at least pleased to see the return of a proper knockout format to the competition instead of the unpopular one-day tournament of recent years.

As seems to so often be the case, the Christmas break did us no favours and we returned in January to record a sluggish 2-4 defeat against Birmingham Met, whom we had easily overcome in the Bill Buttle Tournament.

Then Britain was crippled by the sort of winter that would see the Scandinavians basking in shorts and T-shirts and,

Astroturfs being amongst the coldest of earthly environments, pitches remained frozen long after everywhere else had thawed. During this spell the fixtures against Adams' Grammar and Bloxham were cancelled although, given the quality of recent performances in these two distant January away fixtures, that may have been a blessing in disguise. A blessing it was not, however, when fixtures resumed, with little practice under our belts. Eager for some sort of retribution against King Edward's we, once again, failed to perform against a side that are too good to face when not on top form and lost 0-3.

The now all-too-familiar frustration at least sparked a response that ushered in an unbeaten end to the domestic fixture list, beginning with another victory over Queen Mary's (3-1) and the completion of a double over our beloved Warwick School, with a 2-1 victory in the home fixture. Bablake were then dispatched 2-0, before the final League encounter, against Princethorpe. Given our defeat to King Edward's in October, a win was needed to retain any hope of topping the League but, even then, we would still be reliant upon KES slipping up. As it happens we drew, 3-3, and King Edward's stuttered but didn't slip up, drawing their final fixture and securing the League title. Whilst we would have preferred to win, the League table still reads pretty favourably:

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	King Edward's School, Birmingham	7	6	1	0	29	3	26	19
2	Solihull School	7	5	1	1	27	9	18	16
3	Warwick School	7	4	1	2	13	11	2	13
4	Princethorpe College	7	4	1	2	17	17	0	13
5	Bablake School	7	2	2	3	16	17	-1	8
6	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	6	1	1	4	9	18	-9	4
7	Lawrence Sheriff School	6	0	2	4	9	27	-18	2
8	King Henry VIII School, Coventry	7	0	1	6	5	23	-18	1

Hopefully next season will see us go one better!

Despite the League having been settled the season was not yet concluded. The final domestic fixture was against Camp Hill, which we won comfortably without ever really impressing. Fittingly, long-serving stalwart Dylan Patel scored in the 3-1 victory that marked his final home game.



With the annual fixture against the staff accidentally omitted from the calendar, Mr Mayer, myself and the other hockey-playing staff were denied the opportunity to show just what we can do but anyone who has seen the fixture in the past will know how it would have turned out. That left only the Bath Hockey Festival to negotiate before the season's close.

With Mr Mayer otherwise indisposed, Mr Mitchell was once again welcomed onto the trip to provide his legendary mix of coaching and umpiring excellence, coupled with risqué humour. Whilst it may have been one of the coldest and greyest festival weekends – although, unlike Solihull, Bath remained snow free – spirits were high and a good time was had by all (and in no way as a consequence of Mr Mayer's absence, I hasten to add). With several regular squad members unavailable, it gave the chance for some other players to get first team experience and stake a claim for a place in next season's team and, even though there were changes to personnel and positions, the standard of hockey remained very high. The first match, against Queen's College, resulted in a 1-1 draw. The following morning saw a hotly-contested game against Hilton College which we narrow lost, 2-3, and the third fixture proved a frustrating affair in which we played the better hockey, against Ardingly College, but a

combination of defensive errors and failure to convert our many chances left us 2-4 down at the whistle. The fourth fixture, however, showcased our best hockey of the weekend. In spite of tired legs, the team gelled and an excellent, energetic performance earned a well-deserved 4-2 victory over South African tourists Krugersdorp High School, to end the season. Captain Chris Pettman scored in his last ever game, with other goals from Harry Busz, Nick Hooper and newcomer Jamie Hughes.

For an inexperienced squad the side have enjoyed a super season epitomised and driven by Chris Pettman's enthusiastic captaincy. Sincere thanks and best wishes for the future go to him and the other Upper Sixth leavers who have served the team so well in their time here, including David Bulford, who has reliably marshalled a constantly changing defence throughout the season.

Thanks also to Mr Mayer for all that he has done, both on and off the pitch, for the team this year.

With much of the team likely to remain the same next season, I have high hopes for 2013-14!

Mr M Babb

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a good 2012/2013, season building on the success of the previous year's campaign. In total, 17 matches were played with eleven wins, two draws and four losses. All the defeats came against either 1st XI opposition or very strong 2nd XIs, which underpins how well the squad of players actually performed throughout the year. Unfortunately, four fixtures were cancelled due to the inclement weather that we experienced in early December and January. It was also the first year that the School has entered a 2nd XI League but disappointingly, we finished second losing out on goal difference to King Edward's Birmingham.

The most pleasing aspect of the squad throughout the year was the way in which they gelled together especially when losing key players both through exam commitments and 1st XI recruitment. It is naturally tough to build and develop a team if it is often changing, so the squad of players should be again applauded for their efforts. The manner in which the squad played improved game by game, culminating at times in some wonderful, skilful hockey being achieved by the close season. Similar to last season, the only criticism of the team would be their inability to get into the game quickly enough against the better teams. This often resulted in us being on the back foot and therefore chasing the game as was the case against Warwick and King Edward's Birmingham.

The team was ably led by Matthew Orme whose job was made easier by the commitment shown from other senior players. In concluding, I would like to thank all the players for their continuous hard work throughout the year; it was a pleasure to be involved with the squad. Also, I would like to personally thank Mr Nick Leonard who accompanied me throughout the year, as well as Mr Chris Mayer whose continuous expertise and desire to drive players forward has made all our jobs easier.

Mr D Hemp

3rd XI

In the first half of the season we struggled to score goals and although we dominated the vast majority of games, our failure to convert pressure cost us wins and we readily conceded goals through counterattacks. This led to a record of only three wins and eight losses. This really didn't reflect the quality of the majority of our play, but the pattern was continued into the 2nd half of the season where we were again punished for a lack of goals. As a result we only managed to pick up one more win despite some encouraging performances. Matt Alison led the team ably throughout the season and added a composed presence in defence. This year also saw the emergence of some of the Upper Fifth members of the team. Vickneswaran

Sarveswaran was ever-present in defence and Phil Blenkinsop demonstrated his ability to play any position needed. Fraser Waddell, Andy Hooper and Charlie Thompson all worked hard in midfield or upfront and their tireless work rate has to be commended. Exams and revision limited appearances for many other members of the squad but Charlie Harvey, James Leadbetter, George Diwakar and Laurie Stumper also put in some good performances. There were also some notable contributions from members of the 4th team who were willing to step up (sometimes at very short notice) and help out the team.

Highlights of the season included a thumping 4-0 win against King Henry's. Overall, it has been a very encouraging season and I have been very impressed with all the players who have represented the School this year. I hope to see many of them in higher teams next year!

Mr D Brough

U15A

A sometimes frustrating season for the U15A team started with a dismal performance against King Edward's Birmingham as we tried to integrate a few new players into the team. A tough loss against Nunnery Wood followed before the team stepped up in performance to draw against Bishop Vesey's, conceding a goal in the very last minute of the game. Unfortunately, four straight losses followed as the team struggled to get into a rhythm and mistakes were made at crucial times. This run was stopped with a 5-0 win over Camp Hill to round out the first half of the season.

Either side of Christmas, games were lost due to the weather but when the games resumed, a narrow loss to Nunnery Wood, followed by a convincing win over Newcastle proved cause for optimism. Unfortunately, the side could only manage two more draws from the remaining games despite a vast improvement in performance from the beginning of the season. By the end of the season there had been progression in the technique and effort levels of every team member. JJ Fantini worked tirelessly in the centre of midfield and Cameron Blake demonstrated his skills in the forward positions. Sam Brown worked hard in a number of new positions and Ed Price and Sam Orme had to produce a number of goal-saving tackles throughout the season. Tom Brewer, Alex Lavery and others produced some solid performances in the wide positions and there were many players that made the step up from the B-team during the season.

Overall, although the number of wins wasn't as high as we would have liked, there were many players who demonstrated that they have the potential to make good contributions to the senior side next year. Hopefully some will even push themselves into 1st team contention.

U15B

The B-team had an encouraging season, winning 2 and drawing 2 of their 10 games. They often came up against tough opposition but never let their enthusiasm drop. They produced better hockey as the season went on and many of the players were picked up by the A-team. The highlights were definitely the hard fought 2-0 win over Loughborough and the impressive 2-1 win over Wolverhampton. All the players' skill levels increased through the season and I'm hopeful that many will continue to play hockey in the senior teams next year.

Mr D Brough



U14A

The U14A team enjoyed a fantastic season which saw them score 104 goals and concede only 18. The record speaks for itself - won 22, drew 4, lost 3. The highlight of the season was the winning of the County Championship and on the day the boys were magnificent. We scored 23 goals and conceded none in 6 games. We won the final 2-0 against a very good King Edward's Birmingham team. This took us through to the last 16 of the Midlands. We won our group of four with convincing wins which resulted in us going through to the Midlands Finals Day at Cannock Hockey Club. On a bitterly cold day, the boys did not reach the heights of the performances at the County Championship and we narrowly missed out on reaching the semi-final stage.

Throughout the season the team played in the Warwickshire League. The big game in the league came in late March when we faced King Edward's Birmingham. It was a closely fought match and we lost out with a 1-2 score line. This meant that we finished as runners-up.

I am hoping that the experiences gained from the season will inspire the boys to work hard over the coming years to try and achieve success at Midland level and beyond.

Harry Manek-Robinson was captain of the team and he was ably assisted by his vice-captain Thomas Mitchell. A big thank you must go to Mr Anderton who assisted me in the running of this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The U14B team had a difficult season leading to 2 wins from 8 matches. The boys have, however, played throughout the season with a positive and energetic attitude, resulting in some close games against much stronger opposition and a couple of strong wins. These were a win against Nottingham who fielded a team of A and B-team players and most impressively, a 6-1 win against Loughborough in the penultimate match of the season. Harvey Wilson has done an incredible job as captain, working efficiently to ensure that we always have a full team for every match and the boys as a whole have been a pleasure to work with throughout the season, showing good attendance in training and determination in lessons. With continued focus, some of these boys could be stepping up to regular A-team places in the future and we will hopefully see more wins for the B-team at U15 level. My thanks to Mr Mayer for helping to run the B-team throughout the year and for providing the boys with great advice and expertise during the season.

Mr O Anderton

U13

The majority of U13 fixtures took place during the Easter Term with just a handful taking place before Christmas. It was not a particularly good start for the A-team, with a 3-0 loss to King Edward's Birmingham, who proved to be too organised on the day. The B-team fared a little better with a 2-2 draw against Arnold Lodge. It was then a two month wait until the next fixture, which saw a much better performance against Bishop Vesey's, leading to a resounding 5-0 win; a confidence-booster before the Yuletide festivities.

The Easter term began with an improved performance against King Edward's, leading to a well-deserved and satisfying 1-1

draw. Having played well during this term opener, the boys entered the mini (7-a-side) hockey tournament at Foremarke Hall with considerable confidence. However, as has been proven so many times in the past, tournament hockey can be very frustrating, particularly as, in this case, each game only lasts 10 minutes – it really was important to take any chances that fell our way. Unfortunately, it was one of those days as all four games were lost 0-1 after having a great deal of possession and opportunities in all matches.

Following this tournament, the weather heaped more frustration upon all teams as snow obliterated the schedule for the remainder of January and four games were cancelled. It was worth the wait, though, as the first match to be played after the snow had melted, resulted in a fantastic 6-0 win over Warwick; a great effort, leading into the Bromsgrove fixtures. Here, both the A and B-teams battled hard but came home with two defeats (1-0 and 7-0 respectively).

Once again, though, the A-team picked itself up and went on to defeat Newcastle-under-Lyme 2-0 and then draw 1-1 with a strong Bishop Vesey's side. This meant that we could go into another tournament with a good degree of belief. On this occasion, it was the Warwickshire Schools 7-a-side tournament. Here, both the A and B-teams fought with considerable determination and put on a better display than during the Foremarke Hall tournament. The A-team won 2 and lost 2 (due, mainly, to better finishing by the opposition), whilst the B-team won 2, drew 1 and lost 1. Sadly, neither team made it through to the regional championships.

This led to the final run-in of fixtures where the A-team defeated Bablake 4-1 and Lawrence Sheriff 3-0, while the B-team drew 1-1 with Warwick. There was one other match, where the A-team lost heavily to Warwick, a team we had already thrashed earlier in the season – this was due to having a heavily weakened side due to injuries and boys being unavailable. In fact, this fixture did highlight the need to have a fit squad, as it was often the case that without one or two of our creative midfielders, we did struggle to break teams down and results would then go against us.

My thanks must go to all players involved this year, with special mention to the goalkeeper, George Armstrong; regular defenders Matt Bond, Dan Hofton, Tom Loughran, James Halford and Adam Beaumont; midfielders Arthur Townend, Amar Dosanjh, Fin Blake (creative and hardworking) and Ellis Owen (inspirational captain and top scorer) and the forwards Tom Serle, Elliot Morter, Will Rigg and Ramyank Chaganty. I apologise to anyone I may have left out (see me next season and I'll apologise in person!).

Special thanks, as ever, to Mr Mayer and the rest of the Hockey coaching staff for their help and support over the season.

Mr S Mitchell

U12

The U12 Hockey squad had an excellent third full season, building on the success achieved by the previous year's squad. The U12A season consisted of nine wins and a single loss. Unfortunately, due to both the snow and severe frosts that we encountered, four fixtures had to be cancelled. The U12B fixtures also suffered due to the weather but they did manage a very good win against a strong Bromsgrove side in their sole fixture.

Attendance at lunchtime and after-school practices was again outstanding with over thirty players in total going to the various sessions. This, in my opinion, was one of the main reasons why the squad was so successful and proved difficult to beat. This also enabled us to field a strong B-team. There are undoubtedly some very talented players in this age group but the most pleasing aspect in reviewing the season was that in despite of losing key players to rugby commitments throughout the year, we had a sufficient amount of quality and depth to cover when needed.

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

There were good wins against strong Bromsgrove and King Edward's Birmingham teams and comprehensive victories against Bishop Vesey's, Loughborough, Princethorpe and Bablake. In total, thirty-three goals were scored and just three conceded. The A-team was lead well by Max Brown but all players should be immensely proud of their individual contributions that they made during the season. The season finished on a high with the squad reaching the Midlands 7-a-side Finals at Cannock Hockey Club. Despite an excellent performance, the team narrowly lost 2-0 to Bilton Grange. On a personal note, I would not only like to thank Chris Mayer for his input and hard work during the winter, but also all the players who performed well and made the season very enjoyable.

Mr D Hemp



Olympic Hockey Star Joins School Coaching Team

Solihull hockey star Sally Walton is to help hundreds of pupils follow in her medal-winning footsteps after joining the School's coaching team.

The winner of a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics will be passing on her knowledge to girls from the Junior School to the Upper Fifth throughout the hockey season. Sally said: 'This is an exciting new challenge for me and I am already impressed by how ambitious the girls are and how willing they are to put advice into practice and match play'.

Girls' Hockey - 1st XI

Captain: Julie Whiting
Vice Captain: Maria Barnes

The Girls' hockey 1st XI had an excellent start to the season, winning four out of six games against strong opposition. The season was opened with a fixture against King's Worcester which was a hard fought 0-0 stalemate, with chances for either team that could have stolen victory. After a strong 1-0 win against an experienced Bablake side, the girls came up against a talented Repton team and suffered their first loss, coming in 1-0 down at the final whistle. A succession of 3-0 wins followed, with sterling performances and goals coming from captain Julie Whiting and the reliable Lottie Harland. Victories against King Henry VIII Coventry, King's High Warwick and Bloxham acted as good preparation as the girls went into their county tournament, with ourselves, Edgbaston High School, King Edward's High School and St Martin's School looking to book a place in the Midlands Round of the National Schools Tournament. Unfortunately, the short games did not favour our side and we came a disappointing third overall despite scoring seven goals in total. Following the disappointment of the County Tournament, the girls had a long away trip to Worksop to try and pick themselves up. As always, Worksop proved to be an exceptional side and we returned on the back of a 5-0 defeat, feeling disheartened and very tired. Commitment and dedication was shown by the squad as they came out 2-0 winners against RGS Worcester, with two goals from Julie Whiting coming from two well-rehearsed short corners. Difficult games against Rugby School, Princethorpe College, Denstone College and Wrekin College followed, with 0-3, 0-1, 0-4 and 0-2 defeats coming respectively. Despite the score lines, some excellent performances were produced, particularly from Vicky Beech and Maria Barnes in defence against a strong Princethorpe side. Emily Hodge always looked dangerous on the break against Denstone, with Nicole Angelides providing a supporting role going forwards. Laura Daghish has proved commendable this season, with excellent saves often holding the squad together.

The second half of the season saw the girls' squad mixed with the boys' squads which proved to be both challenging and rewarding. Julie Whiting and Maria Barnes became regular features for the 3rd XI squad, pushing them physically, technically and mentally.

Overall, it has been a pleasing season. The girls' commitment to training must be commended and it has allowed them to improve and build as a squad as the season has progressed. Sad goodbyes to the outgoing Upper Sixth must be made: Julie Whiting, Maria Barnes, Vicky Beech, Anna Trenchard and Emily Hodge; you will be missed immensely on the pitch. Congratulations to those girls playing club hockey and good luck with preparations for next season.

Girls' 1st XI Hockey Squad: Laura Daghish, Julie Whiting, Maria Barnes, Vicky Beech, Anna Trenchard, Ellie Davies, Nicole Angelides, Lottie Harland, Georgia Lovett, Sophie Ward, Ella Harthman, Jess Taylor, Hannah Butler, Emily Hodge and Amelia Woolley.

Miss D Wilcox

2nd XI

Captain: Nicola Cronin
Vice Captain: Amy Middleton

The 2nd XI Girls' Hockey squad this season has shown a good commitment to training, and their skills and game play have improved throughout the season. The girls have faced some very challenging fixtures with the results showing many defeats, but with every match the girls demonstrated great determination. A highlight of the season was our victory against Bablake School where we won 3-1, with Frankie Theakston, Sally Farrant and Sophia Peschisolido scoring the goals with excellent finishes. Another victory came from our match against Bloxham School, beating them 2-0. Here, the girls played exceptionally well against very tough opposition, keeping possession on the field. The team saw out three draws during the season against Worksop College, Princethorpe College and Denstone College. A draw against these schools was a respectable result, where we demonstrated some excellent defending skills, especially on short corners. The team learnt cooperation and teamwork against King's Worcester and Rugby School where we lost heavily, yet the girls came away with the experience of playing against very strong opposition. From these matches, the girls were able to analyse their own weaknesses to focus on in training.

Well done to all the girls this season for your hard work in training and commitment to matches. A massive thank you must go to Mr Mayer and Miss H Smith for their hard work and support towards the 2nd XI team this season.

2nd XI squad:

Nicola Cronin (C), Laura Newbould (GK), Amy Middleton, Liz Ready, Maddie Lavery, Jess Taylor, Frankie Theakston, Alex Levey, Sally Warmington, Lydia Jackson, Sally Farrant, Amy Parry, Caroline Camm, Sophia Peschisolido, Dani Blake, Bernadette Farnworth, Jess Lawton and Grace Evans.

Miss D Wilcox

U15

It has been a difficult season with the weather, and training has been very chilly indeed at times! Nevertheless, the girls have put in some excellent performances, which bodes well with them now moving into the senior hockey. We have worked hard on the continued development of their basic skills set and the girls must make sure that they continue to work on this going through the age groups.

The U15 XI began the season with a well executed 3-1 win over RGS Worcester. It was a strong performance and it was an excellent standard of hockey for the first competitive game of the season. A 2-2 draw against Princethorpe again showed promise. Following this came two difficult fixtures which saw the girls lose 0-3 against Bablake and 1-3 against a King's Worcester side with some very talented individual players. The team fought hard and the losses were disappointing, but much could be taken from these games. It was also pleasing to see players such as Nadine Wilkinson and Nikita Basra step up to the challenge and lead the team when results were not going their way.

The following half of the season saw continued progress and some great results against local schools in the borough. This meant that the team won the Solihull League. This was then topped off by a closely fought, but in the end victorious,

Borough Championship. Shona Eaton and Adina Bailey worked hard to score the much needed goals in the short matches played at the tournament. However, overall it was a great team effort!

Well done to the girls this season. There have been some promising individual and team performances and with continued hard work and focus there is no doubt further progress will be made in the next few years. Senior hockey now beckons for the squad and some hard fitness work over the summer will be necessary in order for the step up to be made. The girls should look forward to the challenge of senior hockey, but should be prepared to work very hard to achieve it! Finally, congratulations also to Shona Eaton and Emma Whitfield who were selected for this season's Birmingham & West Midlands JDC.

Top Goal scorer- Shona Eaton

U15 Hockey Squad:

Helena Newbould, Emma Whitfield, Nadine Wilkinson, Harriet Marshall, Amy Lewis, Claudia Clarke, Shona Eaton, Aimee Skidmore, Tanya Sebastien, Beatrice Cowley, Nikita Basra, Leticia Salmon, Harriet Woolley, Adina Bailey, Freya Harding, Ciara Mahoney.

Miss H Smith

U14

Captain: Lydia Jones- Brown

The U14 Hockey squad this season has worked hard on their skills, mastering more advanced techniques for their matches. However, the results this season have not necessarily reflected the effort the girls have put into their matches. An impressive victory of the season was against St Peters, where the girls won 7-0. Here, Solihull School kept possession of the ball and demonstrated excellent attacking play, especially from short corners. Throughout the season we drew against RGS Worcester, Wolverhampton Grammar School, King's High Warwick and St Martin's. However, while we demonstrated some excellent passing and attacking play in these matches, we struggled to create scoring chances. Our two defeats of the season were against King's Worcester and Arden. Here, the girls learnt from their defending mistakes which saw them lose ground early in the match. Towards the latter end of the season, many fixtures were cancelled due to the weather which affected our position; we eventually finished mid-table in the league.

The skill level of this team has improved dramatically and I look forward to a victorious season in 2013-2014! Many thanks must go to Mr Mayer for all his expertise and coaching throughout the season.

U14 Squad:

Lydia Jones-Brown (C), Scarlett O'Malley, Isobel Douglas, Jessie Lloyd, Lydia Roll, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Rachel Hedley, Robyn Keen, Chloe Horsburgh, Ella Talbot, Lauren Kiely (GK), Cait Casey (GK), Vicky Brewer, Maeve Grogan, Amelia Diccico and Hannah Quibell.

Miss D Wilcox

U13

Hockey for the U13 this year has been fun and successful. With ambitious aims we started the season with a league match which we unfortunately lost. It was clear we were in need of some intensive training by Mrs Black. All determined, we put in the hours and ended the season winning 6, drawing 1 and losing 3. The training sessions were tough but paid off!

We have made great progress with some excellent goal scoring by Clara Miles, Becky Monkhouse and Kate Stumper, fantastic skills by Georgia Brown, Gwynneth Horbury and Ella Stirling, and a determined defence team with Mary Davies as our strong, alert goalkeeper.

Towards the end of the season we were even more determined and prepared ourselves for the West Midlands County Tournament by practising strong passes and tackles. With Mrs Black's tactical knowledge and the help of Mr Thompson's motivational shouting plus some well worked goals, we won the Tournament.

To top this off, we also won the Solihull Borough League. A memorable match was played against Arnold Lodge. We showed well-rehearsed skills and worked well as a team with Emma Hadley producing some brilliant side-line balls, Ellie Featherstone achieving some powerful hits and Hannah Higley making some outstanding tackles. It was a great improvement. I'd like to thank Mrs Black for the amount of time and effort she put in to organise matches, training sessions and help us improve in our hockey.

Alex Marshall, Shell Form

U12

Captain: Phoebe Harland

The U12 Girls' hockey squad has shown great promise this season. Competing in both league and friendly fixtures, the surplus of matches has allowed great progress to be made by all that have played. In the early part of the season, a first place win at our home tournament provided a solid platform for the girls to build on. Beating St Peters and St Martin's whilst losing to King's High, Warwick in the group stages put us through to the semi-finals in second place. After a nail-biting twenty minutes, a 0-0 draw with Princethorpe led to extra time and penalties. After converting two flicks, we went through to the final to play King's High, Warwick once again. A stalemate led to extra time, but an exhausted Phoebe Harland scored with the last touch of the game to make us overall winners. Following on from this, the girls faced two tough games against RGS Worcester and King's High, Warwick, losing 1-5 and 0-5 respectively. But we bounced back, beating Wolverhampton Grammar School with 9-0 and 1-0 wins for the A and B sides. Difficult weather conditions meant that the local league had to be abandoned; however we were sitting at the top of this with only two games to go. Huge congratulations to the girls for their success; I am sure they will build on this next season.

A and B Squad:
Phoebe Harland, Izzy Dodd, Tabitha Botterill, Sophie Besford, Sophia Cusack, Georgie Dalby, Lucy Fennell, Rebecca Toher, Eleanor Berrow, Izzy Adderley, Cayla Balfour, Chrissie Bate, Prudence Dixey, Niamh Smythe, Alice Sharpe, Alex Mills, Izzy Alderson.

Miss D Wilcox



Netball - 1st, 2nd and 3rd VII

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

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

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

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

U15

The U15 squad has had a hard season. The girls have worked hard, however, due to other school commitments, players have been missing from practices and matches.

The results have been mixed and at times the score has not reflected the great play by the team. They had wins against Langley, St Peters, Tudor Grange and Light Hall. The most exciting game was against Lode Heath, where there was some superb defence by Nadine, Shona, Nakita and Harriet. The attacking play from Megan, Harriet, Emma and Adina received appreciative applause from the opposition! The game went goal-for-goal, unfortunately resulting in a loss of 14 -15.

The squad:

Shona Eaton, Adina Bailey, Harriet Marshall, Harriet Woolley, Emma Whitfield, Amy Lewis, Nadine Wilkinson, Nakita Basra, Megan Lloyd and Helena Newbould.

Mrs H Smith



U14

Captain: Jessie Lloyd

The U14 Girls' netball squad has had a mixed season. Having played eight games, they won four in total, drew one and lost three. With a mixture of league and independent school fixtures, the girls made steady progress. Convincing shooting from Jessie Lloyd, Scarlett O'Malley and Lauren Kiely led to strong victories against Langley, St Peters and Heart of England. Lydia Jones-Brown and Sophie Shakeshaft were formidable in defence against Tudor Grange, leading to a 9-9 draw, where we were unlucky not to win. An away game against a strong King Henry VIII side led to another draw, with solid performances from Issy Douglas, Vicky Brewer and Ellie Gaffney holding things together in centre court. A disappointing defeat against Wolverhampton Grammar School ensued, with the girls being tested physically, technically and mentally in very difficult weather conditions. A big thanks must go to Jessie Lloyd for captaining the side this year; the girls will come back

better and stronger next season and we look forward to some more pleasing results.

Squad:

Jessie Lloyd, Scarlett O'Malley, Lauren Kiely, Vicky Brewer, Issy Douglas, Sophie Shakeshaft, Ellie Gaffney, Lydia Roll and Lydia Jones-Brown.

Mrs H Smith



U13

The A-team's season began with our first league match against Arden School. After we brushed off a few cobwebs and got into our stride, we finished with a win of 19-3. This gave us the confidence to progress into our next match. Although it was a friendly, we still wanted to win. The final score was Solihull 18, St Peters 6. After some more training and endless games lessons, we had reached our second league match of the season, against Heart of England, which we won 14-3.

With three matches under our belt, we were improving our play and becoming a better team. The fourth match was another league game against Alderbrook. Knowing we were in good form, we had more confidence coming into this match. After pulling away within the first half, we tried to develop our play as a team. The final score was 29-9, a fourth consecutive win! Our fifth game was a league match against Tudor Grange. We knew they were a strong team, so we were determined to challenge them. Unfortunately, they beat us 19-7. With our first loss of the year, we were determined to regain our winning streak. We then faced a friendly match against RGS Worcester. The game was very close and went goal for goal many times. Disappointingly, we did not have enough to take the win and lost narrowly, 11-8. After losing two games in a row, we were more motivated than ever. It was our last league match of the season, against Langley School, and we wanted a win. With some good netball played, the match ended with Solihull on top with the final score being 21-9. The final match of the season was against King Henry VIII, Coventry which we won 10-4.

We came second in the league, and second in the end of season tournament. The A-team consisted of Clara Miles, Annabelle Barker, Kate Stumper, Ellie Featherstone, Anushka Karandikar, Ella Stirling, Elisa Mottram and Gwynneth Horbury. The B-team had two matches this year, against RGS Worcester losing narrowly 10-9, and King Henry VIII winning 11-6. The B-team consisted of Alex Marshall, Saskia

Freshwater, Mary Davies, Katie Lyth, Elle Miles, Becky Monkhouse and Maddie Koral. On behalf of the team we would like to thank Mrs Smith, Miss Wolsey, Mrs Johnson and Miss Wilcox for all their hard work throughout the season.

Clara Miles and Annabelle Barker

U12

The U12 Netball squads this season have worked tremendously hard. At the start of the season our basic skills were weak, meaning we had a lot of possession but could not produce many goals. We therefore started the season with many defeats. However, the girls did not get downhearted by this but instead saw it as a challenge to work harder to even out the results when we replayed these schools in the area tournament. The attitude and commitment to training was excellent, where the majority of the A and B-teams' players were training twice a week, every week. The overall results for the season do not reflect the skill level currently possessed by the girls in this year. Throughout the season the A-team lost 4 matches to Langley, Heart of England, Princethorpe and Tudor Grange. We achieved two victories against Alderbrook and Lode Heath and came 2nd in the area tournament, beating St Martin's in the semi-final 2-0 and losing out to Tudor Grange 7-1 in the final. The B-team lost 2 and won 2. The C and D-teams drew 1 and lost 1 respectively. The highlight of the season for the A-team was their performance in the area tournament, by coming top of their pool and reaching the final. Another highlight of the season were A, B, C and D-team matches against Princethorpe College where all the girls in the Third Form were competing in a match on that day!

If all continue to work on their skills over the summer, both squads will be ready for a successful season in 2013. Well done for your dedication this season!

A-team Squad:

Phoebe Harland, Isabella Adderley, Tabitha Botterill, Isabel Dodd, Sofia Cusack, Georgina Dalby, Katie Phillips, Prudence Dixey, Isobel King and Mia Sukkersudha.

B-team Squad:

Lucy Gerrard, Eleanor Berrow, Christina Bate, Rebecca Toher, Cayla Balfour, Aishwarya Jagadeeswaran, Alexandra Mills, Niamh Smythe, Ruth Urry, Olivia Tennant, Sophie Besford.

Mrs H Smith

Rounders

The girls have had a positive season in Rounders this year. Despite severe interruptions due to poor weather conditions, all teams have made good progress. At U12 level, the girls were quick to pick up the rules and tactics of the game, allowing them to move forward with their skills. Captained by Georgie Dalby, they opened their season with a convincing win against King Edward's Five Ways and went on to beat Princethorpe in their second game. The girls had some tough games against Bablake and King Edward's High School but demonstrated their strength as a team at the Borough finals. They were successful in reaching the final, where they played Arden School. After a thrilling game, they emerged victorious, making them District Champions, a superb feat.

'A' team: Phoebe Harland, Georgina Dalby, Lucy Fennell, Cayla Balfour, Tabby Botterill, Rebecca Toher, Eleanor Berrow, Issy Adderley, Sofia Cusack, Prudence Dixey.

The U13s showed great promise at the start of the season; sharpness in the field and consistent batting allowed for some great results to be achieved. Against King Edward's High School, their hard work in practices paid off with a win by a margin of four rounders. The girls performed well at their Borough tournament and narrowly missed out on a semi-final place. Tough games against Bablake and King Edward's Five



Ways proved challenging but the girls were always competitive. Thanks to Miss Black for coaching and running the side.

'A' team: Clara Miles, Hannah Higley, Annabelle Barker, Anushka Karandikar, Ella Stirling, Saskia Freshwater, Mary Davies, Alex Marshall, Hannah Currie, Rebecca Monkhouse, Kate Stumper.

The U14 and U15 squads, led by Cait Casey and Shona Eaton, have also had a successful season despite being affected by the inclement weather. The U14s reached their Borough semi-final but narrowly missed out on a final place. The U15s still have their final to play and we have high hopes for their success. A sterling performance from Amy Lewis, as the only batter left in, resulted in a narrow defeat to King Edward's High School for the U15s. Close games for both sides against Bablake and King Edward's Five Ways proved to be great contests, with impressive performances from both teams. Thanks to Miss Smith for coaching the U15 team.

U14 team: Cait Casey, Jessie Lloyd, Lydia Roll, Lydia Jones-Brown, Isobel Gaffney, Vicky Brewer, Libbie Bailey, Sophie Shakeshaft, Issy Douglas, Scarlett O'Malley.

U15 team: Shona Eaton, Adina Bailey, Amy Lewis, Helena Newbould, Ciara Mahoney, Beatrice Cowley, Harriet Marshall, Nakita Basra, Freya Harding, Nadine Wilkinson.

Miss D Wilcox



event with Adam Roberts being unbeaten and Charlie Hadley coming second in every race to gain maximum points for the team. The middle distances saw some good performances from Harry Manek-Robinson, Ben Osborne and Ed Bates in the 800m and JJ Fantini and Harry Peachey in the 1500m. In the jumps, Charlie Hadley proved to be a points machine in the both the triple and long jumps, ably supported by Charlie Morgan, Will Davies and Dominic Martens in the triple jump and Adam Roberts and Paolo Peschisolido in the long jump. The high jump saw some good performances from Benny Watson, Oscar Blundell and Max Angelides. In the throws, Nick Empson put in some excellent performances, losing only once in the shot put and he was ably supported by Sam Kandola. The discus proved to be a weakness in the team until we discovered Charlie Morgan. In the javelin JJ Fantini and Harry Manek-Robinson performed consistently.

The U14 boys competed well in the matches but only recorded wins over King Edward's Aston, Arden, Heart of England and Smithswood. The team was captained by Max Stanley. One of the strongest performers was Arthur Townend who put in some excellent performances in the javelin, 800m, triple jump and hurdles. On the track Waqaar Ul-Haq proved to be our best sprinter, competing in the hurdles, 100m and 200m. Benedict Harding showed much promise in the 100m as did Jeppe Brendstrup in the 200m. Max Stanley and George Armstrong scored well in the 300m and in the 800m there were some sterling performances from Liam Mingo and Callum Mortiboys. The 1500m was our strongest event on the track with Matt Ritson and Tom Serle battling it out for supremacy. In the throws George Armstrong produced some excellent performances in the shot and discus and he was ably supported by Jeppe Brendstrup and Max Stanley. Arthur Townend and Patrick Kelly threw the javelin to good effect. Ed Gray put in some credible performances in the long jump. Matthew Hadden proved to be a competent jumper in all three disciplines. Arthur Townend was our most successful competitor in the triple jump, ably supported by Will Rigg. Ethan Stretton competed well in the high jump as did Matt Ritson.

Athletics

During the summer term the School hosted several matches and the U16 boys proved to be our most successful team with victories over RGS Worcester, King Edward's Birmingham, King Edward's Aston, King Edward's Camp Hill, Kenilworth High School, Bablake, Arden, Heart of England and St Peter's. The team was captained by Ben Fowles who certainly led by example: he was a consistent performer in the 300m along with Tom Ritson and Paolo Peschisolido. Other star performers on the track were Moses Fakatou, Oscar Blundell and Dominic Martens in the sprints. The hurdles proved to be our strongest



The U16 girls were a young team that was well led by Adina Bailey. Teams beaten during the season were RGS Worcester, Arden, King's High Warwick, St Peter's and Smithswood. On the track Shona Eaton and Jessie Lloyd performed well and gained good points for the team. Chloe Horsburgh ran very effectively in the 100m along with Maeve Grogan. Aimee Skidmore and Issy Douglas scored well in the 200m. The 300m proved to be a successful event with some excellent performances from Adina Bailey and Lydia Roll, who also proved to be a very competitive 1500m runner, coming second in one race but winning all the others. Maeliss Villepontoux also gained many points in the 1500m with her determined running. Hannah Quibell and Scarlett O'Malley ran to good effect in the 800m. Adina proved to be a points machine in the field with some excellent performances in the shot and high jump. Shona Eaton and Scarlett O'Malley had some good performances in the long jump. In the triple jump and javelin both Helena Newbould and Victoria Brewer had some excellent performances, ably assisted in the triple jump by Millie Dixey. Lydia Jones-Brown proved to be a strong competitor in the discus and shot put.

The U14 girls' team put in some credible performances during the season recording wins over St Martin's, King's High Warwick, Edgbaston High School, Arden, St Peter's and Smithswood. There were some excellent performances over the season and several records were broken. In the hurdles there were some good performances from Pru Dixey, Katie Phillips and Phoebe Harland. Mia Sukkersudha and Georgia Brown ran very well in the 100m and in the 200m Elisa Mottram and Rebecca Monkhouse had a successful battle during the season for supremacy. There were some outstanding performances in the 800m from Clara Miles and Phoebe Harland, and Lucy Gerrard provided some excellent back up in this event. In the 1500m Ella Stirling and Georgina Dalby ran very competitively all season. The field events saw some encouraging performances. In the high jump Phoebe Harland and Sofia Cusack both performed to good effect. There were some good performances in the long jump by Annabelle Barker, Alex Marshall, Katie Phillips and Hannah Higley. In the throws Hannah Currie performed well in the javelin and discus. Maddie Koral threw the javelin and shot to good effect and was supported by Mary Davies in the shot.



West Midlands Championships

The following athletes competed in the County Championships for Solihull Borough who were crowned County Champions in all 3 age groups:

U14 Girls (Yr7&8)

High Jump	Phoebe Harland	2nd
1500m	Ella Stirling	6th
Long Jump	Annabelle Barker	5th

U14 Boys

Discus	Max Stanley	7th
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Junior Girls(Yr8&9)

Javelin	Victoria Brewer	3rd
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Junior Boys

Triple Jump	Charlie Hadley	2nd
Long Jump	Charlie Hadley	3rd
800m	Harry Manek-Robinson	3rd
300m	Tom Ritson	Heats
200m	Oscar Blundell	Heats

Inter Girls (Year10/11)

Shot	Adina Bailey	1st
High Jump	Adina Bailey	2nd
80m Hurdles	Shona Eaton	4th

Masons Trophy (10 Counties)

The following represented the West Midlands County Team:

Junior Boys

Triple Jump	Charlie Hadley	1st
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Inter Girls

Shot	Adina Bailey	1st
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3 athletes were selected to represent the West Midlands in the English Schools Championships held on the 5/6th July at the Alexander Stadium:

Junior Boys	Charlie Hadley	Triple Jump	6th
Inter Girls	Adina Bailey	Shot	12th
Senior Girls	Molly Eales	Triple Jump	6th

Mr N Leonard

Ella Stirling produced some good performances in the discus. In the English Schools Track and Field Cup the U16 boys competed in the Midlands A Final and this meant they were in the top eight schools from the Midlands. Both the U14 and U16 Girls qualified for the B final as 9th best school in the Midlands.

On Tuesday 2 July the School held the inaugural Sports Day involving four year groups over a whole day's competition. There were many notable performances which included two School records being broken: Adina Bailey in the 80m hurdles and Lydia Roll in the 800m. Congratulations must go to the winning house which was Fetherston. The School hopes to repeat this next year and ensure the staff and Sixth Form are also competing.

On Wednesday 3 July the School competed at the Solihull Borough Championships and both the girls and boys came second, although the results have yet to be confirmed. Phoebe Harland broke the School record in the 70m hurdles at this event.

From the Borough trials held in May, 11 athletes were selected to compete for Solihull in the West Midlands Championship. Adina Bailey became the shot put Champion and came second in the high jump. Charlie Hadley also came second in the triple jump and Phoebe Harland second in the high jump. From their performances at the West Midlands Championships three pupils – Molly Eales, Adina Bailey and Charlie Hadley – were selected to represent the West Midlands at the English Schools Championships held on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July at the Alexander Stadium. Molly finished 6th in the Senior Girls triple jump and Charlie finished 6th in the Junior boys triple jump with a new School record. Adina was competing against athletes a year older and came a creditable 12th. Many congratulations to all 3 athletes.

Further congratulations to Molly Eales on her selection for the England U20 team that competed in the 2013 Celtic Cup.

As always, the athletics matches at School cannot happen without the help of the staff and on behalf of all the athletes, a massive thank you to you all!



Molly Eales wearing her England U20 vest.

Tennis

Tennis club on a Friday after school has again been a popular activity. Boys and girls from the Third Form through to the Lower Fifth have attended throughout the summer term. Matthew Corp, the external coach from Solihull Tennis Club, has taken the squad players on the hard courts. There has been some considerable technical improvement amongst the players. Mr Shelley, parent of a current Third Former, has also been kindly helping and our thanks are extended to both him and Pablo Hernandez, our Chilean gap student, for all their assistance over the last term. More developmental tennis has taken place on the Astroturf, and thanks go to Mr Anderton and Mrs Johnson for their hard work in taking practices. It has been really pleasing to see so many of the Lower School pupils enjoying the sport and attending practice regularly in order to improve further.

At the time of writing this piece, we have many more tennis matches to play this season. It therefore makes it difficult to comment on overall success. However, the fixtures that have taken place have been competitive and very promising. The U12s have had a number of fixtures and although there have been mixed results, it has been good to see so many of them wanting to play. A number of them took part in the trip to The Priory, Edgbaston, in June to watch some international level tennis and to receive a coaching session by a top regional coach.

The U13 and U15 teams were again part of the AEGON Schools Championship and at the time of writing had recorded a number of excellent victories over local schools. We have a number of matches still left to play, so we hope the sunshine will hold out! With further hard work there is no doubt that continued progress will be made.

Well done to all pupils involved in tennis this year and many thanks for your hard work and dedication. Thank you again to the staff and helpers mentioned. Another promising season for tennis at Solihull School!

Girls' Squads:

U12:

Holly Simkiss, Fleur Street, Ellie Berrow, Georgina Dalby, Phoebe Harland, Sophia Cusack, Priya Tamber-Saroy, Alice Sharpe

U13:

Clara Miles, Anushka Karandikar, Gwynneth Horbury, Beatrix Huissoon, Annabelle Barker, Katie Lyth

U15:

Alice Lodge, Amy Lewis, Annie Johnson, Rebecca Bradbury, Rebecca Timperley, Camani Lall, Claudia Parsons

Miss H Smith

Tennis - Boys

Boys' tennis this year has been excellent, with both league matches and a successful friendly against Warwick School. At U15 level we have had a very good season, winning all but one match against Tudor Grange, where we unfortunately were missing three of our top four players. We are therefore unsure whether we will qualify for the knockout stages but either way this season has been strong. Conor Gregory has done a sterling job both organising the squad and consistently winning all of his matches including a 6-1 win against the Tudor Grange

number 1 player and a 6-0 win against the Heart of England number 1. Conor has been followed in most games by Harry Goodworth who had a tense 7-6 victory against Alderbrook, where Jonny Shiels also had us on edge with a 7-6 win at number 3 as well. This match also presented Ben Osborne as a solid player, stepping up to win 6-0 in position 4.

The U13s have been equally successful, showing amazing promise for the future with our top players performing well against the Warwick team. This quality has been reflected in the league, where we have recorded all wins except for against Heart of England, where once again we were missing some of our top players. Alex Griffiths has arrived as a new talent in the Third Form, leading in the team when he has played and easily winning each game 6-0. He has been closely followed by more new talent in the shape of Harvey Meacham who had a great 6-0 win against the Tudor Grange number 2. Theo Villepontoux has also been a great help and talent this year, with an impressive 6-0 win against Alderbrook. With the likes of Arthur and Ethan to fill in the fourth spot, if we qualify for the knockout rounds this year, we could be looking at a promising run and with more talent coming up from the Junior School, next year could turn out to be equally successful.

Mr O Anderton



Golf

The Golf Squad enjoyed another successful season of competition. The A-Team, captained by Will Harland, was regional runner-up of the ISGA Matchplay Trophy after losing to Malvern College in the final at Puckrup Hall. The B-Team, captained by Andrew Hooper, went one better by beating Dean Close in the regional final of the plate competition. They progressed to the National Finals, which were held at the challenging Seve Ballesteros course, The Shire, London, where they came a creditable seventh after some fine performances by Will Davies and Jack Hines.

The future continues to look bright with new emerging talent appearing all the time. However, it is with great sadness that we say farewell to Will Harland who has been an inspirational captain for several years. Throughout his time as captain he has been a wonderful ambassador for the School and the sport itself. We wish him the very best of luck in the future and look forward to playing against him in the annual School vs. Old Sils fixture!

Mr S Hart



New Racing Kayak

Watersports enthusiasts at the School can now paddle in the wake of their Olympic heroes in their new racing kayak. The two-man carbon-fibre boat donated by the Parents' Association will enable members of the Canoe Club to train and compete effectively in regional events including the annual 125-mile international race from Devizes to Westminster.

The Canoe Club is currently made up of senior boys and girls. Next year it will be widened so that boys and girls as young as eight will be able to test their skills and stamina in the Midlands round of the Hasler Series, the national club championship in marathon canoeing.

Mr Higley, Teacher in charge of Canoeing, said: 'Canoe Club members are thrilled with this magnificent donation from the Parents' Association. It will enable kayaking to really take off as a competitive sport at Solihull School'.

During the winter the Canoe Club meets every Tuesday after hours at the School's swimming pool. Members join Solihull Canoe Club on the canal at Catherine-de-Barnes in lighter and warmer weather.

The School works closely with Solihull Canoe Club, whose coaches help run watersports twice a week as an option for students from the Fourth Form to the Upper Sixth. In exchange it provides the use of the pool for canoe rescue and skills training.

Swimming

Girls' Captain: Amy Middleton

Boys' Captain: Jon Super

Our opening gala was held at Warwick School in September for the U13/U15 and U18 Girls and Boys. For the first gala of the season, the squad swam well and produced some good performances, finishing 2nd overall. We then travelled to Stowe for our second gala of the season. The U14/U16 and U18 Boys and Girls produced some brilliant performances in the individual races, storming to victory overall. Our third gala saw us return to Warwick for the 3rd Annual Warwick Individual Championships. Team success was once again high with the U12 Boys victorious in the Medley Relay on the first race of the competition, helping them swim into third place in the overall results. Individual success included Elisa Mottram winning her U13 50m Freestyle race in a time of 34.25, beating the rest of the field by a clear margin, and George Armstrong

demonstrating his speed and strength by winning his U13 50m Backstroke in a time of 38.48.

All of the squad's efforts kept Solihull School in contention with the other strong schools. This was evident from overall results, where the U12 and U13 boys combined finished 3rd behind Nottingham and Warwick, two exceptionally strong swimming teams. The girls also performed well, finishing a respectable 5th overall.

The Girls' squad went away to a Gala against St Martin's and Myton. Solihull School swam some impressive races and we dominated all the relays demonstrating the overall strength of our squad.

On 7th February we travelled back to Warwick for the 100m Individual Championships. The girls and boys swam exceptionally well against very strong opposition over 100m races, which are longer than what any of our swimmers are used to competing in. However, they all showed great determination. There was individual success for Abigail Humphreys who swam up into the senior age group, despite being only 14, winning her 100m Backstroke race.

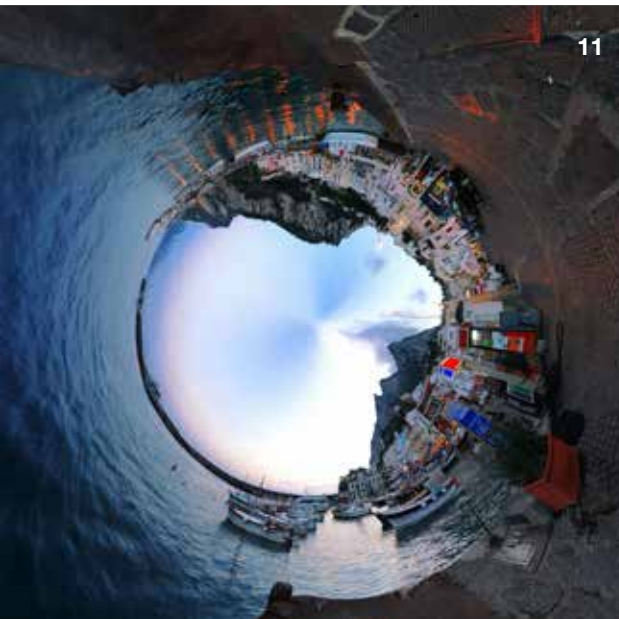
The season has been one of many victories and triumphs but also lots to learn from race situations. Bob Floyd (Swimming coach) has had a big influence on all swimmers, and his training sessions on Tuesday mornings are of a high quality. All pupils learn advanced race tactics and techniques, and improve fitness which they can transfer into competition races. We are now looking forward to next season with a new fixture already in the diary against Shrewsbury School. Well done to all swimmers this season for your hard work.

Girls' Swimming Squad:

U12: Sophie Besford, Tabitha Botterill, Georgina Dalby, Olivia Tennant, Charlotte Rigg, Lucy Gerrard. **U13:** Hannah Currie, Cerys Stansfield, Alice Fiorito, Elisa Mottram, Kate Stumper, Clara Miles. **U14:** Abigail Humphreys, Isobel Douglas, Scarlett O'Malley, Lydia Roll, Hannah Quibell, Ella Talbot. **U18:** Amy Bullard, Millie Dixey, Jemima Dixey, Caroline Gerard, Shona Eaton, Amy Middleton.

Boys' Swimming Squad:

U12: James Topping, Samuel Dineen, Oliver Francis, Fraser Blackhurst, Ben Smith **U13:** George Armstrong, William Rigg, Adam Beaumont **U15:** Frank Fogarty, Ben Osborne, Sam Orme, Stefan Gnyla **U18:** Jon Super, Harry Luckhurst, James Lewis, Nick Clay, Sam Maguire, Jack Francis.



Upper Sixth Photography

- 1. Cameron Botterill
- 2. Cameron Davis
- 3. Lucy Davies
- 4. Harry Jones
- 5. James Morris
- 6. Sam Ward
- 7. Ryan Lovett
- 8. Evie Matthews-Jolly
- 9. Oliver Griffin
- 10. Katie Cogley
- 11. Maria Wild



Travel and Trips

Drowsy Water Ranch, Colorado

July 7-15 2013

On the first Sunday in July, just after the end of the summer term, twenty excited teenagers (and three almost as excited staff) set off for Heathrow with their cowboy boots and riding hats at the ready. Following the success of our first visit to the Drowsy Water Ranch in 2011, hopes were high for an even bigger adventure second time around, and we were not to be disappointed.

We arrived in the USA to a spectacular sunset over the Colorado plains, and after a long bus ride through winding Rocky Mountain roads, we finally arrived at the ranch at 11pm, exhausted and jetlagged after a nine-hour flight and with a seven hour time difference.

After a good night's sleep in our rustic but charming cabins, we awoke refreshed and enjoyed a great example of a classic American breakfast: everything from pancakes and waffles to eggs over easy with bacon, and all in American-sized portions! Fantastic! After an introduction to western-style riding from our hosts, Ken and Randy Sue, we were introduced to our horses for the week, and there began some beautiful friendships! All the horses and ponies were very well trained and looked after each of us, from total beginners to more experienced riders. All the pupils spent the morning in the corral, working on their horsemanship skills, then moved out onto the open road with a ride through the beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery in the afternoon. The weather was hot, save for the occasional brief stormy downpour, so on their return the pool provided a welcome respite for some very hot and dusty riders! Monday evening saw us all showing off our line-dancing skills to some classic country tunes. It is fair to say that some of our students (and staff) definitely have more rhythm than others!

On Tuesday we left the ranch behind us and headed for the mighty Upper Colorado River for a day of white water rafting. The water was quite low this year so all our boats managed

to stay upright, but Mr Bate's boat made it all the more challenging by waging a water fight on all the other boats, with Alec Ladbrooke with the bucket and Mrs Hadley-Leonard and her crew getting a particularly convincing soaking! Those brave enough took the option of a very challenging rock jump, and then we all enjoyed a hearty picnic on an island downriver, where we enjoyed watching what seemed like an impossibly long cargo train chuntering past along the old Amtrack railroad. On returning to the ranch, it was Carnival time, with all the students pitting their wits against fairground-style challenges.

On Wednesday we were back in the saddle for all-day rides, picnicking high up in the mountains, and covering much more ground as the beginner riders started to have a go at 'loping', which is what in English riding we refer to as a canter, for a slow lope, or a gallop in the case of a fast lope. The staff even got to be real cowboys and cowgirls, as we were taken off to help the ranch owner push her sixty head of cattle up to new pasture. A hard day's riding but extremely rewarding and also quite an honour, we were told! An evening hay ride and hike finished off another busy day in the sunshine.

Thursday morning was the Breakfast Ride, where the whole ranch mounted up early and rode up the mountain to enjoy a wonderful cook-out with a great view back down the valley. It was quite a sight to see some sixty horses and riders making their way through the brush in the morning sunshine, and made for some great photo opportunities. The afternoon saw the eagerly anticipated Staff Team Penning event, with Mr Bate anxious to hold on to his title from the previous visit. In this event, teams of three have to manoeuvre calves into a pen, against the clock, and Mr Bate's team duly pulled off a very impressive display of horsemanship to clinch the title for a second time running! Meanwhile, the pupils got in some more loping practice and then enjoyed an evening of team games, where the Blake brothers started to prove themselves the ones to beat in Round the World table tennis!

On Friday it was the pupils' turn to pit their wits against the clock in their own Team Penning event, and many of them found it wasn't quite as easy as it looked! In the afternoon they tried out their horsemanship skills on the obstacle course. In the evening we all enjoyed a show put on by the ranch staff,

where some of our pupils were given special awards, including a Most Improved Rider prize for Lauren Kiely. Many of our group were also able to recognise themselves in some of the comedy sketches played out by the wranglers!

Saturday morning was our last ride, so there were some sad farewells to be said to our four-legged friends, but not before enjoying one last lope out on the mountainside, where several members of the group found themselves moving at a much faster speed than they ever imagined possible! Then came a new challenge. Since our last visit to the ranch, there had been installed the biggest zip line course in Colorado. Bearing in mind that Colorado is a state which prides itself on its outdoor pursuits, and there is very little there which could ever be classed as small, that should give some idea of the scale of this particular zip wire. So it was with some trepidation that we donned our safety harnesses and headed up the mountainside. After one training run on a very small wire, we were straight onto the first main line, which was a good confidence booster. But then came the big challenge. Soaring at 40mph between two mountain valley sides was certainly an exhilarating experience! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed it, but the real highlight for them seems to have been witnessing their teachers quaking with fear while suspended from a mountainside!

To round off the week, on Saturday evening we travelled to nearby Fraser, where we watched the weekly rodeo, enjoying traditional stateside fast food whilst watching the real



cowboys at work, as well as small children falling off sheep at high speed! It was a fantastic evening; a true all-American experience and something you simply can't find outside of the North American continent.

We set off for home on Sunday morning having had a simply awesome week, in the truest sense of the word. All of the pupils threw themselves into the activities, made real progress in their riding and presented a very positive picture of Solihull School abroad. My thanks go to all the pupils for their excellent behaviour and camaraderie, and to Mr Bate and Mrs Hadley-Leonard for all their help in making the trip such a success.

Miss E Campbell





Standing: Fahd Janjua, Anthony Szarmach, Jonny Allen, Duncan Wigley, Oli Haley, Tom Johnson, Alex Cromie, Louie Turpie
Seated: Richard Bradley, Nick Hooper, Darryl Brotherhood (Captain), Jamie Hughes, Nick Starkey

Barbados Tour 2013

In early July, the Senior Cricket Squad embarked on a three-week cricket tour of Barbados to compete in the Sir Garfield Sobers International Cricket Tournament.

This was the fourth occasion that the School has entered the event and with a strong group of players, the squad had high hopes of reaching the latter stages of the competition. Schools representing other countries apart from Barbados included Trinidad, St Lucia, Guyana, Dominica and Antigua. Some of these teams were in fact composite club and school teams so the competition at the tournament was very strong.

We were drawn in Zone A with both Combermere School and Foundation College who were the finalists from the previous year's competition. Both run very good cricket programs and have a history of producing players for both Barbados and the West Indies National Team.

Despite at times playing some exhilarating cricket we only managed two wins from our seven group games. Frustratingly, on too many occasions we got ourselves into winning positions but failed to follow these through. Two of these defeats did, however, result from losing the toss and being put in to bat on very damp surfaces. The positive results came against Presentation College and Choiseul Secondary School where we performed all three disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding extremely well. All players at one stage or another contributed throughout the fixtures but significant contributions came from Darryl Brotherhood, Jamie Hughes, Jon Allen, Nick Hooper, Anthony Szarmach, Fahd Janjua and Oliver Haley.

Accommodation for the trip was again at the Blue Horizon Hotel located in Christchurch, ideally situated one hundred yards from Rockley Beach. We were made to feel very welcome by the management and all the hotel staff were extremely friendly and very accommodating.



Off the field, our travelling contingent enjoyed the numerous delights of the Island including day trips to Brandons Beach, Crane Beach and Carlisle Bay. As well as these, we ventured out to sea on a Catamaran Cruise. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip as it involved snorkelling amongst beautiful coral reefs and swimming alongside hawksbill and leatherback turtles. Another highlight included visiting Oistins Night Carnival to experience the local cuisine, music and dance. This event occurs every Friday evening from 7pm till late and attracts both local and foreign visitors from all over the Island.



On a personal note, I would like to thank Mr Paul Jackson who accompanied me on the trip for not only managing the whole event extremely well but also for the pleasant company that he provided. In conclusion, congratulations must go to Darryl Brotherhood and all the players who conducted themselves very well both on and off the field throughout the trip. I am certain that all of them will have some fond memories and if given the opportunity would no doubt return to the island again in the future.

Mr D Hemp



Third Form trip to le Château de la Baudonnière, February 2013

During the February half term, 30 children from the Third Form went to le Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. This beautiful French Château is situated in the region of la Manche. We were accompanied by Madame Black, Mr Baddeley, Mr Thomas and Miss Daly, along with two Sixth Formers. It was very exciting for some pupils who had not been abroad without their parents before. We knew that we were going to learn a lot of French during the week because even the kit list was in French!

When the Château de la Baudonnière coach came, all the Third Formers were very excited as we said 'au revoir' to our parents. It was a long crossing on the ferry, but we passed the time by watching a film and having a meal. We arrived at about 10 o'clock and had a delicious 'chocolat chaud' before going to bed.

The next morning we had breakfast at the Château. The food was announced in French before each meal. We learnt how to ask for more and fairly soon everyone could remember 'je voudrais encore du pain s'il vous plaît!' There was a tour of the Château before we had our first French lesson. Over the next 4 days we took part in lots of different activities. There was the



assault course (parcours de santé), aeroball (aéroballe), bread making (fabrication du pain), climbing (escalade) and archery (tir à l'arc). These were all fun, but generally most people thought the assault course was the highlight of the week because it was a chance to get really muddy!

Each evening, after dinner, there was a different type of entertainment. During the first evening, everyone sat around a campfire to sing French songs. This was followed on the next evening by a treasure hunt. The third night was a talent show where there were jokes, singing, piano playing and even a can-can performed by the boys. For our final evening we all dressed up in French Fancy Dress. Sophie Besford looked spectacular dressed as The Eiffel Tower. Everybody tried eating 'l'escargots avec de l'ail' which were actually quite delicious. This was followed by a quiz about the Château and France. All the questions were announced in French, which added to the difficulty. In the end, Max Dormon, Christopher Cotes and Haris Nazir managed to score the most points.

The highlight of the week was visiting Mont St Michel and the market. There were shops to buy souvenirs, but all the boys loved to see the guns and swords on display. At the market we used our new French speaking skills that we had learnt at the Château.

On the final day, we got up at 6:00 a.m. to leave the Château. We arrived at the ferry for our trip and ate a cooked breakfast. The sea trip back was rough and fairly soon everyone was suffering from 'le mal de mer.' After a long, tiring journey we arrived back, pleased to see our parents. We all felt much more confident about using French both for speaking and listening. The weather had been fantastic and we all had memories of a great trip. We would like to thank Madame Black and all the other teachers for organising such a fantastic week.

Max Dormon, IIIIP

Third & Shell Form Ski Trip Austria 2013

On Friday 29th March, an excited group of Third and Shell Form pupils, together with an equally excited Miss Rutherford and Mr Emmett, hopped on board a luxury coach destined for the small village of St Michael in the Oberlungau region of Austria, lying approximately one hour south of Salzburg. Packets of Haribo, books and extreme skiing DVDs kept the children entertained for the journey south, and in no time at all, we arrived at the picture-postcard hotel, only metres from the lifts, which would soar us up towards the snow-covered peaks. The children at least looked excited and refreshed.

Beginners and advanced skiers alike developed their skills in turning, carving, ploughing, parallels, and even jumping. The Oberlungau region offers a lift pass covering four different ski areas, and the group ventured to three of these, experiencing different terrain, scenery and weather conditions. Cloud and a little snow prevailed for most of the week, however the sun broke through to shine on the righteous for the last two days, making the spring skiing even more enjoyable. The week's skiing came to an exciting finish with the annual ski slalom race, and even the beginners were delighted to find themselves racing like professionals towards the finish line.

If the days were busy, then the evenings were thrilling. The group took excursions to an outdoor spa centre with slides, hot tubs, and lazy rivers, to the nearby resort of Flachau with its white knuckle alpine roller coaster in the dark, and later in the week, the all-important disco. The final evening saw medals and trophies, accordions and traditional Austrian songs, and a grand farewell from our wonderful and trusty instructors.



The pupils on the trip were a delight, and both our hoteliers and instructors commented on the excellent ambassadorial skills of all the children. Needless to say, we shall be returning in 2014.

Mrs R Hadley-Leonard





History and Politics USA Trip

During the Christmas term, a group of Sixth Form students ventured across the Atlantic to visit Washington and New York in the run up to the American elections. We began the trip by exploring the various landmarks of Washington such as the White House, Lincoln Memorial and the incredible Smithsonian Museum. A short coach ride later and we arrived in Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell and the famous Philly Cheese Steak. After a day in Philadelphia we journeyed to the Big Apple, New York, to marvel at the magnificent buildings such as the Empire State, Grand Central Station and Plaza Hotel. We also managed a spot of shopping on the spectacular Fifth Avenue where shops such as the 'NBA Store' were raided. We absorbed many historical sites such as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island plus the tragic World Trade Centre site, now dubbed Ground Zero. Overall the trip was fantastic and full of educational value and we would like to thank Dr Johnson, Mr Affleck and Miss Smith for their time and effort.



AAAS Science Trip to Boston

During February half term, a group of ten Lower Sixth students attended the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference in Boston, MA, accompanied by Mr Anderton and Miss Ford. The focus of the 2013 meeting was 'The Beauty and Benefits of Science', and we braved freezing temperatures and snow to attend a wide range of lectures on areas of cutting edge science, delivered by leading scientists.

Highlights included a tour of MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Centre, where we were allowed to get up close to (and in some cases climb on!) the equipment used in their research. We also met a dancing robot and R2-D2.

As well as attending the conference, we were able to experience the many cultural highlights of Boston. We also did a thorough job of sampling the local cuisine, with some students even taking on the culinary challenge of cooking their own lobster!

Look out for information on the 2014 AAAS trip.



Unsere Reise nach Berlin (Our Trip to Berlin!)

To coincide with our AS and A2 German courses, early December 2012 saw the entire AS German class fly out to the historic capital of Germany, Berlin. It was led by Frau Cramb and Dr Troth. The purpose of this trip was to gain first-hand experience of the German culture we'd learned so much about over the past few years in German. It was also expected to be considerably beneficial for our A2 course. I was personally very excited about visiting a city steeped in years of history.

Our tour of Berlin commenced with a viewing of the Forgotten Underground Bunkers or 'Berliner Unterwelten', where citizens were kept safe in case of war. This was incredibly insightful and the conditions the inhabitants had to endure were eye-opening!

Over the course of the next few days, we fully immersed ourselves in all that Berlin had to offer, taking advantage of every given opportunity to improve our German. As Turks make up the largest group of immigrants in Germany, we sampled authentic Turkish cuisine, which was very unique and delicious! The Berlin Wall was something we were all desperately anticipating seeing and it was incredible to see such a famous structure which divided this city from 1961 – 1989. A trip to the renowned Theater am Potsdamer Platz to see the hit musical 'Hintern Horizont' by Udo Lindenberg was a particular highlight for me.

Our final day incorporated a trip to the Bundestag (German Parliament). I was particularly surprised by how modern yet elaborate the interior of the building was in comparison to our Houses of Parliament!



Overall, the trip was unforgettable. It significantly enhanced my understanding of German culture and the language itself and I would like to thank Frau Cramb and Dr Troth for leading such a valuable excursion.

Harry Morgan





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull School

Attending the Gold Award presentation in March this year proved to be one of the highlights of the School 'D of E' season. We had record numbers complete their Gold Award last year and to see so many in attendance at St James's Palace made all the blood, sweat and tears (from the staff as well as the pupils!) seem so worthwhile. This was one of several presentations that Solihull School pupils will be attending this year and I do feel that sometimes our Gold Award candidates do fail to realise how unique and special their achievement is amongst young people of their age group, given the numbers that we have. True to form for a D of E trip: on leaving the palace there was a blizzard and 'white out' in central London! A sound piece of advice is to never book a family holiday when Solihull School D of E are out and about.

Extreme weather proved to be the order of the day in what turned out to be the coldest spring in over 50 years. The first week of the Easter holiday as usual represented the start of the Solihull School Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme 'expedition season'. This year, however, we were hit with 8-foot-deep snow drifts in Denbighshire the weekend before setting off. This was the area of Wales where we had planned to stay which meant that we had to either cancel completely or totally rethink our operations.

The pupils had spent many weeks since early January training and planning their routes but the latter had to be ditched and the 45 pupils involved were called in to School two hours earlier on the day of departure to re-plan everything! The



three groups doing their Bronze Award in particular were in for a 'baptism of fire' or in reality 'ice' as some had never actually camped before. Instead of Wales we spent two night at Blackwell Court, Worcestershire from where we travelled and trained in the Malverns and then completed their practice in and around the Clent Hills. The Malverns were more like the Himalayas and the sub-zero temperatures (-60C) made conditions very tough indeed. Pupils used bivi-bags inside their tents and one boy who had left his boots in the porch of his tent and had stood on the back of his boots the night before had to have them melted the next morning before he could get them on to his feet as they were frozen absolutely solid! The 'rest day' saw all groups moving to the original activities centre that we had booked near Ruthin where pupils had the chance to defrost and recover! Following this, we travelled on



towards the coastal strip around Snowdonia and Anglesey where conditions may have been 'less white' but were still bitterly cold. All pupils involved – the three groups of Bronze and the five groups doing their Silver Award – were absolutely tremendous. Their resilience was outstanding and not one pupil complained or ever suggested giving up. As mentioned, some of the Bronzes had never even camped before and I didn't hear anyone murmur 'never again'! Well done to all.

Two weeks after the Easter holidays another nine Bronze groups took part in their practice venture to Shropshire. The conditions on the Long Mynd also proved challenging with hail storms and another very cold night. Two weekends later they all returned to the Field of Mars to set off for the Peak District where nearly all of the sixty-two Lower Fifth pupils in attendance were successful.

The Gold Practice ventures to the Rhinog mountain range of Snowdonia took place two weeks after half term. This again proved both a physically and mentally extremely tough four days but all pupils did extremely well and passed to go through to their assessment in the Capel Curig area at the end of July. Well done to all pupils who have been successful and completed their award at each of the three levels. None of this would be at all possible without the huge numbers of volunteers (both staff and external helpers) who help with the many different aspects of running such expeditions and for those I am once again indebted.

There are three (or four at Gold) other sections of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our pupils have been involved with a whole plethora of 'voluntary' activities, supporting community organisations alongside a vast array of different sports for the 'Physical' section and 'Skills' including music, photography,



cooking and astronomy to name but a few. The Gold Award includes a fourth 'Residential' section which once more has found Sixth Formers involved in a variety of interesting and sometimes very worthwhile activities including working with physically disabled children on respite camps. Pupils have had to be pro-active in setting placements up and then sometimes physically and emotionally challenged by what they are asked to do.

Congratulations must be given to all pupils who have shown the self reliance and determination to succeed at each of the three levels. Pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone in any of the sections of the Award shows great fortitude and sometimes courage. The self-discipline needed and the independence to organize your time and plan each activity will stand all Award holders in good stead as they move on and approach life in the outside world beyond the school gates.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE





Snowdonia School at the Mountain Cottage

This year, the entire Shell Form once again experienced the delights of the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in the beautiful Snowdonia National Park. The Cottage is one of the things that makes Solihull School special, and it's always a pleasure to be a part of a Snod School week in the great outdoors. The intrepid group of 10 boys and 4 staff that made up Snowdonia School 273 visited the Cottage in March just after a heavy snowstorm. Thankfully, it didn't snow while we were there, meaning we were able to reach the summit of Snowdon while enjoying the glorious views of what seemed like an Alpine landscape. All 14 of us had a superb time, with fun, laughter, lots of excellent walking, and teamwork, and below are the reflections of one of our group, Ramyank Chaganty.

Dr P Spratley

'Snowdonia School was amazing. Dr Spratley, Miss Evans and Mrs Sykes helped us to have a really enjoyable time and not once did we feel home-sick. Every night they cooked us wonderful food (except for when we went to Pete's Eats after climbing Snowdon). The most fun was had in the evenings when the teachers came up with strange games. We all had a lot of laughs and got to know each other better. On the first day we went rock climbing. Everyone was tied together like a chain and we had to ascend a sheer rock face. This activity taught us a lot of team work skills. Next day, the lights went out as we all entered the world of slate mines. The stories of people dying frightened us a bit, and we also dragged ourselves on a rope over a pond in the pitch black (we weren't sure of the depth!). The next day, the UK's second biggest mountain was awaiting us. Eight hours of tiring yet enjoyable walking led us to the summit and back down. During the journey, there were many perilous paths, especially difficult in the snow. We took quite a narrow path leaving us to carefully scramble our way up. We all loved the trip and would like to thank the staff for giving us such an excellent time'.



The Elite Group!!!



Alpe d'Huez 2013

From the moment I stepped off the plane, my instincts were telling me that this was going to be a tremendous trip, and you know what? I was right! The activities were widely varied; from ice-skating to laser quest in the snow!

However, the most mesmerising part of the trip was definitely the skiing! The snow there was thrilling! Despite the fact that initially I was uneasy about skiing as I was only a beginner, the runs there were spectacular, and the instructors and teachers made me feel secure and at ease. I improved dramatically within a week, and I was extremely eager to ski the day after... and after! France was a great place to go to, and the hotel was amazing; it had a games room, a television, and the rooms were more than exceptional. I'll never fail to recall the pizza parlour, which happened to be right next to the hotel! The taste of the pizzas was exquisite.

Nevertheless, the activities that we all participated in were just as outstanding as the rest! For instance, we went to an incomparable ski show and we played laser quest in the snow which was fascinating! We had a chance to explore the town, we went ice-skating, we had a movie-night on our first night as we were all worn-out, and at the end of the trip – or more like what I would class as a holiday – we had a funky disco night and a gathering with our instructors to celebrate the end of a sensational week!

However, I must admit that I couldn't have enjoyed my time as much as I did without the two teachers who came with us, Mr Leonard and Miss Campbell. If I was ever feeling upset, or anxious at the beginning, they supported me immensely and in fact, they even skied with all of us in the morning to help us develop in our skills and balance.

On top of the World (3300m) on Pic Blanc before the longest Black run in the world!!!!



My time in France was incredible and I'll never forget how pleasant it was to feel the wind blowing in my face as I skied down the beautiful mountains. Similarly, I will never forget the picturesque view from my hotel room.

Finally, staying in France for a week also improved my pronunciation and learning in French: we were learning and didn't even realise it because of the enjoyable time we were having!

I can honestly say that I had a phenomenal experience on the France Ski trip; I improved at skiing, I participated in many amusing and enchanting activities, I tried things which I would never have tried before, I learnt more vocabulary in French and got to practise the language, and most of all, I had a pleasurable, entertaining, and exceptional time!

Lina Alani, Fourth Form

The start of another Blue Sky Day at the hotel!!



Contemplating the next turn!!



Watersports at La Reserve, South-west France

Sailing gracefully across the crystal clear water of serene Lac Biscarrosse under the radiant sun in a cloudless blue sky. What could be a better start to the summer holidays? A day after the summer term ended, sixty pupils from the Shell Form to the Upper Fifth were accompanied by Mr Higley, Dr Spratley, Miss Evans, Mr Thomas, Miss Lynch and Miss Compton to the south-west corner of France for a glorious week of fun on the water. The journey was rather long and I think we all found out that it's impossible to have a good night's sleep on a coach, but even after 19 hours of travelling, every single person was excited and keen to get out on the lake as soon as we arrived at our campsite at 8am. After a hearty breakfast and a little de-midging of the tents, we were in our boats – kayaks, and a whole host of catamarans and sailboats – in the capable hands of the instructors.

The best thing about the week was the variety of activities on offer. Out on the lake we had windsurfing, high-speed four-man catamarans, gentler single-man boats, and kayaking, but there was also mountain biking, beach games and of course,



the swimming pool at camp. By the end of the week all of the pupils had become experts at rigging up their boats and could sail unaccompanied with ease.

We had two trips out away from the camp; a whole day at Aqualand Water Park (where the staff were able to act like kids on the water slides), and an evening in the beautiful coastal town of Mimizan where pupils filled up on crepes and French sweets.

It was a truly amazing week, with the thermometer hitting the mid-thirties every day, and every person – pupils and staff alike – enjoying new experiences. It was all rather sad when we left (partly because a stomach bug was going round and we were facing the best part of a whole day on a sweltering coach) but mainly because it had been a week of non-stop fun. It was a real pleasure to be there with such a wonderful and well-behaved group of young people; they were a credit to Solihull School.

Dr P Spratley





Classics Trip 2013 – Rome and Pompeii

On 8 April 2013 the Solihull School Classics Society set out for Italy. After a bright and early start to the day, we arrived at Gatwick Airport to board our plane, which would deliver us safely to Naples. After a coach journey with an amusing bus driver/tour guide we reached the beautiful seaside town of Sorrento. Here we spent the first two nights in a small hotel situated next to the local harbour. We dumped our luggage and walked into the centre of Sorrento, climbing what seemed like a thousand steps for the first time. We also enjoyed our first ice cream of the trip, which would become a predominant feature of our days out in Italy. We enjoyed a relaxing walk around the winding streets of the town before retreating to bed in the hotel.

The next day we awoke to glorious sunshine and headed on the coach to Herculaneum which, along with Pompeii, was one of the two towns affected by the eruption of Vesuvius in



AD79. Herculaneum has preserved most of its original beauty because, unlike Pompeii, its burial was deep enough to ensure that the upper stories of the buildings remained intact. It was a small town, which allowed us to perceive a Roman's daily life more easily, as everything was so close together. We then moved onto Pompeii, which was an equally interesting experience. As it was much larger, we spent a few hours roaming through the various streets and buildings, appreciating just what it would have been like to have lived there 2000 years ago. Tired from a long day in these two towns, we returned to Sorrento for another night.

The third day began with a trip to Vesuvius, the volcano which was responsible for both the devastation and preservation of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It was a cloudy day, so for most of the walk to the crater our views were somewhat restricted. However upon arrival at the top of the volcano, the clouds shifted, allowing us to admire the splendid views across the bay, as well as the steep sides of the inside of the crater. Luckily, we left the volcano before any eruptions and headed to the centre of Naples. After lunch we walked through the city to the Naples Archaeological Museum, our first museum trip of many! The museum gave us a deeper insight into Pompeii, with many items on show which had been recovered from the ancient site. Then we boarded the coach, and for the next few hours, we marched on Rome!

After arriving in Rome relatively late in the evening we checked in and went to sleep. Rising nice and early the next day we went to Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli. It took around twenty minutes to travel from our hotel to this miniature city, designed using both Roman and Greek influence. We spent a couple of hours

in this picturesque location, again under bright blue skies. Next we returned to Rome's city centre, where we had lunch at the Pantheon. From here we walked to various famous landmarks including the Ara Pacis, the Pantheon itself and the Capitoline Museum, where we spent another few hours looking at statues and artefacts from the centre of Rome itself. Although this seemed like an incredibly long day, little did we know what was in store for our penultimate day of our trip!

On day five we were out of the hotel at around 8 o'clock. First we went to the Colosseum, spending the early morning in the high walls of the impressive amphitheatre. Then we continued into the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill, which were the focal points of Ancient Rome. From here we walked to the Pantheon once more for lunch, as the temple is surrounded by pizza restaurants, ice cream parlours and much more! After lunch we visited the Vatican. After admiring the grandeur of the basilica, we traversed up the incredibly narrow passages to the very top of the dome. Here we had the most amazing 360 degree view across Rome. Following the Vatican, we then went for a massive walk, seeing the Ara Pacis, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Barberini, and the church of Santa Maria Maggiore and much more. We had not had a rest since we left the hotel and, after another ice cream, we walked back to the hotel at around eleven o'clock, finishing what was a sixteen hour venture around Rome!

Our final day in Rome started with a trip to Ostia, a famous ancient port not far from Rome. This was much more relaxed than the day before, as we could walk through the open streets and buildings that this beautiful town had to offer. Just after lunch we set out to Rome's airport, where our trip would come to an end. The teachers rightly decided on the motto 'never stop learning' which most definitely was true, however many of us were beginning to feel that 'never stop walking' would have been equally accurate. As the Classics Society, we would like to thank Mrs Johnson, Mr Baddeley, Mr Jones and Georgina Russell for organising and supervising us on this extraordinary trip. It most definitely is not possible to see and do more than we did in just six days in Italy!

Jonathan Super





Shell Form visit to Cirencester

On Wednesday 13 February, the Shell Form Latin students visited Cirencester to marvel at the Roman amphitheatre and Corinium Museum. We learnt about Roman Britain and the lives of the citizens of that era. After a one and a half hour journey, we were split into three groups and explored the Corinium Museum.

There were three activities during the course of the day and we started off with examining a collection of different artefacts which gave us clues to unveil the group's mystery person. We were given clothes, personal items and a common everyday item. Once we had worked out who our person was, we were then given some replica Roman clothes so that one of our group could dress up as our Roman figure, however we were all very reluctant to do so!

Once this task was complete, we had the opportunity to take a look at what the museum had to offer. Whilst in the museum we were given an activity booklet to fill in. We went around examining the many different exhibits and filling in the answers in the booklet, before our well-deserved lunch.

After lunch we swiftly marched to our next destination, the Roman amphitheatre! Although at first glance it was a massive grass mound, once we entered, we could imagine the roaring crowds and exciting events that took place here.

Having admired the amphitheatre, we soon started off back to the museum, stopping off along the way to admire the scale of the town walls.



Fourth Form Latin trip to Bath

On Tuesday 15 January, all the Fourth Form Latin students went on a trip to the town of Aquae Sulis, which is now known as Bath. It was highly relevant to the work we had been doing in class and we were all very excited to find out about the characters and places we had been studying this year. We had a tour of the Roman Baths before lunch which was very interesting, especially the curse tablets, some of which were very violent! After lunch we explored the city and saw many examples of Roman-style architecture. In the afternoon, we had a highly informative teaching session, in which we translated some Roman tombstone and altar inscriptions, and handled actual Roman objects. Our day had gone so quickly that before we knew it, we were heading home.

Charis Holland and Eve Colyer

On arrival we finished our activity booklets, had a short browse in the gift shop, and before too long we were rounded up and back on the coach after a very busy, enjoyable day.

Annabelle Barker and Hannah Wolverson



Third Form Trip to Manchester United

On Friday 28th June, as part of Activities Day, the Third Form left the Chapel Car Park in the dull grey drizzle buoyed by the knowledge that they were off to visit the Theatre of Dreams: Old Trafford, home of Manchester United. The day was split into three parts with each group having a tour of the stadium, spending time in the wonderful museum and also benefitting from a question and answer session.

On the tour pupils saw for themselves the vast labyrinth of passages in the ground, visited the changing rooms as well as the players' lounge (this is where Becks met Posh for the first time!) had a press conference with Fergie, sat in Fergie's dugout seat and even saw the police cell!

The museum was a real jewel in the day highlighting all the lows, such as the Munich Air Disaster, to the highs (all the Premier League titles) via a range of impressive notice boards and interactive displays.

The question and answer session revealed more about the club's history and how a modern-day football club is run, as well as sponsorship funding, the club's role in the community, their commitment to sustainability and how they are attempting to reach out to fan bases across the globe.

The enjoyable day was rounded off by the compulsory visit to the Mega Store!



Teams of the Week 2012/13

Saxophony	<i>Excellent performance in Senior School Assembly</i>
U19 Girls' Ski Team	<i>1st in the ESSKIA Regional Finals</i>
CCF Skills at Arms Team	<i>Perseverance and skill in the Schools' CCF Cup</i>
Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team	<i>Superb victory v The King's High School, Warwick</i>
U14 Rugby Team	<i>Excellent victory v Bromsgrove School</i>
Cast & Crew of Homer's Odyssey	<i>Two marvellous performances in the Bushell Hall</i>
U12 Girls' Hockey 7-A-Side	<i>Excellent performance in winning Solihull Tournament</i>
Debating Team	<i>Brilliant performance in Birmingham University Debating Competition</i>
Orihuela Exchange	<i>Fabulous ambassadors for Solihull School</i>
The Chapel Choir	<i>Outstanding performance at the inaugural meeting of the Former Choristers' Association</i>
Cast & Crew of The Ash Girl	<i>Three excellent performances in the Bushell Hall</i>
Movember Men	<i>Wonderful fun and superb fundraising - £1500 and counting!</i>
The Chapel Choir	<i>Two tremendous services of Nine Lessons & Carols</i>
The Grounds Team	<i>Outstanding effort in the face of adversity</i>
U15A XV Rugby	<i>Excellent and emphatic display against Bishop Vesey Grammar School</i>
U14A Hockey Team	<i>Crowned County Champions</i>
Senior Badminton Team	<i>Excellent victory over Bablake School</i>
Girls' Swim Team	<i>Winners of 'The Warwick 100' Individual Championships</i>
Saxophone Quartet	<i>Representing the School so brilliantly at the Solihull Library Theatre</i>
Diabetes UK Expedition Team	<i>Successful ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro (Ross Edwards & Sophie Tillman)</i>
U13 Girls' Hockey Team	<i>County Champions</i>
U14 Rugby Team	<i>An excellent 7s Season</i>
D of E Gold Expedition Team	<i>24 Gold Award recipients</i>
Cast and Crew of Phantom of the Opera	<i>5 fabulous nights of drama and music</i>
Junior School Swimming Squad	<i>An excellent campaign</i>
U11B Football Team	<i>Unbeaten throughout their time in the Junior School</i>
U14A Cricket Team	<i>Excellent 7-wicket win against King's School, Worcester</i>
Easter Term Trip Leaders	<i>Providing pupils with some fantastic experiences</i>
British Biology Olympiad Team	<i>Outstanding success in the 2013 Competition</i>
Crisis Charity 'Sleep Out' Team	<i>Innovative fundraising</i>
Team of Chilean GAP Students	<i>Making a fantastic contribution to Solihull School life</i>
Benchers 2012/2013	<i>An amazing team effort for 2012/13</i>
ISGA Matchplay Plate Golf Team	<i>Superb victory over Dean Close in the Regional Finals</i>
1st XI Cricket Team	<i>Excellent victory v RGS Worcester</i>
Girls' Ski Team	<i>Tremendous performance at the CESA Midlands Race</i>
Middle School Debating Team	<i>Excellent performance throughout the term</i>



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