



Solihull School

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Headmaster's Report

It gives me great pleasure to report on a very successful year indeed.

Starting with results, I am very pleased to inform you that at A-Level we achieved 83% A*-B grade and out of a year group of 127, 47 pupils secured 3 A grades or better. At GCSE we achieved 72% A*-A grade, our best ever, and out of 118 pupils, 30 secured 8 A* grades or better. Finally, 84% of our Upper Sixth went to their chosen university. Here is a clear message: our pupils achieve the best results of which they are capable, and we guide them well towards their university courses.

Turning to other matters, the year was very busy indeed. The Independent Schools' Inspectorate found us to be 'outstandingly successful' and rated us as 'excellent' in almost all areas. Individually, I believe the inspectors took away with them many ideas for their own schools! As of September 2011, Drama and Classical Civilisation are on offer at GCSE and from September 2012, we plan to offer Government and Politics at A-Level. In addition, we have added to our ever-growing list of clubs and societies with, among others, the introduction of Ancient Greek and Science Communication. We also launched our new school magazine, now appropriately named *The Greyhound* and you can even find us on Twitter at [solsch1560](https://twitter.com/solsch1560).

We had many varied visitors to the School last year including one of the Chilean miners (José Henríquez and his wife), Lords Edmiston and Hunt, Garry Roberts of the Boomtown Rats and the Olympic Bronze Medallist and USA 2010 Athlete of the Year, David Oliver. In addition, the Junior School welcomed author Adam Guillain, who delivered a super creative writing workshop. Whilst on the Junior School, I am delighted to report that for the first time ever we have a three form entry at J1. Well done to Mrs Brough and her team, as well as Mrs Edwards in Admissions. At Speeches 2010, we enjoyed a thrilling presentation from polar explorer, Ben Saunders and this year we heard from the European, Commonwealth and Olympic medal winner, Sharron Davies MBE.

Turning to sport, there is much to report. In rugby, we won the U18 Daily Mail Vase at Twickenham and I am very grateful to the huge number of travelling supporters on the day. On the hockey pitch, the 1st XI girls were crowned West Midlands County Champions and the 1st XI boys, U12 girls and U11 Juniors all won the Warwickshire Championships. In netball, the 1st VII secured the Borough Championships for an impressive third year running and in Rounders, both the U14s and U13s confirmed their status as best in the Borough. Out on the golf course, the team beat Rugby School in the semi-final of the Midlands Foursomes, going on to third place in the National Stableford Final. In total, our boys and girls played in over 1200 sports matches over the course of the last academic year – an incredible statistic!

Whilst referring to sport, it would be unfair of me not to mention the hard work of the grounds staff who prepare and pamper our pitches every week. This was officially recognised when last year, we received the great news that our Head of Grounds, Karl Brotherhood, was to receive the prestigious national title of 'Grounds Man of the Year', beating off competition from Whitgift, Millfield, Eton, Harrow and many others. This is a much coveted award and well deserved, too.

As for individuals, there is also much to be proud of and pupils have achieved regional, national and international success in a wide range of sports including athletics, biathlon, cricket, cross country, dance, fencing, hockey, ice hockey, netball, rugby, show jumping, skiing, swimming, tennis and trampolining. Well done to all.

Similar success was enjoyed in academic competitions. In debating we were seeded no. 1 in Central England by Oxford University and qualified for the national finals at both Oxford and Cambridge. In the Bank of England Interest Rate Competition our team of economists were beaten national semi-finalists, but we did win the 'Aim High' Association of Chartered, Certified Accountants West Midlands Business Challenge. We also celebrated success in the Physics and Biology Olympiads, Maths Challenge, European Youth Parliament, Arkwright Design Scholarships, Open University, Engineering Education Scheme and Young Enterprise.

Last year was an equally busy year on stage and in the Music School. Drama productions packed the calendar and audiences enjoyed Alice in Wonderland, Titanic, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Blood Brothers, A Knight's Tale, Animal Farm and five nights of Grease. In music, we are blessed with considerable depth of talent and have achieved sustained success in festivals across the Midlands and produced a continuous stream of superb recitals and concerts, as well as skilled performances in each and every School assembly. In May, the Choral Society wowed the Bushell Hall audience with Haydn's Creation and I feel immensely proud and privileged to be able to listen to the School Choir in Chapel every Sunday. Furthermore, the Chamber Choir continues to get 'out and about' and performed Choral Evensong at Worcester and Lichfield Cathedrals.

During Charity Week the School raised nearly £8,000, divided between our three nominated charities: Marie Curie Cancer Care, Solihull; The Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, Snowdonia; and The Coptic Orthodox Mission in Zambia. Over the course of the year we raised a total of £18,000. This figure does not include the many Acorns Children's Hospice bags filled and donated by parents. Each one of these bags is estimated to be worth approximately £20 and we collect about 400 every year, adding a further £8,000 to our total sum raised.

The CCF and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme also continue to thrive. Between them, there have been 14 camps as well as 26 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, 44 Silver and 36 bronze. Life at Solihull School is far from dull and over the summer break alone our boys and girls participated in trips to Alaska, Colorado, Barbados and the South of France.

In terms of staffing, we had six retirements last year, totalling 124 years service to Solihull School. On the teaching staff, Bob Melling and Martin Brough retired with 69 years between them, and Brian Parkes retired after nine years in the Art Department. Sue Trevillion, one of our Science Technicians, Lorraine Johnson, my PA, and Graham Hughes, Chairman of the Board of Governors, also retired. Our very best wishes go to all six and their families. Mark Hopton, previously Vice Chairman, became the new Chairman of Governors.

Turning to the future, it remains my intention to develop and enrich our curriculum, and to keep the aspirations of our pupils at the highest level. As soon as one set of results is delivered we set about deciding where further improvement might be made; either in learning or teaching. In an increasingly competitive world, it is even more important that we foster a strong work ethic, the ability to lead and silky inter-personal skills, providing Silhillians with that immeasurable X-Factor in adult life.

Great schools are more than achievements, qualifications or material wealth. This is a community, a community where innovation shares top billing with a respect for 451 years of history and tradition, and my hope is that within each and every Old Silhillian beats a traditional heart, a heart which values a life of service to the community above personal gain. In order to maintain this heritage, we have recently invested in increased signage to prevent the loss of historic names such as 'The Field of Mars', 'Coronation Drive' and 'Queen's Court'. In contrast, the Sixth Form are now in smart new business suits and the boys are wearing the new Sixth Form tie. In addition, we are working on a new, up to date website and prospectus, so watch this space! The way we target, track and report on pupils is also changing courtesy of our new Management Information System and we hope to provide pupils and parents with their own cyber portals soon. We must be ambitious, the work ethic must be unimpeachable and communication with home must be swift. If we have mantra, it is 'think big and make it happen!'

Sadly, you may have read that on 24 August the Old Gymnasium burnt down in a very serious fire. I am aware the Old Gym brings back many happy memories and I will, of course, keep you posted on future developments.

Finally, it is my aim that the School and OSA work even more closely together in the future. John Loynton, author of the recent book on the School's history, is building a permanent archive in the Old Music School with money raised through the hard work of our fabulous Parents Association, for which I am very grateful, and our stock of whole School photographs going back many years will soon adorn Big School corridor. I sincerely hope that with John's and Malcolm Laurie's help, as well as the support of the Association, we can draw upon the vast expertise and experience of the membership to provide our pupils with maximum opportunity and a life-long affinity with the School.

Valete



Martin Brough

Martin's career at Solihull School spans five decades and six Headmasters. He arrived at the School prior to the Winter of Discontent, and before the election of this country's only female Prime Minister. Only three existing members of staff have taught here for longer. During the past 33 years Martin has made an enormous contribution to the life of School, a contribution which is difficult to pay justice to in such a short space.

Martin is one of the few remaining links to 'the old Solihull School'. His early career – in which he was a Boarding House Master, a House Master in the Upper School for Jago and Warden of the Sixth Form Centre – are now long distant memories. He began by teaching History, some Business Studies, a little Economics and a long forgotten course entitled Commerce. Indeed, it was not until 2005 that Martin made the eminently sensible switch to being a full-time teacher of Business Studies. Taking over the Department in September 2004 from Leslie Garrett, I had trouble tracking Martin down. I knew he had an office and that he was Head of Enrichment (a post he had held since 1996). I had been handed his timetable but Martin was elusive. Without a permanent classroom he travelled many a mile teaching History to the lower years, Business Studies to the Sixth Form and hockey to everyone, not to mention running here, there and everywhere to supervise the Enrichment programme. However, once I found him I wouldn't let him go. For the past seven years I have come to appreciate and value what Martin has to offer and what generations of pupils will have benefitted from.

First and foremost Martin is an academic. An intelligent, incredibly well-read and articulate man who is willing to sit and debate topics at length with anyone. A man with strong opinions who is not afraid to express them he (as that famous television advertisement says) 'does what it says on the tin'. He demands high standards of all his pupils. To be a member of his class is challenging. His marking is legendary for its thoroughness and length. His lessons show a man in complete charge of his subject who is able to offer his pupils views on the world which they would never get elsewhere. His classroom walls are adorned with newspaper cuttings of world events, tragedies and causes about which Martin is so passionate.

He has been the driving force behind maintaining Holocaust Memorial Day and he has been the man haranguing Headmasters to hold yet another non-uniform day for another worthy cause. Indeed the very final day of Martin's career saw him organising one such event. Martin has, as a result, maintained his faith in today's youth for their generosity of spirit and willingness to engage in such activities. It has helped keep him young.

Martin is also a highly talented sportsman and coach. He ran School tennis, and was in charge of cricket for 11 years and hockey for 5 years. He has taken a hockey team in each and every one of his years at the School. His breadth of knowledge and experience have been invaluable to so many of our young sportsmen. On top of this Martin has had, and still enjoys, his own international career as a hockey player. Fifty caps playing for Wales at outdoor hockey and twenty eight playing the indoor version of the game in past years. He now plays 'vintage' hockey and long may he continue. When he began his teaching career he spent part of his first term in Kuala Lumpur playing in the Intercontinental Cup.

Martin is from the school of thought that teaching involves the giving of oneself to the pupils in your charge, and that this must by necessity infringe upon your personal life. Having met, and of course married Lindsay whilst at the School, Martin is living witness to the sacrifices to their family life as they both gave selflessly to their careers. The pushing of his young sons' buggies around the outfield on a Saturday afternoon whilst trying to run a First XI cricket match are more than apocryphal stories. However, in the process of this Martin has gained much. Without taking charge of over 20 ski trips he may never have learned to ski. Without running 6 major overseas trips he may never have fulfilled his ambition to climb mountains in the Andes and the Himalayas. He is hugely grateful to the School which has been so good to him.

Martin has seen his three sons pass through the School. Two, Mark and Richard, attended Keble College, Oxford. David has joined the Mathematics Department, thus ensuring that

the Brough dynasty remains alive in both sections of the School. Martin is immensely and justifiably proud of what all three have achieved. Above everything he has achieved in his professional career he is a family man. When conversation turns to such issues Martin's face softens and one gets a glimpse of the man behind the professional mask; husband, father and I am sure one day equally proud grand father.

And so to retirement – Martin will remain busy, wishing Lindsay a good day at School, and continuing to support the boys. He has many interests to keep him busy. He leaves an enormous footprint on the School; he has done so much, achieved so much and been on a personal journey through which he has gained so much. Martin will be sorely missed. We wish him all the very best for his future and thank him, on behalf of everyone whose lives he has touched, for his years of service.

Tony Bussey



Mr Robert J Melling

Born in Ilford, Essex, Bob was educated at Harrow County Grammar School, Bedford College, London University, and Institute of Education, London. He was appointed as a teacher of Chemistry by the then Headmaster, Giles Slaughter in 1975 and became a Boarding Tutor in School House in 1976 and then Senior Tutor at Kineton House, a select community just down the Warwick Road. He subsequently became the last Housemaster of the Boarding House in 1982, inheriting a family of 30 boys! After boarding ceased in 1988 he became Upper School Housemaster of Windsor before being appointed as Senior Master by Headmaster, Patrick Derham, and becoming Deputy Headmaster in 2005, a position held up to retirement.

During his time at Solihull School, Bob has been responsible for the timetable; a trustee of the David Grilli trust (set up in memory of a former fellow Boarding House Tutor who died tragically on Snowdon); a member of the Parents' Association; a member of the CCF and also involved in School dramatic productions from 1975 – 2006, culminating in the brilliant musical, 'Barnum', as well as being central to the organisation and development of a whole host of other activities, initiatives and events. Whatever his other responsibilities though, Bob has remained constant to his teaching of Chemistry, casting a precise but kindly eye over numerous generations of budding scientists.

However, perhaps Bob's greatest asset was his ability to keep the School functioning. His attention to detail, knowledge of the community and desire to get things right were unparalleled. A plethora of major School events – from Open Mornings to Speeches – have been managed by Bob during his time at Solihull and as a result of his care and professionalism, they have always been meticulously staged and smoothly run – at least on the surface anyway!

Bob has served under seven Headmasters (including Denis Tomlin, acting Headmaster for two terms in 1983), and observed many changes, most notably the change to a five day week and the introduction of co-education, as well as the construction of a number of landmark buildings: the Bushell Hall, the Alan Lee Pavilion and the David Turnbull Music School, to name but three!

Bob is without doubt, one of life's true gentlemen. The School owes Bob a great deal: his service has been outstanding, his compassion and good nature are unparalleled, his sense of humour (nurtured in Music Hall theatre alongside the legendary P.D. Arculus), and his professionalism, beyond reproach.

Bob intends to write a play in his retirement and grow vegetables, probably doing both in the tranquillity of his French holiday home. Indeed, as I complete this valet, Bob and Sue are currently meandering through France, taking their time and, of course, enjoying the scenery and each other's company. Talking of company... as we know, 'behind every great man'...Sue has indeed been a 'great woman' and an avid supporter of Bob in post and the School in general.

We wish Bob and Sue the very best of luck and health in a long and gloriously happy retirement.

Sean Morgan



Tony Carter

Tony Carter has had a slightly unusual career path. After leaving school in 1985, Tony went to work in the City of London, at Schroders Bank. After three years in this rat race he eventually saw the light and embarked on a Maths and Education degree at Warwick University where he graduated with first class honours. During his time at Warwick he achieved an incredibly impressive varsity treble – not only did he captain the successful university basketball team for three years but he also represented the university at Korfbal (check it out on Google) and Ultimate Frisbee! That takes some beating.

Following graduation, Tony worked for four years as a maths teacher at Aylesford School in Warwick before spotting an opportunity further afield in the Bahamas. It was here, at the Queen's College Nassau, that Tony met his future wife, Carla. After three particularly enjoyable years in the Bahamas, Tony and Carla moved to the Anglo-American School of Moscow where Tony was appointed Head of Maths. Here he taught the International Baccalaureate and also coached the school basketball team, taking them to tournaments in Poland in Romania. Tony also ran expeditions to the Ukraine with over fifty pupils where his diplomatic skills were tested to the full!

Following six blissful years on the white sands of the Bahamas and in the cultural metropolis of Moscow, Tony and Carla thought it was time for a change and decided a move to the UK was in order. However, Tony soon realised he had probably made the wrong choice after accepting a teaching post at North Leamington School. Forced to be a classroom disciplinarian rather than a classroom teacher, Tony was pleased to be offered a job soon after at Solihull School where his talents could be best put to use. And put to use they were.

Tony Carter leaves Solihull School after eight years of sterling service as one of the hardest working and most dedicated members of a

highly successful maths department. Tony has proved to be a superb classroom practitioner with a deep understanding of mathematics – he is passionate about the subject, enjoys solving problems and imparts his interest of mathematics to his students. His pupils have clearly enjoyed their lessons and they have performed to a consistently high level in both internal and external examinations. However, Tony has not rested on his laurels over the years and he continued to develop as a teacher via frequent mathematical discussions with departmental members, continued use of ICT in the classroom and through lesson observations. His contributions at maths meetings have also proved to be extremely positive and I personally valued Tony's advice and suggestions. The fact that Tony's recent lecture on probability conundrums was so well attended by pupils from every year group in the School, along with staff from various departments, accurately reflects the respect and affection in which he has been held.

Tony would have seen his Head of Year role as secondary to his maths teaching but he carried out this duty in his usual caring and wholly professional way. I often witnessed Tony in the Staff Upper Common Room dealing with colleagues that had experienced pupil issues and I was always amazed with the way he kept his composure and found a solution for almost every situation.

Although teaching maths and being Head of Year was a time-consuming job, Tony still contributed fully to the wider life of the School. He was a regular at Maths Clinic, ran Basketball Club for many years, helped with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, helped run a Snowdonia School for eight years, helped run school sailing trips and also stepped in at the last minute to take rugby teams. Tony would have also been a great asset to the CCF had his three years in Moscow not impeded his selection!

On a personal level, I have very much appreciated the dedication and professionalism that Tony has brought to the department – we were very lucky to have him. He has a tremendous sense of humour, high morals, and he got the job done without any fuss. This (Harlem) Globetrotter leaves us for pastures new in Singapore where he and Carla have been appointed at the prestigious Tanglin Trust School. Tony will be greatly missed and we wish him, Carla, and their boys, Brandon and Blake, all the best for a successful and very happy future.

Mark Bishop



Lindsey Hughes

Lindsey arrived in 2002 as an eager and energetic young teacher, qualities which she maintained throughout her time at Solihull School. First and foremost, Lindsey has been an excellent teacher of History. Despite the other demands on her time she has remained committed to delivering exciting and interactive lessons and she is constantly on the look-out for new teaching ideas to use. In the extra-curricular sphere Lindsey's interest in having a good argument led her to establish the Debating Society, which grew rapidly. She took the Debating Team around the country where they regularly took part in competitions. Allied to debating was Lindsey's establishment of a Schools Challenge Team, which had lots of success, reaching the National Finals twice, and in 2008 they won the plate competition.

However, perhaps Lindsey's first love was her participation in the European Youth Parliament competitions. She ran this with great success, most notably in 2007 when the team won the regional competition, went on to represent the West Midlands at Durham for a week where they won the national competition, and finally went on to represent the UK in Dublin for 10 days. In 2003 she became Deputy Head of Sixth Form, and in January 2006 she became acting Head of Sixth Form until going on maternity leave. Once back from maternity leave it was not long before she became Head of Lower School, a post she has filled with great energy and dynamism for the last couple of years. We wish her well at her new school.



Laura Dickinson

Laura joined the school in 2006 and has been a fundamental part of making the Classics Department what it is today. She has always been full of enthusiasm and ideas, and right from Day One, Laura was keen to get involved with many aspects of School life, not just Classics.

Within the Classics Department Laura has been very busy. As soon as she arrived, she was keen to set up an Ancient Greek Club, using different arts and crafts to explore the world of the Ancient Greeks, as well as trying to teach young minds the Greek alphabet. Part of Ancient Greek Club also involved trips to see 'The Horrible Histories present: The Awful Egyptians and The Ruthless Romans' live on stage. Laura was also an integral part of the Classics Society, helping to organise and run a variety of trips ranging from performances of Greek Tragedies to architectural walking tours of Birmingham. Laura has also taken pupils much further afield than that – a highly successful trip to Sicily which pupils are still talking about today (for the right reasons!)

But it has not all been clubs and trips or out and about for Laura. During her time here at Solihull School she has been responsible for the Third Form Latin curriculum, not only organising the various tests and assessments, but also arranging a Roman gladiator to come and visit them! Laura has also been an example to me as to how best use the e-learning resource for the Cambridge Latin Course and was a very passionate driving force behind the recent introduction of GCSE Classical Civilisation. Laura has always given freely of her time to the students and has been an excellent teacher of Latin to all year groups, as well as Classical Civilisation at A Level.

However, not everything has been about Classics! Laura has been involved with several other aspects of School life. She organised the costumes for Romeo and Juliet and Oh What A Lovely War, and the props for Blood Brothers.

She has been the co-ordinator for Charity Week for the last four years – a job so massive that I can't even begin to describe it here! She's accompanied trips to places as far-flung as Moscow, and, possibly most importantly, she has been a dedicated and caring Lower School form tutor, most recently to IVF, who I know are going to miss her enormously.

Laura's now moving on to the next exciting phase of her life with baby Isobel and part-time teaching at Leicester Grammar School. I am very sad to lose her – she has been not only an excellent colleague but also a very good friend. Where else am I going to find someone who gets as irate as me about the abuse the poor apostrophe has to suffer on a daily basis?! Laura, I will miss you – keep in touch and all the very best for the future.

Jo Guy

Paul Tandler

Paul joined the school at the end of January this year as maternity cover for Laura Dickinson. He had previously been teaching at Hereford Cathedral School and Shrewsbury High School, amongst other places. Here at Solihull School, Paul hit the ground running – and he didn't stumble! Straightaway he was fully involved in the Classics Department, teaching Latin from the Third Form all the way up to A Level, as well as teaching AS/A Level Classical Civilisation. Paul also took on an extra class, in the form of Wednesday lunchtimes with the Lower Fifth Classical Civilisation group helping them take an extra GCSE. Paul was also always willing to give up break and lunch times to help a variety of students who needed some extra support. He has also been a great support to both Sean Morgan, novice Latin teacher par excellence, and to me in my role as Head of Department.

As a keen and experienced actor and Stage Manager, Paul brought a great deal of specialist knowledge to his teaching of Greek Tragedy to the AS Level Classical Civilisation group, encouraging them to produce, amongst other things, choral chanting and dancing, which really helped to bring the texts to life for them. Paul also used his theatrical experience and know-how to great aplomb as Stage Manager (Props) for this year's musical Grease, where, on a nightly basis, he prepared the Pink Ladies' lunch trays and stopped anyone else from eating them!

Paul is a talented teacher, with lots of potential, and we would like to wish him all the very best for his future career.

Jo Guy



Lorraine Johnson

Lorraine is a wonderful PA and a highly valued member of the 'Admin Team'. She has many enviable qualities and will be sorely missed by the Solihull School community.

Lorraine is totally professional in her work, leads by example and manages the Head's Wing skilfully and diplomatically. She is wholly committed to the School and is frequently the last person to leave the building. In the final run-up to our recent ISI inspection, Lorraine and the team spent many weekend hours putting the final touches to our preparatory work. She "spins plates" with aplomb and does so with unfaltering good humour. Even when at her busiest, Lorraine will always delay the task in hand to help a colleague or tackle a pressing issue. In my first year at Solihull School, and I'm sure my predecessor will concur, I have never heard Lorraine grumble or decline a request for assistance, even when my inefficiency has created an unnecessary rush!

Lorraine's grasp of the English language and its grammatical nuances is fantastic. My letters leave her office unrecognisable from their initial incarnation and we are still debating the use of the hyphen and semi-colon!

On a social level, Lorraine is cricket mad, avidly following her son's career both at Warwickshire and on the other side of the world. However, we do have to agree to disagree when it come to music as Lorraine 'wastes' time and money following Take That around the country! I will miss Lorraine, she has become a good friend and, on behalf of the School, I'd like to wish Lorraine and Barry a happy retirement.

David Lloyd



Brian Parkes

During a recent meeting I asked Brian if he was content with his role within School. Brian replied that he had always been very happy in School, more so than at any other point in his career – in short, he unashamedly enjoyed himself. Outlining his time at School, he had first started at Laurie Bradley's behest in 2000 as 'casual' cover for myself. From the following year, his part-time position had been 'on-going', covering a period of ten years. Initially, this had been one day each week, primarily engaged with the delivery of Life Drawing to the Sixth Form, but on occasion the post had been full-time when covering for Joanne Frampton's maternity and Tracey Bryan's adoption leaves.

Because of the manner in which his commitment to School has evolved, Brian's focus is predominantly within the Department. His previous practice within education has fostered the habit of devoting a considerable amount of time outside of the school day, at week-ends and during holiday periods to not only support his own teaching but promoting the interests of the Department as a whole - a practice which Brian wholeheartedly continued at Solihull School. The 'Art Club' sessions on Tuesday lunchtimes and the workshop sessions for the Upper School on Tuesday evenings have been frequently supplemented by more 'ad hoc' arrangements, giving art pupils extra opportunities to further their studies. Describing himself as an 'adequate jobbing carpenter', Brian derives much amusement from constructing 'boards' and canvas stretchers for Sixth Form students.

An experienced GCSE and A-Level moderator, it has been natural for him to employ this expertise in assisting in the internal assessment of the work of examination candidates throughout his time at school.

Brian has made a positive impact on all the various groups he has taught, clearly shown recently by the 'cane animals' and 'clay figures',

produced by Thirds and Shells respectively. Indeed, Brian believes the development of two-dimensional studies into three-dimensions to be particularly significant to Lower School pupils. Life Drawing continues to be something of a 'hobby-horse' for him and it has enhanced the quality of the Sixth Form programme for art students by challenging and encouraging their skills in draughtsmanship. Unshakeable in his determination to instil academic rigour into the research methodologies of examination students, Brian has enjoyed no little success in stimulating genuine cultural appreciation.

Whilst, by his own admission, his personal aspirations are modest he would not deny having ambitions for the art department, its pupils and its future success. Our best wishes go with him as he retires; possibly he will find time to improve those 'jobbing carpentry skills'.

John Nickson



Lindsay Slack

Lindsay joined Solihull School in September this year, after relocating with her family from Yorkshire. As an experienced Head of Department, she has brought much to the Modern Languages Department in Solihull School. She has set high standards in her lessons and enabled her pupils to achieve good results in both French and German. She has contributed new ideas and supported the organisation of the MFL Department. We are pleased to have benefited from a capable colleague.

Lindsay goes on to Warwick School where she will be Head of MFL. We wish her well in her new post.

Marilyn Barrett



Shirley Stout

Shirley arrived at Solihull School from Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth in 2009. In fact we arrived here together and thus made up the new team in the German Department. This was Shirley's second position as Head of German and she has made a major impact, replacing text books and setting up a wonderful database for the department. Shirley continued and fortified our link with Hofheim in Frankfurt, changing it from a biannual trip to an annual one and it involves receiving German students at the end of September and returning to Hofheim in March. We are very proud to have recruited sixteen students for 2012.

Shirley has also been very active in the promotion of German by introducing the annual trip to the Birmingham Christmas Market, organising the German Theatre Performances by the Onatti Company, taking Sixth Form students to Birmingham and Aston universities, as well as a group of talented Shell Form 'Germanists' to special German Days for the Gifted and Talented at Aston and Wolverhampton universities. I would say this is an impressive portfolio of activities which have contributed positively to a considerable increase in the uptake of German in the Third, Shell and Fourth Forms.

But Shirley will not just be remembered for that, but also for her consistently cheerful attitude to life and her lively and friendly teaching style. She has always been able to give advice, at any moment in the day, in a down-to-earth and practical way. Her organisational skills are second to none and this is, no doubt, why Leicester Grammar School will be taking her away from us in September.

We therefore wish her well in her new role as Head of Modern Languages. She will be sorely missed.

Viel Glück! Petra Cramb



Ray Pugh

Ray joined the Physics Department in September 2010, filling a one-year vacancy. He quickly established himself as a dedicated teacher and a team player within the department.

His subject knowledge is superb. At his interview for the job, I put to him a question on a tricky aspect of an A-Level topic which, in the heat of the moment, usually leaves people flustered. He took it in his stride. He has been heavily involved in A-Level teaching, but his adaptability is such that if he was asked to teach any topic, at any level, he would simply read it up and get on with it. His lessons have been well-prepared and he has shown himself to be dedicated, enthusiastic and committed.

He returned to teaching a few years ago, after a time in industry. Indeed, he ran his own company making engineering components.

Involvement in the wider life of the School has characterised Ray's brief time with us. During Charity Week, people saw a different side to him in the staff entertainment. Not normally one to blow his own trumpet, he wowed a packed house in the Bushell Hall as he improvised a blues number with Mr Cureton. (Outside of school, Ray does regular gigs as a member of two different bands). His extensive experience in the engineering industry was put to good use in the Engineering Education Scheme, as he guided the Lower Sixth team which produced a spoiler for the Jaguar XK sports car. Within senior sports, he started a table tennis team. He accompanied the Third Form trip to the Château de la Baudonnière. Not many teachers can boast that they have repaired a broken down coach, but that's exactly what Ray did on the way back from France. He asked for a voltmeter, diagnosed what was the problem with the electrics, and guided the driver through how to put it right.

Ray has always treated his classes with courtesy and been ready to go the extra mile for them, such as laying on lunch-time and

after-school revision sessions as GCSE module exams loomed large. He has an easy-going nature and has been a valued colleague. We will miss him, and we wish him the very best in the next stage of his career.

Michael Smith



Dan Coetzee

Dan arrived at the School in 2007 and very quickly made an impact. Never one to do things the ordinary way, Dan's lively lessons soon won him an enthusiastic following in the Lower School, where pupils greatly enjoyed the opportunity to re-fight the Battle of Hastings on the School field. Further up the School, Dan's fiercely academic and challenging approach kept the Sixth Form on its toes and really made them think for themselves. His practice Oxbridge interviews quickly became legendary as being harder than the real thing! Outside of the Department, Dan has coached U13 rugby and hyped them up for matches by repeating inspiring speeches from Band of Brothers! However, his main contribution has been in the field of debating. Picking up the torch from Lindsey Hughes, he rapidly built the society into an Empire stretching from the Junior School to the Upper Sixth and involving three more members of staff. His teams regularly achieved success in the Oxford Union and Cambridge debating competitions and are now the highest ranked teams in the area, even outshining KES. Dan has put a huge amount of time and effort into debating which has become an established and high-profile activity within the School. Dan is moving to RGS Worcester to become Head of History and I am sure he will make just as big an impact there. We wish him well at his new school.

Gareth Affleck



Sue Trevillion

Sue has been at the School for 19 years and has worked as a lab technician in both the Chemistry and Biology departments. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her and she was always most professional in all that she did. She would always ensure that lessons were thoroughly resourced and she never hesitated to help out in a crisis. She was a stickler for recycling even before there was any school policy on such matters. She also was meticulous in her tending of all the departmental flora and fauna which flourished under her careful eye.

We wish her a wonderful retirement and know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband John and her two daughters and grandchildren. Thanks for all that you have done.

Paul Brattle

University & College Entries 2010

ASTON

Oliver Parry (left July 2008)

Business and International Relations

BANGOR

Lawrence Coghlan
Georgina Green

Chemistry
Sports Science

BATH

Jordan Eastwood
Daniel Isaac (left July 2009)
Emily Whitehouse

Molecular and Cellular Biology
Biochemical Engineering (2011 Entry)
Business Administration

BIRMINGHAM

Kathryn Arney
Thomas Maclachlan
Drew Masters (left July 2008)
Sarah McCabe
Charlotte Rosin

Medicine
Accounting and Finance
Business Management
Medicine
Business Management

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

Ashley Anderton (left July 2008)
Esme Curtiss (left July 2009)
Francesca Evans (left July 2009)

Visual & Graphic Communication
Adult Nursing
Adult Nursing

BOURNEMOUTH

Millie Huntley

Psychology

BRISTOL

Michael Davis
James O'Sullivan
James Trueman

French
Aeronautical Engineering
Geography

BRISTOL WEST OF ENGLAND

John Whiting

Accounting and Finance

BRUNEL

Matthew Sheppard

Economics and Business Finance

CAMBRIDGE CLARE

Michael Goodwin

Veterinary Medicine

DOWNING

Alexander Darlington

Natural Sciences

JESUS

Daniel Hurst

Chemical Engineering (2011 Entry)

QUEENS'

David Elliott
Mycroft Halliwell-Ewen

Engineering (2011 Entry)
Natural Sciences

ST JOHN'S

Charlotte Allso

Veterinary Medicine

CARDIFF

Kendal Archer
Edward Brown
Harriet Halsey
Emily Kelly
Charlotte Pettman

English Literature
Civil Engineering
Education with Psychology
Biochemistry
Law

DE MONTFORT

William Barber
James Took

Business Management
Art Foundation

DURHAM

Alex Barber
Helen Cobbald
Sarah Darbyshire Evans
Phillip Harrison
Abigail McIntosh
Corinne Oldham
Frank Phillips
Samuel Read
Thomas Rooney

Ancient History
Mathematics (2011 Entry)
Theology
Modern Languages
Geography
Natural Sciences
Natural Sciences
Mathematics
General Engineering (2011 Entry)

EDGE HILL

Arthur Williams

Business and Management

EXETER

Bethany Durkin
Harry Hornsby
Alexander Kirke
Jack Lucas
Bryony Palmer
Christopher Rootkin
Christopher Wood

English and French
Animal Behaviour
Mathematics
Geography (Science)
Sociology
Biological Sciences
Mathematics with Accounting

FALMOUTH

George Hersey

Photography

GLAMORGAN

Kerry Best (left July 2009)
Sarah Mosedale

Sport and Exercise Science
Fashion Promotion

GLASGOW

Joshua Plotnek

Economics/Philosophy

GUILDFORD PERFORMANCE PREPARATION ACADEMY

Jessica Singer

Musical Theatre Foundation

HANK HANEY GOLF ACADEMY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Patrick Skakel

Golf

HULL

Richard Blunt

War and Security Studies

KEELE

Charles Cathcart
Alexander Crichton
Christopher Ward

Medicine
Medicine
Medicine

LANCASTER

Andrew Brown

History

LEEDS

Thomas Baines
Arun Bhalla (left July 2009)
John Cousins
Benjamin Griffiths
Charlotte Jones
Jessica Rowland
Alice Scott

Management with Marketing
Biological Sciences
Economics and History
Psychology
Management
International Business
English Literature & Theatre Studies
French and Spanish
French and Spanish

James Storer (left July 2009)
Christopher Williamson

LEEDS METROPOLITAN

Thomas Bacon

Business and Management

LEICESTER

Charlotte Cross
Rathinasabapathy Rajmohan

English
Medicine

LIVERPOOL

Robyn Fry
Charlotte Reeves
Joseph Sharp

Geography (Science) (2011 Entry)
Geography (2011 Entry)
Business Studies with a Year in Industry

LIVERPOOL HOPE

André Partridge

Sport Psychology

LONDON**IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON**

James Adie
Jacob Farrant
Megan Thomas

Physics
Geophysics with a Year Abroad
Medicine

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Robert Ashby
Milan Baxter
George Gibbs
Penelope Whitehouse

Physiotherapy
Law
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
English Language and Literature

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Adam Carver (left July 2008)
David Comer
Jack Wilde

Drama and Theatre Studies
English and Drama
Physics

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Felicity Barber

Veterinary Medicine

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Katherine Atkinson
Roisin Noonan

Modern Languages
History

LONDON METROPOLITAN

Hurum Hussain

Economics and Politics

LOUGHBOROUGH

Peter Bailey
Rachael Clarke
James Meredith
Ellie Rogers
Rohan Thompson

Management Sciences
English
Mathematics
Sports Science with Management
Geography and Management

MANCHESTER

James Brent (left July 2009)
Alexandra Bright
Nicholas Carter (left July 2009)
James Cronin
Jason Lo
Omar Rashid
Anuj Sahnun (left July 2009)
Chand Tailor

Medicine
Town and Country Planning
Politics and Modern History
English Literature
Management (Accounting and Finance)
Biomedical Sciences
Economic History and Economics
Computer Science with Business & Management with Industrial Experience

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

James Clarke
Suzanne Spencer

Biomedical Sciences
Modern Languages

NOTTINGHAM

Richard Cromie
Steven Gough
Courtney Hyde
Jessica James
Olivia Maguire
Jamie Pulsford
Daisy Raymant
Alan Yates

Law
French and German
Biochemistry and Genetics
History
Natural Sciences
Chemical Engineering
American Studies and History
Physics

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Rachel Birch (left July 2009)
Michael Bransbury (left July 2009)
Grace Jackson (left July 2008)

Law
English with Creative Writing
Fashion Communication and Promotion

OXFORD**CHRIST CHURCH**

Lucinda Thomas

Experimental Psychology

WORCESTER

Andrew Turner

Mathematics

OXFORD BROOKES

James Broomhall
Benjamin Turnbull (left July 2009)
Ross White

Philosophy/Politics
Psychology
Psychology

PORTSMOUTH

Gemma Tighe

Law

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

Megan Joyce

English

READING

David Marshall

Construction Management and Surveying

SHEFFIELD

Sian Bartley
Eve Davis
Joseph Driscoll

Psychology
Business Management
Mechanical Engineering with German

Jessica Duck
Freddie Mallalieu
Kathryn Marton
Richard Morris
Adam Page

Biomedical Science
French and History
Psychology (2011 Entry)
Medicine
Biology

SHEFFIELD HALLAM

Samuel Fletcher

Sport and Exercise Science (2011 Entry)

Emma Spragg

Sport and Exercise Science

SOUTHAMPTON

Sarah Adcock
Matthew Cheshire
Michael Delaney
Emma Green (left July 2008)
Jeremy Mirza

Geography
Accounting and Finance
English (2011 Entry)
Medicine
Marine Biology

SURREY

Ben Johnson (left July 2009)

Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM

Stuart Scanlan (left July 2008)

Culinary Arts Management

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS, FARNHAM

Emma Burdon

Art Foundation

WARWICK

Lucy Blackman (left July 2009)
Indigo LeFevre (left July 2009)
Nicola Street
Alexander Weaver

English Literature
Theatre and Performance Studies
French Studies with Italian
Economics (2011 Entry)

YORK

William Barnes

Psychology

Junior School



J1 Trip to Ash End Children's Farm

On Thursday 23rd June, J1 travelled to Ash End Children's Farm in Tamworth as part of our Geography topic on farming.

Wearing our own clothes, with back packs and packed lunches, we arrived there at half past 9. We were met by a member of staff who talked us through a few rules of the farm and then, because we were a bit early, we had our drink and snack and played in the play area! A perfect start to a day out!

Our guide arrived at 10 o'clock and we headed straight for the chicks and ducklings where we sat on bales of straw and took it in turn to stroke and hold them and learn about their lifecycle. After that we went to the Piggery, where, funnily enough, we saw the pigs – both big and small! Rows of dummies were strung up in the Piggery and our guide explained that they encourage young children to give up their dummies for the piglets! Next we went to the Hen House where we had to sing 'Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick, Chicken, lay a little egg for me' before we all chose a fresh egg to take home for our tea!

Our next visit was to the classroom to learn about how much milk a cow produces each day – an unbelievable 27 litres! The shire horses, foals and cows were next, followed by the goats. We were lucky enough to be able to feed the goats with leaves and grain and then we fed a bottle of milk to a kid (a young goat, not one of us!).

Before we went to see the sheep, we had a quick look at the turkeys and our guide was very impressed with us knowing that a male turkey is a stag and a young turkey is called a poult! Finally, we went to see the sheep and lambs.

Because we had been stroking and feeding the animals we had to wash our hands thoroughly before we had lunch – the teachers also made us use hand gel!

After an enjoyable lunch, we were put into groups and were able to go and look at all the animals again. We were lucky enough to see a farrier putting horse shoes on a horse called Thomas. We then visited the Gift Shop where many cuddly toys were bought!

Once we had seen everything we wanted to, we went to the play area where there was an enormous inflatable pillow, a bit like a huge bouncy castle. We had great fun on it, until it was time to go and wash our hands again, pick up our bags and make our way back to the coach.

We had an 'eggcellent' time at the farm and were all very 'eggcited' about the animals we had seen and fed and stroked!



J2 & J4 Architecture workshop

On Thursday, March 10th, children in the Junior School took part in an 'Architecture Workshop'. Using just elastic bands and wooden sticks of various lengths and thickness, pupils explored the use of triangles and tetrahedrons in the construction of different structures.

During the morning, all J2 children took part in a workshop entitled Bridges and Design, where they were split into groups and asked to construct a free-standing bridge. This they all managed to do (with varying degrees of stability!).

After Lunch, the J4 children took part in a Shelters and Habitats workshop where the pupils were given the task of constructing shelters that had enough room for each group to lie-down, sit and stand up. Most groups achieved this, albeit with some structures proving a little more cramped than others! Overall, this proved to be an enjoyable way for the children to explore some of the Maths, Science and D&T involved in architecture.



J1 Botanical Gardens Trip

On 23rd May, all the J1's went on a trip to the Botanical Gardens as part of their study of Henri Rousseau in Art.

First we had a session in the classroom about rainforests, where we learnt about plants and trees which grow there, the different layers of the rainforest and some food items which come from there, such as cocoa beans and vanilla pods. Guy dressed up in a native costume and held a spear – he looked very scary! Patrick sat on a chair made from bamboo and luckily it didn't break!

Next we were put into groups and went into the four different houses to do some sketching of leaves and flowers. The Arid House was dry and warm and full of cacti – we had to be careful not to touch them! The Mediterranean House had pretty, brightly-coloured flowers. The Sub-Tropical House was warm and had a variety of plants and trees including a banana tree with an enormous, heavy seed: a bit like a rugby ball hanging off it! Last but not least was the Tropical House which was very damp and humid – we saw how some of the trees and plants grew in a canopy above the others. There was also a pond with some massive Koi Carp.

By the time we had finished sketching it had started to rain so we went back to the classroom to have lunch.

After lunch we went on a nature walk around the grounds, had a quick go on the play area and looked at the fascinating birds in the aviaries before heading back to School.



Junior School Mock Elections

On Thursday May 5th, the Junior School voted for their new Prime Minister.

Our Mock Elections have become an annual event and are greatly enjoyed by everyone. This was another hard fought campaign with five excellent candidates participating. Most of the major parties were represented, along with some highly imaginative and innovative independent groups. The candidates and their teams clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into preparing their speeches and their campaign of action. They all had plenty of interesting ideas to make their Junior School an even better, happier, fun-filled place. We have already started discussing their suggestions in our School Council meetings. We had a record turn-out at the polling booth, with everyone voting, including the teachers. Benedict Harding, the Conservative candidate, was duly elected to be our new Prime Minister. Phoebe Harland is the Deputy Prime Minister and will take on the full Prime Minister responsibilities in September when Benedict moves into the Senior School.

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

Mrs Brough

J3 Author Visit

On Friday 21st January, J3 pupils had an Author Day with Adam Guillain and pupils from thirteen different visiting schools. We spent the morning in the Bushell Hall listening eagerly to Adam telling the story of the Minotaur. Afterwards we marked out the important parts of the story, and then we went off in groups with partners from different schools and acted out the story describing each different part. Next we got a large piece of paper and were given the different details of the story muddled up to cut and stick in the right order so that it made sense.



At lunchtime Adam Guillain was selling, signing and personalising his book. In the afternoon, Adam led a shared writing activity about the Minotaur with over one hundred enthusiastic children contributing to the story, fitting our brilliant ideas together to make a brand new and improved paragraph. We used all of our senses to make it more intriguing. Finally, we had to get down to some work by creating a paragraph of our own. Once we had spent twenty minutes working, we each had our own customised paragraph.

Unfortunately, the day was soon over, but everyone had developed their writing skills, made new friends, and was keen to try writing their own myths and legends back in their English lessons.



Junior School Eco Club Report

Throughout the year, the Junior School Eco Club have worked incredibly hard to make the School more environmentally friendly and sustainable. We have had a lot of fun growing and picking our own vegetables and donating them to the refectory. We even had our own dish, the 'Country Vegetable Bake'!

As well as producing our own food, we have set up a wormery to provide a place for food waste from the kitchen to be recycled into compost for our School grounds. Recycling has been an especially important part of our plan for the Junior School and since the start of the year we have been able to provide each classroom with its own paper recycling bin. Not only this, but we have joined a scheme called 'Support Your School' that allows us to recycle empty printer cartridges and mobile phones donated by pupils, parents and staff all year round!

In January, we decided it was time to involve the rest of the School in more of our exciting 'green' activities, so we joined forces with the School Council to organise a Junior School Green Week! The Nature Trail, Swap Shop, Green Quiz and Wear Something Green Day proved immensely popular and there has since been another Swap Shop due to popular demand! Each Junior School form planted their very own cherry tree in the Chapel Car Park and we hope these will grow into healthy, thriving trees that can be enjoyed for many years to come.

We feel very proud of our efforts to make our School a more eco-friendly place and we have recently achieved the Silver Eco-Schools Award and Bronze Woodland Trust Green Tree School Award. We can't wait to get our hands dirty again next year – we have many more plans up our sleeves!

By Junior School Eco Club



Junior School Archaeological Dig

The J1s studied the Sutton Hoo ship burial in History. They had great fun being amateur archaeologists in the school grounds. They found a variety of items including a skull, ancient jewellery and silverware, which they believed might have belonged to an Anglo-Saxon king.



Link up with MET Office Goes Down a Storm

The catastrophic flooding in Australia and drought in Brazil and North Africa were brought vividly to life for pupils from the Junior School.

They boosted their understanding of extreme weather with an expert from the Met Office in a video conference direct from the Junior School Hall.

Boys and girls put their own questions to an on-screen meteorologist on subjects ranging from how to predict the weather to how hurricanes are formed.

The pupils were able to take advantage of the School's excellent presentation facilities and technical capability to organise the conference as an exciting interactive aid to geography, science and maths studies.

Mr. Penney, Deputy Head of the Junior School, said: 'The high drama of extreme and fast-changing weather and the opportunity to put questions direct to an expert at the Met Office captured the imagination of our pupils'.

The event followed the success of a similar link-up with the Met Office about Climate Change for ten to 11-year-olds organised by the School last year.



Isobelle Blake (aged eight), Cameron Hemp and Jacob Yip (both nine) learn more about extreme weather in Solihull Junior School's video conference with the Met Office

J4 Residential Visit to PGL France

On Friday 6 May, J4 travelled to the PGL centre at Le Pre Catelan in Harelot, France. We said our goodbyes and set off by coach via the Eurotunnel.

When we arrived at the centre, we had a tour round the site, played some games, had our meal and then went walking to the local beach where we played 'Wacky Races' lead by Mr Thomas. Soon it was time for bed, but sleep didn't come easily to the excited J4s and eventually Mr Penney ended up sitting on the stairs outside our rooms reading his book until we were all quiet and finally drifted off.

In the morning, after a delicious breakfast with a variety of foods from French croissants to English Coco Pops, we had our first French lesson where Monsieur Grandrieux taught us how to buy things at Le Touquet market. Our challenge was to see if we could work in groups to buy the ingredients to make our lunch. Each of us was given two Euros. We thought this wasn't very generous of the teachers, so we pooled our money together to see what we could buy. The chef at Le Pre Catelan was to judge which lunch was the best.

The market was extremely busy, and most of us used hand signals and pointing, as well as some French, to communicate. Some of us touched the foods and were shouted at by the French market traders. Oops! When we arrived back at the centre, we all had to 'preparez a manger'. Everyone suddenly became very competitive, taking great care with the presentation of the food. Eventually the meals were ready for judging: everything from jam sandwiches to gorgeous platters of fresh food.



Group A were victorious with their meal called 'Sweet and Sour'.

After eating lunch, we boarded the coach and headed for Boulogne, where we visited the local sweet factory. We could all smell the delicious aroma of syrup as we entered, and we stared in awe at the simple machine that made the sweets. We thought it was going to be far more complicated and hi-tech! To our relief, the man spoke English and showed us how he used the boiling syrupy mixture to make sweets on a cold table, pouring the mixture into moulds and allowing it to cool. He then threaded some through a machine which produced shell-shaped sweets. We were allowed to taste some, and then bought some more from the factory shop.

Afterwards, in our groups, we ventured off through the old town walls to explore Boulogne. This was our French History lesson! We had to follow instructions and work out clues to find out lots of information. In the end Group E emerged as winners of this challenge. Strangely enough, this was Monsieur Grandrieux's group... quelle surprise! We travelled back to the centre and after our evening meal and a variety of games and activities on the beach, we all settled down to a good night's sleep.

On Sunday morning, we all woke up feeling excited and looking forward to the day ahead.

Whilst eating our delicious French breakfast, the PGL staff announced we were all going on a coastal walk. At my table there were a few moans and groans at this news! Reluctantly we set off, travelling up the steep hill through the woods, until we eventually reached the sand dunes. Unfortunately that wasn't it: there were miles still to go! As we kept on walking, the guides told us that under our feet were lots of underground German war tunnels. After finally reaching the top, we all ran down the dunes to find an old German bunker which had slid down the hill over time and was now broken into chunks. We finished our three mile walk by eating our baguettes on the beach. The best news was that we didn't have to walk all the way back, but just through the town to the PGL Centre.

Our next visit was to Moulin de Mantenay, a nearby mill. The owner showed us how to make flour, and tested our French to the limit, as he kept asking us questions in French. During the bread making, we each kneaded some dough and shaped it into a bun. We waited outside while the bread was baked and then eagerly devoured our own loaf as soon as it came out of the oven. For our final meal the chef had prepared a French feast for us. We tasted snails, mussels, garlic chicken, potatoes, peas, bread and salad, and for dessert we devoured scrumptious chocolate éclairs. It was a delicious end to our stay in France!



On Monday morning, we sadly said our final 'merci' and 'Au revoirs'! However, we had something very special to look forward to... shopping in the mall. After 'splashing the cash' on useless things, like over sized slinkys, we boarded the coach again and travelled back through the Eurotunnel. Everything was going well as we travelled homewards, but soon we became completely stuck in a very long and extremely slow moving traffic jam. We finally arrived back at School very late and rushed off the coach to tell our parents all about our trip. We would definitely recommend this trip to J4 classes in the future and would like to thank the Staff for giving up their time to take us.

By Benedict Harding, Cerys Stansfield, Luke Bryant, Anushka Karandikar and Eloise Burchell



Professor McGinty Visit - Vikings

On Tuesday 28th June, the J1s were treated to a visit from Professor McGinty. He came to talk to us about the Vikings, which we had been studying in History.

We were all very excited as we went into the Junior School Hall and saw his time machine and all the artefacts he had on display. He started off by telling us how he and his owl, Doctor Hoot, had gone into their Time Machine, hoping to go forward 2 hours in time to miss Eastenders, but accidentally ended up back in the time of the Vikings, because their cleaner's feather duster had got stuck in the controls! Professor McGinty continued to tell us what they discovered from their visit to a Viking village: they had very strange names such as Eric the Brave, one family all lived in one room (including their animals in the winter!), they drank out of a cow's horn, they never washed up their cooking pots (yuck!), they had axes and arrows as weapons, and they could cut their coins in half to pay for things!

Dylan and Ben dressed up as Viking men with big bushy beards and April and Courtney dressed up as Viking women – they looked very strange! William and Adam put some chain mail on their heads and shoulders and wore a Viking helmet over the top, which was extremely heavy.

Professor McGinty was hilarious and made us all laugh. He called everyone 'Dave', kept talking about Viking 'stuff' and performed an amazing slow motion run from the film 'The Matrix'! We really enjoyed his visit and hope he comes to see us again next year!



Professor McGinty Visit

On Monday 14th February, the J4s were lucky enough to be visited by the mad time-travel detective Professor McGinty, to talk to them about World War II. As he is a time travel detective he told us all about ration books, gas masks and even real weapons! We learned that even if you were a millionaire you still had to have a ration book!

After that he spoke to us about gas masks. We learnt that EVERYONE had to wear gas masks because there were two types of bombs: the explosive bombs, which were meant to start fires and, well, explode, and there were other types of bombs which were called gas bombs. The most deadly poisonous gas was called Mustard Gas. There was a special gas mask for children. Apparently the government created them in such a way that when the children blew out, the trunk made a rude sound!

After this, Joshua Newby and Anisah Ali tried on some of the clothes that people would have worn in World War II. Anisah had to wear dungarees and a piece of cloth over her hair, like a woman working in a factory. Joshua had to dress up as a soldier and wear a helmet, heavy dungarees and, of course, carry a VERY heavy gun.

Elle Miles and Beatrix Huissoon



RAF Speaker

On Wednesday 2nd March the J4s linked up with the Imperial War Museum in London for a video conference with Jack Ball, a WWII RAF veteran and his partner Vera, who was evacuated during WWII.

Jack told us what his expeditions were like in the RAF and how different it was to travelling far away today. He showed us the Morse code he had to learn and what each number and letter represents. We were shocked to hear of the scariest moments he experienced, like when a plane landed on top of the RAF base he was billeted at. Jack also lost his entire crew whilst he was in hospital recovering from a minor operation.



Vera's story as an evacuee was just as amazing. We learnt how well she was treated, however, some evacuees were treated horribly. Some starved or were made to do more work than is necessary. About half way through the war, Vera's mother and grandmother moved up near to where Vera was staying with her host family. Eventually she moved out of where she was staying and went to live with her mother and grandmother. After the war, she moved back to London, hoping her home was still there. Luckily it was. Her Father came home safe and sound.

Also, a couple of weeks earlier in the term, Hannah Currie's (J4M) grandfather came in and spoke to us about what it felt like to be an evacuee. We benefited so much from it and are very grateful to him for it.

Elle Miles & Harriet Jones (J4P)



Science Day

On Thursday 17th February, J2M and J2D were able to experience an enjoyable Science afternoon in the Bushell Hall.

We met Kieran from the National Space Centre and he explained that we were going to make rockets and racing cars! We were so excited! To assemble our rockets we used paper, pens, scissors and fins. After making the rockets, we were gathered into two teams – J2M and J2D – and we launched our rockets onto the stage. We were delighted by the J2M triumphant victory, led by Maisy Horsburgh and Matthew Vaughan.

Afterwards, we constructed Racing Rovers out of cardboard, dowelling rods, wheels, balloons and straws. Carefully, we read the instruction manual to find out how to make our cars. This time, J2D deservedly won with their superior designs.

This exciting afternoon ended as a draw and we would love to do it again!

Written by J2M



Performance Poetry

On 17th January, the J4 classes were privileged to have a poetry video conference with established poet, Paul Cookson, who was at the National Football Museum in Manchester. All of the J4s were engrossed by his talk on poetry as Paul is a very talented poet. The theme was football, and after learning some useful skills about how to write a poem, J4 wrote a

performance poem as a whole year group. Paul read and performed some of his own poems out loud which inspired us.

After our video conference, we wrote a performance poem of our own. Our teachers put us into pairs and we began to write. After only a few minutes we discovered that writing performance poetry was harder than it seemed, because after we had written the poem we needed to make sure it had a rhythm. However, after many tries and switching the words we finally succeeded in this task. Our topic was a question and answer weather poem, which some of us turned into a conversation which worked well.

All the J4s would like to see Paul again as we were so entranced. We learned so much and became experts at writing and performing poetry!

Cerys Stansfield and Mary Davies J4H

PGL

AT LAST, it was the day we had all been waiting for.....P.G.L. FRIDAY, or should we say, Parents Get Lost Friday! The excitement was nothing less than fever pitch and everyone was positively bursting to hurry up and set off! We calmed down long enough to gather our belongings, oh, and our teachers, to get onto the coach.

We arrived safely and were excited to arrive and find out who we were going to be 'roomies' with. Fortunately for all involved, everyone was pleased with their groups and unpacked in anticipation of what lay ahead.

Water rafting started off our weekend of adventure. We had a great time, even when all of the teachers decided to soak us. We arrived back at our cabins wet, tired but very happy. After an evening of hilarious activities, we collapsed into bed after a fun-filled first day.

The next day we were up bright and early, partly because Mrs Steele's shower sounded like a fog horn and woke us all up, and partly because we were just extremely excited again! We split into five groups and had fun doing

Jacob's ladder, the giant swing, canoeing, trapeze, challenge course and rock climbing. We worked well in our teams and we experienced things we will never forget.

It was a weekend all of us will always remember for its fun, action and camaraderie. We hope everyone enjoys it next year as much as we did this year!

PGL Report by Emma Gilbert, Niamh Smythe and Ewan Waddell



J3 Space Morning

On Thursday 17th February the J3's had a Space Morning!

Firstly, we were split into two groups. My group went into the hall to learn about the different phases of the moon and ask questions about space. Then we went into the Star Dome to look at constellations and learn tricks about how to find them in the night sky. It was pitch black in there!

Finally, we were tested on how much we had listened earlier in a 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' quiz. We got all the questions right, but didn't win the million pounds!

Soon afterwards, we went to the Science room where we were split into two smaller groups. One of the groups went outside with some sixth formers to learn about all the planets, while the other designed their own aliens.

It was a great morning!

Isobel King - J3T



Drama Production: 'What A Knight'

On 26th May 2011 at 6:30 pm, the J3 and J4 Drama Club put on an amazing performance of 'What A Knight!' There was a great turn out of people, filling nearly all the seats in the Bushell Hall. Everybody who came thoroughly enjoyed the play – especially the hilarious jokes. Thanks to Mrs Jenkins's and Mrs Lawrence's fabulous scenery, which stood proudly behind us as we acted, the actors felt like they really were inside King Arthur's castle.

In short, the play was about a young boy, Watt (William Hardie), who after being expelled from Knight School, believes there is no hope of him becoming a knight. It also includes a princess called Alice (Eloise Burchell), who is constantly being told off for not acting like royalty. However, when Merlin the Magician loses Excalibur, it is obvious to Alice and Watt that this is a mission for them, but it cannot be completed without the help of Dusty – Alice's pet dragon! Without King Arthur or anyone else being informed that Excalibur is lost, Alice, Watt and Dusty march off to Rook Castle to delay the Black Knight from finding it, while Merlin keeps searching. In the end, after being told by the Magic Mirror that Excalibur has been disguised, Ernie and Bernie Blackhead, the Black Knight's most trusted henchmen, think the sword has been turned into a feather duster, which Watt is holding. The Black Knight steals his rucksack as well and when he returns to Arthur's castle, discovers that Excalibur has



been hidden in Kitty Cobblers's homemade scone which was in the rucksack! Everyone realised this when Watt tried to eat his lunch! Watt was then crowned a knight of the Round Table, as he had pulled the *sword from the scone!*

Dusty seemed to be a real pet dragon at first, but at the end of the play, everyone realised that Emma Hadley was wearing a handmade costume! Elle Miles was magically transformed into a Magic Mirror. All the squires looked like real school boys, and the princesses looked like pure royalty in their outfits, except Princess Alice, of course! The Black Knight (Adam Beaumont) and his most trusted henchmen, Ernie and Bernie Blackhead (James Cusack and Joshua Newby) proved to be too much for our brave knights who were led into battle by Sir Roundsound (Teo Sutherland). The Black Knight's costume only made him seem all the more evil! Kitty (Cerys Stansfield) seemed like a real cook, with her apron covered in flour and stressed facial expressions: you could tell how much pressure she was under! Maid Molly (Rebecca Monkhouse) also looked and acted the part, running around for the three

princesses, with so many jobs to do.

King Arthur and Queen Guinevere (Benny Wu and Hannah Currie) looked perfect for one another, with their eye-catching crowns and posh gowns. It was hard to tell that they weren't really royalty, as they looked like they were born to sit on the thrones. The play was beautifully narrated by Lester Lugabout, a wandering minstrel (Anisah Ali). The Jolly Jester, who wasn't so jolly, certainly looked happy in his outfit, until he walked on stage and became the most miserable jester King Arthur's reign had ever seen! It's a shame our clever Merlin the Magician (Luke Bryant) couldn't cast a spell on him, so all his worries left him.

All the cast's hard work really paid off, as the show was a huge success, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the memorable performances from every member of the Junior School Drama Club. The costumes looked amazing, the singing was fabulous (especially the solos from William, Eloise and Emma) the dreadful jokes made the audience laugh, and everyone commented on how well all the actors performed. At the end of the show, there was rapturous applause.

What a (k)night!

Annabelle Barker & Cerys Stansfield J4H

Junior School Summer Concert

On Thursday 30 June, the Junior School performed their annual Summer Concert to a packed Bushell Hall. It was a real team effort, with every pupil in the Junior School involved in at least one piece. There was more group and ensemble work this time rather than just the individual performers. Each class and year group contributed, giving fabulous demonstrations of the work that has been taught in class music lessons this year. The result was a fantastic variety of different themed pieces, ranging from the catchy J1 'Roman song' which had the older children jiving and singing along to it in rehearsals, to the J4 Blues improvisations on xylophones which required tremendous concentration, skill and coordination.

The J2s sang some real tear-jerkers from the 'Alexander cantata' and a Traditional African song with accompaniment. The J3s performed a 'Tudor Extravaganza' which was a mixture of informative learning about the Tudor period, with songs, acting and instrumental work on recorders, drums and the oddly named 'bum fiddles'. We still haven't got to the 'bottom' of where the actual name comes from, but they were an early form of cello, admittedly made with animal bladders rather than balloons! There were several very moving and beautifully sung pieces, including the Junior Choristers with their exquisite rendition of Howard Goodall's 'The Lord's My Shepherd' and 'Let There Be Peace' sung by the J4s, both of which brought tears to many of us in the audience. The massed voices of the Junior School Choir were particularly stunning, singing a medley from Walt Disney's 'Pocahontas'. They were superb. In fact, they could easily have won any competition with that!

The winner of the Junior School House Music competition, Pole, delivered a performance of their winning song, 'Fernando' by Abba, under the direction of their Sixth Form organisers. This was turned into a piece of semi-comic musical drama, with coordinated hand signals and most especially with Harry Fitzwater taking the lead of Fernando and swooning at the sound of his own name! It was great to see students in their leaving year working with those in their earliest years, as Sixth Formers from all five Houses had trained and rehearsed the children for a competition which, while great fun, was serious and fiercely contested. The Junior School Orchestra was great fun with its circus theme. Miss Dolby amused everyone by calling out the names of the animals and cracking her musical whip at the lions. The Junior School wind band was exhilarating and for the first time ever we had a group of 10 guitarists playing the theme from the 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.

The individual performances were of an

exceptionally high quality from pupils who are expected to achieve distinctions in their forthcoming exams. Judging by their superb performances in front of such a huge audience, I'm sure they will.

All in all, the concert was a real triumph and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part and all who listened. Our grateful thanks to the music staff who have given so generously of their time in preparing the individual, group and class work for such a memorable evening and especially to Mr Simon Phillips, who has taken over as Music coordinator for the Junior School this year, for masterminding the whole event and for the wonderful music over the whole year. The future looks very promising indeed!

LJ Brough, with help from J3T

Junior School Choir

This year the Junior School Choir performed a medley from the Walt Disney film 'Pocahontas' at the end of term Summer Concert. We had been working on this challenging piece for many weeks as there were complicated harmonies throughout the whole song. After much hard work the performance went as smoothly as we had hoped. The J3 choir members were excellent in their semi-chorus, and all of the J4 members loved performing their duets and semi-choruses too. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, and our thanks go to Mr Walker for accompanying us. Also, of course, many thanks to Miss Davies for all her patience and encouragement.

Eloise Burchell (J4M)

Junior School House Singing Competition

The annual House Singing Competition took place in the Junior School Hall just before half term and what a fantastic event it turned out to be. Each house only had about a month to prepare a piece under the guidance of members of the Sixth Form and Mr Perrins had the unenviable task of judging the entries. Pole opened with their version of Abba's 'Fernando' closely followed by Windsor and 'Forget You' by Cee-Lo Green. Next was Jago with a Disney medley and Fetherston with 'Doh-a -Deer'. Shenstone rounded things off with 'I Just Can't Wait To Be King'.

There was a lovely friendly atmosphere throughout the competition with everybody enjoying either taking part or listening to everybody else. Unfortunately there had to be a winner and it was Pole who on this occasion stole the show and thanks must go to Reuben

Robyns-Landricombe and Tom Gerrard who led their pupils extremely ably.

Many thanks to all the Sixth Formers who willingly gave of their time at this busy and important time. We hope you enjoyed working with the Junior School pupils as much as they did with you. Everyone is to be congratulated on their efforts. Well done.

Mr Phillips

Junior School Wind Band

It's been another busy year for the Junior School Wind Band. Lots of new J3s joined, playing a wide variety of instruments. We had to get them up to speed with the other members and then we began to learn our first piece of music, a piece called 'Silly Scales', ready for the Easter term Junior School Concert. Anyone who heard our performance will agree with me: it was brilliant. It was also great fun to do it.

In the summer term, we began to learn a piece called "Somewhere out there". It is quite a difficult piece, with many parts that change simultaneously from the tune to the backing. If everyone tries hard, it is spectacular.

We rehearse every Wednesday in Music School. Most people come almost every week because it's so much fun.

By Simon Clarke, J4

Junior School Flute group

During the past year, the Flute group has learned a series of pieces in lots of different styles ranging from calm and classical music to upbeat funky tunes.

Flute group gives us good experience because it is made of lots of different ages and is a good way to make new friends with the same interests as you. Also it gives people a chance to shine and show off their hidden talents!

Flute group has had the chance to perform in lots of different types of concerts like Informal concerts, Assemblies in front of the Junior School, and the Summer Concert.

Miss Greswold runs the club and it is held on Tuesday break times. There are four members in the group aged from eight years old to ten years old. We are always on the lookout for new members!

Emma Gilbert J3P

Junior School Saxophone group

Ellis Owen and Phoebe Harland on the soprano sax, together with Oliver Rooney and me, Hari Ramachandran, on the alto sax, make up the Junior School saxophone quartet, accompanied on the drums by Simon Clarke. We are an enthusiastic group who try and play with feeling and respect for our chosen pieces.

Regular rehearsals take place during Friday break time where a variety of pieces are learned, practised and further practised! Miss Greswold has been responsible for our progress over the years; tutoring,

encouraging and guiding us all the way. There is fun in addition to the hard work and at the end of the week we finish off with a bang and a bag of sweets!

During the Junior School Carol Concert and Prize Giving last year we had the privilege of serenading the audience with our music. We would once again like to thank Miss Greswold for her tireless support throughout the School year. We hope that we can do justice to all the hard work and effort she has put in!

Hari Ramachandran

Junior School Clarinet group

Currently in Clarinet Group there are four members. Miss Greswold directs us and we all meet on Monday break. The pieces that we play vary from hard jazz to easy pieces. It is very good for beginners up to experienced players as the pieces have different parts so beginners can cope too! We really enjoy performing and preparing pieces to play in Assembly, Informal Concerts, and the Summer Concert. We are always on the lookout for new members too!

Benedict

Junior School Recorder Club

Recorder Club is brilliant! We play treble, tenor and descant recorders. We play many different types of pieces and work hard practising for concerts and having fun at the same time.

It all started in our music lessons when we were learning to play recorders and Miss Greswold had the idea of starting a club, which Sophie Besford, Georgina Dalby, Ellie Berrow, Lucy Fennel and James Topping decided to join.

Recently we learnt to play Greensleeves, which is thought to have been written by King Henry

VIII and at the moment we are learning to play it in different parts. We meet on Monday lunchtimes and everyone is welcome to join us!

James Topping and Sophie Besford J3P

Junior School Hockey 2010-2011

The Junior School Hockey Club continues to thrive with all children showing great progress throughout the year. This year, the U11 A & B teams played Coughton School, with a 5-0 victory for the 'A' team and a 3-0 win for the 'B' team. Both teams then went to Warwick and played some fantastic hockey, with the 'B' team drawing 2-2 in a game it should have won, and the 'A' team annihilating the opposition 9-2. Full of confidence, the Junior School then sent four teams to play Bromsgrove where we had mixed success, with the U11 A & B teams both drawing their games 1-1 and the U10 'A' team losing 1-3 and the U10 'B' team losing 0-6. Despite not winning any games, a lot of good hockey was played by everyone involved.

Next came the U11 Warwickshire Schools' Hockey Tournament when, on Friday, March 4th, the Junior School took two teams to KES Birmingham.

Each team played four matches in the League stage of the competition, with the top two teams contesting the Final. Both Solihull teams did well, with the 'A' team winning three matches and drawing one, whilst the 'B' team won two, drew one and lost one. These results meant that the Solihull 'A' team reached the final where they were to play either the Solihull 'B' team or Bilton Grange.

Unfortunately, the 'B' team missed out on a place in the final by goal difference, therefore ending the tournament in a very creditable third place. Mainly made up from J3 children, the 'B' team played some fantastic hockey and provided the most memorable moment of the tournament when Mason Robinson scored in the 1-1 draw against the Solihull 'A' team and celebrated as if he'd won the World Cup...fantastic!

The Solihull 'A' team played brilliantly in the Final, eventually winning 2-0 with goals from Elliot Morter and Will Rigg. Yet again, the Junior School became Warwickshire U11 Champions and went on to represent the school in the Midlands regional tournament, held at Cannock Hockey Club on 29th March. As in previous years, we went into this tournament with high hopes. However, due to a combination of not taking our opportunities at crucial moments and the odd piece of poor field position, we only finished third in the group and therefore

did not qualify for the semi-finals. This was a shame as, technically, Solihull was the best hockey side in the tournament.

Despite the disappointment of the Regional Finals, it has proved to be a successful year. Therefore, it is fair to say that hockey continues to go from strength to strength in the Junior School and, once again, we are providing the Senior School with some exciting talent for the future.

Junior School Hockey Results

U10 A Team	U10 B Team
v. Bromsgrove (A) L 3-1	v. Bromsgrove (A) L 6-0
U11 A Team	U11 B Team
v. Coughton (H) W 5-0	v. Coughton (H) W 3-0
v. Warwick (A) W 9-2	v. Warwick (A) D 2-2
v. Bromsgrove (A) D 1-1	v. Bromsgrove (A) D 1-1

U11 Warwickshire Schools Hockey Tournament

v. Bilton Grange W 1-0	v. Bilton Grange L 0-1
v. Solihull 'B' Team D 1-1	v. Solihull 'A' Team D 1-1
v. Coughton W 5-0	v. Coughton W 2-0
v. Clifton W 3-0	v. Clifton W 2-1

U11 Midlands Regional Tournament

v. Newcastle L 0-1
v. Grosvenor D 1-1
v. Moorfield W 4-0
v. Brooke Priory D 0-0
v. Woodland View W 2-1

Netball Team

This year's Netball team consisted of eight talented players: Annabelle Barker, Alex Marshall, Rebecca Monkhouse, Mary Davies, Ellie Featherstone, Elisa Mottram, Hannah Currie and Anushka Karandikar. Our most improved players of the season were Ellie Featherstone and Mary Davies, whilst our best player was Annabelle Barker. We had an excellent season, winning seven of our League matches and only losing two, resulting in us finishing third in the Solihull Netball League One – a great achievement considering how many girls we have to choose from compared with other schools! No surprises that St Martins came first and Monkspath came second – the two teams which beat us! We were all thrilled though to have beaten Ulverley, who were the team who had absolutely thrashed us with a score of 20 - 4 in the semi-final of the A team tournament. We even managed to beat St John's from Portsmouth, during a Games lesson, for the first time ever!

Everyone in the Netball team thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team and all of the players think that it was a great year and hope next year's players will do equally well. Mrs Steele has been an amazing coach.

It was a great season for the U11 Netball team and I think they have been the best team by far!

Annabelle Barker

School Chapel

Chaplaincy Notes

The Chaplaincy has continued to play a significant role in the life of the School over the past year, involving many students in the worship and musical activities. The choir has flourished under the guidance and professional leadership of Mr Oliver Walker who has introduced new and exciting initiatives and made significant contributions to the Liturgy. Mr Peter Irving and Miss Pamela Davies have continued to support the music-making and we thank them for their commitment. Advent and Christmas, as usual, were celebrated with great panache beginning with a splendid Advent Procession and Carol Service involving many staff, pupils and parents in the reading of sacred and secular writings appropriate to the season.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a tremendous witness to the dedication and expertise of the choir. Indeed, this service is something of a hidden gem which ought to be experienced by many more of our students in future.

The Junior School Christmas Carol Service was a huge success involving our young people telling the story of the birth of Christ in dramatic and musical expressions. A generous collection from this service, together with other monies previously raised in School, was sent to 'Sight Savers', a very worthwhile charity enabling the improvement of sight for people in the Third World.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was a triumph as we celebrated as a community the first Eucharist of Christmas. It is always a great joy to see many past staff and students at this celebration.

The Junior School were again in chapel for the Christingle Service to mark the conclusion of the Christmas season. Mrs Davies organised a workshop for the making of Christingles and much fun was had by all. Mr Allan Baldwin was our guest preacher who received a cheque on behalf of the Children's Society. During the Easter term we welcomed Bishop Iraj (some time Bishop in Iraq) for the Confirmation of ten candidates: Thomas Carson, Oliver Daniels, Thomas Daniels, Victoria Daniels, Emma Hadley, Imogen Hanson, Meredith Hanson, Frederick Richmond, Maximilian Richmond and Tom Wilde. This was a very happy occasion and a milestone in their lives. May they remain faithful.

At the end of the Easter Term Fr. Andrew led a group of people from the 'wider' chaplaincy

community to the Holy Land. This was a very moving and life-challenging experience including visits to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. We were also privileged to visit the Jeel Al Amal Boys School in Bethany, a charity we sponsored last year. Another pilgrimage closer to home took place in July when Fr Andrew led a group to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk. Thousands of pilgrims representing hundreds of parishes and schools make pilgrimage to Walsingham every year.

During the Summer Term we held two leavers' services for the Junior and Senior school. This is always popular with students and parents alike as they give thanks for associations with the school and pray for God's guidance upon their future.

The annual 'Celebration of God's Creatures' service proved a huge success when a large number of the community brought along their pets for a special blessing. It was particularly good to welcome folks who would not normally come to chapel services. We hope to see you again!

During the Summer Term we celebrated with great aplomb the festival of Corpus et Sanguis Christi, where we gave thanks for Christ's gift of the Eucharist. The Mass setting was Schubert in G, performed liturgically by the Boys' and Men's choir with orchestra. The evening ended exquisitely with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

As chaplain, I would like to record my thanks to the Headmaster and Mrs Lloyd for their support. Mr Martin Ayers has continued to act with expertise as chapel warden and for this I am very grateful. I would also like to express my gratitude to Canon Tim Pilkington for singing Evensong on the feast of St Thomas and for his friendship and support.

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

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Community Service

The Community Service Programme has continued to flourish throughout the year with a number of Sixth Form students visiting the elderly at home or in residential centres.

They have carried out household chores, shopping, gardening, assistance with computing and accompanying a blind man to the library. Some have simply spent time chatting with the elderly in their homes exchanging news about life and reflecting upon current issues over a cup of coffee.

Some students have visited local schools enriching the academic and social development of children. Particular emphasis has been centred upon hearing children read, accompanying them for games lessons and teaching computing skills. A number of students have also joined Mr. Brattle in delivering stimulating Biology lessons to children. One pupil, Mike Lucking, has reflected upon this experience:

Every Friday Katie Dale, Mandy Botcherby, Clare Price, Laura Blackburn and myself have accompanied Mr. Brattle to the local primary schools as a part of the Community Service enrichment option. Schools have included Balsall Common Primary, Chapel Fields, the Greswolde and Shirley Heath. We have shown the children a side of biology they aren't used to, giving them experience handling animals like a Boa Constrictor, a bearded dragon and an Axolotl to enhance their learning. Being with the children gave us an insight into what teaching would be like and has proved very rewarding and great fun. We have also taken it in turn to give presentations, letting the children participate too. We would recommend the experience to anyone as it is very enriching.

A number of the elderly visit the school chapel for the Harvest Festival and have been involved reading lessons during that service. A good number continue to attend our Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols at the end of term and a few attend the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Others have thoroughly enjoyed school dramatic productions in the Bushell Hall.

Some of our recipient friends have found time to write to us sending good wishes and expressing thanks for what they have received through the Community Service Programme.

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff and students for making this facility successful and encourage more students to volunteer for such involvement. In a world where the ego can dominate, it is encouraging to recognise that some students want to demonstrate care and service to other people in the community.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson

Pet Service 2011

On Sunday 19th June, there was a 'Celebration of all God's Creatures', better known as The Annual Pet Service at Solihull School Chapel. Many pupils and parents from all year groups arrived with their pets which included dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, a giant cuddly tiger and even two chickens, which clucked their way through the entire service! Some of the dogs joined in the hymns and seemed to be competing with the choristers. Some animals slept through the service whilst others roamed the aisles, looking for playmates.

All the animals and their owners were invited up to the altar to be blessed by Father Andrew, who did a marvellous job of controlling all the hyperactive pets. Some choristers had their pets with them in the choir stalls, but a couple struggled to keep their pets by their sides and had to hand over control to their families in the congregation.





Miss Davies, our multi-talented choir mistress, conducted both the choir and her two dogs at the same time! Despite all the mayhem, she was able to conduct the girls' choir as they sang 'For the Beauty of the Earth' by Andrew Carter, accompanied by some of the animals who sounded like they were auditioning for a solo.

At the end of the service, all the animals poured out of the Chapel, where some took the opportunity to socialise with others around them, whilst some stayed in the safe hands of their owners.

The Pet Service was a huge success and we can't wait until next year.

The retiring collection was in aid of the PDSA.

By Elisa Mottram & Emma Hadley



Solihull School Chapel Choirs

'Cantate Domino canticum novum...et filiae Sion exultant in rege suo' proclaimed the Chamber Choir at the opening of this year's Leavers' Service: 'Sing a new song to the Lord, and let children of Sion be joyful in their King'. These words, sung by choirs across the world (not always in Latin!), in the mightiest cathedral and humblest parish church, seem to sum up the work of our Chapel Choirs this year. Whilst constantly being presented with new musical pieces, challenges and occasions, both inside and outside our Chapel, the Choristers' sense of commitment, joy and pride in their purpose was always evident, to see and to hear.

Combined Choirs

It has been a very busy year indeed, with plenty of high-profile services and concerts happening alongside the established weekly pattern of Sunday evening services, assemblies and rehearsals. The year began with the Great Choir (The Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir and Chamber Choir combined) singing alongside the world famous Thomas Trotter, Birmingham City Organist and internationally acclaimed recitalist, in his 450th anniversary concert on the newly restored organ. The Birmingham Post's glowing review of the concert commented on the Choir's 'bright and confident sound in Stanford's Magnificat, and a magisterial performance of Parry's I was glad, matching the stentorian power of the organ's rousing opening'. An incredible experience for all involved.

The Advent Carol Service, featuring the different sections of the Chapel Choir singing from various parts of the building, provided a magical start to Advent. The service was scattered with delightful solos including Maddie Lavery in Dyson's 'Magnificat in F', Emma Rivers in Trepte's 'People Look East', Simon Turpin in Vaughan Williams's 'The Truth

from Above' and a combination of some of our youngest and eldest singers (Jordan Salmon, Joseph Wright and Reuben Robyns-Landricombe) in Palestrina's 'Matin Responsory'.

Only a few weeks later, the sublime singing in the two services of Nine Lessons and Carols brought a tear to the eye of many. From the opening 'Once in Royal' solos (sung to a very high standard by Ben Davidson and Julie Whiting) to the rousing descants of 'Hark the Herald', with much in between, the familiar round of readings and carols proclaimed the Holy Birth in a way that felt as fresh, moving and joyful as ever. There were many solos over the two evenings; Sam Troth and Clare Whiting performed Darke's 'In the Bleak Midwinter' with delicacy and maturity, while Katie Dobson's energetic 'People Look East' had us on the edge of our seats. Tom Gerard, James Bancroft, Emma Hodgkinson and Helen-Cara Younan all excelled in Chilcott's moving carol 'Behold that star' and Alex Lavery performed an inspirational verse of Edward's 'No Small Wonder'.

Chamber Choir

February saw two outings for the newly formed Chamber Choir (singers from the Fourth Form upwards), with five students enjoying a day of singing masterclasses, tours and lessons at the prestigious Merton College, Oxford. The day culminated in Choral Evensong in the candlelit chapel (conducted by Peter Philips, founder and conductor of The Tallis Scholars) alongside the College Choir and other participating schools. One week later, the Chamber Choir had the privilege of singing Choral Evensong in the ancient setting of Worcester Cathedral, an event in which the Choir excelled by filling the building with the sensitive sounds required for such an occasion. How wonderful to have the opportunity to sing 'Light of the World' by Sir Edward Elgar in the building for which it was composed in 1896!





One musical highlight for the Chamber Choir must be the performance, during the confirmation service, of Allegri's 'Miserere' and Palestrina's 'Missa Brevis', the composition of which coincided almost exactly with the founding of Solihull School in 1560. The Allegri's semi-chorus, with those infamous soaring top C's for the soprano, consisted of Clare Whiting, Miss Davies, Florentina Harris, Simon Turpin and Reuben Robyns-Landricombe. From the height of the British Empire to Renaissance Italy, from the oldest plainsong to contemporary carols, the Chamber Choir's repertoire really does span the ages.

At the Leavers' Service, featuring Pitoni's 'Cantate Domino', Parry's 'I was glad' and Rutter's 'The Lord bless you and keep you', we were sorry to say farewell to Clare Whiting (Head Chorister), Katie Dobson, Emma Hodgkinson, Reuben Robyns-Landricombe, Sam Troth, Tom Gerard, James Bancroft and Eleanor Thomas. They have played a significant role in making the Chapel Choir such a success over a number of years (some of them up to ten years!) and we thank them for everything they have contributed to Chapel life.

Boys' Choir

While many parish churches and cathedrals struggle to recruit boy choristers to fill their stalls, with inevitable repercussions for future generations of altos, tenors and basses, Solihull School has reason to celebrate its thriving Boys' Choir tradition which continues to go from strength to strength.

From the singing of movements from Fauré's profound 'Requiem' during the Remembrance services in November to the intricate detail of Britten's complex 'Missa Brevis' (in three parts) and Wesley's 'Blessed be the God and Father' using up to ten soloists, the Boys' Choir has performed a broad range of music during this year's regular Sunday Evensongs and Eucharists. As if that wasn't enough, the boys' final service of the year was the Corpus Christi Eucharist in June at which they and the men performed, with glittering energy, four movements from Schubert's 'Mass in G' with

orchestral accompaniment. There were several solos during the evening, but Clare Whiting deserved a special mention for being shipped in to provide the dazzling soprano solos.

Perhaps the highlights of the year were the trips in May to sing Choral Evensong in the beautiful settings of St Alphege Church and Lichfield Cathedral, featuring music by contemporary British composers Simon Lindley, Philip Moore and Malcolm Archer. Soloists here were Ben Davidson and Alex Lavery, and we thank Mr Irving for playing the organ and Fr Andrew for leading the service. For the boys to experience life as a cathedral chorister for an afternoon was a highly valuable experience, and a strong reminder that here within our School Chapel they join an ancient tradition of choral music which extends far beyond Solihull.

We are sorry to say farewell to Jordan Salmon (Head Chorister) who has led and served faithfully, contributing many solos during his time in the choir. Good luck!

Girls' Choir

This year the Girls' Choir has been inspirational for newcomers as we developed our voices with the help of Miss Davies! The Girls' Choir

was set up in September and has included Junior and Lower School girls, separated from the various other Chapel Choirs. As a member of the choir, I think it has been a great success with many new girls joining throughout the year.

In the first term the probationers had separate training sessions to the full choristers, giving us a chance to learn things such as the order of the service, when to stand up and sit down and other organisational issues. This was greatly appreciated by all! Now, as we near the end of the year, all members of the Girls' Choir have become full choristers, enabling us to wear our choir gowns!

One of the many highlights was participating in Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas. Since then we have sung in many services in the School Chapel and in assemblies. We have learned all sorts of different types of anthems, settings and hymns as well as the different responses for the services. We also had fun singing at the Pet Service in the Summer Term when Clare Whiting kindly joined us playing her flute for our anthem "For the beauty of the earth" by Andrew Carter.

Next year should hopefully be even more eventful as in addition to singing in School Chapel, a trip to sing Choral Evensong in another church is planned. Thank you to Miss Davies for directing the choir and guiding us throughout the year and thank you also to Mr. Walker for accompanying us on the organ whenever necessary. Without you both we would have struggled tremendously!

Meredith Hanson IIIIS

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who contribute so much to make the Chapel Choirs run smoothly; Peter Irving, who has provided spotless and colourful organ playing time and time again, Fr Andrew whose wisdom and support has been unceasing (not to mention his own singing prowess!) and Pamela Davies whose vocal expertise, singing and leadership of the Girls' Choir have been pivotal to the Choir's progress.

Oliver Walker



Music

Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra has taken on yet more new challenges this year which began in September for the Saint Cecilia concert. Many hours were spent learning and rehearsing the music for this concert which involved playing four movements from Bizet's 'Carmen Suite': 'Prélude', 'Aragonaise', 'Intermezzo' and of course the ever popular 'Les Toréadors'. It was a thoroughly enjoyable selection of music to learn for all the members of the orchestra and involved much hard work and patience, particularly from Mr Perrins! We achieved this challenge to a high standard and the Symphony Orchestra's performance went down a treat. This was not the only performance from the Symphony Orchestra in this concert however: we also played Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' to accompany the audience in singing the newly written words by Owen Canavan and Edward Price to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the school. This was highly entertaining and provided an enjoyable ending to a fantastic evening for all involved in playing in and watching the concert.

It was then on to working towards the Summer Concert and another challenging piece of music lay on the music stands in front of us when we all arrived back in January to begin rehearsing. We started work on the first movement of Haydn's Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra; again it took much hard work from the orchestra but Mr Perrins helped us all work together to create a great piece of music to perform. In the Summer Concert we were all anxious and ready to play but unfortunately the solo trumpeter Richard Smith was suddenly taken ill and was unable to play. At first the Orchestra was very disappointed that we would not be able to perform what we had all worked so hard on together, particularly the Upper Sixth who would not be able to play in Symphony Orchestra again. However, Mr Perrins quickly thought on his feet and announced that it would be performed at the forthcoming Choral Society concert; it was a great success there and definitely worth the wait. Richard Smith did a fantastic job as the soloist in this piece. All year, Katie Clarke has been an excellent leader of the Orchestra.

It's been a successful year and on behalf of the Symphony Orchestra I would like to give a massive thank you to Mr Perrins for all he has done in making Symphony Orchestra such a fun activity. He always creates an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere and always remains completely optimistic about the eventual outcome. Thank you Mr P!

Clare Whiting



Concert Orchestra

It has been a most enjoyable year for the Concert Orchestra which is conducted by Miss Helen Dolby and led by Florentina Harris and Hannah Smith. Every year, the Orchestra welcomes new people to create a team who work together to play a piece in the major music concerts at Solihull School.

At the beginning of the School year, we were met by the famous 'Ode to Joy' by Beethoven and 'The Ash Grove', a Traditional Welsh piece to be played at the 450th Anniversary Concert on 16th November. The pieces were played well by the Orchestra, despite one of the first violins nearly dropping her bow! 'The Ash Grove' gave a peaceful introduction to the concert and then 'Ode to Joy' roused people out of their seats.

Rehearsals carried on for the Summer Concert on 5th May in which we played 'Gavot' by Boyce and 'Rondeau' by Purcell. The rehearsals became stressful due to people missing from them. In the end, however, we played the pieces with gentle ease and hoped that the audience enjoyed the pieces as much as we did.

None of our musical success this year would have been possible without Miss Dolby who has worked attentively with all the players in the Orchestra, whilst making the rehearsals enjoyable at the same time.

By Florentina Harris

Summer Concert Hits High Note!

On Thursday 5th May the Bushell Hall was packed for the annual Summer Concert. Many of the School's various musical groups took part, instrumental and vocal. The programme was wide-ranging, varied and entertaining with something for all musical tastes. It ranged from 16th century Latin motets (Chapel Choir) to contemporary musicals (Intermediate Wind Band and Jazz Singers).



For the first time, the concert featured four solo items, performed magnificently by Dominic Martens (cello), Simon Turpin (oboe), Katie Dobson (voice) and Sam Troth (trombone). Reuben Robyns-Landricombe was the incredible soloist in a performance of Malcolm Arnold's clarinet concerto, accompanied by the senior Wind Band. Emma Rivers and Clare Whiting were the amazing vocal soloists in a contemporary arrangement of the Italian motet, 'Ave Maria' by Caccini (accompanied by the Jazz Singers).

The concert was also an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to our Upper Sixth Leavers, providing a moving musical finale to an excellent evening.



Haydn Concert in the Bushell Hall – 15 May

Originally designed to be a performance of parts one and two of Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* by the Choral Society and Orchestra, the concert began with a performance of the first movement of the composer's equally famous trumpet concerto, with Upper Sixth musician Richard Smith as soloist. Richard gave an amazing performance, showing why he is such an extraordinary player. The *Creation* also featured a number of solo vocalists, all of whom did superbly well, singing with the backing of a large orchestra: Jessica Berry, Katie Dobson, Emma Rivers, Clare Whiting, Julie Whiting, Helen-Cara Younan, Thomas Gerard, Philippe Marks, Reuben Robyns-Landricombe, Samuel Troth and Tom Wilde.

Vocal Concert – 19 May

This year's Vocal Concert took place just before half term, and our singers gave a varied and most enjoyable concert to their peers and parents. Many were performing for the very first time, and it is concerts such as this, and our regular Informal Concerts, that are such a vital part of our musicians' training. The whole evening was rounded off with two fantastic Music Theatre performances from Lower Sixth members Amy Whittaker and Tom Wilde.

Choral Society and The Creation

On Sunday 15th May, School musicians presented an all-Haydn concert in the Bushell Hall. Originally designed to be a performance by the Choral Society and Orchestra of parts one and two of Haydn's oratorio *The*

Creation, the concert began with a performance of the first movement of the composer's equally famous trumpet concerto, with Upper Sixth musician Richard Smith as soloist. He gave an amazing performance, showing why he is such an extraordinary player.

'*The Creation*' also featured a number of solo vocalists, all of whom did superbly well, singing with the backing of a large orchestra: Jessica Berry, Katie Dobson, Emma Rivers, Clare Whiting, Julie Whiting, Helen-Cara Younan, Thomas Gerard, Philippe Marks, Reuben Robyns-Landricombe, Samuel Troth and Tom Wilde.

The chorus sang with great enthusiasm and the whole evening was greatly enjoyed by performers and audience alike.

Choral Society

This year Choral Society members have enjoyed performing in their two large annual concerts with performances of Joseph Haydn's music. Joseph Haydn was an Austrian composer, one of the most prolific and prominent composers of the Classical period. He was particularly prolific in his contributions towards symphonic music, string quartets and piano trios as well as choral music.

In December's Christmas Concert, Choral Society performed 'The Nelson Mass' by Joseph Haydn. The concert started with the ferociously powerful 'Kyrie', and then headed through some of Haydn's more relaxed pieces of music, such as 'Et Incarnatus'. Gradually the passion slowly increased through the various

movements, finally ending with the exuberant fugue of 'Dona Nobis' which ended the performance in conclusive unison. The performance featured solos by Katie Dobson (Soprano), Clare Whiting (Soprano), Philippe Marks (Tenor) and Sam Troth (Baritone). In May the Choral Society gave a rendition of Joseph Haydn's *Creation* (Parts one and two), and there was also Haydn's famous Trumpet Concerto performed by Richard Smith (postponed from the Summer Concert due to Richard's illness).

The *Creation* is scored for soloists, choir and large orchestra and had pupil solos and trios performed by Reuben Robyns-Landricombe, Philippe Marks, Sam Troth, Helen-Cara Younan, Clare Whiting, Tom Wilde, Julie Whiting, Katie Dobson, Tom Gerard, Jessica Berry and Emma Rivers.

This year has been very enjoyable for all involved with the Choral Society and thanks must go to Mr Perrins for his continued support, enthusiasm and general love of music.

Philippe Marks

Senior Wind Band 2010/11

This year has been another highly successful year for the Senior Wind Band which clearly goes from strength to strength under the enthusiastic direction of Miss Greswold.

The Band performed in the School's 450th anniversary St. Cecilia concert in November. The lively arrangement of 'Copacabana' was enjoyed by audience and Band alike.

In May's Summer Concert the Band played 'Pre-Goodman Rag' with a clarinet solo by Reuben Robyns-Landricombe and also an extended medley of songs from 'The Sound of Music'.

This summer several longstanding members, myself included, have made their final curtain call for the Senior Wind Band and will be sad to leave. Our thanks go to Miss Greswold for her enduring encouragement and guidance throughout our weekly rehearsals. She puts great effort into choosing the pieces for the Band and her obvious enjoyment of it is an example to us all.

Thank you.

Russell Vanhouse.

Intermediate Wind Band

It has been another great year for Intermediate Wind Band with strong numbers attending consistently throughout. We celebrated the highly commemorated 450th Anniversary Saint Cecilia Concert in style, playing "Mars" from Holst's Planets Suite. The atmosphere was great and the hard practising really paid off. Through the shorter Easter term we learned an arrangement of "Mamma Mia", a harder piece

that would usually have been given to Senior Wind Band, but we struggled through to pull off a spectacular performance at the Summer Concert. It has been a good year that we have all enjoyed and we look forward to fresh challenges from Miss Greswold next year.

David Clarke

The Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble was originally started by Miss Bouckley last year. It included four members of my GCSE music group including me, so that we could use it for the group performance part of our exam. This was worth 20%, so it was definitely worth the effort! We played classical music using a French horn, flute, oboe and clarinet.

Since Miss Bouckley left in July 2010, Miss Greswold has taken over and given the group a kick start! Multiple instruments have been added, including a baritone saxophone and trumpets. We now have a wider repertoire including some lively numbers such as the Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream. We play regularly in public, for example at open days, in assemblies and at the end of last Christmas term we performed as part of the festive activities at the Marie Curie Home in Solihull.

It's been a good year for the Wind Ensemble and I hope we performed well enough to obtain a good GCSE result!

Maria Barnes

String Ensemble

This year has proved to be busy for the String Ensemble! We started the academic year with a highlight - the 450th Anniversary Concert held on November 16th in the Bushell Hall. As this was such an important occasion we practised very hard to ensure the music chosen - 'Violinists of the Pieta' by Edward Huws Jones, telling the story of some orphans who grow up in an orphanage in the city and find freedom through their musical abilities - was

played as perfectly as possible. Our performance went well and the audience, in a packed Bushell Hall, rewarded us with a large round of applause - much to our relief!

Our next major performance was at the annual Summer Concert on 5th May when String Ensemble played a lyrical piece, 'Company' by Philip Glass. This too proved to be a brilliant recital. The concert as a whole was a huge success as many of the School orchestras and ensembles came together to perform.

Many, many thanks must go to Miss Helen Dolby for putting in lots of hard work to ensure we play to our best ability, not always an easy task! As always, we definitely couldn't have done it without her!

Imogen Hanson, IVS

Guitar Ensemble

At the start of March, Solihull School started a Guitar Ensemble for all ages and abilities. Every Thursday we come together to play and learn new pieces and different styles of music. So far, we have covered rock/pop, classical and we have learned the Pirates of the Caribbean theme tune.

Guitar Ensemble has been a lot of fun so far. Our lessons aren't so much 'lessons' but just a group of us - from the Junior School up to the Lower Fifth - learning new songs and pieces for enjoyment.

It has been a great experience to play as a new and improving band where we have all got to know each other so well. Plus, we are all very excited for our performances that should take place in the near future.

The environment is welcoming, friendly, and definitely open to everyone. It doesn't matter if you can't read musical notes or don't even have a guitar; anyone can join.

However, none of this would have happened if it wasn't for Mr Hudd- a very talented guitar player. He has done a LOT of hard work

arranging and adapting music in order to put this ensemble together and I can certainly say that on behalf of all of us at Guitar Ensemble, thanks for everything Mr Hudd.

Tanya Sebastian Shell Form

Brass Ensemble

The Brass Ensemble meets in the Music School during Wednesday lunchtimes and is directed by Mr Bennett. We play different styles of music ranging from Classical to Jazz. The group is open to all ages and abilities and comprises the full range of brass instruments. As we are losing a number of key players, we are looking for new members, particularly French Horn and Trombone players. So if you play these instruments (or any other brass instrument) and want the experience of playing in a band, simply to enjoy making music to a high standard, then you are very welcome!

Mr P Bennett

The Low Brass Ensemble

The Low Brass Ensemble was involved in the St. Cecilia Concert where we played an arrangement of the First Movement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony with the trumpet ensemble. Since then we have met every Thursday break-time to improve the important skill of playing as part of a band, especially for the younger members in the Third and Shell Forms. This year was Sam Troth's last year in the ensemble, who has been a part of it since he started the school in the Third Form. Thanks must go to Mrs Brookes, our low brass visiting teacher for all her enthusiasm and hard work at our weekly rehearsals.

Christopher Baines

Trumpet Ensemble

The Trumpet Ensemble meets on Wednesdays in the David Turnbull Music School under the ever-watchful direction of Mr Bennett. In addition to providing the music for the annual Remembrance Service in November and serenading diners with carols at the Christmas lunch, we performed at the Saint Cecilia and Summer Concerts. We are currently enjoying working on a challenging piece for the next Saint Cecilia concert in November, Benjamin Britten's Fanfare for St. Edmondsbury. This is a rousing piece written for the Prince of Wales. Thanks go to Mr Bennett for all his encouragement and time working with us this year.

Edward Price



Saxophony

Saxophony has had yet another busy year under the hugely enthusiastic leadership of Miss Greswold. Our usual Thursday morning rehearsals have been converted into various performances. Most of these have taken place at School open days and concerts. This year for the first time, we played as part of a GCSE student's group performance – I hope we/he did well!

We have performed on several occasions at other venues. For instance, we have played at competitions and private functions. Last Christmas it was a privilege to play carols at the Marie Curie Centre. In June we played at the "Song, Sax and Sangria" charity fund raising concert.

Our thanks go to Miss Greswold for not only whipping us into shape, but also for arranging these great opportunities. Good luck to next year's crop of Saxophony players – you will no doubt have a very successful and tuneful year!

Saxbeats

Saxbeats is the stepping-stone between the Intermediate Saxophone Group and Saxophony. It happens every Tuesday morning before School, with support from Sixth Formers. Miss Greswold makes the group challenging but equally enjoyable, and the sweets she brings along also help!

We were proud to be part of the 450th Anniversary Concert this year along with many other School saxophonists. We are also lined up to perform "Puttin' On The Ritz" and "Zoot Suit Riot" in an Informal Concert before the end of the year.

On behalf of Saxbeats, I would like to thank Miss Greswold for her dedication and hard work and also Reuben Robyns-Landricombe and Katie Dobson for taking time out of their Tuesday mornings to help us this year. We wish them good luck for the future and we hope to see some new Saxophonists next year!

Becky Timperley

Samba Band

Samba Band rehearsals take place on a Wednesday after School from 4:15 until 5:00 and is open to all ages and levels of ability. The group play traditional and new percussion music typical to Brazil, such as the Batacada or Samba Reggae, and perform in School concerts throughout the year.

Louise Smart has been directing the ensemble for two years now and it's testament to her hard work that the number of members is steadily increasing along with the standard of playing in general. Thank you from all those who play in Samba Band.

Sambista Ewan Waddell of J2 says....

"I like Samba Band because you get to try new things. It is very loud (sometimes), needs co-operation and is perfect for practising drumming. Samba Band is exciting and fun plus anybody can join it."

Flute Choir

Due to changing flute teachers this year (and thanks to Clare Whiting for holding the fort!) Flute Choir has re-formed, led by the new flute teacher, Mrs Reynolds. We play a variety of music which all players seem to enjoy.

At the moment, we are working on two pieces for the next informal concert-Trio and Bouree. Flute Choir meets during Wednesday morning break and is great fun and a good opportunity for flute players of all ages and standards to meet and play together. There are always vacancies for new players!

Muskan Shrivastava

Jazz Singers

This year has been a busy one for the Jazz Singers. This group has been incredibly popular with the Sixth Form this year. We started in 'Gleeful' style in the Autumn Term, preparing the classic 'Don't Stop Believin'' for the St. Cecilia Concert, featuring a solo team of Clare Whiting, Emma Rivers, Katie Dobson, Elysia Pemberton, Emma Hodgkinson, Sam Troth, Tom Gerard, Philippe Marks and Reuben Robyns-Landricombe. We also dazzled the audience with our rendition of 'Razzle Dazzle' from the hit musical Chicago.

Moving swiftly into the Summer Term, we stuck with our musical style, singing 'Joyful, Joyful' from Sister Act II, starring Emma Hodgkinson and David Cobbald as our soul soloists. Caccini's 'Ave Maria', arranged by Mr Perrins as a stunning soprano duet, sung beautifully by Clare Whiting and Emma Rivers, went down a storm, accompanied by the Jazz Singers doing a very convincing impression of a string quartet! To end the concert and specifically to make the Upper Sixth leavers cry, we performed 'Hero', famously performed by Mariah Carey, in front of a backdrop of names of those leaving the School. To top it off, eight of the Upper Sixth surprised Mr Perrins with a heartfelt performance of Abba's 'Thank you for the Music', as a thank you for all his incredible work within the School Music Department. However, one "thank you" is simply not enough for the work that Mr Perrins has done for music at Solihull School and on behalf of all the musicians at the School I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Perrins, Mr Phillips, Mr Walker, Miss Greswold, Miss Dolby, Miss Davies and all the other music staff who bring music alive at the School.

Katie Dobson

Performing Arts

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Three years ago I had a great time directing *Romeo and Juliet* and I thought it time for another offering of Shakespeare. This year's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, was just as much fun to do. Played in contemporary dress, we set the opening scene in an ordered, traditional world of rules with elegant Doric columns, Grecian urns and statues against a backdrop of stately windows through which could be seen carefully tended, formal gardens. Characters were dressed in mainly neutral colours, with some blue and silver adding to the formal and cold atmosphere. This contrasted with the homely backdrop used for Quince's house and again with the woods, where most of the play is set. These woodland scenes were played against a backdrop of a night sky with its stars and full moon; the stately columns upended, the urns smashed, the statues decapitated and all covered with moss and overgrown with ivy. This was a world where the rules no longer applied, a world of magic with its highly colourful fairy folk.

For three nights students played to appreciative audiences. Tom Gerard and Elysia Pemberton were impressive as Oberon and Titania with Sally Farrant from Middle School creating an impish Puck. Katie Dobson (Hermia), Emma Hodgkinson (Helena); Phillippe Marks (Demetrius) and Reuben Robyns-Landricombe (Lysander) were delightfully funny as the mixed-up lovers injecting their very physical performances with energy. Suitably entertaining as the Mechanicals were Michael Lucking (Bottom), David Cobbald (Quince), Sean Cordelle (Snug), Rupert Dyhouse (Flute), Stuart Bradley (Starveling) and Andy Waddell (Snout). Each character was well drawn and their interpretation of the most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of *Pyramus and Thisbe* was hilarious,



finishing with a spirited dance to Beyonce's *Single Ladies*. Cameron Buchan and Claire Whiting were equally impressive as Theseus and Hippolyta. Lazar Krstic was powerful as Egeus and Mark Goodwin was very funny and suitably sardonic as Philostrate.

Kara Abdou, Victoria Beech, Laura Beesley (Peaseblossom), Laura Blackburn, Nicola Cronin, Lucy Rosier, Molly Eales, Jessie Hancox, Isobel Hands, Florentina Harris, Emily Hodge, Emma Parry, Jasmin Pidgeon, Mel Roberts (Mustardseed), Jacob Seickell, Charlotte Street (Moth), Oscar Street, and Amy Whittaker (Cobweb) were superb as the anarchic fairies. Ever-present on stage, they added vibrancy and vitality to the play and gave us some lively dancing to the choreography of Jasmin Pidgeon and Jacob Seickell. The fairies' make-up, designed and applied by Sharron Thomas and Ron Smith and their team of helpers, was superb.



Backstage and technical support were brilliant, with all scene changes being undertaken quickly and all cues spot on. Many thanks to Paul Jukes, the Production Manager and Patrick Higgins the Stage Manager. Congratulations to all those involved in the show.

Mrs Wilde





Grease!

I love this show! Sadly, I am old enough to remember queuing to see the film at the ABC cinema when it opened in 1978 – I also remember endless weeks at number one and the videos on Top of the Pops! I've been itching to have a go ever since and finally Mr Perrins played 'The Juice Man from Del Monte' and said 'yes'!

The show begins with a welcome back to the Class of '59 at Rydell High and then goes back in time to the final year of school. Danny, ably played by Philippe Marks is a member of the ultra-cool T-Birds – interested only in cars, chicks and hanging out. Tom Wilde, Michael Hawkes, Reuben Robyns-Landricombe and Tom Gerrard brought these characters to life. Once they donned the iconic T-Birds' leather jackets, it was as if they had discovered their inner Greaser! Despite technical hitches with the comedy car, 'Greased Lightning' was a tour de force and performed with real energy and excitement.

Sandy, played to perfection by Sarah Bradbury, joins the Pink Ladies as the new girl and her rendition of 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' was superb. The Pink Ladies – Katie Dobson, Emma Hodgkinson, Elysia Pemberton and Anna

Cooban – took gum-chewing, strutting and pinkness to a whole new level. Elysia was compulsive viewing as the hyperactive, always hungry Jan, while Emma's Frenchy wig began to act all on its own at one point! Katie, playing Rizzo, handled the mixture of vulnerability and sassy attitude just right and brought the House down with 'There Are Worse Things I Could Do'.

Despite this being a play for approximately 17 characters, we had over 170 students involved in the final production. Some notable mentions are Sam Weighall as the larger-than-life Vince Fontaine, Andy Waddell in his final performance as geeky Eugene and Sam Troth who sang beautifully as Teen Angel. I could also mention James Fletcher – one of the stalwarts of the Backstage Crew – whose feet appeared every night as ballast for the car on the stage! More than all of this, however, is the contribution and commitment of a huge and talented Chorus of dancers and singers. The logistics of getting over a hundred people to move and sing and do it all at the same time are terrifying! Without Sam Mason (and a little help from Jenny Ross, Miss Guy and even Mr Anderton) it simply would not have been the same show.

Thanks, as ever, to Mr Perrins for his calm approach to the chaos he saw unfurling around his piano and to Miss Guy for stepping out from Backstage; to Paul Jukes and Paul Hadley and their tireless team of helpers, and to the talents of Patt Hannant (costume) and Sharron Thomas (make-up).

It's always dangerous to attempt a show you really enjoy, as it often fails to deliver. This time, however, the enthusiasm and good natured co-operation of the magnificent cast made it an absolute pleasure. Thank you.

Mrs Fair



Blood Brothers

In December, the Middle School performed a striking adaptation of Willy Russell's compelling play *Blood Brothers*. *Blood Brothers* originally premiered in the West End in 1983, at the Lyric Theatre, and to this day, is still the longest-running musical in London theatre. It powerfully explores the question of nature and nurture.

Ellie Thomas was outstanding in her role of the central character of Mrs Johnstone. She captivated the audience with her realistic portrayal of this complex figure who is torn apart by her decision to give away one of her twins at birth. In particular, her marvellous accent added authenticity to the role as did the delivery of her lines. The audience were also enthralled by her exceptional rendition of 'Tell Me It's Not True'.

Nicola Cronin was also splendid in her dramatic interpretation of Mrs Lyons, successfully capturing her darker, imposing nature. Furthermore, Harry Morgan was excellent in his subtle depiction of her long suffering husband, Mr Lyons.

Sam Foxall and Callum Fisher were particularly impressive in their portrayal of the separated twins, Mickey Johnstone and Edward Lyons. Sam perfectly captured Mickey's typical Scouse-boy attitude as well as his restless, tormented spirit. Furthermore, Callum was superb in his skilful handling of Edward, successfully portraying his privileged persona. Lucy Rosier also gave a memorable performance as Mickey's love interest, Linda. She commanded the role with conviction and authority, as well as with a faultless accent.

The play's tragic finale, which results in the dramatic deaths of Mickey and Edward, gripped the audience through its powerful and poignant sense of emotion. The tension was palpable as Mrs Johnstone witnesses the tragic death of her two sons.

The narrator of the play, Charlotte Beasley, led the audience through the twists and turns of the lives of the two families, bringing a sense of humour, but making the audience's hearts melt when need be, by drawing out the darker extracts of the play.



Final mention must go to the play's director, Miss Pike, whose vision and creativity gave the production its spark. Her dedication and enthusiasm were clearly infectious. Moreover, praise should go to Mrs Fair and Mr Dukes, the set designers, who also did a fantastic job. Overall, it was a remarkable performance which had the whole audience hooked before the curtain had finished opening.

Lyndzee Moss





us Closer by Patrick Marber, an incisive scrutiny of modern relationships. Students handled the sophisticated and emotionally mature material excellently. Tom Wilde, Lily Moroney, Sean Cordelle, Max Rodman, David Cobbald and Amelia Whittaker gave us *The Visit* by Friedrich Durrenmatt, with impressive characterizations and a great deal of humour. Lighting Design was provided by Jarleth Eaton.



Sixth Form Theatre Studies

On December 14th, an invited audience saw two new plays devised and produced by A2 students as part of their A level examination. The first, *Look Back in Avarice*, used the concept of the Seven Deadly Sins and a production of the brilliant play *Enron*, which they had seen at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, as their stimulus with a particular focus on Avarice. Emma Hodgkinson, Reuben Robyns-Landricombe, Emily Ryan and Katie Dobson gave us a very funny and challenging piece of physical theatre. Elysia Pemberton, Melissa Roberts, Jennifer Ross and Charlotte Street used the fairy story of *The Three Little Pigs* as a starting point for their play *The Three Little Parochial Pigs*, a powerful piece of Brechtian theatre that looked at the issue of Immigration.

Lower Sixth students also demonstrated their performance and design skills in two excellent contrasting productions: Sam Weighall, Amabel Buck, William Hartley and Eleanor Rowe gave



On the same evening, students also presented a series of 2 minute monologues and 5 minute duologues. Tom Wilde, Sam Weighall and Max Rodman were superbly funny as the knights in *Four Nights in Knaresborough*. Similarly, David Cobbald wrung every bit of comedy from his performance as *Cyrano* in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Both Will Hartley as Joe and Lily Moroney as Emma were totally believable and compelling to watch in *The Long Road*, and Sean Cordelle and Amabel Buck were equally effective as male chauvinist Kenneth and vengeful housewife Hilary in *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*. Eleanor Rowe gave a compelling performance as Carol in *Oleanna* and Amelia Whittaker gave an intense and moving performance as Donna from the documentary drama *Taking Care of Baby*. Jarleth Eaton opted to explore the technical and design aspects of theatre to support the actors in *Four Knights in Knaresborough*.

Mrs Wilde



Middle School and Lower School Drama

Middle School Drama Club has continued to run successfully through the efforts and enthusiasm of a committed team of Sixth Form students. Participants have enjoyed developing their acting and improvisation skills. They were able to revive their previous year's adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* and performed it in the George Hill building following the Speeches. Lower School Drama Club has also continued to be popular with up to 30 Lower School pupils regularly attending Tuesday lunchtime sessions.

In November, Middle School presented an excellent production of Willy Russell's modern classic *Blood Brothers*, directed by Miss Pike. Lower School Drama Club started the year with an ensemble production of *Titanic* by David Foxton, which was performed in the style of an Old Time Music Hall and which was directed by Mrs. Wilde. Nearly 100 pupils from the three Lower School year groups were involved. In the summer term, with all examinations done, Lower School pupils also put on an adaptation of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* in the Old Music School, directed by Mrs. Wilde.

Finally, all Third Form pupils took the opportunity to perform in a House Drama competition at the end of their examination week. The theme was *Secrets* and with the help of Sixth Formers, each house put on a short entertaining piece with *IIIJ*, under the guidance of Sixth Former Sean Cordelle, winning overall.

Mrs Wilde



Art



Ashley Fraser LVI



Fergus Wassell LVI



Elliot Davies LVI



Gianni Baldi - Shells



Hannah Newby LVI



Heather Dooley UVI



Matthew Bacon UVI



Kara Abdou LVI



Victoria Beech UV



Laura Rosin UVI



Lara Jesani LVI

Art



Kate Bradley LVI



Arthur Haynes UVI



James Buckle LVI



Miriam Chapman UV



Sam Morgan LVI



David Cobbald LVI



Sophie Redford LVI



Stephanie Biddle LVI



Tori Knight UVI



Tiles by Shell Groups



Rosie Super UVI



Maria Barnes UV



CCF (Army)

2010/11 was another successful year for the Army section under the leadership of CSM Waddell. During the year WO2 (SSI) PG Dean MBE organised numerous training events, including a couple of Military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

Due to other commitments, the Army section have not been able to attend the Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting or the Military Skills weekend in the last couple of years so it was with great anticipation that we were able to send a team to both these competitions.

The Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Kingsbury Ranges on the first weekend of the school year. The team had little opportunity for practice but under the guidance of Colour Sgt Swan they were able to compete on the Sunday after a couple of hours of tuition on the Marksmanship principles on the previous afternoon. The team shot well but unfortunately were not able to bring home any trophies.

The Brigade Military Skills Competition followed a couple of weeks later. CSM Waddell was ably assisted by seven other NCO's and conducted a couple of weeks' training prior to the competition. When they left on the Friday afternoon, the team were in high spirits and looking forward to a challenging weekend. On arriving at Nesscliffe Training area, the cadets had to deploy to their harbour area and put up their shelters which would be home for the next couple of nights. On Saturday the day started at 6.00am and involved a series of stands which tested the cadets in several military skills including navigation, weapon handling, first aid, section attacks, a patrol lane and CQB. That night there was a night orienteering exercise and finally at midnight the team was able to get back to their shelters. On Sunday another early start was followed by the March and Shoot competition. This was a forced march, carrying the rifle and skeleton webbing for 5km followed by a shoot on the 30m range. A very tired but enthused team

arrived back at School on Sunday afternoon but again there were no trophies won. The cadets had a great experience and will hopefully have learned from the mistakes made, so that we can be more competitive next year.

In October the Army section went to Swynnerton Training area for Field Day. This was a 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 DCCT, in order to practise their shooting skills, a first aid exercise, a section attack 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 which is the highlight of the training year. This was again held at Longmoor Training Area near Petersfield and involved Seaford College CCF providing the enemy. Once again the weather was kind to us and some excellent training was undertaken.

As always the year culminated in our summer camp, which was held at Nesscliffe Training Camp for 30 members of the Army section. This was an excellent camp and the weather was especially kind to us when we were on military training. The highlight of the week was the Range day that was organised by the SSI. This enabled many of the cadets attending camp to gain shooting qualifications and fire the LSW from 300m. The activities that were laid on by the camp staff were some of the best we have had. A particular highlight was the Military skills day. This involved a Hostage Rescue scenario which took place in a darkened bunker and gave the cadets an insight into how the regular army conducts a hostage rescue and house clearance. Another activity was a casualty evacuation which was based on the army's experiences in Afghanistan. It was definitely an eye opening experience.



Our training weekend in December had to be postponed because of the arctic temperatures and snow on the ground. Eventually we were able to conduct this exercise in February and it proved to be an excellent weekend. The regular Army use this training area for the units about to deploy to Afghanistan and it certainly helped to bring some realism to our training with explosions and helicopters flying all over the place.

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 PG Dean MBE and his assisting staff, CSgt 'Swanny' Swan.

Maj NWS Leonard (Contingent Commander)



RAF

The RAF section of the CCF has attracted a record number of cadets this year and turnout at Monday Parade has been excellent. The section has greatly benefited from a large influx of female cadets who now form a third of our total number.

Our Senior NCO Russell Vanhouse has expertly led the section. His quiet yet efficient manner has encouraged younger pupils in a wide variety of activities and has also enabled more senior cadets to develop their own leadership skills. Tom Gerard, Cameron Buchan and Ben Trenchard have faithfully assisted Russell throughout the year, helping to produce a varied and stimulating program and living up to the RAF motto, 'Agile Adaptable Capable'. The section has a proud tradition of excellence



on the shooting range and we are most grateful to Major Leonard and Sergeant Major Dean for their assistance with weapons instruction and testing.

The quality of drill has been 'second-to-none' thanks to meticulous instruction from our new visiting TEST Sgt, Swiggs. Even on cold, dark October evenings, cadets were to be found pounding enthusiastically on the Level in perfect time, with the NCOs taking turns to call the drill commands. All this hard work paid off during the drill competition on Easter camp at RAF High Wycombe.

As the winter weather worsened we retreated indoors on Monday evenings to practise flying skills on the flight simulator and to study for the RAF exams. The NCOs prepared and delivered an excellent series of lessons on the History of the RAF, Principles of Flight and Navigation and the new recruits achieved 100% pass rate in the Part 1 examinations. The classroom work was supplemented by a visit to the RAF Museum and a fascinating tour of the Avionics Section at RAF Cosford during Field Day in October. However, the day was not all academic slog. The Low Ropes course, run by the Station's Physical Education Instructors, provided both challenge and great amusement, as cadets learned the benefit of working as a team.

Command tasks, bowling, canoeing and preparation for Duke Of Edinburgh expeditions with Fl Off Bates, completed our weekly program of activities.

It is of course the prospect of taking to the skies that attracts and motivates the cadets, and a record number of our students have had the opportunity to fly this year. In addition to monthly visits to RAF Cosford, a number of Cadets were able to get airborne during October half term and those who attended Easter Camp were able to experience the thrill of aerobatic flight in Tutors at RAF High Wycombe. We have also made the most of the weekend gliding slots offered by 633 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Cosford.

Conor Maher has continued the section's strong tradition of success by being awarded a Gliding scholarship. Conor now proudly wears his 'Silver Wings' following an intense week of instruction, which culminated in a solo flight during the Easter holiday. His dedication and enthusiasm has also resulted in a successful application to attend the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership course, at the Officer Training base, at RAF Cranwell in July. The whole section will benefit greatly from his additional training and we are all very proud of his achievement. The highlight of the year for many cadets is Summer Camp, which allows them to live and work on an RAF base for a week. This year we are travelling to RAF Coningsby, the home of the Typhoon, the Royal Air Force's most modern and versatile multi-role aircraft. Here we anticipate lots of opportunities to put all the training and hard work of the past year into practice.

Flt Lt A R Lancaster.
OC RAF section



Terriers

The term might not have ended with the sunny weather that we had hoped for, but that did not stop the enormous variety of outdoor activities taking place, which have been a regular feature of Terriers this year. The Third Form kept dry under the shelters they built,

and were still able to learn camp cooking thanks to the awning that the PA funded. Third Formers developed their problem-solving skills and learned to work more effectively as a team by figuring out solutions to command tasks and building rope traverses. For many, it was the first opportunity they had to try out new activities such as climbing and kayaking – thanks to Mr Garner and Ms Bryan. A large Third Form intake meant that a new activity could be introduced – circus skills! This tested an individual's hand-eye co-ordination and balance and there were certainly one or two budding acrobats – plus the odd clown. All these activities develop soft-skills or emotional intelligence and help build the confidence and communication skills required by individuals for their future.



Prior to Christmas term, the Lower Sixth did an excellent job at teaching a wide range of skills, including map work, knots, first aid, emergencies, bicycle safety and sign language. The program finishes with a practical and a written test where students have to apply what they have learned. These lessons help students to deal with real life incidents and also prepare them for the outdoors, such as the Snowdonia trip in the Shell Form and the Duke of Edinburgh award.

It is not as easy as it looks to stand up in front of a class and demonstrate techniques, then get students actively involved, but the Lower Sixth did it with enthusiasm and great success – the result being that an impressive 92% of Terriers gained their gold certificate, with the remainder gaining at least bronze or silver. It would not be possible to run the course so smoothly without the commitment and support of all the staff who train instructors and supervise tasks, so to everyone who has helped out this year a big thank you!



Calthorpe School YASS Course Enrichment Option

Over the last year, a group of students from the Upper Sixth chose to visit Calthorpe School as an enrichment option. Calthorpe School is a specialist establishment for children aged 2-19 with special educational needs. During our time with the students, we helped teach them basic French and occasionally Mandarin with the use of interactive facilities, board games and role-plays.

This experience was enriching for everyone and from our time at Calthorpe, we all developed a greater understanding of the difficulties faced by a percentage of the population. This made everyone appreciate the opportunities given to us.

During this process, it is fair to say we met some real characters and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to develop a friendship with them. Their company will be missed on Tuesday afternoons. Special thanks must go to Ms Stout for her commitment to the process, and to the teaching staff at Calthorpe who were encouraging and helpful throughout the year.

Elysia Pemberton UVI



The YASS (Young Applicants in Schools) Scheme is a University-style course that is offered to students from the age of 16. The main purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to explore new subjects independently, alongside their college work and extracurricular activities.

Studying "How the Universe Works" has helped me immensely in developing my interest in, and understanding of, my preferred subject area of astronomy. I chose to do this course as I have always possessed a keen interest in sciences, especially physics, but I was unsure about what course I wanted to embark upon at University. The YASS course itself consists of an array of fascinating topics, some of which I have covered briefly in GCSE as well as at Physics AS level, however, the YASS course also covers a range of new exciting themes and theories at the forefront of modern physics which has widened my background knowledge greatly.

The diverse range of YASS courses teach students how to study and learn independently and manage their time effectively which is an essential asset to have in preparation for studying at University. I would personally recommend a YASS course to anyone, especially to those students who are still unsure what subject they intend to study at University or to those who simply want to learn more!

Simran Branch, Lower Sixth

On deciding to take an Open University course, I wondered what I had signed myself up for. I knew this YASS project would take up to around 100 hours of my spare time. This figure may appear daunting at first, but over the few months available to complete it, the time goes unnoticed. The scheme offers a wide variety of modules, ranging from an English Shakespeare choice, to the scientific

archaeology course I have chosen. The YASS course takes you beyond the scope of your normal academic life: you have to motivate yourself and take part in independent learning and discovery. With this independence I have undoubtedly developed my research skills; an important part of university life.

The module I took, 'Archaeology: The Science of Investigation', allowed me to branch off my history interests into a more specialised area. In my studies over the past few months, I particularly enjoyed the section that looked into human remains and how to discover the appearance, stature, diet, state of health and even the cause of death of a person, from studying the remains as well as any artefacts that are buried with them. By researching and studying this information myself I became entirely involved in the topics, and achieved a real sense of gratification.

With complete honesty, when I began the module I assumed I would find the work more of a chore than anything else, but as the project progressed I derived genuine enjoyment and satisfaction from my endeavours. The YASS course is a rewarding experience, and is an impressive extra on any UCAS application.

Millicent Duck, Lower Sixth



Joe Bitter

Joe Bitter has leaped to film stardom at the same time as winning his fifth successive world Irish dancing title.

His remarkable skills revealed in Jig, a new film directed by Sue Bourne about the 2010 World Irish Dance Championships in Glasgow. The Sixth Former has just won this year's World Championship in Dublin to add to a personal haul of more than 30 national titles from the UK, Ireland and America.



Engineering Education Scheme Project

This year our School has been involved in the Engineering Education Scheme as part of our Lower Sixth enrichment. The team of Elliot Davis, James Garfield, Samuel Griffiths and Nikhil Parekh have linked up with Jaguar Land Rover, to design and make an 'Active Spoiler' for a Jaguar XK Sports car. Mr Pugh has guided the project at School. The team has visited the Jaguar Plants at Castle Bromwich and Coventry, and also attended a residential workshop at Birmingham University during the Christmas break. The final project was delivered on a power point talk to about fifty other schools at the Celebration Day on May 3rd at Cranmore Park.



Food Technology

Pupils of all ages have been having a flippin' good time in the School's new Food Technology Department.

The £100,000 facility gave the boys and girls the opportunity to practise making tasty and healthy pancakes in time for Pancake Day.

The School has redeveloped its Design & Technology Department to incorporate the new department, which includes eight kitchen workstations and a preparation room.

Food Technology has become an integral part of the GCSE Design & Technology course and an option in the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme.



The teams comprised:

Moment: Amy Middleton, Charlotte Beesley, Brogan Kelly, Luke Owen, Taimoor Rashid, Alesha Ghani, Rhianna Baldi, Eleanor Davies, Ben Piggin, Luke Birtwistle, Shashank Chaganty, George Diwaker

Relation: Chris Bevins, Alanna Wall, Harriet Whitfield, Laura Halford, Kirsty O'Donnell, Kevin McCormack, Tom Sheppard, James Jervis, Harry Morgan, Matthew Tyler, James Berry, Faye Kent, Jessica McCormack

Busy Beez: Katherine Bridges, Shivaali Karelia, Hannah Butler, Katie Singleton, Maddie Lavery, Nick Hooper, Gregory Holland, Patrick Blakey, Jess Taylor, Robert Comer, Christos Wild, Ella Harthman

Young Enterprise

2010/11 has been another excellent year for Young Enterprise at Solihull School. September marked the arrival of the three entrepreneurial teams: 'Moment', 'Relation' and 'Busy Beez'. All three have shown copious amounts of energy, drive and creative flair throughout the duration of the programme – this has certainly paid off in terms of profits.

Miss Lowe says: 'I have been amazed by the endless dedication of the teams and have witnessed each individual member striding from strength to strength whilst on their entrepreneurial journey. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, and also thank both Solihull School's Business Advisors – Paul Lucas, Bryan Thomas and James Murray – and the parents for their endless guidance and support. I am very excited to see how next year's intake shall match or even exceed the efforts of this year's teams: they will be a very hard act to follow indeed. Well done to those involved – you all deserve to be immensely proud of your efforts'.



IVA's work for LAFF

Latin American Foundation for the Future was chosen by IVA as a charity they wished to help while understanding developmental issues during their Development Course in Geography. They were moved by the sad news that Mrs Barrett, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, lost her daughter Hannah on Friday 30th July, 2010, after her battle with cancer. The website at the end of this article is dedicated to the memory of Hannah Barrett, a founding member of Latin American Foundation for the Future. She will always remain part of the LAFF team in spirit. Hannah's natural goodness, selflessness, generous disposition, smiles and giving nature



infuse the work of LAFF, and continue to inspire everyone who knew her. We hope that others continue her work as a lasting testimony to her life and beliefs.

<http://www.laffcharity.org.uk/hannah.html>
IVA have been very busy raising money for LAFF throughout the year by organising various events, as Isaac and Alex explain below. As well as this, Max Richmond visited Peru during the summer to visit LAFF with his family, donating clothes, pencils and sports balls.

In Latin America, millions of children are living on the streets. Some come from the countryside in the hope of a better life, others are escaping a violent family home. All are extremely vulnerable to the dangers of street life. Easy targets for those who profit from the street, they become victims of the downward spiral of poverty they are trying to escape – crime and drugs become their only means of survival. Yet despite this, there is still hope for the street children of Latin America, as the Latin American Foundation for the Future now seeks to lighten their burden as much as possible.

This year the pupils of IVA have been working hard to raise as much funding as possible for the valuable cause of the LAFF. They believe that homelessness is unfair and unjust, and have striven to eradicate it since October of 2010. They hope that through their efforts some relief might be brought to innocent children. Shoe-shining has been the main undertaking of the class this year. In addition, they printed and sold Christmas wrapping paper using traditional techniques, and sold Christmas cards designed by the homeless in Peru. These sold out at the Christmas fête. Grace Lodge, Alex Levey and Isaac Webber presented this project and IVA's fundraising

aims at two assemblies (Junior School and Lower School). These were followed with shoe-shining events.

Our funding has been directed to the Azul Wasi (Blue House), a safe haven for homeless boys outside of Cusco, Peru. Here they are taught vocational skills and reintegrated into society. The house now contains a fully functional bread oven and green house, thanks to the donations of so many generous people. These provide the house with a sustainable income – the boys are able to bake bread and sell it on for more than they bought the ingredients for. This benefits them by teaching them social skills as they work together, and generating money for teaching resources. IVA are presently buying the Blue House some ducks for their next business project. So far IVA have raised over £200 and Mrs Brown hopes that next year's IVA will continue with this very worthwhile cause as LAFF has expanded into the Casa Mantay project which looks at the issues around women in rural areas.

Isaac Webber, IVA

After watching the video and learning about LAFF with Mrs. Brown in Geography, I found my thoughts kept returning to the images of the poor street children in Peru. Having the privilege of going to such a lovely School, I thought I would like to do something to help with the education of a child. My aim was £100 because this would pay for one child's education. I entered a 5km sponsored run and exceeded my sponsor aim by raising £137. It was a very hot day, but I thoroughly enjoyed doing just a little to help this fantastic charity. I also raised £26 for other charities.

Alex Levey IVA



Debating Society

The Debating Society continues to be one of Solihull School's fastest growing societies and this has been complemented by a steady improvement in our success in competitions. The society has grown to a point where it has nearly 200 members, which is a fantastic achievement in the time it has been in existence. The committee are involved in assisting pupils develop as far down as the Junior School and have been excellent in their organisation and enthusiasm. Special thanks must go to this year's president Michael Hawkes who has developed into a charismatic leader and congratulations go to his successor Helen-Cara Younan who has already shown incredible levels of commitment and energy.

The Junior Debating Society (Third Form to Lower Fifth) has fielded weekly debates on Tuesdays, attracting audience numbers in the fifties and sometimes sixties. Special thanks must go to Hannah Smith, Imogen Harrison and Sam Foxall who have all been integral in the lead roles of the society and further thanks must go to Richard Bradley who has shown new levels of commitment to the society as a whole, helping in everything from competitions to the presidential elections throughout the year. There are many young debaters showing signs of promise, in particular Georgia Greenburgh and Jacob Gilbert in the Third Form.

Our first competition of the year for the Junior Society was the Taylor Trophy. We entered two teams into the competition; Sam Foxall and George Diwakar, and Sanika Karandikar and Belinda Saunders. Both teams were successful in the regional round and progressed to the semi-final at Bromsgrove School. Due to other commitments, Jack Fowles stepped in to replace Sam Foxall and a new pairing was formed. Once again both teams debated excellently and Sanika and Belinda progressed to the final, where despite superb debating, the opposition proved too strong.

In the second term we entered three pairs into the ICYD competition's regional round at Warwick University. All the pairings of George Diwakar and Richard Bradley, Alex Levey and Grace Lodge, and Jack Hines and Isaac Webber were high on the final results, but Jack and Isaac proved the strongest, winning the regional round and progressing to the finals. It should also be noted that Jack was judged to be the strongest speaker on the day and all but one of our entered pupils was a year below the age limit. The finals were held in the prestigious location of the Cambridge Union Debating Society and included schools from as far afield as Italy and Korea. Jack and Isaac debated fantastically, but unfortunately the opposition, including debaters who were National Champions, proved too strong for us.

The Sixth Form Debating Society has enjoyed an active year. Lunch times have been



especially full, with training on Wednesdays, Mace debates on Thursdays and British Parliamentary debates on Fridays. British Parliamentary debating has become so popular that Friday sessions regularly saw debates taking place in two separate rooms, with a large number of spectators. Thanks go to Robert Blakey and Liz Culliford for providing the training and organisation that has made this possible. Liz used these sessions to allow those new to debating to benefit from her experience and as such, several debaters are ready to take on training roles themselves next year. Memorable debates have included 'This house would pay morbidly obese people to lose weight,' 'This house believes that pornography serves a social good' and 'This house believes it is legitimate to ignore sovereignty in pursuit of a terrorist'.

Thursday lunchtimes have continued to be a showcase for Sixth Form debating and attendance has been high. Debates have been both entertaining and informative, addressing a wide range of topical issues. Motions have again been varied and included a teachers' debate on the motion 'This house would be funny not serious.' There was also a French debate, organised by Emily Greig, against visiting French students from Saint Joseph de Tivoli.

This level of commitment has been rewarded with some excellent results in competitions. In January, Helen-Cara Younan and Tina Gough competed in the English Speaking Union regional round and progressed to the Central England Final which was hosted by Solihull. In February, we hosted the Oxford Union Central England final. Liz Culliford, Tom Gerard, Asfandyar Qureshi and Anna Cooban made up two of the six teams and went on to represent the region in the national finals of the Oxford Union Debating Competition. We also hosted the second round of the Cambridge Union competition, with Liz and Tom reaching the final despite finding themselves up against stiff competition. They were ranked the 25th team in the UK at the Cambridge finals, with Liz

being ranked the 36th best speaker in the whole of the country. As a result of this success, the Oxford Union have seeded Solihull number one in the region. At the Birmingham Schools competition, the team's success continued, with Helen-Cara Younan and Andrew Pursley being ranked joint best speakers and Liz and Tom being ranked the top team.

The year ended quite dramatically with the announcement that Dr Coetzee is moving on to pastures new. It is difficult to do justice to the amount of work that Dr Coetzee has put into the society. What it has grown into today is a testament to his determination and enthusiasm for every part of the society as a whole. When Dr Coetzee took over the society it was merely a few pupils meeting in a room once a week. In the space of a few years he has turned these inauspicious beginnings into what is probably one of the largest school debating societies in the country. He will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike and we can only hope he has laid the groundwork for continued success and growth in the future. Fortunately, the dedication shown already by the current Lower Sixth, coupled with the strength of the new committee, means that next year promises to be another successful one for debating at Solihull School. Thank you from us all Dr Coetzee.





Solihull School Team Thrash Opposition

Four members of the Sixth Form – Abhinav Gandhi, Lara Dior, Ollie Towers and Jack Cane – accompanied by Mr. Worrall, headed to Solihull Sixth Form College on 25th November to take part in the Regional Finals of the U.K. Mathematical Trust Senior Team Challenge. Competing against schools from across the region, they took an early lead scoring full marks in Round One and cruised to a comfortable win by the end of the third and final round. This is the third successive year that Solihull School has won the regional competition. They went on to represent the region in the National Finals where they performed admirably. Seen in the photo are the team receiving their winners' certificates.

Senior Maths Challenge Results

43 pupils from the Lower Fifth to the Upper Sixth were awarded certificates in the Senior Maths Challenge, including 7 Gold Certificate winners. Lara Dior (Upper Sixth) scored top in the school.

British Maths Olympiad Success

Ross Edwards of the Upper Fifth scored one of the highest marks in the UK in the incredibly demanding British Maths Olympiad. This is a competition for pupils up to Year 13 age and he was ranked in the top 100 nationally for all pupils. He was one of the top scorers in the country for Year 11 candidates. Well done Ross!

Intermediate Maths Challenge Results

64 pupils from the Fourth Form to the Upper Fifth were awarded certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge including 21 Gold Certificate winners. Joe Watson (Upper

Fifth) top scored in the school and qualified for the prestigious Intermediate Maths Olympiad in March. Isaac Webber and Jack Hines, both of the Fourth Form, also scored high enough to qualify for this Olympiad. Ten other pupils qualified for the European Maths Competition also held in March.

Junior Maths Challenge Results

112 pupils in the Third and Shell Forms were awarded certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge including 16 Gold Certificate winners. Maxine Perroni-Scharf (Third Form) top scored in the school and qualified for the prestigious Junior Maths Olympiad in June. "Top Mathematician off to Oxford"

Ross Edwards has been invited to a UK Mathematics Trust Olympiad Initial Training Camp at the Queen's College, Oxford, Sunday 28 August – Saturday 3 September 2011. The main purpose of this camp is to offer a week's intensive training in mathematics outside the conventional syllabuses to a few of the ablest young mathematicians in the country. It will also be used to identify potential members of a squad of students who will continue training throughout the year with a view to representing the UK in one of the future International Mathematical Olympiads. There will be an emphasis on problem-solving and clear mathematical exposition: the course is designed to encourage students in the field of mathematical problem-solving, to introduce them to new ideas, and to stimulate them by giving them the opportunity to meet and work with others who have similar interests and exceptional abilities. Ross is one of only 22 students in the UK who have been invited. Well done again Ross!

Sensory Garden Opening Ceremony in memory of Joe Murphy

On Monday 25th October, I joined over one hundred local Castle Bromwich residents for a very special ceremony in which relatives of 18-year-old rifleman Joe Murphy helped the Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council plant a Dove Tree on the Village Green. The moving ceremony paid tribute to soldiers like Joe who have lost their lives in war. The tree was laid in the sensory garden designed and built by the Youth Parish Council.

I was really proud to be invited to become a Youth Parish Councillor just over a year ago and am constantly amazed at the difference a small group of young people can make to their community. We sprung into action to plan and design the sensory garden over a year ago, following the theft of four benches from the Village Green. We democratically decided to use all our yearly funds to purchase a replacement bench for the Green and to develop a sensory garden with the central focus being a Peace Tree in memory of soldiers like Joe Murphy. The picture is of the ceremonial tree planting attended by Joe Murphy's parents, Mrs Pauline Allen (Chair of Castle Bromwich Parish Council), and myself along with some of the other members of the Youth Parish Council.

As a result of five newspapers covering this story, I was also invited to speak at the National Active Citizenship Conference at The Think Tank, Millennium Point. Although I was extremely nervous, I felt proud to be representing Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council and Solihull School. It was a real privilege to be asked to share achievements with likeminded young people and it clearly shows that even a 12-year-old can make a difference. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Hughes and Miss Smith for giving me permission to attend the conference.

By Jessica Browne IIIW





Eco Club Report

In the academic year 2010-2011 we have been very busy. We have begun our bid to become a Fairtrade School and are gradually working towards this achievement. We are increasing the awareness of Fairtrade in the School by doing a questionnaire and persuading our refectory manager to switch the juices and chocolate biscuits in packed trip lunches to Fairtrade products. The teachers also have had their tea and coffee changed to Fairtrade in the Staff Room. Eco Club sold Fairtrade chocolate at break times, and did two assemblies to the Lower School and Junior School to promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight (28th February -13 March 2011). We feel our work this year has gone some way towards broadening the awareness amongst our staff and students of fair trade and the benefits of buying fairly traded products which then enables farmers to benefit in many less developed countries. We have encouraged other teachers in the School to incorporate Fairtrade policies into their teaching and are delighted that English, Business Studies, RS and Junior School have taken this on board. Geography has been promoting Fairtrade issues over the last 10 years as part of their Development study in the Fourth Form and focuses particularly on Fairtrade cocoa from the Kuapa Kokoo Co operative, which goes into producing Divine Chocolate.

We have promoted Earth Hour and the symbolic value of turning the lights off for one hour around the world.

We couldn't have done all this without the help of Mrs Brown, who set everything up for us to do this year.

Eva Penhallurick & James Green



Chess

Solihull School has completed a very successful year at chess. The first team won its Division in the Birmingham & District Junior Chess League with a 100% record. Also, on a highly promising note for the future, the U13 team were runners-up in their Division.

Attendances at Chess Club rose significantly compared to recent years, with the arrival of new players from all years of the School. Over the course of the season, Coach Nick Thomas has continued to develop talent and this has resulted in continuous improvement of all players. Credit must also be given to the excellent individual performances, in particular some of our younger players, who have played and won against much older opponents. Our thanks this season must go to Dr Powell for his organisation and coaching, and to our Upper Sixth leavers. We will aim to defend our title next season.

John Gilbert



Students Excel At Running The Economy

Students at the School have shown they have the expertise to keep the economy on track after taking on the role of the Bank of England in a national competition.

The Upper Sixth Form Economists had to present the most appropriate monetary measures the Government should take to stick to its 2% inflation target to a panel of Bank of England judges in the area final of the Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge.

William McTighe, Sarah Bradbury, Chris Thomas and Tom Wintle recommended keeping the interest rate at 0.5% with no change to the quantitative easing programme to finish runners up in the contest after winning their regional heat.

The three judges - all senior officials from the Bank of England including the Chief Inflation Forecaster - also questioned the team on key economic issues such as lending to small businesses, why some countries were experiencing growth, and how UK businesses could offset rising commodity import costs against other costs.

The Wales, West Midlands and South West England area final of the competition, which attracted a total of 289 teams, was held at Ashton Court Mansion in Bristol.

Economics Teacher Mr. Benge said: 'This was one of our best-ever performances in the competition and the benefits to the economic understanding and confidence of our students have been immense. The students spent a considerable amount of time in their half term break preparing for their presentation using external sources and even carried out market research in Solihull and Birmingham'.



Arvon Writing Course, Easter 2011

When I arrived at Tottleigh Barton Manor, Arvon, all I encountered were sheep and lots of farmland. My thoughts were simple: would I manage a week without any phone reception, Internet and my own bed?

As I entered the house, we were given a quick brief then were shown to our bedrooms. I shared a room with Becky Timperley; the bedroom was lovely. I looked inside and there in front of me were two alluring beds with a sink in the middle, and a vintage dressing table. The old house had three main rooms downstairs, a kitchen, a compact lounge, and a large dining room with a charming dark oak table. We cooked with all our friends and attempted to cook dinner for the whole of the group! Outside there was an enormous converted barn with plenty of sofas, and a piano in the corner, just waiting to be played.

Our day was divided into two workshops, one with Steve Voake and one with Lucy English. The workshops were packed with different activities to help us build on our writing skills.



Some were for construction of poetry and some were for story writing. I realised that you could construct a poem from just writing a few lines, lines starting with 'What if I could'. For example, 'What if I could fly, What if I could never die...' These structured poems work really well because you can connect with the reader immediately.

After the whole week, my friends and I grew to completely love the cottage, the warm, friendly rooms and the sunshine that we had all week! We would write in the garden, the fields and by the brook, anywhere that we could set ourselves free and just write. Personally I found this to be one of the best trips that I have ever been on; not just for the freedom, but for the overall sense of everyone being a family. It was just such a good feeling to know that if ever there was a problem you could turn to someone.

Leticia Salmon ShellW

Senior School Arvon Prize

The Child Inside Me

The child inside me wants to learn new funny words, poo, wee, bottom.
He wants to play in the sandpit all day; he never got bored of the sandpit.
The child inside me wants to sing about a crazy moose, climb on the jungle gym, he wants to go to the zoo, eat ice cream, get new toys; toys are the bestest ever.
The child within me wants the countdown to birthdays.

The child inside me wants deaths reversed, the child needs his security, he most definitely doesn't want maturity or responsibility; bleurgh!

He screams out for innocence and simpler times, desperate for how things were.
The child inside me wants walk hand in hand, matching outfits with his brother down to the rock pools, 'the herbs' – why can he not find anyone who remembers that?

The child within me doesn't like decisions, is too preoccupied with holidays and waterparks, not stuck inside a library; he really really despises libraries.
The child inside me is scared.

Is he still the king of the swingers, the jungle V.I.P?

The child inside me used to love going to school; he would play and be loud and have fun and my, how things change.

The child inside me cries his little eyes out, bawling like he's grazed his knee, as he broke his promise to Peter Pan.

Andrew Farquhar

Middle School Arvon Prize

The Adult Inside Me

The adult inside me wants maturity, Not to giggle at innuendo or pun.

The adult inside me wants security, to be safe and know how things will go.

The adult inside me wants courage to confront fears and worries.

The adult inside me wants knowledge to fill the void in my mind.

The adult within me wants respect for others and myself.

The adult inside me wants emotion,

wants to show my feelings and my needs.

The adult within me wants motion
to have aspirations and hopes.

The adult inside me must be seen,
but I seem incapable of making that happen.

Cameron Stewart-Robinson

Lower School Arvon Prize

The Barn

I sat in the deserted, dilapidated barn, gazing wistfully out of the frosty window, my gaunt cheek pressed against the glass that cooled my hot, dry skin. My breath steamed up the pane and I slowly drew a face; but the face wasn't happy or sad. A penetrable straight line that looked as if it had been slashed with a kitchen knife was the mouth. Emotionless. Uncaring. Just being.

I raised a shaking fist, clenched so tight the knuckles were a chalky white and, roaring with pure anger, I lashed out at the face that was now just a pool of condensation. But halfway through I muttered to myself, "Jim, stop this fooling around. Is this going to help anyone? You'll just have to pick up the pieces afterward." I slowly relaxed my pulsating grasps, stood up and brushed the hay off my knackered frayed jeans, brushing away my unwanted thoughts.

I watched the barn owls at the top corner, feeding their chicks in the nest they had so tenderly made – loving, caring, one big happy family. My chapped bottom lip trembles tentatively, warning me that I was about to crack. "Oh my god, Jim. What have you come to? Jealous of a few barn owls? Pull yourself together man. Don't let anyone but those owls see you like this. He's gone. Face the facts. He won't come back."

Georgie Jones



The Kent Library and Book and Biscuit Club

Book and Biscuit Club has enjoyed another lively year. Poetry recitals and performances have featured, as well as a sentimental few weeks of reading and reviewing romances for Valentine's Day. Members have explored a range of genres, not least work by the two authors who visited us during Book Week, Linda Newbery and John Townsend.

Linda Newbery began writing as a young adult author but has now broadened her range to encompass all ages. She says, 'When I was a teenager, there was no such thing as teenage fiction – you went straight from children's books to adult books. It wasn't until much later, when I was training to be an English teacher, that I came across teenage fiction, and excellent writers such as K. M. Peyton, Aidan Chambers and Jill Paton Walsh. Before long I wanted to have a go'.

Several of Linda's novels have historical settings and her novels for teenagers are Gothic and full of suspense. We were honoured to welcome such a prolific and popular author: Linda has been shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, and has won the Costa Children's Book of the Year prize for 2006. Linda spoke to the pupils about how she finds inspiration for her novels – National Trust properties with Gothic quirks featured highly! She also ran a workshop with GCSE pupils, on the dramatic theme of being chased.

John Townsend is a children's writer of over 100 books, many of which are non-fiction covering diverse subjects (history, geography, science, medicine, crime, natural history). A particular specialism is writing books for reluctant readers, designed to 'switch on the switched-off' and The Literacy Trust includes him among their 'Author Reading Champions'. However, nobody was 'switched off' during his visit. He amazed Junior and Senior School pupils with astounding facts and true stories from his series 'Amazing Mysteries', tales of prehistoric, flying reptiles and encounters with

huge ape-like creatures in remote places. His demonstration of a snake squeezing the breath out of its enemy was particularly dramatic!

During his workshop, John asked pupils to retell the story of Edward Jenner's discovery of the vaccination for smallpox. Through script writing, poetry and raps the pupils brought this amazing true story to life.

The library was a hive of activity throughout Book Week. Many pupils participated in the literary challenge 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner'. Tables were laid up 'for dinner' with a range of props designed to give clues as to



which literary guests were expected. From a deer stalker hat to lashings of ginger beer, we welcomed Sherlock Holmes and The Famous Five, as well as Hamlet and Anne Frank. This was one dinner party I would love to have attended! Literary quizzes and an Easter egg hunt added to the excitement. Tom Lawrence, a loyal Book and Biscuiter, won the poetry competition and a good number attended the Book Fayre too. The Kindle may be catching on, but the love of books (and book signings) is not dying out at Solihull School.

Miss Pike



Lower School Keil Poetry Prizes

Vengeance

Vengeance you fiend, you malevolent soul,
Lurking in shadows and hooded in black,
Biding your time just to get your own back,
Wreaking havoc's your aim and revenge is your goal!
With long bony fingers you point at your prey,
Your patience is endless; your victim is doomed,
For you will ensure that in pain he's subsumed,
And nothing will stop you from making them pay.
But vengeance, you fool, is it really worthwhile?
Could you not, for once, be forgiver, forgetter?
I plead you, forsake your glorious vendetta!
Find those you've torn apart, and help them reconcile!
But continue to trudge down your malicious track,
And you'll find that revenge stabs itself in the back!

Alex Lavery

Foxglove

The brightness ebbs from yellow to pink,
each ray slowly dying through the summer haze.

She fumbles through the ruined field,
every teardrop shaking the foxglove's figure.
First touch on the water ripples the shapes;
their shadows creep along the broken horizon.

The stems, like masts, sway in the breeze,
last strands of light vanish below.
Creatures gather and hide, knowing,
eyes glowing through the dew frosted leaves.

Each bright floret shines through the gloom,
surrounded by murder as beauty deceives them.
Poisons seep from the limitless foundations
even deceased, nothing can cure its toxin.

Like a charming siren out at sea,
beguiling mariners to brutal destruction.
The flower lures in the living as the sun fades away;
she cautiously approaches the darkness.

Every step forward the waves retreat,
isolated by the strong, soundless, swell.
All colours glisten from the elaborate petals
lighting the path through the opaque mist.

Reaching for the delicate, dark florets,
one bite. Death takes her face away.

Laura Daghish

At Grandpa's

It was the jolly smile that awakened me in the morning,
The crack of his walking stick on the wooden floor,
The booming laugh that echoed through the farm,
The old worn out sandals that were used every day,
The marks on the trees that he used to climb,
The broken shin.

The sudden shock and surprise.
The sound of his heartbeat on a monitor.
The tears and cries surrounding him.

The quiet hospital bed.

Tanya Sebastian

Middle School Keil Poetry Prize

Sticks and Stones

Words are the weapons for the strong
Words are the tools which can do most wrong.
Words are the blade which cuts so deep
Words have the power to make us weep.

Words are the fist we use to fight
Words are the symbol to show our might.
Sticks and stones may break my bones
But words may one day kill me.

Taimoor Rashid

Senior School Keil Poetry Prize

Playtime

I'm going to tell you a secret...

The child within me wonders when life stops being fun.
Adults are a bore, they don't play the game.
(Damn. I lost the game.)
The child within me wants to throw mud at my friends,
Not poke them on Facebook.
The child within me wants to laugh,
Laugh at the teacher's weirdly animated moustache.
She just doesn't care.
Imagination will take her further than education ever will.
You see, the child within me can fly,
But (like all her other magical powers) only when no one is watching.

The child within me wants to know why?
What? When? Who? Why? Why? Why?

How holds no relevance.
She has no time for How?

The child within me wants to run so fast her legs fall off.
She wants to make snow angels all year round.
Roll down the hill and run from the tickle monster.
She believes in fairies.

The child within me wants a Mr Whippy (with five flakes)
And refuses to get embarrassed when it's all over her face.
She doesn't understand why the people I hate are
Still invited to my birthday party.

The child within me wants Mummy to be my best friend.
The child within me is scared of the dark,
But more so of dying.

The child within me wants the world to stop crying.
She just wants to play.
Sometimes I force the child within me to play sleeping lions.
Why?
Counting sheep is for losers.

Stephanie Biddle



Chilean Miner Visit

One of the 33 Chilean miners who survived 69 days trapped underground was given a hero's welcome by pupils of all ages on his visit to the School this year.

Jose Henriquez gave the boys and girls the chance to be among the first people in the UK to hear a first-hand account of the 'miraculous' rescue that gripped the world.

Known as the 'Pastor of Los 33' because he asked for Bibles to be sent down to the men and kept up morale during their ordeal, Mr Henriquez was given a tour of the School and addressed pupils at a packed Bushell Hall. He also answered questions put to him by the enthralled students through his translator and then joined them for lunch in the School's Alan Lee Pavilion.

Mr Henriquez was also introduced to the Heads of School and met a gap year student from Chile who helped with Spanish language teaching at the school, which has built up a thriving exchange programme with Wessex School in Concepción.

Headmaster David Lloyd said: "Our pupils were thrilled that Mr Henriquez was able to spare the time to meet them and enthralled by his account of the miners' ordeal, one of the great international news stories of 2010."



Boomtown Rats

Boomtown Rats founder Garry Roberts added an extra beat to an eagerly awaited music enrichment session by launching the School's new Guitar Club.

The world-renowned rock guitarist, who famously played in the group alongside singer Bob Geldof at the first Live Aid concert in 1985, gave an exclusive workshop at the School in January.

Garry played his electric guitar and used the latest audio-visual techniques to demonstrate the power and versatility of the instrument to students from the Third Form to the Fourth Form in the Bushell Hall.

The Boomtown Rats lead guitarist also discussed his experiences of being a member of one of the UK's greatest bands, played recordings of its chart toppers 'Rat Trap' and 'I Don't Like Mondays', and performed some Blues music.

He launched Solihull School's first Guitar Club, which will be led by the School's electric guitar teacher Bill Hudd and be open to boys and girls of all ages with an interest in the guitar in all its forms.

Mr. Perrins, Director of Music, said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming such a world-leading musician at a time when the study of acoustic, classical and electric guitar at Solihull School has never been more popular'.

Guitar pupils benefit from the School's new £3 million state-of-the-art Music School, which includes a percussion room and rock room with remote audio connections to a recording studio with the latest digital facilities.

USA Athlete visits Solihull School

On Monday 31st January, David Oliver, a USA Hurdler, visited Solihull School. He conducted a Hurdles masterclass with some of the School's Athletics Team, before answering questions in the Bushell Hall.

David won a bronze medal in the 110m Hurdles at the Beijing Olympics, before going on to have an unbeaten season in 2010. He won the Diamond League last year and is looking forward to this year's World Championships and next year's London Olympics.

David answered pupils' question ranging from nutrition to his hobbies. He is apparently too short for Basketball, can sometimes get drugs-tested 3 times a week, and he named his Mum and his teachers as the biggest influences on his life. His advice – that you only get one body so look after it – was taken on board, as were his recommendations to start the year with an 'I Want' list and look to convert this to an 'I Know' list.



Following his visit, he reported on the USA track and field website: 'I had a great time working with the Solihull pupils; they were very entertaining and they looked like they had a great time. And there were definitely some kids there that had a lot of athletics talent and were very coachable, that's for sure. There was a young lady who looked a natural in the hurdles, so maybe we'll see her competing for Great Britain at the 2016 Olympics. I hope so, that'd be a great story'.



Lords Visit

We welcomed Lord Hunt and Lord Edmiston to the School this year. They spoke to pupils in the Middle and Upper School about life in the House of Lords, and answered questions from the Bushell Hall audience. They are seen here with members of the Middle School Bench.

Tropical Inc.

On 28th June the Bushell Hall was invaded by animals from the tropical rainforests, much to the delight (and in some cases horror) of our Fourth Form students. First to take centre stage was Bob the rat snake. Able to tie himself in a single, double or even triple knot, students watched him unravel whilst learning that like all snakes, rat snakes are completely deaf to airborne sound but instead 'see', 'hear' and 'smell' with their tongues, detecting small vibrations and chemicals in the air. Whilst most snakes are in effect agoraphobic, they all have 4 rows of teeth. With only a very small survival rate of one to 5 out of 30, students learned how female snakes are invariably significantly larger than their male counterparts and how most produce 30 young. Next into the limelight was a boa constrictor that with over 10,000 muscles (compared to a human's 800) is the strongest of the three giant snakes. Boas have the ability to strike at 65mph!

The boa was met with initial wariness, but that was not to be the same for the next guest appearance – a desert hedgehog. Performing to his audience, Solihull's own Tiddiwinks was met with oohs and aahs despite his fleas and ticks. The desert hedgehog is one of the smallest of hedgehogs. At 5½ to 11 inches long and weighing about 10-18 ounces, they feed on insects, scorpions, spiders and snakes and constantly shed their spines similar to how humans regenerate hair.

Imbo was next to shine on centre stage. Students were entertained by the sight of a rather smelly meerkat running all over the Bushell Hall and under Mr Perrins's precious grand piano! Despite living in a group of up to 50 meerkats (known as mobs), only the dominant female is allowed to breed, with typical meerkats living to the age of 5 years (or 15 if kept in captivity). This surely has to be one of the sweetest scavengers on Earth.

There are 8 species of skunk, one of which is potted, and whilst they have a reputation for their smell this is only a defence mechanism. Their scent can travel over three miles in the wind and apparently, we were told, lasts a month should you happen to inadvertently annoy one! Each skunk's markings are unique to that individual, like a human fingerprint. If you have ever wondered how to tell a male from a female, our Fourth Form will be able to tell you: look at the shape of its face. Females have long and pointed features whilst male skunks are rounded.

The final act of the show gave way to Lovebirds, tarantulas and a snapping turtle. The session passed in a whirlwind of facts and new experiences for all and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The last remaining thought was to consider the most dangerous animal ...humans. From destruction of habitats and animals in the rainforest to bullying and wars, we were all left to contemplate our own position on this fragile planet.

Spanish Day

On 1 July 2010 we celebrated our second SPANISH DAY. We were able to bring on site two Spanish teachers of Flamenco, Eva and Aida. They had sessions with all Spanish groups in the Shell Form and both of the Lower Fifth sets. Although one lesson of forty minutes is not a great deal of time, they managed to teach the students some basic steps for the Sevillana dance. These are some of the comments of the students:

"I enjoyed the lesson and the costumes made it more realistic."

"I found it really fun! Loved it!"

"I enjoyed it; it was really fun! It's actually quite confusing! I think that we could've done with more time."

During the day we also had access to the skills and guitars of Mr. Bill Hudd who was able to show some of the Shell Form the basics of Spanish guitar music. I hope that some of these lucky pupils will feel inclined to continue with this in the future!

At the end of the day we were able to offer a dance session to parents and staff. Congratulations to all the brave participants! Who knows whether a Solihull School Flamenco group might emerge from this?

In addition, Jayne Round and her team in the Dining Hall produced a menu with a distinctive Spanish flavour, and included Paella and Tortilla española. See the attached menus. It cannot be easy to produce meals for so many people, so many diets and requirements, and then to adapt this to reflect the cuisine of another nation. They managed to do this extremely well and the whole area looked very pretty with all the banners and flags with the Spanish national colours.

We were also lucky that Alex Barber returned to School and spoke to all the Lower Sixth MFL sets about university and in particular the study of languages. These informal chats were of immense value and both confirmed some of



the ideas already gleaned by these students and also opened their eyes to new perspectives.

These are some of the comments of the students:

"I learned about the UCAS system and tips on how to make myself more attractive to universities."

"Alex really did give a great insight into university life as a first year student, especially focusing on courses involving languages."

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who put so much time and effort into these events, and also to those colleagues who allowed some of the pupils to miss their normal lesson in order to attend the dance and music sessions.

Gracias – ¡y a la próxima! Thanks and looking forward to the next time!

Mr Gunning



Spanish Menu

Primer plato

Ensalada
Tortilla española
Gazpacho

Segundo plato

Paella
Albóndigas
Judías verdes
Patatas fritas

Postres

Fruta
Yogur
Helado

Pan y agua incluido

1 de julio



Staff Summer Meal

On a glorious summer evening in July, the teaching and support staff were treated to a marvellous black tie dinner and dance. Guests enjoyed wonderful views of the School's immaculate grounds from the balcony of the Alan Lee Pavilion. A close-up magician enthralled the staff who enjoyed pre-dinner drinks before sitting down to a sumptuous three-course meal. Fond farewells were delivered to Mr Martin Brough and Mr Bob Melling, after which the staff danced the night away. A wonderful time was had by all.





Dies ist für dich!

The morning of Wednesday 19 January saw the arrival of the Onatti Theatre Company to Solihull to perform the German play "Dies ist für dich!" to pupils of German in the Shell and Fourth Forms. With our own pupils playing the part of the live studio audience, this play told the story of Torstan and Sabrina, the hosts of the teenage magazine TV programme called *Dies ist für dich!* With cameras rolling, Torstan and Sabrina were friendly professional presenters but off camera it was clear these two detested each other. Before long their loathing for one another also showed itself on screen, as this normally slick TV show turned into a childish battle of professional rivalry. Torstan and Sabrina took out vengeful point-scoring on live TV – it got quite messy when the cooking feature came round!

The production contained music, chat, phone-ins and the all important studio audience, six of whom took part in the actual show on stage. Full of fun and interesting features aimed at teenagers, Onatti once again proved their worth in this play, successfully combining entertainment and education in a great package.



French Theatre Visit– Un Paquet Mysterieux!

This year, the Lower School were fortunate enough to enjoy a French play called "Le Paquet Mystérieux", produced and performed by The Onatti Theatre Company. The scene was set around a French snack bar and sports equipment hire shop at a leisure centre. The cast performed entirely in French: greetings, buying and selling goods on the stall and every day chatting about daily life.

One of the amusing scenes was centred on whether or not a black parcel that was delivered could possibly be a bomb. It was a good way to listen to French whilst at the same time learning in a fun way. It transpired later that the parcel contained a fancy dress outfit, which fitted in well with the background of the play.

Prior to the production, the audience (made up of the Third, Shell and Fourth Forms) went through the French vocabulary that would be included in the play, and this helped us with the words and phrases we may not have otherwise understood.

It gave a very good insight into how animated French people can be when they talk. I think it really helps to hear a proper conversation rather than just learning words and phrases, and in my opinion it is a great encouragement to learn the language.

On behalf of the Lower School I wish to thank The Onatti Theatre Company for all their work. We very much enjoyed it and we look forward to similar shows as a way of improving our languages.

Joseph Price, IVP



Onatti Spanish Performance

On Wednesday 9th March, the Onatti Theatre group returned to the school to perform a play called *HORÓSCOPO*.

The audience in the Bushell Hall contained Shell and Fourth Formers and some older students. It was constructed so that only two actors played four characters. It was all performed in Spanish – a challenge for such a young audience. Both of the actors are native speakers of Spanish: one from Guatemala and one from Chile.

The play was about a young girl called Maricela. It's the holidays and she has nothing to do except relax with her magazine – catching up on gossip, make-up tips and her stars... "This week Virgos will meet someone from far away, connected to the letter 'S'. There could be romance! Virgo's lucky number this week is 17...."

So, imagine her excitement when next door's grandson arrives from Seville, his name is Santiago and he's 17 years old! She can hardly believe it! Maricela seizes upon this and becomes a girl possessed in pursuit of romance. Blinkered by predictions, she makes a repeated fool of herself!

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and all left with a sense of achievement – their first play in Spanish!

Visit of Yapeyú School, Corrientes, Argentina to Solihull School, 4-7 July 2011

A new venture for Solihull! We have been corresponding for two years now. Last year their teacher Jeronimo Gonzalez visited us and the link was established which led to lots of emails, planning and the final trip with fifteen students and two teachers. Although we were their first stop, they planned to visit two other schools in the north and some students went on to Paris before returning to the north of Argentina.

Mrs Brown is excited about the new possibilities and intends to visit the country next summer with a view to putting together another adventure with Yapeyu and does plenty of Geography and Spanish. A must will be the Iguazu waterfalls, so a little Portuguese would be handy. Tatiana Cardoso will have to give Mrs Brown a few Brazilian Portuguese lessons since Brazil is the family home and she is fluent in the language.

Yapeyu students were really well-received by Xander Barnes, Sammy Tatman, James Fletcher (Upper Sixth), Sam Griesbach, Tatiana Cardoso, Frankie Owens, Anna McNeille (Lower Sixth) and Shaun Rodriguez-Brown (Upper Fifth), while The Headmaster David Lloyd hosted their teacher Jeronimo and Mrs Barrett hosted Patty, their English Language teacher. Patty also has her own English Language School where an ex-Solihull student, Oliver Mayman is currently doing five months teaching as part of his Language degree at Sheffield University. With the students arriving in the last week of term, we were able to do some fun and exciting trips and activities together. Because



all of the Argentinian students spoke such excellent English we held a debate on Tuesday on whether the World Cup should be in Europe or South America. Despite the audience being predominantly our visitors, most decided that the World Cup should stay in Europe!! It was good to see our two Solihull speakers slip into Spanish at times to put their point across and engage in argument. Well done, John Gilbert and Adnant!

As Yapeyu is a business school, the students were keen to get involved with our Lower Sixth Business Studies students and Mr Bussey arranged a series of interactive games which definitely got the two groups working together. The ideas of business were further looked at on Wednesday when we all went to Cadbury World and had a lecture on the business model of the confectionery side of Kraft, followed by a tour and lots of chocolate consumption! The niche market of the Jewellery Quarter was visited in the afternoon and since Mr John Loynton once worked there, he gave a brief history of the area followed by a hands-on visit to the Pen Nib Museum. Here they made their nibs and learned to write with pen and ink. Surprisingly, these Argentinians have never written with ink pens so really enjoyed the novelty of trying to write with one. No visitor can come to the Midlands without

delving into history so there had to be a trip to Stratford for a study of the importance of William Shakespeare and on Thursday they learned about Kenilworth Castle with Mr Loynton, getting back into his History mode! Our visitors were very impressed with his stories of toilets, gore, death and Dudley's wooing of Queen Elizabeth I.

Our visitors spent their last afternoon with us learning how to play cricket which necessitated some help from Mr Thompson on how to hold the bat and how to bowl the ball! The farewells were quite sad since everyone had had such a great time. Our parents were brilliant as always and our students excelled in making our visitors feel welcome. Indeed, we all had a great time. I can't wait to get the reciprocal trip to Argentina off the ground.

Mrs Brown



Nihiluwa M.V School

Our link with Nihiluwa M.V School in Tangalle, Sri Lanka, has continued to flourish this year. The AdoptSriLanka charity nurtures the link between twin schools across the globe. We have exchanged projects, news and pen pal letters. Solihull pupils in the Third Form collaborated on a project about the Storytelling tradition in Britain. We researched the stories of Geoffrey Chaucer, and wrote fables for the pupils in Nihiluwa in a similar style. Fourth Form pupils produced a project about British flowers, including pictures, details of the plants and their cultural significances, and a range of 'floral inspired' poetry! We were excited to see photographs of the pupils of Nihiluwa M.V School receiving their reports and letters.

Their English teacher, Mrs Padmini, wrote, 'The principal teachers and the students were very happy about the project. Our students were very interested to read it. I explained the value of learning English. If the students know the English language they can share their ideas



with foreign countries. This picture is of our morning assembly when, after religious observances, I handed over the project of short stories to the Principal Sir'.

We were equally delighted to receive a project from them about health and disease in Sri Lanka. We also enjoyed a colourful photographic record of Children's Day, which in Sri Lanka was celebrated on Friday 1st October 2010. The day was marked with a Perahera (procession) along the main road in Tangalle, organised by the Tangalle police and the local schools. Children from each school took part in the Perahera, with many making music or dancing, as their classmates watched from the pavements.

Nihiluwa M.V School continues to enjoy using the English Activity Room and the digital camera kindly funded by our Parents' Association. The school is keen to welcome pupils or ex-pupils who would value the experience of teaching and helping at the school.

Miss Pike



German Exchange 2010-11

This academic year, seven Lower Fifth pupils took part in the annual German exchange, this time in conjunction with St. Martin's School. In September, the rest of the group and I met our exchange partners from Hofheim, and spent the week with them. They visited our local places of interest, one of which we joined in with. Then in March, it was our turn to go to the Elisabethenschule and experience German daily life and culture.

So, the 26th March saw seven Lower Fifth pupils, accompanied by Frau Stout and Dr Troth, embark on the second leg of the annual German exchange. We were all eager to meet our partners again and experience the German culture first hand after studying the language for almost three years, and we were not let down. Upon leaving Frankfurt Airport, we all departed to stay with our host families for the weekend, meeting up together again at school on the Monday. Each day consisted of a trip in the morning with the rest of the group and throughout the week we visited various local places of interest, just as the German pupils did when in Birmingham. From visiting a Roman castle with a German tour guide to shopping in Wiesbaden, every day of the trip was exciting and interesting. In the afternoon we were free to spend time with our host families, which is where we all learned the most German and really found out what it was like to live in a German family.

The experience, all in all, was fantastic, from eating new foods and visiting new cities to waking up at new times (5:45am!!), and I recommend the exchange to anyone, as it has definitely improved my German, and I have made many new friends. I'd love to go back again! Thank you very much to Mrs Stout and Dr Troth - es war prima!

Harry Morgan LWW

Shell Form Frankfurt Christmas Market Trip, Dec 2010

We all set off on a winter's day in Birmingham and walked to Solihull train station to catch the train to Birmingham. Once on the train the atmosphere was filled with a loud chatter of school children talking about what they were going to see and do at the German Market. In the distance we could see bright lights in the streets of Birmingham, we could hear the loud old tunes of Christmas music and we smelled the delightful German food. We explored the marketplace, intrigued by the fascinating stalls that were around us such as the traditional stalls that offer an array of beautiful handmade toys, Christmas decorations, original jewellery and craft goods as well as the merry-go-round! The food at the German market was delicious: it consisted of German mulled wine (Glühwein), grilled sausages (Bratwurst), pretzels, German beer, and for those with a sweet tooth, gingerbread, crêpes and marzipan sweets.

We were given booklets to complete during our exploration of the market in which there were activities like quizzes and crosswords about the stalls all around us. The booklets were a great way of referring to the language, building on our German skills greatly.

Going to the German Market was definitely an eye-opening experience which allowed us to come face-to-face with German nationals, and speak the language that we have learned throughout the term. This gave us the confidence to try new words and phrases and have more advanced conversations with real Germans instead of the recordings in the classroom.

Overall, the trip was a huge success with everyone buying gifts for their friends and family, as well as making the most of the language opportunities. I can safely say that everyone took back something from the market that can help them with their later German lessons. I would highly recommend this for anyone who does German, or someone who would simply like to try something new, as this was a brilliant trip and definitely something to remember.

Leticia Salmon and Ciara Mahoney, Shell V



Das alles ist Deutschland!

"Das alles ist Deutschland" is the new magazine written by the Sixth Form German students. This magazine is packed full of interesting articles and fun activities that will keep everyone busy and will hopefully teach them something about Germany. The topics covered in the first edition are geography, the political system, typical German food (lecker!), German eating habits, organic food, music, sport, some German tongue twisters (schwierig) and finally an amazing competition to enter. The magazine is written entirely by the students for all pupils of German throughout Solihull School and we hope there will be many more editions to come. Das ist fantastisch!

Mohammed Khimji ShW



A French Weekend in Wales

Without doubt, after taking several exams the most important thing is to celebrate. I can confidently say that this weekend with students and the French teachers was the ideal way to celebrate! The other students who study French and I, enjoyed ourselves, spending three days at the School Cottage in Snowdonia. Our stay was not too strict. It was the opportunity to relax – after suffering the stress of exams – by speaking French. We tried lots of games and French food also, and of course we saw a bit of Welsh culture – especially slate – something which the Welsh are very proud of! It was something different which we really enjoyed. This weekend was a good example of different activities in which you can take part if you study French at 'A' Level. Everyone enjoyed the stay and we are looking forward to the next trip.

Thank you to the teachers who came with us – it would have been quite empty without them!

Adam Smith





Chilean Students Visit

Wessex School, Concepcion, Chile, sent 43 students and 4 teachers to visit Solihull School this year!

The link developed between Wessex School and Solihull School is now in its sixth year. Wessex students visit Solihull as part of their month's tour of England, Scotland and France. Solihull students have only managed to visit Chile once, in 2008, since the 2010 trip had to be cancelled due to the 8.9 earthquake in February of that year. However, we are hopeful that the 2012 trip will go ahead with visits to Wessex School and our other link, Oxford School in the southern part of the country. Oxford School visited us in September of this year, bringing 10 students who were mainly hosted by our Lower Sixth Spanish students. The value of these visits and exchanges outweighs the inconveniences they might pose, both for the students, teachers and host families. Our Solihull parents excel when it comes to hosting and I would like to warmly thank them all for their generosity.

This year I asked parents to send me a written comment on their experiences at home with their visitor(s). Here are a few of their comments and photos.

The whole family enjoyed the visitors being with us. We took the girls to Brownies where they taught some Spanish words to the youngsters. The Brownies had a quiz about Chile and coloured in the Chilean flag.

Mrs Mahoney

I really enjoyed having the students to stay as they are lovely people to have in your house and no trouble whatsoever. I would say it is much easier to have two students at a time so they can talk/entertain each other and also help each other with translation etc. The boys enjoyed showing them Solihull and learning about the different ways we live. They have also never tasted baked beans!

Mrs Lorna Bevins

Our student Antonia was the perfect guest. Even though neither of our children do Spanish they enjoy the whole experience of interacting with the Chileans and learning about their lives. Great fun!

Mrs Simone Seickell

It was a delight to be a host family and I would be happy to host again. I think these visits are very valuable and beneficial to the pupils at School as they give them a taste of how children from other cultures behave and value the things they take for granted. For example, Rodrigo was overwhelmed by the cultural mix he saw in England. Here it can be seen as a negative whereas he thought it was amazing. Rodrigo was fascinated by Warwick University and would love the chance to study there; for our children it is a more simple possibility. The fact that he was from another continent and yet spoke such good English was an eye-opener to Isa and Adam as they realised how important it can be to learn another language and that it can actually be done and be fun.

Rodrigo was very respectful and polite towards me and that was nice to have around my teenage boys. It was quite calming for Isa and Adam.

For once, Isa really enjoyed doing his Spanish homework with Rodrigo's help. Our children need to be aware that we live in a global world and need to be able to communicate and get along with all sorts of people.

Mrs Suraiya Haq

All three of our visitors were polite, good fun and slotted into our family life easily. It was a pleasure to have their company.
Mrs Lorraine Woolley

She was a pleasure to have and was intrigued by the wildlife and animals surrounding us.

Mrs Kiely

We thoroughly enjoyed sitting around the table at teatime and discussing their culture, diverse country and Chilean teenage life. They also enjoyed testing Alex on her Spanish on the

way to School in the car. I think many parents think it will be harder work than it is!

Mrs Levey

It was great! We will really miss Eduardo and Ignacio, two super lads.

We will be more than happy to do the same next year.

As for stressful, I (and Alison) really enjoyed the extra life and noise in the house, Joe (Pepe) loved it.

Mr Paul Hadley



Chilean Gap Students

Chilean Gap Students from Wessex School, Concepcion, spent three months with us at Solihull School from February to May 2011.

Being a Gap student was always a thing that I wanted to be and experience. Reading what the last Gap students wrote about working at Solihull School was really helpful to make my decision because they were always saying amazing things about the School. And of course, spending three months in another country with a different culture was a great experience.

When I arrived in England I realised that those good things that last year's Gap students were talking about were true. I discovered that three months was not going to be long enough!

Working as a Gap student has been without a doubt one of my best experiences in life because it is not just working and helping the Solihull students in Spanish, but it is living in a different country with different people and exchanging cultures which is the most important thing.

I have enjoyed my time and have met very interesting people: not just teachers but also students. By helping in the Spanish lessons and also in games and sports, I had more contact with the pupils and it was a chance to know them in another discipline.

I want to thank all the members of the Modern Languages Department and P.E Department, especially Mr Gunning, Mr Morgan, Mrs Barrett, Mr Thompson, Mr Mayer, Mr Hemp, and Mr Hifle for been so helpful and friendly to Ignacia and me, also for making us feel very much as staff.

I want to thank my two host families, Mr and Mrs J Salmon, Leticia and Jordan; and Mr and Mrs Lancaster (Chemistry). Thank you for being such nice people and kind to me. I really enjoyed my month's stay in each family and it was an amazing experience living with you all.

And last but not least, I want to thank to Mrs Brown for been such a nice person and for looking after us all the time. She was like our second mum and she has been doing an incredible job with the Chilean link. Thank you very much for letting us live with you and for making your home our home here in England and also for being part of your family with Shaun and Iain.

Joaquín Sandoval Melo



When I was told that I was chosen to be a gap student at Solihull School in England I could not believe it! I knew that it was going to be a life time experience and that I was going to have a brilliant time and I was right!

From the moment we arrived, I was impressed by the warmth of Julie and her two boys. We spent a week in Warwick at Julie's house and then we moved into our first family. After working four weeks at Solihull School we had Easter holidays to go travelling. We visited Paris, Pisa and Florence. We came back to School, with new experiences to tell everyone, loads of pictures and good memories.

Being almost three months in England without my parents or friends had definitely made me grow as a person. I have learned how to be independent and also about a culture that is very different from my own. This experience has taught me so many things that I will never forget and I'm very grateful I was chosen. I have enjoyed every bit of this experience and I have met so many people that I will definitely keep in touch with. I was very lucky because both of my host families were very nice to me and I would like to thank them so much for everything they did for me.



Finally I would also like to thank everyone that made this experience one of the best I've ever had. Thanks to: Mrs. Sarah Smith, the Eguiguren family and the Salmon family, Modern Foreign Languages teachers, the pupils and all the rest of the staff that were very nice to me and helped me whenever I needed, also Mr. Martin and my teachers at Wessex School that were very supportive through all my year at Wessex.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Julie. Without her, none of this would have ever been possible. I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for everything you've done for me and for being so welcoming and patient. Thank you for always trying to make our time in England worth it, inventing places to go and things to do. She even took me to 'The Wanted' concert! (How cool is that?). Thank you so much, I'm truly indebted to you.

I will come back someday (soon I hope) and go to all the places I could not go and enjoy new experiences. I fell in love with Europe and I truly believe it was because everyone was so nice to me and I really didn't expect that sort of affection towards a complete stranger! I'm glad they were.

I hope 'The Wessex-Solihull School Link' will continue in the future so many more students can have this incredible opportunity.

Ignacia Perez

Un año sabático en Concepción, Chile

I just got back from four and a half months working at The Wessex School in Concepcion, Chile. I absolutely loved my time there, and would totally recommend it to anyone, not just from a language point of view, but also as an experience. It was amazing.

I was out in Chile as I'm currently on my Year Abroad, the third year of my Modern Languages degree (French, Spanish and Italian) at Durham, which is proving to be a brilliant year! I'm next off to Paris for three months, and then Italy for four and I can't wait!

I lived with a lovely family, who were only a

two minute walk away from school. ¡Qué suerte! They took me to loads of different places and as Chilean life is very family orientated, I really enjoyed spending lots of time with them. They also gave me freedom to do my own thing, which was good as the pace of life is a lot more relaxed than ours, and it also enabled me to make loads of friends. The Chilean people are absolutely lovely, and were forever inviting me to all sorts of things which made settling really easy. I also really enjoyed teaching at the school, as it was really relaxed and the kids all love speaking English. It certainly made my job quite easy!

Of these many invitations, the most bizarre led to me playing American Football, where I had a great time every weekend and made loads of friends. As only one of the other guys spoke English, it also really helped my Spanish and proved to be a really good travel opportunity. We even made it through to the National Final in Santiago, which was an incredible experience! During the two weeks of school holidays in September I travelled to the North, going to the Atacama Desert and the Elqui Valley, both beautiful parts of the world. I also was invited on a school trip to find out more about the indigenous Mapuche, as well as numerous days on the beach and also to a beer festival! It was awesome.

Despite the obvious impact of the earthquake of February 2010 (8.9 on the Richter scale!), I really liked the city. It has something like 7 universities and numerous more technical institutes, so there's a really young and busy feel to it. It's also well off the tourist route as it's more of a working city than a tourist town, which was really nice, although being tall and with blonde hair definitely made me stand out!

To sum up, not only did my Spanish really improve, but it was four and half of the best ever months, which I would totally recommend to anyone. I made some brilliant friends, had the opportunity to really get stuck in to a totally new culture, see an awesome country and thoroughly enjoy my time out there.

Will Lucas



Solihull Rugby Season 2010/11



The 1st XV

Domestic Season

P14 W12 L1 D1

Cup Season

P8 W8 L0 D0

A close-knit group of players led superbly by their talisman 'King Joyce', were never shy of working hard at the coal face. This was a season never to be forgotten and certainly one based upon 'sweat and toil!'

And so the story began one lovely summer's day by the Thames, at St Paul's School, London . . . daisies were aplenty but the new crew were thinking of matters ahead . . . St Paul's. Pre-season fixtures are now as important as your full English breakfast! With 30 students fighting to earn the prestigious 1st XV shirt, this series of matches were an eye-opener for some and all appreciated the work needed to gel! As we left, the feeling was buoyant as the matches had been shared. Palms were now a little sweaty as the players awaited selection announcements for the King's Macclesfield Tournament. Training continued with extra venom under the watchful eye of 'The Bear' and our fitness guru Pat Cropper (OBE).

Old Swinford Hospital was looming but firstly we had the small matter of four matches up north. With a rich blend of youth and experience, the squad performed superbly and even had time for a little 'late night trolley shopping'. Brushed aside were Leeds GS, Dean Close, Ellesmere College and finally King's School, Wimbledon. There were murmurings

amongst the crowd of how attractive the rugby was that the XV were playing.

And so to day one of the domestic season. Players were salivating, as were the spectators! Not a place for the faint hearted, Old Swinford Hospital . . . but what an atmosphere. The jungle music was booming as always and the heat was roaring. The game was a classic: end-to-end rugby using every blade of grass with backs and forwards combining like a "well oiled Ferrari"! The XV at the final whistle had earned a deserved 19-14 victory in OSH's (Daily Mail Semi-Finalists) own backyard. Tails were up and there was a positive mood in the camp!

The thirty minute trip to King's Worcester was next on the list: never an easy prospect. It was a hot sunny day, which suited our lightweight pack and flamboyant backs. Early exchanges were all-square as the hostility began to grow a little. Nevertheless, it was another win: 25-10.

55-7 was the score against King Henry VIII Coventry with players taking scoring opportunities with great efficiency! Loughborough GS were our next visitors to the hallowed turf. The boys in red were frequently presented with an awkward challenge and did ask some questions again. But as with all good scholars, the XV had the answers needed to take a 37-10 victory. However, the following week it all went pear-shaped.

The abrasive Adams GS found some chinks in our armour and exposed us on too many occasions, both up front and behind. We fell to a painful 14-23 loss and it tasted horrible. To make matters worse, we had also lost Max

Rodman to an ankle injury, although he had done his nails at least! This caused havoc in our Daily Mail Round 3 match: 6 unconverted tries and losing 30-31 to Bablake. The only way was up! Next session was a dusting down and recoup. Leading up to the arrival of Santa Claus, the XV put together a string of five workmanlike wins against Bedford Modern, RGS Worcester, KES Birmingham, Nottingham HS and Trent College, just in time for the arrival of the Old Boys XV.

The Dad's Army took to the field in a confident fashion with James Trueman flexing his guns and Sam Fletcher demonstrating the effects of a stable liquid diet! It was the epic all had been looking forward to under the watchful eye of refereeing supremo Mr S Beech. As coaches, it was a pleasure for us to stand back and witness the entertaining rugby. It ended a draw: never in doubt! The moral victory had to be ours!

The XV returned after the Christmas break and clearly to some it had been a generous time! That was soon burnt off by the devil incarnate of fitness Pat Cropper! Poor weather interrupted our fixtures with KES Camp Hill falling to snow and frost, but Worksop College were next in the Daily Mail Flower Pot. A home tie!! Could this be our crowning glory? The College were large boys but it was as in Rocky IV, with Stallone beating Drago: Solihull stole the show in the second half and won by 40 points. The next two domestic games were won with ease against Newcastle and KES Aston.

The possibility of a day at HQ now dominated everybody's minds and domestic fixtures only fell by the wayside. The XV were working

harder than ever and the quality of rugby was awesome!! Round 8, one before the Quarter-Final, pitched us up against Redborne Upper School, away. The pitch was a mud bath: anything could happen. The XV slogged it out, won 22-7, and booked a place in the Quarter-Final against Harrogate. A deep sigh of relief!

It was a home draw in the Quarter-Final and preparation had gone as smooth as a baby's derriere. The camp was buzzing and each individual understood his role in the battle command! The game was 70 minutes of nail-biting quality. Both sides wanted a Semi-Final berth, it was clear to see. The hits were massive, the handling sublime and the kicking . . . all hail our Lord Rodman! With the last kick of play, our own Jonny slotted a penalty from wide out to take us through 23-22 . . . Harrogate fell to their knees!

Old adversaries were the opposition in the Semi-Final at Broad Street RFC: Woodhouse Grove. Attention to detail was going to be the key, right down to handling different balls, courtesy of Mr S Blundell, now part of the coaching party. The aforementioned gentleman and his accomplice Mr Kalewski had also gathered intensive video footage of the opposition. We were ready. Training had been more physical than ever and everyone wanted to start. New kit was also on show! An emotional occasion for all and nerves were jangling! The game started in our favour as we kept possession but Woodhouse wouldn't lie down. Eventually they had no choice but to break under the pressure. The XV clinically won 20-0 and even the non-partisan supporters admired the play. We had reached HQ!!

Wednesday 6 April will be a day the School will never forget! Opposition: St George's, Weybridge. Venue: Twickenham Stadium. Kick-off: 1400 hrs. Solihull supporters: loads! The rest is history: 2010/11 Daily Mail U18 Vase Winners!!!!!!

We would like to say a massive thank you firstly to the boys for a thoroughly enjoyable season. You get what you deserve in life chaps, and a National Title is certainly just rewards! To Joyce . . . words can't say enough! Success is a huge team effort and sincere gratitude to Karl and the grounds staff, Jayne Round and the kitchen staff, our Physio Phil Evans and we all love to hate her, Pat Cropper (fitness guru). Finally, the parents. We hope you have enjoyed the 2010/11 season, and thank you for being vocal on the sideline!

The last paragraph must be dedicated to Mr M Swain, a stalwart of Solihull School RFC and an absolute legend. I have been privileged to work alongside this true gentleman and have so many memories. His knowledge and enthusiasm is never ending. Mal . . . many, many thanks for all you have done. The coaching panel will miss you!! And the packed lunch!!



Selections:

Ireland U18 Clubs – Joyce
Ireland U20 Clubs – Joyce, McTighe
Warwickshire U18 – Joyce, Crowe, McTighe

1st VII

Played: 6 tournaments

The 7's season was never going to be an easy period with the Daily Mail U18 Vase extravaganza. It required some real men to step in to the breach, and that they did! A smashing group of players represented the School admirably at Worcester, Fylde, Solihull, Windsor, Hereford and Rosslyn Park.

Admittedly, it was a steep learning curve for all who played but a particularly enjoyable one. The VII were pitched against some of the best 7's teams in the country and only lost marginally. . . apart from perhaps to Millfield.

Many thanks to all of the students for their hard work. You were an absolute credit.

2nd XV

The second team's season this year was solid. Convincing victories against King's Worcester and a hammering against rivals KES Birmingham where they did not let them over the line, showed how strong the team were in physicality, skill and mental toughness. With defeats only to Warwick and Old Swinford, many players shone through with outstanding performances to warrant places in the first team, with several players representing the School at Twickenham. Notably, Captain Arthur Haynes led the team well and also got some spectacular individual tries. The whole

team had an open-minded approach to the season playing explosive, surging, outstanding rugby that was exciting for the players and spectators. As well as this, the strong pack dominated, not only in the touchdown but in set plays, with excellent lineout play and powerful scrummaging. This solid base was a focal point of the attack. To summarise, the attacking play of the 2nd XV suggests that there is strength in defence of Big Side rugby at Solihull School.

3rd XV

The 2010-11 season was severely hit by the weather, and as a consequence the 3rd XV only managed to play four games. Unfortunately, we won only one of them, against RGS Worcester. This, I believe, masks what the 3rd XV were able to achieve this season. Although we lost heavily to KES Aston, the other two matches in which we lost were much tighter games, and on another day we could have been the victors. Also, I saw a general rise in maturity and skill level in all the players, which due to a lack of games, they were unable to fully realise in the results. Alex Blake, for example, came on leaps and bounds for me during this season, especially against RGS, where he commanded the backs. Harry Roberts was another player who showed sparks of brilliance in that game.

Special mention must finally go to the likes of Chris Hooper, Robert Rayment, Abs Gandhi, and finally, last but not most definitely not least, Alistair Wishart (as Captain), who gave three years' sterling work for me in the 3rds, and epitomised the ethos of the 3rd XV.

Paul Jukes

South Africa Rugby Tour 2010

What started as a typical July morning turned into an unforgettable two weeks. As our excitement grew on the coach journey, so did the sweat patches as it became apparent that blue was a poor choice of shirt colour. The team doctor Apollo fell asleep on the plane in England after one too many wines and awoke in Jo'burg. Two hours and several shaved heads (and eyebrows) later, we arrived at Willowridge to meet our friendly hosts and experience the unmistakable South African accent, aware that falling asleep on the coach was a risky strategy.

Spirits and confidence were high as we prepared for our first game knowing that a good performance would set up a successful tour. The 2nd XV performed admirably against Willowridge 1st Team, with Tom Wintle recording the first try of the tour. The 1st XV then produced an outstanding performance to beat Die Wilgers, the brutally physical Afrikaans school from down the road. Ben Trenchard was formidable in stealing almost every opposition line-out and a classy finish from Alex Winter showed our potency in the backs.

A short trip to Pretoria led us to our new hosts – Springs High. By now we had become accustomed to the accent and Mike Hawkes in particular seemed to have taken to his new surroundings. The next day we arrived back at Springs High fully prepared for a tough match and grateful for the drop in altitude. Just before stepping onto the pitch we were treated to a mini-concert from the school's renowned Marching Band, which although impressive, did not help motivation by playing Miley Cyrus. After singing the national anthems the 1st XV looked to gain revenge for the 2nd XV, who suffered a narrow defeat in the last minute. What followed was an excellent display of rugby from both sides, featuring explosive back play, a powerful forward battle and no shortage of controversy: just ask Ben Crowe... After a hard-fought contest the day was rounded off with our first experience of a traditional 'braai' and a Currie cup match which finished with us celebrating a dramatic Cheetahs victory in front of a contingent of Bulls fans who didn't look pleased with our antics.

Following an interesting night in the hotel, and an even more interesting stop at a service station, brought on by a somewhat dodgy batch of Ostrich from Lesedi Cultural village, our next stop was Konka camps. Although we reacted badly to the ostrich, we were lucky enough to have Dr Apollo and his miracle cure of flat coke, along with the hospitality of Konka camps, which meant we felt fit and well for the game against Royal Bafokeng. The 2nd XV were disappointed to lose narrowly again, but were encouraged by the fact that 13 of the Bafokeng '2nd' team went on to play against

the 1st XV. The 1st XV built on the good work of the 2nds to demolish the opposition, with more outstanding finishing from Alex Winter and Will McTighe combining with Philippe Marks' distribution skills. Also noteworthy was an outrageous dummy from frustrated back Ben Trenchard, converted to 2nd Row, to set up a long-range try, and several strong carries from Rob Raymant.

A well-earned rest came in the form of several safari trips at the Mabula Game Lodge, where we saw an amazing variety of animals, including a close encounter with an angry Bull Elephant which wandered into the Lodge. A candle-lit Braai under the stars showed how closely the group had bonded after just a week. The next day we said a fond farewell to huge Lawrence, our coach driver, with a rousing speech from Joe Read, and boarded the flight to Cape Town.

As injuries began to take their toll, Paulus Joubert were the next opponents. After a disappointing 2nd team performance the 1st XV gained motivation from the inspiring view of Table Mountain. Despite losing the extreme pace of Fred Howard, who settled for the role of cameraman, the team started confidently. However, Paulus Joubert recovered and in an outrageous display of cheating began to play with 17 players without our knowledge, allowing them to open up a lead with a well-worked try. However, the team rallied under Conor Joyce, who had grown into an inspirational leader, and managed to score to end the game 27-27. That night we shared the hotel with the Pumas side who we had just witnessed being destroyed by the local Western Province side (awkward).

The team arrived at the final match against Swartland not wanting the tour to end. The 2nd XV ended their tour with a loss, but several admirable performances had led to 1st XV call-ups. Fatigue was evident in the 1st XV's performance, with an opportunistic dart from Arthur Haynes the only score.

With that we flew home with too many happy memories to fully recount- anybody who went on the tour has countless stories and experiences, and countless new nicknames, which will stay with them forever.

U16

P10 W7 L3 D0 F258 A142

The small but dedicated U16 rugby squad were still reeling from the news that they were to be reduced further in number since Jon Super, Darryl Brotherhood and Nick Finnegan would start the season by playing for the School 1st XV. Undeterred, Rory Grogan was named captain (and his return of five tries and all-action performances have not only proved good value but have also led to him being promoted to the 1st XV Daily Mail Vase squad) as the team set about the challenges ahead.

The first half-term's rugby was a mixed bag. An outstanding defensive display resulted in an excellent 24-7 victory against Old Swinford Hospital, whilst King Henry VIII were dispatched 53-8 following a fantastic all-round team performance which resulted in seven different try scorers. The euphoria of these victories evaporated with two disappointing losses to King's Worcester and Loughborough Grammar School. However, the first half-term did see Callum Williamson, Joe Watson and Harry Pick being selected for the Warwickshire U16 Squad as well as Jon Super and Darryl Brotherhood.

The last three weeks have seen some very good defensive work coupled with good, free flowing rugby despite Mr Thompson's decision to make us play all our games away this half-term! In the 17-10 victory over Bedford Modern, Dan Younan (a real find at full-back) scored two great individual tries in an exhilarating performance whilst the 24-10 victory over RGS Worcester saw the try of the season so far as backs and forwards combined to release Daniel Beck for a memorable team score.

Last week we travelled to KES Birmingham to play a team that we have traditionally struggled against. A tight first half saw us fight back to 7-7 before tries from Arun Baxter and Joe Watson secured a famous 22-7 victory. We had now amassed 157 points and conceded just 12 tries.

The best of the British winter weather then saw our next two games against Nottingham High School and our final fixture of the term against Trent College both cancelled as a result of the frozen pitches.

After Christmas the preparations became somewhat rushed due to examinations, but two games were played. On a sunny winter's day, a mid-week game against KES Stratford certainly raised the temperature. With a near full strength side, the forwards and backs gelled together to excellent effect stretching the play from one side of the pitch to another yet still showing raw aggression, strength, tenacity, power, sublime skill and real pace. The 33-12 victory over a team that as a year group the boys had never beaten was very satisfying.

Excellent performances from Rory Grogan and Jack Powell set the platform in the forwards whilst Oliver Griffin and Arun Baxter complemented each other in the centres, and combined with the pace of Dan Younan from full-back, we looked threatening in each attack. The game against Warwick saw a huge effort defensively from everyone and despite losing, everyone can be proud of their tenacity against a good team.

Better was yet to come in the final game of the season away against Bishop Vesey. Despite conceding an early score, the team, in their last match as a year group, responded in emphatic fashion. With Rory Grogan now establishing himself in the 1st XV, leadership duties were taken on by Jack Powell and the resounding 68-10 result was in part due to his all-action display. He was ably supported by the reinvigorated Nick Finnegan who scored the try of the season mid-way through the first half as a counter attack deep from inside our own half. There was a surge from the forwards up the 15m line before a quick ball was sent wide and Nick cut a great angle and took a short ball from Oliver Griffin about 30m from the try line, to speed over untouched.

Mr Covill wishes to thank all players for their enthusiasm, determination and dedication to the cause whilst reminding everyone that the weekend doesn't start until the final whistle on Saturday...

A very enjoyable year and credit to Darryl Brotherhood, Jon Super, Rory Grogan and Joe Watson who represented the 1stXV in the Daily Mail Vase matches and on Saturday.

U15

This has been such a busy, eventful and ultimately great year for U15 Rugby, that frankly, I could write a short novel!

Our domestic playing record, including Daily Mail matches, was most impressive:

P20 W15 L5 F539 A285

(Tour matches not included)

Whilst I could wax lyrical about several of our matches, the standout fixture of the season was -

The Daily Mail Cup Round 6 v Old Swinford Hospital

This was one of those performances when every player who took to the pitch played to the very best of his ability. Elliott Botterill's glorious, emphatic tackle after 4 minutes on his opposite winger set a new standard of physicality. Jonny Allen's try was a gem – great timing, footwork, power and pace. Louis Roach delivered a command performance at full-back, fielding everything they gave him, and his decision-making ("do I kick or counter-attack?") was flawless. The front five – James Jervis, Connor Brookes, Lawrence Finch, Charlie

Badham & Charles Toher – were immensely physical and won so much quality ball that our back row of Kieran Joyce, Rob Gnyla and Sam Montieri were able to roam and rampage at every opportunity! Due to our pack, OSH were utterly discombobulated by half-time!

Behind this solid platform, TJ Regan was able to show the full range of his immaculate scrum-half skills. Tom Griesbach at 12 was as alert and quick-footed as ever in attack but his authority in calling up our midfield defence was exemplary. Nick Sharp's powerful running on the left-wing caused mayhem for the opposition on numerous occasions, and when injury forced Nick off, Cameron Powell came on and tackled his heart out for the final 15 minutes when OSH seriously threatened a late come-back. Of the other guys on the bench that day – Chris Bevins, Declan O'Brien, Sean Harper, George Gamlin, Toby Wassell, Ben Gee, Tom Sheppard – they all made a significant contribution to the 'whole team effort', be it in the pre-match warm-up or on the pitch itself. At the level of Daily Mail Cup Round 6, 15 players alone rarely win matches of this standard. It requires a united, talented and committed squad, and I thank you ALL for the roles you played that day.

There is one player I haven't yet mentioned, Oliver Haley. I didn't know until after the match that Ollie had an injured shoulder and probably shouldn't have played! Whilst his defence was solid, and his distribution accurate and clever, Ollie's kicking was outstanding. He kicked 14 of the 19 points we scored (one kick was from inside his own half), and his tactical kicking out of hand was superlative. In short, Ollie delivered a masterclass performance at fly-half.

Minutes before this match kicked-off, the OSH squad were being photographed for the RFU December 'Team of the Month' award (they had beaten us 5 – 37 back in September). So, our complete squad effort that January afternoon to beat them 19 - 7, in the Daily Mail Cup Round 6, was even more enjoyable!

Shortly after this match, Ollie finally succumbed to the pain in his injured shoulder. Enter George Gamlin. George took over the fly-half berth with aplomb in our remaining 15-a-side fixtures, and became a first-choice selection in the Sevens Squad – and what a fantastic contribution George made.

TJ's Captaincy of the Sevens Squad was superb, and in his four tournaments, we reached the quarter-finals at the Warwick School & Solihull School Tournaments, the Semi-Final at King's Macclesfield, and the Final at King's Worcester, the latter two events being held over our Sevens Tour Weekend – a great success, both on and off the pitch. It was great to see so many players show skills, tenacity, and pace which perhaps the crowded 15-a-side game doesn't always afford. There is no doubt that the Sevens morning fitness sessions, training

and playing against the U16s, and our Tournaments – especially the Sevens Tour Weekend – helped to bring together a core group of players who were well prepared for French opposition on what has now become the traditional U15 School Rugby Tour.

The Tour

Much has already been published, in albums and on DVDs, about our tremendous tour to France, so it is really difficult to add more! The weather was hot. The rugby was tough. The conviviality and camaraderie amongst all tourists was superb. When the opening match began with National Anthems, every player knew this tour was about France v England!

Every Solihull player put their heart, soul and body on the line throughout the tour. No one more so than Harry Morgan. Whilst Harry had had to sit out the Daily Mail Cup v OSH because of injury, he took every tour match as his own "Twickenham Final". A quiet, unsung hero, maybe, but I will always value his strong scrummaging, vital carries & drives, and huge clear-outs at the ruck. Someone has to do the 'ugly stuff' and not hang out for the glory!

We had four matches at three great venues. L'Expérience de Stade Bordelais was superb: two excellent games (the first 12-a-side, the second 15-a-side), both preceded by singing national anthems, and proceeded by an excellent post-match banquet.

The following match v Salles U16 was, in my opinion, definitive: the best, all-round exhibition of '15-man rugby' displayed all season. It was the School's first win, in four tours, against this club!

Having lost one and won one of the two 15-a-side matches, a tired and battered squad took to the pitch the following morning for Le Crunch Match v Le Bouscat. It was yet another very hot day so we agreed to play 3 x 20mins, with various combinations of players, to secure a 29 – 10 victory, and finally, the School's first series win in France!

Before I sign-off, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all colleagues (and especially Mr Sean Morgan), parents, referees, and friends who have supported U15 School Rugby this year. Without your help and support, none of this would have happened!

I would like to pay special thanks to my former colleague Mr Andrew Wild, who has now been on tour with Solihull School for the past six consecutive years, even though he's been Head of Maths at King's High, Warwick for the past four years! Fantastic loyalty to the Solihull Badge!

Finally, I wish all the players the very best of fortunes in your forthcoming years at Senior Level rugby at Solihull School.

Mr Jackson

U14

P11 W4 L7

Although the results do not read well it is not a true reflection of how the U14s performed this season. The team made a lot of progress this year and were unlucky in a couple of matches to end on the losing side.

The forwards often laid the foundation for our victories and won good quick balls which enabled the backs to take the ball going forward.

The front row of Fraser Mackie, Anthony Szarmach and Luke Hoey certainly proved to be very competitive and often won their personal battle in the scrums by gaining several balls against the head. They were helped by the push they got from the second row of Alex Hurt and Iain Rodriguez-Brown. The back row were often ubiquitous especially Luca Walker, Matt Sergeant and Harry Sharpe.

The forwards were well controlled by Dan Dowell-Lee at scrum-half, who formed an effective partnership with James Hart at fly-half. James certainly became more and more effective in this role and by the end of the season could control a game. Peter Stansfield and Todd Bonehill defended stoutly in the centres and showed that they could be a handful in attack. The wingers Ahmad Alani and Jonathan Sandler showed some good try scoring instincts. Sam Ashby at full back certainly had the pace to frighten any defender. Oscar Haynes proved to be a very good utility back slotting in at scrum-half with aplomb but also proving effective at full-back.

U13

After a previous undefeated season, the A-team had high expectations at the start of the year. These expectations were soon fulfilled with a convincing win against Old Swinford Hospital 33-5. The forwards dominated throughout the game, being fast to the breakdown and excellent in the contact areas. Oliver Cottom made a strong debut appearance for the A-team with solid tackling, securing him a strong position for the rest of the season at flanker. The next game was against a physical King's Worcester side. We played extremely well and edged a close 10-8 win. The team's winning form continued, with five convincing wins in a row against sides including Loughborough and Bedford Modern. Strong performances from many players, including William Davies at fly half, ensured the next three games were all won, with Moses Fakatou on the wing scoring 50 points. Despite the adverse weather conditions over the Christmas period, the team continued to train hard. After numerous cancellations, the last game of the season was against our rivals, Warwick School. After a poor start, Ben Fowles finally made a breakthrough, scoring under the

posts and putting Solihull back in contention. However, after a long and hard fought game, the final score was 7-17 in Warwick's favour. The defeat brought an end to a remarkable 29-game unbeaten winning streak which was nevertheless a great achievement. Throughout the season the A-team scored 380 well-deserved points and only conceded 86. Great thanks from the team must go to Mr Jenkinson in particular but also to Mr Earnshaw for training the 15-a-side squads and helping achieve some great results.

The B-team has also had a successful year. Against RGS Worcester, the team worked well together, being hard in the contact areas and providing quick ball for the backs, consequently winning 40-0. The captain, Matt Gibbons, has showed great leadership and along with many other B-team players, has challenged the A-team squad for their places. They have all shown a high level of commitment in training and have consistently played well, winning 8 and losing only 2. On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr Morgan for all his hard work and coaching.

In February half term, a squad of 12 started to train with Mr Swain for the oncoming Sevens season. The first tournament was at Nottingham and the Solihull Sevens squad started off by winning their group with ease. A last minute try in the semi-final secured a position in the final against Bradford, to whom we unfortunately lost. The next two tournaments saw Solihull coming fourth at Warwick and runners up at their own tournament. Alec Ladbrooke played exceptionally well at the Solihull tournament finishing off many moves and making great runs. The squad of 12 set off to Berkhamsted with high hopes of winning some silver wear. The boys won six games and found themselves in the final of the Plate against Gwyr who we eventually beat with Ben Fowles winning the Player of the Plate award.

The final tournament was the National Sevens Tournament at Rosslyn Park which ran over two days. On the first day the squad played three games against Boost, Hitchin and Cwm Rhymni, winning their group. However, we unfortunately lost to a strong QEGS Wakefield side. The boys had a great Sevens Season and the team and I would like to thank Mr Swain and Mr Jenkinson for their contributions to coaching the Sevens squad.

Ben Fowles

U12 A

P14 W10 L4

This season was a steep learning curve, with a number of players growing to love the game. During the early stages, the team struggled to get within the rigidity of the laws of the game. The philosophy of ruck-and-run slowly came to

the fore as the players grew in confidence.

Excellent victories were well-earned against local rivals KES Birmingham, and the team destroyed an Old Swinford Hospital XV that appeared shell-shocked. The team also displayed excellent running rugby to beat RGS and King's Worcester early on.

Harsh lessons were also learned against Warwick and Bromsgrove, but in the long run such matches will do the boys more good than harm. When the game changed to 7's, the U12s excelled, being runners-up at Nottingham High School and winning the RGS Worcester 7's.

We would like to thank all of the boys for a positive attitude at all times and also for the parental support.

U12 B

P12 W 9 L3

The U12 B XV had a good season and went from strength to strength. From small acorns grow big trees and this is a perfect analogy for this year.

At the start of the season we were hampered not only by the yo-yo effect of playing personal – as every attempt was made to enable all players to have a game – but also the fact that for many individuals this was their first taste of Rugby Union Football. What was evident from the start was that amongst our brethren there was some skill spread throughout the forwards and especially the backs, which combined with good old-fashioned determination and spirit, to earn good victories in our first two competitive fixtures against King's Worcester and Old Swinford Hospital. Against Adams GS, Warwick and RGS Worcester we were not as fortunate, where despite our toil it was evident that these schools had players who had played a lot more rugby.

Nevertheless, as the team became more settled and the effectiveness of our back line became more apparent, we ended up undefeated for the rest of the season! A close and hard-fought victory over KES Birmingham by four tries to two showed how far we had progressed with the technical side of the game: the back line were hitting some nice lines and the general level of defence throughout the team that day can only be described as tigerish. These aspects were then taken into the next games with a comfortable win over Pates GS, followed by victories over Aston and Bablake. With players improving and earning selection to the A-team, competition for a starting place in the team remained relentless for the rest of the season.

It was perhaps fitting then that our final two games against King Henry VIII Coventry and

the return against King's Worcester were the most compelling of the season. In the former match we were victorious by five tries to two but this match stood out for some excellent interplay between backs and forwards again, supported by some resolute defending, especially when the opposition had come back at one stage to within four points. However, it was the final return game against King's Worcester that was the most impressive as it provided a good measurement of how far we had progressed. This time we had no reason to rely on good old-fashioned guts and determination alone to scrap out a victory as we had added other strings to our bow: desire, commitment, guile and above all, skills. The boys put in a performance of true vintage champagne rugby, which resulted in a very pleasing win by eight well-worked tries to two. Many thanks to all those players who played regularly for the B-team: for their commitment, hard work and above all, their enthusiasm for training and playing.

Well done!

Mr MJ Covill



Solihull Boys' Hockey Season 2010/11

1st XI

King Edward's Bill Buttle Tournament on the first day of the season has, more often than not, provided an early trophy and a welcome confidence boost for the side. However, in its new, expanded format, it has become a much more challenging competition and this year, its extension to a full-day event and controversial pre-term scheduling upped the ante further. Nevertheless, the newly-assembled team acquitted itself well, despatching King Edward's B side 3-0 in the opening match, drawing 0-0 with tournament favourites Loughborough and beating Bablake 2-0 to progress from the group stage to the semi-final. Here, we faced Sutton Coldfield College but, by this stage, the squad's lack of match fitness was beginning to tell and we made hard work of a 1-1 draw. That result took us into a 1 v 1 competition to settle the tie, which we won 3-2, confidently scoring each of our attempts. In the final we again faced Loughborough. However, running low on energy, we were unable to create many chances and, despite battling valiantly, eventually succumbed 0-1.

Disappointment in the final notwithstanding, this was an encouraging performance and was reinforced one week later in our first full fixture. Last season Queen Mary's, a competitive but usually beatable side, had inflicted two embarrassing defeats upon us so a comfortable 5-1 victory, with goals from Dom Coghlan, Angus Archer and Guy Barnes and a Jon Coleman brace, was most welcome. Unfortunately, optimism was short-lived as we lost 0-1 to fierce rivals Warwick in our next

fixture and concerns grew for another season of hugely inconsistent results and performances.

It was the next fixture which proved to be the catalyst for greater things, however, and probably the defining moment of the season: the mighty Bromsgrove at home. Not since November 2006 had we been able to match them in competition but a herculean performance, boundless determination and, at times, desperate defending earned a momentous victory, with Stuart Bradley and Jon Coleman's goals securing a 2-1 win, the first time we had defeated Bromsgrove since our legendary double over them in the 2005-6 season.

This moment seemed to galvanise the squad, imbuing a confidence and a joy in playing that had been absent from 1st XI hockey for a while. The run-up to Christmas yielded a further five victories against Bishop Vesey's (3-2), in which we were treated to a very rare Mrigank Sinha goal, Bablake (2-0), Newcastle-under-Lyme (3-1), King Henry VIII Coventry (5-1) and Loughborough (4-2), with only two losses (both 1-2) to the ever-strengthening KES and hockey powerhouse Repton. The result against the very strong Loughborough side that we had faced in the Bill Buttle final was particularly pleasing; two goals each from Paul Smith and David Harrison earning a confidence building away win.

It was at this point in the season that the winter conspired to expose the empty boastfulness of the "all-weather pitch" and several games were lost to the snow, which meant a hiatus of nearly seven weeks before our next fixture, in the new year. A 2-2 draw in that match, against Sutton Coldfield College, followed by successive 0-1 losses at Adam's Grammar School and

Bloxham, hardly provided encouraging preparation for the Warwickshire County round of the England Hockey National Schools Championship but the last day in January saw us travel to Rugby School for that tournament. Drawn in a very tough group, we started strongly with a 3-1 win over Princethorpe, in which Jamie Wallis (2) and Angus Archer scored the goals, and followed with a closely fought 1-0 victory over hosts Rugby. Despite losing 0-1 to KES in the final group game, we had done enough to secure a semi-final place against Bishop Vesey's, whom we despatched 2-1, thanks to Chris Thomas and Dom Coghlan. Once again, however, the weather chose to interfere and a freezing pitch caused the final to be abandoned. Given the outcome of the pre-season tournament and our general dislike for the new one-day format of the England Hockey competition, this probably worked in our favour.

By mutual agreement the final, against King Edward's, was arranged as a full match the following Wednesday. An epic and keenly fought battle ensued in which, despite some hairy moments in the closing stages, we managed to retain the advantage gained from captain Dom Harding's excellent penalty corner conversion to win 1-0 and claim the title of Warwickshire County Champions. This meant passage to the Midlands Region zonal stage and, once again, we set about worrying ourselves with a disappointing 2-5 loss to Bromsgrove in which we largely matched them but lost out due to a few defensive errors, upon which they capitalised clinically.

In the Midlands zone, we got off to a terrible start by losing 0-2 to Uppingham. In a game in which we played the better hockey and had more possession, we were frustratingly unable to convert our chances, whilst Uppingham cleanly finished two break-away opportunities that came their way. Confidence knocked, we crumbled against a Queen Mary's side who should have been out of their depth, somehow managing to lose 0-1. By some miracle of mathematics we were not yet out of the competition but were reliant on Uppingham winning their third match if we were to have any chance of qualifying for the Regional finals. They did, and we then faced Adam's Grammar School in a match that could see either of us go through. A tense game concluded with a 2-0 result that was exactly the result we needed to squeeze through by the narrowest of margins, on goal-difference.

Between this and the Midlands finals were a 1-1 draw against Warwick and a 2-1 win at Bablake. Not the convincing preparation we might have hoped for but, at least, no defeats this time.

The Midlands finals took place exactly one month after the zonal round, in slightly improving mid-March conditions at Cannock Hockey Club. A no-show by Worcester College

meant a 3-0 default win in our opening group game but a 'cold start' against Bromsgrove in our second fixture. Performing much better than we had in our away defeat against them, we troubled and challenged them and always looked likely to get something from the match. Sadly, one inexplicable defensive misjudgement meant that we lost 1-0. Visibly despondent, the squad struggled in the first half of our final group game, against Newcastle-under-Lyme, but rallied at half time and thumped in six goals in 20 minutes to qualify for the semi-final.

Unfortunately, the Bromsgrove result placed us second in the group so we were drawn to face current National Champions Repton in our semi-final. We played strongly and battled hard but, appearing to 'play the name' rather than the side in front of us, we never looked like we believed we could win, and win we did not. The final result was 0-2 and Repton went on to beat Bromsgrove in the final. Watching that match, it was pleasing to note (although scant consolation) that we had proven more challenging opposition for both sides than they did for each other.

Although the change in competition format makes a direct comparison difficult, our Midlands semi-finalist position equals our best ever progress in the England Hockey National Championship at Under 18 level, so the boys can be hugely proud of a superb achievement that went largely unrecognised. Despite the disappointment, we finished our domestic season on a high with a sound 5-1 thrashing of Princethorpe, marred only by Tom Hunt's red card, in which captain Dom Harding and three other Upper Sixth leavers – Ed Johnson, Paul Smith and Jon Coleman, who had played National League hockey at Olton – all scored.

Domestic season concluded, all that remained was the annual Bath U19 Hockey Festival, hosted by King Edward's School, Bath. The weekend proved to be a fittingly enjoyable way to end the most successful 1st XI Hockey season for half a decade, with plenty of excellent hockey and equally excellent company. Although the festival has no outright winner, it offers the opportunity to compete against teams from all over the UK and Solihull School gave a very favourable account of itself, both sportingly and behaviourally. The weekend began with a 1-1 draw against Victoria College, followed by a wins over Monkton Combe School (3-0), Millfield (4-0) and Haberdashers' Aske's School (4-1).

The superb season that the squad has enjoyed has, in no small measure, stemmed from the exemplary captaincy of Dominic Harding, a great motivator of men who has always led by example on the pitch. 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. New captain Jamie Wallis and next year's squad have big shoes to

fill and I wish them the best of luck for the coming season.

Thanks also to Chris Mayer for his help, support and world-class coaching and to assistant coach Andy Gooderham, who has been exceptional in the role and will be missed as he leaves us for a full-time coaching post. Good luck, Andy.

Roll on 2011-12!

Mr Babb



2nd XI

The 2nd XI had an outstanding 2010/2011 season, building on the success of the previous year's campaign. In total, 19 matches were played with 14 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses. The two narrow defeats both came against 1st XI opposition which underpins how well the squad of players performed. Unfortunately, two fixtures were cancelled due to the heavy snow we experienced in early December.

The most pleasing aspect of the squad throughout the year was the way they gelled as a team, especially when losing both Chris Pettman and Tom Hunt to the 1st XI early on in the season. The way in which the squad played improved game by game, culminating in some wonderful skilful hockey by the end of the season.

The only criticism of the team would be their inability to get into the game quickly enough, however hard the coaching staff tried!

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

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

Mr D Hemp

3rd XI

For my last year of School Hockey I had the pleasure of the company of a great group of players. I couldn't help reflecting on how far the sport has come in the 33 years since I first umpired a trial match with the wonderful Ian Biggs on grass by the Scout Hut! Then we were grateful to be able to put out 2 teams who could play at all. Now we are looking at 5 regular teams and those in my 3rd team this year would have easily made the 2nd team only a few years ago. This is a major testimony to the way that Chris Mayer has brought a new attitude to hockey and raised the standard and profile of the sport over his time at the School and it has been a pleasure to work with him and learn from him.

I lost my initial captain to promotion, but Scot Walker proved an admirable replacement, controlling the team from a position at the heart of the defence. Our main goalkeeper, Andy Pursley, even got a couple of games for the 1st team and again was worthy of exposure at a higher level. Ben Newman stood in excellently when called up as a replacement. Commitment and determination were the keynotes of the team this year and there were few lapses! We played a mixture of 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams and achieved a record of played 17, Won 11, Drew 5, Lost 1, with that sole loss being against the 1st team from the Sixth Form College.

Highlights were wins against 1st teams from Old Swinford and K. E. Five Ways, but also big wins against our parallel sides from Warwick and Queen Mary's and a rare win against Bloxham. We sent a number of players up to the 2nd team, but were still left with a defence – featuring the skipper, Matt Blenkinsop, Neil Dey and Chris Baines – conceding marginally

more than a goal a game. Our strength in midfield centred on the talented duo of Charlie Harvey and Dylan Patel, with Nick Morris and Andy Waddell also playing an important role. Up front, Alex Mackie showed fantastic skill and Matt Orme and Ollie Towers scored a number of the 59 goals in combination with different centre forwards, including Callum Walker and Ashley Carter. Goals flowed particularly freely from all the players in advanced positions in the later games of the season, and the corners also started to work well. Will Harland was unfortunate to suffer an injury which cost him half of the season.

After a very successful season overall, these players, together with occasional performers Nick Clay, Jon Clarke and Alex Assinder, must look to consolidate positions in higher teams next year. They have played with a good positive spirit throughout!

Mr Brough

U15 A

After a solid season at U14 level, I was looking forward to the new season, as there could be no doubt that there is an abundance of talented hockey players within the year group. However, ultimately, it was to prove a frustrating season as, due to a variety of reasons, many stalwarts of the previous season became unavailable for much of this year's campaign.

The season began with three losses in a row. This was due, mainly, to the fact that we had some players playing out of position and the 'new look' A-team were taking their time to gel. Things picked up, however, when the team demolished Warwick 7-0, looking far more accomplished in the process. This was followed by two more victories as confidence returned to the players – it was especially satisfying when beating KES after losing to them in the first game of the season.

Inevitably, the winter weather had a major influence on proceedings and, as the snow and freezing conditions took hold, many fixtures were cancelled. This meant that there were no matches played between 25th November and 13th January.

The second half of the season began with another loss but was followed by a creditable draw against a strong Bloxham side and an emphatic 5-0 win against Lawrence Sheriff. By now, the team was beginning to have a core of reliable players, a few of whom, through hard work and attendance in training, had improved their game beyond recognition and instead of being considered B-team players, were now very much invaluable members of the A-team. The importance of these boys came to the fore, as the next match was away against Repton. Once again, the availability of players caused the coaching staff a few headaches and a makeshift side had to be fielded against a

very confident and competent Repton side. A memorable evening saw Solihull go 2-1 up, massively against the run of play. However, Repton took control in the second half and, after asking the Solihull defence a lot of questions, eventually went 3-2 ahead. It was to the boys' credit, though, that heads did not go down and towards the end of the game Solihull began to press and managed to score a deserved equaliser. A fantastic result, all things considered!

As has been mentioned, availability of players was often an issue throughout the season and there were times when sides were fielded with just ten players or with boys added to the team at the last minute. Therefore, it is testament to the talent and perseverance of many of the boys that the team went through the rest of the season with 7 more victories and only 4 losses.

Special mention must go to Harry Busz as captain and strong influence in midfield; Nick Hooper, an ever-present threat and talent on the right wing; Sam Montieri, exceptionally strong in midfield and proof that you can commit wholeheartedly to more than one sport; Luke Owen, another ever-present attacking threat; Matt Prichard, a strong, skilful and dependable left-back; George Taylor, a frustrated centre-midfielder playing at centre-back (sweet striker of the ball!); James Berry, a greatly-improved and influential right-sided midfielder/defender; Shashank Chaganty, averted a crisis when the team were without a goalkeeper and proved to be an excellent custodian (real goalkeeping potential!); Oliver Haley, a very skilful and tremendously influential player in midfield; Charlie Rowe (when fit!), a constant goal threat as centre-forward; Chris Bevins, a centre-back who reads the game extremely well; and Jamie Hughes and James Taylor for their improved skill and performances as A-team squad members. If I have missed anyone off this list, I apologise profusely!

U15 B

The B-team had a mixed season, winning five games and losing four. The highlights of the year were wins against KES Birmingham and a hard-fought 2-1 win against Bromsgrove. Some notable achievements included the progress of Ben Piggin, whose skill and pace proved a handful for many of the opposition defences. Also, the revelation that Kevin McCormack displays considerable prowess as a goalkeeper! I am grateful to all the players who contributed to the team throughout the year.

As ever, I would like to thank Mr Mayer and, in particular, Mr Gooderham for their expert coaching and support throughout the season.

Mr S. Mitchell

U14 A

The U14 A-team has had a good season,

managing a total of 8 wins and 4 draws from their 19 matches. The season got off to a strong start with an unbeaten run for the first five games with Anthony Szarmach and Richard Bradley quickly showing themselves to be threatening in front of goal. After the Christmas break our fortunes turned and apart from a fantastic 7-0 over King Edwards Camp Hill – including goals from Szarmach, Bowen, Clarke, Vale, Hurt and Thandi – we did not win until mid-February. Fortunately, a narrow win at King Henry VIII Coventry provided the first of three victories on the trot including a 5-1 victory against Newcastle-under-Lyme and possibly our most hard-earned victory against Bloxham, where David Clarke managed two fantastic goals alongside an excellent close range finish from Nick Starkey. We unfortunately had a second run of bad fortune where injury and other commitments resulted in a lack of finishing and a goal drought in the middle of March. The same could be said for our efforts in the Cup where a slow start and a disappointing lack of initial spirit resulted in two early losses that unfortunately we were unable to recover from. Fortunately, the end of the season provided opportunity to end on a high, with another match against Camp Hill and a game against one of our greatest hockey rivals, Bromsgrove, to finish the season on the following day. The match against Camp Hill showed what the boys were capable of with Clarke scoring 4, Szarmach managing a hat trick, Phil Blenkinsop scoring a couple, Ed Bowen scoring a well-timed effort, and our new short corner specialist Joe Price scoring one, stepping up from his defensive role and providing us with an interesting tactical alternative for our set pieces next year. As impressive as an 11-0 victory was, it pales into insignificance compared to our 1-0 victory against Bromsgrove the next day. Bromsgrove had a very strong team and were looking ready to end their season with another win. Our boys dug deep and kept Bromsgrove out, under incredible pressure early on, including some excellent saves by Chris Barker. Further hard work resulted in a few chances and finally a goal. What followed was possibly the tensest finale to a match and a season that we would have desired, with Bromsgrove battering away at our defences, resulting in a short corner on the final whistle. The shot was taken and the ball was beautifully deflected wide resulting in the end of one of our proudest matches and the end of a promising season.

A huge thanks must go to all the boys who regularly attended training and to Mr Mayer and Mr Gooderham for their assistance in improving the squad as a whole. I am sure that the boys will miss Mr Gooderham next year and we wish him luck in his new post.

U14 B

The U14 B-team has had a difficult season and took a while to find their feet and bring their skill level up to a point where they could effectively threaten opponents. However, after

a few losses at the beginning and only seven matches overall, it became apparent we needed to finish the season well to avoid losing every match. The sixth match of the season was against our old rivals King Edward's School. The KES team looked strong and it was only through excellent team work and clinical finishing – which had been lacking early in the season – that we were able to gain an impressive 3-3 draw. This left us with one match remaining and the boys were desperate to get a win before the season ended. On the 17th of March we stepped up against Loughborough, a team that was a strong B-team and favourites in the match. What followed was an incredible show of desire and enthusiasm, resulting in goals flying in throughout both halves with Dhadwal, Barker, Tennet, and Blenkinsop all scoring one each and Ian Rodriguez-Brown managing two in a fantastic performance leading to an incredible 6-0 victory.

Well done to the boys for having one of the most impressive B-team training turnouts that we have ever seen and our thanks to Mr Mayer and Mr Gooderham for their help and advice throughout the season.

U13

P17 W9 L6 D2

This group of players went from strength to strength and in the end played an attractive and successful style of hockey. Eventually, they grasped the concept of 'the ball will move faster' and also 'nobody likes chasing shadows!'

After a loss to KES Birmingham in the first game 0-2, the U13 XI then destroyed KES Stratford 11-0 before drawing 2-2 with KES Birmingham in the re-run. The next two games saw convincing wins 4-1 and 6-1 against Nunnery Wood and Warwick School respectively. This was further supported by convincing wins against Newcastle 7-0 and Bloxham 4-0.

Next was Bablake which proved to be the hardest game of the season and the most entertaining. Two teams playing open free hockey – a superb advert for school sport. The end result was a deserved 2-2 draw. The XI then put Princethorpe, Warwick and Arnold Lodge to the sword, the latter by 12-0.

I would like to thank all of the students for a superb time and also say how much I appreciated the support of Mr Gooderham and Mr Mayer.

U12

The U12 hockey squad had an excellent first full season from start to finish, playing seven games, and only losing two (both of which they should have won).

What I found refreshing was the keenness with

which the players not only attended after-School practice, but also lunch time practice sessions. In all, forty-four players attended additional specific hockey sessions, which is quite phenomenal.

This, in my opinion, was one of the main reasons why both the A and B teams proved difficult to beat throughout the season. Yes, there are plenty of gifted players within the squad which was evident on occasion when several players were lost to the A-side rugby squad, but I believe that due to the numbers in attendance at practice sessions, missing players in key positions were easy to replace. In addition to this, the squad did practise well and with the correct attitude: this is paramount if progress and development are to be made.

There were comprehensive wins against Queen Mary's, Nunnery Wood and Bablake as well as an excellent display against Bromsgrove, despite an unfortunate 3-2 defeat. The team was lead exceptionally well by Harry Manek-Robinson and although all the players in the squad made significant contributions, there were consistent performances from Charlie Hadley, Harry Peachey, Tom Mitchell and Cameron Pound.

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

Mr D Hemp



Solihull Boys' Cricket Season 2010/11

1st XI

This season's preparations began back in October 2010 on a dark, damp Friday evening. Specific batting and bowling drills were introduced in the early part of the winter training programme to enhance both technique and player awareness. It is paramount that players are aware of their own games, identifying not only shortcomings in their games but also areas and skills that they perform well. Net practice sessions were introduced together with video analysis after the Christmas break. The video analysis was again a great success as it was embraced wholeheartedly by the players and as such will be an area in which we shall look to further develop as part of the overall coaching programme. This will be expanded to entail filming several 20/20 fixtures during the 2012 season.

In total, twenty-seven games were played which consisted of 14 wins and 3 non results. Only the away fixture at KES Birmingham was lost to indifferent weather. Overall, twenty-nine players were used. It goes without saying that this was not an ideal situation, as it can be unsettling when a team and its makeup are continuously changing. This was primarily down to the earlier start time of the exam period timetable, coupled with several injuries that were sustained. However, this 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. A prime example of this is the Warwickshire U19 semi-final cup game later this month that will now include six

players from the Lower Fifth and below.

The side was captained by Dominic Harding who was into his third season representing the School's 1st XI. Similar to last year, there were a variety of games played: 20/20, 50 over, declaration and a 2-day game. This variety undoubtedly gave the players an understanding of the various skills needed to perform successfully at these different formats.

There were numerous individual highlights again this summer, coupled with several good team performances. Some of these team performances included impressive 50-over wins against both Bromsgrove and Warwick as well as an outstanding effort in defending a total of 120 at home in a 20/20 fixture against Wrekin College. Individually, Dominic Harding had an outstanding season with the bat, surpassing over 1300 runs with an average over 65. This followed up last season's effort where he narrowly missed the milestone by 3 runs. He accumulated three centuries and ten half centuries during this season's campaign, playing several majestic innings. Jamie Hughes was undoubtedly the pick of the bowling attack, taking in excess of 30 wickets at an impressive average of 16. What is pleasing in this instance is that not only is Jamie a Lower Fifth pupil, but he bowled with excellent discipline at key times during games. He also managed to score his maiden 100 in all cricket, notching up a very impressive 101 against a strong RGS Worcester team.

There were naturally one or two disappointing results but overall, it was pleasing to see the side not just compete by getting themselves into winning positions, but actually follow it through to win.

Many thanks once again must go to Head Groundsman Karl Brotherhood and his assistant Mark Bailey for the quality of the

cricket pitches and net practice pitches that they have produced this season across all the four cricket squares. I thought last season's surfaces were excellent but this season's have surpassed them. No pressure for next year! I cannot overemphasise the extent to which players need good surfaces to perform on, and the quality that we have seen is proven by the amount of runs that have been scored across the various age groups. This will also aid our bowlers whose discipline with the ball will get better with time.

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

P12 W1 D1 L10

This has been a very difficult year for the 2nd XI. Examinations and call-ups into the 1st XI meant that it was not possible to field the same team from week to week. Yet, despite the poor results in my last season of 37 in a number of top cricket schools, I will leave with fond memories of this side. Human beings shine in adversity and those who played this season fought with determination and in a truly sportsmanlike manner. I am particularly grateful to Osama Rahman, who did a Herculean job raising teams, and to Martin Bullard for captaining the side on several occasions. Despite the results, some good work was done with both bat and ball. Joe Halbert batted well during the season as did Rob Raymant. Several players, stepping down from the dizzy heights of the XI, also did a grand job

with bat and ball. Buckle and Wassall, Whitfield, Curtiss and Johnson all at times bowled well. Consistency, though, was missing with the ball. If I have missed any player out in this report forgive me, but naming all 32 players who played for the 2nd XI would be too lengthy.

I will not be here next summer. I hope that the players left will dedicate themselves to serious winter nets. There is, despite the results, a great deal of potential in this team. I wish all the players well and am grateful for the unique present I received. I shall treasure it. Thank you and bon voyage.

Mr Wright

3rd XI Cricket Report 2011

P3 W0 T0 L3

As the results suggest, this has been a difficult year for the 3rd XI. Injuries, call ups to the 2nd XI, the weather and three cancelled fixtures all prevented any form of momentum being gathered. Despite this, the enthusiasm of the eleven players who represented the illustrious team was never dampened and in particular there was some excellent stroke play from Ajun Raghuraman who led the team all season, Dan Wilkes (notably his 24 off 8 balls against OSH) and Sam Weighall. Having set competitive targets we were unable to defend our score despite the best efforts of all the bowlers and the talismanic figures of Rhys Ponsoy and Chris Pettman.

Thanks to all those who played.

Mr M J Covill

U15

The U15 Cricket Team enjoyed a relatively successful season this year. From the ten matches played, the A-team won four and lost six. They reached the semi-final of the cup competition but narrowly lost to a formidable Warwick School side in a repeat of last year's semi-final. The lack of victories compared to last year is borne out of the fact that several players were regularly on 1st XI duty. These included Nick Hooper, Jamie Hughes, Oliver Haley, Sam Montieri, Jonathan Allen, and to a lesser extent Charles Rowe and Conor Townsend. Consequently, this meant that the team were often below par in terms of their bowling attack and batting line up. Moreover, without Chris Beaumont-Dark they lacked a specialist spinner. Nevertheless, on the positive side, it meant that opportunities became available for more inexperienced players. Consequently, Charles Badham, Harry Busz, Christopher Bevins, Jacob Small, Luke Owen and Michael Fair were given more prominent roles in the team. Indeed, they duly rose to this challenge and gave some excellent performances playing with skill and determination. Particular highlights included Nick Hooper's innings of 80 against Bromsgrove, Oliver Haley's 60 not out against King's Worcester and Charles Rowe's innings of 67 against RGS Worcester. In the B-team there were several notable performances including Jamie Hughes' innings of 51 against Bromsgrove and George Taylor's 54 against K.E.S. Birmingham. Nick Hooper again captained the A-side with wisdom and skill, whilst Harry Busz and Charles Badham impressively shared the duties for the B-team.

Mr Hart

U14A

P9 W4 L5

(3 rained off, 2 cancelled by the opposition)

The U14A had a summer of mixed fortunes, winning 4 of our fixtures. We recorded wins over King Henry VIII School, Washwood Heath, Bishop Vesey GS and Bromsgrove School. The most exciting victory came at Bromsgrove where we won by 1 wicket. We were set a target of 133 to win and we reached it with 13 balls to spare. We were in a very comfortable position at 63 for 1 and then we lost Nick Starkey (18) and Joe Lankester (38) in quick succession. The wickets then tumbled at regular intervals until James Newman (17 not out) and Vickneswaran Sarveswaran (0 not out) saw us home for a much welcomed victory.

On the whole we bowled and fielded to a good standard and at times we batted well but all too often we collapsed after putting ourselves into a good position. Over the course of the season we only scored two half centuries, both coming in the game at RGS Worcester. Nick Starkey top scored with 75 and was ably supported on the day by James Ward who

scored 50. Nick Starkey was the leading run getter with 204 runs in total. The next best was Joe Lankester with 149 runs. In the bowling department we were much more consistent and our opponents found it hard to score runs freely against us. James Newman had the best bowling performance where he took 4 for 20 off 7 overs, including 1 maiden, in the win over Bromsgrove. Another notable performance with the ball came from Jack Hines who took 4 for 32 in the cup match against Rugby. The leading wicket taker was James Newman with 12 and Jack Hines finished behind him with 11.

My thanks go to all the team: their commitment was excellent and they played the game in a spirit that the School can be proud of. I have greatly enjoyed the season but part of me is disappointed as I believe that this team did not play to their full potential at any stage. I believe that there is more to come next season. In total 14 boys played for the U14A team.

Thank you to Mr Hemp, Mr Smith and Mr P. Morgan for all of their top class coaching of the team and to Jayne Round and the kitchen crew. My final thanks is to Karl Brotherhood and his Staff, who have been fantastic all year.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

The U14B cricket squad, ably led throughout the season by Philip Wreford, can afford to look back at this season with great satisfaction. At the time of writing, they are eagerly awaiting a Cup semi-final date with KES Birmingham, a team they vanquished comfortably in their first outing, and as a group, there is no doubt that much progress has been made.

The season began with the aforementioned victory over KES, in which the captain himself led the way with a stunning 63 not out, but unfortunately, momentum was somewhat lost with a disappointing defeat in east Warwickshire against Princethorpe. Thankfully, the boys picked themselves up and notched three victories in a row, the first of these being gained in a tight contest in Solihull against Bishop Vesey, in which Wreford took 2 for 15. The team fielded very well, saving singles and keeping the Sutton Coldfield batsmen under pressure. Subsequently, Warwick were sent packing with the help of a superb batting performance by Wreford and Turley, who saw the team through to a two-wicket victory, and then a close game on an unpredictable Bromsgrove pitch was lost as the season drew to a close.

One of the highlights of the season must be Andrew Hooper's outstanding bowling performance against Saltley in the cup – not content with bagging a hat-trick, he finished with a five wicket haul that demonstrated the fundamental importance of line and length

bowling. Many players can look back at the season with great satisfaction, notably Philip Wreford, who proved to be a fine captain, Ollie Turley who kept wicket well and anchored many an innings and Andrew Hooper, who bowled consistently well throughout the season.

On a personal note, I would like to thank every boy who represented the School at U14B level, and I wish them well in the future, hoping that their next coach enjoys working with them as much as I have. Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the unstinting support of Mr Mayer, Mr Hemp and Mr Smith, who have all contributed so much to such a successful season.

Mr P Morgan

U13 A

P11 W6 L5

The U13s have shown an encouraging improvement on last year, winning 6 of their 11 matches. Notable results have been a comprehensive win against local rivals Warwick, victories over KES Stratford (last year's county champions), King Henry VIII Coventry and an excellent win against Loughborough Grammar School.

A good County Cup run saw us defeat KES Stratford and Fairfax School before a poor performance disappointingly saw us lose to KES Birmingham by only 7 runs.

Notable performances came from Oliver Banks scoring 78 against King Henry VIII Coventry, Archie Clay with 50 against RGS Worcester, Will Davies hitting 50 against Loughborough Grammar School and Tom Brewer taking 5 wickets against Warwick School.

U13 B

P4 W1 L3

Despite having a mixed season, the U13 B-team played well against strong B-team opposition. The high points of the season were defeating KES Aston and only very narrowly losing to KES Birmingham. Consistent performers have been James Griffiths, Frank Fogarty and Bradley Monk.

The performances of U13 teams were a marked improvement on last season due to the excellent coaching and hard work throughout the year of Mr Hemp, Mr Smith, Mr Mayer, Mr Bishop, Mr Phillips and the commitment of all players who in the main have attended all winter and summer practices. We look forward to further improved performances next season.

A special thank you must go to Mr Bishop and Mr Phillips who have given up their Saturdays to umpire and guide us, and this has been much appreciated.

Will Davies, U13 'A' Captain

U12

The season began with fine weather and high hopes after some enthusiastic practice sessions in the Old Gym and indoor nets during the winter.

There were encouraging performances at times throughout the summer term, with the team ending with a resounding victory over Old Swinford Hospital School in which Harry Goodworth emerged from the B-team and showed an admirable batting technique. He may well be a player to watch in future years. Others, such as Connor Gregory, also advanced their claims to a place in the A-team by consistent performances in the B-team and committed work in after-school nets.

It would be true to say that other results this year were a little disappointing, with eight of the team's twelve matches ending in defeat. Against strong teams fielded by the likes of Warwick School and Loughborough Grammar School, the U12s struggled to chase totals and relied too much on Fahd Janjua to score runs. This may perhaps explain Fahd's rather lean season with the bat: apart from 55 against Nottingham, he struggled to impose himself. (His off-spin bowling, by contrast, was increasingly successful as the season went on).

The only other fifty came in our final match against Old Swinford Hospital and was scored by acting captain Charles Davies. Charles worked hard at his batting technique during net sessions and showed admirable fight in tough situations, often injecting urgency into an innings at just the right time and scoring as consistently as anyone. Alistair Bevan scored one or two promising runs at the top of the order and others like captain Benny Watson, Cameron Pound, Tom Mitchell and Sam Kandola gained useful experience of batting in match situations. All, though, will need to continue tightening their techniques if they are to make real progress next season.

There were brighter performances in both the bowling and fielding, with Cameron Pound's left-arm seam particularly impressive at times and Benny Watson often bowling a testing line. Will Farnworth also showed promise when he adjusted his action and line to bowl consistently at off-stump. Although there were the odd lapses which are inevitable in U12 cricket, the fielding and catching were often outstanding and suggested that this group of players – and those pushing for places from the B-team – are enthusiastic and committed enough to make real progress next year.

Cricket is a very time-consuming game, both for the players and officials, and the boys' enthusiasm and reliability this season has been most appreciated. Against some of our regular opposition – especially all-boys schools – we limit our chances quite badly when key players miss Saturday fixtures, and it is to be hoped that this group of players will remain keen to play in future.

Mr R/L Geldard



Solihull Girls' Hockey Season 2010/11

1st XI

Captain: Olivia O'Malley
Vice-Captain: Jennifer Ross

As with last year, enthusiasm amongst the girls for Senior Hockey was high, with over 40 girls attending pre-season training and trials. Training continued on a Monday evening, and for those not selected on a Wednesday, mixed hockey was available as a games option in order to keep playing.

The season started immediately against Repton. The match was played at Sills and it took time for the team to gel and cope with a slower playing surface. Having been 0-2 down at half time, Emma Rivers scored a second half goal, with the team unlucky not to come away with a draw. The next day saw the team record a draw with King's Worcester, the first occasion in recent years that we have come away with something from this match. The positives from this game continued and the team played some great hockey to beat Bablake 2-0 in the next match. A narrow loss to a very good King's Warwick side followed, before we moved on to the county tournament. Wins against KEHS (1-0) and EHS (3-0) saw us emerge as West Midlands Champions.

Thankfully this year, the 1st team injury curse decided to have a welcome year off, but the half term break seemed to have a negative impact on the team's results. How we lost to Bloxham (1-0) with all the chances we had, I will never know (although as Vicky Beech put it – get on the post!) and we seemed to be doomed to play badly on the King Henry's pitch!! However, after these two poor results,

the 1st team put in their best performance of the season to score a much more convincing win over Princethorpe than the 2-1 score line would suggest. The movement, passing and effort applied to this game showed how much improvement the girls have made in recent years. A satisfying victory over the Rugby boys as part of Charity Week was also pleasing to see.

The Midlands round of the National Schools Tournament was a disappointment as the team failed to reach the standards shown against Princethorpe. Two further losses followed the tournament, although a 4-1 loss to Rugby was the best result we have had against them in recent times and had our chances been taken, a draw would not have been out of the question. Snow hit hockey once again this year and our final two fixtures fell victim to the weather and meant lots of pre-Christmas running for the team.

With a slight reorganisation of personnel due to Netball priority, the season continued into the spring term. Convincing wins over Wolverhampton, KEHS (4-0) and the Boys' 5th team followed, before narrow losses to Bablake and King Edward's Five Ways. Unfortunately, a very determined Boys' 5th team gained their revenge in the last week of a busy second term.

We cannot fault the commitment of the Senior Girls to hockey this year and most of the improvements shown are a result of the hard work and patience that Mr Gooderham has shown in the last two years: he will be missed! Congratulations must also go to those girls who have played representative hockey – Brooke Jones and Claire Christopher (Birmingham JDC and JAC), and in particular to Julie Whiting for her selection for Wales U18.

To the outgoing Upper Sixth – Olivia O'Malley, Jennifer Ross, Heather Dooley, Harriet Bates, India Watson, Vicky Cox, Laura Cox, Grace

Talbot, Kitty Busz and Emma Bengé – thank you all for your efforts this year and we wish you every success in your hockey playing futures and look forward to seeing you at the Old Girls match! Thank you also to Olivia and Jenny for your organisation and leadership this year. To the returning Lower Sixth and Upper Fifth keep up the fitness, play summer league if you can and come back fit and ready to go in September!

P20 W8 D1 L11

Team: Olivia O'Malley, Jennifer Ross, Harriet Bates, Heather Dooley, India Watson, Ashley Fraser, Emma Rivers, Tina Gough, Claire Christopher, Hannah Jesani, Lara Jesani, Anna McNeillie, Brooke Jones, Maddi Robinson, Frankie Levey, Katie Clarke, Alex Deol, Emily Hodge, Julie Whiting, Vicky Beech, Maria Barnes

Player of the Year: Olivia O'Malley
Most Improved Player: Heather Dooley
Outstanding Contribution: Jenny Ross

Miss Gill

2nd XI

The year began with excitement and high hopes for the 2nd XI Hockey team. With two sets of try-outs, the team decided that they would all prefer to be involved with the 2nd XI and so would rotate weekly. Although we had continuous change amongst the squad, the girls settled to produce some excellent results whilst improving their skills, fitness and knowledge of the game. The girls trained hard and on behalf of the girls can I thank Mr. Gooderham who was heavily involved in their training.

The benchmark was set last year when they had improved upon the year before (the first year we had a 2nd XI). Our target was to let nobody score more than 7 past us, get some goals (more than 1 – which was what last year achieved) and to try and draw or win! The season started off fabulously and we drew 0-0 to King's Worcester. Our second match was against a strong hockey school: King's Warwick. Having lost by over 11 goals previously, we were determined to make problems for them on the pitch. Effort, determination and improved communication resulted in a respectable 0-3 loss. The girls were thrilled. Next up was Bloxham – we like to keep those challenging schools on our fixture list but knew it would be a hard game. Just before half time, Bloxham were 2-0 up, but the girls did not give up, and by working their Solihull socks off, came straight back after half time with a goal from Kitty Busz. At the end of the 2nd half we conceded a short corner and Bloxham put one past us. Although the final score was 3-1 to Bloxham, it was again a score for the record books. King Henry VIII Coventry was next on the hit list. Having scored only one goal last year, the girls were determined to score more and Frankie Levey



and Vicky Cox successfully put two past the King Henry VIII keeper. King Henry VIII fought back and suddenly we were 3-2 down. Vicky Cox was not having this and added to the score sheet yet again. The excitement of having been in the lead was just too much and King Henry VIII whipped another one past us, resulting in a 4-3 loss.

Princethorpe was next on the list and Sally Farrant opened the score sheet with an excellent goal. The team tried to remain calm and focused but Princethorpe fought back, and the game ended in a draw.

Rugby School was up next, another big boarding school. We lost 1-0 but this was excellent considering the amount of talent and training they do.

We met all of the targets set this season and look forward to the next!

Well done ladies, the best of luck to those who are leaving us for pastures new and roll on next season to a new squad! The benchmark has been set!

Miss C Townsend

U15

It has been a cold, harsh winter with lots of snow and frost! Three matches – against Wolverhampton, RGS AO and Tudor Grange – were called off as a result. However, we still managed to get in lots of other fixtures (friendly and league) and a tournament! We started off well and Ella Harthman (a new recruit to the team) smashed one past Arden. Although they had many club players, we maintained our focus and were victorious. The success of the girls did not end there: Sophie Ward scored two past the St Peter's B-team goalie. With a slightly new formation they drew 0-0 to St Peter's A-team. Although disappointed, the girls recognised their weaknesses and they trained hard. When the

effort is there the girls are a very talented bunch but they narrowly lost to Repton 1-0, and effort in training became the new focus. The snow brought a halt to the girls' hockey for a while but in January they were back on the pitch! Due to netball, the girls combined with the U14s for a fixture against King Henry VIII. They lost 1-0.

The hardest match of the season was to follow – King's Warwick. Suffering a loss of over 11 goals last season and facing last year's national finalists, the girls were quite obviously anxious. They battled hard and disrupted the flow of King's Warwick but unfortunately lost 9-1 with Nicole Angeledies getting on the score sheet. For those going on into the Sixth Form, we look forward to a new season full of exciting challenges as a new squad, and for those leaving us I wish you all the best.

Finally, congratulations also to Maddi Lavery and Hannah Butler who were selected for this season's Birmingham & West Midlands JDC and JAC.

Miss C Townsend

U14

Captain: Lottie Harland
The U14s started the season with some tough fixtures against Bablake, King's Worcester and Warwick. Whilst the girls lost these matches, they proved to be a good test to start the season with. The West Midlands Tournament provided a turning point in the girls' attitude towards training, as they recorded three nil-nil draws. It was a disappointing day; however, it provided the motivation that the team needed to make the step up to this age group. The girls quickly realised that they needed to approach matches and training with determination and focus if they were to compete successfully with the opposition. As the season continued they made great progress and after a difficult start their awareness and understanding of the 11-a-side game improved

dramatically. Individual skill levels have continued to improve and the girls have developed their positional awareness, with many of them being able to play in several different positions. Matches have been played across both terms and with practices on Tuesday lunchtimes, the girls have had plenty to get stuck into. In the three remaining matches before Christmas, the girls recorded three wins, scoring six goals in total. A terrific performance against a very strong Repton B-side provided the team with a well deserved 1-0 victory. It was a match that was exciting to watch and the whole team gave it their absolute all.

The team continued to make good progress into the Easter term and the girls were victorious in all Solihull League matches, topping the table with a game to spare. In five matches the girls scored 16 goals and there were some commanding individual performances.

Very well done to all the girls who have participated in practices and matches throughout the year. Your enthusiasm and commitment is much appreciated and we hope that this continues in the future.

Congratulations to Laura Daghish who has been selected for the Midlands JRPC; to Lottie Harland (Birmingham & West Midlands JDC and JAC) and Amelia Woolley and Bernadette Farnworth (JDC).

W9 D3 L4 GF 32 GA10

Top Goal Scorer: Lottie Harland

Team: Lottie Harland, Laura Daghish (GK), Amelia Woolley, Poppy Eales, Megan Seickell, Bernadette Farnworth, Harriet Crisp-Jones, Sally Warmington, Caroline Camm, Lydia Jackson, Zeena Ismail, Georgia Lovett, Danni Blake, Amy Parry, Alex Levey, Jess Lawton, Cathy Kiely.

U13

The U13s have continued to show great commitment and enthusiasm for their hockey, with good attendance at Monday training.

The season started with good draws against Bablake and King's Worcester, with goals coming from Adina Bailey and Harriet Woolley. Losses to King's High for both the A and the B-team were quickly forgotten, with a 2-1 win over King Henry VIII the following day. Two further draws followed for the A-team, with the B-team also securing a 2-2 draw against RGS Worcester. The snow then interfered, with the match against Wolverhampton being cancelled.

The Easter term saw plenty of 11-a-side action, with the team's hard work in lessons and at training starting to pay off. A 6-0 win over Arden put the girls in confident spirits as we headed to the West Midlands tournament. Wins over Camp Hill (4-0) and KE Five Ways

(1-0) and a draw against St Martin's (0-0) meant that we topped the group and moved on to face KEHS in the final. A closely fought match (which was a repeat of last year's final) saw both teams play some excellent hockey. Unfortunately for the girls, a deflected short corner saw GK Helena Newbould beaten for the first time. Despite some good chances, we were unable to equalise, meaning we finished as runners-up in this year's County tournament.

More hockey still remained, and after half term the team achieved convincing wins over St Martin's (4-1) and St Peter's (11-0). The team were nearly given a shock in their last game, when Tudor Grange battled to a half time lead, before we scored twice to finish as 2-1 winners. These victories meant that the girls were crowned Solihull League Winners for the second year running.

Well done to all the girls who have played with enthusiasm and determination throughout the year and we hope this continues in the future! Congratulations to Georgina Jones who has been selected for Midlands JRPC and to Harriet Woolley, Shona Eaton and Emma Whitfield who were selected for Birmingham & West Midlands JDC and JAC.

P18 W9 D6 L3 GF39 GA13

Top Goal Scorer: Georgina Jones

Team: Georgina Jones, Adina Bailey, Shona Eaton, Nadine Wilkinson, Hayley Piggin, Harriet Woolley, Emma Whitfield, Leticia Salmon, Beatrice Cowley, Helena Newbould, Aimee Skidmore, Amy Lewis, Harriet Marshall, Nakita Basra, Hannah Michel, Holly Krober, Celine Simmons

U12

Once again the U12s have had a busy and successful season, with big improvements being shown across the two terms and excellent attendance at practice.

The A-team had a difficult start to the year, suffering narrow losses against RGS Worcester, Princethorpe and King's Worcester, before a draw against Bablake and a 7-1 win over King Henry VIII saw a change in fortunes. The B-team began well with successive wins against Bablake, Princethorpe and King Henry VIII. The Solihull U12 Tournament came straight after half term, with the A-team gaining victories over Tudor Grange and Edgbaston High, as well as a draw against Wolverhampton. Unfortunately, two narrow defeats against King's High and St Martin's meant the girls just missed out on a semi-final place. A win over local rivals St Martin's followed for the B-team before the snow hit and the last fixtures for both teams were cancelled.

The Easter term began well, with the A-team beating King Edward's Five Ways U13s 1-0 and



the B-team beating their U12s 2-0. The A-team then moved on to the West Midlands County Tournament at KEHS, with the girls determined to continue their winning ways. The tournament was organised as a round-robin, which meant the girls played 8 games over the morning. Wins against Edgbaston High (1-0), Arden (3-0), King Edward's High B (3-0) and Fairfax (1-0) put the girls in confident spirit. Local rivals St Martin's were next, with the girls determined to overturn the Christmas term's defeat. Some great hockey followed, with Scarlett O'Malley slotting home the winning goal. On a high, the team completed further wins over King Edward's High A (1-0), St Martin's B (6-10) and Tudor Grange (6-0). The team were crowned County Champions, finishing the tournament unbeaten and scoring 22 goals in the process! More hockey followed, but this time the 11-a-side version. Playing in the Solihull League, wins over St Peter's (11-0), Tudor Grange (14-0) and Arden (1-0) followed, before a loss to St Martin's in the final game.

Well done to all the girls who have played with enthusiasm and determination throughout the year and we hope this continues in the future!

P31 W20 D2 L9 GF94 GA41

Top Goal Scorer: Isabel Douglas

Team: Isabel Douglas, Lydia Roll, Lydia Jones-Brown, Jessie Lloyd, Scarlett O'Malley, Vicky Brewer, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Rachel Hedley, Amelia Diccio, Maeve Grogan, Emily Shepherd, Ellie Gaffney, Alice Lodge, Chloe Horsborough, Hannah Quibell, Sophie Shakeshaft, Jade Gilmore, Isabel Gaffney, Cait Casey, Megan Gill, Libbie Bailey

Solihull Girls' Netball Season 2010/11

1st VII

This season the 1st team, captained by Laura Rose, was made up of players from a wide range of ages. It was pleasing to see how the entire squad were focused and determined right from the first training sessions. All the training sessions were well attended and the work rate was always high!

The season began with a loss against Five Ways King Edward's, however, it was what the squad needed to work harder on tactical play as well as fitness. Next was the Solihull Borough Tournament where we won every match and were crowned the overall winners!

Our next victories came against Wolverhampton and Solihull College where the understanding of each other's play was really starting to show! A fun game against the 'Old Girls' brought a fantastic victory of 50-8! The season ended with four more wins, a draw and just three losses, although these were largely due to weaker turn out because of interviews and other School trips.

The 1st team have been a pleasure to coach this year and it is sad to be saying goodbye to Laura Rose, Olivia O'Malley, Laura Rosin, Issy Halley and Zoe Eales who have contributed fully all season.



2nd VII

The 2nd team have had a very successful season, which was kicked off with a promising win of 20- 11 against Five Ways KE Worcester. We then had the Solihull Borough tournament, in which we achieved fourth place, beating St Martin's 9-5 and putting up a good battle during our game against the first team!

This certainly boosted the team's morale and we went on to beat Wolverhampton 20- 13 the following week with some excellent shooting from Emily White, Polly Bewick and Jen Hawkins. This brought on an unbeaten 5 weeks, including an intense game against Nuneaton during which Becky Jacks was commended by the opposition for her great play and sportsmanship. The season ended with a pleasing win against Solihull Sixth Form 11-9, after pulling back from losing 8-9 in the third quarter.

Overall, we have had a great season which has not only brought us some strong wins but has enabled us to develop as a team and provide a very promising outlook for next year's season. We would also like to say a big thank you to Miss Smith and Miss Townsend for all their hard work over the weeks, as without them none of it would have been possible!

Amy Lange



3rd VII

The 3rd team have been a lovely squad! They have never complained, worked hard, attended practices regularly and often carried out administrative duties for the tournaments played by the 1st and 2nd squads. Well done must go to Caitlin Hillman who has been so enthusiastic in all her contributions to all the netball squads this year! Thanks must also go to Rachel Hadley for umpiring, coaching and leading this squad. The 3rd team have had five fixtures this season; unfortunately, only winning one game. However, they played every match in the true spirit of sportsmanship!

U15

The U15 Netball Team has had a promising season, with successful victories over St Peter's, Lode Heath and Smiths Wood.

Earlier in the season we played an exciting match against RGS Worcester, losing in the final minutes with them scoring with one last centre: the final score was 22-21.

The climax of our season was coming third in the Solihull Borough Semis as we narrowly missed getting through by losing to St Peter's by one crucial goal. This was much to the disappointment of our team as we had

previously beaten them 24-11 earlier in the season.

I would like to thank all of the U15 Netball Team for their contribution and commitment: Nicole Angelides, Sophie Ward, Ella Harthman, Ellie Davies, Amie Middleton, Brogan Kelly, Laura Halford, Liz Ready and Harriet Whitfield. I would also like to thank our coach Miss Smith for coaching us through our matches, and also to Mrs Smith and Miss Townsend for all of their support.

U14

Captain: Poppy Eales

Netball training for the U14s started from the first week of term and good commitment has been shown throughout the year. The Solihull Tournament came very early in the Christmas term, as is the norm for this age group. The team played well in their pool matches, beating Smithswood, Grace Academy and Lode Heath. A draw against Alderbrook meant a semi-final encounter with St Martin's and unfortunately this year, we just missed out on a place in the final.

A good friendly fixture against King Henry's for both the A-team and – for the first time at this age group – a B-team followed in the Christmas term, along with a 19 – 6 league win over Heart of England. The Easter term began with a narrow loss to St Peter's, before the girls went on to secure good wins over Princethorpe, St Martin's and Alderbrook. A loss to Lode Heath in the league unfortunately meant that the team would not regain their Solihull title, but a Runners-Up position was assured. On the HMC circuit, the A and B-teams competed well against a very strong Wolverhampton side and then the A-team narrowly lost out to Bablake in the last fixture of the year. The B-team gained a creditable draw with Princethorpe to finish off their season.

Well done to all of the squad for your hard work and commitment and keep it up next year!

P14 W7 D1 L6

A team: Laura Daglish, Poppy Eales, Megan Seickell, Amelia Woolley, Lottie Harland, Lydia Jackson, Hannah Shakeshaft, Dani Blake
B team: Grace Lodge, Ellie Rush de Jesus, Laura Mannion, Jenna Balfour, Caroline Camm, Harriet Crisp Jones



U13

The U13 Netball Team has had an excellent season, winning 6 out of 9 matches and winning the Schools Tournament at Lode Heath School.

The season started with a game against Lighthall School where a 15-13 win set the standard for this season. We then went on to win two more games against Heart of England and Lode Heath, both with a score of 11-9. Unfortunately, our undefeated title was ruined when we lost 19-13 against RGS Worcester. It was an excellent match and we were determined to fight back in our next game, and we did, smashing Tudor Grange 19-2. We had picked ourselves up from a defeat and we fought hard to regain our title.

The next match we played was against St Martin's. We were well prepared for this match and had our squad ready for a win. We beat them 17-7 in the freezing cold. Sadly our winning streak was interrupted when King Henry's managed to beat us 17-8 in a thrilling and intense game. From the first quarter we were losing 9-1 and to get another 8 goals was a big achievement for our team.

The B-team who also played King Henry's lost 19-2 on their first match of the season, but it is still early days for them. On our final match of the season we played Wolverhampton, our toughest match yet. It was a tight game and the score was level throughout every quarter. However, in the final quarter we succeeded and came out fighting and winning 20-18. Unfortunately, the B-team lost 12-6 but that was a very big improvement from their previous game.

Finally in our tournament we played exceptionally well and won every single game we played. As a result of this we are now 'All Schools Champions'.

On behalf of all the team I would like to thank Miss Townsend and Miss Smith for their support and training: it is because of them that we are a great squad!

Adina Bailey

Third Form Netball

Throughout this season our netball teams went from strength to strength. Our confidence and determination has improved massively as we have all learned to work as a team. Since the start of the Third Form, we have all improved our netball skills, winning lots of matches and making many new friends on the court. There has also been a strong attendance to the after-School netball club. We have worked on all aspects of our netball skills and it has certainly paid off.



Our A-team has been very successful in the matches that we have competed in and we all work together very well as a team. We had a massive win against the Priory, 19-2, where we played really well and had very strong attacks, keeping the ball up our end of the court. We have also beaten Princethorpe 11-7 and Tudor Grange 5-3.

We recently participated in a tournament where we had some amazing wins. We beat Alderbrook 15-0, John Henry Newman 10-0, Heart of England 4-3 and St Peters 6-0. We also drew with Lode Heath 2-2. We then went on into the semi-final and won against Lighthall. We reached the final along with St Martin's. They were a very strong team and although it was a close match, the final score was 8-2 to them. We were all very pleased to have got that far in the competition and took home 2nd place which was a great achievement as we played so many strong teams.



The B-team have also played very well this season: they have all learned to spread out and also are a very successful team. The whole of our year have got involved in the netball this year and we have all learned something new about the game.



Red Nose Day 2011

The PE Department v The 1st VII Netball Team

Red Nose Day this year saw the fit, talented athletes in the PE department taking on the 1st VII in a game of netball for charity! The average age in the PE department is around 37 years, but we were determined to show the young whipper-snappers how it was done whilst also raising some money for charity. The 1st VII were up for the competition and started the banter rolling! Apparently men can't play netball, and neither can short people (Mr Thompson and Miss Townsend)!!

The buckets for collecting the charity money were sellotaped with red nose stickers and the posters advertising the BIG event were up ALL over the school.

Miss Townsend sorted the kit and the stage was set. Nails were checked, jewellery was removed, the kit was on (both teams providing an excellent version of their own Red nose day kit) and positions were assumed. The air was tense as both teams anxiously waited for the starting whistle, ready to take each other down! Mr Thompson started as Centre using his M40 shoulders to keep Alice Hagyard out of the game. The PE department deliberately let the 1st VII go into the lead, leading them into a false sense of security. Mr Hemp and Mr Mayer became a superb tag team. They were pinging balls out of Olivia O'Malley's and Laura Rose's hands and intercepting anything that came down their end! The PE department fought back and Mrs Smith and Miss Gill started popping the goals in from all over the 'D'.

Mr Thompson was replaced by Mr Leonard, and with his quick speed and good court awareness he proved to be an excellent WA. Miss Townsend stepped into Centre and proved height is not an issue on the court! At half time the PE department were 15-13 up. The fourth and final quarter was where the teams' competitiveness was apparent—neither wanted to lose. Alice Hagyard proved she really was ready for her England trial, and the 1st VII made a superb effort to come back to within just one goal. In the last 30 seconds, Mrs Helen Smith scored and the score was 23-21. The 1st



VII turned over the ball, with Zoe Eales, Emma Noone and Issy Haley leaving the PE department attack standing, but only for 10 seconds as the final whistle went and the PE department were victorious! The 1st VII were fantastic sports and made it an immense, tough and enjoyable game for all. If the 1st VII thought the report was biased – you shouldn't have let a member of the winning team write it!!

Thank you to all those who took part (staff and pupils), Jenny Ross and Heather Doolley for scoring and timing, the two umpires and all the supporters. We raised exactly £80 pounds for Comic Relief and had a great time raising the money.

Miss Townsend



England v New Zealand Netball Trip

We were off – 98 of us hit the road on our way to the Trent FM Arena in Nottingham to see England take on New Zealand! Everybody was dressed in white and red, wearing the England colours ready to support the team. Some girls in the Shell Form had made t-shirts with their names on the back, and 'England' on the front.

As we walked into the stadium, there were crowds of people all sitting in their seats shouting 'England!' We sat down, and we were all ready for the game ahead.

After the National Anthems, the teams warmed up, and not long after the whistle blew. New Zealand had the ball and were down the court. From C to GA to C to GS. They scored. It was already 1:0. England were already behind by one point! By half time it was 12:24. England had come back with the right attitude. The next half of the game was intense, and England were not going to put up for it and they gave it their all. Unfortunately, in the end New Zealand won, with the result 39:41. After the match the hall cleared out and we stood at the rim of the boundary line and waited for auto graphs. There was a buzz between us as some of the players came to give signatures. Everybody was so pleased with their signed item; we all flashed it around even though they were all the same!

It was a great trip, and we enjoyed the game, even though England lost. Thank you to Miss Townsend for organising the trip.

Rounders



U15

Rounders has become an increasingly popular sport at Solihull School. The success this season may be because of the hard effort put into training. This year over 50 girls across all ages have attended weekly practices and extra coaching on games afternoons. The seniors fielded 3 teams, all of which were undefeated in the 2010 season. Many thanks to Olivia O'Malley, who coached the junior sides and helped with the U12 Squad.

The U15s fell victim to the weather with cancellations, plus Duke of Edinburgh expeditions meant they only had one match this season. They convincingly won 16-3 and a half. Their Tournament was cancelled and rearranged and then again unfortunately it was cancelled for a second time. Other fixtures cancelled by the opposition were against Princethorpe for exams, the weather by King's Warwick and Bablake because of Duke of Edinburgh.

Finally, another Tournament date was agreed and in the last week of the term we made it over St Peter's. The girls beat Arden 4 and a half to 4, close but enough. The girls then woke up and went on to beat St Martin's 3 and a half to 2 and a half. Lode Heath was the final team in their group and they won 7 and a half to 2 and a half. They had won their group and were through to the semis. The girls had a few fielding errors and this cost them the game against Alderbrook. They lost 6-3 and a half finishing in 3rd place overall. Well done girls!

The rounders team: Nicole Angelides, Sam Deakin, Ami Middleton, Theresa Morgan, Sophie Ward, Liz Ready, Ella Harthman, Ellie Davies, Harriet Whitfield, Jess Taylor



U14

Despite the weather not playing fair this term, the U14s have had the best of the conditions for Rounders. As usual with this group, turnout for practice has been excellent and enthusiasm levels high. The term started with a solid win over St Martin's U14s and then a draw with their U15 side. A further draw against Lode Heath followed, before matches against Princethorpe and King's Warwick had to be called off. The Solihull Tournament followed straight after exam week and saw the girls in composed form. In our pool matches, we recorded victories over Langley, St Peter's and Smithswood and a draw with Tudor Grange. This led to us progressing to the round robin final. A 9-2 win over Grace Academy meant the last match against Lode Heath was the final. Some excellent batting and controlled fielding once again led to an 8-4 win and the team retaining their Solihull title. The annual match against Bablake fell victim to rain, before the girls scored a comprehensive final victory over KE Five Ways to end the season.

Well done to all the girls for their commitment and efforts this season!

Team: Laura Daghish, Poppy Eales, Lottie Harland, Amelia Woolley, Megan Seickell, Amy Parry, Georgia Lovett, Harriet Crisp-Jones, Sally Warmington, Ellie Rush de Jesus, Danni Blake



U13

As with other teams, the weather and additional bank holidays played a strong role in reducing the rounders fixture list. Matches against King's Warwick and Bablake fell victim to the weather, but the girls made good use of lessons and practices to develop their team play. At the Solihull Tournament the girls got off to a shaky start but managed a win over Langley. After this, concentration levels increased and in pool matches, some great

hitting and positive work in the field led to victories over Tudor Grange, Smithswood, Heart of England and Lode Heath. After finishing as pool winners, the semi-finals led to a match against St Peter's. Batting first, the girls posted an unassailable target. The Final saw a re-match against Tudor Grange and the girls claimed the Solihull title with a 3 - 2 ½ win. The season finished with a 25 ½ - 6 ½ win over KE Five Ways, before a team juggled because of Snowdonia School commitments and illness narrowly lost to St Martin's.

Well done to all the girls for their commitment and efforts this season!

Team: Harriet Woolley, Adina Bailey, Nakita Basra, Georgina Jones, Amy Lewis, Shona Eaton, Nadine Wilkinson, Celine Simmons, Beatrice Cowley, Harriet Marshall, Emma Whitfield, Megan Lloyd, Georgina Brownsword, Maeliss Villepontoux, Alex Finnegan



U12

After a challenging start to the term, the U12 Team managed to come good at the right time. Games lessons and Monday night practices were used to develop batting and fielding skills and matches provided the opportunity to work on their game. King's Warwick unfortunately cancelled on us due to weather as did Bablake and Tudor Grange, however, the team beat KE Five Ways in the first innings and used the second as batting practice! Against Princethorpe we took two teams to give as many of the girls as possible an opportunity. The A-team lost 11 and a half to 9 and a half but the B-team went on to win 19 and a half to 11.

Next was the Tournament, played at St Peter's. The air had a chill in it – but positivity was running through the team. We arrived and quickly settled into our first match of 4 in the first round. We beat Grace Academy 7-1 and the communication amongst the girls was good. Jessie was bowling very well and Lydia Roll, Jessie Lloyd and Isabel Douglas were able to stump out numerous players. The girls went on to beat Tudor Grange 7-1 and a half with some excellent fielding from Lydia Jones-Brown and Vicky Brewer. Next up was St Peter's and as the sun crept out the girls sailed

to victory 7 and a half to 3. Libbie Bailey and Alice Lodge fielded well and the girls went on to beat Alderbrook 7 and a half to 1. Cait Casey, Lauren Kiely and Maeve Grogan totted up numerous rounders and Scarlett O'Malley and Isobel Douglas were the perfect duo on 2nd. We were through to the semis, and beat Lode Heath 6 and a half to a half: the fielding was superb. As the rain clouds loomed the final got going. It was extremely close and both teams were quick round the bases and smashing the ball all over the park. The fielding from both teams was also superb; the best two teams were in the final. The girls fought hard and made of couple of mistakes costing them the game. They lost 3-2 to St Martin's!

The final game of the season was against St Martin's at home: the game was tense and the rift was still raw from the Tournament; the final score was 13 – 7 and a half to St Martin's! Next year girls!

The squad: Jessie Lloyd, Isabel Gaffney, Lydia Jones-Brown, Isabel Douglas, Maeve Grogan, Lauren Kiely, Vicky Brewer, Scarlett O'Malley, Lydia Roll, Cait Casey, Alice Lodge, Libbie Bailey.

Lower/Middle School Tennis

This season has been another strong one for tennis at both U13 and U15 levels. The teams have both participated in the AEGON Team Tennis Schools Championship. The season began well with fixtures against Alderbrook where we won all six matches in both age groups and a win against Heart of England, where once again, our U13s won all six matches. We then had the tougher opposition of Arden and Tudor Grange to encounter. The U15 team battled well against Arden, with an impressive 6-0 match for James Taylor and a strong 6-1 win for the doubles pairing of Todd Bonehill and Chris Barker. The U13s also played excellently with Will Davies winning his singles match 6-1 and doubles match 6-0. This resulted in a win against Arden for both age groups and just Tudor Grange left to defeat. The U15s stepped up their game to new levels against a slightly weakened Tudor Grange side resulting in 6-0 wins in all 6 games. The U13s had a harder challenge: Tudor Grange had arrived with the England number six (for his age group) as their number one player. This strength resulted in us losing the fixture 4-2, even after impressive doubles performances by the Karan Tumber / James Griffiths pairing and the Conor Gregory / Sam Orme pairing. This unfortunately resulted in us not progressing through to the next round at U13 level, but congratulations go to the U15s who will play in the first round of the knockout stages in September. This year also saw a first friendly fixture against Warwick School where we took an U14 and U12 team. The U14s played well but struggled against strong opposition,

managing to win only one of the doubles matches and one of the singles, which led to a 5-2 defeat. We played 9 matches with the U12s and achieved a fantastic 7-2 victory, including an incredible battle for a 4-2 win by Harry Goodworth. This bodes well for the future, particularly since our U13s have also been strong this year. My thanks to all the teams for not only turning up to fixtures but regularly helping to get everything sorted both before and after the matches.



Alannah Griffin

Warwickshire Lawn Tennis Association Junior Player of the Year 2010

Solihull School pupil Alannah Griffin has been named Warwickshire County Lawn Tennis Association Junior Player of the year 2010. The Association's Annual Awards Evening was held in January 2011 at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham to celebrate the success of players and teams during 2010.

Her award was presented by guest of honour Ann Jones, one of Britain's most successful tennis players.

Alannah's achievements include four GB selections for European Events (Under-14 age group) and five GB selections for the Junior ITF International Events (Under-18 age group). She won three Singles European Titles, won three Doubles European Titles, and was semi finalist in five further European events. In February 2010, she won the Under 16's Singles title at the acclaimed Nick Bollettieri Championships in America. Probably Alannah's most significant accomplishment was being crowned the AEGON British Junior Under-14's National Champion a year early. At the same tournament she was also a Doubles semi finalist in the same Under-14's age group. Alannah was part of the winning England Team at the Four Nations Championship 2010, and was part of the winning GB Team at the IC World Championships in Delhi. Alannah achieved all of the above at just 13 years of age!



Fencing

Fencing classes at Solihull School were first offered during the autumn term of 2007. It was well received with over thirty students attending the first classes. With the club's limited resources, much of the first year was restricted to foil fencing without any of the modern scoring technology used by many other clubs at the time. Even in those early stages the potential in many of the students was quickly recognised. With support from the School and constant encouragement from the sports department and the Director of Sport, a lot has changed over the last four years. With the club now offering foil, epee and sabre fencing using electrical scoring equipment and the latest wireless epee kit, Solihull School Fencing Club has seen eight West Midlands and Warwickshire regional foil and epee champions and five nationally-ranked British Youth Fencers all ranked in the top fifty.

The Academic Year 2010/11 has been one of the best yet. With fencing recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as one of the Physical Elements, the club has seen the arrival of several new members all keen to gain their bronze, silver and gold awards. These include Matthew Tyler, Elliot Davis, Faye Kent, Sam McCumiskey and Hasan Ali.

Competitively, over the last 12-months, the club has achieved the following: -

Medals

GOLD 2 SILVER 7 BRONZE 12

Achievements

U18 Sam Griffiths (Captain)
- Ranked 5th West Midlands

U16 Matthew Tyler (Vice-Captain)
- Warwickshire Regional Epee Champion
- Ranked 3rd West Midlands Regional Epee
- Ranked 3rd West Midlands Regional Foil
- British Youth National Ranking (33rd)

U16 Fraser Waddell
- Ranked 3rd Warwickshire Regional Epee

I would like to thank all of the fencers for their efforts throughout the year, Steve Thompson for his continued support and encouragement and both the Captain and Vice-Captain for their dedication and hard work over the last 12 months. I look forward to the new school year and meeting all the new fencers who wish to join in September 2011.

Raph Aldis
BAF/EF Fencing Coach



Photo caption: The winning Solihull School Equestrian Team (left to right): Beth Eldred on Florence Joanna, Lottie Harland on San Miguel, Fintan Bristow on Here's Finn Again, Sally Warmington on Merry.

Equestrian Success

The Equestrian Team has had a great deal of success this year. In September Lottie Harland, Beth Eldred and Fintan Bristow competed at Onley Show Jumping and picked up a team 2nd place as well as an individual placing for Lottie. In October, with limited team availability, Lottie Harland and Georgia Lovett recruited Jenna Evans from Dixie Grammar to enter a joint team into the Bloxham Schools' Eventer Challenge, where they achieved a very impressive 2nd place overall, with individual 8th for Lottie. In April, we were able to turn out a full team of four in the Princethorpe and Kingsley Show Jumping, and it certainly paid off! In a nail biting jump-off Lottie, Beth, Fintan and Sally Warmington flew into 1st place, qualifying the School for the National Schools' Equestrian Association's National Finals at Addington in October. Meanwhile, individually Georgia Lovett has qualified her pony for this year's Horse of the Year Show, an extraordinary achievement. Congratulations to Georgia and good luck to the Solihull School team in October!

Miss E Campbell



Swimming

The opening fixture of the swimming season was against Warwick School and King Edwards Camp Hill. Warwick proved to be very strong and won the fixture overall, with Solihull finishing in 2nd place. We had some strong individual performances. The next competition was the Solihull Schools Championships held at Tudor Grange and once again we achieved excellent results. We came first at U13, U14 and U15 level in the boys' events, winning the competition overall. In the girls', we came first at U13, U18 level and finished 1st overall. Our boys then entered a Gala held at St. Martins in all age groups, and they finished in 1st place. The girls also competed at St Martin's in all age groups and after putting in some fantastic individual performances, finished 1st overall.

Our next fixture was a new addition and one hosted by Stowe School. We competed in all age groups boys and girls. We finished in 2nd place beating Millhouse School by a vast margin but narrowly lost to Stowe by one point. We had numerous first positions and we gave an outstanding performance.

Miss Townsend and Mr Hifle

Swimming at Crystal Palace 11/03/11

After meeting at school at 7am, the senior boys and girls consisting of Sophie Spragg, Frankie Levey, Rosie Super and Kitty Busz (representing the girls' team) and James Kelly, Jon Super, James Lewis and Rob Comer (representing the boys' team) travelled 3 hours to Crystal Palace swimming pool in London to compete in the Independent Schools Invitational Bath Cup. We competed against some of the biggest boarding schools in the country such as Eton, Harrow, Repton, Cheltenham, Stowe, Nottingham and Newcastle. There were 38 girls' teams and 63 boys' teams in total competing.

After the warm-up the girls had a 3-heat wait until their 4 x 50m freestyle relay event. We came 3rd in our heat and narrowly missed out on the finals by 2 seconds. We finished 9 out of 38 schools overall, a great achievement.

It was then the turn of the boys who competed in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay event. They came 3rd in their heat and they achieved a time of 4 minutes and 25 seconds coming in the top 40 overall.

After the finals and lunch it was time for the medley relay events. Kitty swam breaststroke, Frankie breaststroke, Rosie swam fly and Sophie swam freestyle. We came out with a time of 2 minutes 21 seconds, coming 3rd in our heat. Overall, we came in the top 15.

The boys were next to compete with James swimming backstroke, Rob swimming breaststroke, James swimming fly and Jon swimming freestyle. They finished with a time of 2 minutes and 18 seconds coming 6th in their heat and coming in the top 30 overall.

It is always a privilege to be invited to such an event and it was a thoroughly exhausting but enjoyable day. Thank you to Miss Townsend, Mr Hifle and Bob Floyd.

Frankie Levey



Golf

The School's Golf Squad enjoyed another successful season, building upon the achievements of last year. In the ISGA Matchplay Tournament, the team progressed to the latter stages and met Rugby in a repeat of last year's final at the Welcombe Country Club. However, on this occasion they were defeated by a formidable Rugby team eager for revenge. In the HMC Foursomes Competition, the boys went one better and were crowned regional winners after victories against Warwick, Christ's College (Brecon), Rugby and Uppingham. The Squad's success against Uppingham in the final at Stapleford Park means that they will progress to the National Finals at the Warwickshire Golf Club in July where they will compete against schools like Millfield and Loretto. This is a remarkable achievement for the team which consists of Myles Deacon (capt.), William Harland, Andrew Hooper, Stefan Gnyla, Rory Grogan and George Taylor. Throughout the year, the boys have shown tremendous talent and determination. As well as possessing enviable long games, the boys also have a deft touch around the greens. However, more than anything, their success this year is largely down to their commendable team spirit and their embodiment of the school's maxim, *Perseverantia*.

Mr Hart



Clay Pigeon Shooting Team

The Clay Pigeon Shooting Team has gone from strength to strength this year. With the fresh young guns spurring on the existing members of the group, it was good to see numbers and ability increase. The camaraderie quickly grew and has since been ever present. In the Butler Cup Shooting Competition, where many of our team members were shooting in their first competition with only 7 weeks of tuition, we more than held our own. Under the guidance of Captain Russell Neal, the team of Kehan Pillay, Sam Foxall, Jamie Williams and Conor Maher came 5th overall.

Keshan Pillay was our School High Gun with a very respectable score of 38/50.

Following on from the Butler Cup the team entered the Warwick Challenge on the 12th of March. On this occasion Russell Neal led a team of Sam Foxall, Jamie Williams, Conor Maher and Tom Wilde through a challenging and demanding course joined by two individual entries, Abby Hinton and Keshan Pillay. Our high was Russell Neal (34/50), a very respectable 23rd out of 89 shooters closely followed by Jamie Williams (31/50).

Over the course of the year the group of both novices and experienced shooters have all shared a common passion and while the friendly banter makes for a pleasant afternoon, the rivalry is fierce which pushes all shooters on. Under the guidance and support of Colin and Gareth at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting ground, all members have made excellent progress this year and the group is a more experienced team. We look forward to further and greater success in 2011-2012.



Groundsman Award

The School can lay claim to having a cricket square of first-class county standard after the Head of Grounds scooped a top national award.

Karl Brotherhood was presented with the Cricket World®/Pitchcare 2010 Cricket Groundsman of the Year award for his hard work in preparing the perfect pitch for a record-breaking performance last season.

Paul Bedford, Head of Operations for Non-First Class Cricket with the England & Wales Cricket Board, presented Karl with his award in a ceremony at the Rose Bowl, home of Hampshire County Cricket Club.

Karl joined Solihull School five years ago after 23 seasons as Assistant Groundsman at the County Ground Edgbaston, home of Warwickshire. His cricket duties at the School include preparing and maintaining four large cricket squares for the Under 12s age group to the First XI.

With the support of Director of Cricket David Hemp, who played for Glamorgan (Captain 2006/8) and Warwickshire, and Head of Sport Steve Thompson, a former rugby player with Harlequins, Karl prepared wickets for a record 130 fixtures in 2010.

Karl said: "I am delighted to have received this award. It wouldn't have been possible without the support of my team, our coaches and the school itself which has continued to invest in the latest grounds maintenance technology."



Ski Team

This year the Ski Team have had their most successful season yet. The ESSKIA qualifiers, held in Stoke, proved to be very promising as the U16 girls' team won their age group and qualified for the English Championships. Although our mixed team won their category, unfortunately they were unable to participate in the Championships due to other teams finishing faster at other qualifiers. At the English Championships in Rosendale, the team skied outstandingly. They achieved 3rd place in their age group and were the 9th fastest overall girls' team in the open age group where they were against teams that were up to five years older. This meant we were selected to represent England at the national ESSKIA finals against Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, making us the most successful girls' team the school has ever had.

In March at the Midland School Ski Championships the girls' team were pipped to first place but the U14 mixed team managed to win their age group. Elisabeth Thomas and Helena Newbould were the fastest and third fastest overall females on the day.

At our latest race, at Telford, the team attained more outstanding results. There were 100 pupils there from central England, and 14 students from Solihull. We achieved 8 individual medals, 4 team top three positions, and 3 team trophies. Congratulations go to: Sophie Shakeshaft, 2nd in the U12 girls Joe Vaughan, 3rd in the U12 boys Tom Lawrence, 1st in the U12 boys Leticia Salmon, 3rd in the U14 girls Helena Newbould, 1st in the U14 girls

There was also a clean sweep in the U16 girls with Laura Newbould gaining 3rd, Hannah Shakeshaft 2nd and Libby Thomas obtaining 1st. In the team events, the U14 girls' team achieved 1st place. The U16 mixed team with Jordan Salmon, Jacob Seickell, Joe Hadley and Laura Newbould were 2nd behind the national champions. Also, the U14 boys – Joe Vaughan, Charlie Hadley and Tom Lawrence – gained a 3rd. However, Amy Middleton, Elisabeth Thomas, Hannah Shakeshaft and Helena Newbould came away with not only winning their age, but getting the fastest overall girls' team for the second year running. As well as this, two of our competitors, Helena Newbould and Elisabeth Thomas got picked for the CESA regional team.



We would like to thank Guy Hornsby for all of his support and coaching and Mr Garner for all of his help. This would not have been possible without them.

The teams consisted of Elisabeth Thomas, Amy Middleton, Hannah Shakeshaft, Helena Newbould, Leticia Salmon, Laura Newbould, Megan Seickell, Sophie Shakeshaft, Thomas Lawrence, Joe Hadley, Jacob Seickell, Jordan Salmon and Nick Clay.

Higher Sports Leaders' HSLA

The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 award in Higher Sports Leadership is designed to develop the leadership skills of candidates. As a practical based course, candidates will build on the experiences from their Sports Leaders UK CSLA Level 2, so that they are fully competent on completion of the award to lead unsupervised, safe, purposeful, inclusive activities for the community.

Course Content

The Level 3 Award in Higher Community Sports Leadership consists of nine units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Higher Sports Leadership
- Unit 2: Sports Leadership in the Community
- Unit 3: Principles and Practice for children in sport
- Unit 4: Principles and Practice for older people in sport
- Unit 5: Principles and Practice for disabled in sport
- Unit 6: Understanding fitness and health
- Unit 7: Dealing with First Aid and emergency situations in sport
- Unit 8: Demonstration for higher sports leadership skills (National governing body award)
- Unit 9: Organising and running a sports event

Eight out of the nine units must be completed

Following last year's success, we ran the HSLA course for 10 pupils. In addition to their coaching in the community and working at Solihull School assisting teachers in their games lessons, pupils helped organise House activities and undertook placements at Sunrise Home for the Elderly. They helped elderly people participate in aerobics and other sporting games.

Well done to all pupils who achieved the HSLA award and all the best at university. Thank you to Mr Hemp who assisted in delivering the course.

Miss Townsend (CSLA and HSLA Course leader and Tutor)



Community Sports Leaders' CSLA

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership gives people aged 16 and over the skills needed to plan and deliver safe sporting and recreational activities. The Award develops vital leadership skills such as communication, organisation and motivation, whilst instilling the confidence and desire needed for people to make a difference within their own communities. There is no examination to sit and no entrance qualifications are required. The qualification is practical in nature, with an emphasis on learning through doing and applying knowledge, rather than through theory.

Course content

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership consists of eight units:

- Unit 1: Contribute to organising and delivering a sports activity session
- Unit 2: Establish and maintain a safe sporting activity
- Unit 3: Understand the structure of sport and recreation at local, regional and national level
- Unit 4: Understand and lead fitness sessions
- Unit 5: Demonstrate principles and practice in running sporting events and competitions
- Unit 6: Demonstrate principles and practice in adapting sports activities
- Unit 7: Plan a series of appropriate sporting activities
- Unit 8: Demonstrate leadership skills in the community

All those who have taken part in the course during enrichment lessons have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the pupils, enabling them to expand on their skills in different sports. Despite all weather conditions we would spend our Friday afternoons coaching. It gave me a great sense of satisfaction to be helping the children and to be sharing my knowledge and experiences with them. It also provided great insight into the job of being a PE teacher. We all succeeded in achieving our First Aid qualification and completed a level 1 in Skipping which was really good fun. I think I speak for all those who took CSLA this year by saying that we will miss our Friday afternoons and Thursday lessons but we will take away so many benefits:

- The qualification is recognised by Universities!
- Growth in confidence and responsibility
- Improved behaviour
- Enhanced communication, motivation and organisational skills
- Better understanding of the role of the teacher and how people learn
- It's practical and fun – an opportunity to make new friends
- Potential stepping stone to employment, further education or training
- Improve personal health and fitness
- A good foundation to progress into the Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership or the Level 2 Award in Basic Expedition leadership

Solihull School is the biggest centre to run the course in the area with the centre now being used as a testing centre for other schools and colleges.

A big thank you to Miss Townsend for leading and running the course and all the other members of staff who helped us on our way to achieving such a fantastic qualification!

Athletics 2010

The U14 Boys qualified for the Midlands B Finals of the National Track and Field Cup which they won. Unfortunately, due to exam clashes the U16 team did not field their strongest team in the qualifying round and they failed to make the final.

The boys were crowned overall Borough Champions with the U14s winning and outscoring their nearest opponent by 40 points. The U16s competed well again considering they were unable to field their strongest team.

The U14 team were unbeaten this season. There were some excellent performances from Ben Fowles in the 800m, 400m and Discus; Charlie Hadley in the Hurdles, Long and Triple Jump; Oliver Cottom in the 400m and Triple Jump; Moses Fakatou in the sprints and Paolo Peschisolido in the sprints and Long Jump. These athletes were well supported by Adam Roberts, Nick Empson, Ben Levett-Dunn, Will Davies, Sam Brown and Ben Osborne.

Of great benefit this year was the coaching provided by Pat Cropper and her coaches who made the Tuesday afternoon practices very effective, and all the athletes who turned up regularly improved significantly during the season.

New School Records

Third Form Boys

Triple Jump: Charlie Hadley

Third Form Girls

800m: Hannah Quibell

1500m: Lydia Roll

Shot: Lydia Jones-Brown

Shell Form Girls

800m: Georgina Jones

High jump: Adina Bailey

Fourth Form Girls:

Hurdles, 300m, 800m, 1500m: Poppy Eales

100m, 200m: Lottie Harland

Triple Jump: Harriet Crisp-Jones

U16 Athletics

Despite selection issues, with the majority of Lower Fifth students not being available, the U16 team performed with a great deal of credit. Fixtures saw us pitch our trade against KES Birmingham, KES Aston, RGS Worcester and Arden. In these fixtures we gained 2nd place with notable performances from M Pritchard in the middle distance running and E Gordon in the shot.

All of the students must be thanked for their commitment and enthusiasm. It was never to be an easy task but well done to everyone.



Girls' Athletics

Last year's highly successful season was always going to be a hard act to follow, but the girls this year continued to train hard and show enthusiasm for athletics practice and competitions.

Due to the late completion of the work on the Norman Green track, the first match of the season was held at Solihull. With Amy Middleton and Adina Bailey acting as team organisers, the girls competed well. The U14s beat Arden, Bablake and King's High, with the U16s being victorious over King's High and Arden. Both teams contributed to an overall Solihull win.

The second match saw the girls up against St Martin's and a very strong RGS Worcester team. A strong performance by the U14s led to us finishing in second place.

School fixtures were suspended the following week, for the English Schools' Track and Field Cup. Only 12 competitors can compete in the U14 age group and 14 in the U16, and athletes have to be exceptional in two events! Selection was extremely difficult, particularly as exam clashes meant that the U16 team had no Lower Fifth athletes available. The Fourths competed well to finish 2nd overall. The U14s surpassed expectations to qualify for the Regional Final for the fourth year running. Unfortunately, performances in round 2 after half term were somewhat below par and we couldn't match last year's success.

With the last school match falling victim to the weather, it just left the Borough Championships for the girls to compete in as a team. With the sun shining, expectations were high. The U14s is a strong age group across the Borough. The team performed well to finish

4th. Strong individual performances came from Adina Bailey (1st in High Jump, 2nd in 200m), Lydia Roll (2nd 1500m), Hannah Quibell (2nd 800m), and the relay team which finished 3rd. The U16s had a good day and narrowly missed out on a team victory. Individual successes came from Poppy Eales (1st Hurdles, 3rd High Jump), Lottie Harland (1st 200m and Long Jump), Amelia Woolley (2nd 800m), Sam Deakin (3rd Hurdles, 4th High Jump), Harriet Crisp Jones (3rd Triple Jump), Danni Blake (3rd Javelin), with the relay team finishing in 1st. Overall the girls were 2nd, which was a good performance.

Individually, there have also been successes. From the Borough trials, Poppy Eales, Lottie Harland, Sam Deakin, Adina Bailey, Georgina Jones and Nakita Basra were selected to represent Solihull at the West Midlands Championships. Poppy finished 3rd in the U15 Hurdles, whilst Lottie was 3rd in the U15 High Jump and Sam Deakin finished 4th in the U17 Long Jump and 5th in the Hurdles. Molly Eales was just pipped to the U17 Triple Jump crown, but surpassed this when she finished 3rd at the English Schools' Championships in Gateshead. Her jump of 11.37m to claim the bronze sees her in 3rd place in the UK rankings. Further success was also achieved by Poppy Eales and Adina Bailey, who finished 2nd and 5th respectively in the Pentathlon at the Inter Counties Combined Events Championships. They have subsequently been selected to represent the West Midlands at the English Schools' Championships in Exeter in September.

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

Intermediate Girls:

Molly Eales, Sam Deakin, Theresa Morgan, Amy Middleton, Nicole Angeledies, Katie Singleton, Jess Taylor, Sophia Peschisolido, Poppy Eales, Lottie Harland, Danni Blake, Megan Seickell, Harriet Crisp Jones, Amelia Woolley, Ellie Rush de Jesus, Bernadette Farnworth, Laura Daghish, Alex Levey, Amy Parry, Georgia Lovett, Sally Warmington

Junior Girls:

Adina Bailey, Georgina Jones, Harriet Marshall, Amy Lewis, Megan Lloyd, Aimee Skidmore, Nadine Wilkinson, Nakita Basra, Helena Newbolt, Maeliss Villepontoux, Lydia Roll, Scarlett O'Malley, Maeve Grogan, Vicky Brewer, Lydia Jones Brown, Isabel Douglas, Maxine Perroni-Scharf

Miss Townsend and Miss Gill



However, what did not change from previous seasons was the team's spirit and tenacity, exemplified by Anant Khanna, Keshan Pillay and Adam Waddell.

This spirit was nurtured and fostered by the captain, Joe Read, who was quite simply superb and deserved far better. He arranged training sessions for holidays and half terms, never missed either these or the regular ones at Elmdon Park, Monkspath or School and even when the season had finished, was to be found helping younger runners prepare for the annual 5K run. It was fitting that he became School champion with a comfortable victory in 'The Bushell Run' and, on a wider stage, finished sixth in the Greater Birmingham League standings. His contribution will be the lasting memory of this season.

Mr Holt

Cross Country

Highlights of the season? It has to be Wednesday 6th October 2010 at Sutton Park for the Pairs Race: winning duo – Matt Meredith and Joe Watson – joined by Joe Read and Sam Middleton, unfortunately pipped by Bishop Vesey's for the team award by one, yes one, second. It was then five months before Matt, our leading runner, was again able to run because of a chronic knee injury. Lowlight.

The league season ended with Solihull in sixth position, poor by recent comparisons, but realistically as good as we could have expected considering the largely makeweight nature of the team with some runners competing in other sports and others viewing cross country largely as a Duke of Edinburgh activity. No offence, but that is not the way championships are won or, in our case, retained. It was also interesting to reflect that had certain individuals bitten the bullet earlier rather than languishing in relatively meaningless games options – mentioning neither James Kelly nor Usman Chaudhary – they would have been influential competitors, and James, in particular, was pretty impressive anyway, finishing his debut (and farewell) season just outside the league's top thirty individuals!

The 12th Annual 5000m Challenge Race, July 2011

Results and Records

151 runners took part; the "Top 20" Results are:-

Congratulations to Jonathan Simpkins for breaking the 11-year Race Record set by Neil Donovan (UV Boys) in 2000

NR = New Record

1st	NR	Jonathan Simpkins	Old Boy	16.28
2nd		Joe Read	VI Boys	17.28
3rd	NR	Sam Ashby	IV Boys	17.38
4th		Matthew Prichard	LV Boys	18.39
5th		Tony Haden	Staff - Men	18.49
6th		Mark Worrall	Staff - Men	19.19
7th		Matt Meredith	VI Boys	19.34
8th		Luca Walker	IV Boys	21.10
9th		Ahmad Alani	IV Boys	21.11
10th		Alex Clay	IV Boys	21.13
11th		James Ward	IV Boys	21.14
12th		Philip Blenkinsop	IV Boys	21.15
13th		Todd Bonehill	IV Boys	21.17
14th		Harry Sharpe	IV Boys	21.29
15th	NR	Lydia Roll	III Girls	21.29
16th		Giles Lawrence	IV Boys	21.30
17th		James Hart	IV Boys	21.40
18th		Vicki Gill	Staff - Women	21.54
19th		Smith	JS Boys	21.58
20th		Bobby Dhadwal	IV Boys	22.01

RECORDS: NEW 2011 Records in Bold; Race Record in Red

JS Boys	Ryan Inman	2008	20m 37s
JS Girls	Lydia Roll	2009	22m 11s
III Boys	Tom Wintle	2005	20m 34s
III Girls	Lydia Roll	2011	21m 29s
Shell Boys	Rupert Derham	2001	20m 54s
Shell Girls	Poppy Eales	2010	21m 48s
IV Boys	Sam Ashby	2011	17m 38s
IV Girls	Sophia Peschisolido	2010	38m 04s
LV Boys	Alex Lambert	2003	17m 48s
LV Girls	No previous runners		
UV Boys	Neil Donovan	2000	16m 41s
UV Girls	No previous runners		
VI Boys	John Whitehouse	2006	17m 14s
VI Girls	Courtney Hyde	2009	22m 23s
Staff - Men	Mr Tony Haden	2003	18m 24s
Staff - Women	Miss Vicki Gill	2008	21m 15s
Parents - Men	No previous runners		
Parents - Women	No previous runners		
Former Pupils (18+) - Men	Jonathan Simpkins	2011	16m 28s
Former Pupils (18+) - Women	Charlotte Jones	2003	23m 49s
Guests:			
Australia	Richard Everest (U18)	2006	16m 55s
France	Clement Labouche (U17)	2008	23m 18s

Next year's Race: 1.00pm, Wednesday 4 July, 2012

Open to all connected with Solihull School - pupils, parents, staff, former pupils etc





Trips

Singapore & Malaysia Hockey & Netball Tour – Summer 2010

At 3:00 am a selection of Solihull's finest hockey and netball players kicked off 2010's girls' sports tour to an excitable start. However, two hours on the coach down to Heathrow quickly finished us all off.

After an incredibly long 26 hours travelling we were all exhausted but really excited to have finally arrived at Kuala Lumpur airport, Malaysia, and after surviving the queues to clear immigration we drove to the Renaissance Hotel where we spent the rest of the day catching up on our sleep, relaxing and unpacking.

The next day we appreciated the rest we'd had as at 7:30AM most of us were up (except Georgina Green and Meg Thomas who overslept!) for a gruelling training session. We suddenly came to realise how hot and humid Malaysia is and how hard we were going have to work during our matches.

After recovering from our training session we decided a bit of retail therapy was in order and we headed over to Malaysia's famous Petronas Towers where Malaysian cuisine and plenty of



shops were on the menu for us. We followed our night out with a much needed relaxing morning by the pool before the first netball match. We faced the U18 international Malaysian team where they were individually introduced by microphones before they sang the national anthem. Following that, we unfortunately lost 75-2. Zoe Eales took man of the match and the whole team played exceptionally well, with every member of the team putting in 100%.

The hockey team, led by Hatty Bates and Laura Cox, played the U18 SMK Convent Bukit Nenans where, despite playing well, lost 4-0

with Sarah Howey in goal taking man of the match. Both teams quickly realised playing in the heat was going to be tougher than we originally thought but we were all excited to have finally kicked the tour off with our first matches.

That evening we took the tram to the local outdoor market where we all enjoyed haggling for our 'real' designer merchandise. The market was a real experience for us all and no one came away empty-handed or without a good bargain to tell everyone about. We also tried some of the local fruit, lychees, sorry Emma, rambutans!



The next day we headed to Sunway Lagoon Water Park which was a highly anticipated part of the trip. We enjoyed a morning of slides and rides before going straight to our second round of matches. The netballers played the SMK Convent Bukit Nenans and were captained by Zoe Eales. They faced a hard match playing on grass and struggled with the heat, which unfortunately led them to lose 11-9. Ashley Fraser was awarded man of the match for her exceptional perseverance and encouragement.

The hockey players were against the SM Vivekanda and were captained by Jennifer Ross. The match was very close and the team disappointingly lost 1-0 in the final few minutes. Hatty Bates took man of the match for her extraordinary support and play at the back.

Next day, we all enjoyed a relaxing morning by the pool and we began to pack for our move to Melaka the next day. The well-deserved rest paid off at our third set of matches. The hockey team played the Eric Lee Sports School. Captained by Meg Thomas, they won 2-0 with Ali Deol claiming man of the match.

The netballers played the Sports School and won convincingly 22-9, captained by Laura Rosin. Sarah Mosedale was man of the match and the success of the day left us all excited for the matches to come but totally worn out.

We needed our rest as the next morning we were up and out of our hotel early to travel to the part of the trip the majority of us were looking forward to most, the elephant sanctuary. We all enjoyed feeding, riding and washing the elephants and will never forget the once-in-a-lifetime experience that certainly lived up to and exceeded our expectations. After the elephant sanctuary, and attempting to change on the coach as modestly as possible, we set off for our new hotel in Melaka. We travelled into the evening and arrived at our hotel late at night, and after dinner retreated straight to our rooms. Our rest continued the next morning where we enjoyed a relaxing morning by the pool before heading off to another round of matches.

The hockey played the Anplo Chinese Junior College where, captained by Katie Clarke, they played a close match and unfortunately lost 1-0. Katie Clarke was rewarded with man of the match after her outstanding performance at the front.

The netball played the U19 Post Schools and captained by Sarah Mosedale, won 15-10. Laura Rosin was given man of the match for her perseverance and excellent play.

After our matches we got back to the hotel and headed out to a market where we practised our haggling and enjoyed another successful shopping trip. However, we were worn out and we went back to the hotel and had an early night. Turned out we were going to need the rest as the next morning, much to Frankie Levey's delight, we were up at 7:00am

by the pool for some water aerobics. Miss Townsend and Miss Smith tested out their water aerobics skills (which to Frankie's disappointment were not 'reps') on us and we all enjoyed a training session with a twist that lightened our moods.

After an interesting morning we got our bags and headed for the coach to leave Malaysia and go to Singapore. After a day travelling, and a short delay at immigration, (thanks Ali!) we arrived in Singapore and wanted to explore. We headed to the shopping centre next door to our hotel, had some lunch and did a touch more shopping before heading out for a meal together at a curry house across the road from our hotel.

We all headed out the next morning on a bus tour of Singapore. We saw sights such as Raffles Hotel, a Buddhist temple and Singapore's National Orchid Garden which we all thoroughly enjoyed and that afternoon we headed over to another market and did what girls do best before heading out to our penultimate matches. The netball kicked them off playing the Singapore Sports School, who, captained by Ashley Fraser unfortunately lost 38-8 with Helen-Cara Younan claiming man of the match.

The hockey team played the Singapore National Girls Team, and under the captaincy of Meg Thomas lost 1-0. However, our losses didn't dampen our moods as we headed straight from our matches to the only Night Safari in the world, where it wasn't the flash photography scaring away the animals, it was Miss Townsend's excitement over seeing her favourite animal, a rhino. After driving round the safari a few of us and the teachers tried out the latest gadget in pedicure technology, Dr. Fish: skin-eating fish!

The next day we relaxed by the pool and Eve Davis, Sarah Howey and Anna Mcneillie babysat the teachers' adopted child, Wilson the melon that had travelled with us from Malaysia to Singapore. After heading out for lunch we set off for our final matches. The hockey played the U16 Singapore squad captained by Ashley Fraser and satisfyingly drew 0-0 which left us happy with our performance as a team on the whole for the tour.

Zoe Eales's netball team faced another difficult match against the U19 Singapore Squad where all the players pushed themselves harder than they thought they could and played outstandingly despite the hard competition and Eve Davis was awarded man of the match for her extraordinary play. Player of the tour for netball was awarded to Zoe Eales and for hockey, Hatty Bates. Congratulations to both players.

We headed back to our hotel and changed quickly into our animal print outfits we'd planned for our fancy dress night and headed out for the evening where we certainly turned some heads! The next morning we headed out with our super enthusiastic tour guide, Gogo, to (in a whisper) Sentosa, a manmade beach where you can stand on the most southern point in Asia and relax on the sand or enjoy an exciting simulator ride.

After our morning out we returned to the hotel to pack and catch up on some sleep before we put on our tour shirts and grey skirts and headed out to a steak house for an evening of presentations and thanks, and goodbyes to those who were leaving the School.

After an entertaining evening we headed back to the hotel where we were advised to get an early night as we were up very early the next day and faced 30 hours of travelling, however, some of us didn't take that good advice and suffered on the long journey home!

Lo and behold, the next morning we were up and getting ready to go home really early. We headed for Singapore Airport, and sadly the tour was over! All the girls who went on the tour owe a massive thank you to Miss Smith and Miss Townsend for organising and putting up with us for the duration of the tour, and for entertaining us with their corridor wrestling with Mr Evans in the evening! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves! Thank you again.

Girls who went on Tour: Laura Cox, Vicky Cox, Zoe Eales, Laura Rosin, Rosie Super, Felicity Barber, Eve Davis, Georgina Green, Georgina Morris, Sarah Mosedale, Jenny Ross, Megan Thomas, Katie Clarke, Alex Deol, Ashley Fraser, Sarah Howey, Emily Hughes, Frankie Levey, Anna McNeillie, Emma Rivers, Helen-Cara Younan, Harriet Bates, Gabriella Block.





The Solihull School cowboys and cowgirls during an early morning breakfast ride.

HOWDY PARTNER! Colorado Ranch Adventure 2011

This summer seventeen pupils, accompanied by Miss Campbell and Mr Bate, set out on the adventure of a lifetime: to live like cowboys and cowgirls for a week on a Western Dude Ranch in Colorado. After landing in Denver, we drove into a dramatic thunderstorm and our progress through the Rocky Mountains to the Drowsy Water Ranch was slow and treacherous. However, we awoke the next morning to blue skies, stunning scenery and a hearty American breakfast with pancakes galore. The ranch staff was welcoming and friendly, and introduced us to our horses with good humour and a genuine concern for our safety and their horses' comfort.

Before long we all set out on our first trail ride, learning quickly that western-trained horses are sure-footed, calm and obedient. They certainly needed to be, as even our advanced riders were tested to their limits, 'bushwhacking' off the trail and scaling dizzying heights to reach the summit of Heartbreak Ridge and Music Mountain. Having learned to 'lope' western style, there was no stopping even those that had never ridden before, and by the end of the week the whole group was enjoying fast and exciting trail rides, even showing off their new skills in the children's gymkhana rodeo event. Meanwhile, the two staff members vied for supremacy in the adult calf penning competition, achieving record times and their respective teams finishing only seconds apart.

But this trip wasn't just about the horses. On Tuesday the whole group spent a day white-water rafting on the Colorado River. With water levels higher than they had been in twenty years, we were in for a wild ride! Split into three separate rafts, each team managed brilliantly and was treated to spectacular views as well as two sightings of the rare bald eagle. In the evenings the ranch staff put on entertaining events and games, culminating in the final night's show, where Solihull School performed an English Cowboy Rap, under the name Puff Drowsy Rascal, to great acclaim!

A visit to the local rodeo finished off our week, where we were amazed by the speed of the barrel racers, the bravery of the bull riders and the tenacity of the "Mutton Busters", small children practising their rodeo skills on the back of a bucking sheep! We made it home without any pupils smuggling their ponies in their suitcases, although many had wanted to, and with a whole host of happy memories.

To sum up, here are a few comments from the pupils themselves:

'The Colorado trip was utterly magical'.
Robert Jones, Shell S

'I loved the horse riding ...the trip was amazing'.
Cameron Blake, Shell J

'The staff and wranglers were really nice and helpful. My horse was called Cleo and I was really upset to say goodbye. It was the best school trip ever!'
Nicholas Chitty, Shell S

'I really loved this trip as it was exciting and fun at the same time. At the beginning of the

trip I was nervous about riding a horse but by the end I was really confident'.
Akashdeep Kailey, Shell J

'The wranglers were all really funny and made you feel like family'.
Robyn Keen, IIP

'The rodeo on the last night was a brilliant experience'.
Liam McStay, Shell P

'The food was to die for!'
Ross McCormack, Shell F

'My horse, Ringo, was very well-behaved and good-natured'.
Ben Osborne, Shell W

'I had a great time and it was one of the best trips ever'.
Alec Ladbrooke, Shell F



Lower School Ski Trip to Austria 2011

We set off on our 24-hour coach journey to our ski trip in Austria. We were all buzzing with excitement, and after a short safety briefing from Mrs. Hadley we started chatting quite loudly between ourselves. After a couple of hours we arrived at Dover; by this time it was about nine o'clock at night. When we were on the ferry we soon went off in little groups. We were allowed up on deck with an adult and many of us (especially me) started singing the theme to Titanic very loudly and off key. When back on the coach it was time to pick up the pair of coach drivers (Steve and Sam) who were taking us to Austria. At about 11 o'clock the grumpy teachers told us to go to sleep; of course none of us wanted to. After trying to settle down I finally dozed for what was a very impressive time of 6 hours considering the amount of snoring there was going on. At nine o'clock most of us were wanting more sleep but we stopped off for breakfast.



After arriving we went to have some dinner which was very delicious. We went up into our rooms and unpacked. After having a quick look in the village we showered and went to sleep. In the morning, after struggling (well, some of us) to put our ski boots on, we set off to do some skiing. First, we were split into three groups. Then we each went our separate ways, meeting back at a restaurant for lunch where most of us ordered chips! Then we all went off skiing again. Meeting together after lessons, we skied with the teachers; fortunately, no-one skiing with us fell over. Upon arriving at the hotel, we went up to our rooms and went swimming. After having dinner we went into town then we came back to our hotel. After skiing each day we had an activity such as a Quiz, Bingo, Bowling, or a Disco where Mr. Anderton 'busted his moves'. Every so often we had our rooms inspected so the teachers could keep us in check. On the final day we had a slalom race and even the teachers joined in. The person with the fastest time was Mark Lawrence with 20.3 seconds. Mr. Leonard won the teacher's race.

On the way home everyone was very tired. It had been a great trip and first-time skiers had really improved. It was nice to be back but we had all really enjoyed ourselves. We spent a week with friends and I enjoyed being with mine such as Maxine and Eve. It was a really fun week and I will definitely go again.
Georgia Greenburgh IIS



USA Ski Trip

Saturday 19th February saw 42 members of the School – ranging from Fourth Formers to Upper Fifth Formers – head off for the annual ski trip, supported by five staff members, led by Mr Leonard. We were heading up to the state of New Hampshire in the USA to find a snow-drenched mountainous landscape.

For the first three days, we skied at the Wildcat resort, apparently the locals' favourite. We could see why as there were excellent facilities off the slopes, as well as incredibly friendly instructors who really made the trip for us.

After learning the ropes at Wildcat, it was time for a change of scenery. For the remaining two days of skiing, we went to the Bretton Woods ski area for an entirely different kind of skiing. There were many more glade and off-piste routes which took us into the dense forest locations.

Our time spent in North Conway was not just skiing and snow. Our evenings were full of activities including shopping in the nearby outlet mall, tubing, bowling and swimming in the hotel's very own waterpark. It was a great way to relax after a great day's skiing.

After the skiing came the eagerly-awaited part of the trip: going to New York City.

Our first port of call was a visit to the Empire State Building, topped off with a meal at the world famous Planet Hollywood restaurant.

On the following day we had an excellent guided tour of the city, taking us through 5th Avenue, past Wall Street, into Soho, to Ground Zero and through Central Park. However, the most memorable part of the trip was probably the journey on the Staten Island ferry taking us right past the Statue of Liberty. It was amazing

that we managed to fit so much into just a single day.

On behalf of all of the pupils on the trip, I would like to thank all of the teachers for making the trip such a success. Thank you!

Ross Edwards





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award At Solihull School

The Duke of Edinburgh's award at Solihull School has once again attracted a large number of participants at each of the three levels. Pupils enrol for their Bronze award at the School towards the end of the Fourth Form with a significant number making it through to do their Gold in the Sixth Form.

In July last year, the annual Summer expedition took us to a new area for the School which was the North York Moors. This included five Gold groups of Sixth Form pupils aiming to complete their Silver venture and two groups of Upper Fifth girls participating in their Silver award. The latter had earlier successfully completed their practice in the Forest of Bowland area before travelling eastwards to join up with the rest of the group in the Moors. The Golds included four groups who had done their practice in difficult conditions over the previous Easter in Snowdonia and one group who were there to do a practice with a view to them completing at a later date. The weather proved very kind for walking and the relative ease of the terrain and navigation led to all but a few candidates being successful. Those that weren't unfortunately were the ones who were battling tonsillitis etc before even setting off and actually did really well to make it up there.

Returning to School in September, we had only two weekends before setting forth again, this time to the Dark Peak area of the Southern Pennines. Three Silver groups of Lower Sixth

pupils who had done their practice the previous May but who had had their June venture cancelled due to changes in examination dates, and two Gold groups comprising the practice group from July and also the 'casualties' who hadn't managed to finish were, I am pleased to report, this time all successful.

Training for the '2011-12 season' began in earnest after Christmas with large numbers of pupils in the lecture theatre under what appeared to be a sea of maps! Most of these were our Bronze candidates doing route planning for the first time. The vast majority (9 groups of 6 or 7) were preparing to do practice and assessment ventures in the Long Mynd area of Shropshire and the White Peak with one group of just five Lower Fifth girls heading for the Berwyn Mountains of North Wales at Easter time. Aspects of first aid training / the country code / stoves / tents / rucksack packing and expedition kit were all covered.

At Easter this year we had six groups of Silver in the Berwyns alongside the Lower Fifth Bronze group and another four groups doing a Gold Practice starting in the Rhinog range of Snowdonia near Harlech and heading generally north and wild camping in the Moelwyns en route. The Golds had particularly poor weather (as usual!) whereas the others, sixty miles to the east, had some of the hottest weather we have ever experienced at that time. We had record numbers of Silvers and going to a new area always has its problems but all the groups at all levels did extremely well and must be congratulated. One Silver candidate in particular who must be mentioned is Olivia D'Aliberti. She had left the School at the end of the previous year to move back home to the United States having completed her Bronze award. Before she departed, Olivia's parents

contacted the School to ask if she could continue with the award and despite all the logistical problems of forms and planning etc, she actually flew in from Chicago to spend several gruelling days in the Welsh mountains. She said that she loved it and hoped to be back for more!! A fifth Gold group travelled up to Snowdonia mid-week (having just returned from the Lake District on a Geography field trip) and had a tough 3-day practice starting at the School Cottage and then wild camping in the Carneddau range of Snowdonia.

We stress to the pupils that the three remaining sections of the award (four others at Gold level) are equally as important as the expedition section and these include the whole array of different 'physical' (sporting), 'skill' and 'volunteering' activities, both in School and also in the wider community. The Gold 'residential' section has once again thrown up some interesting activities ranging from a medical placement in Ghana, taking part in a tall ships race, marine biology courses and other outdoor pursuit courses and various CCF courses. These involve commitment and determination to complete and are designed to push pupils beyond their immediate comfort zone.

As I write this a large expedition to the Peak District in a fortnight's time is looming, followed shortly afterwards by two Silver groups walking locally through Warwickshire. In July we travel to mid-Wales to discover another new area for our expeditions, the Elan Valley.

To conclude: many thanks must go to all the staff and external helpers who assist us and make this all possible. There is absolutely no way that we could operate on such a scale without them. Secondly, a huge congratulations to all the pupils who have succeeded at whichever level they have participated. Hopefully you have used the opportunity to do something really different and worthy and discovered new limits and possibilities. Well done to all of you.

Mr Bate / Phillip Dean MBE

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

On the 5th of April 2011, a small group of six were taken up to the rain and cold of North Wales to begin our Gold practice expedition of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. Having been late due to being on a Geography field trip, we met the other groups who had finished their expedition, walking through gale force winds, torrential rainstorms and sleeping in wet sleeping bags. The mood of our group was dampened as we thought we were going to have to face the same conditions for the next

four days. After a smug farewell, we were left to complete a day of micro-navigation in the rain as the other groups headed home to showers and warm beds. It was safe to say, we were not amused!

At first, micro-navigation seemed relatively pointless for a group of Geography students. Surely if we were doing Geography A-level we were capable of reading a simple map? However, it soon became apparent how useless we were at map reading (Geographers clearly can't read maps!) and that this day of micro-navigation was actually useful. We spent our last night before the expedition filling our stomachs with chips and burgers and camping outside the School Cottage. (The shield the Cottage provided from the wind was practically a luxury). The next morning, we packed up and prepared to set off for our first day of walking. Expecting rain and winds, we were welcomed by sun with a few clouds. Feeling lucky compared to the previous groups, we walked our first full day. Our luck continued when we managed not to get lost at all, and get to our wild camp safely; plus, the weather continued to be hot and sunny until sunset. We were not looking forward to the wild camp. This meant simply pitching our tents next to a river in the bottom of a remote glaciated valley in the middle of the Carneddau Mountains. It represented a big 'step up' from what we had done for our Silver expeditions. The favourable weather meant we were able to eat our nutritious two-course ration pack meals in t-shirts and shorts, sitting in a beautiful valley by a river. The conception that D of E meant essentially 'getting soaked through and roughing it' was fortunately not the case with us this time! However, our luck quickly ran out when we woke up the next morning to cold temperatures and rain. The clouds came over the valley so as we walked out of the valley to



proceed for our second day of walking, we walked right through the cold and wet clouds. This day included rock scrambling which meant we had to climb up and rock faces. Crawling gave us some relief as we were so tired but it was not ideal in soaking wet conditions as our clothes became wet, and we became very cold. We climbed 4 peaks that day, a feat which no Solihull School D of E group has ever done, so this was a very physically demanding day. By the end of the day though, the sun had returned so we did not have to set up camp in wet conditions and were able to let our wet clothes dry off before walking the next day.

We woke up on the final day at an early 5am as the thought of home gave us the motivation to crawl out of our sleeping bags and pack up our rucksacks. We awoke to the most beautiful sunrise and we saw clouds move across the valley and the sky change from red to orange to clear blue. The day was looking promising, however, after a slight misjudgment of the map, we ended up walking two extra kilometres unnecessarily by taking the wrong footpath when in fact the footpath we needed was about 10m from where we'd been camping. Once we were on the right footpath, we started by far the hardest climb of the expedition. The second day was more physically demanding but this final day was very hard as it was extremely hot (the UK chose to experience a mini heat wave whilst we were walking) and we were all exhausted. There was a slow climb up a ridge to a peak which took most of the day, then when on top of the peak we could see for miles and spotted the minibus which would take us home. This motivated us to walk the final few kilometres we needed to get us to the end. Finally, we made it and we seemed to forget how hard the whole expedition was and were just overjoyed that we had completed it. We were also grateful (and rather smug) that we had not experienced the treacherous conditions that the other groups had endured.

Many thanks must go to Mr & Mrs Worrall who chivvied us along and whose expertise made this practice venture possible. Bring on the final expedition to mid-Wales in the summer!

Polly Bewick LVI 1J





Kenya Trip

Standing at the airport behind another school group, Matt Routledge and I were asked what the purpose of our trip was – were we going to go and help build a school or teach African students? Matt replied that we were going to learn. The teacher looked surprised and asked 'what have you got to learn from Africa?'

So began our trip.

Most of the images and representations of Africa are either of starving children or corrupt politicians and without doubt these things do exist. But Africa is a much more complex and diverse place than news organisations would have us believe. I have lived and worked in Kenya for 8 years and thus it was my pleasure to take some of my Solihull students out to experience the highs and lows of a country I called home.

So what did we learn?

We learned that Kenya is beautiful: from the giraffe-dotted plains of the Maasai Mara to the white sands of the coral coast, Kenya has an awesome splendour.

We learned that poverty and wealth exist side by side. Kibera, the largest slum in Africa, is only 2km from Karen, a home to multi-millionaires.



We learned that the impact of foreign aid is complex.

We learned that education is not simply about financial investment. In the local school we visited, there were 150 students to one teacher and they shared one exercise book between four, and yet their literacy and maths skills were at least as good as those of a student in the UK.

We had a fantastic time and the students were a delight; complimented at every turn for their positivity, maturity and thoughtfulness. We look forward to the return trip next year which is already oversubscribed.

Ms Harford



International Science in Washington, DC

For the third successive year, Sixth Form Scientists from Solihull School attended the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), held this year in Washington, DC. Mr Jones (Head of Science), Mr Farrington and Miss Guy took the biggest party to date to this prestigious international science conference in the capital city of United States of America. The theme this year was 'Science Without Borders'.

Having endured 15 hours of travelling to San Diego last year, a mere 7 hours to DC seemed short by comparison, and the bonus of no baggage losses en route this year got the trip off to a good start. Having used hotel accommodation in previous years, we decided to try out a Youth Hostel for a change, having received a good recommendation from the party from Stamford School who have used them in previous locations. Stamford were also staying there this year which meant that two English schools were able to meet with each other, and also meet with other travellers from all over the world using the same hostel as a base. This proved to be very successful and we'll probably use the youth hostels again.

The conference began with the Opening Ceremony and President's Address and Reception in the evening of the day after our arrival. With pretty much the whole of that day to get our bearings in the city, we took a tram tour in the morning to get an overall view of the capital and then explored a little on foot in the afternoon, including a walk along the famous Pennsylvania Avenue. For mid-February the weather was remarkable, with glorious



sunshine and temperatures in the mid-20s. This was not to last! It was the first time in DC for most people on the trip and it was exciting to see many of the famous landmarks, previously only viewed on television. Many of these locations would become the focus of our trip once the conference was over.

So to the conference itself, held in the spacious surrounding of the Washington Convention Centre. The AAAS President for this year, Dr Alice Huang, opened the gathering with a talk about her work as a distinguished virologist and proponent for women in science. This was followed by the Reception in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel, where as well as enjoying some fine food, our students were able to mix with the other attendees and in particular struck up some interesting conversations with American High School students engaged in their own scientific research. The following day saw the conference begin in earnest with the students being able to select their own programme from over a hundred scientific symposia, lectures and meetings. Titles included 'Evolutionary Personalised Medicine', 'Celebrating Marie Curie's 100th Anniversary of Her Nobel Prize in Chemistry', 'The Science of Eating', 'Kepler: Looking for other Earths' and 'Thinking About Thinking: How Do We Know What We Know?'.
We also heard from John Holdren, Assistant to President Obama for Science and Technology, talking about the support that this administration is giving to this area. Running alongside these events was an exhibition with the likes of Earthwatch, New Scientist, NASA, and Fermilab National Particle Accelerator Laboratory and many other major scientific bodies represented, often with exciting hands-on demonstrations to amuse, entertain, inform and educate. It is a wonderful experience for our young people to be rubbing shoulders with some of the top scientists in the world, including Nobel Prize Winners, sharing their up-to-date research with their peers.

Once the conference was over we set about exploring Washington in detail. We had a fascinating guided tour of the Pentagon, visiting the site where the airliner was crashed into the building in the 9/11 attacks. Here Mr Jones signed the book of remembrance on behalf of Solihull School. This was followed by the obligatory shopping mall experience in the nearby Pentagon City. The staff got bored quite quickly here but the students had a great time! On another occasion we visited Arlington National Cemetery. Gone now was the sunshine and warm weather: a cold snow fall took its place. It was quite a moving experience seeing amongst other things the 24/7 guard of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the grave of JFK and the memorial to the crew of the Challenger. The Smithsonian Institute museums, all free of charge, provided more interest: the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of American History, the Natural History Museum, and the Art Galleries. The National Holocaust Museum offered an interesting perspective on this dark aspect of world history. The view from the top of the Washington Monument was certainly worth taking in, as was the walk around the Tidal Basin including the Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial (the Martin Luther King, 'I have a Dream...' speech was made from here), and other war memorials. Disappointingly, but understandably with heightened security these days, the White House was not open to visitors as it used to be, although the Capitol was open and that did not disappoint – a magnificent building, as is the nearby Library of Congress. In addition to all of this we enjoyed a visit to the Verizon Centre to watch the Washington Wizards Basketball team – they're not that good and lost their match to the Indiana Pacers, but everyone enjoyed the atmosphere.

A memorable experience was enjoyed by all, and Mr Jones is already planning the visit to next year's conference, entitled 'Building the 21st Century Global Knowledge Society', in the Canadian city of Vancouver. Interested Sixth Form students studying any combination of the Sciences, Psychology and Mathematics should see Mr Jones for further details.



early to visit the key Mycenaean sites of Mycenae and Tiryns. The Tholos Tombs at Mycenae were undoubtedly a highlight of the trip, being even bigger than we had imagined. Also impressive were the Cyclopean walls at Tiryns, reaching in some places seven metres in height. It was then on to Epidaurus where we saw the very well-preserved theatre. We even tested out the acoustics to see whether it really was possible to hear someone dropping a coin from the middle of the thymele at the very back. And we discovered it was!

We visited Corinth and Eleusis and even got a chance to see the Corinthian Canal. Our final stop was the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion which is said to have been visited by Lord Byron who carved his name into the marble steps (we couldn't find it)! We then set off on the journey home after a thoroughly enjoyable trip. Our thanks go to Miss Guy (Mama Guya) and Mr Jones (The Legend) for leading such a great trip.

Greece Trip

On Saturday 2nd April, students ranging from the Fourth Form to the Upper Sixth left rainy Birmingham for hopefully sunny Greece to experience some of its great Classical sites. After arriving at 3am in Athens, everyone was exhausted and went straight to bed. Not for long, however, as by 9am we were wandering the streets of the city (sunglasses needed). We first visited the National Archaeological Museum where the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation set saw the most eagerly anticipated object of the trip - the Rock Crystal Duck!

After lunch with free dessert (because we were English) we visited the Agora, which took longer than expected as every time we came across a black cat, Russell Vanhouse insisted that we could no longer take that route (it turned out that there were plenty of black cats in Athens)! We then did some shopping and headed to the New Acropolis Museum, where we saw many of the sculptures from the Acropolis complex. The following day we were up bright and early to visit the Acropolis which was beautiful and breathtaking! We also visited the Theatre of Dionysus and the Roman Forum. It was then back to the hotel to get a coach to Delphi with a brief stop at the Osios Loukas Byzantine Monastery.

The next day we visited Ancient Delphi and saw the theatre with its amazing views of the mountains. Some of us even climbed past the theatre and many treasuries to see the stadium. We also saw the temple of Apollo and the Tholos of Delphi. In the museum we were also lucky enough to see the Charioteer of Delphi.

From Delphi we next visited Olympia. It was whilst shopping in modern Olympia that Ed Johnson accepted a challenge from one of the store owners: if he could find anything in his



shop cheaper elsewhere he would give Ed €1000. Unfortunately, he soon discovered he couldn't find anything cheaper! The next morning we were once again up bright and early to visit the site of the ancient Olympics. Even from the ruins it was astonishing how huge the temples had been. At the Olympia Stadium we even held a race.

We next visited Tolon which excitingly had a beach! Discovering this, we attempted to bury James Garfield in the sand but unfortunately he set himself free! The next day we were up





Berlin Trip Report

At 3am on a cold December morning, a group of 9 bleary-eyed Sixth Form German students, accompanied by Mrs Stout and Dr Troth, set off on a four day trip to Berlin. The aim of the visit was to learn more about Germany's history and culture as well as to experience the famous German Christmas markets.

Having left so early, we had the advantage of being able to spend the majority of the day exploring Berlin. We toured the city on foot, passing famous landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. We then spent the evening enjoying the atmosphere of the main Christmas markets in Berlin which was made even more authentic by the foot of snow on the ground! Having been awake since the early hours of the morning, all of the students were ready to go to bed at 8pm, which can be seen as something of a rarity!

Over the next two days we visited Berlin's most famous attractions, including the Museum at Checkpoint Charlie which gave a real insight into the divisions in Berlin during the Cold War. The most poignant experience of the weekend came when we visited the Hohenschönhausen Memorial which was built on the site of the main torture prison of the East German Stasi. Our tour guide had herself been imprisoned there so she gave us a real impression of the ordeal that the prisoners had to go through – it was the quietest we had been all weekend! Our mood was soon lightened, though, as we visited a traditional German restaurant where we all enjoyed a meal of schnitzel and chips. But the evening didn't end there. After our meal we watched a variety show at a local theatre which was an interesting yet bizarre mix of entertainment and comedy.



On our final full day we ensured that we visited as many attractions as possible. This included the Stasi Museum which gave a further insight into the actions of the East German Security Service, and the Underground World Museum in which we were given a tour of one of Berlin's several underground bunkers which were built in case of a nuclear war. Our final museum stop was the Jewish Museum, which was a particularly disorientating experience due to the walls and floors all being at various angles and the building itself being like a maze. Over the weekend we also had time to fit in a meal at an Australian restaurant. This was not exactly typically German but it was a unique experience nonetheless – especially for those of us who were daring enough to try the kangaroo or crocodile!

By the end of trip we were all thoroughly exhausted but pleased that we had managed to fit so many attractions and sights into such a short space of time. The visit was very enjoyable and we would like to thank Dr Troth and Mrs Stout for taking the time and effort to make it such a success!

Tina Gough LVI



French Chateau Trip

In February, a group of 39 Third Form pupils were accompanied by Mrs. Cramb, Mr. Pugh, Miss Smith and Dr. Spratley on a trip to the beautiful Château de la Baudonnière in rural Normandy, France. The Château week has become a regular feature of the Solihull School calendar, and as in previous years, all of the pupils (and the staff) had an incredibly enjoyable time playing games, trying new food and activities, visiting wonderful heritage sites and above all, speaking French. What makes the Château unique is that every member of the resident staff is a native French speaker and all communication is conducted in French. What better way to improve your foreign language skills than to be told your evening menu, your itinerary for the day, and the important safety rules when rock climbing or doing archery, in French, and only French? Other activities included aeroball (trampolining and volleyball together – amazing), making bread (with accompanying singing), a camp fire (with creepy stories), and an assault course (specifically designed to get you as muddy as possible). There were also trips out where the pupils got a flavour of real French life. We visited an authentic French market in the town of Villedieu and also went to the spectacular Mont Saint-Michel. In the evenings, a variety of activities entertained the pupils, including a treasure hunt, a disco, and a French fancy dress meal. We all had an amazing time, and most importantly, learned a lot!



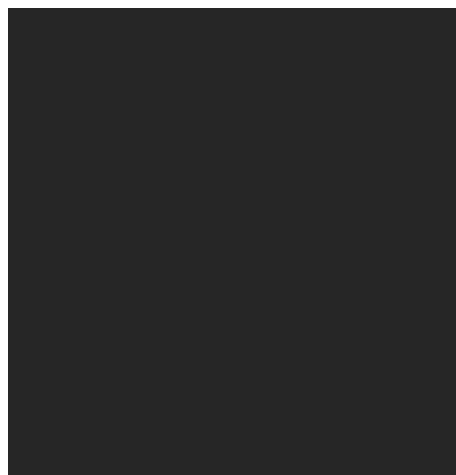
Black Country Museum Trip

In June, the Shell Form spent a day at the Black Country Museum, where they were transported back in time to the Industrial Revolution. Students took a class in a Victorian school, complete with chalk and slates and under the threat of the cane! They quickly discovered whether they could remember their times tables or recite the alphabet backwards. They explored part of the former Staffordshire Thick Coal mine, which lay beneath much of the area, where they witnessed the sights, sounds and smells of the life underground experienced by so many mine workers around 1850. They also saw traditional skills from sweet-making and glass-cutting to metal-working.

A trip on the network of underground canal routes allowed the students to view the fantastic Limestone Caverns. These were used to find the raw materials with which to make iron, the foundation of the 19th Century Black Country. They also learnt about the history and formation of Limestone and the fossilization of small creatures and plant life. There was also the opportunity to partake in "legging" along the narrow canal passages.

Further highlights of the day for many students included the opportunity to enjoy Victorian

sweets at the sweetshop or to experience the rides on the fairground. Students not only enjoyed these experiences but returned to school with a clearer sense of what life in the Industrial Revolution might have been like for young people.



Third Form visit to MUFC

In June the Third Form once again visited Manchester United Football Club at Old Trafford. This marks the culmination of our work on sport, in which we consider various aspects of globalisation, and the impacts of a stadium on the local area. Highlights included sitting in our favourite player's own place in the home changing room, running out through the tunnel to the sounds of the fans cheering, and taking the players' and Sir Alex Ferguson's seats in the dug-out. The day was a great end to a year's hard work.

Warwick Castle

On May 11th all pupils in the Third Form went on the annual History Department visit to Warwick Castle. Pupils enjoyed watching the trebuchet being fired and a superb birds of prey demonstration. A number of talks by archers and swordsmen were given throughout the day and much was learned about medieval warfare and combat. Pupils also enjoyed learning about the extensive history of Warwick Castle and a great day was had by all!



Snowdonia School

On Sunday 10th of October we left Solihull School to prepare for what Mr Bate had told us was going to be the coldest week of our lives, or so we thought. Our first stop was at a burger restaurant. Everyone agreed that the best choice of burger was the buffalo burger and the Shmoo milkshake. We then set off to Gorge Scrambling. We changed into our Wetsuits and climbed to the large waterfall at the top but there were challenges on the way to the top. The water was freezing cold so we developed a method to keep our bodies warm. It was effective but unhygienic! When we arrived at the Cottage we left our bags in our dorms and went into the front garden to start cooking our bad-looking but great-tasting ration packs. Sunday was also the day when the Glyders camped out.

Monday morning we set off to a nearby lake where we played games with our kayaks and did a bit of climbing and abseiling off a small rock face near the lake side. As well as all of us doing it, we persuaded the teachers to have a go. Later on at about 10 o'clock we set off for a hill just a couple of hundred metres down the road. Once we had reached the pinnacle of the hill we were told by Mr Farrington all about the interesting constellations in the sky as on that night the sky was the clearest that I had ever seen: we could also see at least 5 shooting stars! We got back to the Cottage at about 11-12 o'clock and discussed the upcoming days.

On Tuesday we got ourselves ready for climbing up Snowdon. It took a few hours to get to the top of the mountain. There were a lot of people wanting breaks which was quite annoying. We did get up there in the end. There was a cafe at the top of the mountain. That was our treat at the top, lots of sausage rolls! When we got back to the Cottage we were pretty tired. To settle ourselves down, we did a quiz and played games like capture the ball and hide-and-seek.

On Thursday we skipped the Devil's Kitchen as the weather was too nice to ignore, so we went to the beach and played football and played cricket and then left for Caernarvon Castle. At the Castle we had a guided tour and then were told we could roam the town for a while before heading back to the coach. That evening we were told to tidy our dorms which were examined and marked, and then packed our bags for the next day.

On Thursday morning we set off for a final surprise of going to a High Ropes Course a couple of miles away which was amazing. At the end there was a really tall drop: everyone did it and it was a great experience.

We arrived back 3-4 hours later but still had to go to School the next day!

It was an amazing trip – thank you to all the staff who made it a fantastic week.

Hector Brooke, Matt Gibbons and Tom Clayton-Wright.



Art Trip to the Big Apple

In October 2010, a group of Upper Sixth students and three teachers travelled to New York City! Yes, the flight was cramped, long and tiring, but when we arrived, we knew it was worth it. Each day was packed with exciting activities and we saw some amazing exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim and the International Centre of Photography. Each student saw original artwork and learned more about the artists and photographers which we could use in our A2 projects when we got back to the UK. Although art and photography were the main focus for the trip, we also saw some amazing sights, including the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, The Rockefeller Centre, and a night-time visit to the top of the Empire State Building. The shopping was amazing and every day we ate American food at the Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood, and hotdogs from the little stalls in Central Park. The city was insane and I know for a fact we all treasured each second of the trip. Our knowledge of art and photography work was boosted and we left with many souvenirs to remind us of such a great trip. Thank you to Ms Trim, Mr Reardon and Miss Mackie for helping make it such a memorable week.





Physics Department Visit to National Space Centre, Leicester

In June this year, the Lower Sixth Physics Groups, together with Mr Smith, Mr Pugh and Miss Smith went to the National Space Centre at Leicester.

Sophie, a member of the Centre Staff, entertained us all with marvellous demonstrations of vacuum techniques, rocket launching and hovercraft riding!

The Space Theatre was fantastic, and the Simulator was 'Simulating' as we all went on a journey through space. The Girls' team beat the Boys' team in making the best rocket which travelled the most distance.

The many exhibitions were also excellent. A 'must' for all the Physics Family!

Visit to Andalucia - October 2010

On Sunday 17th October 2010, after an early arrival [5:30 a.m.] at Birmingham Airport, we flew to Malaga, and were met by the Spanish organiser Monica. The coach journey to the hostel was very short and then we settled into the new regime. We had lunch, and this turned out to be the quietest day within the hostel, so we had sufficient time to work out the system for meals. The energy levels of many of the Shell Formers were such that we decided to investigate the area surrounding the hostel and burn off some calories. The hostel was located in a residential district on the edge of the city centre and the sight of a supermarket was too much for many to ignore! We had our evening meal (an excellent selection of courses was available) back at the hostel and we settled down for the night.

On the second day we set out on foot with our guide to see many of the top tourist sights of the city of Malaga. We visited the Modern Art Gallery, known as CAC, where we were given an explanation in Spanish of the main items on display at that time. Some of our more able speakers acted as translators for the guide. We then went on a town trail. Lunch was at a tapas restaurant called Las Garrafas. We ate a selection of typical tapas including Spanish omelette and several types of fish. After this we continued to the Cathedral, which is famous for its two uneven towers! As hunger set in we went to have 'chocolate con churros': hot chocolate with fingers of fried dough – delicious! Some enjoyed it so much that they ordered extra only to find that they are much more filling than they realised! Then it was time to return to a much busier hostel and eat again! All in all quite a calorific day!

On Tuesday we based ourselves in and around the old market in Malaga. After some shopping, we went on to the impressive Alcazaba Palace and the Roman amphitheatre. After a picnic lunch we headed to the Picasso Museum and we were expertly shown around by a knowledgeable guide. We went to a traditional tea-house for a tea tasting, however, most of the pupils decided that milkshakes were the most exciting item on the menu! Then, back to the hotel for our evening meal plus an impromptu concert by a visiting Danish choir and Spanish dancing performed by some women from Seville who did not want to be outdone in their own country!

Day four was going to be the busiest day: we headed for Granada by coach. Granada is a major city within this southern region of Spain. The most famous monument of Granada is the Alhambra Palace. The building and gardens are national monuments. After a picnic lunch on a hot hillside overlooking the Alhambra Palace we had time for a short tour of the central area of Granada, and of course there was time

for shopping! After a tiring few hours (in temperatures of nearly 30 degrees) we headed back 'home'. We had a quick meal and then we headed to the local commercial centre called the Centro Larios in time to see a film. Spanish days are structured very differently to ours so the film started after 10p.m. A quick march back to the hostel at the end and it was time for the final night's sleep – although some of the group were a little too excited to be able to sleep all night!

So, the final day arrived. A last breakfast and a rapid tidy up of our rooms and we were off by coach once again but this time to the airport in Malaga. We said goodbye to our guide and now friend Ignacio and we boarded the flight back to Birmingham.

We managed to pack a great deal into the few days that we had in Spain. I hope that all the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to see more of the real Spain that tourists often do not see, and also that they will recognise the value of the cultural aspects of the tour as they mature. I would like to express my gratitude to the senior pupils who came along with us. They launched themselves very positively into all the activities and the opportunities to communicate in Spanish. They assisted the staff with the organisation of the group on occasions. I hope that they will return to Andalusia in the future to explore even further! Finally, my sincere thanks to my three colleagues on the trip: Miss Campbell, Mrs Cassano and Mr P Morgan. They were outstanding leaders and also great fun to be with on the trip! ¡Hasta la próxima! – Until the next time!

Mr P G Gunning

Team of the Week

Girls Hockey XI	<i>Winners of the West Midlands Tournament</i>
Cast and Crew of Titanic	<i>An excellent production</i>
U15 Rugby Team	<i>Winners of Daily Mail Round 4 v Rugby School</i>
CSLA Team	<i>Organisers of the School U12 Hockey Tournament</i>
Boys' and Mens' Choir	<i>Beautiful singing in the Remembrance Services</i>
Staff Excursion Team	<i>Leading and supervising the myriad of half-term trips and visits</i>
MFL Mentor Team	<i>Exceptional commitment to the learning of younger pupils</i>
Cast and Crew of A Midsummer Night's Dream	<i>An excellent production</i>
The Clay Pigeon Shooting Team	<i>An excellent performance in their first competition</i>
The Cast and Crew of Blood Brothers	<i>An excellent production</i>
Senior Debating Pair	<i>Progress to Round 2 of the International English Debating Union Competition</i>
The Support Staff	<i>'Going the extra-mile' during a very busy week in the life of the School</i>
Senior Golf Team	<i>Progression to the Midlands Final</i>
U13 Rugby Team	<i>Achieving 29 wins out of 29!</i>
Boys Hockey XI	<i>Progression to the Midlands Final</i>
U6 Physicists	<i>Excellent organisation of JS Science Day</i>
Senior Netball Squad	<i>Sustained excellence over a period over the half term</i>
Upper Six Economists	<i>National semi-finalists in the Bank of England Target 2.0 Competition</i>
U12 Girls' Hockey Team	<i>County Champions</i>
The First XV	<i>A fantastic victory at Twickenham in the Daily Mail RBS Vase</i>
The Golf Team	<i>Midlands Champions</i>
D of E participants	<i>An excellent performance from the Bronze group</i>
The First XI Cricket	<i>A tremendous victory over Warwick School</i>
U14 Rounders Team	<i>Retained the Borough title</i>
Lower Sixth French students	<i>Excellent company and academic curiosity on their 'French-immersion' weekend at the Mountain Cottage</i>
Ski Team	<i>An excellent performance in the English Schools Championships in Telford'</i>



Solihull School