



Solihull School



MEDIA CUTTINGS  
2012 - 2013



# Solihull School

2012-2013



# School's bumper crop of Oxbridge students

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IT'S one of the Midlands' most successful schools for educating bright young minds.  
But Solihull School has surpassed all expectations

this year after almost a dozen students landed places at Oxbridge.  
A total of 11 sixth formers at the independent school have won conditional offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge from the autumn.  
This year's crop of students have doubled last year's tally for Oxbridge



Oxbridge-bound are Daniel Murphy, Joe Halbert, Alex Lloyd, Nayan Branch, Jack Fowles, Rebecca Took, Joe Watson, Arun Baxter, Mary Montgomery and Hannah Smith.

offers – and trebled the numbers of 2011.  
Nine students have been accepted by Oxford, including Dan Murphy, Sophie Tillman and Joe Watson, who have all been offered places to study medicine, while Jack Fowles and Joe Halbert will both be reading history.

Oxford offers have also been awarded to Nayan Branch to read geography, Mary Montgomery for psychology and philosophy, Hannah Smith for physics and Rebecca Took will study English.

Meanwhile, Alex Lloyd is Cambridge-bound after accepting an offer to study maths along with Arun Baxter, who is set to study philosophy.

Head teacher David Lloyd said: "I am delighted for the students who have all worked extremely hard and deserve their success."  
"Credit also goes to Dr Helen Johnson and Danielle Harford, two of our

Oxbridge-educated teachers, for helping them through the demanding selection process."  
Solihull School recorded a 100 per cent A-level pass rate for the seventh year running in last summer's results, with an impressive 85 per cent of passes graded at A\* to B.

Birmingham Mail  
April 20th 2013

## Duo lead the way on results day



Sophie Tillman and Ross Edwards who have 9 A Stars between them and are both going to study medicine at university.

SOLIHULL School's Head of School Ross Edwards and Deputy Head of School Sophie Tillman have hit the heights after gaining no less than nine A\* grades in their A-levels between them.  
With five A\* grades including three in Maths subjects, Ross has won a place at Cardiff University to read Medicine. Sophie will be studying the same subject at Oxford University as one of 11 pupils to have achieved Oxbridge success.  
Ross and Sophie achieved the distinction after achieving the similarly impressive feat this year of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the tallest mountain in Africa, to raise funds for Diabetes UK.

They were among 55 pupils at the independent school to have achieved at least three A or A\* grades, with three achieving five passes at the top grades.  
With Solihull School securing a 100 per cent pass rate for the eighth year running, almost 60 per cent of its exam entries were awarded A\* or A grades and 80 per cent gained grades of between A\* and B.

David E J J Lloyd, Solihull School Headmaster said: "I am delighted with yet another set of outstanding A-level results."  
"They are a fitting tribute to the hard work of our pupils and the expertise of our teaching staff."



Solihull School pupils celebrate another 100 per cent success rate in this year's A Level Results.



Celebrating success - Nicola Cronin, Victoria Beech and Lucy Rosier.

Solihull Observer  
August 22nd 2013

Record-busting grades at A\* to A in GCSE exams were matched by record-equalling results at the same grades in A-Levels, ranking Solihull firmly among the UK's top 100 independent schools according to The Daily Telegraph.



Solihull School students celebrate a record-breaking year for GCSE results.

## An Olympian-sized celebration at Solihull

IT WAS a record-breaking year for Solihull School after ten pupils were awarded no fewer than 100 A\* grades between them.

More than three-quarters of grades at the independent school were at A\* or A grade, with ten pupils clinching ten or more A\*s and 23 gaining eight

A\*s. Thirty-eight pupils gained ten or more A\* or A grades, contributing to a record 77 per cent pass rate for the School at the top two grades.

The school also achieved an overall pass rate of 100 per cent, with 99 per cent of all grades at A\* to C. Pupils were so thrilled by their

success that they couldn't resist joining in the celebration craze started by double Olympic gold medal and World Champion distance runner, Britain's Mo Farah. Headmaster David E J J Lloyd said: "These sensational record-breaking results strengthen our standing as one of the highest-

Solihull News  
August 30th 2013



Daily Express Online  
August 15th 2013



Longing for joy, Solihull schoolboys (left to right) Sam Ashby, Ahmed Gherabi, Oscar Haynes, Ben Donohue were delighted with their results.

Daily Mail Online  
August 22nd 2013





A new Bursar was welcomed, and links with feeder schools and past pupils were strengthened with the creation of two new roles.

## New bursar for Solihull School



Richard Bate, the new bursar at Solihull School

Richard Bate has been named the new bursar at Solihull School. He joins after a successful career in a variety of commercial and industrial roles at home and abroad.

He succeeds Colonel Christopher Warren,

who retired after nine years at the 452-year-old independent West Midlands school.

As well as managing the school's finances, Bate takes responsibility for the school's facilities and all its support functions. He also joins the school's senior management team.

Bate has a degree in economics from Cambridge University and is qualified as a management accountant.

He said he was "greatly looking forward" to his role "with a school that enjoys such an excellent reputation, has an exceptional history and exciting plans for the future".

Headmaster David Lloyd said he was "delighted" to welcome Bate. "His commercial experience and enthusiasm will be invaluable in helping the school continue to develop and succeed," he said.

Independent Executive  
November 2012

Independent Schools Magazine  
February 2013

Solihull News  
October 26th 2012

Solihull School, West Midlands, has appointed Alison Bond as Director of Development and Alumni Relations after a career with a leading UK business school.



Alison was previously Head of External Relations for Warwick Business School and before that Deputy Director of Development and Alumni Relations, having joined the institution in 2005 as Programme Manager for one of its Masters courses.

She will be responsible for developing external relations and partnerships to enable the 453-year-old independent school meet its long-term aspirations.

## Support for new pupils

SOLIHULL School is ensuring that pupils moving from primary school to a secondary education enjoy the best possible start by appointing a Head of Transition.

Hannah Smith, a History teacher at the independent co-educational school, will play a key role in supporting pupils during this sensitive stage in their education.

The appointment builds on Solihull School's successful summer induction programme for incoming pupils and an Olympic Day in which 300 youngsters from schools throughout the Midlands took part.

\* Solihull School will be hosting a Sixth Form Information Evening on Wednesday, November 7. More details are available from the Admissions Secretary by calling 0121 705 4273 or emailing enquiries@solish.org.uk.



NEW RÔLE: Hannah Smith.

Professor Hugh Montgomery, a world-leading intensive care physician and researcher on fitness, presented the prizes at Speech Day.

## PROFESSOR HUGH MONTGOMERY AT SOLIHULL SCHOOL



Professor Presents The Prizes At Solihull School

Professor Hugh Montgomery, Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at University College, London and Director of the UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance, was guest speaker and presented the prizes at Solihull School's Speech Day.

He gave an inspirational address about sporting achievement, teamwork and survival at the independent co-educational school.

Professor Montgomery, who lives in Solihull, told a packed audience about his achievements as a deep sea diver, mountaineer and genetics researcher.

Headmaster David E J J Lloyd welcomed him as one of a number of principal guests including the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Hawkins, and his wife Lady Mayoress Janet Hawkins, and the Chairman of the Governors, Mark Hopton FCA.

More than 150 pupils from Solihull School's Sixth Form and Middle School stepped up to receive prizes in the School's Bushell Hall.



The evening included a Comedy Piece by Christopher Norton, performed by Maris Barnes, Simon Turpin, Amy Parry and William Hughes; and The Lone Ar-ranger Goes Sax Mad arranged by Philip Buttall and performed by Charlotte Beesley, Alanna Wall, William Hughes and Ben Perrins.

Solihull School achieved a 100 per cent A-Level pass rate for the seventh year running, and equalled its 2010 record with an impressive 85 per cent of passes graded at A\* to B. No less than 37 students achieved at least three A or A\* grades, representing almost a third of the 122 candidates.

Touch Base Magazine  
October/November 2012





Retiring Bursar Christopher Warren was given the honour of representing the Armed Forces in laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service.



**HONOURING THE FALLEN:** Retiring bursar Christopher Warren lays the wreath at Solihull School.

**A FACE IN THE CROWD:** Seven-year-old Thomas King, of 2nd Olton Beavers, pays his respects at St Mary's Church, Olton. / picture by Andrew King.

## Borough pauses to pay its respects

**SOLIHULL** fell silent on Sunday morning as people of all ages marked Remembrance Day.

As St Alphege chimed 11am, Solihullians paid their respects at war memorials around the borough, including Solihull, Shirley and Castle Bromwich.

At Solihull School, the retiring bursar Christopher Warren laid the wreath - he had previously served as a colonel in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

Other schools to mark the sacrifice of our servicemen included Archbishop Isley, in Acocks Green, and Greswold Primary - whose pupils paid respects at the town centre memorial. Meanwhile musicians from Dorridge Music School held a concert later in the day at Birmingham's Symphony Hall - pupils from St Thomas More children's choir performed 'Abide With Me' to mark the occasion.

Solihull News  
November 16th 2012

Children from local primary schools were given a taste of life at Senior School by taking part in a creative writing workshop..

## Children's author inspires primary pupils across Solihull

The joys of creative writing were brought to life by popular children's author Steve Voake at a special workshop for gifted and talented children, organised recently by Solihull School.

The writer of best-selling novels including 'The Dreamwalker's Child' and 'The Web of Fire' enthralled year five pupils from Greswold Primary School, Coppice, Sharmans Cross and Solihull Junior School, whilst reading excerpts from his books and discussing his work.

The day-long English-themed event was organised by Solihull School's newly appointed Head of Transition, Hannah Smith, to offer a taste of life at secondary school.

A 'Zen' walk around Solihull School's extensive grounds in Warwick Road provided inspiration for the 18 youngsters, aged nine to ten, to write about their sensory experiences. They also took part in drama workshops and enjoyed lunch in the school's refectory.

Steve Voake said: "The children were a delight to work with. It was

wonderful to spend a day in the company of such enthusiastic and talented writers."

Jane Glover, a teacher at Greswold Primary School, commented: "Our pupils told us that they found the day 'fantastic, full and enjoyable' and thought meeting an author was 'really cool'."

Hannah Smith added: "All the pupils were excited by Steve's storytelling and hearing how he found the inspiration for his books and created his characters."

"We were delighted to offer children from local primary schools a taste of life in a senior school environment and look forward to running more similar workshops."



**Solihull School**

► 0121 705 0958

► [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk)



Pupils from four junior schools enjoy a workshop with children's author Steve Voake in Solihull School's Kent Library

Workshop: Education Today  
November 2012



An outstanding production of The Phantom of the Opera was hailed by many as being on a par with the professional theatre, and accompanied individual achievement in art, literature and music.

### Charlotte plucks strings of success

Posted by Victoria Baker on 25th March 2013

Talented Solihull School pupil Charlotte Sasse is plucking the strings of success after gaining a top music qualification with distinction at the age of only 14.

She achieved her success in her Associated Board Grade 8 violin exam, the highest level of study before musicians move up to diploma level and rarely attempted before the Sixth Form.



Charlotte, who joined the independent school for boys and girls in Warwick Road three years ago, has been playing the violin since the age of five.

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

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

A regular competitor at music festivals, Charlotte won the violin class at last year's Solihull Music Festival. She also gave the best overall strings performance and was the winner in the string quartet class at the Lenington Spa Festival.

Stephen Perrins, Director of Music at Solihull School, said: "Charlotte's musical success is outstanding. Her hard work and dedication at such a young age has paid off with a qualification that is recognised as being of A-Level standard."

Creative Boom  
May 25th 2013

### Rebecca on the write lines for poetry success

A TALENTED borough pupil has been appointed as Solihull School's first Poet Laureate.

Rebecca Tink, aged 17, will now be honoured with the task of commemorating special events at the school by sharing her impressive poetry with other students, staff and visitors.

Rebecca clinched the role after entering a competition with other upper fifth and sixth form pupils, winning teachers with her poem 'Perseverantia' (Latin for Persevere).

"I'm really excited but it's also a little daunting," the talented teenager told us.

"I'm the school's first Poet Laureate so I haven't got anything to compare myself but it's nice to be recognised."

"I'm naturally quite a shy person and prefer to see my work written down, I like the way that words look

on the page.

"I will now be reading my work out to a room full of people which is a little bit daunting but I've done it a couple of times now and I'm getting used to it a bit more."

Rebecca, whose favourite writers include Caroline Bird and C.S. Lewis, is hoping to study English at Oxford University and has already completed an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in poetry.

"I thought there had to be a prescription to poetry but now I realise it can be whatever you want it to be," Rebecca added.

Solihull School's deputy head of English Helen Pike added: "As co-ordinator and creative support Poet Laureate, I had the idea of encouraging a love of poetry across the school."



LAUREATE LAUREL: Rebecca Tink



### Premiere joy

**TEENAGE musician Charlotte Beesley, from Solihull School, this week celebrated the world premiere of her quartet.**

**The 16-year-old's composition for two flutes, piano and cello was performed by her fellow pupils as part of the independent school's annual summer concert, which took place yesterday (Thursday).**

**'Remembrances', which Charlotte, pictured, composed two years ago, while in her first year of GCSE music studies, was recorded at the school's Bushell Hall.**

Solihull News  
May 10th 2013

Solihull News  
December 7th 2012

### 'Stunning' Phantom production at Solihull School

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Solihull School Headmaster, David E J J Lloyd (left) with The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Hawkins (right) and Mayoress Janet Hawkins (centre)

The Headmaster of Solihull School, David Lloyd welcomed special guests including The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Hawkins and Mayoress Janet Hawkins to The David Turnbull Music School for a drinks reception ahead of a sell-out performance of the School's latest production.

The Phantom of the Opera musical, which pupils performed in the Bushell Hall over five nights, received a standing ovation from the 600 strong audience - with the mayor later tweeting 'Back from @solihull 560 production of Phantom of the Opera. (Stunning, absolutely stunning.)'

Lloyd said: "This is the biggest and most ambitious show that Solihull School has ever produced, stretching acting, singing and design skills to the limit. We are delighted that the hard work of pupils and staff, both backstage and front of house, resulted in such a tremendous show."

Birmingham Press  
March 28th 2013



### Getting a little expert help

Solihull School's musical theatre lovers were so keen to make their production of 'The Phantom of the Opera', a success that they called on the professionals to add the finishing touches.

International actor and singer Simon Green, a former pupil at the school, and James Rigg, brother of Solihull School teacher Claire Black, took time out from starring in the current Birmingham Hippodrome production to help

enhance the cast. More than a hundred boys and girls auditioned for the 76 roles in the biggest and most ambitious show in the school's history, which was staged in the School's Bushell Hall.

Simon Green (seated left) and James Rigg (seated right) with the principal cast members of Solihull School's production of The Phantom of the Opera, a

Solihull Observer  
April 11th 2013



David E J J Lloyd, Solihull School Headmaster; Charlotte Beesley, Sean Morgan, Senior Deputy Headmaster.

### Solihull School's big art show

SOLIHULL School welcomed parents, pupils and friends to one of the biggest summer art exhibitions in its history.

More than 1,000 pieces of artwork and photography created by 800 boys and girls were on show at the independent school in Warwick Road.

Recognising Creative Achievement was the theme of the display which extended from three floors of the George Hill Building to adjoining School House and for the first time included works submitted by nine other local schools. Visitors were able to view A-level

and GCSE entries ranging from self-portraits to landscapes along with works from all levels of Solihull Junior School to the Upper Sixth while enjoying wine and canapés and live jazz from talented sixth formers. Solihull Junior School shared its section with works by pupils from Coppice Junior School, Dorridge Junior School, Eversfield Preparatory School, Greswold Primary School, Halffield School, Knowle CE Primary School, Monkspath Junior School, Oak Cottage Primary School and West House School. Pictures by Sam Bagnall.



Andrew Parker, Dawn Wild, Maria Wild, Hilary Weston, Brian Weston.



Polly Gandhi, Sally Gould, Kate Shakeshaft, Sophie Shakeshaft.



Jo Goodworth, Ella Jo Goodworth, Miles Goodworth.



Richard Davies, Juliet Davies.



Ann Fair, Steve Abbotts.



Simon Beech, Vicky Beech, Joy Beech.

Birmingham Post  
July 19th 2013



An exciting range of academic excursions enabled pupils to widen their horizons.



OVER THERE: Dr Helen Johnson (far left) with members of the Solihull School tour party bound for New York and Washington

## Students are USA-bound

HISTORY and politics students from Solihull School are set to experience first hand the excitement of the upcoming American elections as they get set to visit New York and Washington.

Teacher Dr Helen Johnson, who will be leading the half-term trip, said: "Our students are looking forward with great excitement to visiting America in the countdown to Election Day.

"The trip will be especially useful

for our politics students, who will be studying the American political system in their second year in the sixth form, and our history students, who will be covering the Cold War and Vietnam next year."

The school introduced politics as an A-Level subject last year.

Solihull School will be hosting a Sixth Form Information Evening on Wednesday, November 7. For more details call 0121 705 4273 or email enquiries@solsch.org.uk.

Solihull News  
October 26th 2012



GERMAN VISIT: The Solihull School students at the Brandenburg Gate.

## Students take to Berlin

CLASSROOM studies came vividly to life for a group of Solihull School sixth formers on a language trip to Berlin.

Eight German A-Level students who are studying the city as a course module immersed themselves in its history and culture on a four-day visit.

Supported by their teachers and local guides, they visited the city's sights and museums and even toured the Unterwelt (Underworld) – passageways and rooms that make up part of a long-forgotten bunker system.

Teacher Jeremy Troth said: "The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit and learned a great deal about the history of Berlin as well as being able to improve their German."

Solihull News  
January 25th 2013

## Students have a Splendid day

SOLIHULL School's Theatre Studies students were encouraged to go beyond their comfort zone at a workshop with a theatre-in-education company.

A total of 21 A-Level pupils worked with the Splendid Theatre Company to help boost their skills at ensemble and chorus work and storytelling.

The boys and girls at the independent school were challenged to improvise in groups and tell stories verbally and through physical theatre.

Actors from Splendid Theatre also performed an

adaptation of the medieval play Everyman to demonstrate different approaches to theatre and provide valuable subject material and ideas for exams and practical work.

Jean Wilde, head of drama at Solihull School, said: "The workshop really stretched our students in terms of honing their performance skills, which form a big element of their A-level course.

"They thrived on the challenges and came away not only with greater knowledge but also with greater confidence in their abilities."



Centre stage: Solihull School's Theatre Studies students at a workshop with the Splendid Theatre Company.

Birmingham Mail  
July 18th 2013

## Peer talks of House of Lords on school visit

LOWER Fifth Formers and A level Politics students at Solihull School have boosted their inside knowledge of the House of Lords after a visit by a prominent local peer.

Lord Philip Hunt, Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, spoke to more than 100 boys and girls in the independent school's Bushell Hall about the role of the chamber in scrutinising, debating and shaping Bills as they pass through Parliament.

The Labour

peer, who is also Opposition Spokesman for Health, president of the Royal Society of Public Health and chairman of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, also answered questions from the boys and girls on topics ranging from education and health policy at local and national level to British involvement in Afghanistan.

Lord Hunt, who lives in Birmingham, is a former city councillor, was appointed to the Lords in 1997.

Birmingham Mail  
March 19th 2013





The teaching of Spanish was enhanced through an expanded Gap Year exchange programme with schools in Chile.

### Chilean students boost Spanish studies

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Spanish language learning at Solihull School is thriving thanks to the expansion of an exchange programme with schools in Chile.



**Pablo Hernandez, Ani Eguiguren and Coni Rubio in the Keat Library at Solihull School**

The independent school in Warwick Road has welcomed three 16-year-old Gap Year students from the country as full-time teaching assistants.

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

The trio have been leading debates in Spanish to improve conversational skills and helping individuals with their grammar while improving their own knowledge of English. They have also been assisting in Geography lessons on Latin America.

Links with Chile have continued to strengthen since Vanesa Rios, the first of 13 Gap Year students, came to Solihull School to assist one day a week in 2007.

Ani, who went to Colegio Santisima Trinidad in Concepcion, is planning to read Business and Economics at university. As well as improving her English, she is learning French alongside boys and girls at Solihull Junior School and joined its J4 year visit to Hardeot in France earlier this term.

Pablo and Coni, who were classmates at The Wessex School in the same city, first visited Solihull with a Wessex party three years ago. Pablo will be returning to Chile to read Business Administration and Coni to study Dentistry.

They were there to welcome a party of 34 students and three teachers from their old school recently on its eighth annual visit to Solihull School.

The 16-year-olds, who stayed with local families, brushed up on their English, took part in "international" sports matches against Solihull School teams and led a Chilean-style assembly, as well as helped in Spanish lessons.

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

Coni Rubio said: "We are all enjoying assisting the teachers at Solihull School and helping the students to improve their Spanish pronunciation and grammar."

"We are giving pupils the confidence to speak in Spanish by having normal conversations with them both in groups and individually."

Coni added: "We all love the superb teaching and sporting facilities at Solihull School and the people are so nice. I am sure we will all remain friends."

Terrence Martin, Headmaster of the Wessex School, said: "Our visit to Solihull School is always a highlight of our annual tour."

"It gives our pupils the opportunity to open their minds and appreciate the differences and similarities in culture between the two schools."

"Our Gap Year students have been putting Spanish into its context for Solihull pupils by those who use it as their first language, and showing the differences between the Spanish spoken in Spain and how it is spoken in Latin America."

"We have also had the pleasure of welcoming three groups from Solihull who have been helping our own pupils to improve their English skills. Pupils from both schools have also benefited from being put up by local families."

Julie Brown, a Geography Teacher who launched the cross-cultural programme, said: "Ani, Pablo and Coni are making a wonderful contribution to the Spanish Department in particular, who are extremely grateful for their support. I am delighted that our exchange programme continues to thrive."

Solihull School's Spanish Department also has a successful exchange programme with Colegio Ojeza at Orihuea in Spain. Students also stage a Spanish-language play each year with the help of the Onati Theatre Company.

Birmingham Press  
July 7th 2013

The Boys' Choir hit a top note by performing in Britten's War Requiem at the prestigious Bergen Festival in Norway.

# CHAMPIONS OF ENGLAND

## Classical

By PATSY FULLER

THE respected Maggini Quartet are soon to celebrate their 25th anniversary, and there is chance to hear them in Warwickshire next month. They are playing at Leamington's Royal Pump Rooms on Friday, November 9, as part of Leamington Music's winter concert series.

The four – Suzanne Stanzel and David Angel on violin, Martin Cullen viola, and Michael Kaznowski cello – like to champion the music of English composers, and this concert is no exception.

On the programme is the first quartet by John Ireland – a work they recorded a few years ago to great critical acclaim.

Also on the programme is Mozart's D Major Quartet, known as the Hoffmeister – a friend to whom Mozart dedicated the work. The programme closes with Mendelssohn's Quartet in A minor.

Although it is known as his second quartet, it was actually his first, written when Mendelssohn was just 18 years old.

It was composed shortly after Beethoven had died, and is clearly influenced by him. Tickets and information on 01926 776438 or [www.leamingtonmusic.org](http://www.leamingtonmusic.org).

AS the nights draw in and the clocks go back, it may be a time to think ahead to picnics and opera next summer.

The Longborough Festival Opera near Morton-in-Marsh in the Cotswolds has never been afraid to think big, and the season in June and July is the most ambitious yet.

Wagner has generally been on the programme, but next year they are performing the whole of the Ring cycle – *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* – to mark the bicentenary of Wagner's birth.

For those who like their opera rather gentler, there are also performances of *La Bohème*.

More details on 01451 830292 or at [www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk) although general booking does not open until March.

MUSIC-MAKER Christopher Monks will go back to his old school next month – taking his flourishing choir with him.

Christopher, director of Warwick-based Armonico Consort, will be on the podium for an opera performance at Solihull School.

The school's chamber choir will join Armonico Consort's singers and orchestra for *Top Hot to Handel*, which weaves some of Handel's most beautiful arias duets and choruses into a witty and touching love story in a modern English translation.

Opera singer fresh from a nationwide tour including Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House will be among those taking part at Bushell Hall, Warwick Road, Solihull, on November 8.

Christopher won an organ scholarship to Solihull School and went on to study music at Cambridge University. He became an organist at Winchester Cathedral and a keyboard player with the CBSO before founding Armonico Consort in 2001. Tickets on 0844 330 0338.



**BACK TO SCHOOL: Christopher Monks (second from right) at rehearsal**

Coventry Telegraph  
October 26th 2012

### Education Round-Up




## School to sing at Britten celebration in Norway

Solihull School is to take part in worldwide celebrations for the centenary of the great British composer Benjamin Britten.

The boys' choir of the independent school in the West Midlands will be singing in Britten's famous War Requiem at the prestigious Bergen International Festival in Norway on June 5.

The 10 to 13 year olds will be touring up with the Bergen Boys' Choir as the only UK school invited to perform the War Requiem at the festival.

The choir will be performing the War Requiem at the festival, which is a rare honour for a school choir.

Solihull School has a long association with Benjamin Britten, born in November 1913, as its choristers sang the War Requiem at its first performance at its first Birmingham performance at Birmingham Town Hall in 1965.

Solihull School, which also has a Girls' Choir and a Chamber Choir made up of Men and Girls, was invited to sing in Bergen through its close association with CBSO Chorus Director Simon Hayes.

The world-leading conductor of choral repertoire Herbert Blomstedt, Solihull School's former Choristers' Association in 2012 by rehearsing and conducting a special choral evening in the School Chapel.

Oliver Walker, Solihull School Organist and Choirmaster, said: "Being invited to take part in the Bergen Festival is a terrific honour for the School and a sure to increase our further its outstanding reputation for choral music."

Solihull School's Chamber Choir released a CD of Christmas music last year and its Chamber Choir sang a choral evening at St Paul's Cathedral recently.

Britten's War Requiem was written to celebrate the building and consecration of Coventry Cathedral which was opened in 1962 by HRH The Queen on the same day that she visited Solihull School's newly built Chapel.

Education Today  
March 2013



ON SONG: Helen Pike and Simon Phillips.

## Debut for carol

SOLIHULL School's annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols hit a new high this week with the world premiere of a carol composed by two teachers.

'Nativity Carol' was written by deputy head of English Helen Pike and set to music for soprano and alto voices by head of Academic Music Simon Phillips.

Solihull School's Girls' Choir brought the Christmas story to life with performances of the carol in the Chapel on the independent school's Warwick Road campus.

Copies of the Chapel Choir's new CD of Christmas music are available, priced at £10, from Solihull School's main reception on 0121 705 0958.

Solihull News  
December 14th 2012



### Choristers hit right note at St Paul's

SOLIHULL School's choristers hit a special note when they performed in the new Christmas CD of Carols in a first ever opportunity to sing at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The school's Chamber Choir sang David Elton's new setting of the Festival of Carols in the month's CD release building on momentum from the day before they were crowned as the winners of the 2012 St Paul's Cathedral Choir Competition.

The choristers' performance was a triumph for the school, as they were the only school choir to win the competition.

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The choristers' performance was a triumph for the school, as they were the only school choir to win the competition.

Birmingham Mail  
February 19th 2013





Natasha Browne achieved a top political honour after being elected Chair of the Youth Select Committee for Education.

## Natasha takes up political challenge



Natasha Browne, right, with Nikita Basra.

SOLIHULL School pupil Natasha Browne has been elected as chair of the Youth Select Committee for Education.

The 18-year old sixth former at the independent school for boys and girls will have the power to scrutinise public issues and chair inquiries into topics affecting young people.

Heading a committee of 11 young people from across the country, Natasha will sit in the same chair and in the same Parliamentary Committee room in which Lord Leveson conducted his inquiry into press standards.

The Youth Select Committee mirrors the Parliamentary Select Committee structure and has the same authority to interview witnesses and draw up reports of recommendations to which the Government is required to respond.

Natasha, who represented Solihull in the UK Youth Parliament for the past two years, was debate lead in the UKYP House of Commons Debate in November 2012 after she was voted for by her peers across the West Midlands. She debated on the motion of A Curriculum for Life.

She said: "I am delighted to be able to voice the concerns of young people on such a national scale. This is an honour you can only dream about."

Meanwhile, fellow pupil Nikita Basra has been elected to the UK Youth Parliament for Solihull. Solihull School is hosting an open morning on Saturday, September 28, from 10am to noon. The admissions secretary can be contacted on 0121 705 4273.

## IT'S NO DEBATE — SOLIHULL ARE TOP TALKERS

STUDENTS from Solihull School talked their way to the top at the Birmingham University Debating Competition.

Sixth-formers Sanika Karandikar and Katy Hatter were overall winners in the team event, with Jack Fowles and George Diwaker second and Joe Halbert and Arun Baxter third. Jack Fowles was also voted Best Speaker.

Teacher and coach Daniele Harford said: "More than 250 pupils — around a quarter of the roll — are members of the Debating Society."



**BEST SPEAKER:** Jack Fowles (second left) is congratulated by fellow students

Birmingham Living  
January 2013

Birmingham Mail  
June 7th 2013

Congratulations from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales crowned a record-breaking year for charity fundraising, with the School netting a staggering £36,000 for a range of local, national and international causes.

## Royal welcome for pupils at new Marie Curie Hospice

Tagged with [charity](#) [education](#) [royals](#) [solihull](#)

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



Prince Charles, Prince of Wales Opens The Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull

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

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

Eight Solihull School pupils, including the Heads of the Junior and Lower Schools and those with family members using the hospice's services, attended the event.

Through its links with Anne Lavery, a Big Build Appeal Committee Member and parent of a pupil, Solihull School also sponsored local community fund-raising with the free loan of its Bushell Hall for a series of comedy and drama nights.

Martyn Garner, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular, said: "Our boys and girls were thrilled to meet Prince Charles, who spoke to everyone in turn, and to inspect the wonderful new facility and gardens on a day they will always remember."

Birmingham Press  
June 28th 2013

## It's growing

MEN across the borough have been dowing shaving tools and growing moustaches to support male cancer charities as part of the November campaign.

And here are a selection which have been sent into us by readers.



**EIGHTEEN** members of staff at Solihull School raised £1,531.32 between them during November. The team, captained by Dave Reardon, is pictured in Solihull School's Bushell Hall just before the big 'shave off'.

Solihull Observer  
December 6th 2012



**MOUNTAIN MISSION:** Ross Edwards and Sophie Tillman prepare for their challenge

## Ross in climbing quest

DIABETES has not stopped a Solihull School sixth former from getting ready to tackle Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Ross Edwards, aged 18, from Henley-in-Arden, is on a mission to raise funds for research into the illness.

The head boy will be accompanied on the seven-day trip by deputy head girl Sophie Tillman in their epic bid to raise £6,000 for the

charity Diabetes UK. The pair have raised almost £4,000 for the attempt during half term this month. Ross said: "I hope as many people as possible will sponsor our efforts to raise money to help fund research into diabetes care and treatment."

To make a donation visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/RossAndSophie>

Solihull News  
February 8th 2013

## Pupils rough it to raise £2,000



Pupils sleeping out in cardboard boxes to raise money for the homeless - Scarlett O'Malley, Vikki Brewer, Matt Farrow, Ali Brown and Tom Mitchell (left to right).

Solihull Observer  
May 30th 2013





From recruiting Olympians as coaches to strengthening training links with local clubs, the School set a course to sporting excellence for its boys and girls.



**COACHING COUP:** New hockey coach and Olympian Sally Walton with pupils, Samuel Day and Lily Evans.

## Olympic medallist in a new coaching role

SALLY Walton is helping hundreds of pupils to follow in her medal-winning footsteps after joining Solihull School's coaching team.

The winner of a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics will be passing on her knowledge to girls at the school in the hope of producing future Olympians from the region.

Walton, 31, who has been capped more than 100 times for Great Britain, has already laid down the foundations at the Warwick Road-based school as the hockey season comes to a close.

Headmaster David Lloyd admits it is a huge coup for the school to have the star on board and is impressed by her early sessions.

## Youngsters set to learn with Ladies

**HOCKEY**  
**GREGG EVANS**

**LOCAL** youngsters inspired by Britain's Olympic hockey success will be offered the opportunity to train alongside players from England's top women's club next week.

Leicester Ladies, last season's national outdoor and indoor champions with four 2012 Olympic medallists in their side, will be at Solihull School on April 11 for an action-packed day of coaching.

Members of the team will hold a question and answer session after an extended period of tuition with competitions



Hockey champions Leicester Ladies.

and prizes also making up the day. Leicester Ladies' coach Chris Mayer, an Atlanta Olympian and Director of Hockey at Solihull School, and Hannah Smith, a member of the club's 2011 European Cup Final team and a Solihull School teacher, will also be coaching.

Team GB Olympians' goalkeeper James Fair will be running a goalkeeping

session to ensure that every aspect of the game is fully covered.

Smith said: "We are looking forward to giving young people across Solihull the experience of top-level coaching."

Leicester Ladies are just one point away from retaining the Premier League title and qualifying automatically for the European Championship

finals in 2014. Solihull School, which has Olympic medallist Sally Walton in its coaching team, is one of the Midlands' most successful schools for hockey.

Its Under 14 boys' team and Under 15 girls' team were recently crowned as county champions, while the Junior School team reached the county finals.

Hockey players of all abilities can sign up for the session.

For details of how to register contact Hannah Smith at Solihull School at [SmithH2@Solsch.org.uk](mailto:SmithH2@Solsch.org.uk). Shin pads and gum shields are compulsory.

Sticks are available to use if needed. The session runs from 10am-3pm and cost £30.

Birmingham Mail  
April 3rd 2013

### New PE teaching team puts girls on path to excellence

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Facebook 2 Twitter 0 LinkedIn 0 Google+ 0 Be the first to like this

Solihull School has paved the way to sporting excellence for female pupils after expanding its Physical Education Department.



Solihull School's new PE Teaching Team: Debbie Wilson, Emily Johnson and Miss Judy Smith with girls from the school.

The independent school in Warwick Road has awarded a team of three full-time graduate teachers to enhance the competitiveness and choice of PE and further develop its reputation for girls from the ages of seven to 18.

The move has also increased the breadth of sports on offer, from badminton, basketball, and the recruitment of Olympic stars as coaches and role models at the school, which won the National School Sports Award in 2011.

Emily Johnson, head of PE-Academy, is developing the School's GCSE and A-Level PE courses and supporting international major events in coaching roles.

Debbie Wilson is leading Sports Groups: Cross-Mat, European Cup Finalist, Hockey, and Olympic medallist Sally Walton is teaching Hockey as well as joining Emily in teaching PE from the Junior School to the Sixth Form.

Miss Judy Smith is responsible for swimming and triathlon, is teaching PE in the Senior School and Sixth Form and is running twice weekly pre-colonial fitness classes.

The team has already increased the number of non-sporting fixtures, with 8 sports now available for under 12s and under 15s. The launch of GCSE and A-Level PE has now given girls a new 7th choice to offer competitive sport.

For these girls, the same goes for boys. Solihull School is developing a wide range of sports activities, including badminton and judo, to PE teachers.

Emily Johnson said: "I'm a very popular at Solihull School and our aim is to help girls achieve sporting excellence as well as develop their character through the values of honesty, hard work and respect for others."

She added: "Solihull School provides a unique and extra-curricular PE at all levels as it is important for a girl's education. It also allows many social skills as well as competitiveness, discipline, perseverance and determination."

Birmingham Press  
June 19th 2013

Solihull News  
March 8th 2013

## ROYAL TRIP FOR DETERMINED YOUNGSTERS

SEVENTEEN pupils from Solihull School attended a ceremony at St. James' Palace to be presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh himself was on hand to congratulate the determined youngsters along with TV's Linda Barker.

The pupils completed a range of tough tasks to achieve the gold standard including a 50 mile hike in Snowdonia.

"The combination of terrain, weather conditions and distance made the Snowdonia ventures especially tough - and for all pupils to complete them was exceptional," said teacher Owen Bate, who runs the school's award scheme.



Picture: Linda Barker and teacher Owen Bate with the successful pupils at St. James' Palace

Birmingham Living  
June 1st 2013

## Students set for Caribbean adventure

SOLIHULL School will be carrying the hopes of England at a prestigious international cricket competition in Barbados.

The independent school for boys and girls on Warwick Road is the only school outside the Caribbean to have been invited to take part in the Sir Garfield Sobers International Cricket Tournament.

A squad of 13 players aged 14 to 18 will be involved in the three-week tour this month for what will be Solihull School's fourth participation in the contest.

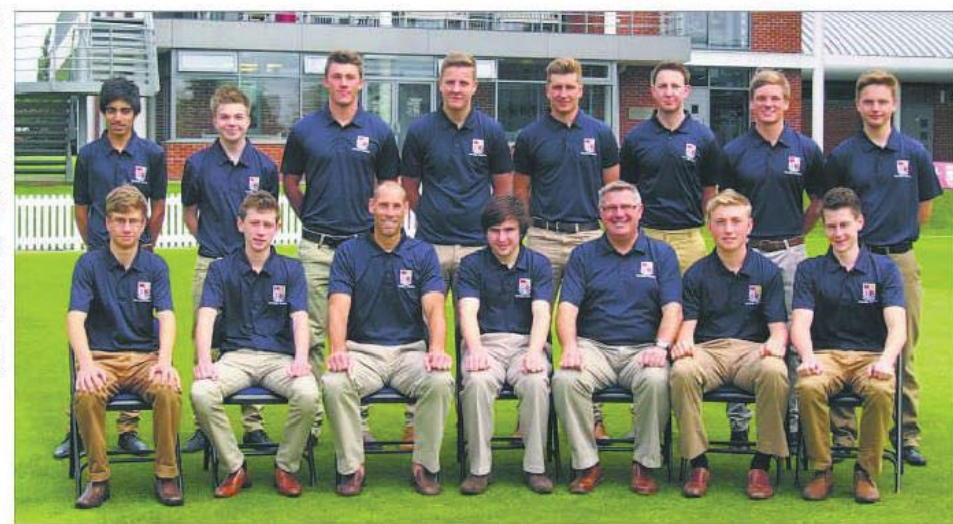
The party will be headed by tour manager Paul Jackson and head coach David Kemp, the Bermuda international and former Bermuda and Glamorgan captain and Warwickshire player who is master in charge of Cricket at Solihull School.

Captained by Darryl Brotherhood, the squad includes Duncan Wigley and Nick Hooper who both played in the 2011 Barbados tournament, as well as Oliver Hasey who is currently in the Warwickshire U18 Elite Player Programme.

Fahd Janjua, the youngest member of the party at only 14, is a member of the Warwickshire U14 squad.

"The team are thrilled to be representing the UK in the biggest inter-school competition in the Caribbean and are determined to do their best to lift the trophy," Jackson said.

**Solihull School's tour party for Barbados. Back row (l-r): Fahd Janjua, Nick Starkey, Jonny Allen, Duncan Wigley, Oliver Hasey, Tom Johnson, Jamie Hughes and Louis Turpin. Front row (l-r): Richard Bradley, Nick Hooper, David Kemp (Head Coach), Darryl Brotherhood (Captain), Paul Jackson (Tour Manager), Anthony Szarmach and Alex Cromie. (5)**



## Skipper pleased with Solihull School's display

SOLIHULL School fell just short of a semi-final at the 2013 Roslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens, Montieri insists playing against some of the nation's best rugby schools can only help his side's development.

"It was a difficult surface to play on and any team's going to struggle but we just didn't match up in physically so that's where they did us," said 16-year-old Montieri, who also was the school's junior team captain to escape their group.

"After we won all our group games we seemed pretty confident, but obviously the surfaces were a little bit better so we relied on our skills more rather than just brute physicality."

"I've been here for the U13s and last year with the U18s. It's always a great tournament. And

this is the first time we've got through to the second day for a number of years.

"We were really happy the first day, we just outplayed everyone in our group and we got through to the second day which was for us all that matters."

"This is the last competition of the season but it's good because we're a pretty young side, we've only got two people in upper sixth playing so it's looking good for next year and the year after as well."

Over 600 teams of all levels from across the UK as well as international visiting teams took part in the tournament, which is now in its 74th year.

The 7,500 participants age from 13 to 18 with boys and

girls taking part in the various different competitions during the week.

And World Cup winner Jason Robinson, speaking in his role as an ambassador for HSBC, insisted that the tournament is continuing to go from strength to strength.

"This is a great competition, it is very competitive but at the same time it is all about improving as well," he said.

"While everyone wants to come and win there are actually teams that don't play a lot of rugby playing for the first time and I think that is important."

"You look at the England-Wales Six Nations game, it just highlights the fact that we need to produce more kids who are comfortable with the ball in

their hand.

"Sevens just strips it down. The emphasis is not on the scrum, the maul or kicking. It is about running with the ball, creating space, playing with your head up and using those skills."

"Especially with Sevens being an Olympic sport now, this competition is more important than ever with the future of this sport in this country in mind."

Rugby World Cup winner and British & Irish Lions legend Jason Robinson is an HSBC ambassador. Jason was attending the Roslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens tournament running special coaching clinics for participating schools courtesy of HSBC. For more information visit [www.rpsn7.co.uk](http://www.rpsn7.co.uk).

Solihull Observer  
July 4th 2013

Solihull Observer  
March 28th 2013





Links with past pupils were strengthened through a new OSA office in the Leonard Stevens Building and the launch of a Former Choristers' Association.



Solihull Chapel Choir member Adam Viam-Cipollata meets former chorister Terence Clifford. (s)

## School tradition hits all of the right notes

A WORLD leading conductor, three internationally renowned organists and past pupils helped Solihull School to celebrate a unique choral tradition.

They were among 75 former choristers, organists, choirmasters, headmasters and chaplains who gathered at the school for the launch of its Former Choristers' Association.

Simon Halsey, chorus master of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, rehearsed and conducted the guests in an afternoon Choral Evensong led by Old Silhillian Bishop David Tustin in the school chapel as part of a day of celebrations.

Former organ scholars and now distinguished musicians Professor John Butt and Paul Hale each played the organ during the service, accompanying the combined forces of Solihull School's Chapel Choir and former choristers.

Choirmaster Oliver Walker said: "Our first Former Choristers' Day was a tremendous success. It enabled past pupils and supporters to sing together and reminisce and raised the chapel choir's awareness of the choral tradition to which they belong."

"I hope the launch of our Former Choristers' Association will strengthen members' links with each other and the school, and that Former Choristers' Day will become an eagerly awaited annual date in the School diary."

Visit: [www.silhillians.net](http://www.silhillians.net) The-OSA/Solihull-School-Old-Choristers-Association for more information.

Solihull Observer  
January 3rd 2013

## Radio star returns to school



Radio presenter and children's author Simon Mayo with Solihull School pupils.

Boys and girls from Solihull School were excited when popular BBC radio presenter Simon Mayo returned to his old school to launch his new children's book.

Simon, a former pupil of the school, was joined by his wife and daughter for the launch of 'The Book of the Day', the second novel in his series about a young boy's adventures.

The 14-year-old, nicknamed 'Toby', uses science as a weapon and the elements as his gadget to make the world safe from unsavoury scientists and terrorists.

The well-known presenter of *Children on BBC Radio 2*, which features the popular *Book of the Day*, was a pupil at Solihull School in the early 1970s.

Simon took the opportunity to read out passages from his work and discuss it with the packed audience of 11 to 15-year-olds in the School's Bursell Hall.

He also signed copies of his new book and gave writing tips before taking guests to tour of the school, including his new Dennis Tomlin Archive Room.

Alison Davis, director of development and alumni relations, said: "We were delighted that Simon launched his new book at his old school. Our pupils were thrilled by his presentation and related to the character and adventures of Toby and his love of science."

Solihull School is holding a Meet and Greet Information evening at Edgbaston Cricket Ground on Wednesday, September 18 from 6pm and an Open Morning at its Warwick Road, Solihull campus on Saturday, September 21 from 10am to noon. The admissions secretary can be contacted on 0121 705 4273 or email [admissions@solihull.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@solihull.sch.uk).

The Journal  
August 2013

### Girls' Reunion

## Old Girls Celebrate 40 Years at Solihull School

Former female pupils living as far away as Australia, Canada and the USA were reunited at a gala event to celebrate 40 years of co-education at Solihull School.

Members of the School's Senior Management Team, the Old Silhillians' Association Committee (on hand with umbrellas to chaperone the girls to the George Hill Building), former teachers and current Sixth Form girls welcomed around 100 Old Girls to the reunion at the school's campus.

The fun-filled day included tours of the School's magnificent modern arts, teaching and sports facilities as well as the new Denis Tomlin Archive Room.

Guests also enjoyed a strawberry tea in the specially decked out School refectory, where they were able to exchange memories and listen to performances by Solihull Junior School's Girls' Choir and the Senior School's female flute and violin quartets.

Welcoming addresses by Headmaster David Lloyd, Director of Development and Alumni



Ginty Burns (née Macmillan), one of the first year of girls, who flew in from Canada

The Welcoming Committee - Jessica Gooseman, Sarah Pagan (née Owen) and Helen Regan



The Silhillian  
2013



## Richard captains team to TV victory

MOST people dream of being able to answer one question during a series of University Challenge.

But one Henley student flexed his mental muscle and captained his team to glory in the BBC Two final recently.

Richard Gilbert grew up in Preston, Lancashire, a small village on the outskirts of Henley and attended Solihull School as a teenager before making the move up north to the University of Manchester to study linguistics.

It is there the 20-year-old managed to help equal the current record for number of series won by beating University College, London 100-100.

But the final year linguistics student almost missed the opportunity to take part in the prestigious competition, which is presented by broadcaster Jeremy Paxman.

Richard told the Observer: "There was a message sent round a few months before the start of filming asking for people who were interested and I actually didn't see it."

"Luckily my girlfriend spotted it and encouraged me to go along. I sat the test and was invited along with the top 10 or 12 to take part in a house round and then a team was chosen taking a mix of subjects and house spirit into account."

A few days later he received an email from long-serving coach Stephen Pearson who himself captained the team in 1996, inviting the final year student to take on the same role.

Reflecting on the experience, Richard said: "You assume it will be beyond you but after I met the people taking part, I quickly realised it was very achievable."

"We almost lost in the opening round to Lincoln College, Oxford but fortunately were able to recover and go all the way."

And following a big night out to celebrate the team's success, Richard was concentrating his efforts in the room on his dissertation before beginning his studies.

He added: "It's all a bit surreal to be honest - a bit like it didn't actually happen. I think Stephen is responsible in a large part for our success because he chose 10 teams."

"We definitely had a bit of luck with 10 questions but it was a great experience as along with the other members of the team I'm very proud to have helped Manchester clinch the title for the fourth time in eight years."

Solihull Observer  
May 9th 2013

### SOCIETY LIFE

## School honours benefactor

PHOTOGRAPHS BY: DAVE WARREN

Solihull School honoured a former pupil and major benefactor by naming a building after him. The building housing the archive room, commemorates the late Leonard Stevens, a senior oil industry executive. It was unveiled by his son Fred, who was joined by his cousins and past Solihull School pupil Charles Whitehouse. (s)



Warwickshire Life  
February 2013



WELL DONE: Dora Coton presents the new Claude Coton Cup to Simon Bright, captain of the Old Silhillians.

## Cup of honour

A DRIVING force behind the development of Solihull School's past pupils' association was honoured at a rugby match between two of the Midlands' greatest rivals.

The Old Silhillians played Old Warwickians for the new Claude Coton Cup, named after one of the founders of the Old Silhillians' Association (OSA).

Dora Coton, widow of the late Claude Coton, presented the trophy to Simon Bright, the Old Silhillians' captain after his team's 34-10 victory at Solihull School in the presence of the Headmaster David E J J Lloyd.

Claude, a pupil at Solihull School from 1931 to 1938, was a member of the OSA's Rugby Committee for more than 50 years and played the game well into his 50s.

Now in its third year, the annual fixture was attended by more than 150 past pupils. It was followed by a pig roast organised by Solihull School's Director of Sport, Steve Thompson, and supplied by Berryfields Farm in Meriden.

Solihull News  
October 19th 2013





From art and athletics to history and politics, Junior School pupils took advantage of their opportunities with typical passion and enthusiasm.



## SOLIHULL PUPILS ART SUCCESS

BUDDING artists at Solihull Junior School have displayed their skills at a local gallery. The pupils produced pastel sketches influenced by the work of Harborne-based contemporary artist Paul Horton, which were unveiled at Castle Galleries in Mell Square. Sophie Borman, Charlotte Hope, George Sunderland and overall winner Penny Goodman had their sketches mounted and framed.

**ARTY:** Sophie, Charlotte, George and Penny receive their prizes from Paul Horton

Birmingham Living  
March 2013

TOP READ:  
Author  
Adam  
Guillain  
with  
Solihull  
Junior  
School  
pupils  
Dawood  
Abid,  
Freddie  
Albrighton,  
Jyotsana  
Dasoondi  
and  
Morgane  
Lyko-  
Edwards.



## Author passes on 'wordly' knowledge

CREATIVE pupils at Solihull Junior School have been showing off their literary skills when children's author Adam Guillain dropped by to lead a workshop.

The writer, best known for his popular Bella Balistica adventure

stories, was the guest on Author Day at the Warwick Road school.

More than 100 pupils, aged between nine and 11, listened to Adam's storytelling before taking part in mime, drama, music and drawing exercises.

Solihull News  
March 22nd 2013

# Max appeal wins the voters over



WHILST knocking on doors this week, a few residents have asked me why they weren't sent voting cards for the county elections last week.

If you're also wondering whether you've been left out don't worry – there were no county elections for Solihull because we're a Metropolitan Borough. Our next local elections will be in 2014.

However, there was at least one exception to this rule in Solihull. Solihull Junior School had elections for Prime Minister on the same day as the local elections in the counties.

I became involved because the Liberal Democrat team asked me to lend my support.

I was impressed by their initiative, so I went over to support young Max Penney and his worthy team – Guy Tomlinson, Emily Baker and Jacob Yip – with some election posters and rosettes.

Max sent me his speech, which includ-

ed lots of suggestions about things he would ask for on behalf of his constituents – i.e., his schoolmates – to make their school lives more enjoyable.

As well as the Lib Dems, the children also thought up some excellent parties of their own.

These included the Smile Party, Imagine and the Army of the People. I'm delighted to report that Max and his Lib Dem team won the election.

I think Max and his team did really well. They found out what their electors cared about and put it into a manifesto of things which could realistically be achieved.

So Max is Prime Minister for the year, and I'm sure he has the makings of a real Prime Minister one day.

WELL DONE:  
Solihull's Liberal Democrat MP Lorely Burt with Solihull Junior's School Liberal Democrat campaign team, who won the school election. From left: Guy Tomlinson, Emily Baker (Deputy Leader), Max Penney (Leader) and Jacob Yip.

Solihull News  
May 10th 2013

## Juniors just dig their history studies



Two Canals and Pilo Pendery from Solihull Junior School don a tin hat and gas mask while learning about the experiences of being Second World War evacuees during their video conference with the National Archives.

Solihull Junior School pupils inspired by the discovery of the remains of King Richard III are to carry out an archaeological dig in their School grounds.

[Theatre](#) [Shadow Unit](#) [Shopping Unit](#) [Global News](#)

The seven to eight-year old boys and girls from the independent school in Warwick Road will search for items from Anglo-Saxon times such as tools, helmets, jewellery and messages on rune stones next month.

The items will be buried by their teachers as part of an exciting new programme of activities that is bringing history to life for all years. The events will include talks by an evacuee and an RAF bomber pilot who served in the Second World War and by a parent who has flown a Spitfire aircraft.

The Junior School's ten to 11-year olds have already studied original artwork about the wartime evacuation of children in a video conference on 'Propaganda and the Art of War' with the National Archives.

Pupils have also learned about the differences between opinion and fact in a video conference on 'What is History?' and others have discussed the image of King Henry VIII from original Tudor documents in a similar learning style.

Juniors have also examined artefacts from Ancient Egypt in the company of the award-winning historian Professor McGinty and enjoyed a memorable talk by a parent and Egyptologist. Meanwhile History Co-ordinator Nicola Atkins has encouraged the youngest boys and girls to re-enact the drills and manoeuvres of the Roman army.

Nicola said: "Our exciting new History initiatives have been designed to complement our already excellent classroom practices. The new activities and learning styles, together with access to high quality resources and artefacts, have inspired pupils to learn more about the past for themselves."

Solihull Town Talk  
February 20th 2013







**DONATION:** Raoul Bagga (left), Deputy Head Boy of Solihull Junior School, and Matthew Smith, Head Boy of Solihull Junior School, present a giant cheque to Roy Ball and Sandra Pearce from CRY.

## All heart kids raise £1,100

SOLIHULL Junior School pupils have been proving that they really do have a heart, after raising over £1,000 towards reducing cardiac deaths among young people.

The pupils handed over a cheque for £1,100 to CRY (Cardiac Risk in

the Young) at their Jeans for Genes Day.

The school hosted a successful screening day last year in support of CRY, which raises awareness of conditions that can lead to sudden cardiac death in young people.

Solihull News  
November 2nd 2012



## CHARITABLE LANDMARK FOR SOLIHULL JUNIORS

Pupils from Solihull Junior School have put their best foot forward and collected more than 1,500 shoeboxes of gifts over the last 10 years. The landmark was reached following a donation of 167 shoeboxes recently to international relief charity Samaritan's Purse. The gifts have now been sent to underprivileged children across the world. Teacher Suzannah Compton said: "Our selfless pupils have put in a fantastic effort to help children less fortunate than themselves."

Warwickshire Living  
January 2013

## £1,600 for Syria's children

NATIONWIDE efforts to bring life-saving assistance to children and families fleeing the civil war in Syria have been boosted by the boys and girls of Solihull School.

The independent school in Warwick Road recently held a non-uniform day at its pupils' request that raised £1,643 for Save the Children's Syrian Crisis Appeal.

They chose Save the Children Week to present the cheque to a charity that Solihull School has been supporting for almost 20 years.

Pupils donated £2 each for the privilege of abandoning their normal school clothes to help fund the charity's vital work with Syria's children. Solihull parents and their children also helped Save the Children net £945 by taking part in last month's Warwickshire Walk and



Harvey Blackhurst (aged 8) and Beth Miles (aged 11) present a giant cheque to Margaret Walls, Save the Children Support Group Co-ordinator for the West Midlands, during Assembly in Solihull School's chapel.

Birmingham Mail  
June 14th 2013

## Young aces show off their top talent

THREE young tennis stars from Solihull were put through their paces in the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) National Talent ID Day.

The youngsters, who are all 11 and train at Edghaston Priory, were amongst 41 youngsters from across the country invited to the session at Bolton arena.

Charley Gregory, Madison Rumney and Savannah Yardley showed off their skills in front

of the LTA Talent ID team, who were aiming to spot future performance players, who even at such an early age were displaying the right attributes that could enable them to make a real impact on the game.

Charley, a Solihull School pupil, said: "I was feeling pretty confident about it because I had been to Talent IDs before and I knew how they do things and I think it went pretty well. I defi-

nately think I have improved since the last one."

Savannah, who goes to St Patrick's Primary School, added: "I have been working really hard to get better and feel like I am an improved player since last time. I like the drills because they are fun and I am also quite competitive."

E-mail - sport@solihullobserver.co.uk



Charley Gregory. (s)

Solihull Observer  
May 30th 2013

## Young decathletes raise over £5000 for Norman Laud

Solihull Junior School pupils were so impressed by their visit to a local children's charity that they made an Olympian effort to support it.

All 204 boys and girls at the independent school staged a two-hour long decathlon on their Warwick Road campus that raised a staggering £5,243.11 for the Sutton-Coldfield-based Norman Laud Association.



The youngsters took part in ten track and field events in aid of the charity, which provides quality short break services for children and adults with special needs and support services for their families.

They were sponsored by friends, families and neighbours as they 'space hopped', 'welly wanged' and clambered under cargo nets as part of the fun-filled events.

Junior School Council members viewed the facilities at the Norman Laud Centre and Emscote House earlier this year to learn more of the extraordinary work of the charity, whose President is the wheelchair-bound rugby star Ben Smoldon.

Jane Clarke, Community Fundraiser for the Norman Laud Association, said: "We are so overwhelmed by the generosity of the pupils, and their friends and family who sponsored them. This is a substantial donation that means we can enhance our specialised equipment at both of our respite centres."

"Around 90 children and 90 adults with profound and complex special needs will soon be able to access and enjoy technology regardless of their disability, all thanks to Solihull Junior School."

Mark Penney, Deputy Headmaster of Solihull Junior School, said: "Our boys and girls have kept the spirit of the London Olympics alive with their wonderful efforts and tremendous success in raising money for such a remarkable charity."

Sutton Coldfield Local  
July 2nd 2013









# Solihull School

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