



Solihull School

PRESS CUTTINGS  
2008 - 2009



Solihull School

*learning for life*

2008 - 2009



The school achieved an A-level pass rate of more than 80 per cent for grades A and B as well as 100 per cent for A to E for the fifth successive year.

Eighteen-year-old triplets Francesca, Hannah and Georgina Rhodes crowned the outstanding results by clinching eleven A-Levels between them.

## Another set of record results

FOR the fifth year running Solihull School has achieved an A Level pass rate of over 80 per cent for grades A and B as well as a 100 per cent pass rate from A to E.

A total of 111 students got a minimum of three grade As, with 51 pupils gaining four grade As or more. At AS level 55 pupils achieved three A grades or better.

One of the top performers was Nicola Hudders who got five A grades, securing a place at Nottingham University to read medicine.

Including General Studies at AS Level, Upper Sixth pupils who also gained 5 A grades included Richard Brough, who is off to study medicine at Oxford, George Haynes, who will study mathematics at Durham, Leigh Mason, who is heading to Exeter of Warwick University to study mathematics with economics and Georgina Rhodes, who will be reading management and Spanish at Leeds University.

Solihull Sixth Form College once again posted record results with 520 students gaining three or more A\* to C grades and 130 of those obtaining at least three or more A grades at A Level or double distinctions at advanced vocational level.

There was also a 100 per cent pass rate in 30 A Level subjects and added to the success this year were the first ever A\* grades.

Among the outstanding results at the college are those of twins Richard and Philip Corser who both got three As and a B in identical A Level subjects and have earned places at the same university to study for the same degree - Nottingham to study mechanical engineering.

Emily Mynott, 18, is off to Magdalene College, Cambridge, to study medicine, Sophie Bauer, 19, is also taking up a place at Cambridge University, although she is going to Robinson College to read Spanish and Russian, and Leigh O'Connor is off to Oxford to study molecular &



Triplets Hannah, Francesca and Georgina Rhodes, all 18 and students at Solihull School, got 11 grade As between them.

cellular biology.

At Solihull College, students celebrated a 100 per cent pass rate in 13 A Level subjects including maths, biology, physics and English language and literature.

The overall achievement rate of students is 98 per cent which is up four per cent on last year with a number of students achieving grade A in three or more subjects.

Stephanie Brett, a former Alderbrook School pupil, was among the high achievers, getting As in all of the four subjects she studied - English, history, general studies and sociology.

She is off to study English in Education at the University of Birmingham and hopes to be a teacher.

Stephanie said: "I've put a lot of time and hard work into studying and I'm so pleased that it has paid off."

This year's AS results are also up on last year with 100 per cent pass rates in a number of subjects including English language and literature.



Solihull College Principal Brenda Shells celebrates with star student Stephanie Brett.



*Totally Society*  
September 2009

*Metro*  
August 21st 2009





A new era in the cultural life of the school was ushered in last year with the completion of the David Turnbull Music School.

The £3 million state-of-the-art centre, which includes recording and composition studios as well as recital rooms, has reinforced the school's arts and performance quarter.

Music has remained integral to a rounded education, with three brothers George, Arthur and Oscar Haynes excelling on both the rugby field and in the concert hall.

Other star pupils included violinist Jacqui Martens, who won the 2008 West Midlands Young Musician of the Year award.



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Issue 35, 2008



## Iconic building marks 450th anniversary

**GRESWOLDE** has begun work on a prestigious new £2 million flagship development to mark the 450th anniversary of the foundation of Solihull School.

The landmark two storey building on the school's 54-acre Warwick Road site will house a state of the art music centre, with a recital hall, practice rooms and teaching areas.

"This will be an iconic building, to mark our 450th anniversary in 2010, which will really have that wow factor for generations to come," said Solihull School Bursar Christopher Warren.

"Music is an important part of our lives here – some 300 of our 850 pupils play musical instruments and the facilities now will be second to none."

The building, which is due for completion in July 2009, will be part of a new arts quarter at the school, as it is sited next to the prestigious 1000 seat Bushell Hall, which is a renowned local performance venue.

The centre will provide facilities including

**■ ABOVE:** An artist's impression of the eye-catching new development. Image kindly supplied by Malcolm Payne Group Ltd.

a recording studio and IT Suite with the latest composition software, a rock room, percussion room and recital room for 150 people.

Ian Brinkman, Director of Architects Malcolm Payne Group Ltd, said the building was a unique and striking addition to the school: "The building has been designed to complement the adjacent Bushell Hall and reinforce the school's Arts And Performance Quarter. It will incorporate the very latest technology to provide a truly state of the art facility.

"The innovative and irregular design responds to the challenge of creating a unique building which provides exceptional levels of acoustic performance."

Greswolde Managing Director Malcolm Priest commented: "We are delighted to be working on such a significant building to



**■ THEY'RE OFF:** Chairman of Warwick District Council, Councillor Judy Faip, marked the start of an important new business boost for Leamington Spa. Please turn inside for the full story.

mark such a momentous anniversary of this historic local school.

"We have an excellent track record with education projects and we are working very closely with the school. As always our Building with Care policy ensures we carry out the work as safely and with as little disruption as possible."

Birmingham Mail  
February 10th 2009



## Talented trio are band of brothers

THREE Midland brothers are hitting the right note in more ways than one.

Not only are George, Arthur and Oscar Haynes proving they have an abundance of musical talent – they are excelling on the sports field.

The brothers are living

proof sporting and musical talent can run side by side by representing Solihull School on the rugby pitch and in the concert hall.

All three play rugby at scrum half, and sing and play a musical instrument.

The eldest, George, 17, also head boy, plays the

saxophone and is in the First XV rugby team. When 15-year-old Arthur is not starring for the Under-16 team he can be found with his violin. And, 11-year-old Oscar, who plays for the Under-12s, has followed his elder brother by also taking up the saxophone.

Talented trio: Oscar, Arthur and George Haynes celebrate a remarkable musical and sporting tradition.

Solihull Observer  
January 29th 2009

## Brothers are making their mark

THREE brothers have proved success runs in the family by representing their school on both the rugby pitch and in the concert hall.

Solihull School students George, Arthur and Oscar Haynes all play rugby in the same position of scrum half and also sing and play a musical instrument – an achievement believed to be a first for the school.

Head boy George, aged 17, plays the saxophone when he is not playing with the First XV rugby team and will be taking part in a recital of music for clarinet, saxophone, voice and piano in the school's Bushell Hall on Tuesday February 3.

When 15-year-old Arthur is not turning



From the left - Oscar, Arthur and George celebrate their musical and sporting achievements. (6)

out for the under-16 team he can be found with his violin in the ranks of the school's symphony orchestra and Oscar aged 11 plays for the under-12s and has followed his elder brother by also taking up the saxophone.

Father Stephen Haynes said: "I'm very proud of my boys, they must get their rugby interest from me as I used to play for Kenilworth – also at scrum half.

"But where they get their musical talent from is a mystery."





## Rugby brothers hitting the high notes

THREE rugby-mad brothers have brought a new high note to the life of their school after impressing with more than the oval-shaped ball.

George, Arthur and Oscar Haynes all occupy the scrum-half position for their relevant age group at Solihull School.

And the trio also each play a musical instrument proving that sporting and musical talent can run side by side.

Seventeen-year-old George, who is also head boy, plays the saxophone between playing in the First XV rugby team.

He joined fellow pupil Tom Holden in giving a recital of music for clarinet, saxophone, voice and piano in the school's Bushell Hall earlier this week.

When 15-year-old Arthur isn't turning out for the Under-16 team, he can be found with his violin in the ranks of the school's symphony orchestra.

And 11-year-old Oscar, who plays for the Under-12s, has followed his elder brother by also taking up the saxophone.

To cap it all, George and Oscar are both

members of the chapel choir and have roles in the school musical 'My Fair Lady'.

Proud father Stephen Haynes said:

"They must get their rugby interest from me as I used to play for Kenilworth - also at scrum half. But where they get their musical talent from is a mystery."



■ Solihull School pupils Oscar, Arthur and George Haynes (pictured left to right) celebrate a remarkable musical and sporting tradition

Solihull News  
February 26th 2009

## Talented teenager in first full violin recital

A GIFTED 13-year-old from Solihull School who won the 2008 West Midlands Young Musician of the Year award is to give her first full violin recital tomorrow.

Jacqui Martens will perform popular works by Bach, Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel and Kreisler to piano accompaniment in Bushell Hall at the Warwick Road school. The youngster gained a Grade 8 with distinction - just one level below a teaching diploma - in violin at the age of only 11, and has won a string of awards at



Jacqui Martens.

music festivals throughout the Midlands. Free tickets for the recital, which starts at 7.30pm, are available by calling 0121 705 0958.

# Gifted young musician set for her debut

A GIFTED Solihull musician is set to give her first full violin recital tonight (Thursday) at Solihull School.

Jacqui Martens, who is just 13, scooped

the 2008 West Midlands Young Musician of the Year award.

She will perform popular works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Handel with piano accompaniment tonight in the school's Bushell Hall at 7.30pm.

Jacqui gained a Grade 8 with distinction – just one level below a teaching diploma – in violin at the age of only 11, and has won a string of awards at music festivals throughout the Midlands.

Having performed with the National Children's Orchestra and the CBSO Youth Orchestra, she is currently a member of the Academy Chamber Orchestra and plays in Solihull School's symphony orchestra, chamber music group and string ensemble group.

Jacqui also plays duets with her 11-year-old brother Dominic.

Both youngsters have won Solihull School music scholarships.

Their father Eric Martens, a former professional cellist from South Africa, said: "Jacqui is delighted to have been invited to give her first full recital at Solihull School and she has been working extremely hard to ensure a performance she can be proud of."

Free tickets to Jacqui's recital are available by calling 0121 705 0958.

**Dominic and Jacqui Martens.**

(a)



*Solihull Observer*  
April 30th 2009



■ Pupils practice inside the new music school at Solihull School

## Tuned in to music boost

SOLIHULL School is now offering pupils a whole new experience of music with its new David Turnbull Music School.

The £3million building on the Warwick Road campus includes a 100-seat recital room, a recording studio with direct audio and video links to the recital room and other rooms in the building as well as a multi functional double height

atrium providing reception, exhibition and social spaces.

Named after a former Head of Music at Solihull School, the David Turnbull Music School provides a high amount of new technology, prompting the school to appoint a specialist Music School Technician.

Spring 2010 sees an official opening of the facility, coinciding with Solihull School's 450th anniversary.

*Solihull News*  
September 25th 2009





Acting, singing and dancing proved an irresistible pull for pupils, with a record seven plays and musicals performed in just six months.

Highlights included a spookily spectacular 'Dracula Spectacula' that exercised a wide range of vocal, design and dance skills.

A showcase for the World Irish Dance Championships in Philadelphia, held in the Bushell Hall, featured the school's fleet-footed genius Joe O'Donnell Bitter, who went on to win the competition.

Art students gained added inspiration from a workshop in clay modelling by acclaimed Birmingham-born sculptor John Letts.



John Letts helps nine-year-old Georgia Greenburgh to produce a clay sculpture during his workshop at Solihull Junior School.

## Leading sculptor inspires youngsters to create

Artistic pupils at Solihull Junior School found a new creative freedom at their fingertips after being inspired by a leading Birmingham-born sculptor.

John Letts, whose commissions have included a head of The Queen which followed sittings at Buckingham Palace, gave a day's workshop to all Year 5 pupils at the co-educational independent school.

The former Birmingham College of Art student began the day by demonstrating how to make heads using the film character ET, and then set his audience to work producing their own clay models, giving one-to-one help.

John's first visit to the school resulted from a chance meeting with the head of Solihull School's Parents Association, Jan Mason, at a local shop where he exhibits.

Cath Davies, Solihull Junior School's art coordinator, said: "All our pupils were thrilled to meet such a famous sculptor and they found his workshop enthralling."

"They came away inspired to produce more sculptures of their own."



## Producing a play with real bite

**SOLIHULL** School pupils are raising the stakes when it comes to honing their acting and singing skills by staging the spoof horror *Dracula Spectacula*.

It will be the seventh play or musical to be produced by the school this year, completing the busiest six-month drama programme in its history.

Fifty boys and girls aged from 12-14 from school will be taking part in the popular musical in the school's Bushell Hall from June 15-16.

The cast of 12-14 year olds from the Lower School includes Sally Farrant as Nadia Naïve, the teacher who leads a school trip to Transylvania, and Jordan Salmon who plays Dracula, the unwelcome guest that appears at their hotel and causes mayhem.

The production will include a live band, and Sixth Form theatre studies have been working on the make-up, costumes and set design.

Gap-year student Adam Carver, who played Max in *The Sound of Music* and the title role in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

when he was at Solihull School, is the director.

Solihull's Junior, Lower, Middle and Senior schools have already staged *Witches*, *Journey's End*, *Tom Jones*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *My Fair Lady* and *Roger Ravenbeard* Scourge of the Ocean since the turn of the year.

Sixth-Form theatre studies students have also produced *Beauty and the Beast*, a workshop-performance of *A Question of Dignity*, and a specially devised play *Eight Characters in a Search of a Wedding*.

Jean Wilde, Director of Drama, said: "There is no greater team game than putting on a musical and so naturally everyone involved with *Dracula Spectacula* is looking forward to demonstrating the results of their tremendous hard work next week."

She added: "There is an ever-increasing enthusiasm for the performing arts among pupils, helped by the excellent support of staff and the school's superb performance facilities."



Helping others in the community has always been a prominent feature of school life and last year was no exception, with more than £30,000 raised for a variety of worthy causes.

On top of the perennial success of Charity Week in aid of local charities, pupils embraced an international dimension by helping their desperately deprived peers in Africa.

Junior School pupils swam 92 kilometres at the school pool in just 20 minutes to raise money for a water purification system at a school in Uganda, where the daughter of a former Solihull School teacher works.

## Pupils give gift of water of life

**PUPILS** from Solihull Junior School have splashed out to help change the lives of desperately deprived children at a village school in Africa.

The youngsters raised £1,430 to pay for a water purification system for Kyabirwa Primary School in Uganda where Gemma Rickman, daughter of former Solihull School deputy head Harry Rickman, is now teaching.

During a 20-minute swim, the group completed 92 kilometres in lengths to raise money for Water Aid.

Gemma Rickman said: "The system will enable each child at the school to have a drink during the day and for the school to provide breakfast for over a thousand children who would not otherwise eat or drink until the evening."

"It will also save pupils from as young as seven from having to carry up to 20 litres of water for over a mile for their families and the school every morning and evening."

Work is about to start in installing a new hand-pumped well for the school, which currently has no water supply, electricity or a kitchen.

During a productive three-month charity campaign, the seven-11-year-olds also raised £3,000 for the Prince's Trust, the Children's Trust, ILEAP, Wheels for the World and Remap from making and selling cakes and biscuits, smoothies, and cheese and ham toasties.

They also raised £2,000 from their Sightsavers Christmas Wishes appeal, enough to save the sight of 117 children at £17 per cataract operation.

This included £365 from Vick-nesh Sarveswaran who saved a pound a day all year for the second year in a row.

Mark Penney, deputy head of Solihull Junior School, said: "Our boys and girls put in a great effort to raise this record sum for such worthy causes over such a short period of time."



■ Gemma Rickman, daughter of the former deputy head of Solihull School Harry Rickman with children from Kyabirwa Primary, also pictured above

**CHARITY:** Children take part in swim challenge in aid of African water project

Children from the Kyabirwa Primary School in Uganda celebrate the news that they will be able to enjoy a fresh water supply thanks to the efforts of Solihull School.

# Pupils splash out for worthy cause

By Tony Collins  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

**PUPILS** at a Midland school have been taking to the water to help improve the lives of desperately deprived children thousands of miles away in Africa.

Junior age pupils at Solihull School splashed out in a big way to pay for a water purification system for Kyabirwa Primary School in Uganda.

The children, aged 7-11, swam a total of 92 kilometres in lengths of their school pool during a 20 minute session to raise £1,430 for Water Aid.

They were given the added incentive of raising the money to help Gemma Rickman, daughter of former Solihull School deputy head Harry Rickman, who is now teaching at the village school in Uganda.

Gemma said: "The system will enable each child at the school to have a drink during the day and for the school to provide breakfast for over a thousand children who would not otherwise eat

or drink until the evening. It will also save pupils from as young as seven from having to carry up to 20 litres of water for more than a mile for their families and the school every morning and evening, and from absconding from lessons because they are so thirsty."

Work is about to start on installing a new hand-pumped well for the school, which currently has no water supply, electricity or a kitchen.

The £1,430 was part of a record £6,500 that the junior section of the independent Solihull School has raised for disadvantaged children across the world from a three-month charity campaign.

The total included £365 from Vicknesh Sarveswaran who saved a pound every day for the second year in a row.

Mark Penney, deputy head of the junior school, said: "Our boys and girls put in a great effort to raise this record sum for such worthy causes over such a short period of time. Given our small class sizes, that's a tremendous achievement."



Gemma Rickman, daughter of former Solihull School deputy head Harry Rickman, with children from Kyabirwa Primary School.



Solihull School continued its proud reputation of nurturing the armed forces leaders of the future through the achievements of its cadet force.

Sergeant Thomas Rooney and Corporal Thomas Gerard both now sport wings on their uniforms after attaining their gliding scholarship certificates.

Seasoned naval officer Lieutenant Commander Andrew Dutton won a major defence electronics prize on his MSc training course in Defence Acquisitions Management.



FLYING HIGH: RAF cadets Thomas Rooney (left) and Thomas Gerard, both 17, show off their gliding wings.

## RAF cadet duo prove their skill during gliding course

THE sky's the limit for two RAF cadets who have been awarded their gliding wings.

Sgt Thomas Rooney and Cpl Thomas Gerard, both 17 and from Solihull School, completed their training with volunteer gliding squadrons at Watton Airfield, in Norfolk, and Royal Marines Condor, near Arbroath.

The week-long course saw them fly in a two-seater Viking T Mark 1 with dual controls. It also included lectures and tests

on airborne exercise theory. As well as being presented with Gliding Scholarship certificates, the cadets now proudly sport a set of blue wings on their uniforms and are eligible to train for coveted RAF Flying Scholarships.

Flt Lt Ruth Lancaster, officer in charge of Solihull School's RAF section, said: "The cadets have continued the school's tremendous success in securing training places and awards from the RAF."

*Birmingham Mail  
June 30th 2009*

# Double joy for officer



Former Solihull student Lt Cm Andrew Dutton. (s)

AN ACCOMPLISHED Royal Navy Lieutenant and former Solihull School pupil is celebrating a double success.

Lieutenant Commander Andrew Dutton earned an MSc in Defence Acquisition Management at The Defence Academy at Joint Services Command and Staff College, near Swindon.

On the same day he also won the Defence Electronics History Society Prize, given to the best student on the military training course.

Lt Cm Dutton, originally from Shirley, left Solihull School to marry wife Karen, who gave birth to son Joshua in America.

After leaving Solihull Andrew went on to get his Joint French Russian degree at Leeds University and left to join the Royal Navy.

Initial training began at Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1992, he was then deployed to Hong Kong Squadron serving on a corvette, HMS Peacock, on coastal patrols around China.

He went on to serve on frigate HMS Brilliant F90 for two years, becoming involved in the UN peacekeeping force in the Arabian Gulf at the end of the first Iraq War.

Four years in Trafalgar Class Attack submarines - HMS Talent S92 and HMS Triumph S93, both nuclear powered - saw him spend time in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean and becoming involved in the Afghanistan war.

The former Palmers Close resident shipped out to HMS Marlborough F233 and then, in 2005, got posted to America for a two-year secondment with the US Navy, where his son was born. Returning to the UK in 2007, Lt Cm Dutton then passed his MSc in Defence Acquisition Management at Shrivenham.



Soaring success - Cadets Thomas Rooney and Thomas Gerard with their wings. (s)

## The sky's the limit

TWO Solihull cadets are flying high after being awarded their flying wings.

Solihull School RAF cadets Sgt Thomas Rooney and Cpl Thomas Gerard finished training with their volunteer gliding squadrons at Watton Airfield in Norfolk and Royal Marines Condor near Arbroath this week.

The 17-year-olds flew a glass-reinforced two-seater Viking T Mark 1 with dual controls that can be flown from either seat.

The intensive week-long course

included lectures and tests on airborne exercise theory as well as up to 40 glider launches.

The pair won their Gliding Scholarship certificates and can train toward the RAF Flying Scholarships.

Flt Lt Ruth Lancaster, leading officer for the section, said her cadets' success was "tremendous".

Flt Lt Lancaster explained last year gliding scholar Louis Deane won a scholarship as Cadet of the Week and he flew a Hawk jet over Lake Windermere.

*Solihull Observer  
July 30th 2009*

*Solihull Observer  
2009*





Solihull School has continued to reign supreme on the sports field.

Newly-appointed cricket coach David Hemp guided the girls to the county finals of the Under-15 Lady Taverners indoor event at their first attempt. He also helped the Under-13 boys to their first appearance in the Bunbury Cup Final.

Solihull also ran the competition ragged in cross country, with the boys winning the first division and a mixed team the second division of the Greater Birmingham League.

Elsewhere, the school's badminton players reached the finals of the Center Parcs National Schools Championships, while on the rugby pitch Dan Super was picked for the England Independent Schools Barbarians against the US Eagles in Atlanta.

## CROSS-COUNTRY: School runners stay a step ahead of the pack



Solihull School's cross-country runners celebrate winning both divisions of the Greater Birmingham League. Pictured from left to right (back row) captain Adam Harkin, with the trophies; (second row from back) Courtney Hyde, Alan Yates, Alex Weaver, Nick Carter and James Cronin; (middle row) Suzi Spencer, Freddie Malaiseu, Phil Harrison and Chris Ward; (front row) Jon Watts, Jon Simpkins, Joe Read and Peter Williams.

# Pupils run rivals into the ground

By Lisa Smith

**A**SOLIHULL school has raced into the record books for its sporting achievements by finishing in the top ten schools in England for cross-country running.

Solihull School in Warwick Road is already recognised for its prowess at rugby and cricket and provides cross-country running as an extra-curricular club.

Pupils have excelled smashing

previous school records in a record-breaking season.

The independent, co-educational school raced to its first dual championship since 1995 with its boys' team winning the first division and its mixed team the second division of the Greater Birmingham League.

Competing with scores of schools from across the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, the school also completed a clean sweep of the trophies with victory in the league relay at Sutton

Park, Sutton Coldfield. Sealing its dominance of middle-distance running, the school also finished seventh out of 44 teams and won the most improved team award in the King Henry's Relay at Coventry.

The annual competition is regarded as the unofficial national schools championships.

To add to its accolades the school squad, captained by Adam Harkin, also came fourth in the Midlands and Northern Independent Schools Championships at Sedburgh in

Gimberts and rounded off an amazing season with another fourth place in the Oxford Relay and a third position in the Spring Relay at Sutton Park.

Phil Hall, head of Solihull School's running club, said: "On top of natural ability, our success has been built on an excellent team spirit and a willingness to train hard whatever the conditions."

"This has been a record-breaking season and we are very proud of the pupils' achievements."

Birmingham Mail  
May 6th 2009

Solihull News  
2009



JOHN and Julie Whiting were both recently selected to play for the Junior Regional Performance Centre in Cannock.

After successful county campaigns last season the pair, aged 17 and 14, were nominated for the regional assessments in May.

Success there resulted in them being included in the regional

training squads at Under 18 and Under 16 levels respectively and from there they made the final playing squads for the two day England Hockey competition on September 13 & 27 in Cannock, Staffordshire.

Both attend Solihull School and play for Olton and West Warwickshire Hockey Club.



## Rachel's class splash

RACHEL Genner caused a splash when she took her class swimming at Solihull School recently.

The former British record holder in the breaststroke is now a trainee teacher and was at placement at Greswold Primary School.

The 25-year-old is currently studying teacher training at Warwick University and was able to give 27 pupils from the school's year-six a few pointers.

Rachel broke the short course

record three times and the long course record four times in the women's British 100-metre breaststroke between 2003 and 2005 after taking up competitive swimming at the age of eight.

She won a bronze medal at the World University Games in South Korea in 2003 and was eighth in the world rankings in 2004, when she broke the women's British record at the European Championships in Dublin.

● Rachel Genner gives her Year 6 class at Greswold Primary School the benefit of her British record-holding experience at Solihull School's swimming pool

Solihull News  
January 4th 2009







## Dan is picked for US tour

TEENAGE rugby star Dan Super is heading Stateside this Easter after being selected for an international squad to play against the USA.

The 18-year-old, who captains Solihull School's First XV, will be travelling to Atlanta on tour with the England Independent Schools 'Barbarians'.

Made up of the UK's top school rugby players, the

squad will be playing the USA Eagles Under-18 'A' side and the full USA Eagles Under-18s team.

Dan was picked as a utility back by tour manager and former England rugby captain Roger Uttley following trials at Cambridge University.

He also played at fly half for the Crawshays Welsh Under-19s team against the Barbarians at Sale rugby football club last month.

Solihull News  
March 20th 2009



### Solihull School in final

SOLIHULL School has been hitting the competition for six in its maiden appearance in a senior girls' cricket tournament.

With the help of its new full-time cricket coach, former Glamorgan captain and Warwickshire player David Hemp, the school has reached the county finals of the Under-15 Lady Taverners indoor event at its first attempt.

The team has booked its place in the climax to the contest at Edgbaston County Ground on Monday, March 30 after beating Nines-tils School.

Solihull School restricted Nines-tils to a score of 54 runs for the loss of 8 wickets after notching up a staggering 100 for one.

Tina Gough, who has toured South Africa with Warwickshire Under-19s, is the captain of the team, which also includes county player Anna McNeillie.

■ Solihull School's female cricketers celebrate their success with their coach David Hemp: left to right (front row) Tina Gough, Maria Barnes, Ashley Fraser, Emily Fraser, Emily Hodge, Sally Farrant and Vicky Beech; (back row) Anna McNeillie, Emma Rivers, Katie Clarke and Nicky Cronin



Solihull School's senior girl cricketers celebrate their success with coach David Hemp. Front row (l-r) - Tina Gough, Maria Barnes, Ashley Fraser, Emily Hodge, Sally Farrant and Vicky Beech; (back row) Anna McNeillie, Emma Rivers, Katie Clarke and Nicky Cronin. (s)

## Girls hit the opposition for six

SOLIHULL School has been bowling the competition over in its maiden appearance in a senior girls' cricket tournament.

With the help of its new full-time cricket coach, former Warwickshire player David Hemp, the school has reached the county finals of the u15

Lady Taverners indoor event at its first attempt.

The team has booked its place in the climax to the contest at Edgbaston on Monday, March 30 after overwhelming Nines-tils School from Acocks Green. Solihull School restricted Nines-tils to 54-8 after

amassing 100-1.

Vicki Gill, Head of Girls Cricket at the co-educational independent school, said: 'This is the first time our girls have entered a senior school cricket competition so they are naturally delighted to have reached the finals.'

Solihull Observer  
March 19th 2009





# Georgia jumps to more success



■ Georgia Lovett jumps the fences on her pony Hold on Henry at Weston Lawns Equestrian Centre

**YOUNG** gold-medal-winning equestrian Georgia Lovett has been taking the show jumping world in her stride.

The talented 13-year-old, from Solihull School, finished runner-up in the individual junior show jumping section of the new Warwickshire Schools Equestrian League.

Competing on her pony Hold on Henry over 2ft 6in fences, Georgia and her team-mate Zoe Harding also helped Solihull School to fourth place in the team competition as the only two-member side.

Georgia's success followed her triumph at the Midlands championships at Weston

Lawns near Coventry - at her first attempt in 2006 on her pony at the time Mica Hot Chocolate - and gaining a silver medal in the South West Championships at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire the same year.

The youngster has been riding competitively since the age of six and her mother and trainer Julie, who is also a competitive rider, is proud of her success.

"We went along with no expectations as we knew that the competition was going

to be tough and that it was Georgia's first time at such a big event - and we were over the moon with her success," said Julie.

Qualifying again in 2007 on Mica Hot Chocolate, Georgia beat off the challenge of 70 other jumpers in her age group to win her first gold medal and now rides two different ponies, Missy Du Jangles and Hold on Henry.

Julie added: "Georgia is extremely dedicated and we are happy to encourage her to fulfil her dreams of one day competing at the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC and of pursuing a career with horses."

By Gregg Evans  
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## Solihull reach final

SOLIHULL School's junior cricketers are aiming to be crowned the best in England after smashing their way to the climax of one of the country's biggest tournaments.

The school's Under 13 boys' team will be making their first-ever appearance in the Bankbury Cup Final at Oundle School near Peterborough tomorrow.

The Warwickshire Cup holders will face Whitch School from Croydon after beating the champions of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Oxfordshire, Leicestershire and Cheshire in the two-year competition, which is open to all English schools.

In 2007 the same team, which is coached by former Warwickshire and Glamorgan professional David Hemp and Knowle & Derridge player David Smith, reached the Under-11 National Harlow Finals.

Mark Bishop, who is in charge of Under-13 Cricket, said: "Our team has an abundance of natural talent that has been honed by top quality coaching and every player has made a major contribution to reaching this prestigious final."



■ Pictured with their coaches David Hemp and David Smith (back row) are (left to right): middle row- Tom Gristbach, Connor Townsend, Jonathan Allen, Robert Grylls, Oliver Haley; front row- Jamie Hughes, Christopher Beaumont-Dark, Sean Harper, Nick Hooper (captain), Sam Montieri, George Gamlin and Charlie Rowe

Solihull Times  
July 1st 2009

Solihull Times  
July 8th 2009

Solihull News  
April 3rd 2009



■ Solihull School's badminton national finalists: (from back to front): Martin Bullard, Edward Johnson, Tom Wintle and Sultan Hameed, with Greg Langley in reserve

## Solihull boys in final of national tournament

A TEAM of badminton players from Solihull School will be taking the shuttle to Nottingham later this month for the finals of a top national competition.

The boys, aged from 15-16, are to take part in the finals of the Centre Parcs National Schools Championships at Centre Parcs on April 25 after winning the West Midlands regional title.

Representing Warwickshire, they overcame the top teams from Birmingham, the Black Country, Worcestershire and Staffordshire to win the regional round.

The team gained 5-0 wins against

Paulet High School, from Staffordshire, and Kingswinford School, from the Black Country, but had a nail-biting result against King Edward VI Camp Hill from Birmingham.

With the match score tied at 2-2, the deciding game went to 20-20, with Solihull keeping their nerve to return the serve and win the last point.

Solihull School's Under-14 girls' team also reached the regional finals of the Centre Parcs competition.

They finished third after beating Thomas Alleyne's School, from Staffordshire, and Malvern St James School, from Worcestershire.





Solihull Junior School launched a new children's book, 'Mokee Joe is Coming', into America by taking part in a video conference with the PS56Q Harry Eichler School in Queens, New York.

The Seniors reinforced their growing links with the Wessex School in Santiago, Chile, by hosting a fourth exchange visit.

An outstanding knowledge of international affairs helped the school to competition winning glory in the National Schools Challenge Quiz Finals.



Author Peter J Murray with pupils left to right, Cameron Blake (10), Leticia Salmon (11), Nick Chitty (11) and teacher Mark Penney

## School's video suite used for book launch in the US

JON GRIFFIN  
Business Staff

Boys and girls from Solihull Junior School opened a new chapter in cross-cultural communications by taking part in an innovative video-conference to introduce a popular British children's book to the US.

The 10 to 11-year-olds joined best-selling author Peter J Murray in their library for the live US launch of his spooky thriller *Mokee Joe is Coming*, which included presentations and a discussion by video link with pupils from the PS 56Q Harry Eichler School in Queens, New York.

Solihull Junior School, a co-educational independent school in the West Midlands, was chosen from among hundreds visited by the writer to stage the book launch because of its video-confer-

encing facilities and experience, and the commitment of its pupils to reading.

Having already sold more than 500,000 copies, the *Mokee Joe* trilogy features a character at the centre of an ongoing struggle by a group of school friends against the forces of evil.

In the first book launch of its kind, Peter J Murray gave a live presentation to both schools and read extracts from his books with the help of a wireless microphone linked in a video camera and a 42-inch plasma screen.

Deputy head Mark Penney then led his class in a discussion of the book, with the Americans interacting from a studio at Hunter College in New York.

The school used a static camera and three auxiliary cameras for long shots, close-ups and views from above so that it could show the New York students Solihull Junior School's facilities as well as the facial expressions of the speakers.

The Yorkshire author, a former steelworker who returned to school at the age of 21 to gain a place at university and then worked in industry and teaching before giving it up to concentrate on writing, is a regular visitor to the Solihull school.

Peter J Murray said: "Solihull Junior School has been my favourite ever since its pupils supported me so immensely when I self-published my first book and then nominated me for the John Lewis Book Award for my novel *Bonebreaker*. I have never known a school with a greater enthusiasm for reading.

"My mission is to inspire children throughout the world to read and to use their imagination which is 10 times more powerful than anything they will find in computer entertainment."

Mr Penney said: "Our boys and girls were thrilled to take part in this pioneering use of video conferencing. Being able to use four cameras instead of just the

one static camera that most videoconferences have was a major factor in the event's success.

"It created a vibrant atmosphere with a much-improved human dynamic that enabled the New York students to talk with Peter J Murray and our own pupils face to face as if they were in the same room.

"Linking up with pupils in the US was an horizon-widening experience that has made everyone even keener to read a novel and share it with friends.

"Our facilities and technical capability continue to open up opportunities for our pupils' learning to excel."

The school's video-conferencing programme has included the use of video links by pupils to make virtual tours of educational establishments such as the Imperial War Museum and National Art Gallery, and to take part in Cambridge University's competitive Motivate Maths programme with other schools.

## Pupils have the answers to quiz challenge



Bright future: (From left) John Gilbert, Sam Foxall, Tom Foxall and John Cousins.

A TEAM of Solihull School pupils proved they are top class by clinching a national quiz trophy.

The four, aged 14 to 17, buzzed the most right answers to win this year's Schools Challenge finals held at Westminster School.

Tom Foxall, who captained, John Cousins, John Gilbert and Sam Foxall, excelled in specialist subjects ranging from children's nursery

rhymes to 16th century history and the Bible.

Teacher Lindsey Hughes said: "All the team really pulled their weight, but Tom Foxall had a remarkably quick buzzer finger which had made him very hard to beat this year."

It was the best performance by the school in the University Challenge-style event since finishing runners up in the competition in 2006.

Birmingham Mail  
June 9th 2009



● Guest: Maria Iommi, a highly enthusiastic and talented cook, with Leticia Salmon, head girl of the junior school.

## Maria helps kids cook up a treat

SOLIHULL School Parents' Association was thrilled with a visit from Maria Iommi to mark the launch of their 80th Anniversary Cookery Book.

Maria, married to Tony Iommi of

Black Sabbath fame, donated a recipe to the new cookery book which will be on sale at the Parents' Association Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 6 from 10.15am-12noon.

Solihull News  
2009





# Chile is on the horizon

**PUPILS** at Solihull School have forged close ties with youngsters from Chile.

A party of 55 students from Wessex School, Santiago paid a visit to the borough. It's the fourth time that a South American contingent have visited the school.

Julie Brown, teacher in charge of the project, said: "Our record number of visitors shows the strength of our links with Wessex School and has further broadened the horizons of our students."

There is already an exchange visit to Chile planned for 2010.

*Solihull News*  
June 5th 2009

*Solihull Times*  
May 20th 2009



■ Children from Solihull School dressed as nuns and monks at St Peter's Church, Wootton Wawen, pictured left to right are author Rosemary Barralet, Eloise Burchell, aged nine, Finley Blake, eight, Alex Marshall, nine and Daniel Hofton, also nine.

## Novel tale brings the past alive

A BOUT of Black Death and a fracas at the village priory were among the historical events which inspired a church organist to pen a novel.

Rosemary Barralet has delved into the past of St Peter's Church in Wootton Wawen and has woven local records into her gripping story - about a schoolboy who finds himself dragged into the past.

Mrs Barralet, said: "The history of the church and its surroundings is well documented, and I felt it would be good to present the story in a form which would especially appeal to children."

The Yellow Stone of Wootton Wawen is available from St Peter's and some local bookshops - with proceeds going towards restoration work.



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