



Solihull School

Solihull School

MEDIA CUTTINGS 2011 - 2012



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Solihull School

2011-2012

I WAS appointed to Solihull School four terms ago after five years as a Deputy Headmaster in Hampshire. However, one can never be fully prepared for Headship and my first year in the job was definitely a challenging and exciting experience.

Having survived the Christmas term, I returned on the first day back in January to a call from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. It was six years since our last inspection and the lady on the telephone confidently informed me that the inspection team would be with us in five days' time. Happy New Year to you too!

Inspectors are duty bound to sell the inspection experience as supportive and conducted in the spirit of "self evaluation", but no amount of reassurance can dispel the feeling of being turned upside down and inside out!

Anyway, they arrived, busied themselves around school and left a week later, describing Solihull School as outstanding overall and excellent (the highest accolade) in nearly all areas of school life. Equally rewarding was the news that the team took away with them many of our ideas for implementation in their own schools.

Fast forward six months and I find myself dealing with sector-wide industrial action in response to the Government's proposed pension changes. Fortunately, the impact of the strike on the School was minimal and it was "business as usual".

What next, I wondered, and the answer came in August when I was woken by my wife at 2.30am (we live on site) asking me if there was a firework display scheduled for that evening (or morning!!).

Bleary eyed, I opened the curtains and lo and behold one of our gymnasiums was on fire, a building that brings back many fond memories for our fiercely loyal former pupils. It took 40 fire fighters over four hours to put the fire out, draining our swimming pool dry in the process.

So, what was my first year like? An inspection, a strike and a major fire! Life is never dull at Solihull.

Moving on to everyday matters...

A head start



David E J J Lloyd reflects on his first year as Headmaster of Solihull School, one of the region's leading independent co-educational schools.

Solihull School is a high-achieving 7-18 co-educational community. Pupils here are happy and fulfilled and we pride ourselves on nurturing and celebrating individual talent. I am absolutely confident that our pupils go home every evening tired but effusive about the day behind them.

The curriculum is constantly under review, with new subjects such as Government & Politics and Food Technology recently being added, and the co-curriculum offers something for everyone. In debating, we have been ranked by Oxford University as the leading school in Central England, our aspiring medics are working with the University of Birmingham on new research into sleep patterns and, recently, our Ski Team narrowly missed out on the national slalom title.

The School has benefited from a long tradition of wise governance and this has allowed us to offer generous scholarships and bursaries to many families as well as build some of the best facilities in the country. I am told that in this region our theatre is second only to Symphony Hall for its splendour and capacity.

Three personal highlights were winning the U18 Daily Mail Vase final at Twickenham in front of an army of extremely vocal supporters decked in blue and maroon (face paint included), watching Garry Roberts of the

Boomtown Rats give a guitar master class and listening to Stanley Wells and Paul Edmondson holding court in our new Music School bringing the Shakespeare authorship debate to life with passion and boundless energy. This is exactly the kind of school I wish I had attended!

This is a super school; our academic results are excellent, our breadth of opportunity is inspiring and the dedication of all the staff enriches the lives of over 1,000 pupils.

Joining Solihull School is a lifelong decision. The strength of the alumni is such that pupils never actually *leave* our community and the strong school bond stretches into university life and beyond. I recently attended one of our over-60s alumni lunches and the Old Silhillians are still just as passionate about the House Cup as they were 50 years ago.

The family of one former pupil, David Fricke, generously donated a mountain cottage in Snowdonia to the School.

The cottage is a wonderful facility and is used for a wide range of activities ranging from outdoor education (David's love) to weekends of intensive Oxbridge preparation.

I feel truly privileged to be leading the Solihull School community into the 21st Century educational arena, not least because I am convinced the best is yet to come! ■

Solihull School set to extend its transport service

Solihull School is to offer an easier route to first class education for boys and girls living in the West Midlands and Warwickshire by widening its bespoke transport service.

The leading co-educational school, praised by the Independent Schools Inspectorate this year for being "outstandingly successful", is drawing up plans to improve accessibility to those families living in and around Stratford-Upon-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Warwick, Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Balsall Common.

Routes and stops are being planned with a major coach company for September 2012.

Solihull School currently runs buses from Sutton Coldfield in the north and Claverdon in the south. An extremely popular bus service also runs from Edgbaston.

Headmaster David E J J Lloyd said: "We aim to provide a reliable, secure and convenient service to parents that wish their children to enjoy the outstanding learning environment and facilities at the region's leading co-educational independent day school."

He added: "As a large number of our 7 to 18-year-old pupils live outside the borough and away from regular public transport, we believe that our plans will be appreciated by parents that would otherwise have to drive their children to and from school each day."

The outstanding school, which this year recorded an impressive 83% A Level pass rate at grades A* to B and a 72% GCSE pass rate at grades A* to A, has enjoyed rising demand against the backdrop of economic downturn.

The School has increased the number of forms joining the Junior School from two to three, has record numbers throughout, and recently opened the new David Turnbull Music Centre which forms part of one of the finest performance arts quarters for any school in the country.



Improving access for pupils living outside Solihull Borough is a key objective

Warwickshire Life
January 2012



PLANNING OVERSEAS: Martyn Garner

Martyn's new role

SOLIHULL School has built up such a wide-ranging international activity programme that a new senior staff position has been created to head it.

Martyn Garner has been appointed Senior Teacher Co-Curricular responsible for organising more than 150 trips a year.

These have ranged from performing in a service at St Alphege Church to attending the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Martyn was previously Head of Solihull School's Middle School.

A record-equalling A-Level pass rate at grades A* to B was matched by an impressive 88% of leavers going to their chosen university.

Solihull News
February 3rd 2012



THE TWIN SUCCESSES

TWINS Hannah and Lara Jesani yesterday celebrated their 18th birthday as well as a clutch of top grade A-levels.

The girls from Berkswell, West Midlands, will read medicine at Cardiff.

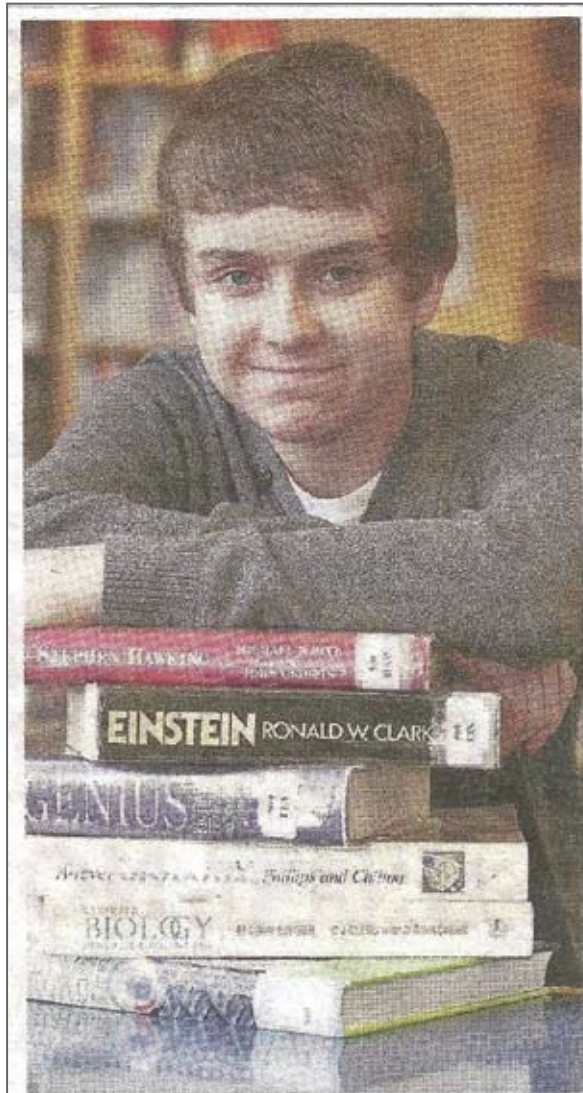
They gained As in biology and chemistry at independent Solihull School, with Hannah achieving an A* in history and her sister an A.

At Dewi Sant High School in Pembrokeshire, triplets Johannes, Finn and Lisa Neumann achieved eight As and two A*s between them.

Finn took As in history, German and religious studies and will study modern languages and business at Exeter. Johannes scored A* in religious studies and As in history and German.

He will take a gap year before doing law at Exeter.

Lisa will also take a year out, having achieved A* in PE and As in French, biology and RS.



STAR STUDENT: Solihull School student Matthew Swales (16) who achieved 10 A*s and an A

Solihull News
August 31st 2012



Double A Level success for birthday twins

SUPER Solihull students have once again racked-up an impressive set of A Level results.

Identical twins Hannah and Lara Jesani, from Solihull School, pictured above, celebrated their 18th birthday last Thursday with a set of symmetrical grades.

Both the teenagers won places to read medicine at Cardiff University.

The sisters, from Berkswell, want to follow in the footsteps of their father, who works as a heart surgeon.

● A Level results - pages 8-9.

Solihull News
August 24th 2012



The Sun
August 24th 2012

Grades were among the best ever



Maddie Lavery, Tom Griesbach, Alanna Wall and Nick Hooper, who all live in Solihull, achieved more than 40 A* grades between them. (4)

SOLIHULL School recorded one of the best sets of GCSE results in its history with 70 per cent of entries achieving A* or A grades, in addition to a 100 per cent pass rate.

A total of six pupils gained ten A*s or more, and 14 achieved eight A*s or more.

Maddie Lavery, Tom Griesbach, Alanna Wall and Nick Hooper, who all live in Solihull, celebrated more than 40 A* grades between them.

Alanna, with 12 A*s, is looking forward to studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Art at A-level with the aim of studying Medicine. She is also a member of Solihull School's jazz ensemble Saxophony, and appears regularly in the school's drama productions.

Nick Hooper, who achieved 11 A* grades, will be going on to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics, History and French at A-level; while Maddie Lavery, who gained ten A* grades, will be studying French, History, Psychology and Chemistry.

Tom Griesbach, with ten A*s, will be studying



Further Maths, History, Economics and Psychology.

He also plays piano and clarinet in the School's String Band and rugby for the School's Second XV.

Another high achiever was Matthew Swales, with 10 A* and 1 A who will be taking Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths at A-Level, also with the aim of becoming a doctor.

David Lloyd, Headmaster, said: "These are the second best set of results in Solihull School's history and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all our pupils and staff."

(Inset) Matthew Swales (16) achieved 10 A* and an A and is hoping to study medicine. (4)

Solihull Observer
August 30th 2012



A former member of the School's air cadets was guest of honour at the Remembrance Service.



Flt Lt Tom Bates lays a wreath at Solihull School. (s)

 A FORMER pupil bound for Afghanistan laid a wreath at Solihull School's Remembrance Service.

Flight Lieutenant Tom Bates, who left the school in 2001, honoured former fellow pupils who have died for their country. Tom, 28, pilots surveillance aircraft with 14 Squadron, which is heading to Afghanistan for a tour of duty in the New Year.

He said: "I feel honoured to have been invited back to take part in such an important occasion especially at a time when our armed forces are so heavily committed throughout the world."

Around 1,000 pupils and staff paid their respects at the service.

Solihull Observer
November 17th 2011

Olympic medallist Sharron Davies, who presented the prizes at Speech Day, went on to be a leading commentator for the BBC at London 2012.



PRIZED: Olympic swimming star Sharron Davies MBE joins Solihull School's Heads of School at Speech Day: from left to right, Helen-Cara Younan (head girl), Usama Rahman (deputy head boy), Sam Weighall (head boy) and Ashley Fraser (deputy head girl)

Sharron proves an inspiration

SWIMMING star Sharron Davies MBE gave an inspirational account of how talent, dedication and competitiveness brought her Olympic glory at Solihull School's Speech Day.

In the run up to the London Olympics, the silver medallist in the 400m individual medley at Moscow in 1980 was the guest speaker and presented the prizes at the annual event.

Headmaster David E J J Lloyd

welcomed her as one of a number of principal guests including the deputy mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts, and the deputy mayoress, Sheila Courts, 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.

■ Solihull School is hosting a Sixth Form Information Evening on Thursday, November 10 at 7pm.

Solihull News
October 21st 2011



Outstanding levels of enthusiasm and talent for the Performing Arts have resulted in the introduction of Drama as a GCSE course.



Royal treat for talented Charlotte

A VIRTUOSO violinist from Solihull School has given a performance fit for a queen.

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Sasse, who lives in Dorridge, was in the 114-piece National Children's Orchestra (NCO) that played light classical music during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch at Westminster Hall in London.

The two-hour programme of 22 pieces, which ranged from Walton's 'Crown Imperial' to Badelt's 'Pirates of the Caribbean' was performed in front of the Queen and members of the Royal Family and 700 invited guests.

"She was honoured and thrilled to take part in the event," said mum Sarah.

Charlotte is also a member of Vivace Strings, the senior string orchestra of Solihull Music Service, and competes regularly in music festivals.

She is currently preparing for the Leamington Spa Competitive Music Festival on Sunday, June 24.

IN TUNE: Charlotte Sasse, who played for the Queen.

SOLIHULL BOYS HIT RIGHT NOTE AT WINDSOR

Solihull School's choristers rose to the occasion when they were granted the rare privilege of singing at Windsor Castle.

The boys and men of the School's Chapel Choir sang Choral Evensong in St George's Chapel, the burial place of ten monarchs and spiritual home of the Order of the Garter.

The event to celebrate the Conversion of St Paul was attended

by a large congregation of parents, teachers, tourists and clergy including the Dean of Windsor The Right Reverend David Conner.

The 41 singers, aged from eight to 18 years, sang the anthem Blessed be the God and Father by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, with solos from Alexander Lavery and Mark Lawrence, and Charles Wood's Magnificat.



The Boys and Men of Solihull Chapel Choir outside St George's Chapel in Windsor.

Warwickshire Life
April 2012

The Independent Schools Magazine
April 2012

Broadway Blockbuster

Solihull School's actors and singers hit the heights with their production of the great Broadway musical 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

The show, set in Tsarist Russia in 1905, was last performed at the West Midlands school 20 years ago and revived by popular demand.

More than 80 pupils of all ages auditioned for the 50 roles which included a 30-strong chorus line, and live music was provided by Solihull School Symphony Orchestra.

The show was directed by Solihull School's Head of Drama Jean Wilde, with Stephen Perrins as Musical Director. Choreography was by former pupil Samantha Mason.



Cultural exchanges have seen the strengthening of the School's links with the Wessex School in Chile and the launch of a new association with Colegio Oleza in Spain.

French success

Ten A-level French students from Solihull School outshone teams from Belgium, France and Germany by having all three of their proposal points passed in a mock Council of Ministers role-play debate in the town of Alden Biesen. They presented and debated their proposals entirely in the French language.

Pictured are the students with their teachers in Brussels: from left to right (front row) Marianna Avgousti and Julie Whiting, (middle row) Lucy Rosier, Isobel Hands, Charlie White, Tina Gough, Libby Gandhi and Libby Campbell (staff), and (back row) Campbell Binning, Matthew Davis, Matthew Blenkinsop and Paul Morgan (staff)



Above: Students who won the European inter-school forum in Belgium.

Warwickshire Life
February 2012

BGT star Julian heads back to the classroom

BRITAIN'S Got Talent star Julian Smith is bringing an extra high note to Solihull School's popular enrichment programme. The saxophonist, who was national runner-up in the TV talent contest in 2009, will be sharing the stage with the School's saxophone students on Monday, September 26.



TALENTED: Julian Smith

With his soprano saxophone, Julian will be playing crossover classical and smooth jazz numbers with his four-piece band in the Bushell Hall, with Solihull School's Senior Saxophone Choir performing introductory works in each half of the programme.

Julian will also be taking part in a question and answer session with the audience, who will have the opportunity to meet him and buy his latest CDs.

Stephen Perrins, director of music, who invited Julian after going backstage at one of his concerts, said: "Julian is a world-leading saxophonist and is sure to thrill and inspire our audience at School where around 50 pupils study the instrument."

Tickets, at £10, are available for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm. Call 0121 705 0968.

Solihull News
September 23rd 2011



Solihull School pupils at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Vancouver

SOLIHULL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN CANADA

[Add Comment](#)

Solihull School students have genned up on world-leading scientific research from the likes of the inventor of the BlackBerry at a major conference in Vancouver.

The independent co-educational school was one of three UK schools represented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The 18 Lower Sixth students who are all considering careers in science heard from leading practitioners in medical, scientific, technological and environmental research.

The lectures on subjects all with a global context included 'The Power of Ideas' presented by Mike Lazaridis, who was responsible for the launch of the BlackBerry smartphone.

Pupils pursued programmes to suit their interests from subjects ranging from genomics and cancer to carbon dioxide capture and storage, and from the interface between biology and chemistry to the latest discoveries in particle physics.

The week-long scientific enrichment exercise, led by Solihull School's Head of Science Andrew Jones and Chemist Sarah Smith, also included a visit to Vancouver Museum of Anthropology to learn more about first nation (aboriginal) peoples.

Pupils also took time out to enjoy the snow on Grouse Mountain and an ice hockey match.

The annual AAAS conference has become an established part of Solihull School's extra-curricular activities, with a record number of students attending this year.

The School has been to meetings in Washington DC, San Diego and Chicago over the past three years and is planning to attend the next one in Boston.

Andrew Jones, Head of Science, said: "The students thoroughly enjoyed their scientific and cultural experiences, which will enhance their future education prospects."

Solihull Town Talk
May 1st 2012

SOLIHULL SCHOOL

Parliamentary expenses, Press standards and gay marriage were among the hot topics debated at a successful TV-style Question Time event hosted by Solihull School.

Lower sixth formers from seven Midland schools quizzed a distinguished panel of speakers at the prestigious event chaired by BBC Radio 4 presenter Rishi Shah.

Prof Anthony O'Hear, a former Government education adviser and the Rt Revd Andrew Wilson, Bishop of Aston joined Solihull's Liberal Democrat MP Loretta Burt, the Labour MP for Hall Green, Roger Goddard and the Conservative Councillor for Solihull Ward Robert Holland in facing questions from the audience in Solihull School's Bushell Hall.

Ben Sandford-Smith, Solihull School's new Head of the Sixth Form, who organised the enrichment event, said: "The event proved a terrific success in encouraging sixth formers across the region to take a more active interest in politics."

The packed audience included sixth formers from Edgbaston High School, King Edward's Birmingham, Balsall, King Henry VIII Coventry, CMS Swindon Hospital and Tudor Grange Academy as well as from Solihull School.

Question Time was organised on the back of Solihull School's outstanding Europe-wide success in debating which has resulted in the independent co-educational school being ranked the number one team in Central England by the Oxford Union.



Solihull School's sixth formers welcome the panel for the Question Time event (from left to right, seated): the Rt Revd Andrew Wilson, Bishop of Aston; the Labour MP for Hall Green, Roger Goddard; chairman and BBC Radio 4 presenter Rishi Shah; Solihull Liberal Democrat MP Loretta Burt; and (standing) Conservative Councillor for Solihull Ward Robert Holland and former Government education adviser Prof Anthony O'Hear.

Independent Education
Autumn 2012



The School maintained its Oxford Union ranking as the number one debating team in Central England and saw the successful launch of debating in the Middle School.

Double success for school debaters

SOLIHULL School pupils have proved they are among the best debaters in the country after excelling in two national championships.

Chris Willmott

The school has rounded off a record-breaking year by becoming Birmingham University champions and Warwick University runners up.

Jamie Wallis and Asfandiyar Qureshi won the Birmingham title as one of three teams from Solihull School to reach the final four, beating the likes of KES Birmingham and Latymer Upper School, while Helen-Cara Younan won the Best Speaker award.

Solihull School also beat King Edward's and St Paul's School in London to finish second in the Warwick University competition, with two speakers reaching the top ten.

In addition the school has maintained its Oxford Union ranking as the number one debating team in Central England for the second year running by representing the region in the Oxford and Cambridge national finals and Cambridge Under-16 finals.

Danielle Harford, Senior



Teacher-Academic at Solihull School, said: "This has been a record-breaking year for what is now one of the largest school debating societies in the country."

"Solihull School's success is down to the strength and enthusiasm of its thriving pupils' committee which organises all debating activities."

Interest in debating at Solihull School is such that more than 250 of the school's seven to 18-year olds take part in weekly debates in the Junior School, Lower School, Middle School and

Sixth Form. Helen-Cara Younan, President of Debating and Head Girl at Solihull School, added: "Choosing to become involved in debating is undeniably the best decision I have made throughout my school career. It's a forum of free thought that allows you to think for yourself whether you're challenging the status quo or questioning moral ideas."

The Solihull School debating team. 2

Solihull Observer
January 5th 2012



PARLIAMENT: Natasha Browne.

Young join in House debate

TWO Solihull youngsters have represented the borough in a debate at the House of Commons.

Natasha Browne, aged 16, of Solihull School, and Ben Matthews, 13, of Lode Heath School, attended the televised debate as Solihull's members of Youth Parliament.

They were joined by 300 other members from across the country for the debate, chaired by the Speaker, John Bercow MP, to discuss topics such as tuition fees and graduate tax, child poverty and giving Britain a greener future. Zero tolerance to school bullying and improving public transport were also debated.

Natasha, from Castle Bromwich, said she had found the day "the most amazing experience."

"The fact we got to sit in the chamber is such an historic event, the fact we actually got to debate and make a difference to young people's lives makes the day even more special," she said.

Solihull News
December 30th 2011

Head girl Helen-Cara wins war of words

SOLIHULL School students are celebrating after winning a war of words at a local debating championship.

The school, which has one of the biggest debating societies in the country, almost 260 students, were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the Birmingham University debating championship with head girl Helen-Cara Younan claiming best speaker.

The 17-year-old, who is hoping to study medicine at Imperial College next year, had to debate whether feminist groups should campaign to get men into female dominated sectors.

"When it comes to high level debating, it's all about your argument," she said.



Helen-Cara Younan

"Even if it's something you strongly oppose, you could actually be better at debating it because you have thought about both sides of the argument."

The school's debating society, which was ranked top in Central England last season, recently narrowly missed out on a win at a Warwick University Competition beating St Paul's, City of London School and King Edwards School.

Senior Teacher and one of three debate coaches, Daniele Harford, said: "It's amazing. Two years ago we had never been ranked in the top fifty."

"Now we have one of best debating societies in the country."

Solihull News
January 27th 2012

Commonwealth Games silver medallist Nadine Okyere and former world title holder and past pupil Daniel Caines joined elite achievement in sport champions Professor Hugh Montgomery and Greg Foot for a thrilling Olympic Day involving 12 schools.



Picture of the Week

BIRMINGHAM-born athlete Nadine Okyere was the guest of honour at Solihull School's athletics championships.

The Birchfield Harrier has competed for her country in the Commonwealth Games and received a silver medal for her performance at the 2010 games.

Nadine is pictured with the sporty students Jack Pitchford and Katy Thomas, both aged eight.

Solihull News
July 13th 2012



It's back to school for Olympics star

A GOLD medallist paid a visit to his old school for a sports day in the run-up to the Olympic Games. Daniel Caines, former world Commonwealth and European 400m runner, joined hundreds of pupils at the event at Solihull School. Around 400 children from a dozen schools competed in track and field events, including hockey. Heath Primary School, Kewale CE Primary School, Markspath Junior and Infant School, Sharnhall Cross Junior School in Solihull and West House

School in Edgbaston. Pupils competed under the flag of different nations and listened to a talk by Daniel, who is now retired. He spoke about competing in the Athens and Sydney Olympics, and taking gold at the World Indoor Championships at Lisbon in 2001. Also taking part in the event was Birchfield Harrier Nadine Okyere and Atlanta Olympics hockey player Chris Moyes, who is now director of hockey at Solihull School. DANIEL'S LETTER: PAGE 58

Birmingham Mail
July 16th 2012



Olympic trio to make the town proud

by Chris Willmott
chris.willmott@solihullmedia.com

IT HAS BEEN a week of mixed emotions for Solihull's Team GB athletes at the Olympics.

The borough is being represented by three stars at the Games - hockey player Sally Walton and water polo players Jake Vincent and Rosie Morris.

And while the water polo teams are yet to taste victory, Sally and the Team GB hockey team are sitting pretty at the top of their league, having beaten Japan 4-0 and Korea 5-3 - with Sally scoring in the win against Japan.

The former Aston Villa Ladies player, a tutor at Solihull College, made her international debut in 2009 and has gone on to earn over 100 caps for England and Great Britain.

And her performances at the Olympics have so far been outstanding.

The 31-year-old tweeted her delight after the opening game: "Great to get first game and win under the belt. 4 goals, clean sheet and bagged a goal. Happy days #teammgb The crowd were fantastic. #proud."

And after the team's nailbiter against

Korea she added: "Wow what a game. Another 3 points. Good team spirit shown and on to Belgium."

"Again great support from crowd today - u were awesome #love."

Sally will be taking to the pitch tonight (Thursday) against Belgium at 7pm.

Brenda Sheils, principal of Solihull College, paid tribute to the Team GB star: "To have one of our sport lecturers competing at such a high level is fantastic."

She is a real inspiration to the younger generation."



Also on the hunt for Olympic glory are 23-year-old Jake Vincent and 25-year-old Rosie Morris - both members of Solihull Swimming Club where they learned to play water polo.

Former Solihull School pupil Jake has been a regular member of the GB first team for the past four years.

Having played national league seasons in Australia, Romania and Germany, he currently plays semi-professionally for SV Bayer Uerdingen near Düsseldorf in Germany.

His proud mum Carol-Anne Vincent

told The Observer: "We are delighted with Jake's success."

"The support for water polo from the 5,000-strong audience at the Olympics is absolutely crazy."

"As one of the best forms of exercise, the hope is that the Games will inspire people of all ages and ability to play and enjoy it."

Speaking ahead of tough games against the top four sides from the last Olympics, Jake was in positive spirits.

He said: "We have worked very hard in the past few years to bridge the gap and we go into the Games looking to be as competitive as possible. We have been making great progress and are getting much closer to the top teams in the world."

Rosie Morris and her women's water polo team opened their Olympic Games with a narrow 7-6 defeat to a heavily fancied Russian team - and she was quick to praise the fantastic support of the fans.

The 2004 Olympian, who has become a stalwart of the British squad since breaking into the senior international team in 2004, said: "Thanks so much for everything for such amazing support."

"Absolutely gutted to have lost such a close game, but onwards and upwards. Australia on Wednesday."



LEFT Rosie Morris in action in the pool for Team GB.

BELOW LEFT A delighted Jake takes in the sights and sounds of the opening ceremony.

BELOW RIGHT On the Olympic score sheet - hockey player Sally Walton.



Abby making a splash in her bid for Olympic glory

A TALENTED 13-year-old swimmer from Solihull School could be competing for Britain this summer after qualifying for the Olympic trials.

Abigail Humphreys achieved the British Championship qualifying time by 0.4 seconds in the 200m backstroke event at a regional open meet in Sheffield.

She will now go on to swim against the likes of European champion backstroker Elizabeth Simmonds on March 8 at the British Gas Swimming Championships in the Olympic pool at the Aquatic Centre, London where the British Olympic team will be selected.

A member of City of Coventry Swimming Club, Abby is now officially one of the top six swimmers in the country in her discipline and 13/14 age group.

She first swam competitively at the age of nine, moving to Coventry in January 2011 for more long-course experience after being 'spotted' by former Commonwealth 200m backstroke champion and Coventry Head Coach Adam Ruckwood.

Rapidly promoted from the Youth group, she began training full time in the Junior Elite Performance squad last April and went on to achieve the national qualifying time in the 200m backstroke at her first attempt. As a result, she was invited to become a member of the England Talent Development programme.

Abby won gold medals in the 200m backstroke and 400m individual medley, silver in the 400m freestyle and bronze in 200m individual medley at the Nuneaton Winter Open Meet.

Her coach John Adye said: "Abby has a got a great future as a swimmer. Although she is slightly built, she is technically superb, very disciplined and has lots of talent."

Abby's mother Janet Humphreys said: "We are thrilled with Abby's success and very grateful to Solihull School for allowing her to swim instead of taking part in other games. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Abby at a time when she is still able to balance her swimming with her school work."

Abby, who lives in Redditch, joined the independent co-educational school for pupils aged 7-18 years in its Junior School at the age of eight.



MEDAL HOPE: Abby Humphreys with British Olympic swimming great Sharron Davies

Playing for the Land of Song

Equally at home with a hockey stick or a violin, Julie dreams of winning for Wales at the Olympics.

Tell us about yourself and what you have done to be a 'Bright Young Thing'

I began playing hockey when I was about eight or nine years old. Over the years I have played for my club Olton and West Warwickshire in both the First and Second XIs, my School, at county level for Birmingham and West Midlands, and for the Midlands regional squad. I have attended high performance camps at Under-15 and Under-17 levels for England, but my greatest achievement has been playing for Wales.

I represented Wales last year at Under-16 level against Scotland and Ireland and was then chosen for the Wales Under-18 squad for the 2010 UK School Games in which I played against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland when I was still 15 years old.

After playing for Wales Under-18s this year against Scotland, I was in the Under-18 squad that competed in the European Championships in Prague, where we won a silver medal and promotion to the Elite Division. We played Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Switzerland, then beat Italy in extra time in the semi-finals before narrowly losing to Russia in the final.

In my two years of playing international hockey I have won 15 caps and hope to continue playing at that level.



Julie Whiting in the Wales hockey strip.



What are your ambitions?

My ambition is to reach Great Britain level and compete at the Olympics.

What's best about Warwickshire?

I think the best part about Warwickshire is the wide range of hockey clubs to play against.

What do you do in your spare time?

Other than doing fitness work and training, I make a lot of music! I am working towards Grade 8 in both violin and singing. My Monday evenings are taken up with singing in the CBSO Youth Chorus, which has regular concerts at weekends often with the CBSO.

I play in Solihull School's Symphony Orchestra and lead its String Ensemble, as well as sing with the Chapel Choir. I also participate in Solihull School's annual musicals – I made my debut as Gretl in 'The Sound of Music' in my first year at the School.

What is your favourite book?

I have two that I really enjoy reading and can't choose between them. One is 'Elsewhere' by Gabrielle Zevin and the other is 'Where Rainbows End' by Cecelia Ahern. 'Elsewhere' looks at a different perspective of life after death and what people do (grow younger and watch their family's life on Earth), which is interesting. 'Where Rainbows End' is about two best friends who grow up and, over the years, keep that strong bond whilst everything else tries to break it.

What is your favourite film?

I love musicals and 'Mamma Mia' is definitely at the top of the list, along with 'The Sound of Music'. Both story lines include how music brings people together.

What is your favourite TV Show?

I enjoy watching talent shows such as 'Britain's Got Talent' and 'The X Factor'. Why do I like them? I suppose I just like seeing other people's talent too. ■

BRIGHT YOUNG THING IN A NUTSHELL

Name: Julie Whiting

Age: 16

Lives: Solihull

Attends: Solihull School

Warwickshire Life
September 2011

Top junior show jumper: Georgia Lovett

I AM one of only 24 pony riders in the country to have qualified for the British Masters Show Jumping Championships being held in Southview, Cheshire, from June 28 to July 1. I started riding ponies at the age of three and entered my first local gymkhana when I was seven. Three years later I joined the British Show Jumping Association and have never looked back.

On my first pony, Mica Hot Chocolate, I won gold in the ten and under category at the Great Britain Championships. With my next pony Hold on Henry (138cm), I qualified for the team event at the 2010 British Open where we finished equal fourth.

I progressed to 148cm ponies in March last year with my new pony, Knockmartin Gold, and after only three months I achieved one of my ambitions in reaching the Junior



Show Jumper at the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC in Birmingham.

I was also short-listed three times last year for the England team for the Home Pony Internationals and won England team gold at the Scottish International at Rowallen in Scotland.

Knockmartin Gold and I are now through to the finals of the John Whitaker JA Championships at the Charles Stanley British Masters, where I will also be taking part in a viewing trial for the Pony European Championships at Fontainebleau later in July.

My ambition is to keep my pony fit and healthy and qualify for the Horse of the Year Show 2012. Then next year go

Georgia Lovett

Age: 15

Lives: Earlswood, Solihull

Attends: Solihull School

Favourite book: War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Favourite film: Secretariat – about one of America's greatest racehorses.

Favourite TV show: Coronation Street. It's so addictive!



on to horses and be successful.

My spare time is spent keeping ponies fit and training. I also like to socialise and enjoy sleepovers with school friends. I am also in Solihull School's hockey first team and netball team.

Skier called up for England



A 15-year-old from Solihull School, West Midlands, has hit the heights by being selected for the England team for this year's World Schools Ski Championships in Italy.

Libby Thomas is heading for the event at Gressoney in Val d'Aosta from March 5-10 as part of the English Schools Ski Association (ESSKIA) Under-18 squad after finishing fourth in the downhill slalom at the British Schools National Ski Championships in Scotland and an impressive performance at an ESSKIA training camp in Norway.

Solihull School came fifth in the Under-18 team event in Scotland, which has resulted in its entire team

of Libby Thomas, Amy Middleton (16), Hannah Shakeshaft (15) and Helena Newbould (13) being selected for the British training squad in only the school's second season in competitive skiing.

Martyn Garner, Head of Skiing at the independent co-educational school for 7-18 year olds, said: "We are delighted with both Libby's individual success and our team performance, which was even more remarkable because our youngest member was up against competitors that were up to four years older than her."

He added: "Skiing is becoming an increasingly popular option at Solihull School where we now have 20 regular participants."

Libby Thomas is pictured (left) with the other members of Solihull School's skiing team (from left to right) Amy Middleton, Hannah Shakeshaft and Helena Newbould.

Warwickshire Life
July 2012

The Independent Schools Magazine
January 2012



The School raised an amazing £25,000 for a range of local, national and international charities throughout the academic year.



BIG HEARTED: Diego Constenla, left, Josefa Prat, right, both 18, from Chile, with Solihull pupils, Amelia Woolley and Joe Hadley, both 15.

Help for victims

INTERNATIONAL efforts to help families left homeless by the 2010 Chilean earthquake are being boosted by students from Solihull School.

Pupils from the co-educational independent school held a quiz and auction evening which raised more than £3,000 for the rehousing charity Un Techo para Chile (A Roof for Chile).

The proceeds, which include £500 from the Old Silhillians' Association, will be used to build new homes for people in the port area of Concepcion and a nearby fishing village wiped out by the earthquake and the accompanying tsunami.

Solihull News
April 6th 2012

SOLIHULL PUPILS SHINE FOR STREET CHILDREN

A polished performance from pupils at Solihull School has boosted efforts to improve the lives of street children abroad. Students spent one day out of uniform and another shining shoes to raise £1,450 in support of International Day for Street Children. Proceeds will go to the Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF), a charity that provides marginalised children in Peru with the tools and skills necessary to build an independent future for themselves through education, vocational training and sustainability projects. Funds will also support Casa Mantay, a house for teenage mothers and their babies and Azul Wasi, a house for boys who once made their living shining shoes on the street. Teacher Julie Brown says: "Our boys and girls responded magnificently to the call to help their disadvantaged peers who face a daily struggle for survival."



Warwickshire Living
July 2012

The Denis Tomlin Archive Room, launched with the support of the Parents' Association, OSA and archivist John Loynton, provides a permanent tribute to past pupils and their parents, staff and governors.



NEW ROOM:
Solihull School
on the Warwick
Road, Solihull.

Caps and canes

A TEACHER who became Second Master, Headmaster and Governor in an association of more than 50 years with Solihull School has had a new Archive Room named after him.

Denis Tomlin, who was honorary archivist until retiring in 2007, launched the facility which charts the history of the independent co-educational school from its origins in 1560.

The Denis Tomlin Room, part-

ly funded by Solihull School's Parents' Association, contains a time-line wall chart depicting key landmarks in the life of the school as well as fascinating exhibits including old uniforms, exercise books and photographs.

The display includes the visit to the school by the Queen in 1962, including the spade she used to plant a tree in front of its new chapel to celebrate the school's 400th year, as well as a

film of her visit shown recently on TV 'The Queen and I'.

Housed in a refurbished old music school the Archive Room's earliest exhibit is a maths exercise book from 1793.

Items also include a bass drum played by cadets from before the First World War and a cane used for corporal punishment. The room also features boaters, tasselled caps, blazers and cadet uniforms.

Archivist John Loynton said the project took 18 months to complete.

"I hope the exhibition will continue to grow. On our wish list are a herring bone school suit from the '50s and '60s, a charcoal grey uniform from the school's former outfitters Manley's or Foster Brothers, and any caps, ties and house rugby shirts."

Can you help with any of the items above?

Email cathrina.hulse@trinitymirror.com or write to us at 150, High Street, Solihull, B91 2SX.

Solihull News
June 22nd 2012



Opening of new Archive Room

Denis Tomlin, a teacher who became Second Master, Headmaster and Governor in an association of more than 50 years with Solihull School, has had a new Archive Room named after him. He was given the honour of cutting a ceremonial ribbon to officially launch the facility, which charts the history of the School from its beginnings in 1560.

The Denis Tomlin Room, partly funded by the Parents' Association, contains a stunning time-line wall chart depicting key landmarks in the life of the School as well as scores of fascinating exhibits including old uniforms, exercise books and photographs.

Shenstonian 2012



The number of forms joining the Junior School was increased from two to three for the first time to meet increasing demand from high quality pupils for places.

Pupils make a Splash

YOUNGSTERS at a school put a spin on Noah's Ark when they presented the Biblical story from the animals' point of view.

More than 60 pupils at Solihull Junior School dressed up as a colourful animal crew for musical comedy Splash, written by Craig Hawes.

Lydia Lynch, who co-directed the show with fellow teacher

Suzannah Compton, said: "We had been rehearsing the production since January in our after school drama club and our efforts paid off with a full house and an overwhelming response."

"The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show, with many saying that the quality of the singing and acting was outstanding."



Back: Isaac Wright, Nicholas Jones, Max Dormon, Middle: Tabitha Botterill, Grace Nicholls, Ewan Waddell, Front: Isabel Dodd, Rory Portman, all aged 11, Lucy Fennell, 10. (9)

Solihull Observer
July 26th 2012



TOP NOTE: Oliver Walker and teacher Amy Edwards with a group of St Alphege Junior School pupils having fun at a Solihull Sings! class

Pupils hitting the right note

OVER 200 school children across the borough joined in song last night for the first ever Solihull Sings concert.

Held in Solihull School's Bushell Hall, the concert was organised by choirmaster and former organist at Wells Cathedral Oliver Walker to encourage more joint choirs in the area and give children a chance to explore their musical side.

Pupils from Chapel Fields, St Alphege, Solihull and Ulverley

schools had been learning a range of songs from African chants to English rock anthems in preparation for the concert on Thursday, December 1 alongside Solihull School Boys' Choir and saxophone group 'Saxophony'.

"Singing in front of people massively boosts confidence," said Mr Walker.

Thursday's concert was the first of many to come as the choirmaster plans to create three concerts a year.

Solihull News
December 2nd 2011

Pupils in fine voice

TWO hundred pupils from across the borough hit all the right notes when they came together to take part in a special Easter concert.

Children from four borough primary schools - including Chapel Fields Junior School, Greswold Primary and Kineton Green Primary - gathered at the Solihull School to take part in Solihull Sings! They were joined by pupils from Solihull Junior School, Solihull School Boys' Choir and saxophone group 'Saxophony' at the Bushell Hall.

Solihull News
April 20th 2012

Vision of the future unveiled at junior school

A school has caught a glimpse of the future after teaming up with a leading digital artist. Solihull Junior School has unveiled a new mural showing how the school and its surrounding could look 450 years into the future.

The mural, called Tradition in Vision, was created by Warwickshire-based artist Gary Tonge, who used computer technology to depict the school buildings in a space-age environment.

He gave the mural, which covers an entire wall inside the junior school, as a gift to mark the 450th anniversary of the founding of the independent school for seven-to-18-year-olds.

Mr Tonge said: "The resonating thing about Solihull Junior School for me is how wonderful values and traditions are sustained in the fabric of the school's culture."

"These are mixed with a strong vision for the future; encapsulating new technologies, ideas and ideals."

Gary also spent three days at the junior school giving workshops to pupils to explore digital design.

Solihull Junior School deputy head Mark Penney said: "We are delighted with this extraordinary gift and for the time and energy that Gary devoted to demonstrating his design skills and techniques to our pupils, who found his workshops thrilling."



Above: Digital artist Gary Tonge and his futuristic mural of Solihull Junior School

Birmingham Post
November 25th 2011

Mary Rose talk brings history to life

by Chris Willmott
chris.willmott@birminghammedia.com

HISTORY lessons came to life when pupils from Solihull Junior School were visited by two of the key figures involved in the excavation and recovery of the sunken ship Mary Rose.

Christopher Dobbs, Head of Interpretation at the Mary Rose Trust, and Professor Hugh Montgomery, an intensive care doctor at Whittington Hospital NHS Trust who researched the skeletons of the crew and lives in Solihull, gave a talk about their experience of diving to retrieve objects from the wreck of King Henry VIII's flagship.

They brought with them both original and replica artefacts for the boys and girls to inspect including a cannon shot, rope and a comb as part of a two-hour interactive workshop on what is believed to be the world's finest time capsule of life 500 years ago.

Professor Montgomery and Mr Dobbs, who is overseeing the building of a new museum for housing the Mary Rose that will open to the public at the end of 2012, talked about their view of why the ship sank and the efforts that have gone into conserving and presenting the wreck and its precious contents.

The visit was the highlight of a special Tudor Studies week for the Year 6 pupils who also had the chance to watch the TV documentary 'Ghosts of the Mary Rose', made by the Professor Montgomery with Mr Dobbs' involvement.

They also took part in a video conference with a costumed actress masquerading as a Tudor housemaid.

Christopher Dobbs said: "It was a tremendous pleasure talking to the pupils of Solihull Junior School as it is great to feel you are bringing history to life through the objects that we found on board the Mary Rose."

"Their questions were also quite remarkable - the most interesting that I have ever been asked after a talk."

Mark Penney, Deputy Head of Solihull Junior School, added: "Our pupils were thrilled to meet such inspirational figures as Professor Montgomery and Christopher Dobbs and to be able to hold in their hands everyday objects made 500 years ago."



Free screening offer could be a life-saver

A FREE screening programme which could detect potentially fatal heart problems in young people is being held at Solihull Junior School later this month.

CRY (Cardiac Risk in Young People) is holding the screening on Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November 20 in memory of Stuart Hudson, a 31-year-old amateur footballer from Solihull who died suddenly while playing in a match two years ago.

The simple and quick ECG (electrocardiogram) test could help save the lives of the 12 healthy young people who die each week in the UK from undiagnosed heart conditions, according to the charity.

Young people aged 14 to 35 are being urged to get screened, particularly if they are engaged in sport, at the first local event of its kind to be hosted by Solihull School.

The event is being organised by bereaved parents across the West Midlands with the £35 cost

Report by
Chris Willmott

of each ECG screening being met through the CRY West Midlands ECG Fund.

All appointments at this first cardiac screening clinic in Solihull have been funded by monies raised in memory of Stuart Hudson who died aged 31.

Mark Penney, Deputy Head of Solihull Junior School, said: "We support CRY's aims for all children in the UK to have heart tests, as they do annually in Italy, and hope that as many families as possible will have their children screened alongside pupils from Solihull School for any underlying heart conditions."

Dr Steven Cox, CRY's Director of Screening, added: "Twelve young people die every week in the UK and one in every three hundred apparently fit and healthy young people has a serious underlying condition.



Stuart Hudson - a 31-year-old amateur footballer from Solihull who died suddenly while playing in a match two years ago. (a)

"Minor cardiac abnormalities will be identified in one per cent of people.

"Although not life threatening, they will have a long term impact if not identified. I would

encourage people to get in touch with CRY and arrange to be screened."

To book an appointment or for more information on CRY, click on: www.c-r-y.org.uk/ecg.htm

Solihull Observer
November 10th 2011

Ruth is pushing the boat out for charity

A PUPIL at Solihull Junior School has helped to raise £1,000 for the RNLI.

Ruth Urry, aged 11, persuaded her school to adopt the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for their Charity Week after she toured the Padstow lifeboat station during the summer holidays.

During the school's Charity Week, Solihull School's refectory was turned into a giant,

pupil-run tuck shop, while a talent show, monitors versus staff football match and spare coins collection also took place.

An RNLI spokesperson added: "The RNLI are extremely grateful to the staff and pupils at Solihull Junior School for raising an amazing amount of money for the charity that saves lives at sea."



GRAND GESTURE: Ruth Urry presents a cheque to Mike Golder, an education volunteer for the RNLI

Solihull News
December 23rd 2011

Solihull Observer
March 15th 2012

School sets its sights on helping others

PUPILS from Solihull Junior School have raised thousands of pounds to fight blindness in developing countries.

The youngsters at Solihull Junior School raised £2,000 through their Christmas Wishes Appeal which they donated to international charity Sightsavers.

The appeal saw students donate the money they would have spent on Christmas cards for their classmates to the appeal and brings the total raised for the charity to £10,000.

Other charities have also benefited from the school's fundraising efforts with £2,700 donated to the Marie Curie Big Build Appeal and £1,000 to the Rotary Club of Solihull St Alphege.



Solihull Junior School deputy head boy Nick Jones and head girl Isabel Dodd, with deputy headteacher Mark Penney present a cheque to Alicia O'Brien of Sightsavers. (a)



SMASHING: Charley Gregory with the national Under-10 winner's trophy that he won at the Sutton Tennis Academy Tournament in Surrey

Tennis ace Charley serves up top title

A SOLIHULL Junior School boy has smashed his way into Britain's tennis elite after winning a top UK competition.

Charley Gregory, from Balsall Common, won the U10 National event at the Sutton Tennis Academy Tournament in Surrey without losing a set.

Hard work and determination enabled the talented ten-year-old to beat off the challenge of the UK's best 16 players in the second boys' singles event of the summer.

He has also been selected for the National AEGON Future Stars programme after excelling at a national talent identification day run by the Lawn Tennis Association.

Having taken part in more than 100 tournaments since the age of seven, Charley is trained by head performance coach and former Solihull School pupil Matt Thomas as a member of the University of Warwick tennis squad.

He also puts in up to 15 hours a week of training af-

ter school and at weekends.

His father Steven Gregory said: "Charley works extremely hard balancing his commitment to his school work and his tennis. He is a disciplined and determined player and we hope he will continue to enjoy his tennis and progress.

"We are especially grateful to Solihull Junior School for letting him take time out to take part in tennis training camps and tournaments."

Solihull Junior School is part of Solihull School.

Solihull News
June 15th 2012



