



SOLIHULL



## MEDIA CUTTINGS

2014 - 2015



**SOLIHULL**

2014 - 2015



## SOLIHULL BOY WINS NATIONAL MOTORSPORT CHALLENGE

Luke Bryant demonstrated how lights affects a pit crew's reaction time



Luke Bryant with his trophy for winning the Pit Stop Challenge

A 14-year-old Solihull School pupil has won a competition for his idea for boosting the performance of Formula 1 pit stop crews.

Luke Bryant showed how light affects a pit crew's reaction time - and his solution was chosen from hundreds of entries to win the GSK-McLaren Pit Stop Challenge. The competition, part of global healthcare company GSK's programme for schools run in partnership with the McLaren Mercedes F1 team, challenged schools to use science to help their pit crew give their best performance at every race.

Luke used his knowledge, research and investigation to prove that by altering the brightness entering the eye to a pre-proven optimum level through active visors, crew reaction times would be improved in comparison with wearing standard visors.

In his presentation at the GSK Human Performance Lab, he was able to show the judges that the milliseconds of reaction time the visors would save could mean the difference between success and failure in a Formula 1 race.

Engineering Opportunities September 2014



HANNAH JENNINGS-PARRY  
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EUROPEAN Championship glory beckons for a former Solihull schoolboy whose goals produced one

of the biggest shocks in football history last week. Will Grigg scored twice in a 4-0 victory for League Two side MK Dons as they sensationally knocked mighty Manchester United out of the League Cup.

The 23-year-old centre forward has now been named in the Northern Ireland squad to face Hungary in its opening 2016 European Championship qualifier on Sunday (September 7).

Will, currently on loan from Championship side Brentford, acquired his sporting prowess at Solihull where he represented the school in both rugby and athletics. He left in 2008 as an outstanding

sprinter and long jumper. Headmaster David Lloyd said: "I am extremely proud of Will's success and I'm sure the whole school will be behind him for his senior European Championship debut."

He has represented Northern Ireland at Under 19 and Under 21 level and the seniors in a friendly, having fought back from breaking his leg at the age of 15 in Birmingham City's youth system.

On leaving Solihull, Will was signed up by League One side Walsall where he was voted Player of the Season and Player's Player of the Season in 2012-13. After making 109 appearances and scoring 28 goals for the club, he joined Brentford last year and helped the side to achieve promotion as League One runners-up.

Solihull News  
September 2014

## Every reason to be over the moon



SOLIHULL footballer Will Grigg is in dreamland after scoring two goals in his team's 4-0 win against Premier League giants Manchester United and helping knock them out of the Capital One Cup.

The former Solihull School pupil, Solihull College Football Academy student and Solihull Borough youth team player netted twice against United to send them crashing out of the cup and his team, MK Dons, flying through to the next round.

The 23-year-old, who is on loan at the League One club from Championship side Brentford, will now line up against Bradford on September 23 in the next round.

"There are millions of children, and probably adults, that can only dream about scoring against Man Utd and I was one of those as a kid," Grigg told the media after the match.

"It's a great feeling and I just can't wait to see my friends and family and celebrate with them."

"It would have been nice to have scored a hat-trick but I was tiring and the Gaffer saw that."

He continued: "It was fantastic to just be involved in that game and it was a great feeling to walk out and see the stadium like that."

"We felt before the game that if we turned up tonight we'd have a chance to pull off a result and a good performance and we did that."

The Northern Ireland international began his career at Walsall before moving to Brentford and then securing a loan move to MK Dons.

Will Grigg celebrates a dream goal against Manchester United.

Solihull Observer  
September 2014

Independent Education Today  
September 2014



### Solihull Sixth Form Centre moves forward

Speller Metcalfe have begun work on a £4.5m Sixth Form Centre for Solihull School that aims to transform learning for Sixth Form pupils

Added on September 2014 | Speller Metcalfe, solihull school, sixth form centre  
Posted by Dave Higgin

Save for later Like Tweet

David E J J Lloyd, Headmaster of the independent school for boys and girls aged from 7 to 18, celebrated the occasion by cutting the first sod on the state-of-the-art building on the Warwick Road campus in the company of the main project parties.

Kingswinford-based contractor Speller Metcalfe has been appointed by Solihull to build the facility, which aims to provide the perfect environment for developing independent learning and intellectual curiosity.

Scheduled to open its door to pupils in September 2015, the four-floor building will include state-of-the-art teaching rooms and private study areas incorporating the latest multimedia technology.



Private Schools Magazine  
October 2014

Birmingham Mail  
November 2014

# Leticia saves instructor's life on Kenya rafting trip

Emma McKinney  
Staff Reporter  
emma.mckinney@birminghammail.com

A QUICK-THINKING teenager from the Midlands helped to save the life of her instructor after he collapsed suffering a stroke while they were water-raiding in Kenya.

Instead of panicking, 16-year-old Solihull School pupil Leticia Salmon kept her cool after her 57-year-old male instructor began shaking uncontrollably and had trouble speaking.

The Army cadet instead remembered her first aid training and immediately put out an alert for help.

She took control of the situation and joined an all-male crew to paddle the instructor to shore as fast as possible where she comforted and looked after him.

"The officer was in shock and unable to control his thought processes, so I reassured him that he had had a stroke but would be all right," Leticia said.

"The officer was in shock... so I reassured him that he had had a stroke but would be all right."

LETICIA SALMON

right," Leticia said. "As he was shivering with cold, I removed his life jacket and helmet and wrapped him in a blanket, and then I brought back circulation to his fingers."

She took control of the situation and joined an all-male crew to paddle the instructor to shore as fast as possible where she comforted and looked after him.

"The officer was in shock and unable to control his thought processes, so I reassured him that he had had a stroke but would be all right," Leticia said.

"I knew from my training as an Army cadet, as well as experiencing my mother suffering a stroke two years ago, that we needed to

act fast to prevent the officer from having another more serious attack or from over-balancing and having a life-threatening fall," Leticia added.

The incident happened just days after Leticia, who hopes to become a mental health nurse, had helped to build a new nursery classroom for a village school in central Kenya.

Leticia, who has been busy fundraising to sponsor a Kenyan child through school, also completed the challenge of climbing to the 4,965-metre summit of Point Lenana on Mount Kenya during her African adventure.

She said: "The expedition brought a real roller coaster of emotions - from the exhilaration and happiness of the mountain-

teering and charity work to feeling distraught in knowing how life is so precious and can end in an instant."

"Overall I found the trip a life-affirming experience and my best ever."



Leticia with two children who will be benefiting from the new classroom she and her fellow cadets have built at Thangali Primary School

## Solihull showcases...

We have an exclusive insight into Solihull's Summer Art Exhibition: Celebrated business woman and Solihull School parent Karen Brady was guest of honour at the independent school's summer art exhibition.

The Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University and co-ordinator of the Warwick Business School, Karen Brady, who was also a guest of honour at the school's Summer Art Exhibition, was the guest of honour at the school's Summer Art Exhibition. She was accompanied by her husband, David Brady, who is a partner in the law firm of David Brady & Co. The exhibition was held at the school's main building, which is a Grade II listed building. The exhibition was held from 10th to 12th October 2014. The exhibition was held in the school's main building, which is a Grade II listed building. The exhibition was held from 10th to 12th October 2014. The exhibition was held in the school's main building, which is a Grade II listed building. The exhibition was held from 10th to 12th October 2014.



Artworks displayed at the Solihull Summer Art Exhibition

## Investing in 6th-form facilities



## Royal opening

Manchester High School for Girls welcomed the Royal Regiment of the Lancashire Fusiliers to the school's new 6th-form facilities. The regiment was accompanied by the school's band and the local community. The ceremony was held in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were officially opened by the regiment's band and the school's band. The ceremony was held in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were officially opened by the regiment's band and the school's band.



Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities

## Commonwealth champion opens centre

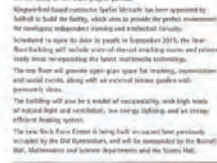
The school's new 6th-form facilities were officially opened by a Commonwealth champion. The ceremony was held in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were officially opened by a Commonwealth champion. The ceremony was held in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were officially opened by a Commonwealth champion.



Commonwealth champion standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities

## New £4.5m facility

The school's new 6th-form facilities were built at a cost of £4.5m. The facility was built by the school's management and the local community. The facility was built in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were built at a cost of £4.5m.

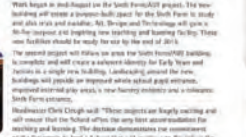


Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities



## New building projects

The school's new building projects were completed. The projects were completed by the school's management and the local community. The projects were completed in the school's new building projects, which were completed by the school's management and the local community.



Group of people standing in front of the new building projects



Group of people standing in front of the new building projects



Group of people standing in front of the new building projects

## Archives

# John's journey into the past..

THIS week's Archives focuses on a talk given by Solihull School architect John Leighton about his journey into the past. The talk was given by John Leighton, who is an architect and a member of the school's staff. The talk was given in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were built at a cost of £4.5m.



John Leighton, the school's architect, standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities



Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities

## Solihul News November 2014

## Solihul Observer November 2014



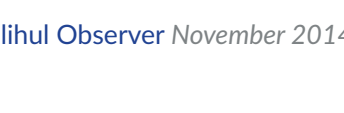
Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities



Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities

## School remembers

The school's new 6th-form facilities were built in memory of the school's founder. The facilities were built in memory of the school's founder, who was a member of the school's staff. The facilities were built in the school's new 6th-form facilities, which were built in memory of the school's founder.



Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities



Group of people standing in front of the new 6th-form facilities



## Record Total Raised from Junior School's Charity Week

15 December 2014



Junior School pupils at Solihull School have raised over £6800 as part of its Charity Week – a record figure for the Junior School's annual fundraising event which is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year.

As part of Charity Week, a total of 226 pupils aged 7-11 hosted a Solihull's Got Talent contest, held a book sale, a movie afternoon and a pupils vs. teachers football match.

Thanks to the range of activities, pupils presented a cheque for £6860.70 to the Rotary Club of Solihull, St Alphege, which in turn has donated the money to Solihull Young Carers.

Michael Jones, Deputy Head of the Junior School, said: "This has been another fantastic year of fundraising and I am proud of the Junior School pupils for all the effort they put into raising such a substantial amount. To reach this record figure is a huge achievement and we are delighted to be able to support such an important, local charity in Solihull."

## SOLIHULL PUPILS SHOWCASE MUSICAL TALENT



Talented musicians from Solihull took their performing skills into the concert hall as part of the school's St Cecilia Concert.

A total of 165 pupils aged 8 to 18 took part in the concert led by Solihull School's new Director of Music, Tim Kermode. The students sang and played in 13 different ensembles, which included the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Bands, Big Band, two String Ensembles, Madrigal Group, Jazz Singers, Senior Clarinet Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

The concert featured a range of musical periods, styles and genres, which included music by Vaughan Williams, Holst and Vivaldi as well as familiar music from film, TV and stage.

Tim Kermode, Director of Music, said: "All the pupils performed fabulously and were really supportive to each other throughout the rehearsals and concert. Parents, friends and fellow pupils were struck by the real sense of quality, commitment and enjoyment in all the performances. I was thrilled with the whole evening and congratulate all the pupils for their tremendous achievements."

The Old Silhillians Association (OSA)  
December 2014From the classroom  
to the trenches

STORIES of sons, fathers and brothers who served, fought, and died in World War One have been shared throughout 2014 in the news and within communities as the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of the war was marked. Families and historians have been researching the names men, and boys, who appear on memorials in communities and the names which have been mentioned by families over the years.

But it was the stories of former Solihull School boys and teachers which inspired John Leyton to put pen to paper and write a book dedicated to pupils who served in the trenches.

There were just 200 pupils at Solihull School during this time and three teachers were also killed during the war and several others fought and returned.

"It started when the headteacher asked me to write a story for the school magazine to commemorate the start of World War One but one thing lead to another and I found myself with enough information to write book on the soldiers from the school," John explained. "I found what the boys had got up to at school in the years before they signed up from where they came in sports day to if they played on the football team."

It made their stories come to life and make the soldiers seem more human and the more I got to know them the more I had to find out about them. However, the information the 65-year-old gathered was more than enough to write the article which was first put to him and he approached the Headteacher to help turn Solihull School During the First World War into a book which he accepted.

Over the next few months John found



out more about those from the Warwick Road who enlisted and sailed across the seas to France. John has been able to write biographies for 55 of the 65 Solihull pupils were killed during World War One through his research. Through his research, John discovered that war memorial at Solihull School is missing five of the names, which was largely due to the fact that media reports at the time weren't accurate. Those too young to fight heard about news from the front in School Assembly including the deaths of 22 of the 55 in battles including at Ypres and The Somme. John said: "To be able to produce this history was not only a privilege but quite an emotional and humbling experience, as the life and times of Silhillians from 100 years ago emerged from the pages of the available records. "What stands out is that they were a generation that had to face the ultimate, unimaginable horror of war and responded with courage, dignity and spirited determination."

## Solihull Observer December 2014

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday January 29, 2015

An opening with  
strings attached

GAINING a place in the National Youth Orchestra is a dream come true for cellist Dominic Martens.

The 16-year-old from Balsall Common has been performing and practising alongside hundreds of other talented teenage musicians who were hand selected by a panel of judges.

The Solihull School pupil, who has been playing the cello since he was five, had to go through two nerve-racking auditions for the National Youth Orchestra in the autumn and an interview before he was asked to join the string section.

Dominic said he was thrilled to be playing with the Orchestra and so far has enjoyed his two sell-out performances in Leeds and in London's Barbican.

He added: "Performing was the most incredible experience."

One of the concerts was broadcast on BBC iPlayer and we received a standing ovation after each one.

I am extremely excited about the next two concert tours which will be preceded by residential courses in London - in April and in August.

And of course I can't wait for our performance later this year at the Birmingham Symphony Hall."

The 100-plus members come from all over the UK, and from very different backgrounds, but they are bound together by their love for classical music, their desire to be challenged, and their enthusiasm for inspiring others.

Building cellist Dominic added: "Being part of the National Youth Orchestra has allowed me to meet other musicians my age who are very serious about music like I am."

It has also allowed me to work with top conductors, learn exciting orchestral pieces and perform in fantastic venues. It is a real honour to be part of the National Youth Orchestra."



Cellist Dominic Martens has won a prestigious place on the National Youth Orchestra. 03.015.002. sol.jm1 (www.buy-photos247.com)

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday January 29, 2015

Chamber choir join in  
Radio 4's daily service

SOLIHULL School's Chamber Choir reached out to its largest audience when 50 pupils were invited to take to BBC Radio 4's Daily Service to sing a variety of hymns live to the nation.

Having last appeared on the show in June 2014 the youngsters, aged 13 to 18, were this time given the theme of Belonging to Christ and performed the 'O Thou the Central Orb' by Charles Wood, and a host of others, to more than 250,000 listeners.

Whilst at the Radio 4 studios, the pupils also recorded movements



from Faure's Requiem which will be used in an upcoming broadcast entitled 'Lazarus'. Oliver Walker, Head of Choral

Music at Solihull School, said: "The Daily Service is the longest running radio show in the world and so it was an honour for the choir to be invited back to the programme following an excellent performance in the summer."

The choir are set to open the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC and in February they are preparing to sing at St Paul's Cathedral for a third time.

The following month will see the group join with the award-winning Orchestra of the Swan, local choral societies and professional soloists to perform Mozart's Requiem.

## Solihull Observer January 2015

The Observer, Thursday January 15, 2015

www.solihullobserver.co.uk



Pupils at Solihull School raised a whopping £6,800 during their charity week. (s)

Solihull Observer  
January 2015Solihull Observer  
January 2015

YOUNGSTERS at Solihull School have raised over £6,800 as part of its Charity Week – a record figure for the Junior School's annual fundraising event which is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. As part of Charity Week, 226 pupils aged 7 to 11 hosted a Solihull's Got Talent contest, held a book sale,

a movie afternoon and a pupils vs teachers football match.

Thanks to the range of activities, pupils presented the enormous cheque to the Solihull Rotary Club, which in turn has donated the money to Solihull Young Carers.

A proud Michael Jones, Deputy Head of the Junior School, said: "This

has been another fantastic year of fundraising and I am proud of the Junior School pupils for all the effort they put into raising such a substantial amount.

"To reach this record figure is a huge achievement and we are delighted to be able to support such an important, local charity in Solihull."





SUNDAY MERCURY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

# MUST TRY HARDER!



Italian rugby team star Sam Montieri, who is working his gap year teaching PE at Solihull School, with, from left, Liam Scagell, Ben Michael, Dan Bevan and Kyle Trainer

## Rising Italian rugby star takes PE lessons at a Midland school

**MIKE LOCKLEY**  
Staff Reporter  
mike.lockley@birminghammail.com

**S**OLIHULL School has pulled off a scrum coup by getting a budding Italian rugby star to take PE lessons.

Sam Montieri, flanker for Italy under 19s, is spending a gap year at the school before studying maths at Loughborough University.

The 18-year-old, a former old boy, will also coach cricket and hockey while training hard with Moseley Rugby Club in the evenings.

The Shirley teenager, a member of the Italian team that toured South Africa last year, told the Sunday Mercury: "I think this is very exciting. It will be enjoyable, but will also enable me to give something back to the school which has done so much for me."

"The coaching staff at Solihull really helped me to develop as a sportsman and I'm looking forward to working with and learning from them."

Sam is the first past pupil to take part in the new work experience scheme, launched by headmaster EJJ Lloyd.

He feels gap year work will boost workplace skills and help with future employment.

Sam has certainly taken his chosen sport by storm. He captained the North Midlands side that reached the quarter-finals of the National Championships and is one of Britain's youngest RFU Level 2 qualified rugby coaches in Britain.

The work experience stints are not the only change at Solihull.

From autumn, it is to replace French as the main language taught with the more widely spoken Spanish.

Headmaster Mr Lloyd admitted the switch has not been popular in some quarters.

He said: "The essence of the debate is a rationale for learning one specific language over another."

"Spanish and German are also thriving and French is no longer the compulsory modern foreign language here."

Sunday Mercury  
February 2015

## The Birmingham Press

News, views and comment

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# West End star gives lessons to students

Birmingham Press / 11 hours ago

Drama students learn from acting masterclass.

Students at Solihull School got a taste of the West End when stage star Adam Linstead visited their theatre to deliver a masterclass to budding thespians.

Now in his fourth year with Les Miserables, Adam plays the roles of Grantaire and the Bishop of Digne to packed audiences at the Queen's Theatre eight times a week. With Solihull School performing its own rendition of the show next month, Adam was able to offer advice to all those involved.

Key elements of the workshop included running through the warm-ups carried out by the London cast before every performance, staging large group number At the End of the Day, and working with some of the principal students to make sense of the messages that should be conveyed in the production.

Lisa Fair, assistant head at Solihull School, said: "We're extremely grateful to Adam for giving up his time to visit our pupils, all of whom are working incredibly hard to ensure that their performance of Les Miserables is of the standard you would expect from a professional production."

"The workshop proved to be invaluable to all involved and we look forward to welcoming guests to enjoy the production."

Performances of Les Miserables will take place from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 March at 7pm. Tickets are available at the school's main reception. For more information visit [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk) or call 0121 705 0950.

Birmingham Press  
February 2015

Solihull Observer February 2015

The Observer, Thursday February 26, 2015 PAGE 39

# Hard work pays off for a merry band

**T**ALENTED youngsters at Solihull School have played to full houses of 500 people with their production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies, a musical comedy.

More than 80 pupils from the Junior School acted, sang and danced their way through the medieval mayhem of Merry England, splattered with shocks and surprises, crazy characters and comic capers.

Lydia Lynch, the Junior School drama co-ordinator, said: "Weeks of after-school rehearsals paid off and the children performed spectacularly well, enjoying every minute of their time in the spotlight."



Solihull Junior school went on a journey to see Robin Hood and his merry men. (5)



Solihull School where the pupils are said to be 'bright, curious and enquiring'

# Solihull kids are among the top Brains of Britain

By Jasbir Authi  
Staff Reporter  
jasbir.authi@birminghammail.com

**I**T'S one of the most well-heeled and greenest places to live in the West Midlands.

And now the affluent borough of Solihull has been hailed one of the top three **BRAINIEST** postcodes in the country.

Pupils in the Solihull postcode of B93 came third in the country for overall GCSE success, according to research conducted by the Royal Mail.

They were beaten by the Gerrards Cross postcode of SL9 where, on average, students received a GCSE point score of 392 for their top eight subjects.

Students in the HP6 postcode of Amersham came second with 390 points with the biffins of Solihull totting up an impressive 388 points in third place.

The Solihull postcode of B91 also

featured in a respectable sixth place and in tenth place was the Royal Borough of Sutton Coldfield with nearly 384 points.

One place responsible for producing the military leaders, doctors, engineers, lawyers and academics of the future is Solihull School, an mixed independent school, established in 1550, with 1,050 pupils aged seven to 18 on roll.

Rachel Hadley-Leonard, from the school, said: "Our pupils are bright, curious, enquiring. Our strapline is ambition, opportunity, community."

"That's what we try and encompass in all of our pupils and by the time they leave we hope they have all of that. We are very aware of our community. We look at our community as a two-fold thing. There is the community of the school and how that extends to a life-long family. The minute the child joins our school at 11, they belong to a community that lasts their whole life."

"About 91 per cent go to their first or second choice university. They go into a variety of the main professions, law, medicine, engineering, mathematics, the arts."

"We very much work with the community where the school is based. We have shared facilities - one example is 'Solihull Sings'."

"We have three local primary schools who come in every term and have professional singing tuition and we put up a performance three times a year," she said.

Mensa, the largest and oldest high IQ society in the world said they currently have 44 members from Solihull.

Steve Rooney, Head of Royal Mail's Address Management Unit said: "Royal Mail's study provides an insight into the academic heartbeat of the nation, as seen through the postcode, to mark the 40th anniversary of the allocation of postcodes to every address in Britain."

Birmingham Mail February 2015





BIRMINGHAM MAIL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

Live news blog at [www.birminghammail.co.uk](http://www.birminghammail.co.uk)

NEWS

# West End star's masterclass for Les Mis school show



Les Mis star Adam Lindstedt puts Solihull School's musical youth through their paces

**Annette Belcher**  
Staff Reporter  
[anette.belcher@birminghammail.co.uk](mailto:anette.belcher@birminghammail.co.uk)

WHEN you're about to do a school show version of one of the biggest musicals ever, you need to do it justice - for everyone knows the tunes.

So what better than a little bit of help from one of the stars of the current West End show?

Adam Lindstedt ensured students at Solihull School had a taste of Les Misérables and the West End when he visited their theatre to deliver a masterclass to budding thespians.

Now in his fourth year with Les Misérables, Adam plays the roles of Grantaire and the Bishop of Digne to packed audiences at the Queen's Theatre eight times a week.

And as Solihull School is performing its own version of the show next week, Adam paid the students a visit to offer some words of advice.

Pupils were taken through warm-ups carried out by the London cast before every performance and then staged large group number *At the End of the Day*.

Adam also worked with some of the principal students to help them make sense of the messages that should be conveyed in the production.

List Fair assistant head at Solihull School, said: "We're extremely grateful to Adam for giving up his time to visit our pupils."

"All of them are working incredibly hard to ensure that their performance of Les Misérables is of the standard you would expect from a professional production."

"The workshop proved to be invaluable to all involved and we look forward to welcoming guests to enjoy the production."

Performances of Les Misérables will take place from Tuesday, March 17, until March 21 at 7pm.

Tickets are available at the school's main reception.

**FACTFILE**

- Seen by more than 70 million people in 43 countries and in 22 languages, Les Mis is still breaking box office records in its 30th year.
- Les Mis is now the longest running musical in the world.
- The show has played in 319 cities around the world.
- It has 101 cast and crew who wear 392 costumes.
- 125,000 people made up the biggest live audience in the 1999 Australia Day concert in Sydney.
- The London production celebrated its 10,000th performance at the Queen's Theatre five years ago.

Birmingham Mail March 2015



Birmingham Press March 2015



School drops French for Spanish

Declining importance of language reflected in decision.

1 week ago in Education.

## School drops French for Spanish

Birmingham Press / 1 week ago

Declining importance of language reflected in decision.

Spanish is to replace French as the compulsory language at a leading Midlands independent school – after more than 450 years. The controversial decision by Solihull School highlights the relative decline in the importance of the French language.

David EJJ Lloyd, headmaster of the independent co-educational school for 7 to 18 year olds, said that 400 million people around the world spoke Spanish, compared to just 130 million who use French. "Of course, we are very well equipped to teach French – an official language in more than 32 countries – and enjoy much success at both GCSE and A Level, but Spanish and German are also thriving and French is no longer the compulsory modern foreign language here."

The headmaster admitted that the decision may not be popular in all quarters, but said that he was not prepared to retain the status quo simply because of what other schools taught or the reader availability of French teachers. "The essence of the debate is a rationale for learning one specific language over another. French has its place for a number of valid and justifiable reasons, but aren't those same arguments for Spanish every bit as true, if not more so? Other than creating a generation of polyglots, which did not happen even when GCSE languages were compulsory, it is timely to have a discussion about which languages we offer and when and why we offer them."

"In my opinion, one thing is certain: because the infrastructures in the maintained and independent sectors strongly favour French, subtle turns of an institutional juggernaut will have little or no impact. What may well work, on a local level, is to contemplate doing it differently from the bottom up so that we look ahead to a time when our pupils leave school more ready than ever to thrive in an ever-changing, globalised way of life."

As from September, Spanish will be compulsory for all pupils in the Junior School. Then, from September next year, it will replace French for Year 7 pupils and afterwards be introduced year on year further up the school.

## Business News

# Engineering a better opportunity

LUCY Allen, a former student from Solihull School, is celebrating receipt of the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Now in its second year, the IET Diamond Jubilee scheme provides the UK's up and coming engineering talent with mentoring and work placement opportunities, and at least £1,000 each in sponsorship per academic year. Lucy is one of only 60 students across the UK to have been awarded the scholarship.

Beginning a degree in engineering at Cambridge University in September 2014, Lucy has helped to narrow the gap between male and female recipients, with 42 per cent of scholarships going to young women – a significant increase from the 19 per cent awarded in 2013. Currently, just six per cent of the UK's engineering work force is female.

William Webb, IET president said:

"The number of women in the engineering work force is appallingly low, so we are really pleased that so many young women are making use of the financial help that is available via our scholarships."

However, it's not just women we need – it has been estimated that approximately 87,000 new engineers will be needed each year until 2020 to address the current skills shortage. It has never been more important to encourage young people to study engineering so that they are able to follow rewarding careers and, ultimately, protect the UK's economic prosperity."

Mark Bishop, Head of Mathematics at Solihull School, added: "Lucy is an extremely intelligent and motivated student. During her time at Solihull School she was awarded the top mathematics scholarship, and three school prizes for mathematics, science and academic excellence."

"She is an extraordinary creative thinker and served to help mentor junior pupils and her peers through the school's Maths Clinic". I can't think of anyone more deserving of the IET Diamond Jubilee Scholarship and look forward to hearing great things from Lucy in the future."

The investment is being made in collaboration with the Belling Charitable Settlement, the ERA Foundation and The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, Siemens and RAE Systems.



The IET Diamond Jubilee Scholarship programme is open to all UK students hoping to achieve 3 A's at A Level, 3 A\* grade Advanced Highers, 5 A\* grade Highers or an International Baccalaureate Diploma at 36 points or above and who are applying to join an IET accredited engineering or technology degree course. Those who are selected receive at least £1,000 per year during their studies.

Prospective students who are wishing to apply for a Diamond Jubilee Scholarship can apply online soon. See [www.thiet.org/diamond](http://www.thiet.org/diamond).

Engineering student Lucy Allen.

Solihull Observer March 2015

Solihull Observer March 2015

Observer

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# Youngster O'Malley wins kickboxing title

SOLIHULL Junior School pupil Aimee O'Malley is a new British kickboxing champion.

The 11-year-old from Sutton Coldfield took the title at the World Association of Kickboxing (WAKO) British Championship in the 'minus 37 kilos continuous kickboxing' category at King's Heath.

Aimee, who only took up the sport two years ago and won the International Sport Kickboxing Association (ISKA) English National Championships four months ago, now has her eyes on the 'Top Ten British Championship in May at the NIA, Birmingham, and, providing she gets a top three place there, then the World Championship in Edinburgh in November. She also hopes to gain her black belt in July.

"I was absolutely thrilled with my win," said Aimee who celebrated her 11th birthday this month (March 16) with twin sister Isabel. "I've been training really hard three days a week for this and it's so exciting to have won."

Froud mother Mrs. Sian O'Malley said: "Aimee took up kickboxing when she was eight after being inspired by a former military man who taught her the importance of being super fit and healthy in both mind and body. She loves her sport and is also keen on hockey, netball, running and climbing."

Mark Penney, head of Solihull School Junior School, said: "We are immensely proud of Aimee's achievement. She's a tremendous young athlete and has worked extremely hard for her success, setting a fine example to others."

"Solihull School is well known for its sporting prowess and Aimee's amazing achievement has greatly enhanced that reputation."



Headmaster David Lloyd joins pupils Bethan Bawn, Melissa Vip, Ewan Wadell and Oliver Rooney to mark the end of French as the compulsory language at Solihull School, being replaced by Spanish.

# Au revoir français - hola español...

SPANISH is to replace French as the compulsory language at Solihull School – after more than 450 years.

The controversial decision by Solihull School highlights the relative decline in the importance of the French language.

David Lloyd, headmaster of the independent co-educational school, said that 400 million people around the world spoke Spanish, compared to just 130 million who use French.

The headmaster admitted the decision may not be popular in all quarters, but said that he was not prepared to retain the status quo simply because of what other schools taught or the reader availability of French teachers.

He added: "The essence of the debate is a rationale for learning one specific language over another."

"French has its place for a number of valid and justifiable reasons, but aren't those same arguments for Spanish every bit as true, if not more so? Other than creating a generation of polyglots, which did not happen even when GCSE languages were compulsory, it is timely to have a discussion about which languages we offer and when and why we offer them."

"In my opinion, one thing is certain: because the infrastructures in the maintained and independent sectors strongly favour French, subtle turns of an institutional juggernaut will have little or no impact."

"What may well work, on a local level, is to contemplate doing it differently from the bottom up so that we look ahead to a time when our pupils leave school more ready than ever to thrive in an ever-changing, globalised way of life."

As from September, Spanish will be compulsory for all pupils in the Junior School. Then, from September next year, it will replace French for Year 7 pupils and afterwards be introduced year on year further up the school.

Observer March 2015





Solihull Observer April 2015

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday April 2, 2015



Solihull School choristers singing at St Paul's Cathedral.

CHORISTERS from Solihull School swapped the pews of their chapel for those of a much more prestigious venue – St Paul's Cathedral.

Invited to take part in the Service of Choral Evensong, 45 members of the school's Chamber Choir visited the cathedral where they performed Purcell's Remember not Lord, our offences, Walmesley's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D Minor and the psalm Out of the Deep.

The pupils, aged 13 to 18, were joined by school chaplain Andrew Hutchinson, who delivered a lesson, and organist Peter Irving, who accompanied the pupils on the Cathedral's famous instrument.

Olive Walker, head of choral music at Solihull School, said: "This is the third time we've been invited to sing at St Paul's Cathedral and the choir once again delivered a fantastic performance."

"Singing in such an iconic and historic venue really is an incredible opportunity for our pupils – even when rehearsing we were surrounded by the tombs of individuals such as Christopher Wren, William Blake and composer Charles Hubert Parry."

"We have already been invited to perform at the Cathedral at the same time next year and thoroughly look forward to taking part once again."

The performance at St Paul's Cathedral is just one in a series of impressive recitals for the choir, who

appeared on BBC Radio 4's Daily Service earlier this year.

A larger choir comprising 150 sing-

ers also performed Mozart's Requiem alongside the Orchestra of the Swan earlier this month.

Birmingham Mail April 2015

BIRMINGHAM MAIL, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

## Maths team counting down to big final

PUPILS from Solihull School will be competing against teams from across the UK for this year's Team Maths Challenge Trophy after finishing in first place in the West Midlands regional final.

The team of four pupils – Max Dormon, Georgina Hart, Jack Hughes and Joseph Morgan – will compete against 80 finalists at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Halls in London on Monday, June 22.

The foursome will take on tasks which will test their ability to solve practical problems and answer a variety of mathematical questions at speed.

Dr Richard Atkinson,



Maths team Max Dormon, Georgina Hart, Jack Hughes and Joseph Morgan

maths teacher and team leader at Solihull School, said: "This is the second consecutive year that a Solihull

School team has held the position of regional champions and we look forward to competing for the

national title in June. "All four pupils have an exceptional aptitude for mathematics and take part in a number

of the co-curricular activities we offer, including our maths club and puzzle of the month competition. The pupils work well together and I'm confident that they will be placed highly in the finals."

Almost 1,700 schools entered this year's competition, which is hosted by the UK Mathematics Trust.

Individual mathematicians from Solihull School will also be competing later in the year in Junior, Intermediate and British Mathematical Olympiads.

For more information about Solihull School, visit [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk) or call 0121 705 0958.

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## Solihull writer's Car Share set to make broadcasting history with iPlayer premiere

04:40, 22 April 2015 By Ends Mullen

All six episodes of Car Share, written by Tim Reid and Paul Coleman, will be available on the iPlayer between April 24 and 28.

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Peter Kay, who plays John in Car Share and Sian Gibson who plays Kayleigh

A Solihull comedy writer is set to make broadcasting history when a sitcom starring comic Peter Kay becomes the first BBC programme to be made available on the corporation's on-demand service, iPlayer, before it is broadcast on BBC One.

All six episodes of Car Share, written by Tim Reid and Paul Coleman, will be available on the iPlayer between April 24 and 28.

Car Share features Peter Kay as John Redmond and Sian Gibson as Kayleigh Johnson – two supermarket workers who have been thrown together in a company car share scheme.

It is Mr Reid and Mr Coleman's first ever sitcom and came to fruition after they contacted Mr Kay for advice. He liked it so much he signed up to star in and direct it.

Mr Reid, from Solihull, and Mr Coleman discovered a shared passion for comedy after working together as business consultants for innovation company What It.

Explaining how Peter Kay partnership came about, Mr Reid said: "Paul had worked with Peter before on Britain's Got the Pop Factor and Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere and we thought let's show it to him and see what's working and what is not."

"We were just hoping he would give us some feedback and opinions – whether it was a good idea or not and whether the writing was good enough or not."

"That was our hope – just to get his view on what we had done."

"So it was a real thrill when he came back and said not only did he really like it but wanted to get involved too."

"He loved the idea and asked us if we wanted him to work with us on it and you don't say no to that – he is the best there is."

Car Share is the first time Mr Kay, best known for his stand-up tours and Channel 4 sitcoms like Phoenix Nights, has worked with the BBC. Explaining how Car Share initially came about, Mr Reid, a former pupil of Solihull School, said: "Myself and Paul were both interested in writing comedy and sitcoms, and came up with idea of a car share."

"We loved self-contained character-based situations like Porridge and Rising Damp, which focus on the characters and how they interact."

"We hit on the idea of a car share where two characters would be in a very tight situation and thrown together."

Birmingham Post Online  
April 2015

Solihull school in national maths final

Pupils to take on best in the country.

1 day ago in Education

## Solihull school in national maths final

Birmingham Press | 1 day ago

Pupils to take on best in the country.

Pupils from Solihull School will be competing against teams from across the UK for this year's Team Maths Challenge Trophy after finishing in first place in the West Midlands regional final.

The team of four pupils, Max Dormon, Georgina Hart, Jack Hughes and Joseph Morgan, from Years 7, 8 and 9 will compete against 80 finalists at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Halls in London on Monday June 22nd.

The foursome will take on tasks which will test their ability to solve practical problems and answer a variety of mathematical questions at speed.

Dr. Richard Atkinson, maths teacher and team leader, at Solihull School, said: "This is the second consecutive year that a Solihull School team has held the position of regional champions and we look forward to competing for the national title in June."

"All four pupils have an exceptional aptitude for mathematics and take part in a number of the co-curricular activities we offer, including our maths club and 'puzzle of the month' competition. The pupils work well together and I'm confident that they will be placed highly in the finals."

Almost 1,700 schools entered this year's competition, which is hosted by the UK Mathematics Trust. Individual mathematicians from Solihull School will also be competing later in the year in Junior, Intermediate and British Mathematical Olympiads.

Birmingham Press April 2015







## Pressure 'driving private school pupils to self-harm or develop eating disorders': Leading head says children are suffering worst stress in generations

- Head of Solihull School David Lloyd said some pupils are at risk of suicide
- He said many were are pressure due to higher school fees amid recession
- Children also more vulnerable to bullying due to 'selfie' culture, he added
- Mr Lloyd said his school adopted 'mindfulness' classes to help pupils gain perspective

By ELEANOR HARDING, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL  
PUBLISHED: 01:14, 15 May 2015 | UPDATED: 09:06, 15 May 2015



Pupils at private schools across the country are self-harming and developing eating disorders as they face the worst pressure in generations, according to a leading headmaster.

David Lloyd, head of Solihull School, said children were suffering 'tremendous' anxiety, stress and depression and that some were even at risk of suicide.

He said many were under intense pressure to succeed because of the financial sacrifices made by parents – exacerbated by years of economic turmoil and increased fees. It now costs an average of around £15,675 a year to educate a child privately.

Children are also more vulnerable to bullying because of the pervasive 'selfie' culture and the 'intrusion' of social media into the home, he added.

He said a number of fellow headteachers had voiced concerns about stress at their schools, but he suspected many others were reluctant to talk about it for fear of putting off prospective parents.

Writing in a blog post, Mr Lloyd said his school had adopted 'mindfulness' classes to help pupils gain perspective on their worries – and called for other heads to do the same.

He said: 'I am deeply concerned about the number of pupils nationwide suffering acute anxiety, stress and depression which very sadly can lead to sleep deprivation, poor concentration, school phobia, self-harm, eating disorders and



David Lloyd, head of Solihull School, said children were suffering 'tremendous' anxiety, stress and depression.

## Daily Mail Online May 2015

The Observer, Thursday May 14, 2015

www.solihull



Solihull School Maths Team Max Dormon, Georgina Hart, Jack Hughes and Joseph Morgan. s

A TEAM of budding Solihull mathematicians are through to the final of a prestigious maths competition.

Max Dormon, Georgina Hart, Jack Hughes and Joseph Morgan from Solihull School are preparing to test their arithmetic skills, ability to solve practical problems and answer a variety of mathematical questions at speed.

The Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils beat off the competition to finish first place in the West Midlands regional final will now face 80 other finalists at the final host-est by the UK Mathematics Trust.

Dr Richard Atkinson, maths teacher and team leader, at Solihull School, said: "This is the second consecutive year that a Solihull School team has held the position of regional champi-

ons and we look forward to competing for the national title in June.

"All four pupils have an exceptional aptitude for mathematics and take part in a number of the co-curricular activities we offer, including our maths club and 'puzzle of the month' competition.

"The pupils work well together and I'm confident that they will be placed highly in the finals."

Individual mathematicians from Solihull School will also be competing later in the year in Junior, Intermediate and British Mathematical Olympiads.

Almost 1,700 schools entered this year's competition, with the successful teams competing in the finals at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London on Monday, June 22.

## Solihull Observer UK Maths Challenge May 2015



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News Midlands News Solihull

## Solihull School pupils join RSC cast on stage for The Merchant of Venice

12:57, 22 MAY 2015 BY EMMA MCKINNEY

Five pupils chosen to form part of the choir at Royal Shakespeare Theatre

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Solihull School pupils, left to right, David Hass, Freddie Truman, Courtney Holland, Ewan Waddell, Oscar Huissoon

Five talented youngsters from a Solihull school will join the cast of the Royal Shakespeare Company to perform in an upcoming production of The Merchant of Venice.

The show, running at Stratford-upon-Avon's prestigious Royal Shakespeare Theatre until September 2, will star the budding thespians from the independent Solihull School.

RSC's head of music Bruce O'Neil personally selected the pupils Freddie Truman, Oscar Huissoon, Courtney Holland, David Hass and Ewan Waddell to form part of the play's choir, performing music specially arranged by renowned concert pianist Marc Tritschler.

Oliver Walker, head of choral music at the school, said: "This is the first our choir members have been involved in a RSC production and it's an honour for them to have been selected to take part.

"I'm confident that they will all excel and look forward to watching them in action."

## Birmingham Mail May 2015

## Daily Mail Online May 2015

'They worry about homework, exams, body image, friendships, university and jobs. Whilst many things have improved, I'm convinced that the pressures of the 21st Century are far greater than those of the 20th Century.'

Mr Lloyd, whose co-educational day school in the West Midlands was founded in 1560, said part of the problem was the constant drive to attain.

He said some schools were putting undue pressure on pupils by entering them for GCSES early so they could study more of them.



Writing in a blog post, Mr Lloyd said his school (pictured) had adopted 'mindfulness' classes to help pupils gain perspective on their worries – and called for other heads to do the same

The prospect of having to attain a 2:1 at university in order to secure a good job while building up debts of more than £50,000 adds to their worries, he said.

Mr Lloyd said: 'Added pressures face young people in fee-paying schools and include "knowing" the sacrifices their families have made in order to send them to schools like ours, which can lead to feelings of weighty expectation and guilt.

'I suspect this may have been made worse by prolonged recession and austerity.'

He said some families encouraged children into paths which might produce lucrative careers which are not right for them, 'setting them up for potential failure'.

And many selective schools expose children to the stresses of testing early, with some children taking an entrance exam at the age of three, he added.

'This is often preceded by months of intensive tutoring', he added. 'Failure is around every corner and can cause significant damage to self-esteem, confidence and growth.'

He said technology has added 'further heat', with smart phones bringing 'bullying and increased peer pressure into the home and pupils' private lives'. Teenagers now 'live their lives online', with phones and tablet devices becoming 'an intrusive necessity in teenage lives'.

He added: 'Pupils spill out their deepest emotions on social media and these can be met with support, ridicule or even abuse and the advent of the "selfie" has served to increase self-consciousness and anxiety even further.

Pupils also suffer from traumatic issues at home, including marital splits which may mean that families can no longer afford school fees.

**"Added pressures face young people in fee-paying schools and include "knowing" the sacrifices their families have made in order to send them to schools like ours**

David Lloyd, head at Solihull School



Daily Mail May 2015

# Daily Mail

www.dailymail.co.uk 60p

## Pressure 'driving private school pupils to self-harm'

PUPILS at private schools are self-harming and developing eating disorders under the worst pressure in generations, according to a leading headmaster.

David Lloyd, head of Solihull School, said children were suffering 'tremendous' anxiety, stress and depression and some were even at risk of suicide.

He said many were under intense pressure to succeed because of the financial sacrifices made by parents, exacerbated by years of

By Eleanor Harding  
Education Correspondent

economic turmoil and increased fees. It now costs an average of around £15,075 a year to educate a child privately.

Children are also more vulnerable to bullying because of the pervasive 'selfie' culture and the 'intrusion' of social media into the home, Mr Lloyd said.

He added that a number of fellow head

teachers had voiced concerns about stress at their schools, but suspected many others were reluctant to talk about it for fear of putting off prospective parents.

Mr Lloyd's school has started teaching 'mindfulness', a form of meditation, to help pupils deal with their worries, and he urged other heads to do the same.

He wrote in a blog post: 'I am deeply concerned about the number of pupils nationwide suffering acute anxiety, stress and

depression, which very sadly can lead to sleep deprivation, poor concentration, school phobia, self-harm, eating disorders and even suicide.'

He said stress affected both primary and senior schools, adding: 'Cyber bullying, sexting, pressure to have the perfect body and viewing any grade below a C as failure are 21st-century, 24/7 phenomena. I'm convinced the pressures of the 21st century are far greater than those of the 20th century.'

Birmingham Mail May 2015

BIRMINGHAM MAIL MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

All the latest news at [www.birminghammail.co.uk](http://www.birminghammail.co.uk)

19

## £1m helps former local pupil boost firm globally

A FORMER Solihull School pupil and successful entrepreneur has received a £1 million cash injection for his international business.

Dan Strang's company Crowd Reactive, whose clients include Audi, Ferrari, Starbucks, Nike, Coca Cola and O2, provides technology for event organisers to broadcast photographs, videos and social media content from the audience using Instagram, Twitter, Vine and Dropbox.

The money, which has been invested by West Midlands' venture capitalist Mercia, will be used to expand Crowd Reactive's client base in Europe and Latin America, after moving into the US market.

After school Dan went on to study a degree in business and management at Exeter University and set up Crowd Reactive after running his own fashion business for 18 months.

He had been following the family tradition, for Dan's grandfather was chairman of Foster Bros, the high street clothing retailer and his parents have run their own fashion business for the last 30 years.

"I had the most wonderful time at Solihull [School] and enjoyed every moment of my years there," he said.

"The continued operational and financial support from Mercia is invaluable. It allows us to provide unique and innovative solutions for our international clients and to scale the business globally across new sectors.

"With these additional funds we can now support our rapid growth by investing in new and experienced executives internationally."

Mercia chief executive Mark Payton said: "Crowd Reactive is a new emerging star from our 'early stage' portfolio. It's a fast growing business that has shown great progress since the original investment from our subsidiary Mercia Fund Management (MFM), and has been remarkably successful in winning new business from globally recognised brands."

Entrepreneur Dan Strang



ITV Central News  
May 2015

David Lloyd, Headmaster at Solihull School, featured on ITV's Central TV talking about mental health issues among young people.





## Caring Solihull School pupil is hosting a 'mad' West End show

14/07, 15 JUNE 2015 | BY ANDY RICHARDS

Solihull School will host a West End charity gala in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity, thanks to a caring young pupil.

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Georgia Jones and Tim Heid show their support for The Brain Tumour Charity

Solihull School will host a West End charity gala in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity, thanks to a caring young pupil.

The event on Sunday, June 21, has been organised by Year 7 pupil Georgia Jones, who successfully pitched for The Brain Tumour Charity to be the third farm's charity of the year.

Georgia said: "I am only 12 but I already know about three people who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour and the devastating effect it has had on the person and family around them. I love dance and musical theatre so I had this idea to arrange a gala to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity, who fund research into this terrible disease and will hopefully find a cure."

Performed and produced by Lower School pupils, the Mad, Mad Charity Gala will also include contributions from the School of Theatre Excellence, Phoenix Dance and Learning Curves.

There will additionally be a performance from renowned West End star Ria Jones, who has headed the cast in shows such as Les Misérables and Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat, and is currently receiving rave reviews in the West End production Jerry's Girls.

Georgia was inspired to pitch The Brain Tumour Charity to her school by her parents' friends, the Footes.

Joseph Foote sadly lost his life to a brain tumour aged nine in 2007. In his memory, his father Andy set up the Joseph Foote Trust. In 2012, a merger with Brain Tumour UK and The Brain Tumour Charity (formerly Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust) created the second largest charity in the world dedicated solely to brain tumours.

Georgia said: "I was only young but I remember mem and dad getting dressed up to go to a ball every year to support an inspirational little boy called Joseph Foote who tragically lost his battle to a brain tumour."

The charity funds pioneering research to increase survival and improve treatment options as well as raising awareness of the symptoms of brain tumours to bring about earlier diagnosis.

Gerardine Pipping, The Brain Tumour Charity's head of fundraising, said: "We receive no government funding and rely 100 per cent on voluntary donations, so it's only through the efforts of our fundraisers that we are able to continue our work."

"Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of children and the under-40s and survival rates have not improved significantly over the last 40 years," she added.

"We are leading the way in changing this."

Over 9,300 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour each year, yet less than two per cent of cancer research funding goes on brain tumours in the UK. There will be two performances of the gala concert at 1pm and 7pm at Solihull School's Bushell Hall.

Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for children and are available from Solihull Art Complex box office.

## Birmingham Mail Online June 2015

## EdgeMagazine

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## SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SOLIHULL STUDENT

Solihull School student Madeleine Browse has won a place at Cambridge University's prestigious summer school following the successful completion of the institution's senior physics challenge.



Madeleine Browse

The national competition, which asks budding scientists to complete a range of difficult physics and mathematics questions in order to gain one of 70 places at the five-day summer programme, is designed for A5 students hoping to study physics at university.

Taking place in July, Madeleine will participate in lectures, practical lab classes and intensive tuition classes looking at developing problem-solving and experimental skills. She will also stay at one of the university's impressive colleges and attend talks about the admissions process.

Madeleine said: "The summer school will give me a great insight into what it will be like to study physics at university, and will hopefully also help me with my future career. I'm really pleased to be a part of it."

After completing her A Levels in physics, chemistry, maths and further maths, Madeleine hopes to study either physics or computer science at university.

Michael Smith, head of physics at Solihull School, said: "Maddie has worked incredibly hard throughout the year, and being given a place at the Cambridge summer school is a fitting reward for her enthusiasm."

"Solihull School has seen many students go on to read physics and related subjects at Oxford or Cambridge and we hope that Madeleine will follow in their footsteps."

observer.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday June 11, 2015

## Les Misérables triumphs at School

PUPILS at Solihull School performed to their largest audience to date at five sell-out enactments of Boublil and Schönberg's most popular musical Les Misérables.

Taking on the Tony Award-winning stage show in the school's impressive Bushell Hall, the cast of over 100 pupils performed to more than 2,500 people over the five evenings, bringing the spirit of the West End to Solihull.

Stars of the West End show, including Adam Linstead who recently held a theatre masterclass at the school, also tweeted a video-message of good luck to the Solihull students ahead of opening night.



Lisa Fair, assistant head at Solihull School, said: "The production proved to be a huge success."

"This is the first time in memory that every seat in the Bushell Hall has been occupied during every performance and the tal-

ented students involved ensured that the quality of the show was parallel to what would be expected in the West End itself.

"Everyone involved should be proud and having the cast of Les Misérables at Queen's Theatre send a message from their stage to ours was of course an added bonus."

For more information about upcoming performances and events at Solihull School visit: [www.solihull.org.uk/calendar](http://www.solihull.org.uk/calendar) or call 0121 705 0958.

**The cast of Solihull School's Les Misérables perform in Bushell Hall.**

## Solihull Observer June 2015

12 JUNE 12, 2015

# Caring Georgia, 12 is hosting a 'mad' West End show!

ANDY RICHARDS  
[andyrichards@bristolmail.com](mailto:andyrichards@bristolmail.com)

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Georgia Jones and Tim Heid show their support for The Brain Tumour Charity

## Solihull News June 2015

BIRMINGHAM MAIL TUESDAY JUNE 16, 2015

## Car Share writer Tim gets creative at his old school

Emma McKinney  
Education Correspondent  
[emma.mckinney@birminghammail.com](mailto:emma.mckinney@birminghammail.com)

THE creator of hit Peter Kay TV show Car Share has returned to his Midlands school in a bid to inspire the next generation of screenwriters.



Tim with Year 11 students at Solihull School, where he was once a pupil

ing was to present the pupils with a person or brand, and an object - then ask them to think of a concept for a television programme based on those items."

"It was wonderful to be back at Solihull School," he said. "The students were extremely engaged and had some great ideas."

"It was fantastic to see them embracing creative thinking. One way we encouraged creative think-

and we're very grateful to Tim for taking time out of his schedule to deliver this workshop," he added. "He really emphasised the value of thinking creatively in our everyday lives."

"It's important to stimulate our imaginations in order to unlock our full potential and his talk will have inspired the pupils on many levels in the lead up to their GCSEs."

During his visit, Mr Reid revealed he initially

approached Car Share star Kay for feedback on his script. The comedian and actor enjoyed it so much that he asked to get involved.

It comes as Kay confessed it took six years and 176 lessons to pass his driving test - failing it four times. He decided to own up to his inexperience behind the wheel following the runaway success of Car Share, which was watched by six million people. In

the show Kay, 41, played supermarket manager John Redmond who drove to work sharing his company motor with rep Kayleigh Ebbs, played by Stan Gibson.

Kay said: "I can drive but it took me five times to pass. I was not very good at driving. It would not click. It took me six years, 176 lessons. I started when I was 16 in 1990 and passed in 1996. Best thing I ever did - but you have to persevere."

"I've no sense of space. I am always bashing my car or hitting things if you go into bays or things."

"I just don't think I was ready when I was younger. I got they brought out the theory test. That was hard."

"People were like 'Why don't you just give up?' People ran out of references when I kept failing my test."

Kay's comments came as BBC insiders say Car Share is set to get a second series, and possibly a Christmas special.

## Birmingham Mail June 2015





www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday July 16, 2015

## Summer exhibition puts work on display

PUPILS at Solihull School have been showcasing their current GCSE and A Level artwork at a summer exhibition, officially opened by renowned sculptor Matthew Sanderson.

The independent school's hallways were transformed into an art gallery for the evening as the Mayor of Solihull, Glenis Slater, joined families and friends to view the artwork and photography while enjoying wine, canapés and live music performed by members of the school orchestra.

The annual event was also attended by 14 local junior schools who had submitted designs for the 'art postcard competition' – 800 of which were displayed as part of the exhibition.

Donna Trim, head of art at Solihull School, said: "We have some exceptionally talented students at our school and the annual exhibition provides a

fantastic outlet for them to share their work with friends and family.

"This year was the biggest yet as we combined the occasion with our art competition winners' ceremony and also displayed work from Matthew Sanderson who brought along a selection of his smaller pieces."

Mr Sanderson has been commissioned to create two new sculptures for the school; one to stand outside the chapel building and another to commemorate the old gymnasium which has been replaced with a purpose-built sixth form centre, the Cooper Building.

A selection of the work, which also included projects from the design and technology department and a live demonstration from the digital drawing club pupils, will be displayed at The Mailbox in Birmingham over the summer.



Guests enjoy the artwork.

## The Birmingham Press

News, views and comment



### Students graduate from schools programme

Year three pupils get Latin lessons.

4 days ago in Education.

Sixty-three pupils from Coleshill Heath Primary School have 'graduated' from a Latin programme designed to improve literacy across the curriculum.

The Year 3 girls and boys spent a year learning the language before attending a Latin Graduation Day at nearby Solihull School.

Solihull School, which offers Latin to pupils aged 11 plus, hosted a language masterclass, an introduction to Ancient Greek, a lesson on Greek mythology and cooking session where Coleshill Heath pupils had the chance to make Roman biscuits.

Deb Wallis, Year 3 Teacher at Coleshill Heath Primary School, said: "We're grateful to Solihull School for hosting such a fantastic day. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard over the past year so it was great to be able to reward them while teaching them more about what Classics has to offer."

The pupils were then invited to take part in a graduation ceremony, and presented certificates by David Lloyd, headmaster at Solihull School, and Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos, lecturer in classics at the University of Birmingham.

Joanna Johnson, head of classics at Solihull School, added: "I was extremely impressed with what the children had learned during their year of studying Latin and was only too happy to welcome them to our school, and to host their graduation ceremony which was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved."

Solihull Observer July 2015

The Observer, Thursday July 30, 2015

www.solihullobserver.co.uk



Smiles all round for Benedict Barker, Fraser Blackhurst and Jacques Barker as they embark on their bike ride. (s)



The Solihull School trio raised £4,000 for charity when they cycled across Wales. (s)

## Cycle trio take on countryside

by Sarah Jenkins  
sarah.jenkins@birminghammedia.com

PEDAL power was in force when three cycle-mad teenagers took on the Welsh countryside in a bid to raise funds for charity.

Fraser Blackhurst alongside triplets Jacques and Benedict Barker cycled 95km from the Welsh border to Aberdovey and raised a whopping £4,000 for two charities close to their hearts - the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust Charity.

Fraser was inspired to raise money for JDRF after his five-year-old cousin was diagnosed

with Type 1 diabetes earlier this year.

He said: "Tilly was only five when she was diagnosed and has been really brave."

"My grandfather has also lived with Type 1 diabetes for 40 years and my uncle has the same condition."

### Excellent reasons

"This gives me three excellent reasons to support JDRF, which I know puts an exceptional amount of money into research and support for children with diabetes and their families."

Jacques and Benedict wanted to raise funds for the Heart of England NHS Foundation

Trust Charity as they wanted to give something back after the care they were given when they were born.

Jacques added: "When we were born prematurely we, along with our sister Giselle, were given incredible care by the staff at the neonatal unit."

"It costs about £1,000 per day to run a neonatal cot in the unit so we would love to give something back."

The Solihull School pupils complete the ride in one day and celebrated with a dip in the sea when they finally reached their destination.

For more or to donate  
www.justgiving.com/Fraser-Blackhurst or www.justgiving.com/Barker-brothers

For all the latest news log onto  
**www.solihullobserver.co.uk**

Solihull Observer July 2015

## Edge Magazine

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## Michael Buerk to open new sixth form centre

BBC anchorman Michael Buerk will be revisiting his old school later this autumn when he opens the new £4.5 million sixth form centre at Solihull School.



Michael Buerk with members of Solihull School's debating society.

Mr Buerk, who is president of the school's debating society, will unveil the plaque on November 12.

The four-floor building will include teaching rooms and private study areas incorporating the latest multimedia technology. The top floor will provide open-plan space for teaching, examinations and social events, along with an external terrace garden with panoramic views. The centre will be called the Cooper Building in memory of the Headmaster who led the school during the First World War and in recognition of the centenary commemoration of the conflict.

Headmaster David Lloyd said: "If we are to remain a centre of excellence in the region, we must ensure that our facilities are able to support our talent of today and tomorrow. Our new centre will reinforce our standing as one of the Midlands' leading independent schools."

"We are creating a centre which will drive us into the future; a building that will successfully combine teaching space with private study and IT facilities, as well as social areas, dining facilities and exhibition space."

"One of Solihull School's greatest successes is its sixth form. Demand for places has never been higher and A Level results are outstanding. The demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century global society on our young people have never been greater than today. Students need to develop the skills of independent thinking and learning during their brief time in the Sixth Form, to enable them to transition from school to university life, and then beyond into their career."

The school was founded in 1560 and has occupied its current site since 1882. Developments carried out over recent years include the David Turnbull Music School, the George Hill Building with its new classrooms and the Alan Lee Pavilion.

The new centre, which was designed by Birmingham-based architect Malcolm Payne Group Ltd and is being built by Kingswinford-based contractor Speller Metcalfe, will stand on the site of the 'Old Gymnasium', which was destroyed by fire in 2011.

The school's next open day will be on Saturday September 26.

Edge Magazine  
July 2015





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Daily Mail Online  
August 2015

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Pupils pose for a group photo on the grass outside Solihull School, West Midlands, as they celebrate their results

The Observer, Thursday August 20, 2015

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

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## A Level Results



Headmaster David Lloyd celebrates with A level students. Picture by Dave Warren.

SOLIHULL School is celebrating outstanding success after breaking previous records.

The 455-year-old school recorded its best ever A Level results, with 88 per cent of pupils achieving all A\*-B grades and 35 pupils gaining 3 A\*/A grades or better.

Headmaster David Lloyd said: "We have broken previous records by some margin. These are wonderful results, not only for the sixth formers but also for the staff and

the school as a whole.

"The students have really applied themselves and thoroughly deserve their high grades. Competition for places at top universities is expected to be particularly fierce this year, with record numbers applying to Oxford and Cambridge and other leading institutions, so it is very pleasing that all of our Oxbridge candidates have met or surpassed their required grades."



Poppy Eales and Joe Price celebrate their results. Picture by Dave Warren

Solihull Observer August 2015

Solihull Observer August 2015

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Home News Solihull School celebrates best-ever A-Level results

## Solihull School celebrates best-ever A-Level results



Cheer.

Written by  
Chris WillmottPublished  
11:41 am, Aug 13, 2015

UPDATED: 11:42 am, Aug 13, 2015

0 shares

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To find out more about Solihull School, or to reserve a place at the next open day on Saturday September 26, please visit [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk) or call 0121 705 0958.

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## Boys start closing in: The gender gap in GCSE results has narrowed slightly this year as the number of passes has risen overall

- Almost seven in 10 entries were awarded A\*-C grades but there was a 6.8 per cent fall in number of A\* GCSEs
- Gender gap has narrowed this summer, but girls continue to perform better than boys
- Computing saw the biggest jump in the number of entrants but maths remains the most popular subject to take

By STEPHANIE LIVING FOR MAILONLINE AND ELEANOR HARDING, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL

PUBLISHED: 09:41, 20 August 2015 | UPDATED: 10:22, 20 August 2015

Share 5

38

Boys are catching up in the GCSE battle of the sexes, but girls continue to perform better in the exams.

Results being posted in schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland today show a gender gap of 6.4 percent, down from 8.6 per cent last year. More than 73 per cent of girls' entries were awarded grades A\* to C compared with 64.7 per cent of boys'.

Overall GCSE pass rates continued their rise, with almost 70 per cent passed at grades A\* to C compared to 68.8 per cent in 2014. But the number of candidates receiving the top marks dropped, with a 6.6 per cent fall in the number of A's being recorded.



Daily Mail Online August 2015





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## Solihull School Sixth Form centre to be opened by ex-pupil newsreader Michael Buerk

06:30, 21 AUGUST 2015 BY ANNETTE BELCHER

BBC anchorman Michael Buerk goes back to the classroom to open new £4.5 million sixth form centre

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Michael Buerk with Solihull School pupils.

BBC anchorman Michael Buerk will officially open the new £4.5 million sixth form centre at his old school in [Solihull](#).

The centre at Solihull School will be named the Cooper Building after the headmaster who led the school during the [First World War](#).

Mr Buerk, who is [president of the school's debating society](#), will officially unveil the plaque at the official opening on November 12.

The four-floor building will include teaching rooms and private study areas incorporating the latest multimedia technology.

Birmingham Mail August 2015

Solihull Observer August 2015

The top floor will provide open-plan space for teaching, examinations and social events, along with an external terrace garden with panoramic views.

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"Our new centre will reinforce our standing as one of the Midlands' leading independent schools.

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"One of Solihull School's greatest successes is its sixth form.

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Solihull School, Warwick Road, Solihull

The independent school was founded in 1560 and has occupied its current site since 1882.

Developments carried out by George Hill Building with

The new centre, which will be Group Ltd and is being built on the site of the old gym

While a pupil at the school represented the school in

He began his career in journalism as a reporter for BBC News

The Observer, Thursday August 6, 2015



## Legend pays a call

CRICKETING legend Sir Garfield Sobers was quizzed by budding sporting heroes at Solihull School. The former West Indies star then joined staff and pupils at the Warwick Road school for a special sportsmen's dinner. Sobers became the first batsman ever to hit six sixes in a single over of six consecutive balls in first-class cricket when captaining Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan. Solihull teacher and cricket coach, Paul Jackson, said: "Sir Gary was absolutely tremendous and the pupils and staff said it was a privilege to have met him and to hear his stories about cricket at the highest level."

theguardian

## GCSE results day 2015: pass rates rise as UK students find out grades - live

As nearly 700,000 students open their results letters, we bring you all the latest on the joy and desperation across the country, and what it all means

1h ago 12:25 Two sets of twins at the private Solihull School are celebrating a phenomenal 35 A\* grades between them in their GCSE results.

Lily and Kashee Mistry, and Isabel and Eleanor Gaffney, made a healthy contribution towards the West Midlands school's overall 73% A\* to A grade pass rate. Well done girls!



Lily and Kashee Mistry, of Solihull School, who earned a combined 19 A\*s Photograph: Solihull School

Forty-four pupils at the 455-year-old independent co-educational school for 7 to 18 year olds achieved 10 or more A\* to A grades.

Success comes at a price, however. It will cost you £3,848 a term if you want to send your child to Solihull School this September.



Solihull School students celebrating their GCSE results this morning. Nearly three-quarters got As or higher Photograph: Solihull School

The Observer, Thursday August 6, 2015



Solihull School Masterchef winner Benedict Harding with judges Richard Marshall and Lewis Walker. (s)

Solihull Observer August 2015

ASPIRING chef Benedict Harding proved he could rise to the occasion when he came out on top in a Masterchef-style competition.

The 14-year-old Solihull School pupil beat off stiff competition from his fellow pupils before reaching the final where he created a three-course menu.

Benedict impressed guest judges Richard Marshall, head chef at Lea Marston Hotel, and Lewis Walker, culinary arts lecturer at University College Birmingham with his starter of salmon and paneer fish cakes with mango salsa, a main of Indian spiced cod and spiced potato wedges with chick pea puree, and a dessert of cardamom and rose-water kheer with a pistachio crumb topping.

Helen Hallworth, teacher of food technology at Solihull School, said: "Benedict's dishes were judged to have an excellent combination of flavours. He demonstrated a wide range of skills during the competition and all plates were presented beautifully."

Fellow finalists Adam Beaumont, 14, and Ella Furber, 12, were also highly commended for their date and banana crumble and Indian cottage pie.

Last year, former Solihull School pupil Jack Lucas was awarded second place in the popular BBC series Masterchef, losing out to Ping Coombs.

The Guardian Online August 2015







## MEDIA CUTTINGS

2014 - 2015

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