



SOLIHULL



MEDIA CUTTINGS

2016-2017

Young sporting stars from Solihull School have been making a name for themselves in national competitions.



Hundreds of cataracts treated after fund-raising efforts

The head of Solihull Junior School has visited Sri Lanka to see first-hand the results of their fundraising efforts which took place earlier in the year.

Raising more than £8,500 for Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR) during the junior school's activity week in the last academic year, the charity used the funds to perform a total of 400 cataract operations across a number of clinics – the latest of which were at a specially created eye clinic 'surgery camp' in Mulaithivu.

Dr Velautham Sarveswaran, chairman at Assist RR, arranged for 100 surgeries to take place at the camp, with several of the operations taking place in conjunction with Vision 2020 and Mullaithivu General Hospital. Many of the surgeries were witnessed by head of the junior school, Mark Penney. He said: "Our junior school students worked incredibly hard to raise funds for this much-needed

Pictured: Mark Penney visits Sri Lanka to see cataract operations in progress.

project and it's a privilege to be able to witness one of these operations first-hand, and to talk with patients about the benefits of having their sight restored. Most of them were just desperate to get back to work so they could earn some money to support themselves and their families.

"As part of our time in Sri Lanka, my family and I were also lucky enough to be able to visit Veenavil Primary School at Puthakudyiruppu, and Mullivaikal West Junior High School, which we helped to rebuild back in 2013. It was fantastic to be able to meet the children there and see the classrooms our school funded being put to good use."

Dr Sarveswaran added: "I would like to express my gratitude to Solihull Junior School for its donations, and thank Dr Dias Jeyasiri who selflessly conducted the surgeries and ensured that the camp was a successful one."

Solihull School provides training for Warwick's head pupils

Newly appointed head pupils from independent schools across Warwickshire/West Midlands recently attended a leadership training day

Posted by Stephanie Broad | October 09, 2016 | Events

#SOLIHULL-SCHOOL #TRAINING #LEADERSHIP #BABLAKE-SCHOOL #KING-EDWARDS-SCHOOL #KING-HENRY-VIII-SCHOOL
#LOUGHBOROUGH-GRAMMAR-SCHOOL #NOTTINGHAM-HIGH-SCHOOL #WARWICK-SCHOOL



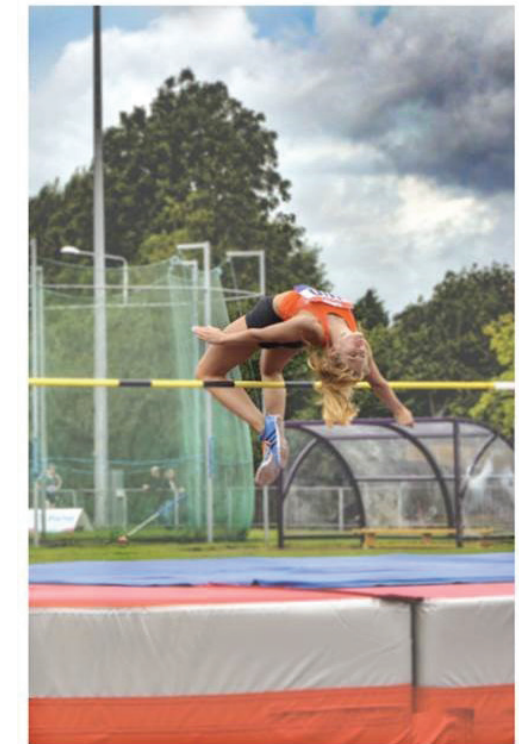
Designed to equip them with the skills needed to succeed in their new roles, pupils from the co-educational day school on Warwick Road were joined by heads and deputy heads from Bablake School, King Edwards School Birmingham, King Henry VIII School Coventry, Loughborough Grammar School, Nottingham High School and Warwick School for a series of lectures and workshops all designed to prepare them for their year as leaders of the student body.

Held at the school's newly-opened sixth form centre, The Cooper Building, the event focused on topics such as leadership theory and practice, etiquette, conflict management and assertiveness. The newcomers were also provided with a 'first-hand' insight from Solihull's former heads of school Leticia Salmon and Ben Northam – who served in the role during the last academic year.

Solihull's newly appointed Head of School, Lydia Roll, said: "The leadership training day was extremely useful. We learned a lot about teamwork, problem solving and delegation, and it was great to mix with heads from other schools and see how our management styles differed."

Solihull Headmaster David Lloyd, who also spoke at the event, added: "We have run this event for the past six years and it always proves to be very successful. The students appointed as heads and deputy heads of school are already immensely accomplished and competent, but this series of lectures and workshops focuses on how they can become better leaders and make the most of the year ahead of them."

Other speakers included Head of Junior School Mark Penney, Chair of Governors Mark Hopton, ex-Bursar Christopher Warren, and Head of Sixth Form Tom Emmet.



Leading the way is high jumper Phoebe Harland (15), who has already had a year to remember. Phoebe finished fourth in the English Schools competition before going on to claim a bronze medal in the UK School Games. She then won the Midland Counties high jump competition in the under-17 category.

The youngster has also broken Solihull School records in the high jump, long jump and triple jump, including 10.74m in the triple jump and a long jump effort of 5.41m. Incredibly, Phoebe's high jump best of 1.73m is just 35cm short of GB heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson's British record leap of 1.98m, recorded earlier this year at the Rio Olympics.

Meanwhile, swimmer Charlotte Rigg (14) has made a splash after claiming a silver medal in the 200m breaststroke event at the British Summer Championships at Ponds Forge, in Sheffield, and as a result is now ranked second in Great Britain at under-14 age.

Elsewhere, William Sunderland has been selected to join the national Tera Sailing Squad for 2016/17 after some stellar performances in selection events. The 12-year old rams 21st nationally and will train in five different locations around the UK during the winter.

Danielle Wilcox, Head of PE & Games at Solihull School, attributed the trio's impressive performances to their hard work. She said: "All three are extremely dedicated and have reaped the rewards from their efforts this year. High national rankings, selection to GB squads and school records are all hugely impressive and we are very proud of the achievements of Phoebe, William and Charlotte."

For more information on sports scholarships at Solihull School, call 0121 705 0958 or e-mail admin@solsch.org.uk



Help from Solihull pupils to rebuild war-hit school is copper-bottomed

BIG-HEARTED Solihull Junior School pupils have raised more than £8,000 to rebuild a section of a war-stricken school in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. With the help of charity, Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR), the children, aged seven to 11, carried out a week of fundraising activities including a non-uniform day, a movie afternoon, a copper haul and a tuck shop takeover.

The donation is the latest in a succession for Solihull School and will help fund the construction of a block of four new classrooms in the Roman Catholic Tamil mixed-gender school in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu District. Dr Velautham Sarveswaran, chairman of Assist RR, said: "I am

incredibly grateful to the Solihull School community for their contribution to this restoration project. We share the school's belief in the transformative power of education and are confident that the new classrooms will provide the ideal learning environment." For more information about Solihull School call 0121 705 0958 or visit www.solishull.org.uk

Solihull News
November 2016

Solihull Junior School raise £10,000 to help rebuild school in Sri Lanka



Lauren Clarke
23 hours ago

A SOLIHULL school has raised more than £10,000 to help rebuild a war-torn school in Sri Lanka.

Pupils at Solihull Junior School carried out a week of fundraising activities to raise vital funds to help rebuild classrooms in the Roman Catholic Tamil mixed-gender school in Puthukkudiyiruppu, in the northern Mullaitivu District of the country.

The children, aged seven to 11, held a book and accessory sale, a non-uniform day, a movie afternoon, a copper haul, a tuck shop takeover and a staff versus prefects football match to raise £8,000.

Added to two generous £1,000 donations from one current and one former school families, the money will enable independent charity Assist Resettlement and Renaissance (Assist RR), a UK registered non-government organisation to build four new classrooms at the school.

Solihull Junior School has previously supported Assist RR with several other projects - including the rebuilding of other school wings in the district in Puthukkudiyiruppu and Mullaitivu West, and the funding of more than 400 canteen operations over the past 12 months across Sri Lanka.

And it was during his visit to see these canteen operations taking place that headmaster Mark Penney, visited the Roman Catholic Tamil school and realised it needed help.

Mr Penney, said: "The majority of the school's buildings were decimated during the war, and whilst good progress has been made through Assist RR's work with other donors, pupils still have no choice but to make regular use of an outdoor shelter which is structurally unsound, ill-equipped for learning and offers little protection against the elements.

"Thankfully, we also have the support of Sri Lankan volunteer engineers, who have agreed to complete the job at cost price."

In addition to the sizeable donation, pupils have also donated 167 pairs of football boots, Solihull uniform coats, baby shoes, has supplied 60 new pairs of shoes and socks, and a Junior School family donated boxes of spectacle frames and optical equipment for the children currently studying in Puthukkudiyiruppu.

Dr Velautham Sarveswaran, chairman of Assist RR, said: "I am incredibly grateful to the Solihull School community for their enormous contribution to this restoration project.

"We share the school's passionate belief in the transformative power of education, and are confident that the new classrooms will provide the ideal learning environment."

Visit www.solishull.org.uk or call 0121 705 0958 for more information about Solihull Junior School.

Solihull Observer
November 2016

Jack is definitely up for the challenge



Outdoors-loving Jack Williams will not let his cancer diagnosis stop him. s

AN INSPIRATIONAL Solihull School pupil Jack Williams, 11, is the first in the school's history to raise vital funds for the charity, which funds the school's outdoor activities. Jack Williams, who works at Osterwald Outdoors in Solihull, has secured his spot as one of two people from the UK on the 30-day Palliser Polar trek through the Arctic wilderness to raise money for Worldwide Cancer Research.

After losing both his grandfathers to cancer and beloved father to breast cancer, former

But rather than let this stop him, Jack was spurred on to secure his place on the expedition. He said: "I've always been a positive person so I'm using my cancer to fuel my ambition. It's a bit of a waking game until I receive the results from my latest tests but I'm hopeful I'm going to be fighting fit by April and ready to take on this challenge. "I am lucky my cancer was caught so early, but even if it has moved then it is Stage One and I'm still in a curable condition. "If I'd got testicular cancer 40 years ago a world none had a time then the per cent chance of survival, but now it's more the 96 per cent - highlighting how important the world research charities is to change the outcome of the disease."

To qualify for the expedition, Jack completed a gruelling 100-mile trek on the UK table and secured his place on the trek. He will now join 25 other people from across the world - from Slovakia to South Korea - travelling from Norway to Sweden on dog sleds in temperatures as cold as minus 30 degrees.

But for Jack the challenge is just one to add to a long list of expeditions - including the Himalayas and Sahara Desert.

He said: "I've always been a bit of an adventurer. "While I was at Solihull School, I regularly took part in the various climbing and sailing expeditions, and was even a cadet."

"A few years ago I also arranged and completed the three peaks challenge - raising more than \$10,000 for various cancer charities."

Jack lost out his closest UK rival by more than 2,000 votes after months of campaigning for his place on the trek online via social media.

"The response online has really taken me by surprise - people telling me their cancer worries and saying how inspirational I have been to encouraging them to get out there and see the true sense of them have left," Jack explained.

"It's been heavy at times and it's strange to think of me as inspiring, but I'm going to use it."

"I suppose I want to encourage people to do what they love - experiencing that rush and feeling of being alive when someone told you you have a disease that will kill you."

Visit www.jackwilliams.com/fundraising/jackwilliams to donate to Jack's trek and to see more of his fundraising efforts.

Jack Williams, who works at Osterwald Outdoors in Solihull, has secured his spot as one of two people from the UK on the 30-day Palliser Polar trek through the Arctic wilderness to raise money for Worldwide Cancer Research.

Solihull Observer
December 2016

Cancer sufferer sets his sights on Arctic fundraising trek on dog sledge

HOME or asleigh, brave Villafra Jack Williams aims to be a charity winner by travelling 300km across the Arctic on a dog sledge.

Jack, from Galeshill, is diagnosed with testicular cancer in October and is hoping to raise funds for Worldwide Cancer Research through his latest daring expedition, having already trekked across the Sahara desert and Himalayas.

He is currently leading a vote to become a member of the Palliser Polar team, who will descend on one of the Earth's coldest spots at the beginning of April.

Jack, aged 28, said: "I was diagnosed with testicular cancer about six or seven weeks ago now, since then I have had an operation and had it removed. The four centimetre tumour has gone."

"It's been diagnosed at stage one cancer so it's about 95 per cent curable, which is pretty good news. It might have spread

into my stomach, but they're not too sure. It's showing very, very slight signs that it may have. I'm under moderate surveillance and having blood tests every couple of months."

Prior to contracting the illness, he supported his uncle during his own personal battle with the disease.

Before that, Jack's father and two grandfathers lost their lives to bowel cancer.

Jack has already reached down on some of the planet's most spectacular settings, but it's the chilling temperatures of the Arctic that appeal more than the searing heat of the desert.

He added: "The cold regions appeal. There is something particularly challenging, they're stunning and not often visited."

Help Jack reach the Arctic by voting for him at <http://palliserpolar.com/team/76-43>

Sixsmith: Rio run has led to surge in interest

HOCKEY By TOM PARNY Sports Reporter

SUTTON Coldfield hockey legend Jane Sixsmith says Great Britain Olympic heroes in the sport have paved the way for the town's top club to set up a waiting list as they are flooded with kids wanting to take up the game.

Sixsmith - who helped GB to Olympic bronze herself back in 1980 - says the interest in the sport has been overwhelming since another Sutton native, Laura Unsworth, helped the women's side win gold in Rio in the summer.

Unsworth, 21, is still playing for the club's ladies' First XI in the National Conference North, but says it has been a surge in interest from budding players at the other end of the age spectrum that has been a revelation.

"The Olympics success in Rio has been inspiring," she said. "People can now read off some of the players' names and in years gone by they would have struggled to do so."

"Now we have hockey players on Saturday and in the A. Celebrity, which is amazing. From a club point of view, Sutton Coldfield have had to set up a waiting list for the first time. We are up to about 500 players now from the age of five to 14. We have under-16s and under-18s, 10 men's sides and 15 ladies' teams."

"This is undoubtedly the strongest period the sport has had. We're seeing more major competitions and, in terms of young players, it really is inspiring."

After from the competitive arena, Sixsmith has recently taken up a new job as full-time coach at Solihull School, trying to inspire the next generation of stars.

Sixsmith, who earned 100 caps for England and 126 for Great Britain, said: "I'm really enjoying it."

"On Monday and Friday, they need to be in for them to do 45 minutes of core stability and stretching, then on a Friday they do different themed things."

Sixsmith was not the only one from her family to start a new chapter at Solihull. In September, with eldest daughter Ellie, 11, being away on a hockey scholarship from

the start of the academic year, youngest daughter Mia, eight, is already playing for Sutton Coldfield under-16s and eyeing up following in her sister's footsteps at Solihull too.

Sixsmith added: "Ellie-Mae was blown away by it when we visited and wanted to come here straightaway. She absolutely loves it and we felt the all-round opportunities were fantastic."

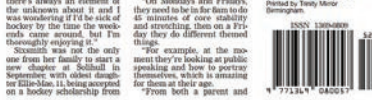
"We have five hockey scholarships. I look after two of them but not Ellie-Mae."

"On Monday and Friday, they need to be in for them to do 45 minutes of core stability and stretching, then on a Friday they do different themed things."

For example, at the moment they're looking at public speaking and how to portray themselves, which is amazing for them at their age."

"For more information about sports scholarships at Solihull School, call 0121 705 0958 or email admin@solishull.org.uk.

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Birmingham Post
December 2016



Jack Williams has seen his family, and himself, be touched by cancer and wants to trek to the Arctic to raise money for research

Sutton Coldfield Observer
December 2016



Top tennis coaching set to be served up for talented youngster Cameron

CATHRINA HULSE
cathrina.hulse@trinitymirror.com

A TALENTED young tennis player is on his way to the top after he was selected for national coaching by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

Solihull School pupil Cameron Holland will join the Under-13 national squad and is one of 16 chil-

dren from across the Midlands to be selected.

The 11-year-old has played tennis from the age of just five, and the youngster, who plays for Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club and Solihull School, has attended regional training camps in Loughborough every Friday evening for the past two years, beginning in the under-nines group and progressing to under-11.

Cameron said: "I'm really pleased to have been one of the players chosen by the LTA."

"I love playing tennis and I'm looking forward to improving with coaching from the national development team."

For more information about Solihull School, visit the website at www.solsch.org.uk or call 0121 705 0958.



Solihull News
January 2017

Cameron Holland has been chosen by the LTA for coaching from the national development team

Children amazed as David Walliams drops in to visit school

Comedian and Britain's Got Talent judge in unexpected trip to Solihull Junior School

BY JASBIR ALTHI
14:51, 3 FEB 2017

NEWS



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These pupils got the shock of their lives after TV star David Walliams pressed his nose up against their classroom window.

The Year Nine pupils were studying maths when the Britain's Got Talent judge paid an unexpected visit to Solihull Junior School.

The comedian and writer was invited by the school which is participating in the Big Read - a Birmingham project to encourage literacy through art.

The students erupted with excitement when he took up the offer and treated them to a dramatic reading from some of his books before holding a question and answer session.

READ MORE

► Britain's Got Talent judges Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon dare to bare on red carpet in Birmingham

The school's website said: "Our junior school was lucky enough to meet comedian, actor and children's book author David Walliams this week after naming him as their favourite author."

"As part of Solihull School's involvement in the Big Read, a Birmingham initiative encouraging literacy through art, the Junior School created a homage to David Walliams' books with their BookBench titled Our World of David Walliams."

"Every member of the junior school took part in painting the bench before it was displayed in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery over the summer."



"To show David their passion for his books, each child in the Junior School wrote the star a letter inviting him to the school and as luck would have it, he said yes!"

"The children were treated to dramatic readings from Windy Mindy and Gangsta Granny, and pupils were invited to ask David questions about his writing inspiration and his favourite children's books."

Birmingham Mail
February 2017



Share

Parents learn about mental health first aid

The seminar is one of a series taking place at Solihull School

Parents have been given an insight into the pertinent subject of mental health first aid as part of a series of innovative seminars being held by [Solihull School](#).

The seminars, which take place across the school's 50-acre site, are aimed at giving parents information and advice to offer support to their children surrounding issues which affect both school and everyday life.

The first seminar of the year focussed on mental health first aid and was led by Louise Rooney, head of training at Warwick charity [Safeline](#).

The workshop featured issues such as the meaning of 'mental health', theories of mental wellbeing, the balance between 'good' and 'bad' stress and spotting the signs of worrying mental health issues. More than 100 parents attended the event.

David Lloyd, Solihull School headmaster, said: "The importance of improving the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of young people has been a strong theme of successive government policies."

We are hoping this session will equip parents with the tools they need to help their children - David Lloyd, Solihull School headmaster

"We were delighted Louise could lead our mental health seminar to help our parents better understand the complex nature of mental health. We are hoping this session will equip parents with the tools they need to help their children."

With Prime Minister Theresa May recently unveiling new measures to tackle mental health issues in children, the seminar at Solihull School builds upon its already extensive work in this area.

The school has 48 members of staff taking part in a mental health first aid course, which covers how to identify and help a young person affected by a mental health issue, while it has also appointed a full-time head of wellbeing.

There are a number of other parent seminars being hosted by the school over the coming months, including E-Safety on February 2, Study Skills on March 3, Self-Esteem and Resilience on April 26 and an Introduction to Growth Mindset and Wellbeing on 16th May.

Ed Quarter February 2017



The Observer, Thursday March 9, 2017

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

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World Book Day



Solihull School pupils dressed as David Walliams on World Book Day. (s)



Characters from across a whole host of books made their way to the Warwick Road School. (s)

Solihull Observer
March 2017

A day certain to develop character

INSPIRED by a recent visit from best-selling children's author David Walliams, Solihull School pupils brought their favourite literary characters to life as part of World Book Day.

At Solihull School, pupils donned colourful outfits, wigs and costumes to dress up as a whole host of characters from David Walliams' children's books, while David Walliams' BFG was also spotted in the school's corridors.

World Book Day coincided with the 30th anniversary of children's favourite author David Walliams. During morning and lunch breaks, pupils took part in a 'Where's Wally' hunt around the school's Warwick Road campus.

Pupils also took their favourite childhood books to school to read sections to their classes.

David Walliams visited Solihull School last month after junior school pupils wrote to him with pictures of benches they had decorated on the theme of The World of David Walliams as part of The Big Read BookBench trial, an arts project for schools and community groups.

The celebrity thrilled youngsters with a reading from one of his stories, as well as speaking at an assembly.

He has also released a special World Book Day book called Bilo.

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The BFG was seen eating snazzy. (s)

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www.solihullobserver.co.uk

Education Today
March 2017

No debating Solihull School's competition pedigree

Pupils at Solihull School have been making their mark after coming out on top in a series of debating competitions.

Proving debating clubs for all sections of the school, from junior school through to sixth form, Solihull played host to four national competitions in two weeks.

The leading independent school won the central England round of the ICYD under-16 Oxbridge competition, while also emerging victorious in the ESU Mace contest to ensure progress to the regional final.

The school also hosted Oxford and Cambridge competitions, with 130 students attending each event. Two of the host teams then made it through to the final of each prestigious contest.

Eve Colyer (17) and Joe Glynn (18) and Oliver Rooney (15) and Tom Williams (16) represented the school at the Cambridge finals, while the same teams will go on to speak at the Oxford finals later this month.

With more than 100 students actively part of debating at Solihull, school teams participate in more than 20 fixtures each academic year.

www.solish.org.uk



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www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday March 23, 2017

Mountain trek is in memory of Alex

A GROUP of former Solihull School students are set to scale Mount Snowden in memory of a former classmate.

Alex Diaz-Jones was just 24 when he died suddenly in his sleep while on a dream, six-month, tour of South America in 2015.

Now, a diverse group of friends are recreating a trip they all made to Snowden's white students at Solihull - even making use of the school's David Packer mountain centre for as they did over 10 years ago.

The friends of the bug-eyed, young man are aiming to raise at least £2,000 for Macmillan, a charity which provides help to the homeless and with whom Alex did volunteering work before his tragic death, when they take on the expedition over the weekend of April 28 to 30.

Alex, sometimes known as Fernando, was born in Zaragoza, Spain, and moved to Solihull with his family in 1996.

Friends paid to join following his tragic passing described him as an adventurous, well-loved, full of fun and who loved life.

They continued: "He made us all smile."

"He had great plans to complete his Masters in International Development at Birmingham Uni and then work for a charity organisation."

"He was a loving son and brother who wore his heart on his sleeve."

"The unconditional life with real passion and always achieved the extraordinary and courageous."

"He was his own man, with his own vision, political views and wasn't afraid to speak out."

A spokesperson for the group taking on the expedition said the former classmates wanted to do something which would enable them to all get together at one time and place.

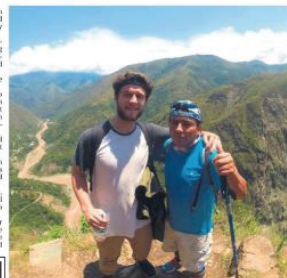
They continued: "We remembered the Snowden trip we went on at school and thought it would be appropriate to do that again."

"Solihull School have been hugely supportive and agreed we could use their cottage, which has been a great help."

"All the money raised will go to the charity, Macmillan, which Alex supported before his death."

"Alex was also planning to try to make a positive impact with fundraising for the charity when he returned from America, so it was natural for us to think of them."

David ELL Lloyd, headmaster of Solihull School, added: "When we were told by our former students about recreating their Snowden trip in memory of Alex, we thought it was a wonderful idea."



Former Solihull School student Alex Diaz-Jones pictured during his travels and shortly before he died suddenly in his sleep.



We were, of course, more than happy to let the group make use of our cottage at Snowden and we wish them all the best for the climb."

To donate to the group's fund-raising mission, search "Climbing Snowden for Alex" at www.jungling.com. For more information about Solihull School, visit www.solish.org.uk.

The rise of unconditional offers - a double-edged sword

Independent Schools Magazine
March 2017

Solihull School head David ELL Lloyd is warning both students and parents to beware of the ever-growing number of unconditional university offers.

Since the removal of the cap on numbers at English universities, institutions are keen to fill spaces as early as possible. This is highlighted by statistics from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), which show unconditional offers almost doubled from 12,100 in 2014 to 23,400 in 2015.

Mr Lloyd believes that while there are benefits to unconditional offers, they can also provide potential pitfalls.

He said: "There has been an increasing trend in universities offering unconditional offers over the past couple of years, which I believe can be a real double-edged sword."

"They can, of course, give peace of mind and relieve stress for students at a crucial time in their academic careers. At Solihull School, we place a real emphasis on the mental health wellbeing of our students,

with on-site counsellors and support and advice readily available.

"Exam periods are notoriously stressful for students and an unconditional offer can be a 'pressure relief valve', helping students feel secure about their academic futures."

"At the same time, they also raise a number of questions such as will universities be confirmed as first choice for the 'wrong' reasons and will a student ultimately underperform without the need to meet a standard offer?"

"My main concern is this relatively new phenomenon is undermining our A Level system. Offers which provide a lucrative 'scholarship' can be particularly divisive, with a danger of the brightest pupils going to the lowest offer bidder (and the highest financially) when the fit between individual and institution may not be the best."

"There is also the potential for complacency to set in, with students safe in the knowledge they already have a confirmed offer. If students do sit back and

relax, they may ultimately lack the independence, work ethic and research skills required by universities."

"Things could get more difficult for schools, too, particularly when a class contains students with and without unconditional offers. When resources are in short supply and class sizes large, hard-working but under-pressure teachers may inevitably turn their attention to those still requiring higher grades."

With one in 12 university applicants now receiving at least one unconditional offer, Mr Lloyd is urging students to make decisions for the "right" reasons.

"I do worry the number of unconditional offers will only increase over time and it is incumbent on teachers and parents to work together to encourage students to select universities for the right reasons," he said.

"With the cost of a university education as it currently stands, and set to increase even further, the financial incentives of unconditional offers can make



those universities the right ones for some.

"Where complacency sets in, however, and pupils underachieve in their A Levels, this is something that could ultimately have career-limiting consequences, with employers increasingly looking to exam results to differentiate between higher numbers of job applicants with upper second class and first class degrees."

Solihull Observer
March 2017

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8 APRIL 14, 2017

SOLIHULL NEWS

Students rock with Tommy

TALENTED students at Solihull School had audiences rocking as they took to the stage to perform The Who's Tommy.

More than 30 pupils delivered four performances of the iconic production to successive sell-out crowds.

Tommy, which is based on the music of The Who's Pete Townshend and a book by Townshend and Des McAnuff, was the school's first rock opera in almost 40 years of annual musicals.

Among those in the audience was Tim Schwensen, an Old Silhillian who returned to the school for the first time in 10 years to watch the production.

Mr Schwensen was an extra in the original Tommy film back in 1975 and was part of the crowd in the famous Pinball Wizard scene with Elton John.

He said: "As someone who was an extra in the original film, I know the story and the songs very well and the school performance was exceptional. Well done to all for a superb performance."

James Hammond, head of drama at Solihull School, said: "I was tremendously excited to direct Tommy. For a rock fan who is also a theatre director, there are few projects as thrilling."



Pupils from Solihull School perform The Who's Tommy. From left, Joshua Kermode, James Spence and Tom Hattersley. Inset left: Pete Townshend

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Students can gain an extra 70 UCAS points with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Posted by Hannah Vickers | April 13, 2017 | Teaching

#SOLIHULL-SCHOOL #EXTENDED-PROJECT-QUALIFICATION #STEPHANIE-ROBERTS #STEPHANIE-ROBERTS



More than 100 Solihull School pupils have completed Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) presentations, improving their chances of securing places at top UK universities.

In the past year, Solihull School has doubled the amount of students taking an EPQ after seeing the benefits it can provide for its Sixth Form students.

An Extended Project Qualification not only gives students the opportunity to gain an extra 70 UCAS points but allows them to produce a piece of work equivalent to one at undergraduate level.

The pupils' projects covered a wide range of topics, with titles ranging from 'Emergency veterinary first aid kit for animals' and 'How have the Rio 2016 Olympics impacted upon the city socially and financially?', to 'As racial equality has improved have we become a more intolerant society?'.

Over the two-day EPQ event, the 101 students presented their projects to OCR examiners, staff, peers, visitors and family, as well as Dr Emma Thompson, co-ordinator of Learn with Us, a transition scheme from the University of Southampton.



There is a huge difference between how pupils learn at A-Level and how they are expected to learn at university. The EPQ is a way of bridging the gap between the two and preparing our students for undergraduate study through research skills and practice - Stephanie Roberts, EPQ co-ordinator at Solihull School

Stephanie Roberts, EPQ co-ordinator at Solihull School, said: "There is a huge difference between how pupils learn at A-Level and how they are expected to learn at university. The EPQ is a way of bridging the gap between the two and preparing our students for undergraduate study through research skills and practice."

"I'm delighted so many students took the opportunity to do an EPQ and further their studies on a topic they enjoy."

An EPQ can comprise either a 5,000-word written essay or an 'artefact', which is accompanied by 1,500 words of researched material behind the event, artwork or composition.

While the projects are independent from other subjects, students are required to demonstrate their chosen topic is academically valuable and related to their current studies or future careers.

Independent
Education Today
April 2017

PAGE 18

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

Howzat for cricket trip to remember for School boys

YOUNG cricketers at Solihull School have embarked on a two week tour of Sri Lanka, which former England all-rounder Darren Maddy hopes will see them 'tall in boys' with the game. Mr Maddy said: "From a cultural point of view, Sri Lanka is a beautiful place and offers a very safe and secure environment. It will provide our boys - and the youngsters in Sri Lanka - with the opportunity to play against fine familiar opposition and progress their game."

"I hope it will be a wonderful experience for all of our boys and will help them to fall in love with the game in a similar way to myself when I was their age."

The Observer, Thursday April 27, 2017



Former Warwickshire and England cricketer Darren Maddy is leading the Solihull School tour to Sri Lanka.

"If one or two go on to become professional cricketers that would be outstanding, of course, but even if we can get them to play club cricket and the age of 40, then that will be a success."

The Solihull School team will be playing against a mixture of local school and club sides in Sri Lanka, with five members of staff overseeing the tour, which is a first for students at these age groups.

Mr Maddy said: "This tour is different from previous years as, traditionally, we used to take the seniors away at the end of the school term."

However, I really wanted to go away to prepare for the forthcoming season, which unfortunately means that due to preparation for their exams this will exclude the older students."



Birmingham Press
April 2017

The Birmingham Press
News, views and comment

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Former Solihull students raise charity funds in friend's memory

Birmingham Press / 2 days ago

“ Mountain climbed to honour friend who died suddenly.

A group of former Solihull School students have scaled Mount Snowdon to raise more than £4,000 in memory of a friend who once climbed the peak with them.

Alex Diez-Jones was just 24 when he died suddenly in his sleep while on a dream six-month tour of South America in 2015. In tribute to Alex, a group of 13 friends and former classmates made the same trip to Snowdonia they had all embarked on as pupils at Solihull School – including staying in the school's mountain cottage just as they had done 10 years before.

The group reached the summit of the highest mountain in Wales in under two hours and received more than 150 donations. As a result, the friends doubled their initial fundraising target of £2,000, ultimately amassing £4,047 to be donated to Shelter, a charity which provides help to the homeless and with whom Alex did volunteering work before his death.

A spokesperson for the friends said: “We took the Pyg pass to the summit and we were shocked to reach it under two hours. We took a meandering route back down and spirits were high throughout the day. It gave us a great chance to remember Alex's life and I think the huge amount we managed to raise just goes to show the impact Alex had on so many people. We were all delighted with the event and the support shown to us – there is already talk of what our next challenge could be.”

David EJJ Lloyd, headmaster of Solihull School, said: “The sum raised in Alex's memory is a real testament for to both his legacy and the tremendous efforts of his friends. We were more than happy to offer the group use of our Snowdonia cottage and are glad the event was such a great success.”

There is still time to donate to the group's fundraising mission. Search ‘Climbing Snowdon for Alex’ at www.justgiving.com.

Independent
Education Today
April 2017

The rise of unconditional university offers

David E.J.J. Lloyd, Headmaster at Solihull School, explains why unconditional university offers can be a double-edged sword



ABOVE: David E.J.J. Lloyd explains that there are benefits and pitfalls to unconditional offers

Since the removal of the cap on numbers at English universities, institutions are keen to fill spaces as early as possible and there is now an ever-growing number of unconditional university offers. This is highlighted by statistics from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), which show unconditional offers almost doubled from 12,100 in 2014 to 23,400 in 2015.

As a headmaster at a leading co-educational school for pupils aged seven to 18 in the West Midlands, I can see that there are benefits to unconditional offers, however, they can also provide potential pitfalls. This trend for unconditional offers has increased over the past couple of years and I believe that it can be a real double-edged sword.

“My main concern is this relatively new phenomenon is undermining our A-level system”

Firstly, they can, of course, give peace of mind and relieve stress for students at a crucial time in their academic careers. At Solihull School, we place a real emphasis on the mental health wellbeing of our students, with on-site counsellors and support and advice readily available. Exam periods are notoriously stressful for students and an unconditional offer can be a ‘pressure relief valve’, helping students feel secure about their academic futures.

However, at the same time, they also raise a number of questions such as, will universities be confirmed as first choice for the ‘wrong’ reasons and will a student ultimately underperform without the need to meet a standard offer?

My main concern is this relatively new phenomenon is undermining our A-level system. Offers which provide a lucrative ‘scholarship’ can be particularly divisive, with a danger of the brightest pupils going to the lowest offer bidder (and the highest financially) when the fit between individual and

institution may not be the best. There is also the potential for complacency to set in, with students safe in the knowledge that they already have a confirmed offer. If students do sit back and relax, they may ultimately lack the independence, work ethic and research skills required by universities.

Things could get more difficult for schools, too, particularly when a class contains students with and without unconditional offers. When resources are in short supply and class sizes large, hard-working but under-pressure teachers may inevitably turn their attention to those still requiring higher grades. Therefore, with one in 12 university applicants now receiving at least one unconditional offer, I am urging students to make decisions for the ‘right’ reasons.

I do worry that the number of unconditional offers will only increase over time and it is incumbent on teachers and parents to work together to encourage students to select universities for the right reasons. With the cost of a university education as it currently stands, and set to increase even further, the financial incentives of unconditional offers can make those universities the right ones for some. Where complacency sets in, however, and pupils underachieve in their A-levels, this is something that could ultimately have career-limiting consequences, with employers increasingly looking to exam results to differentiate between higher numbers of job applicants with upper second-class and first-class degrees. ☑

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SOLIHULL NEWS

MAY 19, 2017

Hitting the heights!

MOUNTAIN CLIMB SEES EX-SOLIHULL STUDENTS RAISE MORE THAN £4K FOR CHARITY IN MEMORY OF TRAGIC PAL

CATHRINA HULSE
cathrina.hulse@cityjournal.com

A GROUP of former Solihull School students have scaled Mount Snowdon to raise more than £4,000 in memory of a much-loved friend.

Alex Diez-Jones was just 24 when he died suddenly in his sleep while on a six-month tour of South America in 2015.

In tribute to Alex, a group of 13 friends and former classmates made the same trip to Snowdonia they had all made as pupils including staying in the school's mountain cottage just as they had done 10 years before.

The group reached the summit of the highest mountain in Wales in under two hours and

received more than 150 donations.

The intrepid adventurers raised £4,047 to be donated to Shelter, a charity which provides help to the homeless and with whom Alex volunteered before his death.

David EJJ Lloyd, headmaster of Solihull School, said: “The sum raised in Alex's memory is a real testament for to both his legacy and the tremendous efforts of his friends.

“We were more than happy to offer the group use of our Snowdonia cottage and are glad the event was such a great success.”

To donate search ‘Climbing Snowdon for Alex’ at www.justgiving.com.



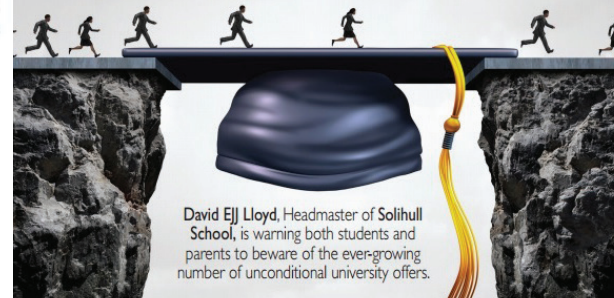
The former Solihull School students who climbed Snowdon in memory of classmate Alex Diez-Jones

Solihull News
May 2017

Private Schools Magazine
May 2017

TEACHER VIEW

The Rise of Unconditional Offers – a Double-Edged Sword



David EJJ Lloyd, Headmaster of Solihull School, is warning both students and parents to beware of the ever-growing number of unconditional university offers.

Since the removal of the cap on numbers at English universities, institutions are keen to fill spaces as early as possible. This is highlighted by statistics from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), which show unconditional offers almost doubled from 12,100 in 2014 to 23,400 in 2015.

David EJJ Lloyd, Headmaster of Solihull School, believes that while there are benefits to unconditional offers, they can also provide potential pitfalls: “There has been an increasing trend in universities offering unconditional offers over the past couple of years, which I believe can be a real double-edged sword.

“They can, of course, give peace of mind and relieve stress for students at a crucial time in their academic careers. At Solihull School, we place a real emphasis on the mental health wellbeing of our students, with on-site counsellors and support and advice readily available.

“Exam periods are notoriously stressful for students and an unconditional offer can be a ‘pressure relief valve’, helping students feel secure about their academic futures.

“At the same time, they also raise a number of questions such as will universities be

confirmed as first choice for the ‘wrong’ reasons and will a student ultimately underperform without the need to meet a standard offer?

“My main concern is this relatively new phenomenon is undermining our A-level system. Offers which provide a lucrative ‘scholarship’ can be particularly divisive, with a danger of the brightest pupils going to the lowest offer bidder (and the highest financially) when the fit between individual and institution may not be the best.

“There is also the potential for complacency to set in, with students safe in the knowledge they already have a confirmed offer. If students do sit back and relax, they may ultimately lack the independence, work ethic and research skills required by universities.

“Things could get more difficult for schools, too, particularly when a class contains students with and without unconditional offers. When resources are in short supply and class sizes large, hardworking but under-pressure teachers may inevitably turn their attention to those still requiring higher grades.”

With one in twelve university applicants now receiving at least one unconditional offer, Mr Lloyd is urging students to make decisions

for the right reasons.

“I do worry the number of unconditional offers will only increase over time and it is incumbent on teachers and parents to work together to encourage students to select universities for the right reasons.

“With the cost of a university education as it currently stands, and set to increase even further, the financial incentives of unconditional offers can make those universities the right ones for some.

“Where complacency sets in, however, and pupils underachieve in their A-levels, this is something that could ultimately have career-limiting consequences, with employers increasingly looking to exam results to differentiate between higher numbers of job applicants with upper second class and first class degrees.”



David EJJ Lloyd is Headmaster of Solihull School, an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 7-18 in the West Midlands.

50 | SUMMER



Birmingham City ladies star at Solihull School

Birmingham Press / 15 hours ago

“ Return to classroom for international footballer.

Birmingham City and England under-23 ladies football star Aoife Mannion has returned to Solihull School to deliver an inspiring speech to students on how to achieve their goals.

Aoife, who attended Solihull School between 2012 and 2014, was the guest of honour at the annual Benchers' Soiree, a celebration to mark the end of the prefect body's year in office. The 21-year-old footballer addressed around fifty students at the event and gave advice on how to achieve a balance between studying and life outside academia.

Aoife began playing football as part of Aston Villa's centre of excellence while she was a student at Solihull and quickly made a name as a versatile defender. In August 2013, aged 18, she signed for Birmingham City ahead of the Champions League, where she made her European debut against Finnish team, PK-35 Vantaa.

At international level, Aoife has represented England at under-15, under-17, under-19, under-20 and under-23 level. She was also part of the England squad in the 2010 UEFA European Women's under-17 Championship.

She said: "I was delighted to be asked to return as a guest to the Benchers' Soiree. It was a lovely evening, everyone was so welcoming and I felt as though I had not been away at all. Solihull School is a special community."

Solihull School headmaster David Lloyd added: "It was wonderful to welcome back one of our distinguished former students and for Aoife to share her experiences which have led her to in international sporting success."

Solihull School will be hosting an open day on Saturday, June 24th. For more information on joining the school, please call 0121 705 0958 or visit www.solisch.org.uk



Birmingham City ladies star at Solihull School

Return to classroom for international footballer.

15 hours ago in Education, Football.

Birmingham Press
June 2017

Independent Education Today Online
June 2017



Initiatives include the appointment of a professional support worker who will help develop an effective mental health and wellbeing strategy

School's new partnership champions students' wellbeing

Solihull School has partnered with mental health charity Safeline to help tackle mental health problems earlier in childhood

Posted by Hannah Vickers | June 20, 2017 | Health & Wellbeing

#SOLIHULL-SCHOOL #SAFELINE #PARTNERSHIP #MENTAL-HEALTH #WELLBEING #THERESA-MAY #PARAN-SINGH #UNIVERSITY-OF-WARWICK #DAVID-EJJ-LOYD



Solihull School has launched a ground-breaking partnership as part of a range of services aimed at providing high quality support to improve the mental health and wellbeing of its students.

In advance of Prime Minister Theresa May's [promise of educational reforms](#) to tackle mental health problems earlier in childhood, Solihull School has established a unique partnership with the mental health charity [Safeline](#).

Building on a number of measures already in place to support its pupils, aged from seven to 18, Solihull School has established a long-term partnership with Safeline to create a forward-thinking and innovative mental health and wellbeing strategy for everyone connected with the school.

The partnership will deliver a wide range of initiatives and headmaster David EJJ Lloyd believes Solihull School's proactive approach to supporting its students will continue to foster a culture of openness.

Initiatives include the appointment of a professional support worker who will help develop and implement an effective mental health and wellbeing strategy and provide resilience training for staff, pupils, parents and governors - who include Professor Swaran Singh, Head of the Division of Mental Health and Wellbeing at the [University of Warwick](#).

There will also be a specialist counselling service to meet the specific needs of individual pupils and, where appropriate, teachers, parents and former pupils.



In working with an experienced charity such as Safeline, we will provide bespoke support for all of our students, continuing to place their wellbeing at the heart of the school's priorities - David EJJ Lloyd, Headteacher of Solihull School

Mr Lloyd said: "This is a significant step for the school and one which is vital to ensure our students continue to receive a high level of support in all areas, while also creating a happy environment in which they can thrive.

"In working with an experienced charity such as Safeline, we will provide bespoke support for all of our students, continuing to place their wellbeing at the heart of the school's priorities."

Solihull School already has 48 members of staff voluntarily taking part in a mental health first aid course which teaches staff how to identify and help a young person who may be developing a mental health issue.

To help GCSE and Sixth Form students deal with last year's exam period, Solihull held a number of stress-relieving activities, including yoga, feel-good film showings and created a library of motivational videos.

Solihull School Raised Over £6,000 for Cancer Charities

By Independent School Parent



Above, an obstacle course was among the activities within the annual decathlon

Pupils at Solihull Junior School raised a spectacular £6,060 for four cancer charities at their recent decathlon event

More than £6,000 has been raised by the junior students at Solihull School at their annual decathlon, in which participants shot baskets, dribbled footballs, tackled an obstacle course and had a go at "welly wanging".

In total, Solihull School's pupils raised an impressive £6,060, with all four year groups selecting a cancer charity who would benefit from the event. Year Three chose to donate their funds to Target Ovarian Cancer, after a student lost his grandmother to the illness last year. The charity aims to improve early diagnosis, fund life-saving research and provide more support to sufferers of ovarian cancer.

Find out more about Solihull School on our Schools Directory

The Anthony Nolan Trust was the choice from Year Four, selected in tribute to a pupil who lost his father to myeloma when he was three years old. The outstanding work of the charity helps people suffering from blood cancers by finding stem cell or bone marrow donors.



Above, pupils at Solihull Junior School raised an impressive £6,060

Year Five chose to support Cancer Research UK, after a student's grandmother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, while Year Six selected Prostate Cancer UK, after one pupil's grandfather was recently treated with chemotherapy and hormone treatment for the disease - the most common cancer among men in the UK.

Mark Penney, Head of the Junior School, said: "Giving our students a sense of responsibility to the wider community through charitable activities is an important part of the educational ethos of Solihull School.

"I am very proud of the energy and enthusiasm displayed by pupils both in taking part in the activities and in raising such a large amount of money for their chosen good causes."

Well done to all those involved!

Independent School Parent Online
July 2017



Share

Rugby legend visits Solihull School

Jonathan Davies, who was awarded an OBE in 2015 for services to charity, was guest of honour at the school's sportsman's dinner

Posted by Hannah Vickers | July 24, 2017 | School life

jonathan-davies-obe, solihull-school, rugby, velindre-cancer-centre, david-ejj-lloyd

Welsh rugby league and union star Jonathan Davies OBE was guest of honour at [Solihull School's](#) annual sportsman's dinner.

A goal-kicking backline player, Jonathan, now aged 54, represented his country in both [rugby union](#) and [rugby league](#). He played club rugby in Wales, England and Australia before retiring at the end of the 1996-97 season. Thanks to his dual-code knowledge and experience, he has since become a successful television rugby football commentator and media personality in both the [Welsh](#) and English languages.

Jonathan was awarded an OBE in 2015 for his services to charity, in his capacity as president of Cardiff's [Velindre Cancer Centre](#) for which he has raised more than £10 million. He spoke to guests about his journey from a schoolboy to an international rugby player.

It was a very engaging evening, especially for rugby fans, of which the school has many - David EJJ Lloyd, Head of Solihull School

Headmaster David EJJ Lloyd said: "It was a very engaging evening, especially for rugby fans, of which the school has many, as we count a number of rugby internationals among our alumni."

Ed Quarter July 2017

NEWS



NEWS 12 mins ago

Young artists showcase talents at Solihull School art and photography exhibition

Young artists showcased their talents at an annual art and photography exhibition at Solihull School.

Solihull Observer Online
August 2017

PAGE 14

www.solihullobserver.co.uk

The Observer, Thursday August 3, 2017



Decathlon donation - Millie Bew, Aimee Burgin, Ryan Bates, Thomas Davin, and Sami Ashraf. (8)



Nelahe Reda tackles the cargo net as part of Solihull School's junior school decathlon day.

Giving others a sporting chance

PUPILS at Solihull School's junior school have donated more than £6,000 raised from their decathlon day event to four cancer charities. The annual event, which was held on the junior school fields, featured 12 activities, including shooting baskets, dribbling footballs, an obstacle course and the ever-popular 'welly wanging'.

In total, the Solihull youngsters raised £6,000, with all four year

groups selecting a cancer charity to benefit from the event after the pupils had collected sponsorship money to take part. Pupils in year three chose to donate to Target Ovarian Cancer after a pupil lost his grandmother to the disease last year. The charity aims to improve early diagnosis, fund life-saving research and provide support for women with ovarian cancer.

Year four pupils selected Anthony Nolan to benefit from a donation after a pupil lost his father to myeloma when he was three years old despite the excellent work of the charity, which helps people suffering from blood cancers by finding a stem cell or bone marrow donor. The school's year five pupils selected Cancer Research UK in tribute to a pupil who lost his grandmother after

she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, while year six chose to support Prostate Cancer UK, after a pupil's grandfather recently received chemotherapy and hormone treatment for prostate cancer, the most common cancer among men in the UK. Black Premer, head of the Junior School, said: "Giving our students a sense of responsibility to the wider community through charitable activ-

ties is an important part of the educational ethos of Solihull School. "I am very proud of the energy and enthusiasm displayed by pupils both in taking part in the activities and in raising such a large amount of money for their chosen good causes." Solihull School will be hosting an open day on Saturday September 23. Visit www.solsch.org.uk for more information.

GALLERY: A-Star trio celebrate top results at Solihull School



Shaun Reynolds
23 mins ago



A TRIO of students from Solihull School achieved the highest possible grade across their four A Level subjects.

Emily Dekker, Emma Priestley, and Maxine Perroni-Scharf are all set to study STEM – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – subjects at university after collecting incredible results of four A* grades.

The independent school this year saw 135 students receive their A Level results this morning.

An impressive 80 per cent of all grades achieved were at A* to B.

More than 50 per cent of all grades were A*/A as 34 students celebrated three or more A*/A grades.

Emily is hoping to study physics, Emma plans to study mechanical engineering, while Maxine wishes to study maths.

David EJJ Lloyd, headmaster at Solihull School, was delighted with the students' success.

He said: "I'm incredibly proud of all the students – the hard work and determination they have shown throughout the last two years has resulted in a fantastic set of grades."

Students were able to relieve some of the results day tension by snapping their success in a specially-created photo booth which was put in place at the school.

The celebrating students were able to take polaroid photos which they took away as a keepsake to remember their special day.

Solihull Observer Online
August 2017

Students at Solihull School celebrate GCSE results



Ian Hughes
24 mins ago



SOLIHULL School is celebrating 90 per cent of this year's GCSE grades at A* to B.

The independent school saw 52 pupils achieve eight or more A*/A grades, while 14 pupils celebrated eight A*s and eight pupils achieved ten A*s.

Solihull also received landmark first grades in English using the new numerical grading system introduced this year amid tougher exams throughout England.

The results come on the back of equally strong A Level results for Solihull, in which 80 per cent of all grades achieved were at A* to B.

Headmaster David Lloyd said: "This year's results represent another excellent achievement from our pupils. My congratulations go to all of them, along with all of our staff, for their hard work and dedication."

Students were able to take advantage of a specially-created photo booth put in place at the school, from which they could take away polaroid pictures as a keepsake of their day.

Solihull School will be hosting an open day on Saturday September 23. Visit www.solsch.org.uk for further details.

Solihull Observer Online
August 2017





Solihull School

GCSE results: pupils celebrate record-breaking performance

With many schools achieving their best ever GCSE results, independent school pupils take the reformed GCSEs in their stride

Although this year's GCSE exams have been described as [the most difficult since the end of O-levels](#) by Barnaby Lenon, Chairman of the [Independent Schools Council](#), independent schools across the UK have been celebrating record-breaking results.

From seeing year on year improvement with their results to achieving their best ever, here is a selection of independent schools who are immensely proud of everything their pupils have achieved.

Solihull School

Solihull School is celebrating another exceptional GCSE results day, with 90 per cent of this year's grades at A* to B. The historic independent school saw 52 pupils achieve eight or more A*/A grades, while 14 pupils celebrated 8 A*'s and eight pupils achieved 10 A*'s.

David EJJ Lloyd, Solihull School headmaster, said: "This year's results represent another excellent achievement from our pupils. My congratulations go to all of them, along with all of our staff, for their hard work and dedication."



Independent
Education Today
August 2017



Japan trip thrills borough pupils



Left to right - Libby Shepherd (15), Eden Capewell (15) and Johanna Balogh (15) at the Hakone Shrine, on the shores of Lake Ashi near Mount Fuji.

GLOBE-TROTTER pupils from Solihull School celebrated the start of the summer holidays with a trip of a lifetime to Japan.

Organised by the school's Japanese Society, the group visited Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, Mount Fuji and finally Hiroshima, where the first atomic bomb was dropped in 1945.

Immersing themselves in the country's rich and eclectic culture, pupils tried their hand at traditional Japanese cooking, stayed in a Buddhist temple and visited some of the country's oldest shrines.

They also experienced some of Japan's modern wonders, including ascending Tokyo Sky Tree, visiting the Studio Ghibli Museum - Japan's equivalent of Walt Disney - and enjoyed the Kawaii Monster Café in Harajuku, Tokyo.

Headmaster David EJ Lloyd said: "Our school trips are an opportunity for pupils to acquire a breadth of experience and understanding of

the world outside the classroom and beyond the school campus.

³At Solihull School, education is holistic and independent thought is encouraged, so exploration and fun are essential."



Left to right - Melike Sparrow (12), Riya Patel (15), Holly Abrol (15) and Harry Higgins (13) at the Studio Ghibli Museum in Tokyo.



The group in Memory Lane in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

GCSE Results



Plenty of reasons for a celebration

SOLIHULL School is celebrating 90 per cent of this year's GCSE grades at A* to B.

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SOLIHULL

MEDIA CUTTINGS

2016 - 2017

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