



Shenstonian

2017-18

SOLIHULL





SOLIHULL

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Teaching Staff 2017/2018

1983		2010	D E J J Lloyd; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips;
1984			
1985		2011	C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; M Partridge;
1986			
1987		2012	L J Rutherford; R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; D Wilcox
1988	L M Fair	2013	M D Jones; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Roberts; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov)
1989			
1990	M J Covill	2014	A T Kermode; L K Worth; W L Meigh; R H Smith; C E Mollison; S E Moule; M S Gledhill;
1991	D Reardon; S A Morgan	2015	L E Spratley (Jan); C A Baden; J Collier; J Hammond; P Roman-Blythe; A E Routledge; F E Wernham; R C Whaley
1992			
1993		2016	O L Parsons; K C Griffiths; D A Super; A Thacker; A R P Woodrow; H Martens; K S F Lacote; J T Sixsmith; L K Browning; Z A Jones (Jan); G James (April)
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner		
1995	D H Wild	2017	M D Davies; P K Deu; J C Francis; R A Jennings; V Patel; A R J Poole; L M Rosina; J A Spraggett; L Clubb; G Wallbank; Z Zhou; L E M Rooney (Jan); C M Dignon (Jan); E A Shearing (Jan); H L Grady (April)
1996			
1997	A C Hutchinson;		
1998	U Mynette; A M Vaughan		
1999	P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart;		
2000			
2001	J S Brown; M Worrall; E R Hurst		
2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer		
2003	M Smith; T J Bryan; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson;		
2004	L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas;		
2005	S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; G Cureton		
2006	A Jones; P G May; D L Trim (Jan)		
2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson		
2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb		
2009	H M Smith; D R Harford		

Headmaster’s Report

I might be excused for thinking that after eight years at Solihull, surprises and unfathomable events should be a thing of the past. However, that is the joy and pain of Headship; you never know what is just around the corner.

On the academic side of life, external events have dominated. A-Level and GCSE reform have proceeded at pace. In a nutshell, things have got tougher for pupils, schools, universities and employers. At GCSE, letters have become numbers with a 9 – 1 scale, 9 being the highest. The Government’s rationale is, for example, replacing 2 letter grades, A* and A, with three numbers 9, 8 and 7, in order to allow for greater differentiation in the face of grade inflation. Therefore, 9 and 8 allow differentiation between a pupil who might have previously scraped an A* grade and a pupil who barely dropped a mark. In addition, modularity is a thing of the past and coursework has seen its day. IGCSE (International GCSE) is outside of UK Government control and independent schools have, by their nature, free choice between GCSE and IGCSE, and here at Solihull, Heads of Department have the final say in this regard. This does, however, mean that pupils will leave the Upper Fifth with a combination of number grades (GCSE) and letter grades (IGCSE), and all of us are faced with a jumbled mass of conflicting rhetoric around what all of this means for comparisons within and between age specific cohorts.

At A-Level, the clock has been turned back to my own school days, or so it seems, and linearity is king once again. The AS-Level at the end of the first year of the A-Level is no more; the AS-Level still exists, but as a stand-alone qualification and not as the half-way house on the route to ‘destination A-Level’

it once was. Generally, this has been welcomed by staff as it means the end of the Lower Sixth year is not disrupted with exam practice, study leave and the AS exams themselves. However, for pupils, it means all the exams come at the end of two years’ worth of study, meaning that organisational skills and synoptic thinking are all the more important.

Sadly, for both GCSE and A-Level reform, new courses have in some cases started without bespoke textbooks, exemplar examination questions or even detailed specifications, and I’m very grateful for the commitment, creativity and quality of teaching on offer here.

Things are also different at university; the unconditional offer is, in my opinion, a retrograde step as it is distorting pupils’ choices of university, i.e. increasing demand for those institutions making unconditional offers, and in some cases is causing pupils to coast once in possession of such an offer. Some universities have gone a step further and are offering financial incentives (scholarships), laptops and the pick of campus accommodation in return for applicants giving them ‘firm choice’ status.

And as for Oxford and Cambridge Universities, it appears that there is a growing bias against pupils from independent schools, and we have found that in order to maintain a healthy relationship with these universities, we have had to evidence independent-state school partnerships and our commitment to bursary funding, both of which we do in abundance, but neither of which should act for or against our pupils in accessing elite universities.



Two related curriculum changes have dominated life here at school and they are Project Curriculum 2020 and our new Wellbeing and Personal Development Department, the former led by Ms Harford-Fox and the latter by Mrs Rooney.

Curriculum 2020 is an innovative project looking at the importance of skills-based learning and character education in what we provide, particularly given how employers increasingly feel about the exam culture and league table jockeying. Indeed, some employers have gone as far as questioning the value of degrees as the gatekeeper for careers traditionally considered as undergraduate. Whilst we don't necessarily subscribe to all of these views, careers education is changing as more pupils look at apprenticeships and sponsored degrees, and we have now come out of national league tables due to the very narrow and often misleading interpretation of success they present. However, please be reassured that we left on a high and not defensively. This year I am pleased to report that at A-Level, 81% of all grades were at A* to B, and at GCSE, 91% of all grades were at A* to B or equivalent.

Turning to Wellbeing and Personal Development, this is another new and exciting initiative and draws together many of our early initiatives in the field of mental health, mindfulness and PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), and is now on pupils' timetables as they move through the Junior and Senior Schools. Furthermore, our Parents' Seminar Programme is now well established, and this year includes topics such as discovering the teenage brain, growing resilience in young people, successful communication and emotion regulation skills for families, thriving in diversity and healthy behaviours and relationships.

Also new this year is the introduction of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) to the Sixth Form, and all members of the Sixth Form are expected to bring a laptop or tablet to lessons. Staff and pupils are trained in how technology can appropriately enhance lessons and pupils are hopefully better prepared for life at university and the role that technology is likely to play in undergraduate study. However, we do value the importance of 'traditional' teaching and I hope that we never use technology just for the sake of it. Moreover, we currently have no plans to roll out BYOD lower down the school.

Many more initiatives were introduced this year, and under the leadership of Miss Campbell the Solihull Lecture Series was born, and we are currently preparing for two high profile lectures on some of the biggest issues facing both young and old: promoting gender equality in education and mental health wellbeing in education. We will also be hosting Evan Davis (economist), Fiona Walker (author), Oxford University (maths) and the Bloodhound Project, which is a project aimed at achieving a new world land speed record with a supersonic car capable of 1,000 mph or more!

In addition, we now offer LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) examinations and 18 pupils in the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth achieved merits and distinctions in their (Grade 6) Public Speaking exams. Furthermore, at a time when Classics is being axed in many schools, it continues to flourish and grow here. Greek is now on offer off-timetable and the first cohort have successfully navigated their GCSE with all members of the group achieving at least a grade 7; this is a wonderful achievement.

Last year was an incredibly sad time for the school with the loss of three dear colleagues; two retired – Denis Tomlin and Phil Holt – and one current colleague, Martyn Garner.

All three touched the lives of thousands of Old Silhillians and current Silhillians and will never be forgotten. In memory of Martyn, we have renamed the Outdoor Pursuits Building, the Martyn Garner Building for Outdoor Education and we will be erecting a slate sculpture in his name at the Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia, a place he loved so much.

For Denis and Phil, and as part of our drive on bursaries, we have added two new bursaries in their names, with the very first recipients of the Denis Tomlin Bursary and the Phil Holt Bursary joining the school this term. We do believe that social mobility and widening access to the school is beneficial to the individual, the school and society as a whole, and I am very grateful to those who have donated or pledged already and urge others to do so too. As a school community of former pupils and 'friends', I hope we can give even more pupils the opportunity of attending this wonderful school regardless of their background, as indeed many Old Sils have done in the past.

As well as being outstanding academics, all three colleagues were huge supporters of and contributors to the co-curricular life of the school, and the 'Big 5' activities – academic enrichment, drama, music, sport and outdoor education – are a very important part of school life, and have a significant role to play in developing soft skills such as communication, confidence, empathy and grit – skills which help to differentiate Solihull from other schools and which are explicit in both Curriculum 2020 and Wellbeing and Personal Development. Moreover, the lack of reference to such skills, and many more like them, is exactly the reason we exited league tables and I hope other schools join us in taking a stand.

So, and most importantly, congratulations and thank you to all of you... colleagues, pupils, Old Sils, parents, governors and friends for enriching the life of this vibrant and dynamic community. We are certainly not perfect and we make mistakes, but we are ambitious and reflective, and I hope that our current record number on roll (nearly 1,100 pupils), our innovative curriculum, the number and range of activities and trips on offer and our impressive examination statistics all point to a school that might not be the nation's best at any one thing, but is there or thereabouts in lots of areas. I often hear people talk of holistic education and I think one need look no further than Solihull to see a beacon of excellence.

Perseverantia our spirit.

David E J J Lloyd



Head of School

The Head of School for the 2017-2018 academic year was Cerys Stansfield and her deputies were Alexander Sasse, Jim Bate and Asha Abram. We thank all of them for their wonderful service to the School.

Heads of Lower and Middle School

We thank this year's Heads and Deputy Heads of the Lower School and the Middle School for all of the great work that they have done – Cameron Rees, Katy Thomas, Tom Boake, Isabel Fennell (Head), Freddie Truman (Head), Emma Gahan, Joshua Woodman and Jenny Hodge in the Lower School, and Lily Evans, Fraser Blackhurst (Head), Georgina Hart (Head) and Jacques Barker in the Middle School.



Solihull School Parents' Association

As the academic year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the 89th year of the SSPA. This year, alongside the usual diary of events, we held a 'Call My Bluff Wine Quiz' which proved to be very successful. It will be back next year in February 2019. The Summer Ball was a triumph. The art deco Imperial Suite looked amazing bathed in shades of fuschia pink, the flowers were stunning, our own Saxophony serenaded and the band 'House of Chords' rocked. The surprise auction of a 'Family weekend at the School Mountain Cottage' exceeded expectations and raised £1500.

This year the SSPA are proud to have raised £29,000 which will be divided between the SSPA Bursary Fund and co-curricular activities throughout both the Junior and Senior Schools. The SSPA would like to thank the school community for supporting our fundraising. We are always looking for new ideas and new enthusiastic parents. If you would like to come to a taster session of the General Committee please get in touch at: prez.sspa@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website <https://www.solschpa.org.uk/>

Fiona Newby and Catherine Casey, Presidents

Martyn Garner

Martyn was a gentle, very kind and fiercely loyal man, serving the school for nearly 24 years.

As a teacher of Physics and Chemistry, many pupils attribute their love of science to Martyn. He was also the school's Director of Community Relations, leader of boundary-pushing expeditions to places like Cambodia, Ladakh and the Klondike, and Charities Co-ordinator, encouraging the school community to raise circa £50,000 per year for a range of local, national and international charities. As well as providing St Basil's with much needed clothing, bedding and toiletries, we funded over 400 cataract operations in Sri Lanka last year.

Martyn was selfless to the core. As a member of staff, he regularly delivered pastries and doughnuts to the Upper Common Room, and rarely for any specific reason other than putting a sugary smile on colleagues' faces. As a member of the staff Wolf Run team, he would always be looking around for the person struggling on the scramble net or nervous about the open water swim, and he would run at the pace of the slowest member of the group, despite being able to run much quicker himself. He was thoughtful, compassionate and always put others first. If there's an endurance race or bridleway up there in heaven, Martyn will be on the start line rallying the angels and saints to run the race with him.

Martyn was incredibly generous in his outlook and actions, but quickly realised that the easiest thing for privileged people to do is to give money to charity, and that this is not enough. Martyn was more thoughtful than this and wanted us to invest creativity, emotion and time in our charitable work. It's all too easy to throw money into a collection tin and one of the things that made Martyn most proud, was when our pupils worked alongside those less well-off, and learnt from doing so. He was adamant that I joined him at Reynolds Cross Special School to watch our pupils teach theirs how to dance. And I got it, as I struggled to hold back the tears of admiration for our pupils and the pupils they were teaching. Martyn inspired them.



Martyn's mantra on expeditions was 'leave no trace', and his idea of a successful night's camping was one which could not be detected once the expedition moved on. No litter, and no signs of any abuse of the landscape. Sadly, Martyn will never see one such initiative he championed. As of this September, the school became free of disposable plastic water bottles, and Martyn would be very proud of this. Despite his mantra of 'leave no trace', Martyn has left a significant trace on all of us. His stuff was, and still is, all around the school. In fact, despite the mess, it's quite a comfort to have it here, although there is nearly 24 years' worth of it!

And then there's his impact on the school. Well, how do I succinctly describe this? Loyalty, dedication and innovation over nearly a quarter of a century. Friendship, camaraderie, care for the community, and thinking of others before himself. Whenever we had heavy snowfall and I was in the Head's Wing early in the morning with Sean Morgan, deliberating over closing the school, who'd turn up at the door, on his bike and covered in snow from head to toe, to help with anything required, anything at all...Martyn Garner! Martyn was great in a crisis and could always be relied upon. That's why he led on the MIMP (Major Incident Management Plan) and more recently, lockdown procedures, training us all with sensitivity and humility. Similarly, at PA events, Martyn could often be found washing up dishes at the end of the evening, before settling down for a cheeky beer with the last of the helpers. It was the same after Speeches and Prize Giving, which he always played a big part in; Martyn was invariably the last man standing, enjoying the celebration and relief until the very end, which was usually when the School Marshal encouraged the staff stragglers to leave!

But arguably his biggest legacy, his biggest trace, will be philanthropy ... humanity and goodwill to all. He cared, he cared a lot and if we care, then we mustn't lose momentum. Martyn, you've touched our hearts, you've helped us to become better people and we miss you.

And may I end by informing you all that in memory of Martyn, we will be renaming the Outdoor Pursuits Building, The Martyn Garner Building for Outdoor Education, in his name. Plus, we will be erecting a sculpture at the school's mountain cottage, where he had many happy adventures, inspiring staff and pupils to love the outdoors as he did. The SSPA have asked if they can contribute financially to the sculpture as Martyn meant so much to them too.

Thankfully, Martyn's many travel journals and photograph albums will be enjoyed by generations to come and I hope you can create new chapters in your life journals, sparing a moment of thought for Martyn Garner, the Legend that he was.

David E J J Lloyd





Phil Holt

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Phil Holt's passing in June following a short illness.

Phil came to Solihull in 1971 after first attending Wolverhampton Grammar School as a boy, and then reading English at St Peter's College, Oxford (1967 – 70).

Solihull was Phil's first and only job; he devoted his entire teaching career to the School. Primarily he taught English, although he was also a very popular Master of PE. In 1982, after several years of distinguished service, he was appointed Head of English, becoming the youngest Head of English in the School's history (a role he performed for 16 years). In 1998 he was made Housemaster of Shenstone and in 2008 he became Deputy Head of the Lower School.

It is fair to say that Phil was involved in virtually every aspect of school life during his time at Solihull. Apart from teaching English, he also managed a number of cricket and rugby teams. For many years, he served as editor of the School's annual publication, the *Shenstonian*. He was also responsible for producing and directing a number of school plays; and in addition to this, he was, for a while, the school librarian and was charged with setting up the Sixth Form Library. He even accompanied the pupils on numerous ski trips and educational cruises around Europe. However, as most of us know, football was his real passion and in 1975 Phil was instrumental in establishing the staff 5-a-side team following the building of the sports hall.

For many Old Boys and Girls of the School, Phil will also be fondly remembered as Master in Charge of Cross Country. He took over the role in 1983, and under his charge, the School enjoyed outstanding success and, at the time of his retirement in 2012, Solihull was lauded as having one of the leading cross country teams in the Midlands.

Most recently, Phil was instrumental in establishing the School's *Jeans 4 Genes* day – an initiative which continues to this present day. As a result of his support for this worthwhile charity, the School has raised £1000s of pounds to support young people who have been affected by genetic disorders.

But it is as a teacher of English that Phil is best remembered at Solihull, and rightly so. Phil had an infectious love of literature, and in particular, an admiration for the works of Dickens, Milton, Yeats and Shakespeare to name but a few. He profoundly believed in the power of literature to make a difference in society through its ability to develop one's moral sensibility and make us more humane and compassionate individuals. And what's more, he conveyed that love of literature to his pupils.

Indeed, one need only look at the messages that were posted on the School's social media platforms in the days following Phil's passing to see the profound effect that he had in the classroom. One former pupil wrote: 'Fond memories of Mr Holt putting his spin on Chaucer in the Sixth Form!' Helen Thomas commented, 'Phil Holt was my favourite teacher at school and made the Canterbury Tales and English more fun. A great guy who will be missed by lots of people!' Sam Tucker posted, 'Particularly fond memories of Mr Holt bringing to life 'A Man for all Seasons' on a Friday afternoon.'

For novelist and Old Silhillian, Susan Fletcher, Phil's influence was profound; she credits his encouragement as being crucial in setting her on the path to becoming a writer. In a tribute written shortly after Phil's passing, she wrote, 'I feel I owe a great debt to Mr Holt - just a few small words of encouragement from him, twenty years ago, made a huge difference to my life's direction'. She went on to say that 'What a legacy he leaves in every student he taught or helped'. I think we all echo her words, and indeed the sentiments expressed by those who have shared their memories of Phil in recent months.

For those of us who worked alongside Phil, his untimely loss feels all the more raw. Indeed, until relatively recently, he was still working in the English Department, covering colleagues who were on sickness leave or at Snowdonia School. As a colleague, Phil was a warm, caring, generous and compassionate man – always on hand to offer help or counsel to those in need, or share his experience and wisdom with those new to the department.

On a personal level, Phil was a great friend and an inspiration; on a professional level, he was the benchmark of what makes a great Head of Department. He was a fiercely loyal colleague and had a wonderful way with people. Indeed, he was one of the most warmhearted and humble men I have had the pleasure to know.

Phil saw many changes during his 41 years at Solihull School, but as John Loynton said, and I quote, Phil 'was a rock; [he was] the voice of common sense and a true Silhillian... a scholar and gentleman'. Indeed, for those of us who worked with Phil at Solihull or those who were taught by him, he will be sorely missed.

Stuart Hart

Denis Tomlin

Denis Tomlin, one of Solihull School's most loved and respected former teachers, passed away on 4 June 2018 at the age of 90. Denis came to Solihull in September 1952, to begin his long and distinguished career which didn't really end until his passing. He retired from teaching in 1988 but continued to serve as the School Archivist until 2007. Thereafter, he was an ever-present and most welcome visitor until very recently when, in his own words, 'time and fortune have seen the last of me'. He certainly gave his time to Solihull and Solihull was fortunate to have a man who had such a powerful influence on the life and times of all who experienced those 36 years, described by Giles Slaughter as 'The Tomlin Years'.

Denis was signed up by Mr Hitchens in 1952 straight from Jesus College, Oxford to teach English and Latin, but found that his timetable comprised mostly Geography! But the enthusiasm, warmth and genuine interest in his pupils was immediately apparent in this naturally gifted but self-effacing school master. Promotion was certain and did follow as Denis settled down in Solihull, married Nurse Doris (who later became School Matron) and began to impress everyone who met him with his wisdom, insight, patience and enthusiasm. Many generations of Old Sils will remember Denis as Master in charge of Rugby, Refectory Warden, Middle School Housemaster of School House, Deputy Head of the Middle School, Upper School Housemaster of Pole, Sixth Form Master and finally Second Master for 19 years, from 1969 to 1988. But this was not all, for in 1983 the Governors requested him to take over as Headmaster for two terms after Giles Slaughter had departed at Christmas and Alan Lee's arrival was due in the following September. In recognition of his service to the School, Denis was made an Honorary Governor, a post he held until the end of his life. It was a well-deserved tribute to a teacher who touched every aspect of School life: management, discipline, sport, drama, music and trips abroad. As a raconteur of eloquence, Denis had a story to tell for every one of his numerous roles. He relished difficult challenges, enjoyed company but was uncomfortable with recognition and praise. All colleagues respected him and long after he had retired, the words 'we will ask Denis' could be heard in the Common Room. All pupils liked him, enjoyed his lessons and many kept in contact with him after they had left and he remembered every single one of them, however long ago it was when they were at school. The friendship of Denis Tomlin was special and a privilege.

As School Archivist, Denis turned a confused mass of papers into a coherent catalogue of the School's history. This was a staggering achievement, and only Denis with his unique knowledge and insight could have done it. For this alone Solihull School owes him a great debt. The School Museum, opened in 2012, is known as the Denis Tomlin Room in recognition of the tremendous amount of work he did to establish the School Archives.

Well into his late 80s, Denis could be seen on the touchline on Saturday afternoons watching the Rugby, attending School productions and performances, Prize-giving and the Over 60s Lunches. In 2015, in the presence of the whole School, Denis was presented with Honorary Life Membership of the Old Silhillian Association. This was of course a generation that hadn't benefitted from Denis Tomlin the teacher, but such was his reputation and the respect he commanded that he was given a standing ovation, a final and heart-warming moment for a true Silhillian who loved life, and cherished learning. Many former pupils remember Denis's passion for quoting William Shakespeare, and I hope he would approve of this extract as it certainly sums him up:

***"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "THIS WAS A MAN!"
Julius Caesar, Act 5, Scene 5***

John Loynton



Development and Alumni Relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life

We held a wonderful variety of events this year involving all sectors of the Solihull community – past and present pupils, parents, staff and governors – at the School, Silhillians Sports Club, in Birmingham and in London.

February Chamber Choir returned to St Paul's Cathedral

Now a much-anticipated event, the school Chamber Choir returned to St Paul's Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong. They gave a magnificent performance, supported by a large congregation made up of many from the school community and the public. Following Evensong, Old Silhillians came together for a drinks reception at The Happenstance Bar. Here they were able to meet old friends and make new ones in a warm and welcoming setting.



March Birmingham Business Drinks

Alumni came together from all sectors of business in the city, to meet up with old friends and staff over a drink at the end of a working day. It was a most enjoyable evening and good to see former pupils who have not attended before. We hope to develop events like this over the next couple of years to include all professions.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The School Musical is still a highlight of the Silhillian calendar and we were delighted to welcome back former pupils, parents and staff to attend a drinks reception and a wonderful performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Next year we hope to hold a reunion for all those who have performed, played or worked back stage on a Bushell Hall Musical.



Clovelly Pitch Opening

On a cold March morning the new artificial hockey pitch was opened by Simon Wilcox. It's named the Clovelly Pitch, after the Clovelly Trust, which was founded by E Gordon Wilcox in 1964. Gordon was an Old Silhillian and later became Vice Chairman of the Governors. Our most grateful thanks go to Simon, E Gordon Wilcox's nephew, and the trustees for their financial assistance. The trust continues to provide funding for our Sixth Form scholars and help fund both the expenditure of the grounds and the sports activities on an annual basis.



May John Wall (Pole, 1942 – 1951 and Staff Member) returns to the School after 56 Years

Former pupil and teacher of mathematics, John Wall returned to Solihull having been a pupil here from 1942 to 1951 and then teacher until 1961. It was the first time John had returned to Solihull since emigrating to New Zealand 56 years ago. Overwhelmed by his visit, John was excited about the changes the school had made. He particularly enjoyed talking to former and current pupils, laughing about his old school days and comparing his memories to the life of a Solihull pupil today. Twelve other guests joined John's visit, most of whom were his former pupils. Their day included a tour of the school, coffee with the Headmaster followed by a traditional school lunch.

June - Remembering Former Pupil Professor Philip King

It was our pleasure to be able to fulfil the final wish of Prof Philip King (Fetherston, 1941-48), who had asked that his ashes be buried in the school grounds as a mark of gratitude for the emotional and financial support he received here as a pupil. His parents were unable to continue his education at Solihull into the Sixth Form but the Headmaster, recognising his intellectual ability, offered him a free place. Philip stayed and

London Dinner

Former pupils, teachers and staff came together at the Caledonian Club for the London Dinner. The Headmaster welcomed guests and updated them on the School's news including the relaunch of The Silhillian Fund. The Development and Alumni Relations office intends to raise £2.5 million over the next five years to be able to increase the number of bursaries available, in perpetuity. We were so pleased to have Ben Perry join us for the evening. Ben is our first major donor to the campaign and he has also kindly agreed to be one of the patrons. Other patrons include Simon Halsey CBE and Michael Buerk.



became the first in his family to attend university. He became an academic and was one of the scientists to work on the extraction of North Sea Gas. Four generations of the King family gathered along with his wife, Helen, to bury his ashes beneath a cherry tree on the lawn outside School House.

Mrs L Moseley





From the Archivist

One hundred years ago, after another summer of cricket, bayonet practice, fruit picking camps and of course the awful news of former pupils losing their lives in the line of duty, the Shenstonian could finally report:

'November 11th, 1918-Armistice Day! Will we ever forget it? As we waited with nerves strung for the booming of the guns, we felt that the longed for day had come. When the signal sounded, it was though something had snapped. We all felt that a restraint had been removed, and the flags that speedily appeared from the school windows assured us that our feelings were reliable. How speedily we made for home, and what joyous hours we spent? The strain of four long years had passed away, and we were to live again the old life-no! Not the old life, but a better purified life, a life which had learnt that by sacrifice alone could man fulfil his destiny. Oh! That we may live up to it in the days that are to come. We young ones must take the place of some who we mourn and our school work must be directed so as to fit us for the goodly heritage which has been left us: so as to enable us to fight the world's battle and usher in the new world which is to be symbolized by the League of Nations, showing all war and strife is to be relegated to the realms of history past and gone'.

What an occasion it must have been in the Old Quad and the classrooms when the news reached Solihull – such joyous relief. Still far away in France one of our former pupils, L/C Reginald Patterson who was serving with the Worcestershire Regiment recorded in his diary the joy of Armistice Day in Rouen: 'I shall never forget the sights I saw this Tuesday night (12 November) as long as I live. To see the folks surging up and down the streets in thousands, dancing, shouting, waving arms, kissing anyone male or female and waving flags about. There were soldiers of almost every nation mixing up with one another.....everyone seems to have gone stark raving mad with delight'. L/C Patterson returned home soon afterwards, but 10,000 soldiers of the Worcestershire Regiment did not, including seven Old Silhillians.

The Shenstonian edition of December 1918 looked to the future: 'We look forward to the re-establishment of our games; our football (rugby wasn't played until 1930) and our cricket; our friendly rivalry with other schools; our field days with the Corps (CCF) All these will come again. We hear a whisper of a cricket professional (being appointed) for the Summer Term, and hope it may be true'. Saying farewell to Solihull School in March 1918 was B.W. Quaife, a fine opening batsman who went on to play for Warwickshire in the 1920s. Unique in the annals of county cricket is a match on 5 June 1922. B.W. Quaife batted with his father W.G. Quaife and they faced the Derbyshire bowling of W. Bestwick at one end and his son Robert at the other end. Both Quaifes learnt their cricket on the playing fields of Solihull School.

The final year of the War saw the deaths of numerous Old Silhillians.

Lt. Arthur Ansell was a fine scholar winning a scholarship to Cambridge, and was an excellent sportsman, especially as a cricketer. He opened the batting against Coventry Grammar School in a match of 1912 and made a century, which was very rare in an era of low scores. The score card for that day is interesting as the players were soon to be fighting on the Western Front:

Ansell 111
Lt. Royal Engineers, DIED ON 25th APRIL 1918, having been gassed at PASSCHENDAELE.

Florance 30
Capt. Royal Warwickshires, WOUNDED and POW.

Abrahall 14
Lt. Royal Warwickshires, SURVIVED.

Sprout 12
Capt. South Staffordshires, SURVIVED.

Williamson 1
Lt. Royal Warwickshires, KILLED IN ACTION.

Else 4 not out
Pte. Army Service Corps, KILLED IN ACTION.

Did Not Bat:
Smith L.C. Lt. South Staffordshires, WOUNDED.
Jackson H. Capt. RFC, KILLED IN ACTION.

Jackson's bowling figures were 6 for 10, as Solihull won by 135 runs. Arthur Ansell's brother was Raymond Ansell, an Old Silhillian and Maths teacher for 52 years. He gives his name to form groups throughout the school.

Fresh from CCF Army Camp 1914 was Lt. Clive Beaufoy, who volunteered for the Royal Warwickshires and served with distinction until his tragic death on 25 September 1918, having been wounded in April and gone back into action. He visited the School several times when on leave, a man of inspirational courage.

One of our youngest to be killed was Private Horace Bevins on 31 March 1918; his body was never found. Private A.E. Else played in the 1912 cricket match and was killed on 14 October 1918, one of the last casualties of the Ypres campaign. By 1918 the war in the air was in full swing and several Old Sils joined the Royal Flying Corps which became the RAF in that year. Lt. Harry Fawdry was one of our distinguished aviators, flying 33 missions until his tragic death on 11 August 1918, aged just 19. Lt. P. Lilico also served in the RFC; a great sportsman at school, he crashed in fog and was killed on



The NCO's of the OTC 1916 left to right: B W Quaife, J B Mayers, G M Martineau (brother of Clement), J H Wilcox (RAF), G A H E Poole (ASC), H Arculus (brother of Herbert), S C Wilsdon, J H V Wood (RFC), C A Shotter (MGC), E Wormell (RAF), D Bridgewater (Royal Warwicks), Lt A H Watts O/C OTC, J H E Meigh (Royal Warwicks) N Cluley seated on the ground, A E Allen (RAMC), H S Bevins (Gloucs. Regiment KIA 1918. If they were old enough, they went off to war.

16 February 1918. Lt. Charles Langford died of his wounds on 23 February 1918. A year below Charles at school was outstanding OTC Cadet and later Captain Clement Martineau of Touchwood Hall. He was wounded during the German offensive of March 1918, taken prisoner but died on 5 May 1918. His mother Jessie Clementina kept a lighted candle in the window of Touchwood Hall until the day she died in memory of her son. A day earlier Private Gilbert Osborne was killed at the Battle of Arras; he had left the School in 1901. By the end of August 1918 the war had turned in favour of the Allies but Old Silhillian casualties tragically kept coming. Lt. C.E. Neale was killed fighting with the Worcestershires in France on 29 September 1918. Private William Thompson Walters, aged 20, was killed on 27 August 1918 and never found, so too Private Allen Woollaston killed three days later on the 30th. Just before the Armistice, Lt. John Wright was killed on 7 November. He is commemorated on a magnificent stained glass window in Solihull Church presented by his brother Billy, who had gone to war himself and been gassed at the age of 15. Captain Wilfred Wright (no relation to the other two) was badly wounded and died of pneumonia on 3 November 1918.

At our annual Remembrance Service in November all of these brave Old Silhillians will be honoured and remembered, along with the other 42 Old Silhillian casualties previously recorded, together with the 66 who fell in the Second World War. Each one is not just a name but an individual personality, with a school record like we all have. They happened to be a generation called to serve their country in the most awful of conflicts that robbed them of their youth. So, the best we can do is to take the advice of the Editor of the Shenstonian (August 1919) as peacetime was restored: 'Let us all come back again after the holidays determined to increase the reputation of the School by our conduct and our work to give it a greater name than it already bears; to make ourselves worthy successors of those who have brought honour to it and who look to us to continue the traditions which they have so well and truly laid'.

Mr J Loynton, School Archivist

University & College Entries 2017

BATH

Kumbirai Mkwangwanya
Emma Priestley

Economics
Mechanical Engineering (Sandwich)

BIRMINGHAM

Yousaf Arshad

Jessica Browne

Ben Crocker

Lydia Jones-Brown
Bianca Oberheim

Business Management (Year in Industry)
Political Science and Philosophy
Computer Science with an Industrial Year
Accounting and Finance
Law with Criminology

BIRMINGHAM CITY

Conor Green

BTEC Higher National Certificate in Construction

BRADFORD

Edison Tang

Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation

BRISTOL

Olivia Gordon
Lili Mistry
Emily Moise
Tanya Sebastian
Evie Townend

Biomedical Sciences
Mathematics
Biochemistry
Economics and Finance
Politics and International Relations with Study Abroad

BUCKS NEW UNIVERSITY

Matthew Brain

Aidan Cawley

Thomas Mitchell

Football Business and Marketing
Sports Business and Coaching
Football Business and Media

CARDIFF

Lina Alani
Charles Davies
William Talbot-Davies
Malika Tank
Joseph Wright

Pharmacy
Law
Law
Environmental Geoscience
Computer Science with a Year in Industry

COVENTRY

Isabel Douglas
Rebecca Kimber
Henry Nicholls
Michael Woolley

Business and Marketing
Criminal Psychology
History
Motorsport Engineering

DERBY

Thomas Antony

Mathematics

DURHAM

Jacob Gilbert
Georgia Greenburgh
Agathe Le Blevec
Cam Manson
Charlotte Sasse

Accounting and Finance
Classical Civilisation
Natural Sciences
Finance
Mathematics

EDINBURGH

Rodan Holland
Daniel Sandler

Chemical Engineering
Medicine

EXETER

Bryony Ainsworth
Victoria Brewer
Tom Chambers

History
Business Accounting
Zoology with Professional Placement
Psychology
Economics and Finance with Industrial Placement
Liberal Arts with Study Abroad

Fiona Foulkes
James Gordon

Business Economics
Geography
Medicine
Mechanical Engineering
Accounting and Finance with Industrial Placement
International Relations with Study Abroad

Emily Graham

Benjamin Green
Meredith Hanson
Alexander Holland
Omar Ismail
William Jervis

Geography (Science)
English and Film Studies with Study Abroad
Economics and Finance

Eva Penhallurick

Lydia Roll
Benjamin Watson

Geography (Science)
English and Film Studies with Study Abroad
Economics and Finance

Harvey Wilson

Economics and Finance

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Jessie Lloyd

Fine Art – Painting/
Printmaking

KPMG

Georgia Brotherhood

Sponsored Degree Programme

KEELE

Matthew Gransbury

Business Management and Marketing

LANCASTER

Oliver Ward

Physics (Study Abroad)

LEEDS

George Clarke
Jack Davidson
Matthew Deakin
Megan Gill
Austin Henderson
Chloe Horsburgh
James Hurt
Sophia Kenna

Chemical Engineering
Economics and Politics
Digital Media
Psychology
Management
Management and Spanish
History
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
Economics and Russian

Daniel Lee

Economics and Russian

Harry Manek-Robinson
Samuel Sherman
Megan Stretton

Management and Marketing
Psychology
Environment and Business

LEICESTER

Aaron Yip

Medicine

LIVERPOOL

Eleanor Bonas
Cait Casey
Josh Middlemiss

Anatomy and Human Biology
Law
Aerospace Engineering with Pilot Studies
Medicine

Harry Peachey

Medicine

LONDON

King’s College
Anjali Bhopal
Tarran Dhillon

Chemistry with Biomedicine
Political Economy

London School of Economics (LSE)
Joseph Nijim

Accounting and Finance

Brunel College
Lauren Kiely

Politics

University College
Eve Colyer

Latin and English

University of the Arts
Frank Fogarty

Live Events and Television

LOUGHBOROUGH

Charlie Hadley
Patrick Robinson
Thomas Robinson

Sports Technology
Politics with Economics
Politics with Economics

MANCHESTER

Harry Goodworth

Management (Innovation, Strategy and Entrepreneurship) (2018 Entry)

NEWCASTLE

Yahia Affi
William Farnworth
Maeve Grogan
Scarlett O’Malley
Hannah Price

Medicine
Economics and Finance
Marketing
Politics and History
Medicine

NOTTINGHAM

Prince Adenuga

Finance, Accounting and Management
Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering including an Industrial Year
Economics
Modern European Studies
History
English and French
Geography
Chemical Engineering
Psychology
American Studies and English
Architecture
Philosophy

James Davenport
Amelia Diccico
Isabel Gaffney
Estelle Gough
George Hawkes
Ayman Kausar
Robyn Keen
Gemma Kentish
Thomas Lawrence
Heena Pala

Chemical Engineering
Economics and Politics
Digital Media
Psychology
Management
Management and Spanish
History
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
Economics and Russian

Simon Samardzija
Sophie Shakeshaft
Emily Shepherd

Industrial Economics
Philosophy
Sociology

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Abigail Humphreys
Matthew Rice

Graphic Design
Business Management and Economics

OXFORD BROOKES

Matthew Bodenham

Engineering Foundation

READING

Nicholas Empson
Matthew Farrow

Real Estate
International Business and Management
Business and Management
Entrepreneurship and Management
Real Estate with MSc/
Diploma in Urban Planning and Development
Classical Studies

SHEFFIELD

Jim Garbett

Politics

SOUTHAMPTON

Alistair Bevan
Joe Chamberlain

Medicine
Music

USA

Dartmouth
Maxine Perroni-Scharf

Liberal Arts

WARWICK

Emily Dekker
Bartholomew Payne
Amnish Sall

Physics
Chemistry
Philosophy

WEST OF ENGLAND

Ella Talbot

Hospitality & Events
Management (2018 Entry)

YORK

Joseph Gilyead

Politics with International Relations
History/Politics (Equal)
Economics
Politics with International Relations



A-Level and GCSE Results Days 2018



Leavers 2018



Valetes

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Helen Dolby

I only had the privilege of working alongside Helen for her final three full years here at Solihull though she has, in fact, been one of the longest-serving members of staff. Helen joined the School in 1994 as Head of Strings – a post she held throughout her wonderful stint of twenty-three years here. Prior to her arrival, Helen had been teaching at schools in the Worcester area for ten years. She was also a professional violinist, most notably with the world-renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Latterly she has continued her playing with the Sinfonia of Birmingham.

Over Helen's impressive number of years' service to the School she has encouraged and directed huge numbers of string players with her characteristic energy and care, providing great support to all those who have been lucky enough to work with her. I can't begin to think how many pupils she has taught individually or how many concerts she has conducted in or led. I do know, however, that so many pupils have such fond memories of their musical development under her guidance. Helen was also part of the department team who helped manage the move from the Leonard Stevens Building (the old Music School) to the wonderful new David Turnbull Music School. Helen is a strong pianist and regularly accompanied her pupils in concerts and exams. She was also responsible for organising all the Informal concerts and the Chamber Music concerts, as well as sorting out all the practical exam entries for the Trinity Exam Board. Helen's love of chamber and string orchestral music has always been clear and many performances stand testament to this.

Many people right across the school community will Miss Helen, not only as a teacher and colleague, but as a friend, and we extend our very best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Helen, for all you have given to Solihull.

Tim Kermode



Paul Jackson

Paul joined us at Solihull in 1999. A former pupil of Bablake School and graduate of Exeter University, he joined us from Ewell Castle, where he taught Mathematics (and rugby!) with considerable success. From Day One, it was clear that Paul was going to be a true professional and one who cared deeply about teaching and learning. He 'cares' and people respond to it. During Paul's tenure he managed to balance a Mathematics teaching workload with successfully running U15 Rugby for many years, whilst also being Examinations Officer and also Cover Manager at various stages.

When I say 'running U15 Rugby', I mean...creating the best possible platform (year in, year out) for cohort after cohort of U15 rugby players, to become the best players (in the best team) they could be. Paul's insatiable appetite to achieve this is a lesson to us all; leaving no stone unturned so that players and teams could fulfil their potential. Along the way, there were a number of highlights (notwithstanding a plethora of 7s silverware garnered), most notably in taking a team all the way to the Twickenham Vase Final and taking successive teams on European tours for many years with great success. The tours took place in South West France or Northern Italy and it was incredibly fitting that Paul's final (Italy 2018) tour culminated in winning the prestigious Carwyn Davies Trophy. Over the years, our School has made many friends in South West France and Northern Italy – all down to Paul's passion and commitment for the game and his desire to expose players to it.

A number of years ago the Barbados Cricket Tour required a member of staff to take the reins at the eleventh hour: enter PRJ! It came as no surprise that Paul then presided over a series of incredibly successful visits to the Sir Garfield Sobers Tournament. The School 5K Run has now become an eagerly anticipated annual event involving pupils across the school, staff, parents and former pupils. As an initiative totally driven by (and run by!) PRJ, it is proof of Paul's ability to make anything the best it can possibly be.

People like Paul can never be replaced in schools. We can only hope to come to terms with their absence and ensure that their various legacies (in his case, too many to mention!) live on and I think that all those that were privileged to work closely with Paul, will do all they can to ensure that is so – probably the greatest tribute we could honour him with. He will certainly be greatly missed. That said, I do hope that he and we will be in a position to work together in some capacity as the years unfold. We wish him well in what we hope will be a fabulous retirement.

Sean Morgan



Mark Worrall

Mark Worrall joined Solihull in 2001 following a slightly unusual, but very intriguing pathway. In 1982 Mark went up to Cambridge to read mathematics. It was during this period where Mark not only really developed his love for the subject but also many other intellectual pursuits. He graduated in 1986 and decided, as many graduates did back then, to put off at all costs getting a job and instead to see the world. Mark travelled extensively through China and East Asia for two years immersing himself in the culture, learning the language and also teaching to pay his way. On his return to England in 1988, Mark took up a post at Cambridge University as a Research Engineer where he tutored undergraduates as part of his job but he decided in 1991 to head back to university to study Chinese at Leeds. Following graduation for the second time, Mark worked for a Chinese publishing and translation company for two years before embarking on his first teaching post in 1997 at Queenswood School, Hertfordshire.

When I first met Mark in the Common Room in 2003 my predecessor, David Aldis, described Mark as a 'proper' mathematician. I didn't quite know what he meant at the time but over the years I discovered exactly what David was going on about. Mark is a serious mathematician – extremely intelligent but also deeply interested in maths. He will spend hours at the weekend doing very hard maths problems and he talks about maths at a profound level with pupils and colleagues – anyone who has seen Mark teach or give an enrichment lecture will know exactly what I mean. Over the years Mark has delivered some outstanding lectures to members of the school community which have been very well attended by pupils from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, colleagues in the Maths Department, other teaching staff and even the Headmaster himself! The range of Mark's knowledge is remarkable as evidenced by the titles of some of his lectures – 'Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem', 'Relativity' and the famous 'Nongentillians and other Big Numbers'.

Mark was also at the forefront of mathematics enrichment since he joined the school and he pioneered the British Maths Olympiad Group. The BMO Group is a hotbed for potential Oxbridge students and many successful candidates over the years have experienced Mark's brilliance as a teacher either at these sessions or in the classroom. Students in the BMO Group were exposed to very high levels of mathematics not normally seen until undergraduate, or even postgraduate, level and they were encouraged strongly to think creatively and persevere with very hard problems. But Mark is academic in so many other areas. I remember an Oxford University candidate meeting with us to talk about her Maths and Philosophy application. I said we can certainly help with the maths but

I'm not sure about the philosophy. At this point Mark said 'No problem!'; he would bring in some of his old copies of works by Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell and they could discuss the Philosophy of the Mind, the Philosophy of Logic and Ideal Language Analysis. Extraordinary.

As Second in Department, Mark did a tremendous job – he brought some very creative ideas to the table, helped drive the maths curriculum forwards and led from the front with his excellent teaching style. Mark also skilfully mentored colleagues new to the school, provided Oxbridge support for many successful students over the years and played an important role in appraising colleagues in the Maths Department.

Outside of mathematics, Mark immersed himself in an incredibly wide range of pursuits. Mark is very interested in Chinese culture and is also fluent in Mandarin – he ran Mandarin as an enrichment course at school for many years. He was (is) a serious athlete – Mark has run several marathons in ridiculously fast times. He tells me 2 hours 19 minutes is his personal best and to put that into context, that would have won the Commonwealth Games silver medal for men this year! He still runs regularly – half marathons and park runs – and only recently finished in the top 5 in the school 5K. Mark climbs mountains. All the time. And everywhere. He has put this passion to good use on several school expeditions to South America and the Himalayas, countless Duke of Edinburgh training weekends and he was also President of the School Mountain Club for ten years. Although Mark might not be so knowledgeable about proper sports such as football and rugby (except for the odd 'factoid' he shared with colleagues on Monday mornings) he is a very keen downhill mountain biker and has travelled far and wide to showcase his skills. Mark is also passionate about the history of art, photography and classical music – he is a regular attendee of concerts at Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Birmingham Conservatoire and has even managed to impart some of his pleasure for Bach and Beethoven on me. He is certainly not going to be bored during his retirement.

In summary, we are losing a person here with very high morals, who is caring, incredibly intellectual and a great friend, mentor and guide to many in the Common Room and wider school community. Mark Worrall is undoubtedly one of a kind, and he will be a tremendous loss to the school. We are going to miss him enormously. We wish Mark and his wife Tisi all the very best for the future and look forward to seeing him back here sometime soon for a coffee and catch up. All the very best my friend and thank you for everything.

Mark Bishop

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David Farrington

David A Farrington, or Dave, or ‘Fazza’ as he was known to many, joined Solihull in 2004 as a teacher of Physics and leaves in 2018 as Head of Physics.

Dave is an excellent practitioner. He thinks deeply about how to communicate with the learners, be they 11-year-olds looking at electrical circuits in a Science class or 18-year-olds studying relativity in A-Level Physics. He understands the difficulties that certain topics can pose and always finds ways of patiently helping learners to negotiate those topics that can be notoriously problematic. Dave is also a Head of Department who leads by example. He has fostered an atmosphere of collaboration within the department that has allowed all members to contribute to its ongoing development. He certainly passes on a department to his successor that is poised for further progress.

However, Dave’s contributions to the life of this community go well beyond the academic, and here his pastoral work must also be commented upon. He has a genuine concern for his tutees and they know that he is someone in whom they can confide. As adults we can sometimes forget how challenging young people will find life as they develop, but in Dave they have had an understanding and compassionate mentor. Many will know of Dave’s passion for astronomy and he has shared that with many of our students who have shown an interest. He has established a link with the Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Birmingham, and has introduced students to the joy and frustration of telescope observations.

Dave has also contributed several times to the Sixth Form trips to the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Without the support of colleagues like Dave, I would not have been able to provide this wonderful opportunity for Sixth Form students to meet scientists from around the world.

Many Shell Form pupils have also enjoyed Dave’s company on Snowdonia School, and still others will remember his time in the CCF. Dave is a keen cyclist and some colleagues will remember Dave in his cycling gear sharing in the Coast-to-Coast staff ride a few years ago. Dave will be greatly missed by all in the Solihull community but he has decided to move his life in a different direction and nearer to his home. He will be taking up a post as a laboratory technician at Warwick School in the next academic year. However, he will no doubt continue looking into the night sky, riding his bike, having more time to spend with his family and to enjoy visiting Villa Park. Yes, Dave is a Birmingham man, hailing from Erdington. I wish Dave all the very best for the future and thank him for his part in the life of Solihull.

Andrew Jones



Petra Cramb

This year we reluctantly say ‘Auf Wiedersehen’ to Petra Cramb, who after ten years of incredibly loyal and successful service to the MFL Department leaves us in order to enjoy a well-earned retirement. After many years of teaching experience, Petra joined Solihull as a teacher of German and French in September 2008, and since then, she has been an invaluable member both of the MFL Department in particular and the School as a whole. On taking up the role of Head of German some years ago, Petra went about the task of raising and then maintaining the profile of German with incredible enthusiasm and determination – the German magazine she inaugurated, ‘Das alles ist Deutschland’, became a showcase for all that is good about German at Solihull, and she has co-ordinated a bewildering range of enrichment events ranging from the Sixth Form trip to Berlin and the annual exchange with the Elisabethenschule in Hofheim, to the visit to the German Christmas Market in Birmingham and the Goethe Institut in London. Via the Midlands German Network, Petra has invited guest speakers into school and taken Sixth Form students on open days to other universities’ German departments. Beyond her own department, Petra has given her time to assisting in other trips, for example Jeremy’s trip to the Christmas markets in Cologne and Aachen, and also the French trips to the Cheateau de la Baudonnière.

As Head of German, Petra has inspired countless pupils to see the value of the language and encouraged them to broaden their horizons by visiting German-speaking countries for either business or pleasure. She has maintained an impressive record of academic success in the subject, and the enduring popularity of German at Solihull is testament to her skill in promoting it and making it relevant. Petra’s success as Head of German comes from the fact that she is an original thinker who moves with the times and never rests on her laurels – German at Solihull has been constantly refreshed and renewed because of her influence, and this has created a very positive legacy for the subject that will be felt for many years to come. It is hard to imagine life in the MFL Department without our funny, acerbic, stylish colleague, but one thing we do know is that retirement from teaching for Petra will certainly not mean ‘standing still!’ Petra has too much appreciation for culture and too much of a desire for new experiences to stay still for long, and whether it is singing in her choir or travelling the world with her family, I am sure that her time after teaching will be rewarding and exciting in equal measure.

We will miss you, Petra, and we thank you for everything you have done for Modern Foreign Languages during your time at Solihull.

Paul Morgan



David Carter

David joined the School in 2003 as Chief Accountant, remaining the conscience of the Bursary up to his retirement in May 2017. His professional knowledge and meticulous eye for detail were essential in guiding the School through an ever-changing landscape of financial and other regulatory compliance. He arrived from a commercial background to a function lacking in robust processes and procedures and over time, brought order and administrative discipline to a complex and busy operation. The accounts and regulatory submissions were always correct but perhaps his most crucial ability was to ensure that all staff got paid correctly and on time!

His disdain for politicians and the policy-setting bureaucrats was legendary as he battled to apply yet another missive from Whitehall to the real world. We won’t miss another political rant nor will we miss his ‘singing’ to an eclectic range of music emanating from the Ipod within his office. The Bursary is certainly quieter without him. He retires to spend more time with his family, especially on walking holidays that he is so fond of, to follow Brighton & Hove Albion even more closely and to get away from meddling politicians and those less organised and disciplined than himself. We wish him well for the future.

Richard Bate



Julia Skan

Julia Skan joined the School as Head of Careers in October 2013. For us and for Julia this was a welcome return: Julia was in the Sixth Form as a student. Her great affection for Solihull School led to her being elected the first ever female president of the Old Silhillians’ Association.

Julia reshaped our careers provision with energy and flair. Her broad range of interests and her gift for forging constructive and supportive relationships meant that she was able to facilitate many excellent opportunities for the students. She extended the reach of the programme – working with pupils from 7 to 18. The regular careers lunches attracted large numbers and opened people’s eyes to careers they had never previously considered. Arranging the speakers strengthened links with our alumni: Julia seemed to know (almost) everyone.

Julia read languages at university and her internationalism added an extra richness to her work. The international universities fair was one of a number of initiatives for which Julia was responsible. Her gift for event management meant that all were resounding successes. Julia played a crucial role in the success of sailing at Solihull. A transatlantic sailor herself, Julia gave very generously of her time to building up our sailing teams; she worked with them on games afternoons, at weekends and accompanied them to regattas, most notably perhaps on the annual trip to Itchenor.

In all she did, Julia was always a smiling and positive presence – her concern for and interest in the welfare of the pupils underpinned the care and attention she gave to guiding them. She often went the extra mile. She leaves behind a distinguished legacy – not least in the form of the many people she has helped towards the next stage of their education or career. We wish her every success in her next post.

David Morgan



Alexander Woodrow

When we were able to appoint Alex two years ago as Head of Choral Music we struck gold. Alex came with wonderful previous experience – both his academic training at Cambridge and then his working up the organists’ ladder with assistant roles at various cathedrals and then five years as Organist and Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral. In fact, he was the youngest ever appointed Cathedral Organist in the country – an accolade I think he still holds!

Alex is not only a first rate and hugely talented musician, he is also extremely modest – these two traits do not always go hand in hand! Alex is also wonderfully intelligent and articulate, which has enabled him to succeed with all his class teaching. His turn of phrase is so eloquent that his colleagues often listen attentively to his glorious command of the English language and incisive turn of phrase, waiting for the next little gem.

Alex is always calm and considered in his approach to all he does – whether that be a mainstream Junior or Lower School class music lesson or with highly committed singers and instrumentalists. He has taken the Chapel Choir to new heights of musicianship, managing to bring out an increased sense of musical shape and dynamic variety. We shall all be able to have a long-lasting record of this through the CD of choir music that he organised earlier this year, spanning the Church’s seasons spanning Advent to Epiphany.

Alex introduced the service of Compline to the pattern of Sunday services, and each Compline was preceded by a recital. The final Compline service of the year was suitably preceded by an organ recital given by Alex himself. As well as being an excellent organist, Alex is a fine pianist and many pupils have been the beneficiaries of his skills as a piano accompanist in both concerts and exams.

In addition to his work in school, Alex made time for music beyond the school campus within the local and extended community. He regularly played the organ at services at St Alphege Church and worked with choirs at Lichfield Cathedral; he has also been giving organ recitals elsewhere in the country. It is this wider freelance work, as well as his desire to extend his own academic research, that takes him to pastures new.

Alex settled in to life here at Solihull from day one, and the fact that a number of colleagues cannot believe that he has been here for only two years is testament to the impact he has made in his time with us. We shall miss him hugely but know that, as he has bought a house in the area and will continue to be part of the musical life of St Alphege Church in the town, he will still be on our doorstep. Indeed, he will be taking on a day’s piano teaching this coming academic year.

Tim Kermode



Caroline Griffin

After fourteen years of dedicated service as a laboratory technician to the Chemistry Department, Caroline Griffin retired in October 2017. Caroline was a very bubbly, warm and caring member of the department who would always help wherever there was a need. Her retirement is not going to be restful, as she will be helping to look after her beloved grandchildren, Oliver and Isabelle, and will continue to make her excellent jams and chutneys (which are very much missed!). We wish her many happy years doing what she really loves to do.

Corinne Goodman



Andrew Seal

Andrew joined the IT Department in August 2015, at very short notice, replacing another IT Technician who had left. I have known Andrew for much longer, through his work with D of E. He was with us in the IT Department for almost three years. He was always active and keen to get out and see people, making him popular with staff and pupils alike. In his time with us, Andrew contributed so much to the co-curricular life of the school, as a photographer, through his drone and model aircraft club, and through his roles in both CCF and D of E. He is an excellent navigator and very capable out on the moors and mountains, where his fitness level is something to behold. He left us to join the development team at Jaguar Land Rover, programming the next level of chips for future electric models. We wish him all the best in his new career.

Dave Reardon



Megan Lloyd

Megan leaves Solihull after 8 years - 6 as a pupil and 2 as a Gap tutor – and it is difficult to underestimate the varied and positive impact she has had on all areas of school life in that time. Her passion and flair for English language and literature – which earned her Poet Laureate accolades as a pupil – have been put to good use in guiding current pupils in the classroom and providing learning support to Silhillians in both the Senior and Junior Schools. She has played a key role in the Debating Society, coaching, judging competitions and helping to organise the flagship ‘Big Debate’, and has proved an invaluable asset to music at Solihull, with impressive recital performances and important contributions to big musical productions such as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Megan has done significant work as a regional ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust, helping to give Solihull students the opportunity to visit and learn Lessons from Auschwitz, and to watch the premier of Tomi Reichental’s moving *Condemned to Remember* in the Bushell Hall. She also assisted in bringing the important lessons from the Remembering Srebrenica initiative to the school community. Megan has also aided in enabling Solihull pupils to travel far and wide to pursue their academic studies and co-curricular pursuits, accompanying a huge variety of school trips from the Junior School discoveries at Mary Arden’s farm, to the Third Form adventures at Woodlands, to the wilds of Snowdonia School and the classical wonders of Cirencester. She has even been spotted on the sports fields in her efforts to contribute to the all-round development and success of young Silhillians, and her enthusiasm, good humour and can-do attitude will be missed by pupils and colleagues alike. Her legacy will endure in much more than her lyrics to the school song; although school life may now be over for Megan, she will undoubtedly remain in word and deed a Silhillian, and we wish her all the very best as she heads to St Hilda’s College, Cambridge, to study English.

Jo Francis



Pilar Vigus

Pilar joined us in September 2017 as a Spanish Assistant and has worked with both A-Level and GCSE Spanish candidates during her time with us. As befitting someone who teaches yoga, Pilar has been a peaceful, positive influence on the Spanish Department and leaves with our deepest thanks and very best wishes. ¡Gracias, Pilar!

Paul Morgan



Irene Alcázar Prieto

Irene joined the Spanish Department in November 2017 and was with us for the rest of the year, teaching Spanish in the Junior School, Lower School and Middle School, and also supporting our A-Level students in preparation for their oral examinations as a Spanish Assistant, which she did superbly well. One of Irene’s greatest strengths is her adaptability, and the fact that she taught so many pupils over such a wide age range bears witness to this quality. The pupils who have worked with Irene will testify that her time here was characterised by her unending positivity and good cheer, and all of us in the Spanish Department are very appreciative of her companionship and professionalism. We wish Irene well in her future career and hope that her time in Solihull was a very rewarding one both personally and professionally.

¡Buena suerte y muchas gracias!

Paul Morgan



Joanne Davidson

Jo joined us as a lunchtime supervisor in the summer term of 2014 as we expanded our number of supervisors from 2 to 4 in line with increasing Junior School pupil numbers. Beforehand, she had been a volunteer parent helping with Art and on trips, as her own three children went through the Junior School. She also helped with displays and heard pupils read, continuing even after her own children had moved to the Senior School. In her lunchtime supervisor role, she went about her duties diligently, always behaving in a calm, professional manner and acting in the best interests of pupils. She played a significant role in helping children make sensible food choices in the refectory and making sure they had happy and safe lunchtimes. Since finishing working with us she is enjoying more time with her family and dog, as well as keeping up her needlework! We are immensely grateful for all that Jo has given to the Junior School over many years and wish her all the best for the future.

Michael Jones



Kirsty Robinson

Kirsty joined Solihull as the Admissions Assistant in October 2015 after graduating from Newman University with a First Class Honours degree in English. She quickly established herself in Solihull's community and also participated in two of the school's musicals, playing the violin. Kirsty now embarks on the next exciting stage in her life and career: she will soon be known as Mrs Jones after getting married in August, then in September she will be known as 'Miss' (again!) when she starts her teacher training to fulfil her ambition of becoming an English teacher. She will be greatly missed but we wish her the very best in her exciting future.

Nicolette Mullan



Sam Oates

Sam Oates joined the DT Department in January of this year, having taken over from Mr Hunton. It's been an extremely busy six months, and in his role as departmental technician he has proved an invaluable help - supporting students with A-Level and GCSE coursework. He has considerable practical skills and Mr Oates has proved to be a great source of advice for students. Few will have guessed that he has only recently turned 19! During the short time he has been with us, Mr Oates has prepared some superb teaching resources. As a bit of a perfectionist, he has a keen eye for detail, and takes great pride in what he does. He is also a talented photographer and videographer – capturing some great moments in the department and preparing some useful instructional videos. Third Form pupils much appreciated his support with the department's VEX robotics club at lunchtimes.

Most recently, Mr Oates has worked extremely hard to develop some of the workshop space in what was a very tight schedule. In doing so, he has converted an old store room into our new computer-aided manufacture suite, and has helped refurbish an existing classroom to become a stimulating and effective ICT/design space. Mr Oates leaves to explore an exciting opportunity streaming video for his Church. Being somewhat of an entrepreneur and a creative talent, he also plans to develop his side-line in making set-props and producing his own short films. We'll be sorry to see him go, but wish him the best in his new career.

Neal Corbett



Jonathan Allen

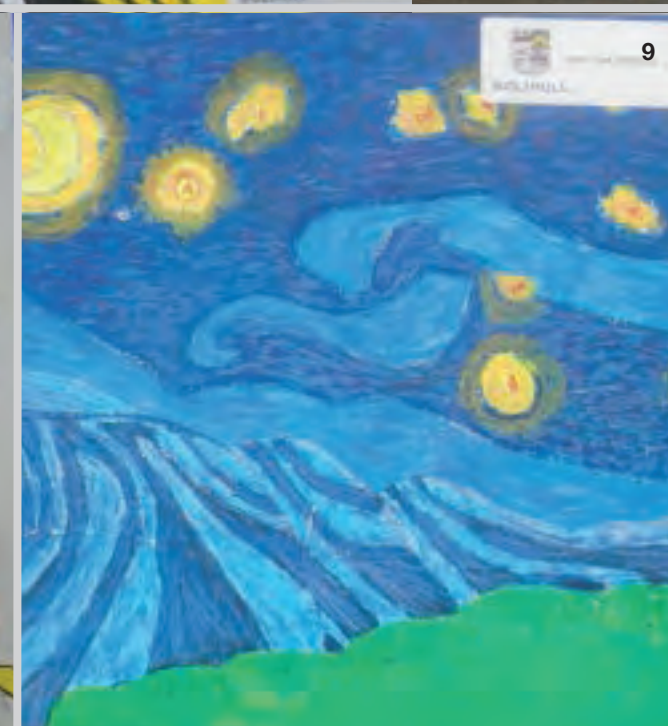
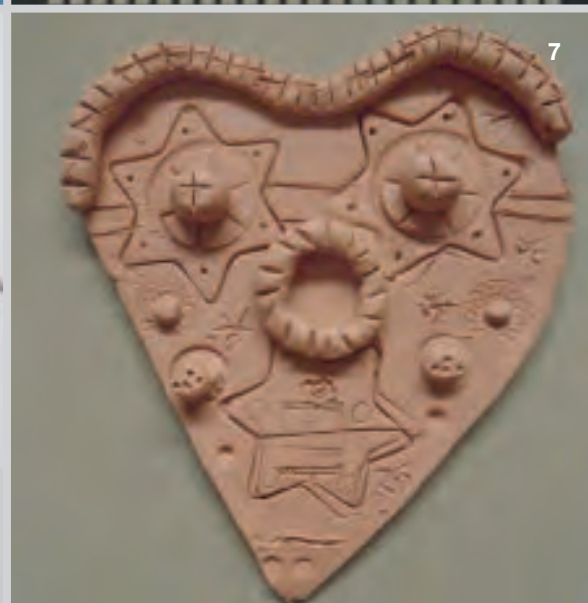
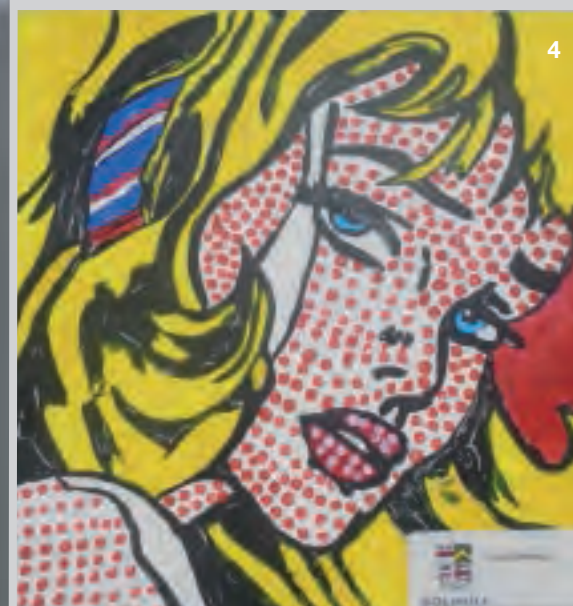
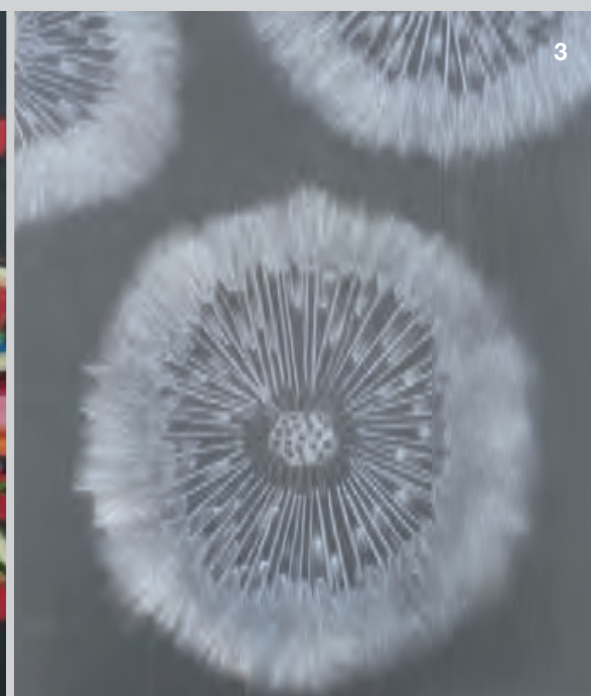
Jonny has left his mark on the PE Department: a little like his running as a 1st XV player, Jonny gradually built up to a crescendo! Obviously, as an Old Boy of the School he showed bundles of passion, both in the classroom/sports hall and also the pitches/astros. A desire to be successful was certainly a key aspect of Jonny's character.

His claim to fame was being the most successful coach in the School with the U12A team. He took great joy in this and it was nothing less than he deserved! Timeless training nights and hard team selections. Jonny was also co-coach of the 1st XV, a role he took extremely seriously. He was a superb member of staff on the Senior Rugby Tour to Singapore and New Zealand, always using his initiative and passion. Again, Jonny boosted morale and provided numerous words of wisdom from past experiences.

Nothing was ever above Jonny and he was certainly a team player, loved by all the department. Over the year his ball pumping prowess was renowned! Jonny was well respected by pupils from all year groups and he embodied what Solihull is all about.

We wish Jonny all the very best in his pursuit of a career and shall be indebted to him for all he did during his year. Thanks Jonny! The pleasure was ours and we're glad you've now seen what happens behind the scenes.

Steve Thompson



Junior School Art

1. Charlotte Hattersley
2. Claire Delaney
3. Scarlett Pugh
4. Lola Adesanya
5. Flynn Bayliss
6. Oliver Bentley
7. Ria Suthar
8. Chloe Haslehurst
9. Jeya Sandhar
10. Erica Adams
11. Aubrey Plunkett
12. Olivia Haynes
13. Harriet Fretwell
14. Jake Evans
15. Alice Pinkney

The Junior School

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Megathon

The Junior School's annual Decathlon Day was rebranded as 'Megathon Morning' this year following our expansion to 14 classes. This required the introduction of new events as pupils challenged themselves to complete a circuit of activities in order to raise money for three nominated charities. New events included tennis rallying and a water assault course, which were added to the list of tried and tested welly wanging, space hopping and plank walking! Our event had to be rearranged following heavy rain and finally took place on Friday 8 June. This year we supported Rosie's Rainbow Pantry, Birmingham Children's Hospital and MIND Solihull, proposed by three members of staff. Thank you to everyone in the community who sponsored the pupils.

This exceptional effort was acknowledged by Solihull MP Julian Knight who wrote to the School to congratulate pupils and staff. Combined with our annual charity week and other events it means the Junior School have raised in excess of £15,000 during the 2017-18 academic year.

Mr M Jones



Christingles!

On Sunday 21 January, the annual Christingle service took place in the Chapel. Many of the Junior School pupils had spent their lunchtimes in the preceding week in the 'Christingle Factory' in the Junior School Art Room, attending to the creation of 150 sweet-laden treats for the congregation to enjoy. In addition, the two Junior School choirs – Scuffle Singers and Junior Singers – treated everyone to some beautiful, harmonious singing. At the end of the service, a special cheque was presented to the Children's Society.

Mrs R Morgan

Family Fun Night

In February, the Junior School once again embarked upon Family Fun Night, organised and run by the SSPA. The evening kicked off with a screening of 'Captain Underpants' in the Bushell Hall where pupils enjoyed popcorn and a drink. The main event then got underway in the refectory as pupils were joined by their families and placed 'bets' on their favourite snails before watching the action unfold. Everyone was a winner at some point with lots of chocolatey prizes! Families were treated to sausage and chips from our new catering team and the Junior School staff were also present in full force, helping with running the 'totes' and giving announcements. Thank you to everyone who supported a very successful event and particularly Katie Hattersley for stepping up to run it this year.

Mr M Jones

Royal Wedding picnic

On Thursday 17 May, the Junior School held a giant picnic on the lawn to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Meghan and Harry. Classes sat together and dived into a fabulous picnic provided by our catering team. Bunting, flags and tables were laid out and an ice cream van supplied everyone with an extra refreshing treat. The sun shone and we all raised an iced cupcake to the happy couple!

Mrs H Middleton



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Chicks in the Junior School!

The Junior School got extremely excited in the summer term when ten fertilised eggs hatched into seven fluffy chicks; three hens and four feisty cockerels! The incubator was set up to a live webcam in the Science room so we could watch the chicks around the clock. We knew it would be incredible to watch these eggs hatch but we didn't expect 20,000 hits on the live webcam in the first week!

All children had the chance to hold and stroke the chicks. It was fascinating to watch how dramatically they changed in a few days. Some children were fortunate enough, or perhaps unfortunate enough, to clean and wash the chicks each day. This was not the most pleasant of jobs as our feathery friends were rather smelly! We were delighted to be able to send three hens home with a J2 pupil who agreed to provide a home for them and add them to their ready-built coop. The chicks provided pupils and teachers in the Junior School with a welcome infectious positivity at the end of what was a very busy term.

Mrs H Middleton



World Book Day 2018

On Thursday 1 March, the Junior School celebrated reading by participating in the annual World Book Day initiative. The children surpassed themselves by dressing up as an array of characters from their favourite books and the staff's costumes were inspired by Dodie Smith's novel, The Hundred and One Dalmatians. Mrs Morgan made a formidable Cruella de Vil! We began the day with a House quiz where the children had to answer 20 questions on literature. All Houses performed very well but the overall winner with full marks was Jago. The children were also set a form reading challenge to complete at home. Some of these challenges included reading to a pet, reading a newspaper article and reading with a hat on! The first form where all children had completed their challenge were presented with a book for their classroom. The winners were J1W, J2HM, J3D and J4JEH. We are already looking forward to next year!

Mrs C Mollison



Science Week

Science Week got off to a dynamic start with the topic of 'Exploration and Discovery.' The pupils were set with a challenge of designing the best spaceship that they could to land on Mars. The best designs were put forward to a panel of judges in assembly and the worthy winners were awarded. As well as that, the pupils in J1 and J2 experienced a 'show and tell' Science morning, where they learnt about Science professions from our very own J1 and J2 parents. On Thursday we were joined by a team from Birmingham Thinktank who performed an Electrifying Science Show for the children and taught the J3 children about the star constellations in their portable space dome.

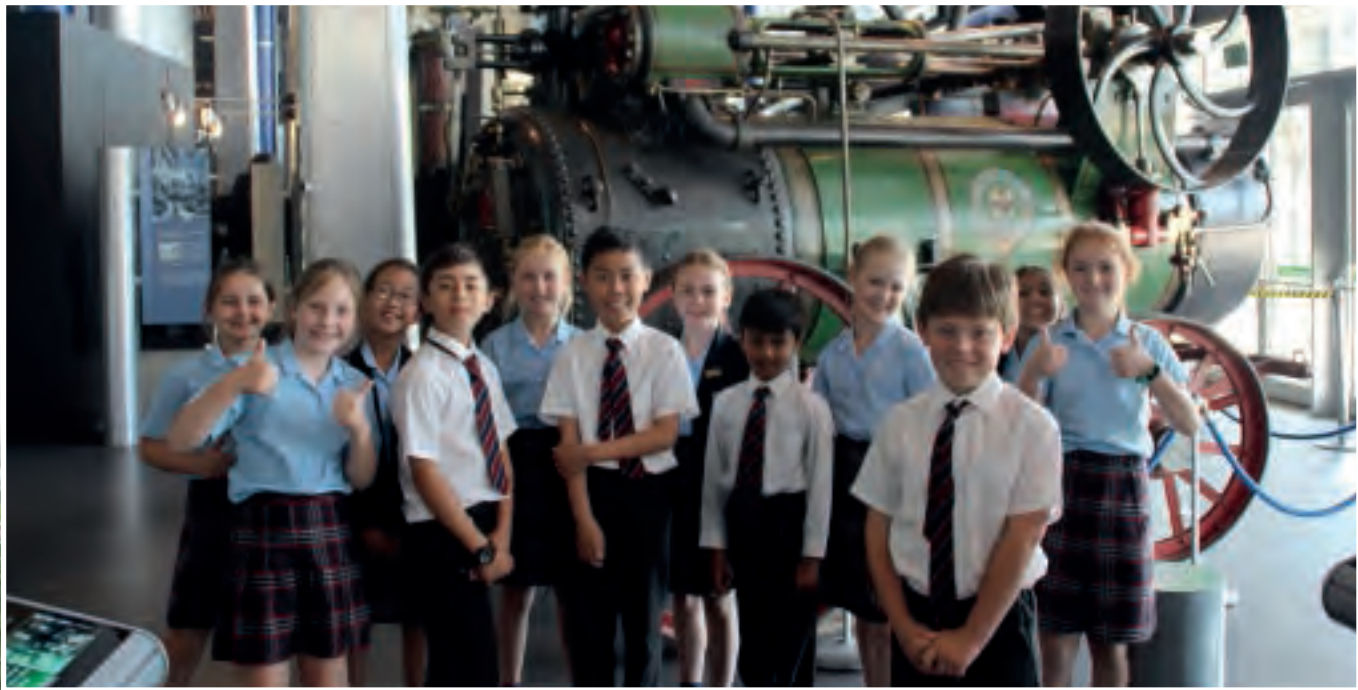
Mrs H Middleton



Mindfulness in the Junior School

To help develop pupils' understanding of mindfulness and its many benefits, pupils from a primary school in Birmingham visited Solihull to share their experiences of mindfulness with pupils who attend Mindfulness Club in the Junior School. Pupils reflected upon how being mindful helps them in different aspects of their lives, and took part in a range of activities together, including mindful eating, mindful movement, and some focus and relaxation meditations. New friends were made and a lovely morning was had by all who took part, adults and children alike!

Mrs D Penney



Thinktank visit

On Monday 11 June the whole of J2 and their teachers went to the Birmingham Thinktank Science Museum. The children started the day exploring 'The Past Gallery' and enjoyed looking at the transport from years ago. The bubble car with a moped engine was a firm favourite! Another popular mode of transport was the steam train that has been restored and was gleaming. They were also fascinated by the spitfires hanging overhead and it was strange to think that these had been used in the Second World War. The groups all then moved onto the 'We Made It Gallery' where they held the oldest artefact in the museum, a meteorite, which was 4.5 billion years old! Further exploration of the museum meant the children were able to study the human body, for example how the kidneys worked, and they were able to see how food was digested – yuck! After lunch, much fun was had exploring the 'Science Garden' and as the sun was shining, everyone enjoyed experimenting with the force of water, some accidentally getting themselves rather wet! All the children had a super day exploring Science.

Mrs H Middleton



J3 trip to Mary Arden's Farm

In the Summer Term, the J3s went to Mary Arden's Farm to learn more about Tudor life. All of the children dressed up and took part in a range of Tudor activities during the day – these included painting a wall hanging, baking bread, making butter, and watching a falconry display. They also took part in some fine Tudor dancing! A great day out was had by all.

Mrs N Atkins



J2 visit to JLR

In December, J2 pupils visited the Jaguar Land Rover site in Solihull. This annual school trip is always received favourably by the children, who enjoy putting on their high visibility jackets and venturing around the factory. Amongst many facts they learn from their visit, they are amazed to find out that each finished Land Rover leaves the site within 6 hours of being completed and is often exported off shore. The children finished their day in the classroom using their own 'production line' and Lego to make their own car.

Mrs H Middleton





Trip to Handsworth Gurdwara

As part of their Religious Studies topic 'Working Together,' J2 visited Handsworth Gurdwara where they learned about the importance of the building and how the local community is served by its volunteers. They learned that an average of 30,000 meals are served free of charge to visitors each week, all of which are made and served by Sikhs who choose to give a portion of their time to the Gurdwara. In addition to learning about the day-to-day running of the building, the children got to visit two prayer halls to hear the Guru Granth Sahib being read. Some children even tried prashad, or blessed food. J2 enjoyed putting their learning from the classroom into context.

Miss S Moule



Dentist Visit

The J2 pupils had another exciting visitor on Friday 3 November, in the form of a dentist from Orthodontic Excellence. This reinforced their topic in Science of Moving and Growing and as well as learning about teeth hygiene, they saw some fascinating x-ray images of the side of the skull.

The pupils were delighted to see what happens when they use a disclosing tablet and couldn't wait to go home to try this out! They might be drinking less flavoured water and coke too as a result of some alarming facts regarding their sugar content.

Mrs H Middleton



Fire Service Visit

On Thursday 2 November, 'White Watch' from Solihull Fire Station came to talk to the J2 pupils about being Fire Smart. The children were made aware of the importance of using smoke detectors and discussed possible escapes routes during fires. They also were made aware of hoax calls and what to do in an emergency. Important tips for a safe bonfire night was also an importance feature of the afternoon. Luckily, the firemen and women were not needed on an emergency, so the pupils were able to go outside and explore the impressive fire engine and all the clever equipment that is used to put out fires and rescue people.

Mrs H Middleton



J1 Bhangra Dancing

In the Easter Term, J1 were treated to a morning full of excitement when they embraced the opportunity to have a go at Bhangra dancing. 'IN2CULTURES' began by discussing Indian lifestyle and traditions, which is the current J1 Geography topic. This was followed by the teaching of a highly energetic Bhangra routine filled with movement, character and very loud drums! All pupils and staff left with new facts about India as well as some unique Bhangra dance moves!

Miss R Smith



Miss S Moule

A Journey to the Stable

J1 visited St Alphege Church for 'A Journey to the Stable' at the end of November, where they learned about the true meaning of Christmas. This year they got a tour of the oldest parts of the church, and even saw where swords used to be sharpened on the church walls! They visited a shepherd, a king, the innkeeper's wife and Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, who all had their own part to play in the Christmas story. Each pupil also decorated a Christmas bookmark to remind them of their trip. It was an enjoyable and festive morning for everyone involved.



J4 Residential to Hilltop, Norfolk

On Friday 18 May, J4 pupils set off for four days of fun and adventure to Hilltop Outdoor Education Centre in Norfolk. As soon as they arrived, the clouds parted and they were treated to glorious sunshine for the entire duration of the trip. The children took part in a variety of activities such as studying coastal erosion at the local beach, zooming down a giant zip wire, mountain biking and a tree top trail. They even made a stop-off at the local ice-cream shop! Hilltop's motto is 'Challenge by Choice' and the children were provided with many opportunities to be pushed out of their comfort zone and overcome new challenges. The activities also enabled them to develop both their team work and leadership skills. The children had a brilliant weekend and came home with lots of memories. It was the perfect way to round off their time in the Junior School.

Miss J Hanlon



Boreatton Park PGL

After months of anticipation, J3 travelled to Boreatton Park PGL centre in Shropshire to embark on a weekend of adventure, challenge and team-building. For many, it was their first experience of activities such as the high trapeze, giant swing, archery and aeroball. Watersports were abundant too with soaking stories to tell from raft building and canoeing. The glorious summer weather started here and we enjoyed hours in the great outdoors with the sun smiling down on us. It's not so bad getting wet in such beautiful weather! Fears were conquered, challenges were faced and achievements were proudly made. The children were exceptional in all aspects and thoroughly wonderful company on the trip. We think that this experience of team building, resilience and perseverance has set them up well for life in J4 and beyond. Well done J3 of 2017-18 – your teachers are very proud of you!

Miss L Lynch



Junior School Art

2017-18 has yet again heralded a year of art activities embracing the School's aims of 'Ambition, Opportunity and Community'. The Junior School pupils have undertaken ambitious projects, challenging their skillset across the age ranges. In addition, they have been afforded a range of opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills and experienced the expertise and work of professional artists. Lastly, they have shared their work with the wider school community in an end of year 'Art Walkabout'.

Design-based co-curricular opportunities have continued to flourish this year. Once again, there have been large numbers of pupils attending lunchtime art clubs and the latter were again differentiated to attract a wider range of pupils and also to help those pupils who wished to hone their drawing skills. Creative Skills Club was attended in great numbers by the J1/J2 pupils and this focused on developing basic drawing, painting and craft skills. Mrs Baker ran the very successful Artistic Challenge Experience (ACE for short) for the J3/J4 pupils, where they were able to extend their drawing and painting skills; especially important for those pupils hoping to apply for an Art Scholarship at 11+. Photography Club was again run very successfully by Mrs Mollison, with pupils working hard to produce some outstanding technical and creative images. In DT Club, Mr Mitchell worked very hard with the older pupils, enhancing the skills learned in DT lessons. Finally, Sewing Club for the J4 pupils has allowed a greater number of pupils than ever to attend, thanks to both Mrs Belinda Griffiths and Mrs Elizabeth Sach kindly giving of their time each week. A huge thank you must go to the Junior School staff involved, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Sach and the Senior School pupil volunteers who have enabled these clubs to run so efficiently.

Inspired by the work of a range of different artists, all the Junior School pupils have yet again enjoyed a very productive year in the art projects they have undertaken and the following year groups benefitted from extra inspiration in the form of trips and professional workshops.

In the Easter Term, the J4s embarked on an exciting art and DT combined project based on the work of Eduardo Paolozzi, an influential Pop Artist and sculptor. They travelled to Wakefield to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to view the sculptural works on show which inspired them with ideas for their own compositions back in school; mixed media collage in art and mechanical sculpture in DT. The park was full of amazing 3D work by artists such as Paolozzi, Zak Ove, Sophie Ryder, Julian Opie, Anthony Caro and Henry Moore, to name but a few, and demonstrated to the pupils how art can take so many forms, whilst using such different materials and ideas.



Following a tour of the park, the pupils worked collaboratively in teams and were set the challenge of creating their own sculpture, to the theme of 'Half and Half' using a huge selection of large industrial materials. Working on such a large scale was a fantastic opportunity for all involved, even in the pouring rain!

During the Summer Term, the J1 pupils visited Oxford and as part of their trip spent the afternoon at the Oxford Museum of Natural History, very much focusing on practising their observation skills. In lessons throughout the year, the pupils have been taught how important it is to closely observe the items they are drawing and this trip required the children to locate natural objects of interest, especially fossils and shells and sketch their shape, line detail and texture in preparation for creating their own fossils upon their return to school. The pupils really enjoyed drawing from observation and learnt a lot about the world of fossils.



In addition, the J2s finished the year with a visit from former pupil Rosie Super, who now works as successful professional artist 'Florence'. Rosie specialises in painting marine life on planks of wood and very kindly agreed to run a workshop, focusing on painting mackerel with real-life fish for the children to observe too! The pupils were delighted to work on their very own piece of wood to create their own original artwork. Rosie spoke to the pupils about how she loved art at school, how her career has developed and where her work is displayed; for example in Rick Stein's restaurant in Padstow, as well as many other restaurants and locations. She demonstrated each stage carefully and offered tips and advice to both pupils and staff who were fully engaged in this enjoyable process throughout the day.

Displaying the J2 'Shoal of Mackerel' in our first end of year 'Art Walkabout' was a fabulous end to a wonderful project. The informal walkabout enabled all the Junior School pupils, their family and friends to come and view the fantastic work that has gone on all year, from J1 through to J4. The Junior School was a hive of activity with art, photography and DT work on display in the Art Room, Junior School Hall and on display boards in the foyer and in the corridors around school. The exhibition was very well received by all those who came to view it and was a fitting way to celebrate all the wonderful efforts of our pupils throughout the year.

Mrs R Morgan





Junior School Summer Concert 2018

This year's Junior School Summer Concert took place on Thursday 21 June. The wonderful evening saw a packed Bushell Hall audience both moved and amused by a variety of performances. Once again, every child in the Junior School performed in at least one item, with many turning their hand to several different instruments. In addition to performances by larger ensembles such as brass ensemble, string group, wind band, guitar group, Junior Singers and Scuffle Singers, the concert included solos and small group items, which were particularly impressive given the age of the children involved and the confidence required to sing or play together so

effectively. The J2s were given the opportunity to demonstrate all that they have learnt this year through their instrumental tuition scheme, and their friends and family thoroughly enjoyed the performances from strings, flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones. A further highlight proved to be the choral performances by each year group; the children sang with tremendous vitality and enthusiasm, which was a joy to see. The concert really was an event that celebrated the musical achievements of the Junior School children over the past year, and we are already looking forward to next year.

Miss F Wernham



The Pirates of the Curry Bean

This year's J4 production, *The Pirates of the Curry Bean*, was a swashbuckling adventure which entertained its audiences and made them laugh out loud. The story began when a pair of mischievous twins found a real treasure map, left for them by their meddling uncle Deadeye. But when the infamous Redbeard and the pungent pirates of the Curry Bean stole the map and kidnapped their mother, the race was on to rescue her, reclaim the map and find the treasure! Accompanied by their faithful cat Fiddlesticks, the twins joined Admiral Hornhonker, Captain Cod and their crazy crew on a voyage of adventure that took them from Old London Docks to the mysterious island of Lumbago in the sea of Sciatica! As well as a great deal of talent, a sense of camaraderie was shown during the rehearsals and performances, as the children worked together to put on an excellent show.

Miss S Moule



Junior School Sport 2017/18

Sporting opportunities have been endless this year at Solihull Junior School. With competitive fixtures provided in hockey, rugby, netball, football, swimming, cricket, rounders, gymnastics and biathlon, every boy and girl from J1 through to J4 should feel proud of their efforts and achievements.

Stand out achievements include:

- Every boy and girl in the Junior School has represented the School in a competitive fixture.
- Junior School J3/4 boys & girls Biathlon team won Gold at the Level 3 School Games Biathlon, swimming and running against all primary schools in the Midlands.



- Solihull Junior School competed at their first ever Gymnastics competition. In September, Mr Super, in partnership with Stardust Dance Academy, started Gymnastics squad training before school on Mondays. The squad of 26 girls worked hard on their routines, and competed in Floor and Vault against over 30 other schools, at the Regional Competition.
- J3 Swimmers Alex Sethi and Maddy Brown made history this year, qualifying to the IAPS Swimming National Finals at the London Aquatics Centre. Maddy finished 18th in the country for 25m Butterfly, and Alex, after making it through his first heat into the final, came 5th in the country in 25m Backstroke.
- Our Athletics relay teams managed to win all four age group trophies at the Hallfield Relay competition against 5 other schools. Excellent effort by all involved!
- The J2 boys' hockey team, at the Foremarke Hall Hockey Festival, in terrible weather conditions, finished as overall winners, unbeaten in all 6 games!

Mr D Super

Junior School Girls' Games

2017-18 has been a year of extremes on the sports fields, from 5ft of snow in winter to 5 weeks of scorching temperatures in the Summer Term! Through all of this, the girls have worked hard, strived to improve and progressed in all areas of sporting life, and all with a smile on their faces and a spring in their step.

There has been success on the pitches, the courts, the track and in the pool. There have been opportunities for girls to represent the School in competitive fixtures in netball, hockey and rounders, from J1-J4. There has been silverware brought home from Borough Sports, J3 and J4 2018 Champions yet again! Glassware was won at the Hallfield Relays, J1-J4 sprint events. There was a successful sports tour to Bath and Bristol with wins in netball matches against KES Bath and a draw against Clifton College. There was a trophy won at the U10



Croft Rounders Tournament, on the last ball no less. There was a hotly-contested (and victorious) gala for J1-4 girls against EHS. And finally, there were House events, the most keenly contested of all, Swim Sports and Sports Day, in which all girls did their best for themselves and their House.

It seems an age since we stepped onto the freshly-laid new astroturf back in September, and yet the year has flown by in the blink of an eye. There is no doubt that sport will continue to be enjoyable, progressive and inclusive for the girls in the Junior School.

Mrs L Browning



Borough Sports

Solihull Junior School were victorious for yet another year, retaining the Directors Cup at the Solihull Borough Sports Athletics Championships, competing in track and field against over 25 other schools in Solihull.

In the field events, our boys and girls racked up the points, with Jemima Meigh and Lola Adesanya winning gold medals in the long jump, Sam Stockdale taking gold in the high jump, and Scarlett Pugh collecting gold in javelin.

On the track, our runners exceeded themselves, with Erin Jennings taking gold, winning the 75m final, Kate O’Leary making the final, and Jake Evans and Erica Adams, after winning their heats, both taking silver in the 600m finals. Then to top it all off, in the relays we made it to all four age group finals, with two gold medals, one silver and a 4th place finish.

Mr D Super



Junior School Sports Day

The flags were out, the gazebo set,
All ready for Sports Day 2018, to be the best yet?
Pupils were prepped, we’d ordered the sun,
All set for an afternoon of back-to-back fun.
Pupils in the shade, parents working on their tan,
Races all organised by Head of PE, Mr Super (man!)
Sprint races, egg and spoon, something for all,
Even a parents’ egg and spoon, well, a golf ball!
The temperature continued to go up and up,
Eyes on the prize, a massive, shiny cup.
Three records broken in sprint events... get in!
J2’s Kalechi and two for J4’s Erin!
The lead changed hands throughout the competition,
‘Double points’ for the relays to create more addition.
Superb girls clearly had eaten their weetabix,
Jasmine, Sophie, Kate and Erin, winners of the Victrix
(Ludorum)
And on the boys’ side, the overall top four,
Owen, Kalechi, Ben and Alex, winners of the Victor (Ludorum)
And so the hotly-contested and fun afternoon drew to a close,
DJ Mr Mitchell announcing ‘Shenstone won by a nose’!
Victorious whooping and much celebration,
A cracking end to the sporting year and scenes of much
jubilation.

Mrs L Browning



School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The School Chaplaincy has continued to flourish with regular Sunday services and the celebration of special occasions in the lives of present and former pupils. A number of families have returned to school for the Baptism of their children. The Chapel Choir has grown and developed under the leadership, professionalism and expertise of Mr Alexander Woodrow with Mr Peter Irving regularly at the organ console.

The beginning of the Church's year was celebrated with a wonderful Advent Procession and Carol Service involving many staff, pupils and friends in the reading of lessons. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was sadly cancelled on both evenings due to the severe weather. However, we were able to hold a celebration on the final day of the Christmas term. Though a smaller congregation, the occasion was magical. Many people participated, as usual, in the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



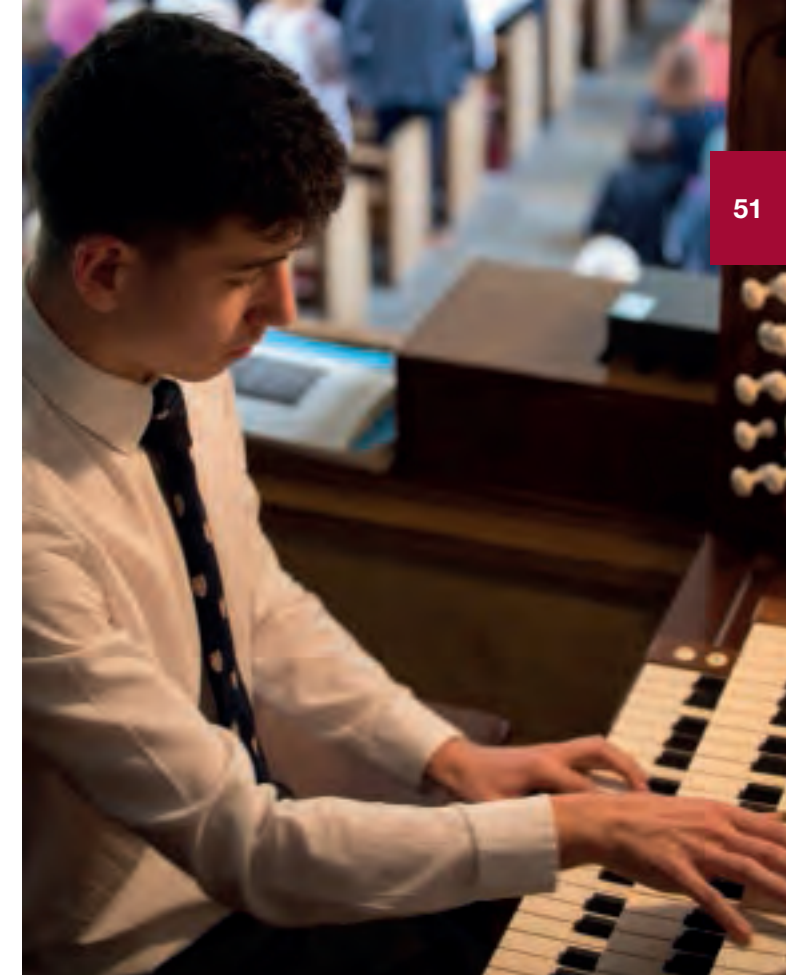
The Junior School Christmas Carol Service was a huge success involving many young people in dramatic and musical expressions. A large collection from this service, together with other monies previously raised in school, was sent to 'Sight Savers', a very worthwhile appeal enabling the restoration of sight for people in the developing world.

The Junior School were again in Chapel during January for a delightful Christingle Service to mark the conclusion of the Christmas festivities. Mrs Morgan organised a work-shop for the making of the Christingles where we were able to reflect upon the message of Christmas and Candlemass. Again, this was a fabulous service and a tradition we now sustain. A large collection resulted for the work of the Children's Society.

The Summer Term saw the return of our 'Celebration of all God's Creatures', when Junior School members (and many others) brought their beloved pets into Chapel for a blessing. Such opportunities provide a welcome for those who previously may not have attended worship with us but who appreciate our prayers and support.

On a number of occasions throughout the year the Chapel Choir has performed musical items during assembly which have enriched our worship. I am particularly grateful to them for this.

Our links with the Anglican Diocese of Katakwa, Kenya and the Province of West Africa have continued to develop. We hold them in our prayers and give thanks for their fellowship. Our charitable giving through chapel collections continues to be significant to our community. This has included donations to The Children's Society, Teenage Cancer Trust, The England and Wales Mountain Rescue, Solihull Hospice and the Kings Norton Food Bank.



I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to so many people who have assisted in the life of the Chaplaincy this year, first of all to the Upper Sixth members of the Choir who have now embarked upon their chosen university courses and careers. Also my appreciation goes to our altar servers, Kate Stumper and Elliot Harris, and the wonderful team of Upper Sixth Religious Studies students who have frequently participated in dramas and various presentations on Sunday evenings. They will be much missed.

During the Summer Term we held a fabulous Leavers' Service celebrating the life of our Upper Sixth. Contributions of exquisite music and reflective readings provided a fitting conclusion to their school career. We also bade farewell to Mr Alexander Woodrow during the final Solemn Evensong of Summer Term. Alex has worked assiduously for the Chapel community developing the choirs, providing new opportunities for worship and extending the ministry of our young organists. Moreover, I am personally indebted to Alexander for his commitment to the Christian Faith and his support for my priestly ministry here and at St Alphege Church. He will be hugely missed. We wish him God's blessings for the future.

I continue to exercise a busy ministry in the Solihull Team of churches and support St Alphege by occasionally celebrating the Sunday Eucharist, funerals, memorial services, weddings, Baptisms and pastoral involvement. The Walsingham pilgrimage group continues to grow and flourish enjoying an annual visit to Our Lady's shrine plus a number of services and meetings throughout the year. Many members hold strong associations with the School.

The School Chapel stands as a reminder of our Christian foundation here at Solihull. You are always welcome to attend the services.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Chapel Music

Introduction

This has been a very strong year for Chapel Music at Solihull School, although I am sure that it must also be the only year in the School's history where four services have had to be cancelled owing to extreme snowfall! The Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir and Chamber Choir have continued to exercise their primary purpose of offering choral music in the Anglican tradition at our services of Eucharist, Evensong or Compline each Sunday, and we are just about unique as a day school in sustaining our weekend chapel tradition in this way. My thanks go to all of the members for their dedication and support, to Fr Andrew, Mr Kermode and Mr Irving for their stewardship of our music making, and to our many choir families for forming a congregation each week and ferrying your children to and from the Chapel at weekends.

Mr A Woodrow



Boys' Choir

A significant new intake of J3, J4 and Third Form recruits in September has led to full choir stalls throughout the year. Oliver Palmer continued as Head Chorister, and was joined in the autumn by Joshua Kermode. The year began with a visit, in tandem with the Girls' Choir, to sing Evensong at St Albans Cathedral. This was much enjoyed, as such wonderfully ancient and imposing buildings are always inspiring environments in which to sing. Back in our own Chapel, the boys have played their part in the regular round of Sunday services, sometimes in their own right and sometimes in tandem with the Girls' Choir, with a wide range of repertoire ranging from Orlando Gibbons to Benjamin Britten.

Recording a CD in January was a new experience for most, and the choir did well to sustain a lengthy and demanding session and maintain the necessary level of musical discipline throughout the recording. Rehearsals on Wednesday lunchtimes and Friday mornings are always lively affairs, but much good music making has been achieved and there has been a positive team spirit throughout the year. My thanks go to the boys for their hard work and their singing throughout the year.

Mr A Woodrow

Girls' Choir

The Girls' Choir has been involved in many services throughout the year, including some with the Boys and Chamber Choir. In October we sang in St Albans Cathedral with the Boys' Choir. This was an amazing experience and we are very grateful to the teachers who took us and the parents who came along to support us on the day. As always, one of the highlights of the year was the annual Nine Lessons and Carols service, although this year, due to the snowy conditions, the service had to be rescheduled to the Friday morning. Whilst a smaller service, it was thoroughly enjoyed by those who were there. Shortly after Nine Lessons and Carols we recorded a selection of pieces in the Chapel with the help of Adrian Lucas, ex-Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral and a CD will be available very shortly.

We have greatly enjoyed welcoming new choristers to the Girls' Choir this year and appreciated their contributions. After five years, we are both very sad to be leaving Girls' Choir but also excited to be moving up to the Chamber Choir next year with Arabella Morrall, Ellie Lawley and Lucia Eguiguren-Wray. Our sincere thanks go both to Mr Kermod and to Mr Woodrow, who is very sadly leaving us this year. Both have been crucial to the success of the Girls' Choir and have made it such a special year for all of us.

Isabel Fennell and Jessica Toogood, Fourth Form



Remembrance Sunday saw the Chamber Choir sing Gabriel Fauré's beautiful Requiem Mass, with Beatrix Huissoon, James Spence and Benny Wu taking the Pie Jesu, Hostias and Libera Me solos respectively. This devotional performance was very beautiful, well-blended and full of lovely, varied choral colour, auguring well for the year ahead. An atmospheric Advent Procession followed a few weeks later, the choir's motets being interspersed with timelessly ancient plainsong antiphons appropriate to the season. Alongside all of this, preparations for the Nine Lessons and Carols were being undertaken as assiduously as ever. Sadly, this annual highlight fell victim to some of the heaviest and most treacherous snowfall and freezing conditions that this region has seen for some years. Temporarily despondent, we were pleased that it proved possible to reschedule our Nine Lessons service for the final morning of term, and so, although hundreds of congregants missed out this year, at least the choir's hard work did not, in the end, go completely wasted.

January saw a recording undertaken by all members of the choral foundation (Boys', Girls' and Chamber Choirs), with music appropriate to the great seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas. Our accomplished recording engineer, Adrian Lucas, kept us on track during the recording sessions and, as I write, the CD is mid-production. It sounds very impressive, with a wonderful range of repertoire, and is testament to the hard work displayed by each of the choirs this year.

Our now annual highlight of a visit to St Paul's Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong soon followed, with music by Richard Ayleward, Thomas Tertius Noble and Edward Elgar. This is always a great privilege and a memorable experience to play our small part in the ongoing daily worship of such a remarkable building and institution. With the momentum of the weekly round of Eucharists, Evensongs and Complines in our own School Chapel, the year soon passed and soon it was time for the Leavers' Service, with music by Parry, Rutter and S S Wesley among the musical fare. The final few weeks of term have been dominated by public exams for many, but we have still maintained a quorum at rehearsals, and are looking forward to travelling to Salzburg to give some concerts in conjunction with Saxophony and the Advanced Strings Ensemble in mid-July.

I should like to put on record how much I have enjoyed working with this dedicated and talented group of senior students during my couple of years at Solihull.

Mr A Woodrow

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir has numbered a healthy 46 singers throughout the year and has been superbly well balanced, with 23 sopranos and altos complemented perfectly by 23 tenors and basses. Such an equilibrium is rare among school choirs and proved the catalyst for the decision to record the choirs this year. We have been blessed with a very strong Upper Sixth year, numbering some 13 choristers, and it was a special and poignant moment when we bade them farewell at the Leavers' Service in May. Any report such as this will necessarily focus on the highlights, but before I do so it is worth noting that the week-by-week choral worship that is offered in our Chapel during term time each Sunday is something of increasing rarity and unblemished beauty in this heady, ever more secular and temporal world.



Community Service

Community is important to us at Solihull, not just that which is made up of the student, teacher and parent body, but also the wider community of Solihull. To paraphrase Chief Justice Sonia Sotomayor, we cannot just draw on the strength of our own community, but should also look outwards and seek to build bridges and not walls. As the coordinator of the Community Service programme for the Sixth Form, I hope that the work that our students do out in various community settings does just that. By giving something of ourselves to the wider community, the School as a whole and the lives of the individual students involved are enriched.

This year our students have been supporting the work of a number of local schools, as well as volunteering in the Air Ambulance shop in Solihull and at the Marie Curie hospice on Marsh Lane. It is rare for students to be given the opportunity to volunteer for such a long period (from September through to May) in an organisation and this gives them the chance to really hone their inter-personal and communication skills and build strong bonds of trust with the individuals they interact with. Not only this, but our students have benefitted greatly from the faith put in them by the host organisations. This has particularly been the case in terms of our link with Marie Curie, which was new this year. The students involved in that placement were given important responsibilities with out-patients and other users of the service. I am especially grateful to Suzanne MacArthur and the other staff at Marie Curie who worked so hard to enable this placement to happen.

I would like to extend a vote of thanks to all our host organisations for all their efforts and making our students feel so welcome this year. I hope that the next batch of students in next year's programme make an equally positive impression on the organisations that they will be working with.

Dr S Sawicki



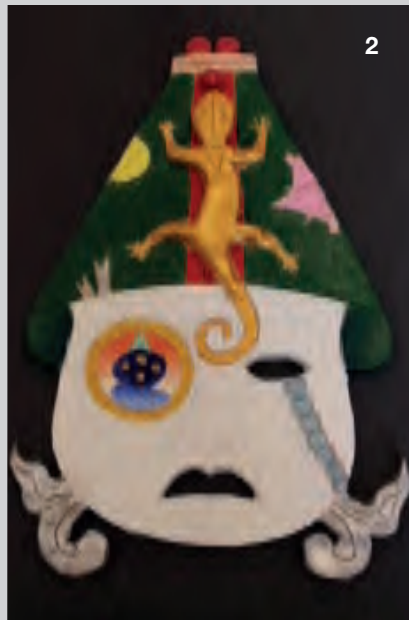
Remembrance

This year we were delighted to welcome back Squadron Leader Adam Collins (Windsor, 1985–1996) to the School. Adam has recently been appointed RAF Red Arrow Red 10 and will take over as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team's Supervisor. Adam inspected the Guard of Honour, spoke to the NCO of the CCF and laid a wreath at our very moving Remembrance Service.





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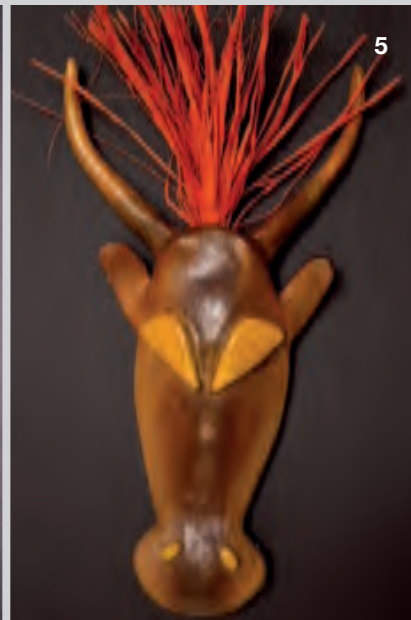
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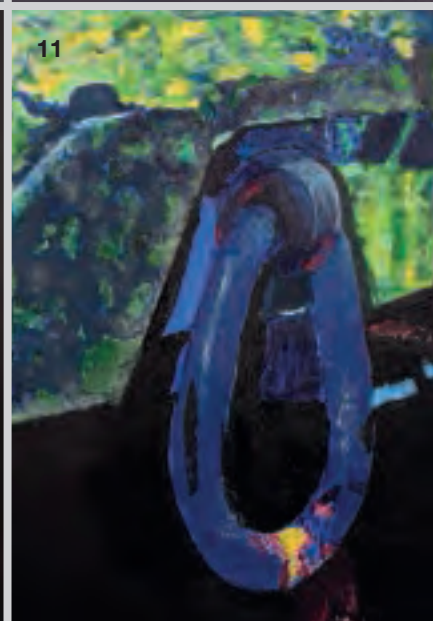
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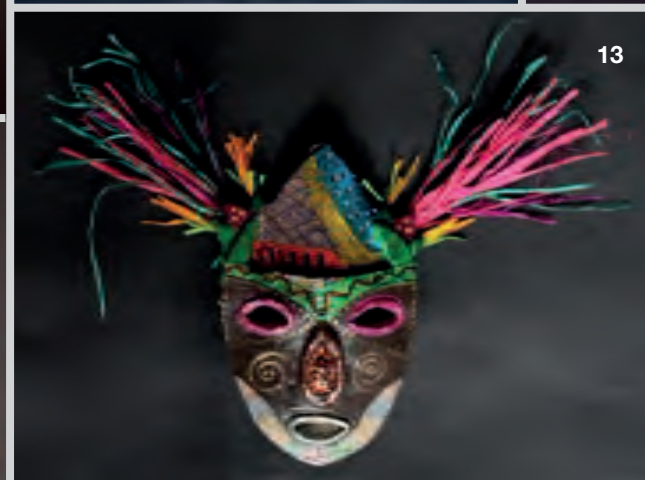
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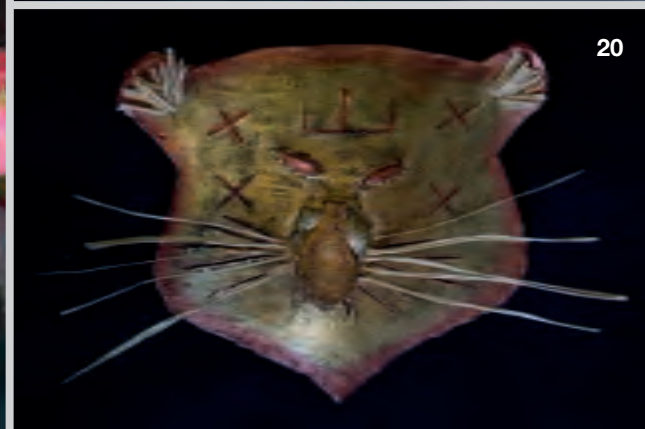
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Lower School Art

- 1. Sirius Oldfield
- 2. Amy Goodworth
- 3. Laavunya Arora
- 4. Lauren Mitchell
- 5. Francisco Campino
- 6. Sarah Gahan
- 7. Amelia Penney
- 8. Anna Broughton
- 9. Hannah Greenwood
- 10. Erin Troop
- 11. Lauren Besford
- 12. Hana Ali
- 13. Anushka Agarwalla
- 14. Alex Rooney
- 15. Arabella Morrall
- 16. Joanne Wu
- 17. Annabel Bagshaw
- 18. Melike Sparrow
- 19. Krystian Shine
- 20. Cian Morgan

Music

Music at Solihull 2017 - 2018

The musical year here at Solihull is always a busy one and activities and concert performances continue to thrive. Nearly 10,000 instrumental lessons have been given over the year and over 200 instrumental music exams taken – special congratulations go to those who took their exams in the Christmas term as 31% were distinctions and 75% were either merits or distinctions. This has been complemented by many pupils playing in the string, wind and brass chamber ensembles, as well as the eight larger ensembles and six choirs that have met each week. It continues to be a delight to see such commitment and excitement in solo and ensemble performances at all levels – in and out of the classroom, young and old, beginner and advanced. The range of events and successes has been wonderfully wide, the enthusiasm of the pupils and the staff prodigious and the skill consistently impressive.

Across the three terms, the five large-scale concerts involved over 300 pupil performers; add to that all our J2s singing in the two Solihull Sings choral outreach events, the whole of J4 in the Junior School musical and the cast, band and crew of around ninety pupils in the Senior School musical, it is clear that music is central to the life of the School. Barely

a week goes by without a concert – indeed some have had two. It is not surprising to hear, then, that there were no less than twenty formal concerts over the year, as well as three masterclasses, five sell-out performances of the Senior School musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, two performances of the Junior School musical *The Pirates of the Curry Bean*, weekly Chapel services, one Carol Service (two having been cancelled due to snow!), our first Arts Gala, lunchtime concerts given at St Alphege and Solihull Methodist Churches, a trip to St Albans Cathedral for the Boys' & Girls' Choirs and the annual visit to St Paul's Cathedral in London for the Chamber Choir. As part of the recital series linked to Compline services on one Sunday each term, eleven music staff and local professional musicians presented a sparkling performance of Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. The following day they then performed it in two sittings for the whole of the Junior School. For the other Recital, later in the year, we were privileged to hear our departing Head of Choral Music, Mr Alex Woodrow, play the organ with enormous skill and musicianship. In January we organised a Piano Duet Masterclass in conjunction with the European Piano Teachers' Association. Two internationally renowned professional pianists – Kathryn Page and Murray McLachlan – worked with all the duet partnerships and then gave an outstanding concert of their own in the evening. A large audience was mesmerised by their playing and quickly rose to their feet in a standing ovation at the end.

The year finished with a marvelous six-day summer music tour to the Salzburg region of Austria. Members of Chamber Choir, Advanced Strings and Saxophony sang and played in five different venues with great detail and commitment. Audiences were regularly appreciative and impressed by the standards presented. What comes across in all these events throughout the year is a real love of the music and a sense of great enjoyment – running through this, as a central core, is the tangible level of mutual support the pupils afford to each other.

This has been my fourth year here at Solihull and I can honestly say that I feel completely at home and greatly enjoy working alongside such wonderful colleagues and pupils. My delight is, though, tinged with the sadness felt by many that this is the last year for two wonderful colleagues: Miss Helen Dolby and Mr Alex Woodrow. Both have brought so much to our community, not only in their individual teaching and ensemble direction but also in their support of all the pupils and the music staff. We all owe them both an enormous debt of gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the School.

Mr T Kermode

Symphony Orchestra

In what's been a wonderful year of music making in Symphony Orchestra, we've worked our way through many genres of standard Orchestral repertoire. We started the year in very regal and stately fashion with Grieg's famous 'Homage March', which was followed by Sousa's joyful 'Stars and Stripes Forever'. Playing two very famous and very fun pieces was a great start to the year, and was well appreciated by our audience at the St Cecilia Concert in November. After Christmas we moved onto some slightly more advanced and far more traditional repertoire, as we plunged into selected orchestral pieces from Bizet's gorgeous opera, *Carmen*. This was, for me, the highlight of the year, as each orchestral part was as important as the next at various points in each movement, which meant we could all have our own moment to shine! The feedback from the audience at our Summer Concert was some of the best we've had since I can remember, and it was a thoroughly memorable performance. On behalf of the whole orchestra, I would like to thank Mr Kermode for all of the hard work, time and effort he's put into making Symphony Orchestra such a brilliant ensemble, that I know all us leavers will certainly miss.

Ellie Ajao, Upper Sixth

Advanced String Ensemble

This year we've experienced a huge amount of change in Advanced String Ensemble. Following the retirement of our long-term and much-loved conductor, Miss Helen Dolby, none of us were entirely sure what the next step would be for Advanced Strings, especially with the fast-approaching and highly-anticipated St Cecilia Concert. Having already started Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto' with Miss Dolby, she passed on her baton (quite literally) to Mr Woodrow, who was full of new ideas to help us improve our playing as a group. With a very stately, slow and majestic opening, the piece moves through a further five movements, each of equal stature and elegance. This was well received by our audience in our first main concert of the year, with many excited to hear how Advanced Strings would have progressed by the time we reached the Summer Concert in May. We continued with our new image of playing early music, by playing Boyce's Symphony No 4 in F major. One of my personal favourites from the Baroque era, the piece is full of poise and grace which grows through three seemingly simple movements, finishing with a joyful rondo to close the symphony. Of course, Mr Woodrow is off to further his own education in September, so for all of us, his first year directing the ensemble will sadly be his last with us. Both of our conductors from this year have had a brilliant impact on Advanced String Ensemble. Whether they've been with us for over twenty years or for just under one, I would like to thank both members of staff on behalf of the whole ensemble.

Ellie Ajao, Upper Sixth



Senior Wind Band

Under the new leadership of Miss Rosina, Senior Wind Band continued its remarkable progress this academic year, performing an impressive repertoire covering diverse genres & skill levels. Many of us were delighted to discover *Game of Thrones* (Ramin Djawadi) would be our opening piece for the highly anticipated St Cecilia Concert, and it was performed with great verve and enthusiasm. This was followed by ‘Camino Del Sol’ (Steve Hodges), a fast paced Hispanic piece which translates to the Path of the Sun.

Come Easter Term, the Summer Concert was fast approaching. Senior Wind Band closed the concert with two exciting pieces: ‘Mambo Cubano’ by James Swearingen which showcased an impressive percussion solo; the piece takes its inspiration from Latin American Samba bands. The final piece of the evening was ‘Arabian Dances’ by Roland Barrett, opening with a slow melodic clarinet solo which I performed accompanied by Simon Clarke on marimba, and then a fast and furious finale which finished off the concert in grand style!

We would like to thank Miss Rosina who has gone above and beyond to make Senior Wind Band as enjoyable as it is. Although for many it will be their first and final year under her direction, she has certainly made a hugely positive impression that none of us will forget!

Asha Abram, Upper Sixth



Intermediate Wind Band

This year has been a fantastic year in Intermediate Wind Band. We have successfully performed in both the St Cecilia Concert and the Summer Concert, conducted by Miss Rosina. These two concerts consisted of four pieces, including ‘The River Kwai March’ (Malcolm Arnold), ‘James Bond Theme’ (John Barry), ‘When I’m Sixty-Four’ (Lennon and McCartney) and ‘Hawaii 5-0’ (Morten Stephens). From this September, Miss Rosina has made a decision to join the Intermediate and Senior Wind Bands together to create Concert Band! This change will help the younger players to grow in confidence and it will give us all an opportunity to experience wind band as a larger group of talented musicians.

Jessica Toogood, Fourth Form



Solihull Sings!

Now in its seventh year, our primary-age Choral Outreach Programme has involved visitors from four different primary schools drawn from around the borough, who have combined with our J2s in song. In total, the programme has involved nearly 250 children this year alone. Mr Woodrow has led weekly sessions in each of the partner schools (St Alphege, St Augustine’s and Greswold Primaries in Solihull itself, and at Gilberstone Primary School in Yardley), with the ten-week programme of rehearsals culminating in two splendid celebratory concerts in the Bushell Hall. It is always so uplifting to see all the children united in song, discovering their voices and deriving so much pleasure from making music together.

Mr A Woodrow

Woodwind Trio

Shortly after beginning our final year together with the newly-appointed Head of Woodwind, Miss Rosina, the Wind Trio (consisting of myself, Ellie Shiels and Asha Abram) had the opportunity to perform a baroque piece at Speeches Evening. Having only had about a week to rehearse at the start of term, the performance seemed to finish with all of us ending in different places, but luckily, no one seemed to notice! After this shaky first performance, it is fair to say the Wind Trio has progressed immensely. In the Chamber Music Concert we really enjoyed playing two very contrasting pieces, the beautiful and lyrical ‘Chanson de Matin’ by Elgar and the fast and exciting ‘Aragonaise’ from Carmen.

For our final performance in the Upper Sixth Form Recital we performed Brahms’s Hungarian Dance No.5, which has lots of challenging tempo changes, but it was really fun and rewarding to play.

Miss Rosina’s help and advice has been crucial to our development as a trio, and we are now playing better together than ever before. We are all looking forward to continuing with our music post-Solihull!

Harriet Bray, Upper Sixth

The Twelve

This year has been an interesting journey for the a cappella group ‘The Twelve’, whose membership never equalled the group’s title. Our first concert of the year - the annual St Cecilia Concert - contained two very different musical pieces. Our first piece, ‘And So it Goes’ (a Billy Joel classic) was a firm favourite for all the members. The second piece, the ‘Geographical Fugue’ by Ernst Toch was much less a harmonious venture but rather a test of the group’s rhythmic skills, and it received a large round of applause - along with some laughter - from the audience (and the members themselves!) In December, ‘The Twelve’ was invited to sing carols at Solihull Hospital which they did with many a smile, spreading Christmas cheer amidst the remains of the winter’s first snowfall.

Lent and Eastertide are busy periods for any choral group and so along with giving up various food items or bad habits, ‘The Twelve’ also gave up an hour of sleep on several mornings to join Fr Andrew and a congregation for the morning Eucharist. Starting sleepy-eyed and finishing with bright smiles on our faces, none can deny that singing on these Feast Days is a wonderful way to start the day.

Our most recent concert, the School’s Summer Concert, was filled with many a teary eye as this would be the final concert before saying farewell to many of our older members. To send them off, we performed two pieces, the first a Renaissance madrigal called ‘It was a Lover and his Lass’ and the second a spacious and atmospheric part-song by Stanford, ‘The Blue Bird’. For this second piece, soloist Ellie Ajao sang from the rafters of the Bushell Hall, her voice delicately complementing the four-part texture with light and songbird-like notes that filled the hall with delightful sound.

And so as another year wanes, the continual shift of the Twelve’s members has taken place once again and we wish them well wherever they go and hope that they remember to take their beautiful voices with them.

Richard Loughran, Upper Sixth

St Cecilia & Summer Concerts

As part of the busy schedule of concerts over the year, there are two Senior School concerts held in the Bushell Hall for our larger instrumental and vocal ensembles. The first, in late November, was the aptly named ‘St Cecilia Concert’ (St Cecilia being the patron saint of musicians and whose ‘name day’ is November 22nd). 125 pupils playing and singing in 10 different ensembles came together to perform to a packed Bushell Hall. The programme featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres. A number of ensembles were conducted for the first time this year by our new Heads of Woodwind and Brass – Miss Luisa Rosina and Mrs Julie Spraggett. Intermediate Wind Band’s rendering of *The River Kwai March* and *James Bond Theme* got the evening off to a great start, with youthful energy. This was followed by the Brass Ensemble’s jubilant rendering of Chris Hazell’s *Hallelujah Drive*. Next up was the 14-piece Flute Choir, whose rendition of Shostakovich’s *Tahiti Trot* certainly got the audience’s toes tapping. Intermediate String Ensemble then brought a bit of Baroque style with their playing of Lully’s *Chaconne*. The reed players stepped up next with Saxophony’s energetic *Yakety Sax* and melodious *Fly me to the Moon*. The first half was rounded off with a very stylistically nuanced performance of Corelli’s *Christmas Concerto* given by Advanced String Ensemble, ably led by Ellie Ajao and with solos by Ellie, Aviva Sandler and Beatrix Huissoon. Interval refreshments were most welcome after an amply-filled first half.

The second half certainly had us marching back to our seats – Grieg’s *Homage March* and Sousa’s rousing *Stars and Stripes Forever* being performed with sparkle by the Symphony Orchestra. Big Band were in fine swing as usual with *Africa*, where there were some wonderful ensemble and solo moments for a few members. The vocal item of the evening was provided by ‘The Twelve’ (our a cappella vocal group of 17 singers!), who displayed great skill in their secular repertoire in Billy Joel’s *And so it Goes* and an unusual and engaging spoken fugue entitled *Geographical Fugue*. Both pieces nicely complemented the strong sacred music many of them sing in Chapel Choir. Senior Wind Band completed the evening with their typically tight and characterful playing of *Game of Thrones* and *Camino Del Sol*. Throughout the concert all the ensembles combined both detail and musical sensitivity and balance, bringing off fabulously committed and effective performances on stage. In addition, they were tremendous listeners – all really supporting each other throughout.



Later in the year, before the public exam period began, the Summer Concert provided another outing for all the groups from the St Cecilia Concert, along with items from a String Quartet, Clarinet Choir and Guitar Ensemble. The repertoire included the following, illustrating once again the varied range of styles and genres we have come to expect at these wonderful concerts: Lennon & McCartney’s *When I’m Sixty-Four* and *Ticket to Ride*; *Fiesta for Strings*; *Wallace & Gromit*; a *Symphony* by Boyce; Bizet’s *Carmen Suite no. 1*; a *Medley* of tunes by Leroy Anderson; instrumental arrangements of *California Dreaming*, *Come Fly with Me*, and *I get a Kick out of You*; *The Blue Bird*; and *Mambo Cubano* and *Arabian Dances*. Huge congratulations to all the performers for a truly wonderfully accomplished and entertaining evening.

Mr T Kermode



Carnival of the Animals

As part of the small recital series that Mr Woodrow set up, 11 music staff and local professional musicians came together as a small chamber group to present the engaging work by the French composer Saint-Saëns, *The Carnival of the Animals*. In the work, Saint-Saëns sets out to depict key characteristics of 13 different animals, such as a tortoise, elephant, lion, donkey, an aquarium, an aviary and (perhaps most well-known musically) a swan. In each movement a certain instrument will have the main focus and so the work has become an effective way to introduce different instruments, especially to young children. So, the following day, the performers presented the work to all the Junior School children. Inevitably, they loved it and it was great to see their complete engagement with the sounds and array of instruments.

Mrs H Martens

Saxophony

It's fitting with new leadership and several new players that one of the first pieces Saxophony tackled went to the roots of saxophone playing, 'Yakety Sax' or the Benny Hill theme tune as it's better known. No one was willing to act as Benny Hill during our performance at the St Cecilia Concert, but this was no bad thing for the front row viewers! 'Fly me to the Moon' was a slight respite in energy but equally fun to perform. Consistent Thursday morning rehearsals led to a fantastic Summer Concert for Saxophony, performing the insufferably catchy 'California Dreamin' and again tributing Frank Sinatra with 'Come Fly with Me'. It has been another immensely fun year for Saxophony, through all the brisk 8am starts, and huge thanks go to Miss Rosina for continuing the group and providing new dynamic energy for it. Even when long-standing players in Cerys, Asha and Alex move on this summer, Saxophony is going strong!

Oliver Rooney, Lower Sixth

Saxbeats

This year has seen Saxbeats expand immensely under Miss Rosina's leadership. From Open Mornings to informal and chamber music concerts, Saxbeats has been a place for our saxophonists to grow and develop their skills. We even had the opportunity to perform Coldplay's 'Viva la Vida' in assembly! Being reinvigorated with new pupils joining next year will push Saxbeats to new heights. Many thanks to Miss Rosina for making this possible!

Ewan Waddell, Lower Sixth



Piano Duet Masterclass and professional Recital

In conjunction with EPTA (the European Piano Teachers' Association), on 13 January we were delighted to welcome international pianists Kathryn Page and Murray McLachlan to school. Between them they guided over 45 pianists (25 of our own and 20 from local schools) in different piano duet and trio combinations in wonderfully engaging, entertaining and thought-provoking masterclasses. After an impressive pupil concert, giving the students a chance to build on what they had worked on in the masterclasses, Kathryn and Murray gave a professional piano duet Recital in the Bushell Hall to an audience of over 200. The standing ovation they received at the end spoke volumes and reflected the quality and sheer musicianship of their performance. The whole day had a tremendous buzz about it and huge thanks should go to all the pupils who took part and to the wonderful audience.

Mrs H Martens

Flute Choir

Under the exceptional leadership of Miss Rosina, Flute Choir has performed some wonderful pieces with great professionalism. For the St Cecilia Concert, we played a popular piece by Shostakovich called 'Tahiti Trot', better known as Tea for Two. After rehearsing for six weeks, the piece sounded brilliant! The audience seemed to enjoy it immensely, especially the teacup performance by me and Rhea! The second piece we performed was 'Tambourine' by Gossec, featuring Harriet Bray as the flute soloist. The piece was fun to listen to as well as fun to play! I have only been at Solihull for a year and playing with the Flute Choir has brought me to a whole new playing standard. It has been immense fun, and I can't wait to see what's in store next year!

Frankie Deehan, Third Form

EPTA competition and Summer Concert

Once again, EPTA selected Solihull School as the venue for this year's first and regional final rounds, as well as the national final round, of their annual Piano Competition. The standard of the pianists competing in the first round in February was extremely high and the participating pianists from Solihull school (Ziying He, Kaia Berry and Claire Delaney) were all delighted to be invited to the regional finals in their various categories, which took place on 17 March. Solihull School welcomed pianists from Belfast, Cambridge, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and London on the day. Ziying was selected to participate in the National Finals, a wonderful achievement, and gave an excellent performance on the day. A huge well done to our pianists!

As a celebration of piano playing in the West Midlands, Solihull School hosted an EPTA Summer Concert in June. Seven of our resident pianists were joined by some 27 pianists from various schools, delighting the audience with many outstanding performances.

Mrs H Martens



Clarinet Duo

Shortly after we joined Solihull in the Third Form, we were told by Miss Rosina that we would be playing clarinet duets together. We didn't know each other but we soon became really good friends. We have been working on Bernhard Crusell's Duo in D Minor. We were soon entered for our first competition together, The Dudley Music Festival where we performed the 2nd Movement, 'Siciliano'. Luck was on our side, and we went on to get the highest mark in the woodwind category and we won a huge shield. We have also performed in the Chamber Music Concert and assembly. We are currently working on the 1st Movement of the duet for the Leamington Spa Music Festival 2018. We are very grateful to Miss Rosina for the time and commitment she has given us!

Gemma Winfield and Katharine Baker, Third Form



Musical High Achievers

Many pupils have made great progress in their own right, whether that be at the beginning of their musical journey, passing their first Prep Test exam, or heading on beyond Grade 8. A very healthy number of pupils have gained strong marks in their Grade 7 and 8 exams – many at distinction level. In addition, many have had the courage to perform at local music festivals and have received high plaudits from the adjudicators. The full list of successes would take up too much space here, but we would like to congratulate two groups of pupils: those gaining a 1st place award at a music festival and those who have progressed beyond Grade 8.

In the first category we congratulate the following on their 1st place awards at music festivals in Dudley, Leamington Spa and Lichfield:

Ellie Ajao, Katharine Baker, Bethan Bown, Max Dormon, Oliver Francis, Ella Furber, Eleanor Gooderidge, Hannah Greenwood, Ziyang He, Anna Higgins, Richard Loughran, Oliver Palmer, Lauren Raybould, Aviva Sandler, Lydia Stephens, Ned Tennen, Gemma Winfield.

In the second category we congratulate the following for their post-Grade 8 successes:

Ellie Ajao, who gained an impressive Distinction in her ABRSM Performer's Diploma on the violin; Oliver Rooney for passing his Trinity Diploma on the saxophone; and Max Dormon who gained a Merit in his ARSM exam.

Finally, further congratulations go to Ziyang He and Katharine Baker. Ziyang competed in the Bromsgrove Young Musicians' Platform and, within a very strong field, was the overall winner of the Junior Section (children aged 9 to 13). She also got through to the National Finals of the EPTA Piano Competition, competing alongside pupils from some of the country's specialist music schools. Ziyang has also gained a place as a pianist in the CBSO Youth Orchestra. Katharine again gained a place as a member of the National Children's Orchestra on her clarinet.

Mr T Kermod



Performing Arts

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was chosen for our School Musical this year. Originally written as a short sequence of pop songs for a school choir in 1967, Joseph has evolved into the UK's longest-running musical, selling over 15 million tickets. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph and the coat of many colours, this musical is full of unforgettable songs including 'Those Canaan Days', 'Any Dream Will Do' and 'Close Every Door'.

The show was brought to life by the energy and enthusiasm of a young cast, for whom the music was originally intended. It was an opportunity to work with a supremely talented bunch of young people. Their commitment, musical ability and sense of humour made all the long rehearsals worthwhile. Battling illnesses, juggling sporting and musical commitments, keeping up with their work, taking exams - they worked incredibly hard to attend rehearsals and learn all the songs and choreography.



With nearly 100 performers on stage, it would be a difficult job to name them all, but it would be wrong to not mention the individual contributions of some key players: the Narrator role was played by Ellie Ajao, Saskia Freshwater and Zara Donaldson who demonstrated real confidence and style, and James Spence seemed to have been born for the role of Joseph, with just the right amount of sincerity and pathos in his portrayal. The eagle-eyed among you would also have noticed that Jacob's 11 sons and wives had grown to 13 ... providing a glorious chorus of fabulous voices that added to the heart of the show.

Mrs L Fair



Arts Gala

The Arts Gala was the first of its kind at Solihull; a combination of music, drama and dance which aimed to demonstrate the great value of the performing arts. The program ranged widely in styles, with each art form responding to the other; for example, we saw a startling extract from John Logan's play *Red*, exploring the conflict between the artist and the market, followed by a brilliant piano piece by Ziyang He. The evening served as an inspiration for both musicians and performers, particularly with the year so newly started. Special mention must be made of the extract from *Blood Wedding* by Lorca, which was performed entirely in fluent Spanish by A-Level Spanish students, and Drama Scholars, Emma Hadley and Gwynneth Horbury, with the mesmerising silks routine from Beth Penhallurick. The evening concluded with an extract from Timberlake Wertenbaker's legendary play *Our Country's Good* and a plea for the audience and the performers to remember the transformative power of art. An excellent taster for what was to come!

Mr J Hammond



Drama

Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre represented a new type of Sixth Form play for Solihull: a small-cast piece that allowed some of our keenest actors to get their teeth into weighty roles and which allowed for plenty of time for detailed rehearsals. These ambitions were resoundingly fulfilled with a production which received some ecstatic reactions from its audiences. Particular mention must go to Emma Hadley and Gwynneth Horbury, who alternated the parts of Jane and Bertha, so that they had to prepare both. Their performances were mesmeric and I am sure that they will both have success at Drama School next year. Moments of comedy were supplied by another titan of the Upper Sixth, James Spence, who played a number of significant roles, with Pilot the dog proving enormously popular with audiences. The piece was performed in the Drama Studio, which had been transformed into an intimate traverse auditorium for the purpose.

The impressive set, composed of a raised room at one end and a symbolic tree made from the pages of the book at the other, was designed by Holly McClenaghan, who also designed and made most of the costumes. Accompanying the actors in their performances was Ellie Ajao on the violin; Ellie composed and arranged music for the entire production and some of the production's most dramatic moments would certainly not have been so successful without her brilliant input.



The excellent hard work of the cast and crew was, as always, well supported and thoroughly supplemented by the excellent work of Dr Jukes and Mr Hunton. With *Jane Eyre* the company set out to get as close to a professional production as possible, and according to numerous members of the audience, through their enormous hard work and talent, the cast and crew achieved their goal.

Mr J Hammond

Mermaid

Mermaid, by Polly Teale, was another departure for the Drama Department, directed, as it was, entirely by two members of the Upper Sixth, Elle Miles and Kate Stumper. The story, adapted from the famous legend of the Little Mermaid, provided ample scope for the enthusiastic and dedicated cast of Shell and Fourth Formers to explore a wide array of characters. This contemporary adaptation featured a narrator in the character of a teenage girl, played by Mattie Sandford, whose troubles at school lead her to write the fairy story, which she then reads for the audience. As the story came to life, proving itself to be a thoroughly modern and feminist retelling of the famous story, the Little Mermaid was vividly brought to life by Lola-Blue Sattar-O'Dwyer and the Prince by Freddie Truman. All the action took place on a dreamlike set designed by Theatre Design Scholar, Holly McClenaghan; ordinary objects floated in the air as though lost at sea and the mermaids flowed around a ramshackle pier encircled by diaphanous materials. A thoroughly successful opening to the season.

Mr J Hammond

**Heritage & Remote**

This year's Middle School play was in fact two short plays, *Heritage* by Dafydd James and *Remote* by Stef Smith. Performing such modern and ensemble plays was a new experience for our talented cast of twenty, many of whom were performing large roles for the first time. *Heritage* offered five Sixth Formers the opportunity to direct a play, something we had never experienced before. Throughout the rehearsal process, the five directors worked collaboratively with the cast of students from the Lower and Upper Fifth over the course of many months in order to create a successful final production. This role posed many challenges with which we were unfamiliar: organising rehearsals and directing each scene in a creative and original way, as well as working together to include everyone's opinions and ideas they wished to contribute to the piece. Ultimately, we managed to create a successful piece of drama, enjoyed by both audience and cast members equally and it was a rewarding experience for all directors involved. Special mention must go to the enormously amusing comic performances of Olivia Hass and Beth Miles in *Heritage* and the emotional veracity of Alex Duckworth and Harrison Jones in *Remote*.

Aoife Mackew, Lower Sixth





Fuente Ovejuna

After the light and airy Joseph, the actors of the Senior School got their teeth into something altogether darker and more serious with a great classic of the Spanish Golden Age, *Fuente Ovejuna*. The play offered our actors new challenges in both form and content.

The language of the play was poetic and heroic, with performers having to master sustained monologues, often of high emotion, a challenge which they accepted and excelled at. Few who saw it will soon forget Laurencia's stirring monologue at the beginning of Act Three, brilliantly performed by Aoife Mackew, or Flores's evocative description of the battle of Ciudad Real, ably brought to life by Tabitha Botterill. Dealing with the violent uprising of an oppressed village, *Fuente Ovejuna* demanded a seriousness and consideration from our actors and the cast of mixed ages and experiences really answered the call. It helped, perhaps, that the chief villain of the piece, Commander Guzman, was so excellently played by Joshua Newby, who went from oily and ingratiating to feral and threatening in an instant.



Remarkably, *Fuente Ovejuna* was the third production designed by Holly McClenaghan this academic year, an enormously impressive feat. And what a design! The set was foreboding and intricately detailed, carefully expressing the themes and ideas behind the play; the costumes perfectly complemented the action, with the different factions clearly differentiated and the different characters expressed through carefully chosen costume. Holly was ably supported during the design process and in the making of the set by Mr Kevin Hunton. Accompanying the performance and the set was an original and dynamic sound design from Dr Jukes, which really helped to create the world of the play and expressed the oppression that the characters felt. *Fuente Ovejuna* was a departure from the usual Solihull programme and a provocative production, but few could doubt the extraordinary bravery, dedication, passion and skill of its cast and crew. A fitting end to a remarkable year of drama.

Mr J Hammond



Drama School Successes

It has been a year of especially hard work in the Drama Department as two of our Upper Sixth students undertook the enormously draining challenge of applying to Drama School. Having prepared and rehearsed a selection of monologues, Emma Hadley and Gwynneth Horbury criss-crossed the country to audition at some of the finest institutions in the world. Gwynneth succeeded in gaining places at the National Youth Theatre and on the preliminary acting course at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Emma has been accepted onto the three-year full degree at the prestigious Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

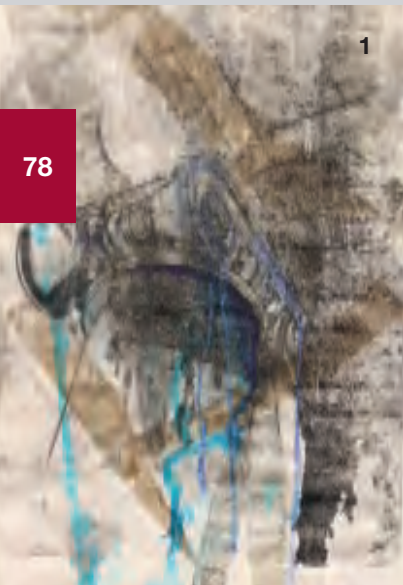
Drama Trips

Despite having our efforts frustrated by snow, once again the Drama Students attended a wide variety of Theatre Trips; from *Oslo* at the National Theatre to People, *Places & Things* at the Oxford Playhouse; from *Brief Encounter* at the Birmingham Rep to our first ever professional show at the Bushell Hall, *Christmas Gothic*. Our students' understanding of theatre was challenged and expanded throughout.

Drama Awards Dinner

The second Annual Drama Awards Dinner took place in the Keith Sach Suite on the evening of Saturday 30 June. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous three-course meal before recognising the Dramatic Achievements of the year through the presentation of awards and a number of performances which revisited some of the year's highlights. It was particularly significant to say goodbye to a very talented year of Upper Sixth practitioners who have provided the backbone of school productions for many years.

Mr J Hammond



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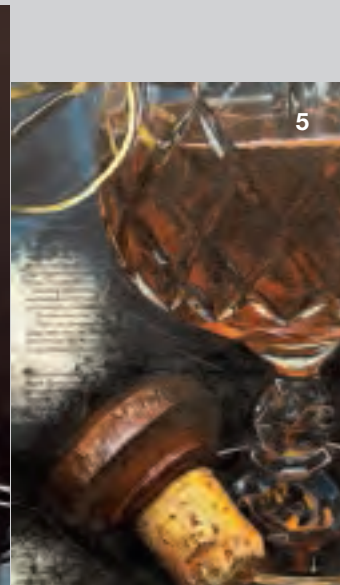
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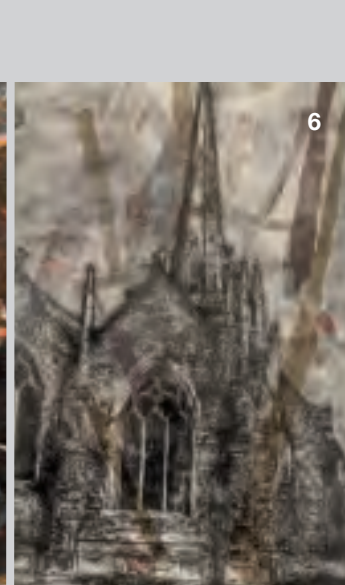
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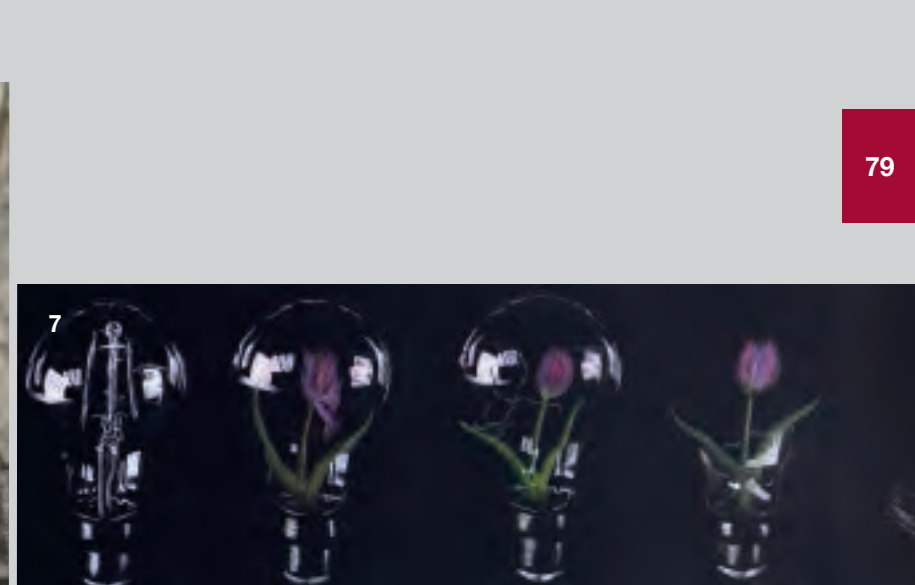
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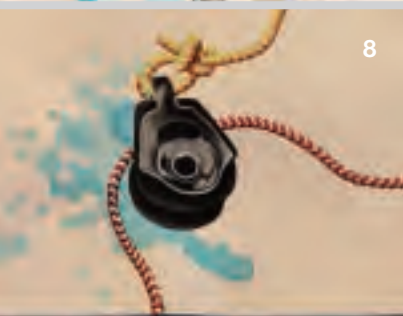
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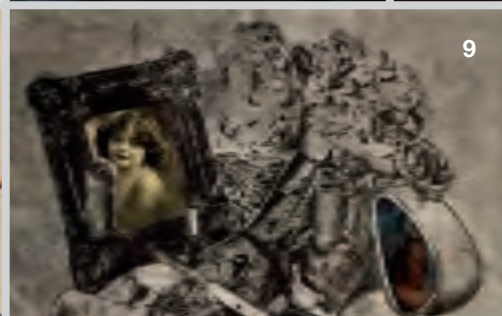
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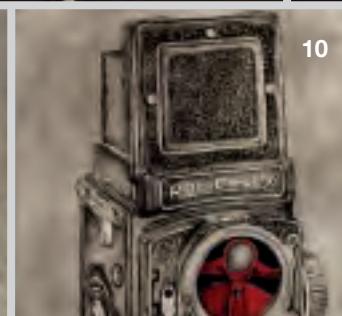
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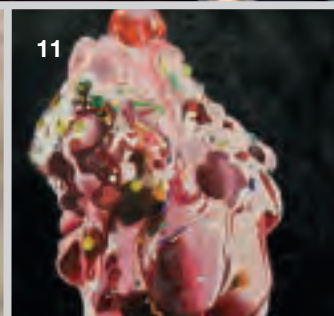
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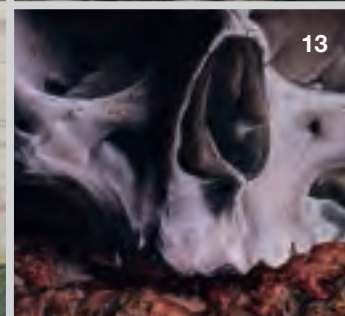
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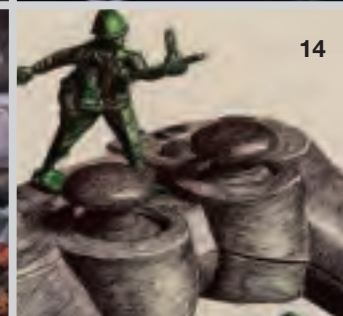
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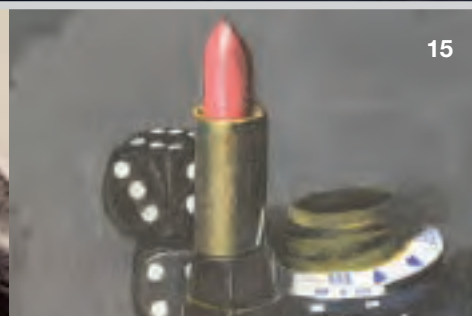
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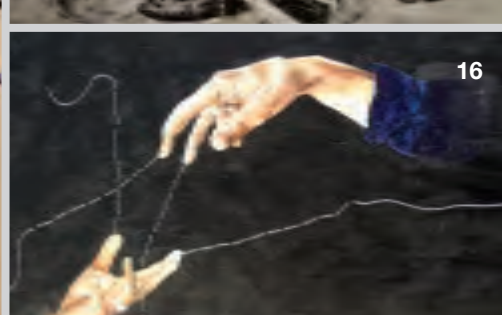
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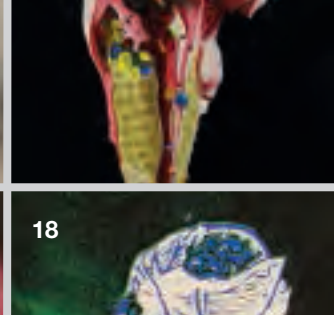
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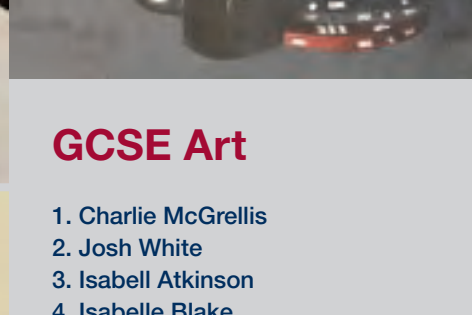
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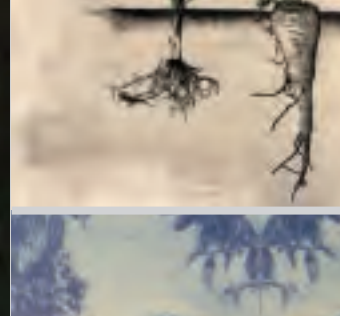
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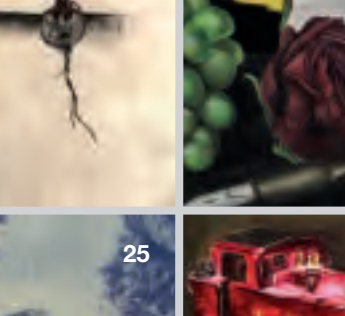
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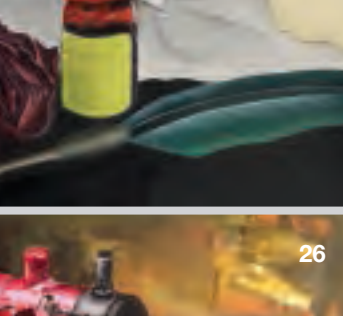
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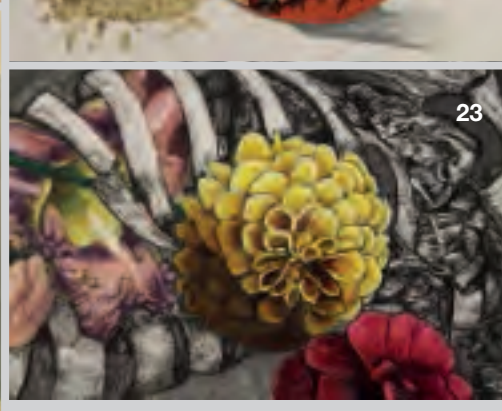
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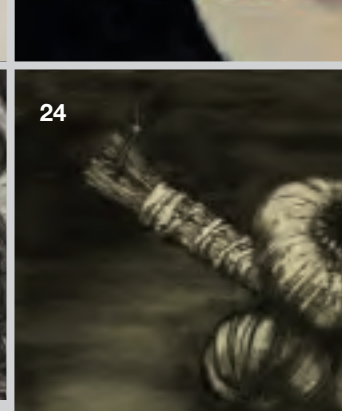
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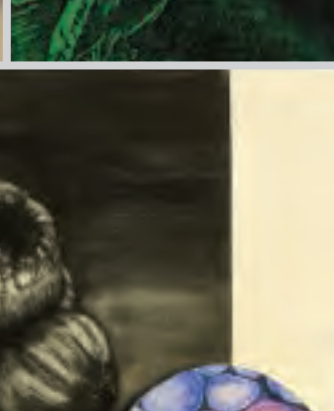
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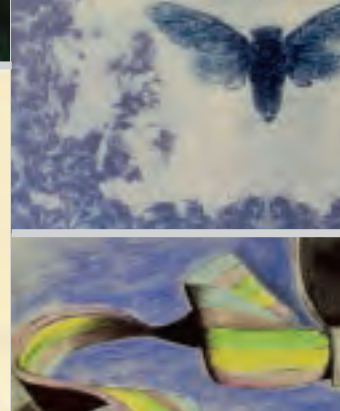
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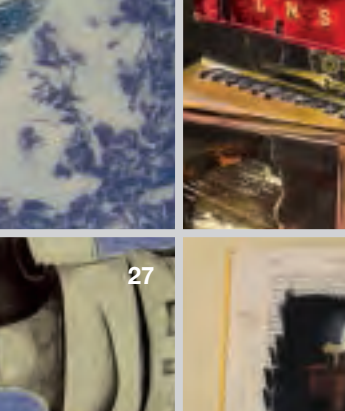
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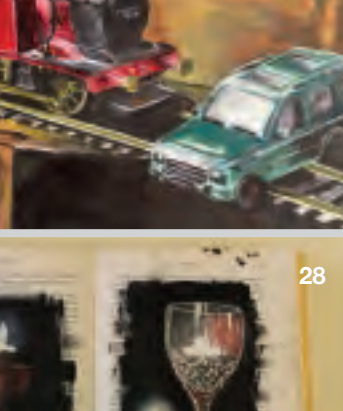
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GCSE Art

1. Charlie McGrellis
2. Josh White
3. Isabell Atkinson
4. Isabelle Blake
5. Georgina Hart
6. Alexander Hart
7. Johanna Balogh
8. George Sunderland
9. Eleanor Couch
10. Eloise Davidson
11. Harriet Toogood
12. Olivia Mueller
13. Aryan Parekh
14. Ben McHugh
15. Areeba Rafique
16. Penny Goodman
17. Riya Patel
18. Alicia Spencer
19. Harrison Kentish
20. Libby Shepherd
21. Eden Capewell
22. Alyssa Morrison
23. Matthew Vaughan
24. William Thompson
25. Ibrahim Afrasiab
26. Samuel Day
27. Simran Sahota
28. Gemma Radburn-Todd



Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

CCF (Army)

2017/18 was another successful year for the Army Section. In 2018 the Contingent was 120 years old and for the first time we were led by a female CSM. Bea Huissoon was an excellent leader and inspired many of the cadets. This year there were again numerous training events including military training weekends and Range Days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

The first weekend training saw our newest recruits spend a night under shelters in Hopwas Wood near Lichfield. In October we held the Introduction to Fieldcraft Exercise. This took place in Longmoor, Hampshire, over three nights. The cadets lived in improvised shelters (basha) every night, come rain or shine (but mostly the former). The cadets were given Skill at Arms training and basic field craft activities culminating in a Deliberate Assault on the Enemy Position. It was a very enjoyable experience for all concerned.

In November the contingent provided the Guard of Honour for the Wreath Laying party during the Remembrance Service and were inspected by Sqdn Ldr Adam Collins, an Old Sil and current member of the Red Arrows. We were very grateful that Adam was able to facilitate a visit to RAF Scampton for the RAF Section to see the Red Arrows practising for their summer displays.

In December the Section had a military training weekend at STANTA. The cadets all had the opportunity to take part in an ambush and a Platoon advance to Contact.

In February we held Field Day at Swynnerton Training Area. On the Friday night we conducted a Night Navigation Exercise which was then followed by a really challenging day. All the cadets were able to put their training to good use. The cadets undertook a round robin of activities that included a patrolling exercise, a camouflage and concealment exercise, a Section Attack Stand and a CQB Lane.

The weather was particularly challenging, with snow on the ground in the morning and then heavy rain in the afternoon. It was a long but enjoyable day. This was followed by a second trip to STANTA in March where fieldcraft skills were honed in readiness for the Summer Camp in July.

The highlight and culmination of the year's training is Summer Camp, which was held at STANTA for 22 members of the Army Section. We were also accompanied by 35 cadets of King's School Worcester CCF and 6 cadets from King Edward's Birmingham CCF. This was organised and staffed by the three schools. The weather was especially kind to us during the training phase although the programme of activities had to change due to the extreme heat and a certain football match. The first two days of camp involved the cadets participating in a round robin of Fieldcraft Activities which was then followed by a 72-hour exercise and a Range Day which enabled the cadets to obtain outdoor shooting badges. Targets were engaged at 100, 200 and 300m. The cadets also fired from a standing position in a fire trench. The cadets were also able to spend an afternoon at the Laser Quest in Thetford Forest.

Once again, all the activities offered by the Army Section can only happen due to the commitment of the staff involved. All the training we provide could not happen without the administration and organisation of WO2 P G Dean MBE and his assisting staff, CSgt 'Swanny' Swan and Capt Viv Lord and all the other officers.

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)

Prestigious new role for Olivia

Huge congratulations to Olivia Tennant in the Lower Sixth who has been selected as one of the West Midlands Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets. She will accompany him at various events throughout the year.





13th February 2018



ROYAL
AIR FORCE
**RED
ARROWS**

RAF Cadets with the Red Arrows

For Field Day this year, the CCF RAF cadets had the honour of being guests of the Red Arrows at RAF Scampton. The newly appointed No10, Sqn Ldr Adam Collins, is an Old Boy of the School and was invited to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day service in the Great Quadrangle.

The Cadets were lucky to be part of a pre-flight briefing where they watched part of this year's new flying display practice. They got up close to one of the display aircraft (Hawk T1a) and also visited the Heritage Museum, where they had a private tour through the history of RAF Scampton.

Mr P Hadley



Terriers

Terriers is a well-loved co-curricular activity which all Third Form pupils undertake throughout the year. It teaches crucial outdoor survival skills, including mountaineering and first aid in winter, together with cooking and building shelters in summer. Not only does it inform you of the basics required for Snowdonia School and D of E, it also develops social and team-building skills, useful for everyday life.

One of the highlights of Terriers is Mission. Pupils are driven, in small groups, to a countryside location around Solihull, from where they have to navigate their way back to school, using a compass and a map. (Just to say though, teachers can still track the teams, so no one has ended up Mt Everest ... yet!!) It was such a fantastic experience and I felt massively privileged to be part of it.

A popular activity was open-air cooking, despite the fact that the sausages were burnt and totally inedible! It felt amazing to work together with pupils that you did not previously know too well, to create something yummy- so yummy in fact that the teachers asked us to cook them something too!

Overall, I really enjoyed Terriers, and I think the whole year group did too. It is something I would definitely recommend to all who have the opportunity!

Amber Huckfield, Third Form





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2017/18

It has been another very busy year with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull. During October half term, five expedition teams comprising 34 Upper Sixth students took part in a four-day assessment crossing the Lake District from the coast in the west to the north end of Ullswater in the east. Despite Storm Ophelia spreading across Cumbria, bringing with it sand from the Sahara (not something you expect on the fells!) and some very challenging routes, all of our students under Gold Assessment were successful. Expedition teams camped high up in the mountains for at least one night. All National Trust campsites were closed as a precautionary measure with the storm approaching and emergency contingency plans were put in place with re-routes to alternative sites where there was no risk of trees being blown down. All pupils coped magnificently and some have already since completed the other sections of their DofE and have attended St James's Palace to collect their Gold Award. Well done to all!

Fifty pupils took part in either their Silver or Gold Practice Expeditions in North Wales at Easter and another twenty-one more are due to attempt their Silver Practice and Expedition in the Cambrian mountains in July.

Ninety-one Fourth Form pupils enrolled at Bronze level this year and nearly all ended up successfully completing the expedition section. During the second weekend in May, fourteen expedition groups accompanied by over twenty staff members completed a practice weekend in Shropshire and then one month later the same pupils travelled north to the Peak District for their assessment weekend. Without an incredibly dedicated team of adult staff, the Award would not be possible in its current format at Solihull. School staff and volunteers give up a huge amount of time to train our young people and supervise them on expeditions. Many travel from far and wide (from Devon, Lincoln, Leicestershire and Cardiff most recently) to enable our expeditions to happen and to all of them, we, and the Award participants, are hugely indebted.



Expedition training for our pupils in January has included first aid training, knowledge of the country code, the safe use of stoves, guidance on tents, rucksack packing and expedition kit, and a great deal of time on map and compass work for route planning. For the large numbers of staff involved, two winter skills training weekends and two three-day mountain first aid courses at Capel Curig have also been held and have been well attended.

Well done then to all our pupils who have completed their Award at any of the three levels; you have achieved fabulous things and all challenged yourselves in various ways. The reason why we have so many staff who wish to volunteer and assist our young people with their Award is because they get to see some inspirational individuals who show huge resilience and great determination to succeed when the 'going gets tough'. One such individual this year has been Daniel Giles who, despite his ongoing significant medical treatment, led his expedition team by example and proved to be a shining example to others around him of all that is good about young people. He achieved a Headmaster's Commendation for his bravery and 'no-fuss' approach and absolutely deserves another mention here. Well done Daniel. We are all very proud of you indeed at Solihull.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE

The Award is not simply about the expedition section of course. Pupils complete a Skill, a Volunteering, and a Physical activity for a specified amount of time and at Gold level there is a fifth Residential section which must be completed. In all of these the candidate's assessor looks for commitment, resilience and determination to develop, all of which are key life skills of course. Gold residentials have included pupils attending various centres on their own including participating in the John Muir Award on the Isle of Arran, working at a canal boat camp, helping young people with physical disabilities on their summer residential trips, and working with the National Trust to name but a few. Pupils must organise these themselves, attend on their own and then show commitment and determination to stay the course. Well done again to all involved. Through the other sections of the award, many pupils have learned new skills or taken up new sports helping them to develop in to well-rounded young people. For the Volunteering section a great deal of good work has been done in the local community and further afield working in old people's homes, animal shelters or working with younger pupils.

