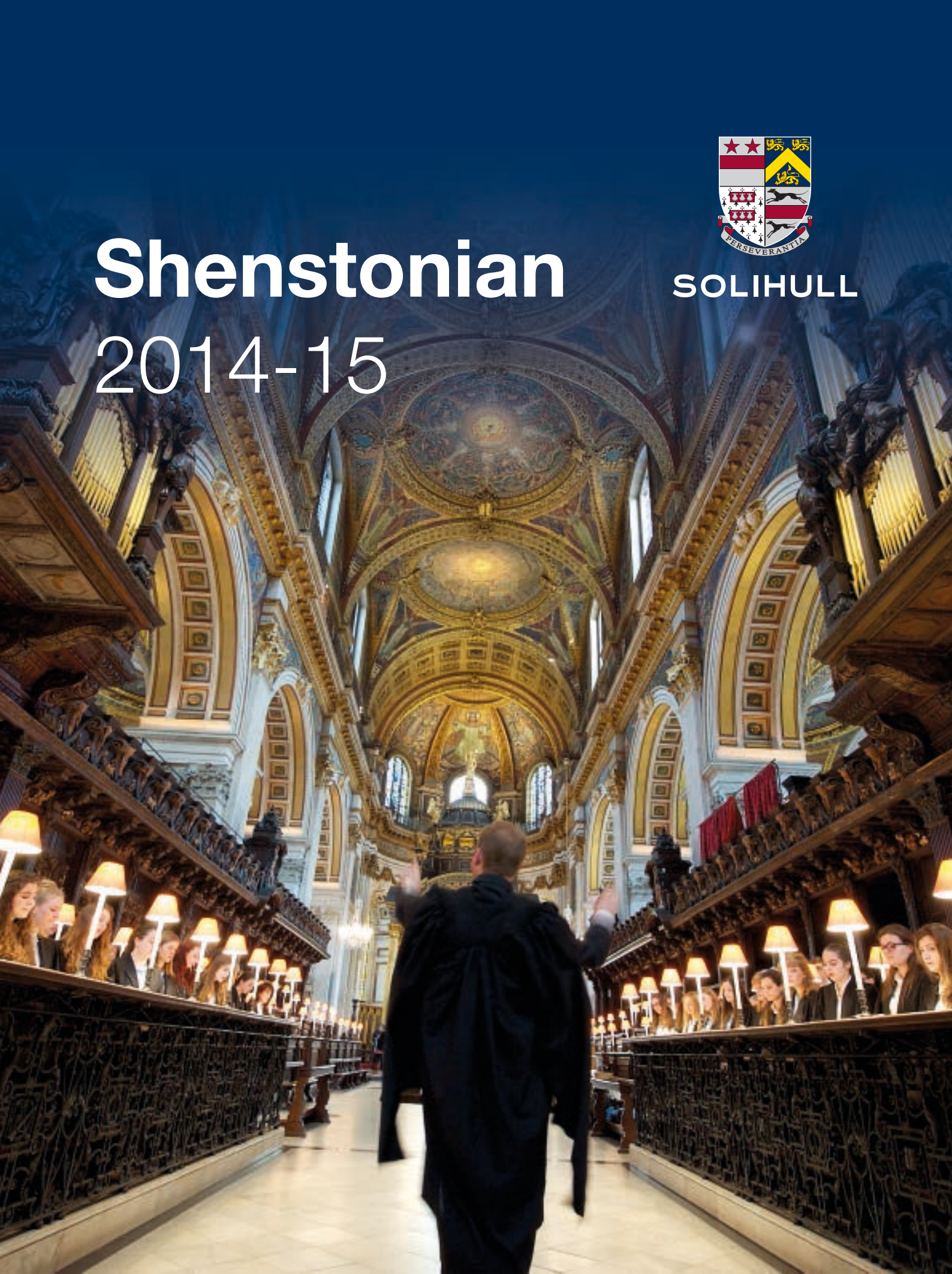




SOLIHULL

Shenstonian 2014-15





SOLIHULL

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Teaching Staff 2014/2015

1978		2004	A Bussey; D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther; S J Phillips (Nov)
1979			
1980		2005	S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; N Cheetham; G Cureton
1981			
1982		2006	A Jones; P G May; J Wilde; D W Jenkinson; D L Trim (Jan)
1983			
1984	P J Irving	2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson
1985	J Troth	2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb
1986			
1987		2009	H M Smith; D R Harford
1988	L M Fair	2010	D E J J Lloyd; O M Walker; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips; H J Walsh
1989			
1990	M J Covill	2011	C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Ford; M Partridge; K R Sykes
1991	D Reardon; S J Perrins; S A Morgan		
1992		2012	L J Rutherford; B Sandford-Smith (Jan); R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; L M Harper; E J Johnson; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; C W Thomas; L M Thomas; D Wilcox
1993			
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner		
1995	D H Wild	2013	M D Jones; S E Walton; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Roberts; S J Gummary; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov)
1996			
1997	A C Hutchinson;	2014	K A Berns (Jan); A T Kermode; L K Worth; W L Meigh; R H Smith; Y Canovas Canas; C E Mollison; S E Moule; M S Gledhill; L H Mesrie
1998	U Mynette; A M Vaughan		
1999	P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart; E Cassano		
2000			
2001	J S Brown; P G Gunning; R R Hadley-Leonard; M Worrall; E R Hurst		
2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer		
2003	M Smith; P J Higley; H E Pike; T J Bryan; K A Powell; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson; C Greswold;		



Headmaster’s Report

As I embark on my sixth year as Headmaster of Solihull, it is time to reflect on the last year.

Let’s start with exam headlines: we broke all records at A-Level with 88% of all grades at A* to B and we matched last year’s GCSE figures with 73% of all grades at A* to A. You’ll be pleased to hear that results analysis by the Birmingham Post newspaper rated us as the top independent school in the West Midlands for AS and A-Levels. Moreover, the statistics are improving almost daily as scripts are re-marked and re-graded upwards. This is clearly good news for the individuals involved, but a worrying indictment on the marking system itself. That aside, it’s been another very successful year and we will continue to focus on academic excellence at all levels throughout the School. No school is perfect, but good schools are reflective and responsive and talk candidly about areas for *improvement*, or *weaknesses* as they were once called!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of those who sat public examinations this summer and thank parents for their support and teamwork in preparing pupils for GCSEs, AS and A-Levels. Thanks also go to the teaching and non-teaching staff for always going that bit further to ensure that boys and girls are fully equipped, both academically and emotionally, for the internal and external testing that invariably dominates the summer term. Well done and more of the same next year, but even better please! Similar can be said of our co-curricular successes but more of that later.

Turning to infrastructure, it’s been an incredibly busy year. The Cooper Building, or the new Sixth Form Centre, has taken a year to construct and even if I say so myself, it is a magnificent facility combining teaching, private study, meeting and social

space and is equipped with the latest educational technology throughout. It sits on the site of the Old Gymnasium and the soon to be erected sculpture on the bank between the Bushell Hall and the Cooper Building foyer pays tribute to the sport that once took place there. The sculpture, named ‘Leap’, will be unveiled by journalist and TV presenter Michael Buerk when, as Patron of our Debating Society, he chairs the next annual ‘Big Debate’ in November. Why Cooper you may ask? Well, the reason is the on-going centenary commemoration of the First World War, given that Reverend Cooper was Headmaster of Solihull during this period. Despite the conflict and the very tragic loss of teachers and (older) pupils, the School thrived and grew under his stewardship.

A second sculpture, named ‘Conduct’, will be installed on the Chapel Forecourt, as an integral part of the forecourt redesign which I can hear going on outside my window. I do look forward to its completion and the restoration of peace and quiet. Whereas ‘Leap’ is about sport and ambition, ‘Conduct’ signifies our Christian foundation and choral tradition. Both are striking pieces of art standing approximately 5m tall and 3m wide, and I hope they will inspire our own artists, photographers and designers in their school work for many years to come.

Those still reading may be asking the question, ‘What of the former Sixth Form Centre in School House?’. That’s a good question, and School House is currently being remodelled to house a new ICT centre, more social space for the Lower and Middle School, new rooms and offices for the Art & Photography, Religious Studies and Learning Support Departments, counselling and ‘time out’ space, and greater exhibition facilities.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of travelling to Hamburg to enrol Solihull in the Steinway Initiative and to purchase a number of Steinway Grand Pianos. They are now in full use



and we were delighted to have internationally acclaimed pianist Peter Donohoe, CBE, perform an inaugural concert and give a piano master class to many of our pianists. Even to the untrained ear (i.e. me) the difference in the quality of sound is quite remarkable and I look forward to many more outstanding concerts in the David Turnbull Music School and the Bushell Hall.

So, what next? As to new buildings, the nature of any potential new build and the timescale involved are yet to be decided, but we do plan to build a second artificial pitch soon, as well as improving common room facilities for the Junior and Senior School teaching staff, grounds staff accommodation and car parking. I would like to thank the Governors of Solihull for supporting the development of facilities in such a progressive and committed way.

Turning to a subject I touched upon earlier when I referred to counselling facilities and a time out room, I have become increasingly troubled by mental health issues, largely in pupils but sometimes in adults too. Entrance examinations, pressure to achieve at school, university and the workplace – especially during prolonged recession – fear of failure, student debt, media ‘role models’ and the invasive capabilities of technology are all potentially dangerous. I am deeply concerned about the number of pupils nationwide suffering acute anxiety, stress and depression which very sadly can lead to sleep deprivation, poor concentration, school phobia, self harm, eating disorders and even suicide. At this time of year those entering the Sixth Form are finalising their options and all too often they find themselves under pressure to choose the right subjects for certain careers, even if that career is not suited, thus setting them up for possible failure and re-evaluation in the future. Unhealthy and sometimes inaccurate debate over ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ subjects or ‘academic’ and ‘applied’ subjects can cause pupils to select A-Levels they are not as good at or don’t enjoy as much, and this is both misguided and

harmful. Solihull is far from perfect in this regard and last year we introduced mindfulness training for staff, and well-being lessons join the curriculum this September. We have increased our nursing and counselling provision and we all need to be better listeners. Awareness of the importance of mental health and its parity with physical health must be integrated into every aspect of young people’s development. We need to encourage our pupils to speak openly about their mental health and whilst tackling the symptoms, we must concentrate more on raising awareness, addressing the causes and targeting prevention or at least early intervention.

The co-curricular life of the School has been as action-packed as ever and details of our achievements can be found in the termly Greyhound and this publication. Although a very personal thing and a risky one to put in writing, the highlights for me were the arrival of the Steinway Grand Pianos, Remembrance 2014 and the ceramic poppies planted in the Quad, *Les Misérables* and the Junior School performance of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*, the choir’s third visit to St Paul’s Cathedral and the opportunity to perform with Gary Barlow on stage at the LG Arena, the Junior School Boys’ Hockey Team bringing home the U11s Midlands Hockey Championship trophy, and the visits by Michael Buerk and cricketing legend, Sir Garfield Sobers.

Community outreach work is an important part of school life and is an area I would like to see grow even further. This year, ‘Solihull Sings’, which involves choral coaching for local primary school pupils, has continued to flourish and among other initiatives, we have also provided sport, art and music activities for local schools, as well as an exciting year-long programme promoting the teaching of Latin and Classical Civilisation in the Borough. All have been extremely well received and help underpin our commitment to the wider Solihull community.

Finally, I hope former pupils will agree that the relationship between the School and the Old Silhillians’ Association is flourishing with more alumni events, automatic enrolment of leavers and the appointment of our new Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Mrs Susie Jordan. Susie replaced Alison Bond who left to become Director of External Relations at Oxford Brookes University. Susie has lots of ideas for increasing alumni engagement and the School’s engagement with the OSA, and I look forward to welcoming even more ‘old girls’ and ‘old boys’ back to their alma mater.

To everyone involved with Solihull, thank you for another great year, well done and get ready for another exciting and fulfilling episode ahead. Best wishes to you all.

Heads of School

The Heads of School for the 2014-2015 academic year were Joseph Price and Poppy Eales and their deputies were Joseph Lankester and Caroline Camm.



Development and Alumni Relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life



Susie joins the team

Susie Jordan joined the team on 20 April as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Susie is planning to grow and enhance Solihull's network of alumni, parents, former parents, former staff and friends across the world. Through a wide programme of events and communications, Susie and her team will be striving to keep the network informed about developments at the School, aiming to bring them closer to support the future of the School and its pupils. Through the Development and Alumni Relations Office, alumni, parents and friends can make contact with lost alumni, build new networks through our events, provide careers advice and assistance to our pupils, and aid the future development of the School and its pupils by supporting our Assisted Places Fund.

Civic Visit

On 5 May Civic leaders from across the West Midlands and Warwickshire visited Solihull School at the invitation of The Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull Councillor Mrs Kate Wild. Over lunch the Headmaster updated guests on Solihull's three main aims: Ambition, Opportunity and Community, together with his plans for the future development of the School. Following this, the guests were taken on a tour of the School by our Benchers, leading to an informative talk from our Archivist, John Loynton in the Archive Room.



Denis Tomlin Assembly

On 4 February an assembly took place in the Bushell Hall to honour former member of staff Denis Tomlin for his services to the School, its pupils and former pupils. School Archivist and OSA President John Loynton spoke of the invaluable part Denis has played in the life of the School and the Solihull community over the last six decades. The OSA presented Denis with an engraved stone which was laid in the new Sixth Form Centre, the Cooper Building. He was also made an Honorary Life Member of the OSA.

Birmingham Business Event

On Thursday 21 May, alumni and staff were welcomed to Savills in Birmingham by its Head, Barry Allen who is also Chair of the Old Silhillians Association. The Headmaster gave an insightful talk on recent and future developments at Solihull. Guests then moved on to Primitivo where they were able to catch up with old friends, hear more about the School and make new connections over drinks. The evening was enjoyed by all and our thanks go to Rupert Young for organising it.

Doris Tomlin

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Doris Tomlin has passed away after being ill for some time. Both Doris and Denis worked at the School for many years and have never ceased to be an important part of the place.

The funeral was held on Tuesday 12 May at Robin Hood Crematorium, with the wake taking place at the Old Silhillians Clubhouse. The service was very well attended and it is clear that Doris will be missed by so many.



Annual London Dinner

On Friday 5 June, alumni, staff and former staff came together at the East India Club in Saint James's Square for the Annual London Dinner. The Headmaster opened the evening with a presentation about the School's plans for development including our plans to increase the number of Assisted Places available. Following this, guests enjoyed a delicious dinner during which they reminisced over shared memories and experiences and heard more about the School's plans for the future. The guests enjoyed a game of Heads and Tails over coffee with the proceeds supporting the refurbishment of the Mountain Cottage. The evening concluded with speeches from the President of the Old Silhillians Society, John Loynton, and London representative, Phil Pinto. We would like to thank everyone who took part in Heads and Tails which raised £305 for the Mountain Cottage.





Over 60s Lunch

We were delighted to welcome 25 members of the Old Silhillians over-60s group back to School on 13 May. The Senior Deputy Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster took the group on tours of the School, providing them with the opportunity to see how the campus has developed over the last 40 years. The Old Sils all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, reminiscing about the School in their time and admiring the facilities available to our current pupils. Following the tours the guests went on to the Old Sils' Clubhouse where they could catch up with old friends over lunch and hear from the Headmaster about the School's plans for the future.



Careers Report

This has been a tremendous year for Careers events and initiatives at the School. We hosted the new-look Careers Convention which welcomed 45 speakers and more than 150 students and their parents. A number of industries were represented; from Law to Engineering, Gaming to Marketing and the Military to Transport Planning. A large majority of speakers were Old Silhillians or parents and it was remarked by students that it was good to meet former pupils and hear them speaking about their career journey after their time at Solihull. We are very grateful to the speakers who enthusiastically gave their time and advice. They enjoyed themselves too, remarking 'children were polite and showed interest and are a credit to you and your school'. One parent wrote: 'Many of the people we saw were excellent speakers and gave the children lots of useful careers advice at a level they could understand'. The next Careers Convention is scheduled for March 2017.

A number of fantastic new tools have been introduced to help students with their career planning. Fast Tomato was introduced to all year groups in the Senior School during PSHE. Fast Tomato is a web-based tool which asks students a series of questions related to their skills and interests. It then suggests up to 20 different career choices. Behind each suggestion are links directing the student to job descriptions, expected salary level, required qualifications and professional-body websites. Many students found the session stimulating and inspiring. They now have a resource to find and store careers research and log aspirations as well as course and University choices relating to their potential career.

Unifrog is a web-based course and University finder. Students can search the myriad courses based around their subject choice and discover the entry requirements, student survey results and Unistats data all in one place. This is particularly useful for students struggling to decide what to study at University; broadening their thinking and assisting their research. It also highlights the different combinations of studies that can be chosen at University, such as Liberal Arts and Sciences degrees, combined honours or irregular subjects that would be otherwise undiscovered.

COA Centigrade is another University search tool which was offered to the Lower Sixth. After completing an online questionnaire, students received an in-depth report and work book highlighting the four best subject choices relating to their interests. The report also shows which Universities offer the most relevant courses based on geographical preference and subject choice. This was most welcome following a challenging few weeks of AS exams.

If you would like to speak to our students or can offer them experience in your field or industry please contact Julia Skan, Head of Careers on 0121 703 2940 or skanj@solsch.org.uk

Mrs J Skan



Alumni News

Former Solihull School pupil Dan Strang has received a £1 million cash injection for his international business, Crowd Reactive.

The company, whose clients include Audi, Ferrari, Starbucks, Nike, Coco Cola and O2, provides technology for event organisers to broadcast photographs, videos and social media content from the audience using Instagram, Twitter, Vine and Dropbox.

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

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

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

Dan, who has a degree in Business & Management from Exeter University, set up Crowd Reactive after running his own fashion business for 18 months – following the family tradition: his grandfather was chairman of Foster Bros, the high street clothing retailer, and his parents have run their own fashion business for the last 30 years.

Speaking of his time at Solihull School – he was the third generation Strang to attend – he said: 'I had the most wonderful time at Solihull and enjoyed every moment of my years there. There were really good teachers and I made some great friends. My passion was sports and I really enjoyed running and playing hockey'. An all-round sportsman, Dan captained the School's Athletics team for two years (like his father, he was an 800-metre runner) represented the School at hockey and captained the university Athletics team.

Susie Jordan and Charlotte Price-Ford

From the Archivist

2014 is of course the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of The First World War.

... 'WAR! Unfortunately this is the word on everybody's lips-young and old-and what it involves is the thought on everyone's mind. It is terrible, repulsive, notwithstanding its glory- for it has glory in as much as it calls forth what is noblest, deepest, best in our nature. But it touches every grade of society and our own School life as well as the rest. We have made our contribution to its demands in sending forth some 80 of those who are proud to call themselves Old Silhillians, at least 14 of whom hold His Majesty's Commission. Its ruthlessness, its horror, its devastation, are all brought home to us in our little community and, while proud to send our members forth, we are constrained to pray that the great Architect of the Universe who directs the world will cover their heads in the day of battle and bring them safe home again after their duty has been done.' Hopes for an end by Christmas... which,... "may bring us a clear vision of the success of our arms and the establishment of a universal peace throughout the world, a peace which may herald the approach of a time when war shall be no more, when nations shall not rise up against nation, and when we shall recognize that universal brotherhood is the goal at which we must aim'.

This is how the *Shenstonian* (December 1914) recorded the declaration of war. 270 Old Silhillians served their country in the armed forces. 55 never returned, and we must pay tribute to our former pupils who came to School, learnt the subjects that we learn, played cricket and football on the same pitches as we do but were then plunged into the horrors of trench warfare.

In 1915, three Old Sils were killed in action.

2nd Lt. Oscliffe Harold Beaufort was the son of John William and Lucy Beaufort of The White House, St. Mary's Road, Otlands Park, Surrey. He entered School in 1906, and left in 1909. He was a keen member of the School OTC, and

contributed 2/6 to the purchase of the drum before moving on to Wellington College and then Birmingham University, where he continued in the OTC. Before serving with the 6th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment, going to France in February 1915 as a bomb instructor, he worked in his father's photographic business. He was wounded in the shoulder in July 1915 shortly after returning from leave in England, and then he was killed on the 13th October 1915, aged 21. The telegram arrived at the house of his only brother. Never found, he is Remembered with Honour on the Loos Memorial.

Private (acting bombardier) William Hutchings, Royal Field Artillery was the son of George and Mary Hutchings of Birmingham, and husband of Florence Annie, of 34A Pool Street, Walsall, Staffordshire. He was one of our first to enlist and was killed on 7 May 1915 (Second Battle of Ypres) aged 34, and is buried in the Ypres Town Cemetery, alongside Prince Maurice of Battenberg, (Mountbatten) grandson of Queen Victoria.

Sergeant (Instructor) Lawrence Waters left School in December 1907. He was the son of Alderman (deceased) and Mrs Walters of Acocks Green. He was killed on 2 August 1915 at the 2nd Battle of Ypres, fighting in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. He was aged 25, and never found and so is recorded on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Army records show that his brother Leslie was also killed but he is not mentioned in our records. He is commemorated at St. Margaret's Church, Olton. One of our boys who survived (although the *Shenstonian* of 1916 recorded him as having been killed) was Lt. Charles Lander and he wrote vividly of his experiences at the Front. Here is an extract from his memoirs:

'In the chaos of the Somme... Dead and dying lay sprawling across the road and the battalion or what was left of it lay three or four deep on the side of the road, apparently too scared to even dig in for anyone standing upright was sure to be hit by streams of machine gun bullets from the direction of High Wood'.

Lander's memoirs tell a remarkable story of bravery, hardship and devotion to duty.



the terrible tragedy through which the world is passing, will of necessity – as it should – curb the enjoyment and perhaps make us think more seriously of the meaning of our lives. Our brothers at the Front are doing so and we must take care that when they come back they do not find us wanting'.

As we look forward to Christmas 2015 let us spare a thought for the generation from Solihull that went off to war to defend what is now our freedom. The 55 who lost their lives may now be recorded as a statistic, but they were human, brave, and they were our school fellows.

2015 is also the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, and Solihull School appointed a new Headmaster 'To teach the children of all such of the inhabitants as may attend him for that purpose, English, Latin and Greek languages'.

The hours of school were fixed: 8am to 12pm in the morning, and 2pm to 5pm in the afternoon in the Summer, and from 9am to 12pm in the morning and from 1pm to 4pm in the Winter afternoons. The winter ran from Michaelmas (29 September) to Lady Day (25 March) There were no clock changes until 1916. The holidays consisted of a month at Christmas and Midsummer, a week at Easter and two half-days in each week. You can decide for yourself which system you prefer, today's or then!

Extracts from *A History of Solihull School 1560-2010 (2010)* and *Solihull School During the First World War (2014)* by J C Loynton.

What was life like back at School?

The School was inspected in 1915: all was most satisfactory, and the report stated that the School was well up to the average of schools of a similar type, but the lament sounds familiar.... 'We have had a full inspection of the School by the Board of Education. No less than five learned experts on matters educational trooped down upon us and spent several days in the classrooms, looking into everything, criticising everything and we presume – but of course this is liable to be censored – making all sorts of suggestions for our future discomfiture!' (March 1915).

Winter evenings in the Boarding House were occupied by games of chess, draughts, snap, happy families and bezique which were played in-between tea and prep.

As Christmas 1915 approached: 'Our thoughts naturally turn to the holidays, which we hope will be pleasant ones, but



University & College Entries 2014

ASTON

Benjamin Newman	Business, Management and Public Policy
Rohit Raikhy	Finance

BANGOR

Katharine Singleton	Marine Vertebrate Zoology
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BATH

Alexander Browse	Automotive Engineering (with placement)
Eleanor Talbot-Davies	Business Administration (with professional placement)
Harriet Whitfield	Management (with Placement)

BATH SPA

Nicole Angelides	Photography
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BIRMINGHAM

Suhail Ahmed	Business Management
Luke Carr	English and American Literature
Sophie Hicks	Drama and English Literature
Aoife Mannion	Economics
Amy Middleton	Law
Bartholomew Sands	Mathematics
Abigail Smith	Modern Languages and Music
Matthew Tyler	History, Ancient and Medieval

BIRMINGHAM CITY

Kashif Khan	Accounting and Finance
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BRADFORD

Liam Deane	Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation
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BRISTOL

Jessica Toogood	Zoology
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CAMBRIDGE

Emmanuel College	
Lucy Allen	Engineering (4 years)
Selwyn College	
Thomas Griesbach	History
Trinity Hall	
James Turpin	Modern and Medieval Languages

CARDIFF

Thomas Beasley	Philosophy
Hannah Butler	Geography (Human)
Jonathan Foulkes	Medicine
Yasmin Webb	Business Management
Harry Busz	Geography (Human)

CHESTER

Heather Danby	Geography and Business
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DE MONTFORT

Alexander Blackburn	Psychology with Criminology
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DURHAM

Katherine Bridges	Archaeology and Ancient Civilisations
Elliot Gordon	Anthropology
Elizabeth Ready	Philosophy and Psychology
Thomas Sheppard	Business and Management with Business Placement
Elisabeth Thomas	General Engineering

EXETER

Lauren Buchan	English
Jasreen Dhillon	Mathematics with Economics
Ella Harthman	Business and Management with Industrial Experience
Faye Kent	English
Francesca Theakston	Mathematics

KEELE

Laurence El-Belbol	Business Management and Finance
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LEEDS

Charlotte Bannister	Management with Marketing
Elliott Botterill	Management
Jordan Davey-Reid	Management
Samantha Deakin	Cinema and Photography
Grace Devenney	History
Esther Domingo	Theatre and Performance
Ella Goodworth	Childhood Studies
Jamie Hughes	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Brogan Kelly	Broadcast Journalism
Michael Kiely	Law
Kevin McCormack	Biological Sciences
Charlotte Taylor	Broadcast Journalism
George Taylor	Chemical Engineering
Ewan Waddell	Cinema and Photography
Sophie Ward	Broadcast Journalism
Oliver White	Accounting and Finance
Bethany Willman	International Business

LEEDS MET

Lawrence Finch	Business and Management
Benjamin Gee	Business and Management
Emily Reddi	Events Management
Charles Rowe	Marketing
Charles Toher	Music Technology

LEICESTER

Jaipreet Deo	History
Matthew Swales	Medicine

LIVERPOOL

Anisha Bharath	Medicine
Matthew Bottomley	Law
Katherine Brice	International Politics and Policy
Samuel Maguire	Medicine
Jessica Taylor	Law with Criminology
Toby Wassell	International Business with a Year in Industry
Charlotte Wilson	English and Communication Studies

LONDON
IMPERIAL

Nicholas Clay	Mechanical Engineering with a Year Abroad
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ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Rhianna Baldi	Bio veterinary Sciences
UCL	
Sally Farrant	Ancient World with a Year Abroad

LOUGHBOROUGH

Jonathan Allen	Sport and Exercise Science
Oliver Haley	Retailing, Marketing and Management
Zoe Harding	Psychology
Samuel Montieri	Mathematics
Harry Morgan	History and International Relations
Tomas Regan	Information Management and Business Studies

MANCHESTER

Thomas Bache	Physics
Lars Holdgate	Social Anthropology
Theresa Morgan	Sociology and Criminology
Harry Roberts	Medicine
Nicholas Sharp	Biochemistry with Industrial/ Professional Experience
Florence Tarpey	Neuroscience with Industrial/ Professional Experience

MANCHESTER MET

William Baines	Advertising and Brand Management
Daisy Blundell	Hospitality Management (Foundation)

NEWCASTLE

Rebecca Jacks	Classical Studies
Jacob Small	Chemistry (with Industrial Training)

NEWMAN

Grace Walden	Studies in Primary Education
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NOTTINGHAM

James Berry	Management
Grace Evans	Law
George Gamlin	Mechanical Engineering
Robert Gnyla	Engineering
Laura Halford	Criminology and Sociology
Isobel Henry	Mathematics
Gregory Holland	Industrial Economics
Nicole Inman	Management with Chinese Studies
Aeron Parsons	Management
Sophia Peschisolido	Film and Television Studies

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Lydia Jones	Primary Education
Taimoor Rashid	English with Creative Writing

OXFORD

Brasenose College	
Nicholas Hooper	Classics II
Alanna Wall	Medicine
Mansfield College	
Samuel McCumiskey	Engineering
St Hilda's College	
Benjamin Piggin	Physics
Worcester College	
George Diwakar	Theology and Religion
Madeleine Lavery	Experimental Psychology

OXFORD BROOKES

Louie Turpie	History
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PLYMOUTH

Calum Corbet	Construction Management and the Environment
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QUEEN'S BELFAST

Kieran Joyce	Business Management
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SHEFFIELD

Albert Davis	International Business Management
Daniel Kelly	Geography
Nadine Nijim	Law

SOUTHAMPTON

Cameron Baines	Medicine
Jemma Mitchell-Meades	Law

SURREY

James Leadbetter	Physics
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SUSSEX

Liz Griffin	Physics
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SWANSEA

Christopher Rooney	Business Management
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WARWICK

Charlotte Beesley	History and Sociology
Patrick Blakey	Computer and Management Sciences
James Jervis	Economics

WORCESTER

Bethany Roberts	Physical Education and Sports Studies
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YORK

Luke Birtwistle	Social Policy
Declan O'Brien	Economics
Martyna Sucharzewska	Law
Christos Wild	Computer Science

Dowling College, USA

George Taylor	(Golf Scholarship)
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Moseley Rugby Club

Louis Roach	(Contract)
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KPMG Sponsored Degree

Christopher Bevins	(Exeter University)
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Stephen Perrins

Stephen became Director of Music in 1991 and since then he has directed and inspired pupils through 24 musicals and in excess of 200 concerts in total - a fabulous achievement! His infectious enthusiasm for life and music is palpable at all times as throughout his time at Solihull he bounded in and out of buildings with a spring in his step and a smile on his face.

Stephen is unquestionably one of life's genuine 'good guys' with a great sense of humour to match; always apparent whenever he fulfilled the role of compere! Any pupil that has had the privilege of being taught by Stephen is 'known' by Stephen and he speaks about all the pupils with incredible personal knowledge, pride and care.

Incredibly popular with younger and older pupils, his approach engendered a real warmth; a warmth that was very obvious judging by the number of former pupils who returned for the last night of *Les Misérables* to recognise his immense contribution to school music. It was a fitting tribute indeed.

Stephen has been 'the music man' at Solihull for many years, originally operating out of humbler dwellings before orchestrating the move to the David Turnbull Music School, a building (at last!) in tune with Stephen's desire to make music at Solihull the best that it can be.

A true gentleman, never one to complain (even when asked to perform in assembly with very little notice!) and a tremendous common room member. We wish Stephen a long, happy and musical retirement, knowing that he is looking forward to travelling and of course spending more time with his wife Sarah and sons.

Sean Morgan



Janice Edwards

Janice started as a Receptionist at Solihull for two afternoons per week in June 1997. She soon began assisting the Director of Sport and the Head of Careers, before becoming Admissions Secretary as well as Database and Exams Secretary. Indeed, Janice was the full time Admissions Secretary from 2002 until 2015. There are few jobs more important than being an Admissions Secretary in a school.

She was inevitably the first contact that prospective families had with us and the importance of that initial engagement should never be underestimated. Suffice to say, Janice quite simply 'got it right' over and over again, never failing to represent us in the very best light at all times.

Janice was professional to the 'nth' degree; astonishingly candid and discreet. The nature of the job is such that, at times there are some very difficult conversations to have and Janice handled them all with consummate skill throughout her working life. As well as her sage advice, Janice's sense of humour and her infectious laughter will be missed in the Head's Wing.

Janice's zest for life and appetite for travel will certainly prove to be a great fit in her retirement. I know her intention is to spend time with her family in both the UK, Australia and Canada. We wish Janice an incredibly well-deserved, long and happy retirement.

Sean Morgan



Gerry Gunning

This summer, after fourteen years of wonderful service both to staff and pupils at Solihull, Gerry Gunning says his final ‘Adiós’ to teaching and begins what I know is a well-earned retirement with his wife Ann.

The time Gerry has spent at Solihull is just one facet of what has been an incredible and very Hispanic journey that spans decades. (Sorry, Gerry!) After leaving his home town of Cork in Ireland and coming to live in Birmingham at the age of three with the rest of his family, Gerry excelled in school, rising to the position of Deputy Head Boy at what was then Moseley Grammar School. During that time, Gerry began to develop passions for languages and sport that still burn brightly. At Birmingham University, Gerry gained both a First Class degree in Spanish and Portuguese and a wife – no mean feat – and while at university, he spent his year abroad in the beautiful city of Salamanca, where he witnessed at first hand Spain’s turbulent move from dictatorship to democracy. I am sure Gerry would tell you that places like Salamanca and Malaga mean as much to him as his native city of Cork or his adopted home-town of Birmingham. During his teaching career, Gerry has spread the gospel of Spain to so many people and transmitted his love for its language to so many students, that I have often thought that the Spanish Government really should present him with some kind of award (or pension!).

After completing his teacher training year in Newcastle and getting married, Gerry took up his first post at Archbishop Grimshaw School in Chelmsley Wood, where he taught Spanish and French and worked under a certain Mr Jacques Grandrieux, with whom he would build a life-long friendship. In 1981, Gerry took up his post at King Edward’s Birmingham, where he taught both languages, ran numerous trips and rose to the position of Head of Sixth Form. During the twenty years he spent at KES, Gerry also indulged one of his other passions; basketball, of which he was both a fine exponent and an inspirational coach.

Gerry’s time at Solihull began in 2001, and it is difficult to do justice to the impact he has made in his time here. Gerry has inspired pupils and fellow colleagues, run trips, taken sports teams, led the Spanish Department, welcomed visitors, helped students through public examinations and been responsible for the future success of so many boys and girls. Gerry has been, and remains at heart, a fantastic classroom practitioner who has moved with the times – he looks for ways of teaching languages more effectively and produces and shares resources that make what we do in MFL all the more rewarding. On a

personal note, I should say that Gerry is not just a first class colleague to everyone both in Languages and beyond, but is someone who wants to help if you have a problem and has more human warmth than practically anyone I have ever met. When new people (including myself) have joined our team, Gerry has been the one they can look to for an example of how to do things and how to treat people.

Gerry proves the old adage that you can take the boy out of Cork, but you can’t take Cork out of the boy – Gerry is loquacious, erudite, funny, generous, intelligent, incredibly sociable and has a wicked sense of humour. One of the funniest things I have ever been asked by a pupil during my career was when a Shell Form pupil posed the following question – ‘Do you think Mr Gunning is sarcastic?’

Things are going to be very strange at Solihull School without Gerry Gunning to guide us, but all good things come to an end and retired colleagues do return in order to do lots of cover.

Good luck and happy retirement Gerry – ¡Buen descano te has ganado, mi amigo!

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat!

Paul Morgan



Helen Pike

In December the School said goodbye to Helen Pike. Helen joined the English Department in September 2003 as an NQT. During her time at Solihull School, Helen taught at KS3, GCSE and A-Level. Helen is a particularly talented teacher of A-Level, with specific interests in Renaissance drama and Greek Tragedy. In addition to this, Helen is a specialist teacher of creative writing, being an accomplished poet in her own right having previously been commended at the Warwick Words Literary Festival. For several years, during the Easter holidays, Helen took a group of talented writers to the ARVON Creative Writing Centre at Totleigh Barton in Devon, for a week’s residential course. These weeks were a huge success and very popular with the pupils; largely this was down to Helen’s infectious passion for the written word, as well as her sense of fun.

During her time at Solihull, Helen contributed to the wider life of the School community by her involvement in several musical and dramatic productions. She co-produced *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Burial at Thebes*, *Blood Brothers* and *Beauty and the Beast*. In addition to this, she also established links with the Nihiluwa School in Sri Lanka - an initiative which saw hundreds of pupils write Pen Pal letters to children of different ages.

Helen was a devoted form tutor for many years, and oversaw the well-being of her tutees with great care and sensitivity. Her natural sense of fairness and compassion meant that before long, she was promoted to the position of Head of Year - a role which she performed with great dedication and effectiveness. After her spell as Head of Year, Helen became Deputy Head of English. During this time, she oversaw the running of KS4 and organised a number of stimulating English Society evenings.

We wish Helen the best of luck and good health as she embarks on her new challenge as teacher of English at Cheltenham Ladies College.

Stuart Hart



Tony Bussey

Tony was appointed Head of Economics and Business in 1994. He was and continues to be a real gentleman; gentle by nature, courteous and caring in his dealings with pupils, colleagues and parents. He gave very generously of his time to help his students achieve their very best.

Tony was always a very reflective teacher – he was passionate about pedagogy and strategies to aid success, and was always keen to try out ideas and develop lessons along new and interesting lines.

Tony steered the department through times of change with an expert hand in a way that earned the respect of many, and which secured excellent results in both Business Studies and Economics.

A keen (and very able!) cricketer and basketball player, Tony was also a tremendous help to the sports department, where his significant presence will be sorely missed.

His departure will be keenly felt here but he leaves the department in very good shape and ready to move to the Cooper Building and take up the challenge of the new era in Sixth Form curriculum.

We wish him every success in his new post and hope that he, Jo and the boys enjoy a very successful future together.

Sean Morgan



Sandra Phillips

Since the moment Sandra joined the School in 2004, she has captured the heart of the students that surround her. Her eccentric quirks – a morbid fear of butterflies (they might suffocate you) and penguins (they are sly) – combined with her well-known catch phrases ('pens in paws' and 'quick sticks') has made her one of the central characters in the Sixth Form. She has always been a consummate professional; incredibly dedicated to each student that she taught, and someone who pushes herself to make sure she provides the best possible help that she can. Her results were always impressive and she has been the steadfast pillar that the Psychology Department has grown around and leant upon, as it went from an enrichment option to having nine A-Level groups.

In addition to her Psychology teaching, Sandra was an incredibly committed form tutor. Every reference and testimonial for students was filled with detailed knowledge of the pupil in question: thoughts about their nature, what made them great, what she hoped for them. She saw the best in each student and had endless empathy and sympathy for their individual struggles and hurdles. She made them laugh and offered tissues and tea when they cried.

Sandra's endless drive to care about others also led her to lead the Charities Committee and in the last few years she has been responsible for raising close to £400,000 pounds for a variety of causes.

However, Sandra was not just a committed teacher; she was also a fantastic colleague. Her wicked sense of humour, 'moral issues', endless tea-making and constant support for the rest of the department meant that her leaving has left a gap that will be felt for some time.

For over a decade, Sandy P has been the go-to person for any student or teacher in need of love, soothing or laughter and she will be sorely missed.

Daniele Harford and Tom Emmet



Lynn Jenkins

Lynn joined the School in September 2004 as a Junior School Technician, responsible for setting up the JS Science Room & Art Room for lessons. However, it wasn't long before Lynn's exceptional skill base shone through for the benefit of all in the Junior School and she began to play a very significant role in supporting her colleagues in a number of guises.

Her beautiful and creative displays lit up the Form Rooms, communal spaces and corridors of the Junior School, and were always admired by the whole community and visitors to the School. Her wonderful array of props, back drops and stage sets were a constant wow factor in many of our productions and she regularly volunteered her time way beyond the call of duty for the benefit of all. Lynn remained, from her very first day here, hugely supportive of the staff in the Junior School and her talents for getting the best out of children also shone very brightly from early on.

Lynn is a very talented artist which soon led to her teaching Art to a number of year groups in the Junior School to a notably high standard. She also went on to train as a School Counsellor and worked one-to-one with a number of pupils over the years and used her expertise to train a team of JS Mentors each year. She has also worked as a very valued member of the Learning Support team throughout her time in the Junior School, boosting pupils' self-esteem and attainment to help them make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Regardless of what role Lynn took on, very often juggling many of them at once, she performed each and every one of them to the very best of her ability and with a patience and kindness that will remain as an inspiration to us all. Going the extra mile is in Lynn's DNA, just as helping others is in her DNA. When Lynn retired at the end of December 2014, it was a day of mixed emotions for all who had worked closely with her. We were very sorry to lose such a talented colleague and great friend of the Junior School but very happy that she was about to embark on the many exciting plans she and Jeff have for retirement – not least wintering in Australia with her young grandchildren. I don't recall the precise point our sadness turned to envy, but it didn't take long! Wishing you all the good health and happiness you so richly deserve in retirement Lynn. You take with you our sincerest best wishes wherever you go.

Mark Penney



Jean Wilde

Jean joined Solihull in 2006 as Head of Drama from King Edward's Camp Hill School for Girls. This was her first teaching post after years working in the Civil Service, Health Service and running her own Theatre Company. Originally a temporary 3-month post, Jean stayed at Camp Hill for 12 years, becoming Head of English, Head of Drama and Head of Lower School in her time there. This list of job titles is impressive enough in a school of such quality, but it serves to underline how Jean is more than just a teacher: she is intelligent, academic, creative and caring - particularly about her pupils.

In her time at Solihull, she has been a form tutor and a valued member of the pastoral team. She has also directed 24 productions in just 9 years, and that is without counting the 4 or 5 exam productions that happen every year as part of the Theatre Studies syllabus. I remember 'Romeo and Juliet' as one of the most entertaining and innovative adaptations of Shakespeare's work I have had the pleasure to watch, combining as it did a 1970s Chopper bike, live on-screen camera footage of the action, and emotive professional acting, all set to a backdrop of T-Rex music. Sublime! Her sense of fun and innate creativity is what enables Jean to produce such professional productions. In addition to this, she also inspires her young (often inexperienced) casts to really communicate with their audience, to understand what they are saying and to make it real. This is no easy feat, but the success of it and the experience of working with her, ensures these pupils get an experience that will stay with them forever.

Jean is generous with her time and since arriving here she has taken numerous evening theatre trips and even helped out on Duke of Edinburgh Award weekends - midges, rain and tents do not put her off! Outside of school, Jean is passionate about music, politics, nature and theatre. She is a spiritual person and a fantastic colleague.

I know Jean is ready for a new challenge and I also know that her retirement will be filled with the things that really matter to her. She will continue to work with Hall Green Little Theatre, where she has been a member for 40 years, and will do more of the acting and directing that she so excels at. Just this year, she was a finalist in the Monologue Slam at the Birmingham Rep, following an arduous audition process. This is the only industry showcase to be sponsored by casting directory Spotlight and it's no mean feat to get to the finals.

We wish her well in all the exciting events still to come and a happy, healthy and creative retirement. We'll miss you!

Lisa Fair



Kate Sykes

Kate joined the School in 2011 and immediately made an impact. Her lessons were always dynamic and engaging and were thoroughly enjoyed by her students. Her lively and energetic approach constantly kept her students on their toes, and no slacking was permitted. She was fierce in her upholding of high standards in her classroom and would happily upbraid students who towered over her. She was an excellent Form Tutor, forming strong relationships with her tutees and spending many hours offering individual help and guidance. Outside of the classroom, she set up and ran the History Department Website Club whose members were highly enthusiastic and who produced an impressive website which demonstrated advanced research and presentational skills. Kate also contributed enthusiastically to Senior Games, coaching Lacrosse with the same determination she showed in the classroom. Kate left earlier this year and has taken up a post offering one-to-one help to teenage mothers who have left the education system, once again demonstrating her compassionate nature. Kate has left a big gap in the life of the Department and of her students.

Gareth Affleck



Lucy Thomas

Lucy joined Solihull in 2012 from Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge. She took the post to expand her teaching experience of younger pupils and has been very successful in this endeavour. Lucy has taught all year groups art, photography and Life Drawing and is known for her meticulous organisation and detailed exemplar work for the pupils. Lucy could often be found helping pupils after school and she also ran a popular art club for the Lower School pupils producing a wide range of artwork.

From the start Lucy threw herself into school life joining the Royal Air Force section of the Combined Cadet Force and the Duke of Edinburgh staff team. Owen Bate and Phil Dean describe Lucy as keen and though she always felt the cold at camp Lucy was always enthusiastic and could be easily spotted wearing her Rab jacket, even on sunny days when everyone else was in shorts and T-shirts!

Lucy's previous Sixth Form experience made her an excellent candidate for the Sixth Form tutor team and she was affectionately known as T-Dog by her first tutor group who continue to pop back and see her from time to time.

Lucy leaves Solihull to take on the role of Head of Art at Judd School in Kent. I am sure she will lead a thriving department in her new school and be just as successful in the south as she has been in the Midlands. Lucy leaves with our very best wishes and my gratitude for all of her hard work and support, particularly in this last year.

Donna Trim



Alison Bond

Alison joined us as our first ever Director of Development and Alumni Relations and a member of the Senior Management Team. This involved setting up the School's Development Office, working very closely with the alumni association and other stakeholders, as well as contributing to the overall management and strategic direction of the School. Alison quickly settled into the role and set about the task of building from scratch with optimism and professionalism. She forged excellent relationships with all members of the school community and especially the Old Silhillians' Association, which may have justifiably been a little suspicious about the new office, role and post holder. Alison soon won them over and brought the School and OSA much closer than ever before, and the number of events and visits to Solihull by former pupils increased immeasurably. Most notably, she orchestrated the girls' 40 year reunion and a full school reunion, both of which were well attended and highly memorable.

Alison is very knowledgeable, very capable, always professional and particularly adept at building long-lasting relationships. She also contributed willingly and skilfully to broader management issues and was good fun to work with.

Alison is a real loss to Solihull after a relatively short period of time, and we wish her well in her new role as Director of External Relations at Oxford Brookes University.

David Lloyd



Rakesh Gunchala

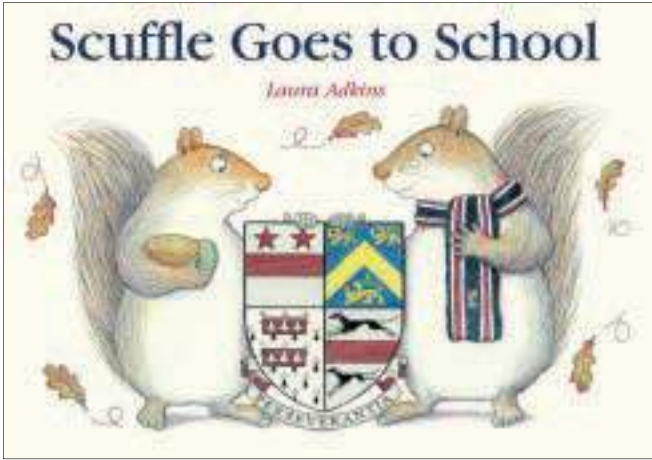
Rakesh arrived in September 2014 to take up his post as a Junior School Form Tutor, although judging by the amount of preparation he put in beforehand you'd be forgiven for thinking he began working here in early July! Ever keen to do his best, he volunteered for everything and anything from the very beginning and proved himself to be a very willing and popular colleague. A gentleman in every sense of the word, he settled into the staffroom effortlessly and juggled his responsibilities calmly and pleasantly.

As a Form Tutor to J2G he cared deeply about the pastoral development of his pupils and worked hard to push the boundaries of their academic capability ever higher throughout the year. After a short and memorable time here he leaves Solihull for challenges and pastures new.

We will miss Rakesh's kind and gentle ways, not to mention his quirky sense of humour... and his Mum's samosas. We wish him and Jyoti the very best of luck with married life and with all they choose to do in the future. He goes with our sincere thanks for everything he has done this year to make the Junior School a better place. Thank you Rakesh.

Mark Penney

The Junior School



JLR Visit

The J2s were captivated during a fun-filled and enlightening day at Jaguar Land Rover's Solihull production site. The trip was supporting their Geography topic, 'Settlements and Land Use' and included a tour of the production lines where the pupils were left in awe of the robots that are used to carry out very complicated tasks. They appreciated how the site has been an integral part of the Solihull community and still supports thousands of local families. The pupils also thoroughly enjoyed building a Lego car in order to understand the teamwork involved in producing a real Land Rover model.



Scuffle & Twitch!

Scuffle & Twitch, the new Junior School mascots, made a debut appearance in *Scuffle Goes to School* in the Christmas term and were affectionately welcomed into the fold by our younger pupils. Between them their endless curiosities give a child a squirrel-like insight into what it's like to be a pupil here for just one day.

Furthermore, not content with being just another pair of book characters, they have gone on to secure lead roles as a happy-go-lucky duo who star in a series of Junior School assemblies spread across the academic year. By introducing their Junior School friends to their custom made *Scuffle and Twitch Happy-o-Meter*, they are sharing their ideas on how the children might go about building enduring and authentic happiness.

Mr M Penney

Junior School Scholars

Congratulations to our latest set of Junior School pupils who were awarded scholarships for the Senior School. Daniel Giles, Tara Warrington, Freddie Truman, Isabel Fennell, Katy Thomas, Zain Rizvi and William Sunderland all received Academic Scholarships. Meanwhile, Oliver Palmer was awarded a Music Scholarship, while Melike Sparrow and Ella Giles received Art Scholarships!



J4 Trip to France

On 12 September, the J4s departed for their three-night language residential trip to Hardelot, France. A lot of fun was had putting French language skills to the test when ordering fresh food in the local market and ice-creams in the town. Of course, there was time for even more fun and games on the beach in the evenings and we played in the sand until the sun went down. A memorable time was had by all experiencing the French culture and cuisine!

Miss L Lynch



Junior School Council

This year the Junior School Council has been very busy; in our final term, one job was to find a new prime minister. We held a mock TV election to decide on a new leader for the Junior School. Arabella Morral won with her party *Innovation*. Each candidate was allowed three points, and Arabella's were:

- **Swap Shop**
- **Gift Shop**
- **World-themed Days**

The Swap Shop was to stop people throwing away old possessions. You could swap things like books, pencil cases and anything else in good condition. The Gift Shop has been in high demand in the Junior School; the School Council is looking into this further. World Days would be a chance for different cultures to be explored, with children being able to learn specifically about a certain country and its culture. Arabella has spent the remainder of the Summer Term looking into the feasibility of these ideas and attempting to get them running.

In the Christmas Term the Junior School Council is always busy organising Charity Week, and this year we had decided to raise money for Solihull Young Carers. Solihull Young Carers helps young adults who have to look after a member of their family; they organise trips for the young carers and find someone else to look after the carers' ill family member. Solihull Young Carers also organise games and do one-to-one sessions with the young adults if they are worried or feeling stressed.

In both the Christmas and Easter terms we went to the Mayor's Chamber and found out how a real council runs. We were even allowed to hold a meeting in the Chamber and Jenny Hodge, our Chair of School Council, got to wear a mini chain and the whole council had to call her Madam Chairman.

The Junior School Council also wants to organise a teacher/pupil swapping day, where the J4s would get to teach their fellow pupils a lesson. The Decathlon Day is always a great success and the School Council, with the help of Mr Jones, decided that we should support Help for Heroes.

Jenny Hodge and Emma Wild, J4



Junior School Prize Giving 2015

On Thursday 2 July, Junior School Prize Giving provided the platform for the first public unveiling of the *Scuffle & Twitch Happy-o-Meter*.

Following the welcome and opening remarks by Judge Michael C Morris LLB, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, Mr Penney, Head of the Junior School, outlined the context and rationale for introducing initiatives designed to bolster the emotional immunity of Junior School pupils.

Twenty four pupils from J1 to J4 were widely lauded for a wonderfully endearing and entertaining presentation of *Scuffle & Twitch's Guide to Authentic Happiness*, expanding on each of the 10 Happy Acorn Goals as they went through the medium of stories, images and video. As each Happy Acorn was added to the Happy-o-Meter scale, the audience were helped to understand what the children had been learning and thinking about throughout the school year. They were also treated, post drum roll, to a *Scuffle & Twitch* illustration which showed them how the Junior School mascots like to celebrate each time they achieve one of their Happy Goals.

The evening was interspersed with a very high calibre of musical recitals from Mariella Scott (violin), Annabel Bagshaw & Hannah Greenwood (choral) and Music Scholar Oliver Palmer (piano), with a String Quartet and a Wind Ensemble playing at both ends of the proceedings.

During the last of the 10 Happy Goals – *You bounce back* – Head Boy, Louie Bould and Head Girl, Grace Morgan, presented the proceeds of the money the children had raised through sponsorship (a remarkable £5434.30) for their JS Charity Decathlon to Dean Williams of Help for Heroes, who explained how beneficial the children's fundraising would be to those in need of support.

This was soon followed by a presentation by the Principal Guest of Honour for the evening - Luke Darlington. Luke, an ex-Royal Marine, suffered severe injuries and brain damage whilst on patrol in Afghanistan in 2011 before embarking on a remarkable personal journey of resilience and recovery that lead to him representing Team GB at the Invictus Games in the summer of 2014.

Luke's story, and that of Paul Vice, who was also a guest on the evening and injured in the same explosion, was truly inspirational and captured the very essence of how powerful bouncing back can be.

The Headmaster, Mr Lloyd, rounded off the evening with his own reflections on a very successful and happy year in the Junior School before inviting everyone present in the Bushell Hall to adjourn to the George Hill Building for refreshments afterwards.

... but not before the pupils excitedly debuted a parody of Pharrell Williams's *Happy* video that they had been recording in secret – much to their delight and that of the parents who saw their children, and their teachers, move like they had never seen before!

Mr M Penney



J3 PGL at Boreatton Park

This year, the J3s once again had an amazing time on their adventure weekend at Boreatton Park in Shropshire. As soon as we arrived we were given buoyancy aids and took to the lake. After some tactical discussions, the J3s were quickly creating their rafts, this year with a teacher on board! After that, they dressed up as robots and attacked each other with the ultimate robot weapon... the water balloon! The rest of the weekend was filled with canoeing, rock climbing, catching the trapeze, aero ball, and two new activities; archery and quad biking. Everyone had a fantastic time!

Miss S Compton

Junior School Gardening Club

The club started back in March and we took over the flower beds from the Design Technology Department. We have since moved from there and developed a new site behind the Junior School play area. The J2 pupils have helped to transform the area into a vegetable garden and wildflower garden. There are also areas to entice wildlife. We have made an area for hedgehogs to shelter, and with the help of funding from the Parents' Association, we have been able to buy bird feeders, watering equipment and tools. We also have Geoff and Michelle, our resident tortoises, which the J2s help look after!

Mr P Groom

World Book Day 2015

Our Junior School took part in World Book Day with their unwavering enthusiasm, as always.

The pupils dressed as their favourite book characters, and we had a huge variety from Harry Potter to the Hat in the Cat, and from the Wizard of Oz's Dorothy to Sherlock Holmes.

Teachers followed a Biblical theme and came dressed two by two, as animals from Noah's Ark. Noah was played brilliantly by Mr Penney and he really looked the part.

Librarians took on staff from each year group in 'Mrs Atkins's Big Juicy Book Quiz of the Year', and despite being a closely fought contest, the librarians just pipped staff to the post and became worthy victors, for the first time ever.

Charity Fundraising in the Junior School: Decathlon Day and Sale

On Thursday 4 June the Junior School undertook their annual Decathlon Day charity fundraiser in aid of Help For Heroes.

On a hot sunny morning, just back from half-term, all 225 members of the Junior School participated in the misleadingly named Decathlon, there being, for the first time, 13 events. The events were done in teams which were the pupils' forms and at the ring of the sacred Junior School bell the games began.

The events were: a skipping race (which surprisingly the girls were best at), throwing a ball at cricket stumps (girls again), an obstacle course with a commando net (which claimed many shoes), a three-legged race, running with a ball balanced on a tennis racket, rolling a ball into hoops, seeing how far you could throw a rugby ball (one for the boys), javelin throwing, football dribbling, despatch relay, shooting netball hoops, and a blindfolded backwards or forwards obstacle course where your partner guided you through a road of cones and hurdles. Everyone enjoyed the bouncy hopper race around a tree on odd sized bouncy hoppers. The branches of the trees hung low and the over-excitable pupils bounced high, with obvious minor injuries.

J1C, J2G, J3HM and J4L won in their respective years and were rewarded with lots and lots of sweets.

Many thanks go to Mr Jones, Mr Thomas and Mr Mitchell who put in many hours of tireless work to make this event possible. We would also like to thank the parents and relatives who



sponsored the children and helped to raise a total of £4,935 for charity. The Junior School would also like to thank the teachers for this extra Sports Day.

The following morning and for the second year in a row, J4 students held a bakery and craft sale. This year the participating students were Katy Thomas, Alexandra Jones, Ellie Lawley, Tara Warrington and Emma Gahan and the sale was again to raise funds for Help For Heroes. They sold gingerbread, cakes, cookies, brownies, krispy cakes, chocolates (unfortunately these contained nuts so Mr Penney generously bought them for the staff for £20 (group hugs all round)), bracelets, pom-poms and cards. Obviously, these were all homemade. Katy was in charge of gingerbread and plaited bracelets. Alexandra was in charge of cards and other bracelets, she also made a cake. Ellie made a rainbow cake and krispy cakes, Emma made chocolates and brownies and Tara made cookies and a cake. Another two J4 pupils, Freddie Truman and Hassan Janjua, donated cupcakes and a J2 student, Fergus Montgomery, contributed a cake. All the prices were below £1.20. The event was so popular that all students were rationed to one item each at first, before coming back for a second go. Every last item was sold. In all, with extra donations from Mrs Morgan and students, the sale raised a total of £350. The pupils involved would like to thank their customers, and their parents for donations of ingredients and the loan of their kitchens!

Katy Thomas, J4





J1 Botanical Gardens Art Trip

On Monday 1 June, the J1s visited Birmingham Botanical Gardens to explore different varieties of plants and flowers, based around their art topic. The pupils identified shapes, patterns and textures of tropical, sub-tropical and arid plants, creating some detailed drawings. All pupils were excited to discover new, exotic plants and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Miss R Smith



J1 Tesco Geography Trip

The J1s learnt all about how our food comes from a farm to our plates. We were taken into their onsite bakery to learn all about baking bread. We then iced some cookies that were specially made for us. After that, we were asked to locate the countries that different types of fruit and vegetables came from which shocked us all! Then we tasted cheese and bread. We had a fantastic time – especially when we shut the teachers in the freezer!

Year 6 Team Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 28 April, two teams of four J4 pupils took part in the Year 6 Team Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School where they competed against five other schools in the region. Pupils were required to work in their groups and apply their Maths knowledge to solve some extremely challenging problems. They also needed to devise strategies to ensure they gained the maximum number of points in each round by working as pairs, individuals or as a whole team within a time limit. The day was incredibly successful with one team finishing in first place overall and the other placing fourth out of ten participating teams.

Miss J Hanlon



Junior School Canoe Club

This term J3 and J4 pupils have enjoyed an introduction to kayaking with the help of coaches at Solihull Canoe Club. A number of children have now started to take part in competitive racing, training regularly at weekends with the School racing team. In the Junior Lightning class, which race over a distance of two miles, Ellie Lawley (J4) and Jem Perry (J3) have represented the School.





Junior School Art 2014-15

As the school year comes to a close, it's wonderful to reflect on yet another successful period in the Junior School Art Department. From start to finish, pupils and staff alike have enjoyed a variety of exciting and challenging projects, through which many new skills have been developed and creative opportunities been experienced, both in lessons and in lunchtime Art, Craft and Sewing clubs, all of the latter allowing the pupils to extend their creative skills and talents even further.



The Christmas term got off to a flying start with the J1s focusing on Portraiture. After much perseverance on their part, amazing self-portrait drawings were produced, demonstrating accurate proportions of the face and careful use of colour tones. The J2s got to grips with block printing, using their Sealife Centre trip to come up with images with which to create their two-colour prints. Much enjoyment was to be had with learning how to use the printing press, and subsequently their designs inspired them to construct amazing Modroc models of sea creatures. School life and all it encompasses, informed the J3s' Still Life watercolour paintings. Careful thought was given to their compositions, so that they would reflect their school interests, and using watercolours enabled the pupils to experiment with depth of colour. Pop Art permeated the minds of the J4s. Focusing primarily on the work of Andy Warhol, they created colourful self portraits, using complementary colours. Having conducted extensive research about the artists involved, the subsequent trip to Tate Liverpool and the Walker Gallery was highly anticipated. On consecutive days, the pupils and staff viewed up close, original Warhol masterpieces, which was very exciting for all. Upon returning to school, the pupils embarked on a screen printing project, producing imaginative, repeated 2- tone images in Warhol's style.

The Easter term was equally busy with the J1s applying their knowledge of portraits to investigate the abstract style of Pablo Picasso, participating eagerly in the process and producing bright, bold abstract self portraits on canvas. A floral theme took over lessons as the Easter term progressed into the Summer term. With the Summer Art Exhibition in mind, the J1s set about learning the art of Mosaic, choosing simple flower designs to recreate, using tiny pieces of ceramic tile. In addition, they visited the Botanical Gardens to further develop their observation drawing skills. The J2s were challenged to research the textures of different fabrics to create a collage of flowers of their choice. Papier Mache took over the lives of

the J3s, who worked both independently and collaboratively to construct giant 3D flowers, trying to be as realistic as possible. Meanwhile, the J4s used their screen printed flowers and embellished them to reflect their personalities and interests. The piece de resistance, however, was their large Monochrome pastel drawings of flowers which certainly created huge impact in the Summer Art Exhibition. The latter, as ever, was very well attended by pupils, parents, friends and family; a perfect showcase for all the hard work and effort of the Junior School pupils throughout the year.

Mrs R Morgan





Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

On 28 and 29 January, J4 took part in a superb production of ‘Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies,’ a comic and musical take on the traditional tale of Robin Hood. The play was performed to a packed-out Bushell Hall on both nights and we were lucky enough to be joined by the Mayor on the first night. Freddie Truman starred as the flamboyant Robin Hood and Claudia Reda as a feisty Maid Marion. Yusuf Skinner perfectly played the evil role of Sheriff of Nottingham and Louis Dale excelled in his role as King John. The whole cast worked together and showed such team spirit in putting on two excellent, entertaining and polished performances. Rehearsals took place since September, and certainly paid off! J4 are very proud of the high praise received from their audiences.

Miss L Lynch

Junior School Orchestra

At the beginning of the school year, the Orchestra started a new set of pieces called ‘Space Travellers’. Everyone took to the new challenge well and learned to follow their new leader Izzy O’ Malley and conductor Miss Helen Dolby. Out of the selection of pieces they started to learn, their favourite two were ‘In Orbit’ and ‘March of the Androids’. ‘In Orbit’ started off as a gentle piece, then slowly became louder till the cello section was playing in double forte with the rest of the strings playing col legno. We played these pieces in a concert in the Bushell Hall on 4 March.

After a short break the Orchestra was back and raring to go. We were given a new piece called ‘Song for a Summer’s Morning’ which everyone took to quickly as it reminded them of the warm sun that was yet to arrive! It was a beautiful piece that started very softly then had a long crescendo to the rousing ending. It consisted of lots of different music styles such as tremolo, slurs and pizzicato. We performed the movements in the Junior School Summer Concert on 26 June. It has been a great year for the Orchestra.

Ellie Lawley, J4



Junior School Wind Band

This year Wind Band has been a great success, with many different instruments involved from flutes to French horns and saxophones to mini bassoons. We started off by working on ‘Santa’s Angry Elves’ and ‘The Good King Rocks’ for the annual Junior School Carol Service, and also the Wind Band’s favorite piece from *Frozen*, ‘Do you wanna build a Snowman?’. Afterwards, we started practising for the Easter Concert, with our high energy ‘Penguin Promenade’ to begin the second half of the concert. We are hoping to perfect ‘Frozen’ and perform this alongside ‘Apache’ in the Summer Concert. The whole Wind Band would like to thank Miss Greswold for all her hard work in making the Wind Band possible. We say farewell to the J4s but look forward to welcoming new players in September.

Emma Wild, J4

Junior School Flute Group

During the past year, the Junior School Flute Group has worked incredibly hard and performed in assemblies and concerts. The Flute Trio consists of three enthusiastic members of J4: Emma Wilde, Joanne Wu and myself. In the Christmas concert, we played ‘Little Donkey’ and it was a great success. Over the year, we have also played many songs such as ‘Jingle Bells’ and ‘The Three Shanties’. But now as the year comes to an end, we are learning to play ‘Moon River’ and ‘Kenyan Melody’ in preparation for the Junior School Concert. The Trio has really improved thanks to the help of Miss Greswold and we look forward to becoming the Third Form Trio!

Rhea Bagga, J4



Junior School String Group

Junior School String Group practise on Mondays at break time every week of the academic year.

We have taken part in many concerts throughout the year including The Junior School Informal Concert in March when we played ‘A Caribbean Suite’ and the Summer Concert in June when we performed ‘A Sea Suite’.

I have led the String Group this year under the instruction and guidance of Miss Helen Dolby. The string instruments that we included this year were violins and cellos with pupils from all years of the Junior School involved. Many children contribute to and develop their musical skills in String Group and hopefully more will join in September when I and the other J4 pupils progress to Senior School.

We all say a huge thank you to Miss Dolby for helping us to have fun whilst learning our instruments!

Isabel O’Malley, J4

The Junior Jazzers

The Junior Jazzers line-up consists of Ella Giles, Arabella Morrall, Jessica Toogood, Ben Raybould, Tom Giddings, Lauren Besford, Zara Johal, Oliver Palmer, Tegan Gilbert and myself. On Saturday 9 May we were invited to perform in the Jazz and Light Music Concert in aid of Marie Curie Hospice. There was a wide selection of music from all instruments including trumpet, vocals and saxophone, forming a spectacular night. The music came from pupils of all ages, from the Junior Jazzers to the Big Band (consisting of older pupils). The audience tapped their feet to some rhythmical music including our performance of ‘Video Games’! The night swung away smoothly raising £565 for Marie Curie cancer care. Special thanks go to Miss Greswold for the organisation of the event and helping us to perform so brilliantly!

Freddie Truman, J4



Junior School Summer Concert 2015

Junior School Summer Concerts are always full of verve of promise, and this year's was no exception and involved a large number of pupils. It was primarily for ensemble and year/class group performances, though there were a few solo performances from some J4 pupils. Eight of the Junior School music ensembles performed: Wind Band, Orchestra, Junior Jazzers, Flute Group, String Ensemble, String Quartet, Guitar Ensemble and Junior School Choir. We were also treated to a performance of the winning entry in the House Singing Competition (Windsor House singing 'When I Grow Up' from *Matilda*). Each year group also performed: the J1s sang an engaging medley of songs from *Mary Poppins* complete with lovely actions; the J2s sang two songs from their Solihull Sings event the week before; a group of J3s performed a piece of Indonesian Gamelan music for percussion with real precision and the J4s all performed two Beatles songs for tuned



percussion. Having work from the curriculum in the concert enabled all pupils to perform in public. The concert concluded with a set of songs looking at what humans have done to our world, and the effect it has had on our environment and animals. The closing song – 'We'll learn to share' – featured the whole of J4 marking the end of their time in the Junior School with such lines as: 'We will make the future free, a brighter world for you and me' and 'We'll learn to share ... there's so much we've still to give. Knowing these wonderful young people, we have every confidence this will all come true in time; a tremendous finale!

Mr T Kermode

Junior School Sport 2014/15

It has been a hugely busy year for the Junior School pupils on the sports field. With fixtures more than doubling to well over 150 across all the age groups, there is much to be celebrated and reported.

Inaugural Sports Tour

A group of 15 boys and 15 girls from J4 embarked on the inaugural Junior School Sports Tour, visiting Bath to play a total of 8 fixtures over 3 days. Both A and B teams did themselves hugely proud, remaining unbeaten against strong opposition in the form of King Edward's Bath and Kingswood. The group also had visits to the Roman Baths, the local leisure centre and even fitted in a pizza, quiz and film night! All staff and pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and fingers crossed the group next year can live up to the high standards set! Rugby

Our rugby players have ground out some hard fought results this year, with some very tough tests. J3 edged out King Henry VIII by two tries whilst the J4 team battled out a 21-21 draw on the same afternoon. The J3 team carried on their winning ways with close-fought victories against Eversfield and Bablake. Bablake were also beaten at J4 level but held our J1 team to a well deserved draw. The J2 team gave a good account of themselves against Eversfield but were unfortunate to lose out by 3 tries. Nevertheless, some great budding talent on show.

With a change to rules next year, there is a big challenge ahead for our young players and one that I'm sure they will welcome with open arms.



Football

There have been some impressive performances across the age groups in Football this year. The J4s came up just short against a very strong Hallfield side, however then dug deep against Arnold Lodge to avenge this loss. They also welcomed Foremarke Hall at A and B team level, coming out victorious in both cases. The J2 had to also use the whole of their squad to grind out a 2-2 draw with another talented Hallfield side. Some cancellations due to weather played havoc with the fixture card but having said that, it was still a strong set of results.

Hockey (Boys)

Junior School Boys' Hockey has probably seen its most productive and successful season.

With more fixtures than ever, the boys went from strength to strength with positive results against Warwick and Bilton Grange at the start of the season, followed by an unbeaten tour to Bath and a string of notable achievements, including being runners-up in the Warwickshire Schools tournament, quarter-finalists in our first-ever appearance in the IAPS Regional Tournament held at Repton, and the U10 boys displaying real promise when coming second in the Foremarke tournament. However, it was the success at the Midlands Schools Championships that will probably live longest in the memory.

The tournament took place at Cannock Hockey Club on Friday 24 April with thirteen teams representing six Midland counties. The teams were split into two groups with the top two from each group contesting the semi-finals. Solihull came second in its group, after winning five and losing one of its games. This meant a semi-final against Bilton Grange – a team that had beaten Solihull in the final of the Warwickshire tournament.

After a stirring speech from Mr Mayer, the boys were inspired, playing brilliantly, winning 1-0 in dominant fashion. With confidence coursing through them, the boys went into the final with a steely determination. The watching supporters weren't disappointed as Solihull played some stunning hockey on the way to a fabulous 2-0 victory against St. Peter's School from Nottinghamshire. At last, after years of disappointment, Solihull U11 Boys became Midlands Champions! A fantastic achievement!

Hockey (Girls)

In the Christmas term, our U11 hockey players were busy with two tournaments against difficult opposition. One tournament included the regional IAPS tournament which had never before been entered by our Junior School. The team showed great improvement which was evident when it came to the Easter term and our hockey tour to Bath. They returned unbeaten after some of the best hockey they have played all year. The U11s finished their season with two satisfying victories against Eversfield School. Isabella Gardner was honoured with being Player of The Season and Aimee O'Malley deservedly won the award for Most Improved Player.

The U9 and U10 teams also came on leaps and bounds. Some notable performances in their season included the U10 team beating Eversfield School 11-2, and in their first ever match, the U9 hockey players had a nail-biting 1-1 draw against The Croft.

House hockey matches have also been fiercely fought this year with Fetherston winning the J1 and J2 competition and Jago winning for J3 and J4.

Netball

All girls' netball teams showed significant improvement this season as a result of great enthusiasm and super commitment to training.

The newly-formed U8 team showcased remarkable progress in the Easter term and managed to beat Eversfield 4-1 despite most girls never having played netball before. The U9 team also played well, beating Bablake 4-2 and Hallfield 8-4. In the Christmas term the U10 team started well, battling to become plate finalists in our local tournament and rounding off the term with excellent victories over Arnold Lodge. In the Easter term they finished their season with impressive 6-4 and 9-2 wins against Edgbaston High School.

The U11 team had a mixed set of results over the season but not through lack of hard work as they have demonstrated unflinching commitment to training. Standout performances were their 13-3 win against Eversfield and an 11-1 victory against EHS. Additionally, our U11 netballers competed for the first time in the U11 age group at an IAPS regional netball tournament against 42 other schools. They did not get through to the final rounds but put in a strong performance with 1 win, 4 draws and 2 losses. Rachel Chanji was honoured with being Player of The Season and Emma Gahan deservedly won the award for Most Improved Player.

House netball matches have been close this year, with Shenstone winning the J1 and J2 competition and Pole winning for J3 and J4.



Cricket

Cricket teams from all age groups have posted some excellent results this season. The J4 team now look to repeat the success from yesteryear by getting all the way to the national finals in the hardball tournament! We wait with baited breath to see the outcome and how far they can progress in the competition.

Rounders

All Junior rounders teams have improved dramatically over a short season, showcasing strength when fielding and batting. The U10 team did especially well with a 7 ½-all draw against Hallfield School and then an overall win at a local tournament held at The Croft School. The girls were in fact undefeated all afternoon, beating strong sides such as The Croft and KHPS with their excellent fielding skills.

The U11 team were again the first girls in the Junior School to play in an U11 IAPS match. In local matches they excelled with two well-deserved victories against Arnold Lodge School. They also ended their season with a fantastic 17- 6 ½ score. In a close fixture against Eversfield School, the U9 team lost out by just half a rounder in a nail-biting 15 ½ - 15 scoring game.

Sports Day

This year we again changed tradition and paraded out on a glorious Monday afternoon for Junior School Sports Day. This year saw 50 races cross the finish line, including the continuation of an immensely popular Mothers' and Fathers' Egg and Spoon race! As ever, huge crowds of parents witnessed all pupils competing in at least 2 events and giving

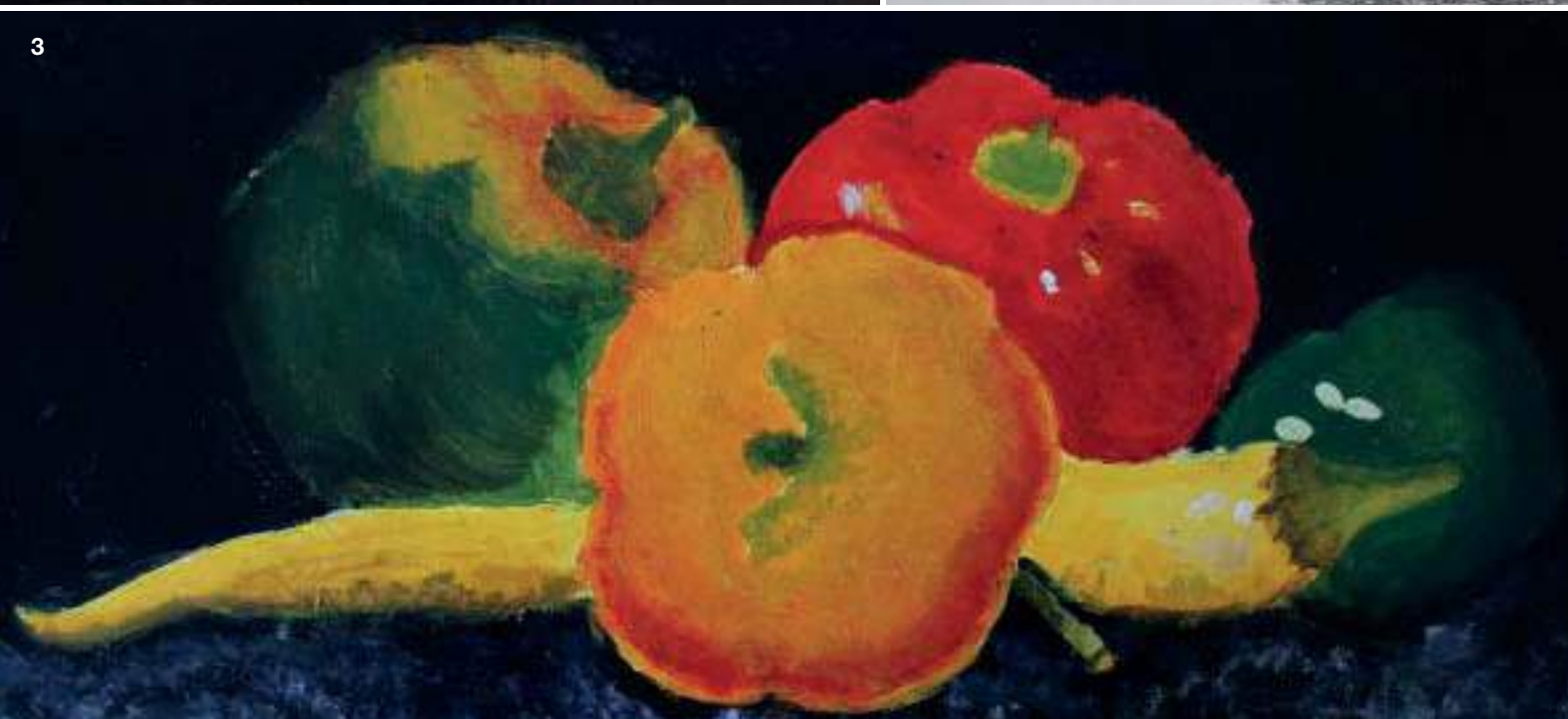
their all for their House. There were a staggering 8 records broken this year, 5 of which now belong to Erin Troop of J3 (100m, 200m, 800m, 4 x 100m Relay and the Long Jump!). Hugo Murphy and Isaac Moore both broke the J2 75m record (10.78 seconds) and Aimee O'Malley picked up where she left off last year, breaking the J4 800m record (2 minutes 47 seconds). Erin was joined in the relay by Harvey Blackhurst, Ben Pulley and Daniel Abrahams. Jago eventually came out victorious in what was a befitting treat for Mr Mitchell... having never witnessed such an achievement by his beloved House! Overall, Junior School Sport has enjoyed yet another hugely successful and busy year. I'd like to thank all staff, both Junior and Senior, for their hard work and support. My sincere and biggest thanks go to Mrs Dickerson and Mr Mitchell who have put an amazing amount of work in behind the scenes. Further thanks must also go to all the grounds and catering staff for making the whole Junior School Sport experience for parents and pupils an enjoyable one.

Mr C Thomas
Junior School Sport Co-ordinator

Junior School Borough Sports

After weeks of training, our best J3 and J4 athletes showcased their talents at the hugely competitive Borough Sports event held over two nights against twenty schools from around Solihull. Our athletes performed brilliantly, resulting in them being crowned Borough Champions. Notable performances included the U10 boys' and girls' relay teams and the U11 girls' relay team all winning gold and Erin from J3H jumping a remarkable 4.61m in the U10 girls' long jump. All in all, it was a brilliant team effort to be proud of.

Mrs N Dickerson



Third Form Art

1. India Armstrong
2. Isaac Miller
3. Emily Ashby
4. Isaac Miller
5. Nicole Dann
6. Hanaan Welch
7. Emily Geens
8. Isaac Miller

School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The Chaplaincy has continued to play a fundamental role in the life of the School over the past year, involving many students in the liturgies and musical presentations. The Chapel Choir has grown under the leadership of Mr Walker and Mr Kermode with Mr Irving often at the organ console. We thank them all for their unstinting support.

Advent and Christmas, as usual, were celebrated with great panache, beginning 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 a marvellous witness to the dedication and expertise of the choir. Indeed, many have commented about this 'gem' in the life of the School and have particularly appreciated the use of the traditional Biblical translations of the readings.

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 Third 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 workshop for the making of the Christingles where we were able to reflect upon the message of Christmas and Epiphany. Again, this was a fabulous service and a tradition we now sustain. A large collection was sent after the service for the work of the Children's Society. We recently received a certificate to say we raised the largest donation in the local area.

During the Easter Term we joined the congregation at St Alphege Church when the Bishop of Birmingham confirmed three of our members. This was a very happy occasion and a milestone in the lives of our people.

The Summer Term saw the return of a 'Pet Service', when the Junior School members brought their well behaved pets into the Chapel for blessing and we gave thanks for all God's creatures. Such opportunities provide a welcome for those who previously may not have attended worship with us but who appreciate our prayers and support.



During the term Mr Graham Smith (member of St Alphege congregation) gave a talk in Chapel explaining the parish appeal for Malawi. We previously supported this project with donations of text books and other necessary items for young people in some of the poorest areas of Africa. We will continue to support Graham in this cause and, whenever possible, offer storage for goods awaiting shipping.

On the Feast of St Thomas, Apostle, I celebrated my Silver Jubilee to the Priesthood with a High Mass at St Alphege, Solihull when the preacher Canon Bruce Ruddock gave a very inspiring homily about the life of a priest and Christian vocation. Celebrations continued in the evening at School with Choral Evensong followed by drinks and celebratory cake. Together with the valediction of the Leavers, we were very blessed with a superb celebration.

On a number of occasions throughout the year, the Chapel Choir have 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.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to so many people who have assisted in the life of the Chaplaincy this year. I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Lloyd for their support and kindness – particularly for their hospitality and for Debbie's rallying of the troops for the beautiful chapel flower arrangements.

I continue to exercise a busy ministry in the Solihull Team of churches and support St Alphege regularly by celebrating the Sunday Eucharist. The Walsingham pilgrimage group continues to grow and flourish, enjoying an annual visit to Norfolk plus a number of services and meetings in the School Chapel. Many members hold strong associations with the School.

As you have gathered, the life of the Chaplaincy has been full and varied. Many thanks to those who support us with their presence and prayers.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Chapel Choir

"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" proclaimed the full Chapel Choir during the first service of the year in a performance of John Rutter's energetic anthem, setting in motion another fruitful and vibrant year for our young singers.

One of the most rewarding tasks for any Choirmaster is the business of auditioning new pupils and here at Solihull School we are always inundated with plenty of enthusiastic volunteers looking for a new choral adventure. Such was the enthusiasm that during the year membership of the combined choirs hit 100 for the first time! A super achievement, and what a sound they all make when combined as they were for the first service of the year and, later in the same term, for the Advent Carol Service. With sections of the choir scattered around the Chapel, music included pieces by Bach, Wilby, Trepte and Parry's Magnificat from the 'Solihull Service', as well as the usual Advent carols.

This year's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was as moving as ever: performing such glorious music to a full Chapel over two evenings is a highlight for any chorister and a truly special event bringing the whole community together. For many, Christmas truly begins with the first verse of 'Once in

Royal David's City' and this year Jacques Barker and Aish Jagadeeswaran had nerves of steel in their opening solos. Music throughout the service included pieces by Britten, MacMillan, Chilcott, Lauridsen and a specially composed anthem by Will Todd, 'Ave Maria'.

A new innovation this year was a concert 'Choral Spectacular' during March, featuring all the Chapel Choirs in a concert showcasing (during the first half) a range of pieces they have been performing in services this year. This included Britten's 'Missa Brevis', Burgon's 'Nunc Dimittis', Owens's 'Lord of the Dance' and music by Purcell, MacMillan and Walmisley. The second half of the concert featured a massed choir of 200 pupils, friends, parents, former choristers and local choral societies in a truly spectacular performance of Mozart's 'Requiem', alongside Orchestra of the Swan and young professional soloists. The Chapel was full and the audience was bursting with praise for the music-making during a memorable evening.

During the Summer Term a tremendous opportunity for a handful of pupils arose in the form of a production by the Royal Shakespeare Company of 'The Merchant of Venice'. The Company's Musical Director auditioned 30 Solihull pupils for five places in a choir which is integral to the production, with music specially composed by German composer Marc Triteschler. To work so closely with professional actors and directors is a unique privilege for the lucky five; Oscar Huissoon, Freddie Truman, Ewan Waddell, Courtney Holland and David Hass. The show has met with critical acclaim in national newspapers and runs throughout the summer holidays.

The Chapel Choir is immensely grateful to Peter Irving for playing the organ so colourfully and reliably throughout the year, as well as to Fr Andrew for his support and encouragement.

Mr O Walker



Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir has had a year packed with different experiences and events, as well as providing music for many of the Sunday evening services in Chapel.

Much of the Christmas Term was spent preparing for a very moving performance on Remembrance Sunday of Duruflé's sublime 'Requiem'; a very tricky piece to perform with long phrases and harmonic twists. One particular highlight was the 'Pie Jesu' solo performed by Hannah Shakeshaft, with Dominic Martens on the cello.

During November it was a real privilege to welcome acclaimed professional choral conductor Nigel Short to School to work with the Chamber Choir on the 'Requiem' and Rachmaninov's gem 'Bogoroditsye Dyevo', with much work being done to improve our Russian pronunciation and sustained singing. A week later, Nigel returned with his award-winning choir Tenebrae to perform a spellbinding concert of 'Russian Treasures', with our Chamber Choir joining in for a very loud performance of 'Bogoroditsye Dyevo'. This partnership was very special for our Choir who learnt much about professional singing, as well as being exposed to some glorious music.

For the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols the Chamber Choir commissioned and performed a new anthem, 'Ave Maria', from the English composer Will Todd. We are very grateful indeed to the Parents' Association for funding this project, the result of which is a beautiful addition to the repertoire of both our choir and the many other groups who are likely to perform it.

Shortly after Christmas the Chamber Choir took to the road, travelling once more to Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, in order to broadcast live to 250,000 people through the BBC's Daily Service programme as well as recording another service which



went on air the following week. The themes of 'Belonging to Christ' and 'Remembering Lazarus' were explored with music including Faure's 'In Paradisum' and Wood's 'O thou the central orb' alongside several hymns. Thanks to Megan Lloyd and Aine Maher for reading Bible passages during these services, as well as to the whole Choir for some uplifting singing.

In February the Chamber Choir made their third visit to sing Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, London. On this occasion we were honoured to rehearse in the famous OBE Chapel which houses the tombs of Sir Christopher Wren, William Blake and composers including Sir Hubert Parry. During the service we marked the beginning of Lent with Purcell's 'Remember not, Lord, our offences' Walmisley's Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D minor and the Psalm 'Out of the deep'. To sing once more in such glorious acoustics was a great privilege and we will return again in 2016.

In the final service of the year we said a fond farewell to many longstanding members of the Chamber Choir: Philip Blenkinsop, Oscar Haynes, Ben Davidson, Caroline Gerard, Imogen Hanson, Aine Maher, Charlotte Perry, Katherine Williams, Muskan Shrivastava, Abigail Moise, Olivia Eguiguren-Wray and Olivia Harris. Music for this service included Stanford's 'For lo, I raise up' and 'Evening Service in G' as well as Dove's 'Seek him that maketh the seven stars'. We wish them well for the future and look forward to seeing them at many Former Choristers' Association events.

The Twelve

This year has seen the birth of a new close harmony choir at Solihull School - *The Twelve*. Consisting of 11 auditioned Sixth Form singers, the group's repertoire ranges from 13th century rounds (*Sumer is icumin in*) to 16th Century polyphonic motets (*Ave Verum* by Byrd) and from arrangements of popular Christmas hits ('Follow that star') to arrangements of film music ('The Bare Necessities'), and much more! Their first performance invitation arrived in December, and the group travelled to the LG Arena to sing Christmas numbers to shoppers at the opening of the popular 'Antiques for Everyone' sale. We look forward to more adventures next year!

Mr O Walker



One highlight of the year was in the Summer Term when we prepared for our live broadcast of BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service'. We actually did two services (one live and one pre-recorded), performing a combination of hymns and anthems including Dyson's 'Nunc dimittis' in C minor and Archer's 'The song of Creation'. The experience was fantastic, especially waiting for the red light to know we were live 'on air'! Several girls sang solos, and we are grateful to Katie Phillips for reading a lesson as well as to Maddie Browse for playing the flute with us. We also performed this music in our School Chapel as part of the Governors' Service, and it was lovely to be supported by many Governors that night.

On behalf of the choir I would like to thank our various organists: Mr Irving, Mr Perrins and Mr Walker and of course to Mr Kermode who has been a brilliant new choirmaster and we looking forward to working with him for many years to come.

Georgina Dalby (Head Chorister)

Boys' Choir

This year the Boys' Choir has enjoyed a large membership of up to 26 singers, with many new faces amongst the committed regulars. As a team operating from J3-Fourth Form, there is a wide age range and one particular success has been to observe how they have bonded across the board and help one another work towards some memorable performances, both inside and outside the School Chapel.

At 6am on a frosty November morning the Boys' Choir arrived at School to make the long journey through the fog to Didsbury, south Manchester, in order to broadcast live on the BBC's 'Daily Service' programme. This was great fun and to have to focus really hard on tuning, consonants and clear singing under such pressured circumstances is very rewarding. The producer can be very fussy indeed! Our theme was 'Temptation' and we sang 'Lord of the Dance' arranged by Owens, 'Agnus Dei' by Nardone and hymns. Massive congratulations to the soloists; Adam Visram-Cipolletta, Benedict Barker and Jacques Barker, as well as to Mr Irving for playing the organ, Mr Kermode for reading a lesson and Mr Walker for organising the trip and conducting very calmly.

During the warmer weather of June the Boys' Choir had their second trip of the year, to sing Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral. It is such an amazing building with an incredible history, and to have the opportunity to sing there was wonderful. We enjoyed gathering around the tomb of Edward II to hear about his horrible death and seeing where Harry Potter was filmed in the Cloisters. During the service we sang in the Quire, with Mr Irving playing the organ and Mr Walker conducting. Bethan Bown (Third Form) joined us to play the trumpet part of Burgon's 'Nunc Dimittis' and we also sang Symons' 'Sing we merrily' and Moore's 'Faburdens'. The acoustic was so big that our singing echoed for several seconds after we had finished!

One of the events that the Boys' Choir regularly sing for is the Solihull Sings! concerts in the Bushell Hall, alongside the many visiting primary school children. We always perform a piece to the visitors as well as joining in the fun songs they have been learning, for example 'Believe' and 'Hey Mr Miller'.

Our final service of the year was a very special one indeed, as we were joined by the altos, tenors and basses as well as a small orchestra for a performance of Mozart's 'Sparrow' Mass and 'Ave verum'. We learnt this amazing piece, in which the violin apparently sounds like a sparrow, in only three weeks and it was great fun to perform. One strength of the Boys' Choir over the year has been the number of boys who have been confident in singing solos, and during the final service there were a total of 16 individual solos!

It has been a wonderful year, and we are grateful to Mr Walker for his hard work in making these exciting things happen.

Ewan Waddell (Head Chorister)

Girls' Choir

It has been an eventful yet fun year for the Girls' Choir. We began the Christmas term getting to know our new choirmaster, Mr Kermode. The Choir includes 24 from girls from J4 up to the Fourth Form and we have had some new probationers join throughout the year who have worked hard to become full choristers. For the first couple months of the academic year we did a few Choral Evensong services to help build up our technique and confidence after losing last year's strong Fourth Formers. Our sound and blend quickly improved and after half term we began to prepare for the Nine Lessons and Carols, for which we sang a variety of Christmas carols and anthems. This is an event that includes all choirs and is an incredible time of year for the choir, and every year seems to get better!



Community Service 2014-15

Community Service goes from strength-to-strength at Solihull. This year we have sent students to Deerhurst Court as well as local partner schools, including Ruckleigh School, Ulverley School and Reynolds Cross School. This year, just as we have managed to offer a broader range of placements than ever before, we have also been able to give the Sixth Formers more opportunities for growth and the chance to try something new. I'm not sure many of the Sixth Formers who chose this option thought that they would be acting in the role of mentors for Junior School children, teaching them skills such as sharing, or taking part in lunchtime clubs and sports. I know from reports from the hosts that the pupils at the schools visited have benefited greatly from the weekly visits by the Sixth Formers.

As you can imagine, the Sixth Form have been a credit to the School. They have embodied the idea of community and helping others through their involvement in the programme. The host organisations have been impressed by the willingness of our students to help and the kindness they have shown in their interactions with older people and younger children alike.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to all our hosts. It takes a great amount of time and effort to find suitable placements for our volunteers. This year I would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Zoe Mitchell who has stepped down after a number of years acting as our point of contact at Deerhurst Court. We hope that we will be able to find such an able replacement so that the links between the School and the residents at Deerhurst Court can continue. I would also like to thank Tony Haden for all his help with transporting the Sixth Formers to their various destinations.

I look forward to an equally productive and exciting year in Community Service in 2016.

Dr S Sawicki and Fr Andrew Hutchinson



Remembrance 2014

Combined Cadet Force staff and former pupils who have served with the Armed Forces joined all 1030 pupils and staff at the School for the Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony, followed by a Service of Remembrance in the School Chapel. The ceremony included a roll call of the 55 former Solihull pupils who died during World War One. Pupils had taken part in a month-long series of activities to commemorate the centenary of the Great War, including themed lessons across a broad range of subject areas from Science to Classics and Drama.

Pupils from the Third and Shell Forms also created a stunning display of 200 ceramic poppies, inspired by the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' installation at the Tower of London. The poppies carried the names of all the fallen members of the School during the Great War. Members of the Armed Services also joined pupils for a Careers talk and lunch.

On Monday 10 November, School Archivist John Loynton gave an informative talk on the School's role in the Great War, followed by a wonderful dinner in the Refectory, attended by 60 current and former CCF staff and alumni.





Shell Form Art

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ben McHugh | 11. Cameron Lo |
| 2. Alyssa Morrison | 12. Penny Goodman |
| 3. Samuel Day | 13. Holly Abrol |
| 4. Tom Gardner | 14. Gemma Radburn-Todd |
| 5. Fraser Blackhurst | 15. Matthew Vaughan |
| 6. Areeba Rafique | 16. George Daly |
| 7. Alexandra Duckworth | 17. Adam Ball |
| 8. Aryan Parekh | 18. Beth Currie |
| 9. Andrew Gach | 19. Alexander Hart |
| 10. Alicia Spencer | |

Music

Music at Solihull 2014 - 2015

The musical year here at Solihull is always busy, 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; 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 the whole of J4 in the Junior School musical and the cast and band of over 100 pupils in the Senior School musical, and 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 five performances of the Senior School musical *Les Misérables*, two performances of the Junior School musical *Robin Hood* and the *Sherwood Hoodies*, weekly



Chapel services, three Carol Services, three 'Daily Service' live broadcasts on BBC Radio and two cathedral visits. In addition to the pupil concerts there were the five masterclasses given by professional musicians working, in each case, with soloists and ensembles to extend their interpretation and performance skills. As a bit of a one-off, we also had the excitement of taking delivery of three Steinway grand pianos that now provide our pianists (and staff accompanists) with world-class instruments to play on – we must be the envy of many other schools! What comes across in all these events is a real love of music and a sense of great enjoyment. I hope that you enjoy reading about the pupils' experiences of all this in their individual ensemble reports. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved throughout the year.

This has been my first year at Solihull and I can honestly say it has been a real delight, and that I am looking forward to so many more. My delight is, though, tinged with the sadness felt by many that this is the last year for our wonderful colleague, Mr Stephen Perrins, as he heads off into a well-earned retirement. Over twenty-four years as Director of Music here at Solihull, Stephen has worked tirelessly for the musical well-being of so many, and generations of musicians, actors and colleagues owe him so much – not only for his constant encouragement and direction but also for the vital role he played in bringing to life both the Bushell Hall and the David Turnbull Music School. Stephen – a huge thank you from us all. We sincerely hope that you will stay in touch and be a regular visitor at concerts, and even just in passing for a cup of coffee.

Mr T Kermode



Arrival of three Steinway grand pianos & Piano Masterclass

Monday, 2 February 2015 marked the arrival of our three new Steinway grand pianos, a day which had been eagerly awaited by the School's musicians. A fantastic morning concert, in which all three pianos were positioned side by side in the Bushell Hall, allowed a number of the School's talented pianists, from J1 to the Upper Sixth, to demonstrate their abilities and to experience these incredible instruments for the first time. We were given a wonderful performance by our guest, internationally renowned pianist Peter Donohoe, CBE and this gave us all something to aspire to, as well as offering a taste of what these pianos are really capable of. He also gave a motivational speech in which he impressed upon us just how lucky we at Solihull School are to have access to these world-class pianos and also how essential regular practice is if you want to make progress! The concert concluded with the world premiere of a piece for three pianos by Mr Phillips, Head of Academic Music. Later that day, five pianists (including myself) were given the opportunity to participate in a masterclass with Peter Donohoe. I found it incredibly nerve-wracking to play to such a talented musician, but it was an immensely rewarding experience. His comments and ideas shone a new light on our pieces, and encouraged us to experiment and look at things in different ways. The day was extremely exciting and enjoyable for all involved. It is an incredible privilege to have the opportunity to practise and perform on three pianos of such outstanding quality, and they will benefit Silhillians for generations to come.

Megan Lloyd, Lower Sixth

Solihull Sings!

Solihull School's choral outreach scheme *Solihull Sings!* has had a triumphant fourth year and tenth concert, impacting a total of 350 local primary school children from six schools. We are particularly pleased to have visited three new schools (Mapledene, Sharmans Cross and Acocks Green) over the year, delivering singing sessions to years 4 & 5 and preparing them for the two Celebration Concerts which take place in our own Bushell Hall. These concerts are always full of energy and incredibly vibrant singing, with music including 'I'm a believer', 'Believe', African and Spanish folk songs and gospel medleys in several parts. Thank you to our Boys' Choir and various soloists and instrumentalists who enhance the music making and give the visiting children and our own J2s an incredible choral experience.

Mr O Walker

St Cecilia Concert 2014

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). 165 pupils playing and singing in 13 different ensembles came together to perform to a packed Bushell Hall. The programme featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres. Intermediate Wind Band’s rendering of highlights from *Frozen* got the evening off to a great start, with youthful energy. Next up were two guitar ensembles: the Senior Ensemble (for 8 of the more advanced players) ‘entertained’ us well with Scott Joplin’s *The Entertainer*; they were then joined by a further 28 guitarists (quite a sight, and sound!) presenting a Renaissance *Gavotte* linking smoothly into an arrangement of the song *The Wall of Superstition*. The two String Ensembles neatly showed the wonderful development in standard over the years, with music by Anita Hewitt-Jones, Vivaldi and Holst. The first half came to a close with rhythmically tight performances of *Chatanooga Choo-Choo* from clarinets, *In the Hall of the Mountain King* arranged for percussionists, TV and movie themes for saxophones and *The Bare Necessities* for Big Band. Interval refreshments were most welcome after all that energy! Two vocal groups – Jazz Singers and The Twelve – displayed great skill in their secular repertoire, nicely complementing the strong sacred music many of them sing in Chapel Choir.



They sandwiched Senior Wind Band’s fizzing performance of *Mambo* from Bernstein’s *West Side Story*. The concert concluded with three movements from Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *English Folk Song Suite* from Symphony Orchestra. Combining both detail and musical sensitivity and balance, the orchestra rose to the challenge to the same strong degree that all the other ensembles did. Not only were all the performers fabulously committed and effective on stage, they were all tremendous listeners – really supporting each other throughout. Huge congratulations to all concerned.

Mr T Kermode



Summer Concert

This year, the Summer Concert brought together around 125 pupils playing and singing in 11 different ensembles. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres, with a running theme of music for film, TV and stage. These were presented by ensembles including Symphony Orchestra, Advanced and Lower School String Ensembles, Jazz Singers, The Twelve, Senior & Intermediate Wind Bands, Big Band, Saxophony, Senior Flute Ensemble, and a massed Clarinet & Saxophone Ensemble. Repertoire included ‘Happy’ (from *Despicable Me*), ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’, ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’, ‘The Bare Necessities’ and for the Orchestra, the main themes from the films *The Dam Busters*, *E.T.* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. As ever, the performances were committed and thoroughly musical. The concert concluded with the Jazz Singers singing ‘The Music’s Always With You’ and ‘My Way’. These two songs were so aptly chosen by their director, Mr Stephen Perrins, as this was his last big concert before his retirement at the end of term. After 24 years as Director of Music here at Solihull, generations of musicians, actors and colleagues owe him so much – not only for his constant encouragement and direction but also for the vital role he played in bringing to life both the Bushell Hall and the David Turnbull Music School. Stephen – a huge thank you from us all.

Mr T Kermode

Symphony Orchestra

Over the past year Solihull School has seen the formation of the new and improved Symphony Orchestra. Combining the old Symphony Orchestra with the Concert Orchestra has led to a larger ensemble capable of playing a wider and more challenging repertoire of music. In our first concert of the year, the St Cecilia Concert, we performed Vaughan Williams’s *English Folk Song Suite*, which was thoroughly enjoyable for the whole orchestra. This was largely due to the variety of parts

ranging in difficulty, allowing everyone to participate despite the varying levels of experience. The enthusiasm and experience of our new Director of Music, Mr Kermode, was also a huge inspiration to all of the orchestra members, including myself. For our second concert, the Summer Concert, film music was decided upon as the theme. This created a lot of excitement across the orchestra. The pieces chosen for us to play were the themes from *ET*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Dam Busters*. This was especially exhilarating for me, as a cellist, because one of my all time favourite movie music moments is the cello solo in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Soon afterwards we were asked to perform again in the full school assembly the next morning. We played *ET* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* to an enthusiastic audience who enjoyed the performance almost as much as we did. This final showcase of what we had achieved was a thrilling way to end the school year.

Dominic Martens, Lower Sixth

Intermediate Strings

This academic year we started with a whole new group of intermediate string players and Aviva Sandler as our leader. From cellos to violas and violins, we have a range of different instrument players to make our performances a success. We now have three violas, lots of 1st and 2nd violins and some cellos as well. We practised hard every week to get ready for our first concert. Soon the St Cecilia Concert arrived and we played three pieces, ‘Ragtime’, ‘Serenade’ and ‘Rumba’ by Anita Hewitt- Jones. These went fantastically well and the audience loved them. Afterwards we attempted some more challenging pieces in the ‘Coppelia Suite’ by Delibes. Our favourite was ‘Mazurka’, a lively Polish dance piece. We also performed these in the Mad Mad Charity Gala in the Summer Term. Again, our performances were excellent and overall we have had a very successful and enjoyable year.

Lauren Raybould, Third Form



Blue Shift

Blue Shift is a small group comprising five Big Band members which made its debut in the Jazz Concert after a gruelling but rewarding year of learning about chord symbols and progressions. We played 'Invitation' by Roy Hargrove and, although it proved challenging to play without a conductor, all members successfully performed an improvisational solo in the process.

We would like to thank all of our Upper Sixth Form leavers who have propelled the Big Band and Blue Shift forward this year and our leader, Mr Pascall, for giving us such an exciting year. We all look forward to playing even more jazzy pieces again in next year's rehearsals and concerts.

Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Upper Fifth

Big Band

Big Band has, as ever, lived up to its name again this year with several new musicians joining in September, and with considerable progress being made since then. Our director, Mr Hugh Pascall, introduced us to repertoire that was not only new to us, but challenged us as jazz musicians, and made us a more competent band as a result.

Throughout the year, Big Band have performed at the St Cecilia Concert in November, the Summer Concert, and various other smaller informal and charity performances, all with great success. The result of our hard work is the amalgamation of a fantastic group of musicians, who love the music they play. On behalf of the Band, I would like to thank Mr Pascall for his hard work and jazz inspiration.

After seven years of involvement I, along with my fellow Leavers will, I'm sure, take a lot from their respective experiences, and I wish all involved the very best for the next year of Big Band.

Joe Price, Upper Sixth



Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band has had a brilliant year and attendance was strong at rehearsals on Tuesday lunchtimes. At the start of the year, we began to prepare for the St Cecilia Concert with a vibrant and energetic piece 'Mambo'. At the start of the piece, everybody lifted their instruments into the air and shouted 'MAMBO!', which really livened up the audience. The performance was memorable and will be fondly remembered by all involved.

As we passed Christmas, attention turned to the Summer Concert where we played another lively piece called 'El Cumbanchero.' Once again, we all jumped off our seats and shouted 'EL CUMBANCHERO!' which definitely surprised and impressed the audience. The other piece, 'Pre-Goodman Rag', featured Amy Parry on clarinet and showed off the clarinet in its highest register. On behalf of all members of the Senior Wind Band, we would like to thank Miss Greswold for her dedication, teaching and kindness. We all look forward to another great year for the Senior Wind Band.

Ethan Smallwood, Lower Sixth

Intermediate Wind Band

Intermediate Wind Band started the year off playing highlights from *Frozen*, which we performed in the St Cecilia Concert and was quite a challenge at the start of the year. This was a successful event which everyone enjoyed taking part in. We then began work on our pieces for the Summer Concert, 'Ain't no Stoppin Us' and 'Happy'. These are really fun and we worked as a team to make sure that they were perfect. We have all enjoyed this year and are currently working on a 'Harry Potter' medley piece. We must thank Miss Greswold for all her hard work and dedication and of course we must thank all the amazing players in Intermediate Wind Band. We look forward to welcoming new members in September.

Georgina Dalby & Fleur Street, Fourth Form



Senior Flutes

This year the Senior Flutes have reformed with the addition of Maddie Browse, Rennae Du and Harriet Bray, who has taken over the alto flute. Our performances have continued throughout the year, starting with playing some Christmas favourites at Christmas lunch, as well as some informal concerts and the Chamber Concert. More recently we have played 'All that Jazz' from *Chicago* in the Summer Concert, which was the most difficult piece we have attempted but we did it! This has been a great year for the quartet as we have developed our musicianship and chamber music skills under the expertise of Miss Greswold, without whom we would not have been able to accomplish nearly as much!

Muskan Shrivastava, Upper Sixth

Shell Form Flute Group

This year has been a great one for the Shell Form Flute group. The ensemble consists of five girls: Izzy Blake, Imogen Houghton, Charlotte Hope, Gemma Radburn-Todd and me. We kicked off the year with a performance in the Informal Concert of 'Away in a Manger' followed by a Vivaldi Quartet in the Chamber Music Concert. Recently we have been learning 'So Long Farewell', from *The Sound Of Music*. This includes both a piccolo and an alto flute part, adding extra range to the bottom and the top notes of the group. We are also learning a selection from *Oliver*. We all enjoy meeting on a Thursday morning break time and appreciate all the hard work Miss Greswold puts in. We look forward to becoming the Fourth Form Flute group in September!

Harriet Toogood, Shell Form

Senior Clarinet Group

This year's Clarinet Group has been as fun as ever. We have performed in a variety of concerts - from enacting a train in 'Chatanooga-Choo-Choo' for the St Cecilia Concert, to presenting 'Walking in the Air' for a Christmas Informal and playing 'Romance' in the Chamber Music Concert. More recently, we have also appeared as the interval entertainment for the hugely enjoyable and successful Jazz Concert in aid of Marie Curie. I'd like to thank my fellow clarinettists for another really delightful year. However, most of all I would like to say a huge thanks to Miss Greswold from all of us. She has not only brought out the best in us as a group, but also dealt with every wrong note, lack of dynamics and incident of Amy Parry being a diva, all with her usual smile and laugh. Thank you so much!

David Clarke, Upper Sixth



Jazz Singers

It has been an exciting and busy year for the Jazz Singers, participating in both the St Cecilia and Summer Concerts. At the beginning of the Christmas term, we began rehearsing two pieces in our Tuesday lunchtime slot, 'Ain't Misbehavin' and 'Big Spender', both of which were very appropriate for our 'jazzy' name. Countless stars have preformed 'Ain't Misbehavin' since its release in 1929, such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Ray Charles, however we performed one of the choral arrangements for SATB, with flair, colour and a whole lot of attitude! Following this, we performed the number 'Big Spender' from the musical Sweet Charity, with even more attitude than in the previous number!

After *Les Misérables*, rehearsals resumed for the Summer Concert; however, with a large proportion of the Jazz Singers and Mr Perrins leaving, some less 'jazzy' numbers were chosen. 'The Music's always there with you', by John Rutter, and 'My Way', arranged by Mr Perrins, both captured the reflective mood of those leaving after many years at Solihull. The Sinatra classic, 'My Way', opened with a quartet of leavers on the first verse, before everyone else joined and the music built to an emotional climax, leaving parents and singers tearful at the end. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Mr Perrins for this memorable experience, and for the dedication and time he has given to the Jazz Singers over an amazing 24 years!

Olivia Harris, Upper Sixth



Saxophony

It's been another busy year for Saxophony, but the group has kept up its energy and character throughout. We've welcomed lots of new talent this year, including our youngest saxophonist, Oliver Rooney, on soprano saxophone.

As well as playing at open mornings and the St Cecilia Concert, we've helped out by playing the Old Silhillians' dinner where we played our regular repertoire of music, including my personal long time favourite, 'Street Collections'.

The summer term brought about the much anticipated Jazz Concert. This was a chilled out evening, when we performed a Glenn Miller medley along with other light tunes. We also had the Summer Concert to practise for, when we performed 'Over the Rainbow' by Harold Arlen, featuring an impressive solo by Ben Northam and guest performances from Phil Blenkinsop and James Sutton. Miss Greswold also had the mad yet genius idea of bringing all the saxophones and clarinets in the School together to play 'Bohemian Rhapsody', which was a huge success.

It's been thoroughly enjoyable to be part of Saxophony this year, with morning practices kick-starting our Thursdays. The banter started flowing from 8.15am, although we'd often find Jon Altham already set up and practising away by the time we arrived to set up.

Saxophony wouldn't be half the standard it is today if it wasn't for our hugely talented and influential teacher Miss Greswold. On behalf of Saxophony, and of all the people who have enjoyed our music throughout the year, I'd like to give a huge thanks to Miss Greswold for leading us.

I look forward to seeing Saxophony keep up their lively playing for years to come.

Oscar Haynes, Upper Sixth

Saxbeats

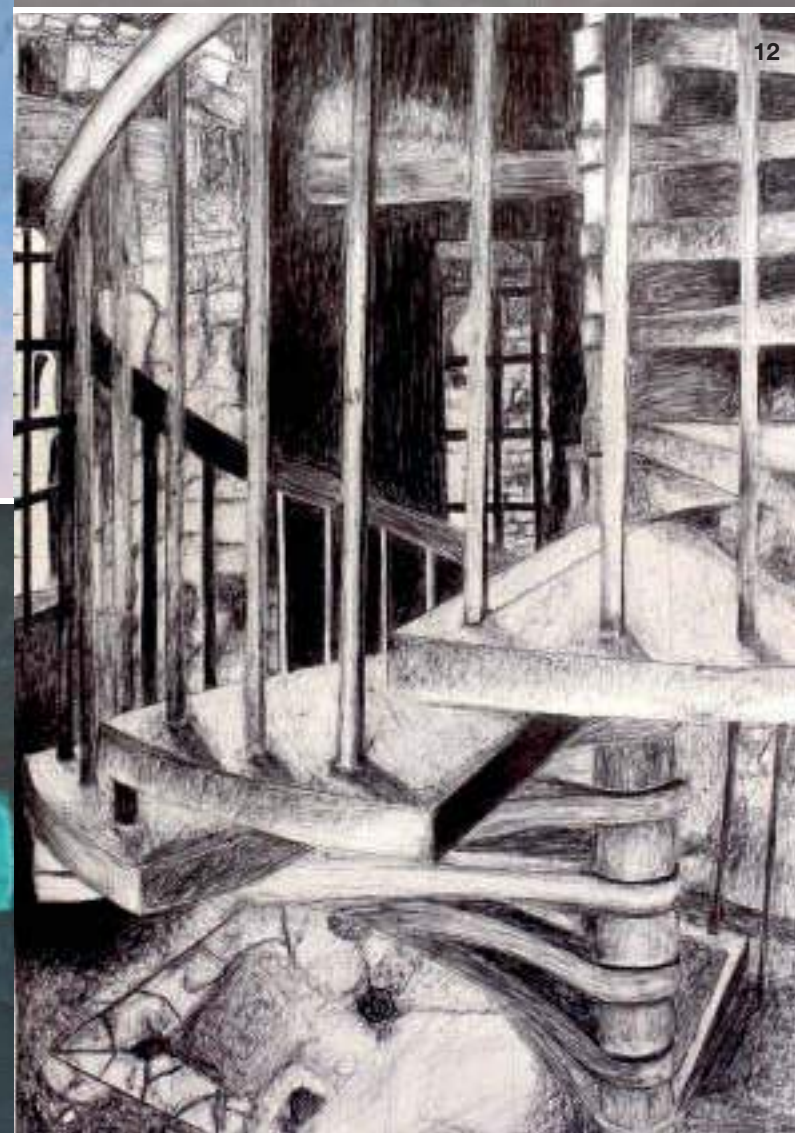
This year has been very exciting and fun for Saxbeats, as we have performed in a number of concerts including a Jazz Concert, and have learned new repertoire. For the first time, Saxbeats will be taking an ensemble exam at the end of the year. The ensemble consists of Annabel Dalby (Soprano sax), Hanaan Welch (Alto sax), Oscar Huissoon (Alto Sax), Ben Cusack (Tenor sax) and Oliver Rooney, who plays a baritone part on an alto saxophone. This year has seen a number of new players join the band and others move on, but we are still under the guidance of the very talented Oliver Rooney, and our drummer is Ewan Waddell. For our exam, we are playing a variety of styles, from jazzy to classical, and we are very thankful to Miss Greswold for helping us throughout the year, and giving us the opportunity to play in an ensemble exam. We are very excited about it, and look forward to what else we can do in the future.

Hanaan Welch, Third Form

Oboe Quartet

Oboe Quartet is a weekly ensemble that rehearses every Wednesday. We play a mix of classical and popular repertoire, most recently performing 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in the Easter Term Chamber Concert, which went down very well! As an exciting extension of this group, our aim is to become a double-reed ensemble next year, recruiting bassoon players within the School. Oboes and bassoons sometimes become endangered instruments in the orchestral music world and we are keen to show, in a fun and diverse way, that they are wonderful instruments. Do get in touch if you would like to explore either instrument!

Miss L Knowles



Fourth Form Art

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Aishwarya Jagadeeswaran | 8. Sofia Cusack |
| 2. Lucy Fennell | 9. Emilia Harris |
| 3. Isabelle Alderson | 10. Beth Penhallurick |
| 4. Katie Phillips | 11. Katie Phillips |
| 5. Beth Penhallurick | 12. Katie Phillips |
| 6. Tabitha Botterill | 13. Aviva Sandler |
| 7. Harry Wu | |



Performing Arts

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Les Misérables

This year, the School's drama lovers returned to the stage with their performance of *Les Misérables* in the Bushell Hall. A cast of over 150 pupils sang and danced their way enthusiastically through the Tony Award winning musical.

The musical is set in early 19th-century France, and follows a French peasant, Jean Valjean, played by Oscar Haynes, and his pursuit of revenge after serving nineteen years in jail for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child.

It follows Valjean as he is tracked down relentlessly by police inspector Javert (Joe Chamberlain). The plot also follows many other memorable characters as they are swept into the revolutionary period.

The enduring success of this musical is because it tells a great story with memorable characters, written by a master storyteller, Victor Hugo. It also has a musical score which so expertly complements the drama: music which is vibrant, lyrical, passionate and charged with emotion. This is a score which propels the drama on to its heart-rending conclusion: a score full of sublime melodies, remembered by young and not-so-young alike. Who can fail to be moved by Fantine's 'I Dreamed a Dream' (Maddie Browse), Eponine's 'On My Own' (Olivia Harris) or the emotive 'One Day More'; a song which outlines the hopes and despairs of so many?

It has been a long but also an incredibly rewarding musical journey working with the cast and musicians. *Les Misérables* has to be the most demanding of all musical theatre scores, not only for its musical complexity but also in the sheer physical stamina required to sing and (particularly for the orchestra) play for nearly three hours with no spoken dialogue to provide temporary musical respite!

Our cast and musicians have risen to these challenges magnificently and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their considerable commitment over the past five months. They have been a great bunch of people to work with. Producing a musical is a team effort and it wouldn't happen without colleagues selflessly giving of their time. The whole process has been made far less fraught thanks to the 'Les Mis' family of Jo Johnson, Sam Mabon, Sharron Thomas, Paul



Jukes, Lee Harris, Kevin Hunton and Karl Leach. In addition, grateful thanks go to Julia Skan, Sarah Serle for costumes and the countless others parents, past pupils and those who just love theatre, for helping to make this such a success.

This was the last School production for Mr Perrins as producer as he retires in July 2015 and we wish him all the very best for the future.

Mrs L Fair



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Blood Wedding

Blood Wedding is part of Federico Garcia Lorca's 'rural trilogy' of plays and presents challenges for any actor. Senior School pupils, however, were well up to the task of presenting an engaging and atmospheric production of this passionate and elusive drama. Based on real life events, the Spanish title is Bodas de Sangre, or 'Wedding of Blood'. The title and theme came from a murder committed in 1928 in the town of Nijarin, the Spanish province of Almería, when a young woman ran off with her cousin, moments before her wedding to a local man. The cousin was then shot dead by the prospective bridegroom's brother. Lorca read about the incident in the *Heraldo de Madrid* newspaper and kept the cutting until he came to write the play in 1932. Played in traditional Spanish dress, the production remained true to Lorca's intentions in its simple, stark and highly symbolic settings. The symbolism was enhanced by the projection of the art work of Joan Miro, a Spanish contemporary of Lorca.



For two nights, students played to appreciative audiences. Aine Maher and Oscar Haynes were impressive as doomed lovers, The Bride and Leonardo, whilst David Herriotts created a warm and sympathetic Bridegroom. Francesca Phillips excelled in the powerful role of the Mother, whilst Alice Mann gave us a gentle, yet determined Wife. Harry Sharpe was superb as the Moon injecting his very physical performance with energy. His scene with Helena Jones who played the Beggar Woman/Death was suitably surreal; Helena's own performance was very strong and compelling. Kim Tomlins, Eve Colyer and Thomas Clayton-Wright had the perfect degree of dignity as the Mother-in-Law, the Neighbour and the Father respectively and Megan Perry was a delight as the Servant. Each character was well-drawn and engaging. Thomas Carson, James Newman, James Green, Cerys Stansfield, Georgia Greenburgh and Olivia Gordon were all excellent in the supporting roles of guests, girls, youths and woodcutters.

Make-up was designed and applied by Mrs S Thomas and her team of helpers. This added greatly to the effect and was significant in creating the Spanish feel to the production; the make-up created for the surreal characters, Moon and Death, was superb. Music and Dance were integral to the production and we were fortunate to have the input of Ana Garcia who taught the cast the art of Flamenco dance and also Mark Brown who played flamenco guitar during the performances, singing 'Let the Bride Awaken Now' in the original Spanish.

Lower Fifth pupils, Ellie Ajao, Nicola Frankland, Emma Hadley, Gwynneth Horbury and Eleanor Shiels recorded a beautiful interpretation of the Spanish Lullaby 'Nana Baby' which added to the haunting atmosphere of the production. Backstage and technical support were superb, as ever. Many thanks to Dr P Jukes, the Production Manager and Joseph Hadley, the Stage Manager. Congratulations to all those involved in the show.

The show was directed by Mrs J Wilde, assisted by Mr P Morgan and Jack Edge.

Mrs J Wilde

MAD MAD Charity Gala

On Sunday 21 June, Solihull School hosted the MAD MAD Charity Gala. Planned and staged alongside SOTE (School of Theatre Excellence), the gala lived up to its promise of being a West End Extravaganza. Audiences enjoyed a collection of songs, dances and excerpts from a variety of big shows, including *Matilda*, *Chicago* and *Wicked*. Performers from dance and drama schools across the borough came together to stage the event, and the variety on offer was remarkable. Our own DanceFitz group of Lower Fifth girls gave their first ever public performance, and we also enjoyed contributions from Courtney Holland, Eloise Burchell, and our magnificent Lower School Strings Ensemble. As well as these incredibly impressive amateur performances, we were incredibly lucky to be supported by West End star Ria Jones. Ria regaled us with snippets of her past performances, and entertained us with several personal anecdotes. She proved to be a true inspiration to many of us, performers and audience members alike. The event raised a phenomenal amount of money for The Brain Tumour Charity, and will be remembered as one of the successes of our fundraising for this year. Huge thanks to Georgia Jones, who initially nominated The Brain Tumour Charity, and the many pupils who helped to run the event, both front of house and back stage.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the School community for taking part in all of our Charity events this year. We set a record for fundraising at Solihull School this year: over £55,000, a remarkable achievement.

Miss R Airdrie



Drama

In the Christmas term, Lower School and Middle School pupils joined forces to present an original production, *Outbreak*, to commemorate the centenary year of the start of World War I. Pupils presented a variety of songs, speeches and poetry from the period and there were three new, short plays devised by GCSE Drama pupils. The piece was compiled and directed by Mrs Wilde, assisted by Mr Dowsett and Miss Crowther. Live music to accompany the show was provided by Mr Cureton and Mr Dowsett. Dr Jukes was Production Manager and provided a slide show to accompany the acts. The production was thought-provoking and in places very moving.

Lower School Drama Club has continued to run successfully through the efforts and enthusiasm of a committed team of Lower Fifth pupils. Participants have met regularly on Tuesday lunchtimes and have enjoyed developing their acting skills through theatre games and have enjoyed giving rein to their imaginations, creating many varied and wonderful improvisations.



In the Spring Term, former pupil George Haynes visited the School and ran acting workshops with Drama GCSE pupils and A-Level Theatre Studies students. Whilst at Solihull School, George appeared in several school plays including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tom Jones*, *My Fair Lady* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. After gaining a degree in Mathematics from Durham University, George did a postgraduate year in Acting at the Drama Studio in London. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed George's workshops and learned new and useful techniques.

Local drama group, Advo-Acts, also came into School to present a short play to pupils which helped raise awareness of the issues which affect people with learning disabilities. This was an excellent piece of drama, created from the personal experiences of the performers; it highlighted powerfully the issues and barriers to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in society. Advo-Acts is part of a charity that provides advocacy support to adults who have a learning disability and who live in Solihull.

Mrs J Wilde



GCSE Drama

In the final year of their GCSE Drama course, Upper Fifth pupils have presented a variety of improvised and devised work, with subjects including knife crime, mental health and crime, Ebola and teenage drinking. For their final assessed piece they performed *Blue Remembered Hills* by Dennis Potter and a devised piece based on the poem, 'Model Village' by Carol Ann Duffy. For all performances, students also successfully designed and operated lighting and sound.

The Lower Fifth have worked superbly throughout the year, starting with improvisations focusing on the subject of World War I; these pieces were presented to a public audience as part of a commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the war. They also presented two excellent scripted plays: *Blue Remembered Hills* by Dennis Potter and *Be My Baby* by Amanda Whittington.

Thank you to Dr P Jukes for all his support with the sets and technicals.

Mrs J Wilde



Sixth Form Theatre Studies

Having been inspired by seeing a stage production of George Orwell's 1984 by Headlong Theatre, A2 students presented *The Machine Stops*, a play devised, designed and produced by themselves. This was an adaptation of the short story of the same name by E M Forster and showed us a dystopian future where humans lived isolated lives, underground, with their needs being met by an omnipresent global machine. Despite being written in 1909, students found the themes of the story highly relevant to today with the rapid advances in, and our reliance on technology. David Herriotts, Joseph Sherman and Aine Maher worked superbly together to create a highly effective piece of theatre. The quality of acting from David and Aine was outstanding and Joe provided some stunning sound effects and lighting which took the piece to a higher level. The whole production was compelling and gripping and of the highest standard.

In the Easter term, following work on Stanislavski's system of acting and the directorial approach of Katie Mitchell, Lower Sixth students presented two excellent pieces of theatre. Francesca Phillips and Alice Mann performed in an extract from John Osborne's *Look Back In Anger*, presenting two contrasting scenes which were both engaging and believable. Ciara Mahoney designed costumes for the piece and her 1950s inspired styles added significantly to the realism of the performance. Thomas Clayton-Wright and Thomas Carson created compelling drama in a selection of scenes from *Strangers on a Train* by Craig Warner. Both performances were highly engaging. This gripping thriller, adapted from the novel by Patricia Highsmith, was directed brilliantly by Jack Edge, whilst James Johnson provided atmospheric lighting and sound which helped to create the appropriate 'noir' style.

Mrs J Wilde



Lower Fifth Art

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ellie Ajao | 10. Anushka Karandikar |
| 2. Lily Jackson | 11. Finley Blake |
| 3. Gwynneth Horbury | 12. Natasha Jones |
| 4. Elisa Mottram | 13. Rebecca Monkhouse |
| 5. Anushka Karandikar | 14. Ziyu Ding |
| 6. Ellie Ajao | 15. Rennae Du |
| 7. Finley Blake | 16. Hannah Wolverson |
| 8. Natasha Jones | 17. Hannah Currie |
| 9. William Hardie | 18. William Hardie |

Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

CCF (Army)

2014/15 was another successful year for the Army Section under the leadership of CSM Sargent. This year there were again numerous training events including military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

2014

In early October the new Shell and Fourth Form Cadets from the Army Section and the Cadets from the RAF Section enjoyed an overnight camp at Hopwas Woods near Whittington Barracks Lichfield. The RAF Cadets took part in team-building exercises and assisted in the training of the new Army Cadets. The new recruits were taught basic field craft including Shelter building, Camouflage and Concealment, and Cooking in the field using Army Ration packs. On the Saturday morning the new Cadets had to put their Camouflage and Concealment skills into practice when they took part in an exercise where they had to move between two areas within the woodland, keeping hidden from the RAF Cadets who were playing the part of a hunting team.

The next event on the calendar was an adventure training weekend at Capel Curig training camp, Wales. This was held at the end of October. On the first day the Cadets had a low-level walk not far from the camp and they were able to see a couple of stages of the Cambrian Rally. Later that evening the Cadets had a trip to JSMTC Indefatigable at Anglesey, where they enjoyed several hours of indoor rock climbing. The next day was a hike around Tryfan, but unfortunately the weather was against us and the group had to move to a lower level. Overall this was a very enjoyable weekend for the Cadets and staff.



2015

In March, both the Army and RAF Sections attended a military training weekend at STANTA (Stanford Training Area, Thetford). On this weekend the new recruits learned the basics of field craft such as Camouflage and Concealment, patrolling and section attacks. The weekend was a fantastic experience for the Cadets as this was the first time many had fired the L98A2 cadet rifle with blank ammunition. After all the training was finished the only thing left to do was several hours of weapons cleaning, before heading back to School.

In April the Cadets attended a survival skills weekend at Hopwas Woods. This involved the Cadets going to various stands showing different aspects of survival skills needed to survive in the wild. The Cadets were shown how to collect water, build a shelter for protection against the elements, set up a fire to cook food and for warmth, and how to signal for help.

In July we ran our own summer camp at STANTA with around 30 members of the Army Section attending. It included a three-day tactical exercise that involved patrolling, ambushes, harbour drills and section attacks.

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 all the support staff involved.

Capt. L. Tovey OC Army Section



RAF section

All change again this year for the CCF RAF Section with Miss Thomas moving on to pastures new at Judd School. She will be sadly missed and all the cadets and Officers wish her well in her new school and CCF RAF section.

Many of the cadets attended the annual overnight camp at Hopwas Woods and went on to attend the summer camp at RAF Benson, formerly home to the Merlin helicopter squadrons and now 28 squadron, combining Pumas and Chinooks.

The activities on camp included a full day of flying experience, and an opportunity to get up close to the outgoing Merlin squadron and take part in a large number of adventurous training exercises.

The flying and gliding programs have restarted this year following a complete overhaul of the Tutor aircraft and gliders. With this, the opportunity for cadets to take a flying or gliding scholarship has once more become available.

Flt Lt Paul Hadley





Young Enterprise

The YE company ‘Evolution’ have had a successful trading year, following our advice to be more creative! Many ideas were investigated and prototypes were developed. Successful products included Christmas cards, Christmas decorations, hair scrunchies, cushions and signs. A fabulous idea for turning ornate glass bottles into unique decorative bowls did not get through the prototype phase due to manufacturing difficulties. However, all these efforts provided a valuable learning experience. The team were ably assisted by our very supportive business advisors James Murray and Bryan Thomas. We are extremely grateful for their continued support. Evolution participated in the PA Christmas Fayre and the Solihull YE Trade Fair, held in the Touchwood Centre. At the Solihull event, the team won the award for ‘Best Product’, turning the heads of the judges with the quality of their stall and impressing them with the cushions they had designed and manufactured. Evolution also added significantly to their profits by selling confectionery at various school events, making an enviable margin in their sales of fizzy drinks and chocolate amongst their peers!

At the Solihull area competition, Hannah Currie won the award for ‘Best Managing Director’ in recognition of her efforts to keep the company members on track and effectively

meet all deadlines set in a very professional way. All this, in spite of serious competition for their time from other pressing academic and co-curricular commitments, such as *Les Misérables*. Evolution made an excellent and mature presentation which detailed the trials and tribulations on their journey and celebrated their successes.

Profits have now been shared amongst the shareholders, based on the contributions made by each team member. We set out to make sure that all pupils were involved in learning about product development and production, and this goal has certainly been achieved. All students who participated in this year’s programme learnt a great deal and it is particularly pleasing to see how their confidence increased throughout their journey.

Looking forward to 2015/16, Fourth Form pupils have recently undertaken a short enterprise ‘taster’ activity as part of the PSE programme. 10 groups of pupils were given £10 and asked to invest in activities which would help them to turn the £10 into something bigger. The Fourth Form pupils had some great ideas and huge enthusiasm, which could be developed further in the next round of the YE Company programme.

Mrs J Mander



aiming for the gold! Once we finished all the exhausting exams, we enjoyed ourselves in a football house competition after half term. Moving onto the summer activities, we enjoyed some more exciting things such as Photography, Kayaking, Geocaching and Cooking! A bonus to the summer activities was that there were no exams at the end. Yippee! We were all tremendously disappointed when everything was over, but we will always cherish those memorable moments we had in Terriers.

Morgane Lyko-Edwards, Terriers Prize Winner

Terriers

This year in Terriers we have done many action-packed activities that have been enjoyed by all. Firstly, we started off the year by going to Woodlands Camp where we learnt many skills throughout the day. Activities included orienteering, an obstacle course over a lake and many more. We got to know our form and we made new friends. The following week, we commenced the Terriers program with an Introduction and group skills session. We were introduced to the idea of Terriers and we did fun activities that bonded everyone in each group. After that, we finally started doing the autumn activities. These consisted of things such as First Aid, Water Safety and Mission! Each week was a different activity that we all were excited to do. Once finishing all the activities on the program, we began the dreaded...Terriers Exams! We all studied hard





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2014/15

It has been another busy year for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Solihull. Seventy-eight Lower Fifth pupils enrolled at Bronze level, forty-nine at Silver and thirty-seven at the very challenging Gold level.

Expeditions have taken place in mid-Wales over Easter with Bronze and Silver candidates, Shropshire and the Peak District with only our Bronze candidates a few weekends later, and at the time of writing we have only just returned from a four-day practice venture with Gold pupils to the Rhinog mountains of southern Snowdonia. In July we have many more Silver groups and two Gold groups returning to Wales for assessment. To complete the cycle, the four remaining Gold teams will hopefully be successful in Snowdonia in October.

The Award is not simply about the expedition section of course. Pupils complete a Skill, a Volunteering, 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 a course with Norfolk Fire and Rescue service and an expedition organised through the CCF to Kenya. Pupils must organise these themselves, attend on their own and then show commitment and determination to stay the course. 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 hospices or in institutions offering care for the elderly for example. Pupils have an 'e-DofE' account on which they then upload evidence of their progress in each field.

Expedition training for our pupils in January has included first aid training, knowledge of the country code, the safe use of stoves, tents, rucksack packing and expedition kit and a great deal of time on map and compass work for route planning. Staff training in winter conditions and also first aid training for all staff to renew qualifications has also taken place earlier this year.

Another busy year then for the DofE team! The scale of the activity here would certainly not be possible without the wisdom and experience of so many dedicated staff and volunteers and for that we are deeply grateful. Well done then to all our pupils who have completed an award at any of the levels. If they 'stick' at their level then that is an achievement or maybe they wish to move up to the next challenge! Pupils work incredibly hard to complete the DofE and their achievement is something which should never be underestimated. Hopefully (and with hindsight) the memories and experiences will be pleasant ones which will remain with you always.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is offered to all Solihull School students and of course it sounded like another great opportunity to get involved. Naturally, a large number of students regularly complete their bronze, silver and gold courses and having completed the bronze expedition with a group of friends I decided to move on to silver.

After completing the walking expedition in Derbyshire last year, I had many conversations with Mr Dean at school about investigating alternative opportunities and we decided that paddling might be a good option as a result of my experience paddling within PE lessons at school. Mr Dean encouraged me to do something completely different and provided me with numerous copies of the Duke of Edinburgh magazines with lots of possibilities and centres which offered canoeing.

Following thirteen weeks in plaster due to a sporting injury, a walking expedition would have been completely out of the question. At one point it looked unlikely I would find an expedition as bronze and gold expeditions were available at many centres, but not silver. I contacted numerous paddling centres and was extremely fortunate to find Anglia Adventure's website, a company which supports the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Ian, the head of Anglia Adventure, was fantastic and we were given a date for the training expedition and a list of all the kit we were required to bring. We were delighted to hear that tents, wet bags, cooking pots, canoes and all safety equipment were provided.

Ian filled us with confidence from the moment we met him and the weather throughout the practice expedition could not have been any better. Perhaps one of the best things about our 4-day practice expedition was the company. Our group consisted of eight young people from very different backgrounds. Seb and I were from Solihull School, there were five boys who were Adventure Scouts, and another young lady was completing the practice by herself. We all gelled immediately and new friendships were made and everyone really supported one another during the beautiful days paddling

in East Anglia. Every one of us started the course with different levels of experience from complete beginner to level 1 and 2 canoeing and we all ensured everyone enjoyed this amazing few days. Ian gave us tips as the course progressed and was rightly strict with timings to ensure we were ready for the final expedition at the beginning of September. The evenings were filled with games and we sang to the early hours, laughing until our sides hurt. I for one will never forget the group of new friends made and I am pleased to say we have all kept in touch.

Our final expedition was not so kind to us as the weather we experienced couldn't possibly have been any worse! However, we still found it hard not to laugh as we heard tales of flooded tents and soaked food and as time went on, we became more and more confident in our ability to complete our final expedition. After finally conquering the miniature rapids, we eventually arrived at camp and much to my amazement, the new group of people retired at 8pm! Still we were refreshed, if cold, the next morning and the second morning started far more positively, stopping only every hour to haul our canoes and gear over numerous weirs. We continued and made very good time. We finally reached the end at the same time as Ian and our examiner.

I would say that the final expedition was the most extreme yet, as East Anglian weather hit us with full force. When we finally came to the end, we felt a sense of absolute achievement and joy at achieving our goal. As we look through the photos and videos Ian put on the Anglia Adventures Facebook site, we realised the beauty of the natural areas we had visited and reminded ourselves that this had been an extremely enjoyable and rewarding experience that will be with us forever. This is what memories are made of and I for one would like to thank Ian and his son for making such brilliant memories possible for us all, and Mr Dean and Mr Bate for encouraging me to step outside the box and do something completely different, which is exactly what I expect from Solihull School. Thank you!

Jessica Browne, Lower Sixth





Classics Society

It has been another incredibly busy year for the Classics Society, and this year we have been really lucky with the amount of high quality Classical plays that have been staged throughout the UK, ranging from the high profile *Medea* starring acclaimed actress Helen McCrory, to a youth production of *The Odyssey*.

We started the year with a visit to the University of Birmingham and the Autumn Lecture held by the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association, entitled *Delphi: A History of the centre of the Ancient World*. Dr Michael Scott (assistant professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick, and TV presenter!) spoke about the ancient city of Delphi and its position as the ‘navel’ of the ancient world for over 1000 years. The lecture explored the nature of visits to Delphi from important ancient individuals such as priests, city leaders, kings and priestesses, who came to the famous oracle and the sanctuary of the Greek God Apollo within the city. Dr Scott’s lecture provided an insight into Delphi as a contested sacred and religious site within the ancient world and focused on its beautiful spectacles and geography. It was a great evening for everyone there and the lecture provided a different look at the city of Delphi, proving it to have been a culturally rich and important city, just as crucial to ancient life as other cities of the time.

Then it was time for the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation group to have lots of treats – several performances of the Greek Tragedies they have been studying! On Monday 22 September, five Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation students went with Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts to watch a broadcast of *Medea* from the Royal National Theatre, at the Birmingham New Street Odeon Cinema. Having eaten at Pizza Express and buying popcorn and ice cream, the group sat in a nearly empty cinema to watch the performance. *Medea*, written by Euripides in 431 BC, tells the story of a woman driven by tragedy and the unfaithful nature of her husband, to murder her two young sons. Helen McCrory, from the *Harry Potter* films and *Peaky Blinders*, played Medea, and the group watched her incredible performance in awe as she spent the majority of the play in tears, screaming her woes. The play was presented to express the stigmas and routine of ancient life, but involved entertaining, modern twists as the family shared an intimate

camera-phone photo. It was an intense couple of hours, with some hysterical dancing from the Chorus members, and the whole group came out feeling like they needed to breathe, but all thoroughly enjoyed it. The train journey home involved some heated discussions about the sanity of Medea, and the hatred towards Jason, her husband.

This Greek tragedy was swiftly followed by another – *Antigone* at Derby Theatre. It was a modern-day version of the text the class are studying, adapted to revolve around a gang war.

We sat down with our mountains of ice cream to see how this 2000-year-old play had been modified to fit into our society, as it was very different from the original text. Most of the characters had modern names: Antigone was ‘Tig’, Creon was ‘Creo’ and the Chorus was made up of a gang instead of Theban Elders. Antigone’s crime was recorded on someone’s phone, and Haemon committed suicide not by stabbing himself with his sword but by jumping in front of a car. However, everyone’s favourite modern-day addition was undoubtedly the Rastafarian Tiresias. We spent the car drive back debating the differences from Sophocles’s original play, like the addition of Antigone and Haemon’s love story, and the fact that Eurydice actually spoke more than once. The night was a lot of fun and everyone in the class enjoyed seeing a new take on the play.

The Easter term continued to be packed with different events. We started off with the BMCA’s New Year Lecture, again at the University of Birmingham, this time given by Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos on Virgil and Augustus. In her talk, Dr Theodorakopoulos discussed the poet Virgil, his life and friendships, focusing on the relationship between Virgil and the emperor Augustus. After telling us the story of the time Virgil read parts of *The Aeneid* to Augustus and his wife Livia, the lecture moved on to discuss how much control and input Augustus had over what Virgil was writing. This sparked some heated debate from the audience and we all enjoyed watching an academic battle of wits.

Again, Greek Drama played a major role. In January, the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation students travelled to Warwick University for a unique day of Greek tragedy, along with five hundred-odd other classicists from across the Midlands. Dr Michael Scott gave a small introductory lecture about the

foundations of ancient Greek theatre, and Aristophanes’s comedy *Thesmophoriazusae*, which was authentically recreated for us later by the University students themselves. The day offered a number of different seminars, focusing not only on the context of ancient Greek comedy, but also the physical staging in which it would have been set, and looked at comedy up close and women in ancient Greece. Finally, we were then given the esteemed performance of Aristophanes’s *Thesmophoriazusae*, translated into English by Clive Letchford, with the addition of current-day satire which concluded the day with a theatre full of roaring laughter!

In February the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation and Latin pupils saw a third Greek tragedy – *The Bacchae*, performed by students at UCL. It was an excellent performance, with a modern set, although the play wasn’t modernised, to stress the fact that the events could happen at any time and in any place. It was visually dramatic, especially the moment in the play where the god Dionysus entices the unbelieving king Pentheus to watch the Bacchant women. The performance left us feeling inspired!

Several A-Level and AS-Level students of Latin and Classical Civilisation, including the Head of Science, Mr Jones, attended the BMCA Texts and Topics Conference, which was a highly enjoyable and informative Saturday morning in March. Sessions were held on Cicero, Ovid, Latin translation, Greek Tragedy and Virgil, and there were many opportunities to discuss the AS/A-Level texts and topics with both academics and fellow students. The day really gave us a taste for studying Classics at University.

The final outing for the Classics Society this year happened on the very last day of the Easter term. Around 30 pupils boarded a coach bound for Oxford to see a youth theatre production of *The Odyssey*, which many of the group were studying. When we arrived the stage was very intriguingly set with a desk and

two computers, which had us all debating how the epic poem was going to be staged. The performers, who were all aged 16-22, gave an interesting and enthralling performance, most memorably depicting the Cyclops using a giant eyeball and the bodies of most of the cast, and given a very creepy version of the underworld. Their interpretation of the poem gave us much to discuss and argue about on the coach journey home!

It’s been a fantastic year with lots of great outings, and we are already looking forward to next year’s offerings. Huge thanks to Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts for arranging all the trips.

Mrs Johnson, Miss Roberts, Jack Edge, Annie Johnson, Isobel Serle and Lydia Stephens

Latin Graduation Day – Coleshill Heath Primary School visit Solihull

On Monday 22 June, 63 pupils from Coleshill Heath Primary School, Chelmsley Wood, came to spend the day at school, taking part in a range of Classics-based activities. The children, who are all in Year 3, have been learning Latin throughout the year, using the *Minimus* text book. During the day the children took part in a Latin Masterclass, learnt the Ancient Greek alphabet, explored the story of the Birth of Athene, and made (and ate!) Roman biscuits. After the activities, we held a Graduation Ceremony, where the pupils sang *Old McDonald had a Farm* and Frere Jacques in Latin, and were all presented with a certificate marking their year-long study of Latin from the Headmaster Mr Lloyd and Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos from the University of Birmingham. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day and the children are looking forward to continuing enjoying Latin lessons next year.

Mrs J Johnson

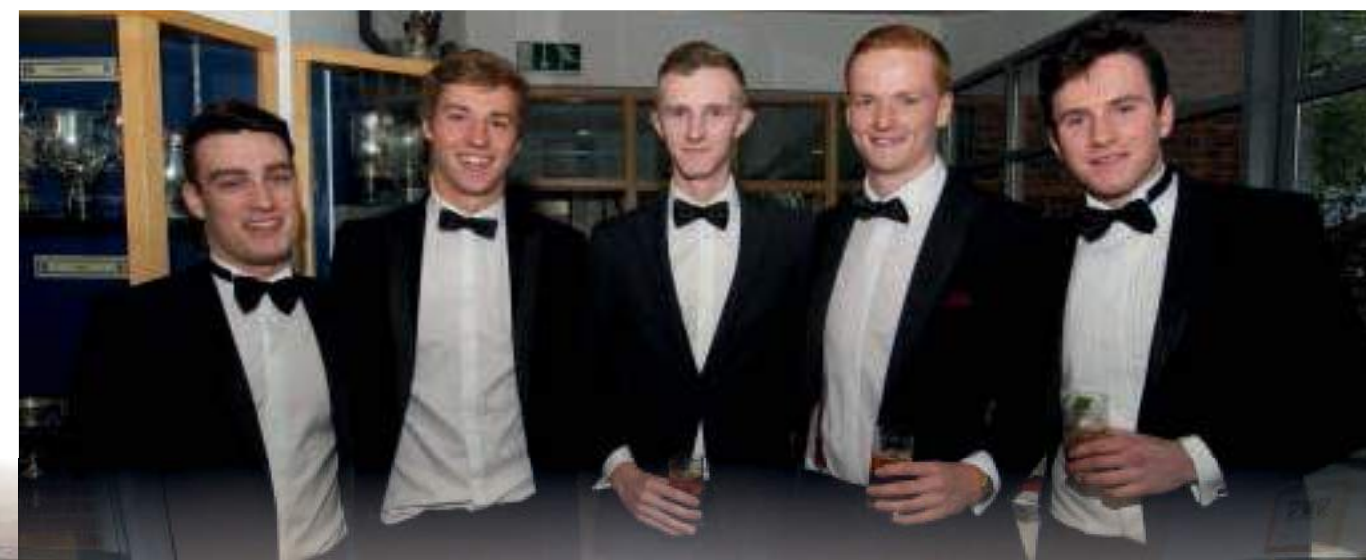




Upper Sixth Leavers' Celebrations

This year's leavers' celebrations were another emotional affair; it is always a strange time of year for the Upper Sixth with the juxtaposition of exam stress and the excitement of finishing school. This year was no exception with a number of less fortunate pupils sitting English and Geography exams on their final official day of school. As with previous years, the final Chapel service marked the start of the process and this was a truly memorable affair; the highlights being the farewell speeches by the Heads of School and the rendition of 'I'll be there for you' from Friends by the Upper Sixth choral group. The champagne breakfast the following morning proved to be as popular as ever, although questions were raised from some pupils over false advertising due to the use of Morrison's bucks fizz rather than Moët! As ever the final assembly contained musical performances, comedy videos and photos which drew an equal number of cringes and tears, and the barbeque at Old Silhillians' in the afternoon was a chance to collect hoodies and write farewell messages in yearbooks. I would like to thank the Upper Sixth for the good natured end to their time here and of course the huge contributions they have each made over the years.

Mr B Sandford-Smith, Head of Sixth Form



As part of their Leavers' celebrations, this year's Bench enjoyed the annual summer soiree in the Alan Lee Pavilion.



Sixth Form Biology trips

In the Christmas term, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Biologists attended two separate extension events. The first was the annual Society of Biology Charter lecture held on 11 November at the University of Birmingham. Professor Jon Frampton gave an evening lecture entitled ‘Stem Cell Research and Development’. Professor Frampton is an expert in stem cell biology and its application in medicine; he is on the Steering Committee of the UK National Stem Cell Network and is Professor of Stem Cell Biology, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham. Students heard about the myths and truths behind stem cell development and were inspired to see where stem cell technology could lead in the very near future.

Our second, oversubscribed, event was a ‘DNA and genetics’ day held at the University of Warwick. 30 students attended the day filled with lectures including ‘Antibiotic resistance – what does it mean to you and why should you care?’ by Laura Piddock (University of Birmingham), ‘Catching the living, naming the dead: DNA in forensic science’ by Mark Jobling (University of Leicester), Breathing with your brain’ by Kevin Moffat (University of Warwick) and ‘The secret of cell division’ by Sir Tim Hunt (Cancer Research UK). The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the session entitled ‘Dissections uncut’ by evolutionary biologist Simon Watt, presenter of *Inside Nature’s Giants*. Youtube hits on the exploding whale no doubt increased significantly that afternoon!

Mrs D Parker

Institute of Microbiology Summer School

On 21 July, Harry Sharpe and I, along with 24 other A-level students, came to the Biosciences building at the University of Birmingham. We had all been selected from a strong field of applicants to participate in a summer school for a week run by the Institute of Microbiology and Infection. After a busy first day of demonstrations and lectures in the labs we were sent home with a set of swabs and told to collect samples from anywhere around the house (not even the underwear drawer was spared!). We were shocked by the results. Bacteria (mostly harmless) were everywhere, but worse still we tested supposedly ‘antimicrobial’ cleaning products. Suffice to say, I won’t be buying brand X’s hand soap in future!

During our time at the IMI we used a range of different scientific techniques, collected a lot of scientific data, learned how these processes work, and all the jargon to go with it, but that wasn’t the sole purpose of the week. We left with an understanding of what it took to be a research scientist and five days later a group of 26 strangers left as friends. The course provided invaluable work experience and an insight into the demands of a Biological Sciences degree. I would recommend it to this year’s Lower Sixth.

Joseph Hadley



The Extended Project Qualification

This year’s Extended Project Qualification has been a great success! Upper Sixth Form students spent the academic year researching their chosen projects, aiming to complete a 5000 word dissertation, or to produce an artefact to demonstrate the research and skills that they learnt in the process. The Extended Project Qualification is valued by Higher Education institutions in its purpose to facilitate students with research skills and independent learning, bridging the ‘gap’ between A-Level study and university degree-level courses. On Monday 9 March the students presented their projects to governors, staff and parents at the EPQ Presentation Event, who provided them with feedback and marked them on their presentational skills. The presentations provided students and guests to ask questions and to suggest answers. The aim was for students to demonstrate their knowledge of their projects and reflect upon the process they went through to achieve the end result. The project research topics for this academic year included:



Euan Argyle, on how Japan turned from being a mentor to China to becoming an enemy.

- **Imogen Golsby-Taylor, on whether the death penalty should be reintroduced in Britain.**
- **Lewis Gordon, on the extent to which neurotoxic chemicals affect the brain.**
- **Aine Maher, on whether Shakespeare holds his patriarchal society up to ridicule, with some practical drama pieces to show.**
- **Liberty Malley, on whether invasive species are good or bad.**
- **Sam Mills, on the causes of the Cuban Revolution.**
- **Amy Parry, on whether the emperor Nero was a victim or a villain who really did fiddle while Rome burnt.**
- **Abdullah Sheikh, on his own art work influenced by Classical Turkish architecture, with a practical piece to show.**
- **Anthony Szarmach, on how securitisation has affected the global economy.**

Angus Young, on the changing ideology of the Conservative Party from 1974 – 1983.

All students agreed, unanimously, that the Extended Project had developed their independent learning and had helped to pave the way into degree-level study.

Miss S Roberts



Chess Club

The future of chess at Solihull is looking very rosy. The initiative we began two years ago, to grow chess in the Junior School, is proving to be very successful. There is a vibrant and over-subscribed chess club overseen by chess-teaching professionals, and the pupils' interest is feeding through as they move into the Senior School. Our current U13 team, the first year group of the chess club initiative, won their division in the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League this year. This is the first time for many years that Solihull's U13 team has won this particular trophy, and augurs well for the future. As for the older boys, our core players have continued to represent the School in the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League. As they played in a higher division this year, silverware was not a realistic target. Nevertheless, they have been longstanding stalwarts of the chess club and they represented the School with distinction.

Away from teams, Senior School Chess Club continues to attract healthy numbers. Indeed, we have seen many new faces this year who have attended regularly.

I am pleased to say that the outlook for chess at Solihull is as promising as it has been for a number of years.

Dr K A Powell



Debating Society

This year has been an incredibly strong one for the Debating Society, producing a multitude of fantastic competitive results and performances. A vast number of pupils have been involved from across the School, and with so many enthusiastic and talented participants, achievements have been numerous. This year many new debaters have begun to hone their skills and compete, as evidenced by fantastic novice successes. Our debaters have been finalists in several competitions, and students reached both the Oxford and Cambridge finals day, earning the right to compete in these prestigious universities against the country's very best school teams. We have faced some extremely tough opponents and our debaters have given many impressive, high-level performances. It isn't only British Parliamentary debating that has flourished this year, but our mace debaters and public speakers too, with well-deserved achievements in the ESU Public Speaking Competition, ESU Mace, and Taylor Trophy.

The society has been concerned with much more than just external competitions, and continues to play a significant role in school life. Our internal competition brought debating to the attention of the school community as a whole, with the final taking place in a whole school assembly. Zershaaneh Qureshi and Caroline Camm were victorious, wowing us all with their skill and quick thinking. The annual Christmas debate saw the welcome return of George Diwakar and Dr Johnson. They debated on the subject of opening UK borders, alongside the Headmaster, providing a thought-provoking and divisive discussion. Weekly BP debates on Friday lunch times have continued to offer debaters a chance to develop their abilities and gain confidence, as well as being great fun and providing some exciting conversations. The Third Form, Lower School, and Middle School debating sessions have all remained strong this year, with some extremely high quality debates taking place. These sessions act as a showcase of the talent that exists throughout the School, and are an indication of the successes to come for the Debating Society.

Our thanks go to all of the staff who have been involved this year – Mr Anderton, Ms Harford, Miss Evans and Dr Spratley – for without their constant enthusiasm and dedication none of this would have been possible.

- **Cerys Stansfield and Eloise Burchell – Taylor Trophy Finalists (U16)**
- **Lydia Stephens and Isobel Lury – Novice Champions, Nottingham**
- **Caroline Camm and Zershaaneh Qureshi – Finalists Warwick**
- **Will Talbot-Davies and Harriet Marshall – Finalists Warwick**
- **Harriet Marshall – Novice Top Speaker – Warwick**
- **Richard Bradley and Megan Lloyd – Finalists Birmingham**
- **Angus Young and Megan Lloyd (top 20) and Caroline Camm and Zershaaneh Qureshi – broke to Finals Day – Cambridge**
- **Angus Young and Zershaaneh Qureshi – Broke to Finals day – Oxford**
- **Caroline Camm and Zershaaneh Qureshi – School Trophy**
- **Colours – Angus Young, Richard Bradley, Megan Lloyd, Zershaaneh Qureshi**

Megan Lloyd



Speeches Evening

This year our Guest of Honour presenting the prizes was Ian Nichol. Ian is an Old Silhillian (a proud member of Shenstone), whose time at the School coincided with the arrival of girls in the Sixth Form. In a varied career Ian worked at a number of business services firms, ending up as a partner specialising in employment tax at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and then ran his own training and coaching business. Latterly, he spent ten years as a Commissioner at the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Birmingham, the body that investigates suspected miscarriages of justice. We were delighted to welcome Ian back to the School and we were all very entertained by his speech.



The CIPFA Games

Seven Lower Sixth students took part in the annual CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Sixth Form Games held at The University of Birmingham in July. The students agreed that it was a very interesting and useful experience, giving some great insight into the busy world of work. The game imposed some significant time pressures to come up with a financial strategy for the Health Service Trust and required teams to adjust their strategy when emergency issues were imposed. Amy Allen won an award for being the 'Best Contributor' in the team and while the team did not manage to win the competition on this occasion, it certainly opened their eyes to the workings of public sector bodies and the challenges they face.

Mrs J Mander

Sixth Form Public Speaking Day

Friday 26 June saw the return of Talking Ape's public speaking coaches to run their annual workshop and competition for our Lower Sixth Formers. The whole Lower Sixth Form went off timetable for the day and broke off into their Houses with one specialist speaking coach each; here they covered all of the major components of effective public speaking such as body language, eye contact, structure and content. Each pupil delivered a speech to their group with the winner from each House competing in the final, which took place in the Bushell Hall. Congratulations should go to Michael Earle, Raja Sharma, Arjan Bains, Leticia Salmon and Tom Carson, each of whom was voted best speaker in their House, and particularly to the eventual winner Tom, and Leticia the runner-up. All of the speeches were on sensitive topics and each of the pupils showed an enormous amount of courage and skill in their delivery. Feedback after the event from pupils was extremely favourable and reflects the great work that Talking Ape did during the day. However, equally impressive was the feedback about our pupils from the trainers who could not have been more impressed with their attitude and conduct throughout the day.

Mr B Sandford-Smith

Mathematics Successes

UK Junior Maths Challenge

166 pupils were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates. This is a record result both in terms of overall certificates and number of Golds. Fourteen pupils scored high enough to qualify for either the Junior Maths Olympiad or Junior European Kangaroo Competition. Ben McHugh was top scorer in the Shell Form (and the School) and Joseph Morgan in the Third Form.

UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

62 pupils were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates. Maxine Perroni-Scharf was the highest scorer in the Upper Fifth (and the School), Aleks Zadunaiski in the Lower Fifth and Jack Hughes in the Fourth Form. Fourteen pupils scored high enough to qualify for either the Intermediate Maths Olympiad or European Kangaroo Competition. Aleks Zadunaiski, Chun Chiu and Max Dormon achieved a merit in the Intermediate Olympiad.

UK Senior Maths Challenge

62 pupils were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates. Richard Bradley was top scorer in the School and qualified automatically for the British Maths Olympiad.

British Maths Olympiad

Isaac Webber was awarded a distinction in this incredibly difficult examination.

University of Southampton Maths Challenge

The following pupils were awarded prizes in a national maths competition organised by the University of Southampton:

Junior Competition

Adam Nazarali (Shell Form)
Certificate of Merit (top 30 in UK)

Senior Competition

Max Dormon (Fourth Form)
Third Prize (3rd in UK)
Chun Chiu (Lower Fifth)
Certificate of Distinction (top 10 in UK)

UKMT Team Maths Challenge

The School Maths Team of Max Dormon, Jack Hughes, Georgina Hart and Joseph Morgan won the Regional Finals of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge and qualified for the National Finals in London.

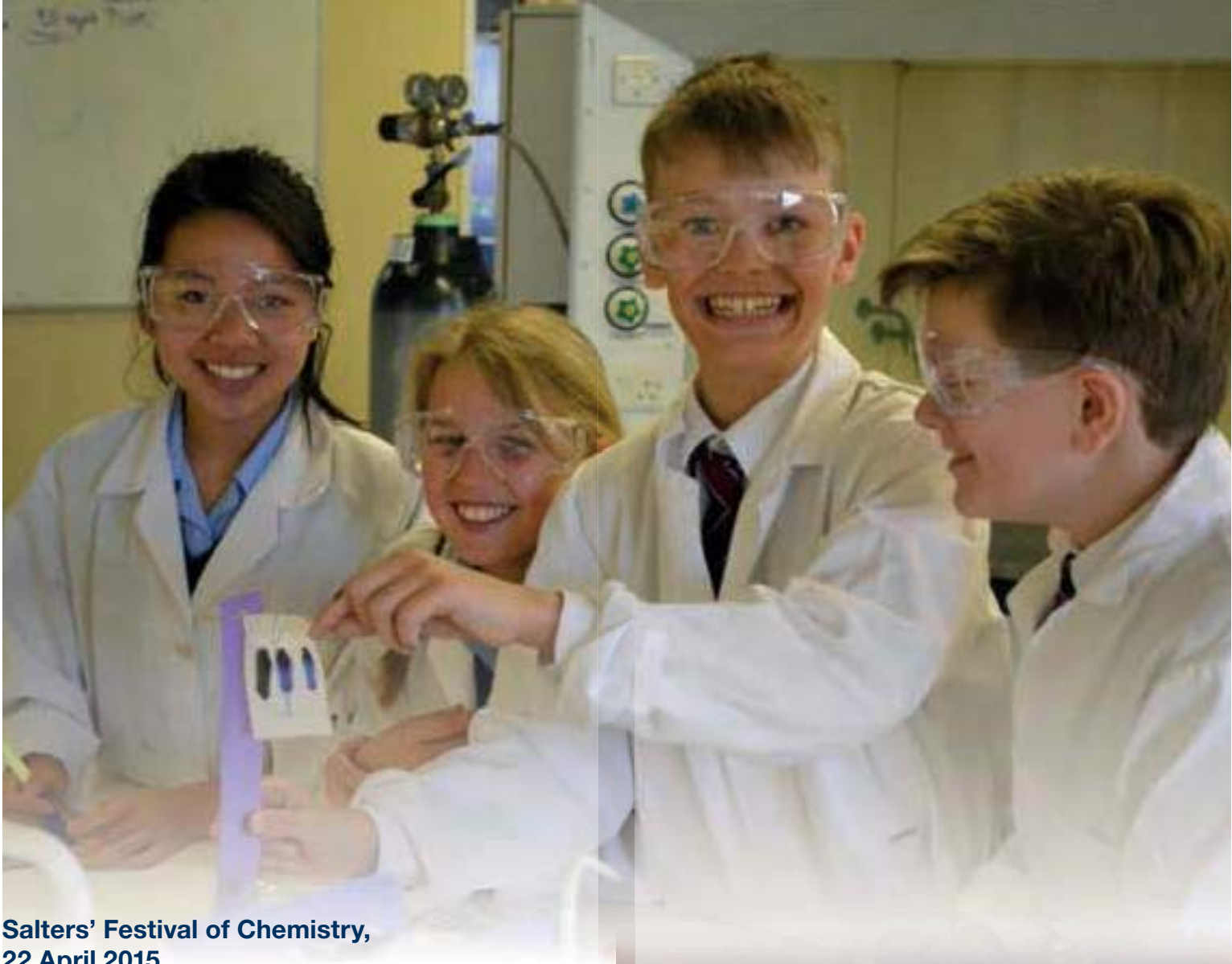
Oxbridge Mathematics

Isaac Webber won a place at Cambridge to study mathematics. David Clarke won a place at Oxford to study mathematics.

Year 10 Maths Feast

The School Maths Team of Matthew Bond, Chun Chiu, Benny Wu and Aleks Zadunaiski won the regional final of this competition.

Mr M Bishop



Salters’ Festival of Chemistry, 22 April 2015

Four Third Form pupils – Freddie Albrighton, Emily Baker, Joseph Morgan and Melissa Yip – were selected to take part in the Salters’ Festival of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham. Thirteen local schools took part in the Festival, with the majority of the teams being in the year above our team. Their day involved taking part in two ‘challenges’ situated in the University’s Chemistry laboratories. The first was the Salters’ Challenge followed by the University Challenge. The Salters’ Challenge involved a series of experiments, for which the teams needed to follow the given instructions carefully. They had to undertake different test tube reactions and use separation techniques, such as chromatography, to make detailed observations. They then needed to use their observations to draw the appropriate scientific conclusions. After lunch they took part in the University Challenge which was a problem-solving exercise. The teams had to create an antidote to simultaneously deal with both wasp and bee stings. The pupils were given a list of chemicals and they had to use these chemicals, and the information provided about them, to create the new antidote.

The last hour was spent in the Chemistry Department’s lecture theatre watching a series of fantastic demonstrations involving fire, colour change, extreme cold and explosions! This was much enjoyed by all who attended. The day came to a close with the winners of each challenge being announced. Freddie, Emily, Joseph and Melissa won the Salters’ Challenge, for which they (and I) were immensely proud. No doubt they have a very bright scientific future ahead of them. Well done!

Mrs C Goodman



Science Live!

On 2 March, 25 Upper Fifth pupils attended the Science Live! 2015 lectures at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham with Mr Farrington and Mrs Wild. The students had the opportunity to see and hear five of Britain’s top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The lectures were fast-moving, exciting, thought-provoking and gave students the chance to raise issues with the scientists.

The clear winner of the favourite lecture of the day was on the topic of time travel by Professor Jim Al-Khalili – ‘Can the Doctor really travel in time?’ – a fascinating lecture on the possibility of time travel, black holes and wormholes. Staff were most inspired by Professor Lord Winston who lectured on the role of research in fertility treatments and medical science. Other lectures included ‘What have the planets ever done for us?’ by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (the current BBC presenter for the iconic astronomy programme *The Sky at Night*), ‘How the zebra got its stripes’ by Professor Andrea Sella and ‘The Big Bang Theory’ by Dr Simon Singh. Also during the day the students listened to a GCSE Chief Examiner for Science who offered useful and insightful advice including the importance of the ‘3P approach’: preparation (revision), practise (past papers) and precision (detail in clear answers). A very good day was had by all and our students were a credit to the School at all times.

Mrs D Parker





American Professor pays us a visit

We were very fortunate to have Albin J. Cofone, Professor of Sociology and Geography at Suffolk College, Long Island, New York pay us a visit in mid-January to deliver four bespoke seminars to Junior School and Upper Sixth students. All four talks complemented the curriculum studies of the pupils and led to lively discussion and debate. The J2s and J3s very much enjoyed their talks on New York and Death Valley respectively. Professor Cofone then made his way across the campus to meet the Upper Sixth Historians and delivered a fascinating presentation on *Richard Milhous Nixon and the Long Road to China*, followed by an enthralling talk to our Political Scientists entitled *Gridlock Nation*. The depth of his knowledge and expertise were of benefit to all.

Mr M Penney



Cricketing legend visits Solihull

In the Summer Term we welcomed cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers to the School. He spoke about his illustrious career and about the International Schools Tournament in Barbados, where Solihull once more competed in the summer (see Travel and Trips section).



The Geography Department 2014-15

It has been a busy year in the Geography Department with many initiatives bringing new experiences to pupils and staff alike.

In March, we were fortunate to host a visit by Andy Horbury, Consultant geologist and director at Cambridge Carbonates Ltd, who spoke to the Lower Sixth Geographers about oil exploration and careers in geology. Towards the end of the Easter term the Lower Sixth spent 4 days carrying out fieldwork at Castle Head in the Lake District, as part of the AS course. This involved a study of flood management techniques in place in Kendal, the collection data for river channel characteristics along the course of the River Eea, a challenging walk up The Old Man of Coniston along the Copper Mine Trail in order to enhance class work on glacial landscapes, and a study of two villages to compare the impact of planning restrictions in the National Park on population characteristics and social wellbeing. This field course always proves a real highlight of our Geographers' time in the Sixth Form, and I have no doubt this year will provide some very fond memories for them to look back on. The Lower Sixth have ended a very successful year with some fieldwork based on a local conflict which focuses on the new Sainsbury Supermarket in Dorridge. In November we will be taking the Sixth Form Geographers to the UCL Institute of Education in London when geologist, author, lecturer and television presenter Professor Iain Stewart will be joining a wealth of other eminent and expert speakers for an inspirational day on population migration, flood hazards, climate change and globalisation and development.

We have continued to make every effort to encourage pupils of all ages to enrich their studies through books and film. Not only have the Third Form visited Old Trafford to explore the many links sport has with Geography, they have also rounded off the year with the film Bend it Like Beckham, to coincide with the Women's World Cup, through which they have considered gender parity and disparity issues. Meanwhile the Lower Sixth have read *I Shall not Hate* by Izzeldin Abuelaish. This amazing book tells the life story of Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian who has lived through half a century of horror and destruction in Gaza, and helps pupils understand the Arab-Israeli crisis, which forms part of a unit on Contemporary Conflicts.



Mrs Brown's enthusiasm for all things South American continues at a fast pace. We again hosted two Chilean gap students from February to May, and they have provided some very much appreciated classroom support, particularly within the Geography and Spanish Departments. Mrs Brown is all set to take 7 pupils from the Sixth Form to Peru this summer, where they will travel in two groups, one to the north of the country, and the other to Cusco where they will be volunteering for a range of charities with links to Geography.

We have continued to develop our use of the School's VLE, and we are proud to be top of the table in our use of the School's media server. This year sees the first group of students sit the AQA iGCSE in Geography, and they have thoroughly enjoyed the decision-making exercise element of this which has removed the requirement of coursework. Our Upper Fifth are now experts in the factors holding back development in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and they can speak authoritatively on the advantages and disadvantages of World Bank funding for proposals for prestigious electricity generation schemes! Similarly, the Upper Sixth can confidently discuss their opinions on the merits of a bottoms-up approach to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Kenya.

We now find ourselves at an exciting crossroad, and with the new Geography specifications for GCSE and A-Level set to be in place for September 2016, we look forward to many more initiatives during the year ahead.

Mrs A Roll

Budding Engineers Receive UK Recognition Award

Two teams of four from the Lower Sixth successfully completed the Engineering Education Scheme. The Scheme aims to provide opportunities to young people to enhance their skills through industry-led projects and help to connect businesses with talented budding engineers and scientists.

Over the last five months they have been working closely with seven engineers from Jaguar Land Rover on two projects. Both teams came up with some brilliant ideas, and presented these to an expert panel of engineers. They also achieved an Industrial Cadet Gold award, as a measure of their hard work and effort throughout the project.



Maddie wins place at Cambridge Summer School

Maddie Browse, in the Lower Sixth, won a prestigious place at the Cambridge Summer School after completing the Cambridge Senior Physics Challenge. The National Competition sees budding scientists complete a range of difficult Physics and Mathematics questions online. Maddie was awarded one of the seventy places at the five day summer school. She participated in lectures, practical lab classes and intensive tuition, looked at developing problem-solving and experimental skills, and heard about the admissions process for those wanting to study Physics at University.

Solihull pupils join the RSC's Merchant of Venice

Five talented pupils from the Junior and Senior Schools joined the cast of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), to perform in a production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

The show, at Stratford-upon-Avon's Royal Shakespeare Theatre, saw Freddie Truman, Oscar Huissoon, Courtney Holland, David Hass and Ewan Waddell form part of the play's choir.

Mr Walker said: 'This is the first time Solihull School choir members have been involved in an RSC production and it's an honour for them to have been selected to take part. Each student has a great deal of experience, with David recently in *Les Misérables* and Freddie selected as lead in the Junior School's production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*.



Car Share Writer Gives Creativity Workshop

Old Silhillian Tim Reid returned to the School to talk about his career as a comedy writer and lead a creativity workshop. The *Car Share* writer spoke to the Lower Fifth about the world of comedy writing and his career path. He also talked about the process of coming up with the concept for the BBC One sitcom, which stars comedian Peter Kay. Drama and English pupils then took part in a creativity workshop, where they looked at how to think creativity and how to nurture ideas. Tim said: 'It was wonderful to be back. A lot of happy memories from my time here came flooding back. The pupils were so engaged and had some great ideas. It was great to see them embracing creative thinking'.



Pupils raise over £2000 in Sponsored Read

Pupils raised £2218.37 for charity in a Sponsored Read. Most of the pupils in the Third Form took part in the challenge, raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity, which is this year's chosen charity for the year group. Over the course of a half term, they had to read as much as they could, asking friends and family to sponsor them either per book or per chapter.

Miss Airdrie said: 'I am truly amazed by the amount of money raised by our Third Formers. I am really proud of all the pupils who participated; their money will make a real difference to the work carried out by the Brain Tumour Charity. Well done, everyone!'





The Kent Library

As summer 2015 draws to a close we fondly look back on yet another successful year. We started off in September embracing the year -long celebration of the First World War with displays and reading material from fiction to non-fiction and from personal experiences to unforgettable and poignant films. We were also very lucky to have the loan of our Deputy Marshall – Peter Essex’s wonderful collection of original World War One artefacts including postcards, Princess Mary’s brass Christmas tins and a plethora of other items.

This year we ran two competitions. Firstly, our innovative Shelfie Competition which caused a stir as pupils and staff alike tried to deduce the name of the member of staff from a photograph of a shelf in their bookcase. The clues were there for all to see but it wasn’t as easy as you might imagine. Equally as inspirational was our popular Opening Lines Competition which saw pupils racing around the library in their quest to double check their answers from our fiction stock.

We would like to congratulate Eloise Davidson (ShJ),Libby Shepherd (ShS) and Angus Young (UVIJ) for winning the Shelfie Competition, and Jenna Plain (IVS), Charlotte Rigg (ShS) and Jess Boake (ShF) for winning the Opening Lines Competition.

Finally, the accolade of ‘Most Avid Reader’ this year goes to Aimee Rowland (IIIF) and Shreeya Choudhary (IIIP) for the girls and Blaise Pingree (IVF) for the boys. I’m sure you will join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

Mrs Alison Vaughan
Librarian



Refectory News

There have been a lot of exciting changes taking place in the Refectory in recent months. It started with a revamp of the salad bar: we looked at changing how the salads were presented and introduced the new round white bowls and then simplified the salads. The single salad and addition of sauce pots has worked very well and has had positive feedback. Next was the hot food. A lot of time, research and energy both inside and outside of working hours have been spent looking for the right combination of food. It was agreed with myself and the Chefs that we could offer a wider range of food. From there we introduced the Showcase dish, which is served from either the Carvery or the Wok Station. Also, an extra main course dish and a vegan dish have been added. These dishes are in addition to the vegetarian and Halal dishes already being served. Along with a new menu layout and new signage, the Servery looks bright and inviting. The next job was to promote the food and what we offer, so we have ventured into the world of Facebook and Twitter to show off our Showcase dish.

After hot food it was time for packed lunches to have a makeover. The introduction of the white paper bags and then a choice of fillings have been received very well.

All of these changes coincided with the feedback from the Food Focus Group, which showed that we were working in the right direction. The feedback from pupils and staff has been very positive.

All of the catering team have worked very hard to ensure that the changes worked. It was then half term and time for a rest but no; Jane, Yvonne, Michelle and Catherine did the Race for Life Pretty Muddy to raise money for Cancer Research. Not to be left out, I attended a Staffordshire Police Motorbike awareness course.

Look out for more changes to come!

Jayne Round, Refectory Manager



Exciting New Sculptures for the Chapel and Cooper Building

The School has commissioned Matthew Sanderson to design and make two ambitious new sculptures for the school grounds. The first is a fantastic new sculpture to sit in front of the Chapel. Raised off the ground and lit from beneath, the sculpture will be a bold visual celebration of the community and aspiration of our pupils and the strong role that music and singing play within the School and the Chapel. The work will stand just over five metres high and three metres wide and has been designed to sit in the centre of the Chapel forecourt.

The Parents’ Association are funding a second sculpture, also by Matthew Sanderson, which will sit on the grass outside the new Cooper Building. As part of the design process, Matthew held two full-day sculpture workshops with the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Artists. During the day pupils listened to a short lecture of how Matthew researches and develops his ideas and then made their own athletic figures and moving puppets using wire and masking tape.





Art Department

Summer Exhibition

This year's Summer Exhibition had a new look and feel to it as parents, pupils and friends enjoyed live music and refreshments while viewing the wonderful new artwork and photography created by our A-Level and GCSE pupils. The sculptor, Matthew Sanderson, took a break from making 'Conduct' and 'Leap', the two new sculptures commissioned for the School grounds, to be our guest of honour on the night. Matthew brought along a selection of his smaller work for pupils and parents to see as well as two larger pieces that were on show outside the George Hill entrance.

The exhibition also included the new-look Junior School room which housed a substantial display from our own Junior School pupils along with over eight hundred entries from our new 'Art Postcard' competition. This was a new competition aimed at all local junior schools, including our own, and the response was fantastic with fourteen schools participating. The winners and runners-up received their prizes on the night from the new Mayor of Solihull, Mrs Glenis Slater.

Poppies

To commemorate the centenary of WWI, all Third and Shell Form pupils made a clay poppy to display in the School Quad for our Remembrance Service. Inspired by the poppy display at the Tower of London, the pupils created over two hundred red poppies with some carrying the names of the fallen members of the School during the Great War and subsequent conflicts.



Junior School Workshops

In November the J3 pupils visited the Senior School art rooms on the top floor of School House. Pupils learnt to draw with wire and took away some very creative wire fish designs to decorate in their art lessons back at the Junior School. There were also separate visits from Springfield House Community Special School and Acocks Green Junior School in the Christmas Term. The pupils joined our Upper Sixth Artists to make Christmas silk paintings in November and the children took away some really colourful designs to show off to their family and friends.

Mailbox

After the success of last summer's exhibition in the Mailbox, we were asked to supply new photography work for display again this year. The new theme 'Revealing the beauty' is described as: Some of the greatest imagery reveals to the viewer the beauty in something that was so simple you might have taken it for granted. The selected work went on display in July and has been seen by hundreds of people with some wonderful reviews.

Ms D Trim



Artist Workshops

John Denaro held full day drawing workshops for the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils in October and November. The Upper Fifth pupils produced complicated still life drawings based on the theme of Vanitas for their GCSE Coursework unit. The Lower Sixth surprised themselves with accomplished full colour self-portraits for their AS Level coursework.



Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Argentinean students visit Solihull

Yapeyu College in Corrientes, Northern Argentina made their third visit to Solihull this July, spending four days with us as part of their 3-week trip to England and Wales. During their time with us they participated in Spanish lessons, danced in Lower School Assembly, got involved in a School Debate and enjoyed the traditional football and rounders matches on the last afternoon. They watched our Sports Day, joined in the Inter-House football tournament and went with the Lower Sixth Geographers to Hatton Country World, as well as Stratford-upon-Avon with two top Spanish students from last year, Esther Domingo and Lydia Jones. Sadly, their stay ended too quickly and on Saturday 4 July they were taken to Solihull Station so they could carry on with the rest of their tour - to Snowdonia, Liverpool and down to Penzance.

Our visiting students were hosted by Leticia Salmon, James Cusack, James Spence, Ruth and April Urry, Ciara Mahoney, Pru Dixey, Oscar Montgomery, Lucia Eguiguren-Wray, Hannah Armour, Olivia Mueller, Alex Marshall and Iain Rodriguez.

Hosting is something Solihull families do extremely well and many do it over and over again for which we are very grateful. I asked some of the Argentineans to write a comment about their experiences with Solihull families and here are just a few replies:

'Our family was very pleasant and made us feel at home. We had great fun when they took us to dinner in Birmingham. At school, we really enjoyed Spanish classes with our English schoolmates. Thank you for everything!' Sol and Agus

'We had the chance to be hosted by a girl our own age, and meet her group of friends. They were nice and friendly, and we had the chance to share good times. We were impressed at the wide choice of activities the school offers. Thank you for everything!' Magali and Victoria

'Our family was always trying to make us feel at home and preparing delicious food. They also told us a lot about English history. We really liked seeing Shakespeare's home town, and learning more about him. We also enjoyed learning a new sport, rounders'. Luz, Valentina, and Emilia

I didn't ask the Solihull hosts to comment but many did and again these responses clearly indicate why we go to so much effort to bring new cultures and languages together:



'Thank you. We had a great time. Guillermo was a wonderful guest and a charming young man and I hope he enjoyed his short time with us. I am also so proud of James. After his initial reluctance he rose to the challenge and was a wonderful host and thoroughly enjoyed the time too. I have to say all the students seemed genuinely pleased to be here and were very well behaved. At the football match on Friday they were particularly gracious and allowed William (age 8) to play on the team - and when the ball came in his direction on a couple of occasions they backed off and let him kick. I was watching from behind my hands as I expected a dozen teenagers to pile into him and for it to end in tears. It made William's day to join in with the big boys! So all in all, a positive experience for us - thank you for giving us the opportunity to do this - and maybe we will do this all again next time. ' Mrs Spence

'We had a lovely time hosting the girls. They were charming and a real credit to their school and country.' Mrs Urry

'Marcelo was a delight, a very clever young man! I suggested that he may ask if he could come over for 3 months and help at School! So you may get an email from him applying! You do such a wonderful thing organising the overseas students from South America to come over here, and now that the School has Spanish as their compulsory language I am sure the Head is very happy.' Mrs Salmon

A big thank you to all parents, pupils and teachers who have helped make this yet another successful visit and international link.

Mrs J Brown



Chilean Gap Students

Camila's Reflections

My last week in Solihull was the busiest, having to check more than 100 listening exams! A few of these made me smile, for example instead of writing ciudad (city) one student wrote 'thudad'. The last few weeks made me realise how much I was going to miss Solihull; its pupils and staff, the friendly atmosphere, and wonderful School environment.

Three years ago I came to England and visited Solihull for 3 days on the Wessex School trip. Since then, I knew I wanted to come back as a Gap student. Nerves over my final exams and a fear of missing a whole year of University meant I hesitated with my application for Solihull School. But I did submit it and after all the interviews and waiting, I was told that Solihull had selected me as this year's Gap student! This has possibly been the best decision I have ever made. I am even better prepared to go on to University - my Gap year has not been wasted at all!

On arrival in February, I was anxious but also very excited; I wanted to make a good impression. I was lucky to stay with the Baileys (Adina was in the Lower Sixth) since I had stayed with them 3 years ago. During the Easter holidays I travelled to Liverpool, York, Nottingham and London. The first three places were excellent, but I really love London. Maybe I could come back and do part of my university studies there? I also went to Snowdonia and the School's cottage with Mrs Brown, Martin and Yolanda, Solihull's Spanish Assistant. The scenery was totally breathtaking, the Cottage was fun and the company was great. Yolanda is now planning on coming to visit me in Chile!



The last two months I stayed with the Vidal family (Rebecca is in the Third Form) and with Mrs Brown. They were both amazing families who made me feel at home and helped me get the most out of this experience. On finishing at Solihull, I met up with my Mum and sister and we went travelling in Europe and the Middle East. I can honestly say that having this opportunity is one of the best ways to develop as a person; it has taught me things about life, friends, work and family that made me change and mature a lot. I also hope I have been successful in the eyes of Solihull, its teachers, pupils and parents.

Finally I would like to thank everyone at Solihull but specially Julie Brown, who made all this possible; to the Spanish and French departments for opening their doors to me and also to my three hosting families with whom I have had the opportunity to learn about culture, tradition, family life and so much more.

I would like to add that my family and Wessex School are more than open to receive any Solihull student who would like to go to Chile and spend a couple of months there, helping with English and sports or attending lessons so as to improve his or her Spanish.

Solihull School, thank you for this unforgettable experience.

*Camila Ortiz
Wessex School, Concepcion, Chile.*

Martin's Reflections

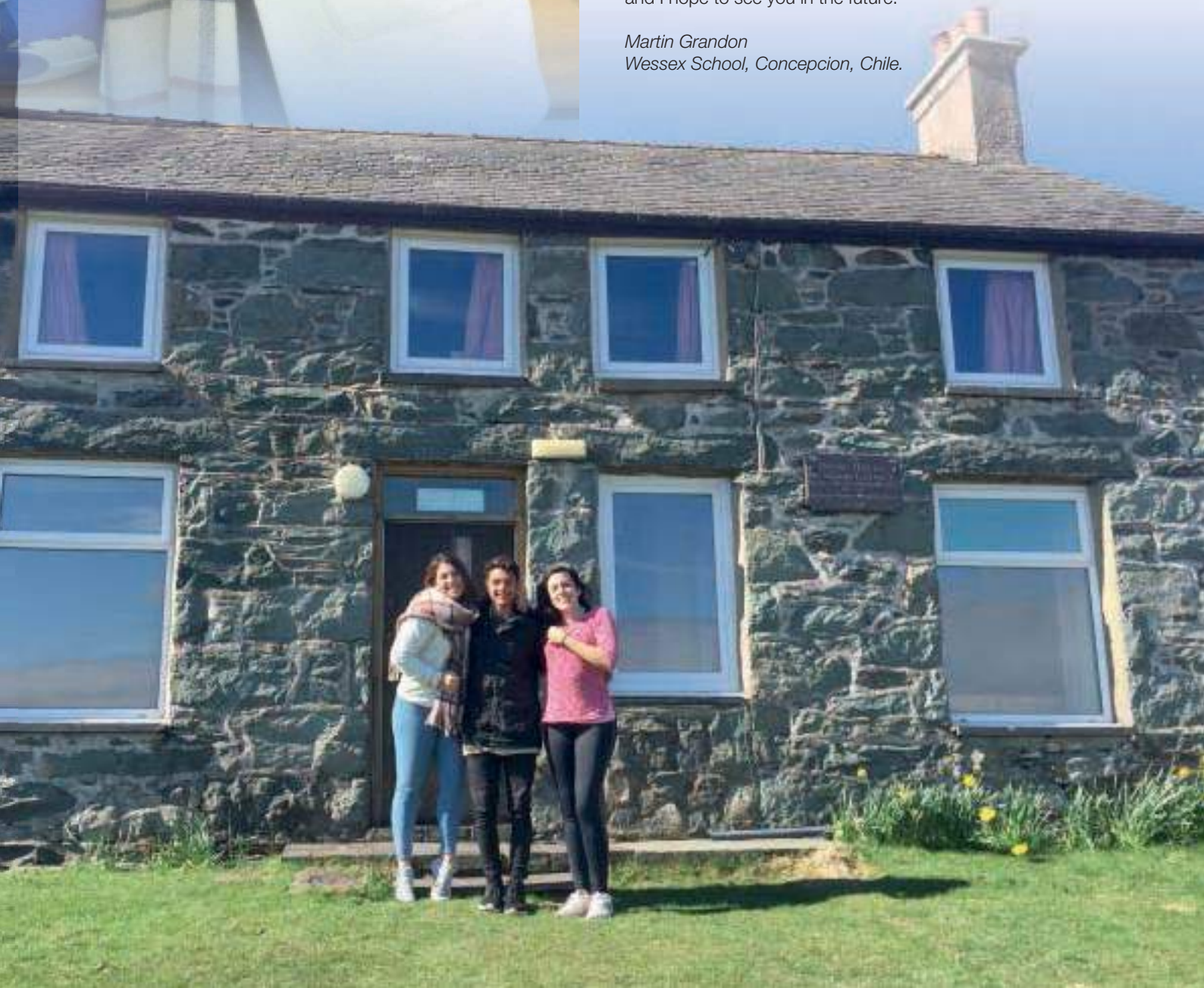
First of all, I am really grateful for being given this amazing opportunity to help in Solihull School as a Gap Student. Also, I really appreciate how everyone at Solihull has made me feel so welcome. I want to give a special thanks to the Blake and Whitfield families, who hosted me during my 3-month stay, and treated me as if I were their own son or brother, helping me

in everything I needed. I hope that in the future, families from Solihull will keep hosting Gap Students because without their input, we 18-year-old students from Wessex in Concepcion, Chile, would not have this opportunity. This year has been fantastic for me, as it has given me time to reflect on my future, what to study and where.

When I finished at Wessex I had no idea what I wanted to do for a career but now my mind is clearer and I will be able to make the right decision. I have also made really good friends in the School and was able to get involved in the areas that were my interest, like rugby (my favourite sport) and Spanish, my own language. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know a different culture, and travelling to a lot of different places. I was able to accompany the rugby teams when they had away fixtures because the PE Department always included me in their plans. Mr Steve Thompson deserves special thanks.

Also I managed to stay at the School's cottage in Snowdonia with Mrs Julie Brown, Camila and the Spanish Assistant, Yolanda. The scenery in North Wales was awesome. I totally recommend this (the opportunity to take a Gap Year) to the students at Solihull who are coming to the end of their time at the School. Wessex School, in Concepcion, really wants to receive students from Solihull to help in sports and English lessons. Thanks to everyone in the School. It has been great and I hope to see you in the future.

*Martin Grandon
Wessex School, Concepcion, Chile.*





Volunteering in Peru for NAFE and Otra Cosa

This summer, I was fortunate enough to spend a month in Peru where I worked as an English and Maths teacher for two non-profit organisations called NAFE and Otra Cosa. NAFE runs an after-school programme for children of all ages and is based in Huanchaco, a small town in the north-west of Peru. NAFE aims to improve the quality of life of children who live without even the most basic of amenities by providing them with an education that supplements their formal schooling and instils them with core values. On top of the regular lessons that it runs, NAFE organises projects such as trips to the local police station, where they are taught that police officers are their friends rather than their enemies, and it regularly brings in doctors to talk to the children about healthy lifestyles.

Peru’s status as a country that is in desperate need of aid is often overlooked, in favour of countries in Africa or other parts of Latin America but I would urge anyone willing to do volunteer work to consider Peru as the desperate demand for this kind of aid makes the work you do very fulfilling. Reflecting upon this experience, I would have to say that although my stay there was relatively short, I was able to learn a great deal about the Peruvian culture, by virtue of being able to stay with a local family in Huanchaco whilst I completed my volunteer work. I would also say that this experience would be extremely beneficial to anyone currently studying Spanish and wishing to improve their knowledge of the language.

Maeliss Villepontoux, Lower Sixth

This summer, Maeliss and I volunteered in two primary schools called Las Lomas and San Carlos with the Teach English program for the charity, Otra Cosa, which is based in Huanchaco, Northern Peru. These schools were both located in Shanty Towns and therefore, the children who attended weren’t from very privileged backgrounds; this meant their attendance was irregular and so the levels of English ranged substantially. However, it also meant that the children were filled with a value for education and so an enthusiasm to learn, making the job very pleasurable.



We taught each age group, which brought separate challenges and rewards. The younger years were full of energy and so we used interactive activities, such as matching games and hangman, to cover the basic vocabulary of colours and greetings. However, the older classes were often far calmer and so were able to handle worksheets about ‘familiar descriptions’ that we photocopied from the English curriculum. I was personally impressed by how quickly they grasped the more difficult concepts like putting verbs into sentences. This was particularly beneficial for me because, as they learnt English vocabulary, I was able to learn some Spanish from them. This experience made me realise how much I’d enjoy being a teacher myself, a career that I hadn’t seriously considered up to this point. As my level of Spanish is poor, I feel my communication skills have expanded as I was forced to think of other ways to explain ideas to them. Though this was frustrating at times, it meant that the rapport we developed was particularly special to observe. I cannot describe how memorable and worthwhile this opportunity has been for me, supplying me with a plethora of different skills. It fills me with great anticipation for the future when I hope to complete similar experiences.

Evie Townend, Lower Sixth

Awralla and I had the opportunity to volunteer in a small health clinic in Huanchaquito, one of the three shanty towns near Huanchaco. Each morning we would have a hectic bus journey, involving precarious weaving in and out of speeding vehicles, pedestrians and speed bumps. In the clinic, we were responsible for weighing the patients, measuring their heights and blood pressures; as part of a local anaemia campaign, we learned how to take blood, a useful skill. In addition, we thought it would be helpful to give a presentation to the children in NAFE, an after school club for deprived children. We talked about the importance of a balanced diet to an enthusiastic and engaged audience.



This was an invaluable hands-on experience, especially as Awralla and I have the intention of applying to medical school this year. We felt our efforts in the clinic were useful due to the lack of staff. This was not the only problem. There was also no running water, only one doctor and lots of manual work, no computers, and basic equipment such as manual weighing scales. Due to the lack of running water, Awralla decided to invest some of her money towards the labour costs of installing the new water pump.

We were also fortunate enough to do observations in Hospital Belen, a hospital in the city of Trujillo. I will never forget the moment when we walked in, and after only a few minutes, we were walking in the blood of a man, who was having his arm stitched, following an occupational injury. Healthcare in Peru differs drastically to health care in England. For example, oxygen tanks were left around the hospital, whereas in England, they would be stored in a secure location and isolation rooms left open. Insufficient staff and poor equipment are other noticeable differences. My time in Peru was unlike any other of my previous experiences, and I feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity to volunteer through the charity Otra Cosa.

Celine Simmons, Lower Sixth

The charity supported us extremely well throughout our time there; we were accommodated with two families (Valeria, Manuel and Margarita) who cared for us as if we were adopted children. They made us feel at home, kept us safe and helped us improve our Spanish. Evie and I were also supported with Spanish lessons by Otra Cosa to help us get more out of our stay. We really enjoyed these lessons and are hoping to keep learning Spanish using Skype this year. After volunteering for three weeks in Huanchaco, we headed off to Lima and then Cusco where we experienced the famous Inca city of Machu Picchu first hand.

My time here was definitely valuable. I learned so much working in the clinic, living with my family and being immersed in the culture. This experience will stay with me forever and I hope to return to South America in the near future.

Awralla Farax, Lower Sixth

Volunteering in Peru: Summer 2015

After finishing my exams this summer, I decided to travel to Cusco, Peru to volunteer in an after-school project for extremely poor children called WaaW. The project was run by Fair Services, an NGO set up in 2006 to train local single mothers to become Spanish teachers. Fair Services now has a Spanish School and Spanish Academy, a home stay program, and runs weekly salsa, cooking and volleyball sessions. At WaaW the children would arrive after lunch and we would help them with their homework. Afterwards, they would split into age groups for craft activities, sports and help in Maths and Spanish. The children all received two healthy meals, which for most meant they wouldn't go hungry, brushed their teeth, went to the dentist and library and got to enjoy life without the worries of home. Arriving in the same, unwashed clothes, with the shoes on their feet totally falling apart, the children were incredibly hungry and filthy from playing in the streets. WaaW meant they weren't on the streets all afternoon, they were given the attention and love they needed, and they were helped with schoolwork in the hope that education would be their route out of extreme poverty. At the weekends I was able to travel with other volunteers to nearby Inca ruins and enjoy all that Cusco had to offer. I really enjoyed the weeks I spent in Cusco and would definitely go back given half the chance. My eyes were opened to the extreme poverty that people live in and to have helped the children to escape this, even though only briefly each day, is something I will treasure for all my life.

Olivia Eguiguren-Wray, Upper Sixth



Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF)

This summer three Upper Sixth students went to volunteer in an orphanage called Azul Wasi just outside Cuzco, Peru. It is one of the homes LAFF has been supporting for the last six years. The home is for street children who have been rescued and who are now being cared for by Alcides, a retired policeman. The 14 boys and 2 girls call Azul Wasi 'home' and have to cook, wash, clean and tend the garden, look after the guinea pigs and attend school. James Hall, Sam Mills and Iain Rodriguez assisted in all these responsibilities, helped the kids with their homework, and played football with them. Solihull is looking to sponsor these 16 students with their education so as to help them achieve their goals.

Mrs J Brown





German Exchange

This year we took 13 pupils from the Lower Fifth on our Exchange Visit to Hofheim near Frankfurt, which has been running now for 16 years. Pupils were accommodated by their German Exchange partners who as always were excellent hosts. The Elisabethenschule took us on a variety of cultural trips such as the Mathematikum (interactive science museum) in Giessen, the Roman Fort of Saalburg and the sensory museum of Schloss Freudenberg near Wiesbaden. We also explored Frankfurt and Wiesbaden. The pupils showed an excellent level of engagement and were keen to refine their German. We look forward to welcoming our next German Exchange partners in October.

Mrs P Cramb

European Day of Languages

On Friday 26 September we celebrated the annual European Day of Languages. As in previous years, pupils had the opportunity to enjoy a menu based on food from Spain, France and Germany and spoke to members of staff in a wide variety of languages. A number of very brave members of staff taught their normal lessons using the medium of a foreign language they speak, and the main event of the day was a series of language workshops offered to all our J3 pupils. They learnt fun plays, songs and conversations in French, German, Spanish, Polish and Welsh.

Thank you very much to all staff and pupils who made European Day of Languages 2014 at Solihull School such a success!

Mr P Morgan



Anglo-French Society of Birmingham's French Speaking Competition for Schools

On Wednesday 19 November we sent nine of our best linguists to Birmingham University to attend the annual speaking competition. Pupils from the Third Form to the Lower Sixth took part, reading out French poetry to a panel of judges.

Six of our pupils did well enough to reach the finals, where they performed again for the whole group. Will Davies did a beautiful reading of *Recueillement* by Baudelaire to achieve 2nd place in the senior category, and Cerys Stansfield and Rais Raja delivered a word perfect duologue of an Ionesco extract to win first place in their category, fighting off strong opposition from the other schools.

Thanks to all pupils who participated: Joseph Morgan, Jacques Barker, Benedict Barker, Cerys Stansfield, Rais Raja, Beatrix Huissoon, Arthur Townend, Will Davies and Josh Samuels.

Ms E Campbell



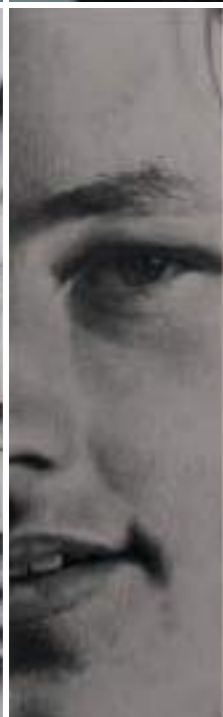
Shell Form 'Sevillanas' classes

On 23 February, Shell Form pupils who study Spanish had the opportunity to work with local dance choreographer Ana García, who choreographed the dance sequences seen in the Senior School's production of 'Bodas de Sangre' (Blood Wedding) just before Christmas.

Ana has worked with some of the best dancers in Spain and showed pupils how to dance the basic movements and steps of a southern Spanish dance called a 'Sevillana', which as its name suggests, originated in the Andalusian city of Sevilla. The dance teaching was conducted in Spanish, and as a result, not only did the pupils learn about Andalucía's rich cultural heritage, but also had the chance to practise their Spanish with a native speaker. ¡Gracias Ana!

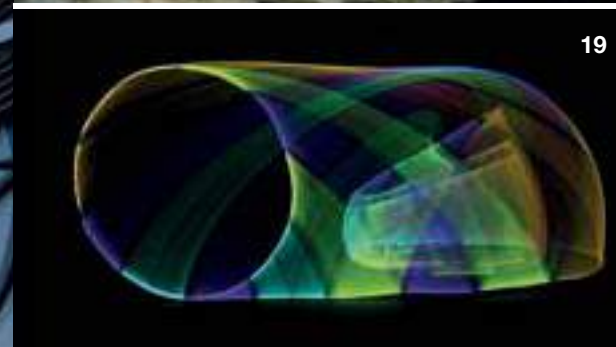
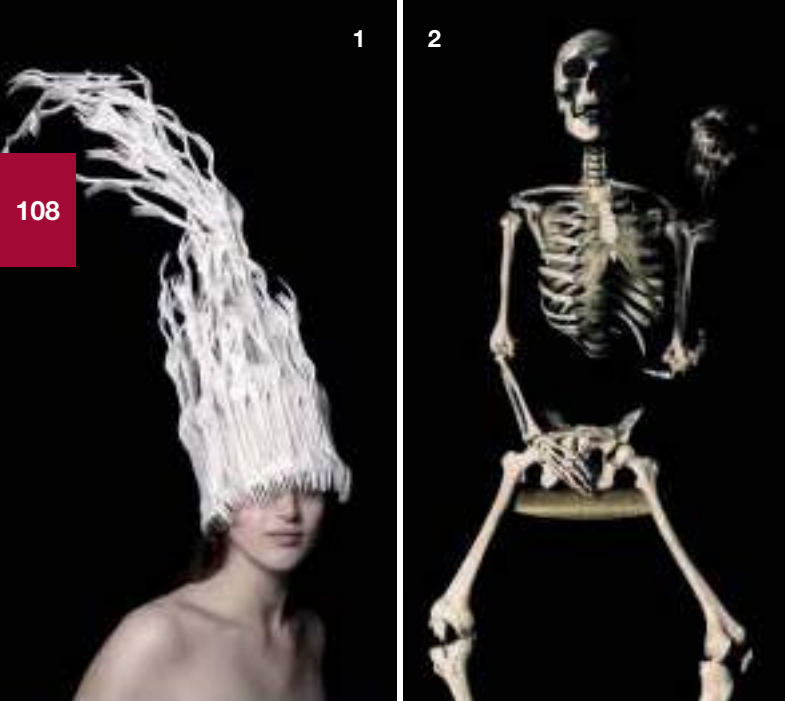
Mr P Morgan





Lower Sixth Art

1. Sashpal Nandhra
2. Aimee Skidmore
3. Ben Tennen
4. Isobel Serle
5. Chloe Houghton
6. Alex Finnegan
7. Holly Marsh
8. Vini Vinod
9. Amy Mitchell-Meades
10. Megan Woolley
11. Chris Clay
12. Bradley Monk
13. Annie Johnson
14. Jacob Piggitt



Lower Sixth Photography

1. Leticia Salmon
2. Nick Empson
3. Harriet Woolley
4. Ciara Mahoney
5. James Griffiths
6. Ben Tennet
7. Alex Finnegan
8. Becca Hicks
9. Jacob Piggan
10. Ben Levett-Dunn
11. Archie Clay
12. Michael Earle
13. Megan Woolley
14. Jack Berry
15. Kiant Lightbourne
16. Ben Osborne
17. Adina Bailey
18. Katie Saunders
19. Stefan Gnyla
20. Nick Chitty



Sport

Netball - 1st VII

P15 W11 D1 L3

The 1st Senior Squad got off to an immense start with the emphasis during the early weeks of the season on match fitness, tactics and working as a unit. Our efforts paid off when we travelled to Princethorpe College for a convincing win, 30-16. In September the team fought hard to win the Borough tournament and progressed to the County Rounds. Ahead of the beginning of the league, many non-league matches were arranged to raise our competitiveness and get us ready for the league as well as the county tournament. This was held in November and the conditions were poor, however, the girls all kept good momentum and a high morale, despite a power outage midway through causing play to be paused. Solihull came in second to Bablake but secured a place in the Regional Rounds nonetheless. This is the furthest any Solihull Netball Squad has got, and we were all overjoyed by our success. By this point the league had begun and after two disappointing league defeats in January the squad bounced back to ensure that they won the remainder of the matches. The New Year brought a very determined group of girls ready to compete, with additional training sessions added to ensure we were prepared for the Regional Rounds. Poor weather conditions saw the tournament postponed by just over a month, but we didn't let this affect us. A psychology session for the group was organised and we went into the tournament in March in a very strong position, mentally and physically. Blitzing through the group stages, Solihull was undefeated up until the semi-final. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through to Nationals but we were able to hold our heads high knowing how much we had already achieved so far this season. The season ended on a high, by winning the charity Red Nose Day match, competing against the Old Girls, and the End of Season Tournament.

Thanks must go to Mrs Smith for getting us in line and helping us to achieve all that we did, along with the additional jobs she took on to make our season so successful.

The 2014/15 Squad: Lydia Cross (Captain), Kianté Lightbourne (Vice-Captain), Poppy Eales, Laura Daglish, Mia Woolley, Cathy Kiely, Hannah Shakeshaft, Hannah Clarke, Adina Bailey, Chloe Houghton, Katie Saunders, Sophie Shakeshaft, Clara Miles.

2nd VII

The 2nd VII squad had a mixed season this year, starting off slowly and gaining in confidence as the season went on. Having played 12 matches, as well as an end of season tournament, the team won 5 matches, drew 1 and lost 6. With many strong centre court players, we struggled to find shooters required to successfully score at every opportunity in the circle but as the games went on the shooters slowly became more consistent with the help of dedication during lunch time practices which really made a difference as we started to win some of our games. Half way through the season we gained some Hockey players who really added to the diversity of the team.

The squad came across some difficult opponents: The King's School, Worcester and Bablake were memorable for their skill level but our heads never went down and we would continue showing real spirit right to the end, a real credit to the determined members of the squad.

It has been a fun season and we are looking forward to regrouping again in September. Thank you to Mrs Baden for all her hard work and support this season.



U15 VII

The U15 netball squad had a mixed season this year with many good matches to remember, however a few to forget. The season began with a few losses, but with the help of Mrs Smith, we eradicated the errors and from then on set ourselves the target of winning every match to come. We almost fulfilled our goal by only losing one game in the latter part of the season. After all the training and multiple matches, the U15 squad finished second in the Solihull League and second in the Borough Tournament, losing to Tudor Grange in both. Another solid season to be proud of. Thank you to Mrs Smith for her patience and hard work throughout the year. We look forward to more netball success next season!

Squad: Clara Miles, Brooke Matthews, Hannah Currie, Ella Stirling, Annabelle Barker, Kate Stumper, Maddie Koral, Elisa Mottram and Ellie Featherstone.

Clara Miles, Captain



U14 VII

We started the season in great spirits, despite lots of cold, wet and dark winter nights. We got off to a promising start, participating in a local tournament at Lode Heath School, where after many confident wins, we qualified for the semi-finals. We played Arden, yet narrowly missed a place in the final, losing by just one goal in the last minute. Fortunately, later in the season we managed to beat Arden 14-10.

Disappointingly, we lost some form in the middle of our season, winning 5 matches and losing 12 despite our fabulous shooters scoring 190 goals.

We recovered at the end of the season, with strong wins in our final 2 matches. Our team had great fun and lots of laughs, particularly enjoying our regular match warm-ups to 'Cotton-eyed Joe'. Thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to support us in games and helped us play to our potential. Well done to all the girls especially Tabitha Botterill, Phoebe Harland and Sofia Cusack who were selected for Warwickshire U14 Netball Academy.

Phoebe Harland and Sofia Cusack



U13 VII

The U13 netball squad has shown no end to their determination and perseverance this season. We played 16 matches, 5 of which we won. We started the season with some tough matches against teams such as Loughborough Girls' (10-23) and King Henry VIII (7-15). We soon learned from our mistakes though and took a victory over St Peter's 11-6. We then beat Arden 13-2 and Princethorpe College in a close match 9-6. Soon the highly anticipated tournament came around, but unfortunately three of our key positions were away at Snowdonia. After a gallant effort, we failed to qualify from the pool rounds, but I suspect when our team is back to full strength next season we will be ready to take on the tournament teams in September.

Team: Eden Lupoli, Tiegan Pound, Alyssa Morrison, Libby Shepherd, Ellie Couch, Imogen Houghton, Lily Evans, Hafsa Ahmad, Harriet Toogood.

Libby Shepherd, Captain



U12 VII

The U12 netball squad has had a very successful season. It began with an intense game against King's High Warwick, resulting in a 14-14 draw. It was a great team effort, and with the help of Mrs Johnson we developed some more skills and team work which led to multiple victories. At the Borough Tournament, there was some great netball played which resulted in a 1st place finish for the U12s. This meant that we progressed to the Warwickshire County Tournament held in Coventry. After a great afternoon of netball we were crowned County Champions. Overall, an extremely successful season for the U12 netball squad! Thank you to Mrs Johnson and Miss Wilcox for all their help and hard work. We look forward to another season of netball.

Squad: India Armstrong, Olivia Smith, Louisa Miles (C), Annabel Dalby, Nicole Dann, Georgia Jones, Bethan Bown and Louise Green.

Louisa Miles, Captain

Rugby - The 1st XV

U18 XV

P28 W18 L10

Daily Mail National League table: 21st

The selection panel decided the 2014/15 season would be one for another prop to lead, a man who certainly knew the darkest of arts: Luke Hoey. As is always the case, Luke led us to our pre-season jamboree at King's Macclesfield where we achieved a credible set of results, playing 4 and losing just the one to Berkhamsted.

Buoyed by a decent pre-season, The Fifteen strutted into the cauldron that is Old Swinford Hospital and on a beautiful summer's day, 'pumped' the opposition by 42 points with absolutely no reply! Few teams do that in a season and so the spirits were high as the squad crossed the border into hostile territory, Wales! Brynteg School, steeped in history for producing numerous British Lions, were next on the agenda for Solihull School, who had produced the 'Irish Bear!' Another confident display of clinical rugby witnessed The Fifteen punish our Welsh opposition by 39 – 14. Things were moving along nicely on the chuckle bus.

The next couple of months would be extremely tough and lessons would be learnt, all of which made the players even better. King's School Worcester was a game that slipped through the fingers. Indiscretions and perhaps slight lack of belief: a first loss at 20-13. But no chance of Worcester doing the double as The Fifteen stamped their authority upon RGS with a well earned 27-17 score line. Smiles were back on faces and this was still the case following a 33-10 defeat at the hands of Stowe/Northampton Saints Academy as this was one of those lessons.

Leading into our Natwest Cup campaign, we played a spirited but young Northampton School for Boys. It was a great game for all to watch with end-to-end champagne rugby. Allez allez!! Solihull won 37 – 28 and it had been a perfect work-out to 'flex the guns'. In round 3 of the cup, we travelled to King Henry VIII Coventry...flash backs! With a youthful team we experimented and won the game 25-72. New blood had been introduced and all knew it was a worthwhile exercise.

The Fifteen's league campaign pitched us against Bromsgrove, some people's favourites to win the Natwest Cup. The players battled hard, but the ferocity of our opposition was too hot to handle, especially at the dreaded break-down. A loss of 27-0 was a hard pill to swallow but had toughened a few players. This was clear to see at St Peter's Gloucester where, in typical 'Gloucester Shed' style, everything was thrown at us, including the odd fist. Not a step was taken back and unfortunately some were shown the 'Ace of Spades'. True character was shown by all as massive pressure was thrown upon us, to finish victorious 18-22! A hobbling skipper was chuffed with his crew! Over half-term 'holiday', The Fifteen attended the St Joseph's Festival. Hearts big... opportunity great ... bridge too far ... injuries struck! That was the holiday.

After half-term, we bounced in to a whirlwind that was Bromsgrove; Round 4 of the Natwest Cup. Our game plan of using the line-out worked so well leading in to half time with a 12-0 advantage. However, for 5 minutes prior to the break and 15 minutes after, The Fifteen were blown away by some of the best school boy rugby seen. There was nothing we could do but spectate: end result was defeat by 61-17.

But they always say beware of a wounded beast. The next 7 matches saw 7 victories. Scalps along the way included Ellesmere College, King Edward's Birmingham, Nottingham High School and Adam's GS to name a few. Two other



matches which stood out were Trent College (after an absolutely brutal 70 minutes, which resembled Rocky v Ivan Drago, James Hart stepped up to take a conversion from the right hand touch line to win ... he nailed it ... win 10-12) and The King's School Macclesfield match. Again, this had a health warning sign as the players showed complete disregard for their own safety and an absolute desire to claim the 'W'. They did win through this war of attrition 10-7.

Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester was a game in which some naive decisions were made on a day when this was the key. But nevertheless our next trip was to play RGS High Wycombe on a surface that suited our expansive style of play and rush defence. It was an awesome encounter in which we strangled the opposition and starved them of the ball. Another game to put in the memory bank with a 10-13 victory ... loved it ... they didn't! Both Bablake and Leicester GS struggled somewhat with our fire power as we romped away with 2 wins, 65-5 and 29-5 respectively. And then to the match I would imagine everybody had been looking forward to: The Old Boys XV, class of 2013/14. Some would say I'm bitter: they won 15-18. Well done! Hail Judas!

2014/15 saw the end of an era with Mr Hifle (The Bear) stepping down from 1st XV rugby to look after the U13s. His legendary status amongst the players is clear to see and he will be missed. The attitude of 'play hard on and off the field' will remain. I would personally like to thank him for all the time, blood, sweat and tears he has given the 1st XV over the years – cheers bud!

Thank you to Luke for his Captaincy and to all of the players for sticking to the task at hand. A gruelling campaign which saw The Fifteen achieve a 64% win rate.

Mr S Thompson

2nd XV

P17 W11 L6 PF 271 PA 201

Returning from the successful Tour to South Africa and looking forward to a season of playing hard competitive rugby, there was a genuine air of expectancy and an overwhelming desire from the battle-hardened stags of the Upper Sixth – especially Messrs Lankester, Stansfield, Mackie, Sharpe and Haynes – to pass on the never say die attitude of the 2nd XV to the young pups in the shape of Chris Clay, Aled Phillips, Matt Gibbons, Adam Roberts and Frank Fogarty to name but a few.

Optimism was high, and the whole squad once again adopted the mantra of 'No retreat, No surrender, No defeat' in an almost identical manner to the 'This Is Anfield' sign as we turned Pavilion Changing Room 4 into a sacred inner sanctum of the 2ndXV where all became united in a single cause. Joe Lankester readily accepted to lead his men into battle from the work house of the second row and was ably assisted by Pete Stansfield who led the backs with passion and intelligence from the off, with neither willing to accept second best from their charges. Quotes were written, uploaded and adorned onto the bare walls to provide the sense of belonging.

The old enemy Old Swinford Hospital provided our first test with some good play between forwards and backs, resulting in a dominant 45-5 victory. However, the bubble of optimism was soon burst in our mid-week encounter against the Welsh and Lions production factory that is Brynteg School where we succumbed to a disappointing 15-35 defeat followed by a close defeat to King's Worcester.

Desperate to get back on track, the game against RGS Worcester was a must win encounter and in reflection this was perhaps one of our best games. The tightness of the squad huddle on the pitch and the steely determination set the tone for the belligerence, focus and determination that was to serve us well throughout the rest of the season. Indeed, the ferocity of the tackling and sheer will to win laid the foundation for the season that lay ahead as backs and forwards integrated seamlessly as the opposition was brushed aside in an emphatic 41-0 victory which is best remembered by an outrageous Oscar Haynes try which involved him running most of the length of the pitch selling dummy after dummy.

What followed was a close, hard-fought 19-17 victory against Stowe School which kept us honest and workman-like and saw the emergence of a very complementary half back pairing of Oscar and Aled Phillips, the stepping of Ross McCormack, and the guile of Matt Gibbons despite the loss of Harry Sharpe with a shoulder injury and the enforcer that was Abdullah Sheikh. A loss to Bromsgrove in tiresome circumstances was soon dismissed as we beat St Peter's Gloucester (28-23) and Ellesmere College (28-0). It was at this point that the mercurial maverick Anthony Szarmach started to show his undoubted talent and commitment to the cause and no shortage of pace either! A poor performance against King Edward's Birmingham was soon forgotten with thrilling performances against Nottingham High School (24-5) and Adams GS (28-21) but perhaps the most memorable match was against Trent College whom we defeated 24-15, having played the last 20minutes with just 13 players due to injuries in the first team and a lack of substitutes. This game also saw the introduction of Alex Holland and Ted Warner- Knowles, both of whom made a huge impact.

After Christmas there was the traditional emergence of the younger players – Daniel Lee, James Davenport, James Gordon, Charles Davies and Harry Manek-Robinson – into the starting line up and these players fittingly played major roles against Bishop Vesey's which we won 66-7 with a performance that epitomised the season – flair, passion, determination and a willingness to play 15- man rugby. The demolition of Bablake 55-0 and the final victory against a spirited Leicester Grammar School 42-7 finished things off nicely.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole squad for all their efforts throughout the season, culminating in what was a most enjoyable year. My thanks also to all the Upper Sixth boys for their commitment and expectations that were passed down to the younger players and of course to Joe and Pete for all their efforts, on and off the pitch, throughout a very demanding but ultimately successful season.

Mr M Covill

3rd XV

P5 W2 L3

The 3rd XV season this year was very much of the rollercoaster variety, losing heavily to King's Worcester at the start of the season, but then beating Warwick the next game. Again made up of a mixture of U16s and U18s, the 3rds served as a good training bed for the more senior teams. The likes of Joe Chamberlain and Mark Lawrence, who were new to Senior Level rugby, were helped by the mature heads of Ross McCormack and Frank Fogarty. Despite it being an uneven season, the win against Warwick will live long in the



U16

P13 W9 D1 L3 PF 413 PA 125

Dutifully led by Charles Davies and Benjamin Watson, Solihull U16s demonstrated their increasing maturity on the rugby field by dominating a number of teams during the regular season. Comprehensive and organised wins against The King's School, Worcester (28-3), Nottingham High School (31-0) and Bishop Vesey's (43-0) were only punctuated by a hard-fought draw away at Trent College (15-15) and losses to Bromsgrove (27-11) and The King's School, Macclesfield (32-0).

Balancing academic studies and rugby is never easy, so the way that the U16 squad threw themselves at the Sevens season was commendable. At the Warwick Sevens a little naivety in a 'winner takes all' game against Kirkham Grammar meant they had to take solace in winning the plate competition. This recovery propelled the U16 into the Rosslyn Park National Festival, where they remained undefeated after



the group stage; beating the likes of Trinity and Yarm. In the first round of the knock out stages, an alternative brand of Sevens, including a driving maul, initially caught Millfield by surprise, but the game ran away from the boys after some slick Millfield counter attacks in the second half.

After a long season, the boys finished with their heads held high and with a sense that Solihull will be dining at the top table of school rugby for the foreseeable future. Congratulations to Alistair Bevan who was invited to train with the U16 Welsh Schools squad and to Benjamin Watson, Sam Kandola, Harry Manek-Robinson, Oscar Blundell, Joe Church and Joshua Gee who all represented the 1st XV during the season. Perseverantia.

Mr T Emmet



U15

This season has been both successful, and a learning curve. We started with a great 45 – 7 victory over King's Worcester, quickly followed by a 36 - 12 win over a physical RGS Worcester.

The main focus and goal was to get to Round 5 of the NatWest Cup, but before we got there we had to beat Arden and Bablake. The Bablake game was one of the highlights of the season as everyone played very well and we, as underdogs, beat a tough opponent.

These victories got us that Round 5 clash against Warwick School. We gave them a great game and fought heroically, but our cup run came to an end.

Throughout the rest of the Christmas Term, we played well, but perhaps not well enough to consistently beat top quality opponents. However, all our hard work in the gym on Wednesday mornings paid off as we ended the term with two great wins against Adams' Grammar School and a well drilled King's Macclesfield XV.

After the Christmas break, the team enjoyed another victory over Bablake and finished the domestic 15-a-Side season with a tremendous 52 – 3 triumph over Leicester GS. Our attention then turned towards intensive training and preparation for our five Sevens Tournaments.

I am very proud of all the boys for their dedication, whether it be on the field or in the gym, and also grateful to all the coaches for giving up their time in making us a better squad.

George Armstrong (Captain), Lower Fifth



U15 Sevens

The Sevens season brought much success as we finished 3rd in the All Comers School League.

We commenced the season with an immense tournament victory at Nottingham High School, with our match against Bedford Modern being described as a 'perfect performance', winning the game 37-5. Our following outing would be to our local rivals Warwick School, where yet again, we did the badge proud, winning all our games until finally being knocked out, narrowly, in the semi-finals by Sedbergh School. With the score finishing at 17-24, and a controversial forward pass decision going against us, who knows what the outcome may have been! Perhaps under pressure to impress the home crowds back in Solihull, we clinched victory in the Plate Final; a great achievement, but it left us wanting more. With a long journey up to King's Macclesfield, we faced tough opponents, including St Joseph's College, Ipswich. Following a 'white-hot' victory over St Joseph's, we were able to reach the semi-final of one of the biggest Sevens tournaments in the North. We knew the match would be tough, and so it proved, with a narrow and heart-wrenching loss to St Ambrose College, 19-22. The following day, we journeyed south to King's Worcester's tournament – an impressive highlight being one incredible victory over Colston's School 52-12, with the opposition barely touching the ball.

Tom Serle (Sevens Captain), Lower Fifth



U15 French Tour (en Français !)

A Pâques, mon équipe de rugby et moi nous sommes allés en tournée en France. Nous sommes partis de Londres en avion pour aller à Bordeaux. Nous avons joué deux matchs, le premier contre Le Bouscat. Nous avons remporté la partie confortablement et Will Rigg a été nommé homme du match. Cette victoire nous a mis en confiance pour le deuxième match contre Salle. Le match a été très difficile et le jeu était dur avec des contacts appuyés. Cependant nous avons fait de notre mieux contre une équipe supérieure et nous avons perdu le match 10 à 25. Nous avons joué avec beaucoup de cœur et de détermination en nous avons fait honneur aux couleurs de Solihull.

Bien sûr, il n’y avait pas que le rugby ! Nous avons joué au foot sur la plage avec une sélection de l’équipe gagnante, emmenée par le capitaine Tom Serle. Très amusant !! Nous sommes aussi sortis pour les repas du soir et nous avons eu des temps libres dans la journée. Nous avons aussi joué dans un tournoi de rugby à 7 très compétitif à la fin de notre tournée incroyable. C’était un grand jour !

Au total, notre tournée a été un grand succès pour tout le monde et un grand merci à tous ceux qui ont rendu cela possible ! Merci à MM. Phillips et Morgan, et surtout à M. Jackson pour une grande saison et pour son dévouement à nous entraîner et à nous aider de mille façons.

Tom Serle, Lower Fifth



U14A

P15 W7 L8

This was a season which showed much promise. The team was strengthened by the arrival of three new pupils who soon made a major contribution to the team’s successes. Injuries and unavailability, however, took their toll and we lost more games than we won which is slightly disappointing as I am convinced we could have won at least one more game. When playing at their best, the team produced some excellent free-flowing rugby. The performance of the season was the 22-15 win against RGS Worcester, a team that were unbeaten for two years.

The strength of the side lay in the centre pairing of Tom O’Hanlon and Iklaas Ahmed who were able to break through most defences and create opportunities for the wingers Ethan Stretton and James Lewis. Defensively, the midfield was difficult to penetrate and sides had to score out wide. The half backs of Harry Mitcham and Ollie Nesbitt were able to control the game and dictate the tactics used. At full back Harvey Meacham was able to use his pace to great effect in attack and defence. James Topping played in all positions to good effect and was ever-present throughout the season.

The pack was ably led by Cole Elleman who was an influential No8 and he was well supported in the back row by Dan Withington, Mohan Deo and James Lewis. In the second row Jamie Francis was our lineout expert and Oli Bevan was an extra back row forward. In the front row of the scrum Jack Hughes, Isaac Arnold and Matt Empson were aggressive in the loose and scrummaged well and supported David Hannah who hooked well during the season.

Mr N Leonard

U14B

This was a tough year for the U14B rugby squad, who came up against some well-disciplined teams selected from a much larger pool of potential players. The highlight of the season was a thrilling victory over Stowe School that showcased all that was good about the team, namely their togetherness, work-rate and commitment. Even when the chips were down, the team kept trying to play rugby in the right way, with barnstorming forward drives, the best exponent of which was Harry Wu, being a particularly effective weapon. Liam Mingo and Noah Belling deserve honourable mentions, as does Sam Shepherd who often captained the team, but all the boys who represented the U14B squad this year deserve great credit for representing the School in all weathers. Their heads never dropped and they always came back for more.

Mr P Morgan

U13

The U13s started with a tough run of fixtures. Despite losing to Bromsgrove and RGS Worcester early on in the season, the team kept their heads held high, with good results against strong opposition such as Old Swinford, King’s Worcester and King Edward’s Birmingham.

The National Cup drew near and we had a fairly easy start with a 71-0 win against Finham Park, leading to a hard-fought victory – 24-21 – against St. Edward’s C of E School. Earlier in the season we had a narrow loss to a strong RGS Worcester side by 24-21, who were our next opponents in Round 5 of

the National Cup. The game started off very well, with Solihull nearly scoring straight away, but unfortunately the ball was held up on the line. RGS put the first score on the board with a quick penalty, but missed the kick. Shortly afterwards, Daniel Gaffney scored a try right under the posts, which was converted by kicker Jack Talbot, to make it 7-5 to Solihull. The team went into the changing rooms at half time knowing the next half would be the hardest half we have ever played, with the winners battling for a place in the quarter-finals. RGS started off the second half scoring but missing the kick to make it 7-10. Soon after, RGS did the same again, following some tired defending from Solihull. Ten minutes were left on the clock and the Solihull forwards were on top, with ‘pick and go’ being ordered by the coaches, eventually leading to Mitchell Reeve driving the ball over and the conversion made, to make it 15-14 to RGS. The final whistle went and Solihull had lost by one point. Although the team lost, we learnt a lot from a very strong RGS Worcester side and hope to use these advantages to come storming through the U14 season ahead! The B-team did very well for a win against King’s School Macclesfield.

The Sevens season went well and the highlight was winning our own Solihull Festival. We beat a strong side from Wales (St. John’s) in the semi-finals, then in a tough final, convincingly beat our old rivals Bishop Vesey’s.

Congratulations to Mitchell Reeve, Charlie McGrellis, Guy Tomlinson and Jack Talbot for reaching Greater Birmingham U13 County. Mitchell Reeve and Daniel Gaffney won a place in the Midlands Lambs U13, with Mitchell Reeve being selected for England Lambs U13’s tour of Dublin.

Thanks go to Mr Jenkinson, our regular coach, for all the encouragement, Mr Bishop for coaching the B-team and all the spectators for watching. Let’s look forward to next season!

Mitchell Reeve, Captain

U12A

P13 W8 D1 L4

The U12A XV had a good season as they went from strength to strength. The work ethic amongst the boys was a pleasure to see and a number of new talents were exposed. The first half-term saw plenty of endeavour and commitment but we were let down at crucial times through poor decision making under pressure, causing us to make silly errors and we lost the first three games on the back of this. Having learnt our lessons we became fitter, stronger and smarter and as the team became more settled, the strength of the forwards became more apparent and started to secure more quality possession, producing quick ruck balls that improved the effectiveness of our back line. We won the next six games with notable victories against Nottingham High School 34-5 and Pates 41-5. This showed how far we had progressed with the technical side of the game, especially with the emergence of a better-drilled defence.

Many thanks to all those players who played regularly for the A-team for their commitment, hard work and above all, their enthusiasm for training and playing. It was an enjoyable season and the students were a pleasure to work with.

Mr S Hifle and Mr S Thompson



Girls’ Hockey - 1st XI

The girls this year have put in a lot of effort and determination to make this season one of the best. We started the year slowly with a few matches resulting in a narrow loss or draw. However, from the beginning of October we had finally settled in and brought our A-game. With a couple victories against RGS Worcester and King Edward’s High School, we were prepared for our county tournament. This proved to be a successful year as we fought through, coming out top in the group. This qualified us for the regional round which was held on our home pitch. In a strong spell over Christmas we had our sights set on going through the tournament to the national rounds. However, with a tough group of schools such as Malvern College and Princethorpe, we had a very tense deciding game that unfortunately we lost in the last few minutes. As a result we came third, just missing out on going through to the next round.

However, this tournament did not knock our confidence and we went on to win all of our remaining matches for the season, keeping the strength and team spirits high. The overall results of the 1st team season were 8 wins, 2 draws, and 7 losses. Big thanks go to Miss Berns, Miss Walton, Mrs Fair and Miss Wilcox for all their help over the year. We really appreciate what you have done for the team this season. You have devoted so much time and effort into making both teams a successful and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Team: Laura Daglish - captain

Lottie Harland - vice captain

Sophie Fowler, Bea Cowley, Lydia Jackson, Lydia Jones-Brown, Harriet Marshall, Nakita Basra, Alex Levey, Jess Lawton, Aimee Skidmore, Ella Talbot, Rachel Hedley, Becca Hicks, Katie Craddock, Emma Whitfield, Jessie Lloyd



2nd XI

P10 W3 D3 L4

It has been a mixed season for the 2nd XI, but with many matches being played against some 1st teams, the girls did really well overall. There was a tough 2-0 loss away, against a strong Denstone College 2nd XI team, however the girls played brilliantly and the heroics of Cait Casey in goal meant that we came quite close to drawing the match. Tougher games like this were important for the team to play in and it gave the girls a real test. Highlights of the season would include an

excellent 3-0 win against Princethorpe College, as well as a terrific team performance against King Edward VI High School, culminating in a 3-1 win. It was in matches such as these that the girls really showed what they were made of and played some great attacking hockey. Defensively, the team did well all season; Cait Casey has already been mentioned, however she continued to make excellent progress throughout the season and her communication to her back line improved with every match. The back four improved their defensive positioning during the season and provided good shape for the team to move forward. Ella Talbot had a great season in midfield and she thoroughly deserved her time playing up in the 1st XI. In attacking terms, we created a number of great opportunities, however we need to work on finishing and ensuring that we convert chances more often.

The team was mostly made up of Upper Fifth pupils, who all showed great dedication, energy and enthusiasm and should push for 1st XI places next season. Amy Parry and Caroline Camm showed excellent leadership on the pitch as Upper Sixth students, and the likes of Leticia Salmon in the Lower Sixth showed energy and commitment throughout the season. A number of Upper Fifth pupils had excellent seasons and special mention should go to Maxine Perroni-Scharf who not only played in a number of different positions, but always displayed the most incredible work rate. We will also miss the midfield dynamo Rachel Hedley and speedy forward Hannah Quibell next year who both leave us for pastures new- well done both and good luck!

Well done to all those involved in the 2nd XI this season. We lost some players to injury during the season, however the team stuck together and made some excellent progress. Many thanks to Miss Berns for taking the training sessions on a Monday.

Mrs H Fair



U15

P14 W7 D3 L4

The team had a shaky start to the season, with some losses against the likes of RGS Worcester and a narrow defeat at the hands of Princethorpe College. After this slow start, the team picked themselves up and went on to win a number of excellent matches. Highlights would include a convincing 5-0 win against King Henry VIII School Coventry and a hard fought 2-1 win against Bablake. The team won a number of Solihull League matches, however were pipped to the post by St Martin’s. Throughout the season the girls played some super hockey though, with the back four becoming increasingly more game aware. The midfield and forwards created numerous chances throughout and set pieces such as short corners continued to improve. With many additional chances to get out on the pitch (such as the Friday lunchtime practice) the girls have ample opportunities to continue to develop individual skills and set pieces next season as well.

The U15 have been a committed side and attendance at training has been excellent all year. We missed a couple of players due to injury and hope that the likes of Ellie Fetherstone will be back playing next season. Throughout the season the team has been ably led on the pitch by Alex Marshall. She has made excellent progress throughout the year and has proved herself to be a vital part of the team’s defence. The same should be said for Mary Davies, who has made terrific steps playing in goal and should set her sights high next year. Playing for Club teams has certainly helped a number of players in the U15 team, as the extra time on the pitch and competing with older players has all helped them to make superb progress. Other players such as Clara Miles and Georgia Brown have also done very well this season and should be congratulated on not only playing in senior teams at School, but also going on to play representative hockey

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for JHFC and JDC respectively. Both have scored key goals for the team and should continue to push themselves next season.

The U15 team are a talented side and show great potential. With further hard work in training they will undoubtedly continue to make great progress through the senior teams at School. Attitude to training and listening to feedback will be key though. In the words of the great Vince Lombardi: ‘Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect’.

Well done to all the girls who played this season and very best of luck with senior hockey next year.

Mrs H Fair


U14

The year began with excitement and high hopes to build upon our successes at U13. Our highlight came early in the season when we won the County Tournament . We sailed confidently into the final against King Edward VI High School, but this soon became a nail-biting match. Within the first few minutes they scored, yet we remained determined, fought back and won 2-1. This was a huge boost to team morale and everyone was incredibly happy and optimistic . As a result of winning this tournament we progressed to a regional competition, but unfortunately we were suitably challenged and didn’t manage to progress past the first ‘pools’. It was a great learning experience for us to witness some impressive play by other teams.

During the season, individual skill levels continued to improve and we developed our positional awareness, with many of the squad being able to play in several different positions. Overall, we won 9 matches and lost 3, scoring 36 goals. The most memorable match was beating Arden 10-0.

Thank you to all the staff for their help and encouragement and well done to the team. Congratulations to Georgie Dalby, Phoebe Harland and Sofia Cusack who were selected to play for Warwickshire and good luck to Sofia in the Junior Regional Performance Squad for next season.

Phoebe Harland, Fourth Form



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U13

This year the U13 hockey A-team has worked very hard and persevered right to the end. We won 4 matches and drew 3 out of a total of 10. We had a shaky start, losing a few matches to some tough teams, but soon our training sessions started to kick in and we had two close draws against Princethorpe and our close rivals St Martin’s. Soon after we won 3-0 at King Henry VIII School and drew 0-0 against Wolverhampton Grammar. The next few matches were cancelled, due to the Great British weather. However we came back with a flying start, beating St Martin’s 1-0, with a late second half goal. We then took victory over St Peter’s before coming second in our County tournament. This made sure we got through to the highlight of our season, the Midland Regional tournament. We played well and ended the season in good spirits. I am sure we will go into next season well prepared and ready to win some more matches.

Libby Shepherd, Shell Form

U12

We began the season as a newly formed 7-a-side team. Unfortunately we lost our first game against King’s Worcester but by the next game we had settled into our stride and we had bonded as a team. We played together and we won our next three games: 5-1 against Bablake, 5-0 against Princethorpe and 13-0 against King Henry VIII School, Coventry. The season continued with us all training hard and by the end of the season we had won 7 matches, lost 2 and drew 2.

We played in a tournament hosted by King Edward’s Birmingham in early March. We won or drew all our games and got through to the final. The final was against St Martin’s and the end result was a draw. Unfortunately, St Martin’s won the tournament on goal difference. We were second, but we had gained a place in the regionals in April.


In April we headed off to Cannock to play in the regionals. The whole team played extremely well and we had some tough matches against some good schools. We lost a few games closely with goals scored against us in the last few seconds, but we ended on a winning streak. We missed out on the next round by 1 point but we were placed third in our pool. It was a good result and we had worked hard to earn it.

At the end of the season we had our first 11-a-side match against St Martin’s. We all enjoyed playing with more players on a bigger pitch. We won the game 2-0 and finished the season on a high.

The B-team had an equally fantastic season, with all players improving as the year went on. They won a total of 7 matches and lost 2. Over the year, we all progressed very far and we look forward to playing 11-a-side next year. We would like to thank our coaches for the time they have put in to teach us and the parents for being fantastic supporters.

This year our A-team squad has consisted of:
India Armstrong, Emily Baker, Bethan Bown (Cap), Annabel Dalby, Nicole Dann, Louise Green, Zara Houghton, Georgia Jones, Louisa Miles, Hanaan Welch.

Bethan Bown, Third Form



Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

P 29 W 15 D5 L9

The 1st XI had a good season. The team scored 73 goals and conceded 36. There were 13 different goal scorers: David Clarke top scored with 17 (all of which came from open play) and Joseph Price was not far behind on 15. Following on from the previous season, demands were thrust upon the players in term of tactics and having a good understanding of the game. It was decided that we needed to try and keep the game at a high tempo and have a very high work rate in both attack and defence. To do this, we used a squad of 16 on match days, rotating the players at regular intervals. This enabled us to keep the players fresh by giving them plenty of rest. We competed in every fixture and in the ones that we did not win, we lost by just one goal on all but one occasion.

The season started at the end of August with two days of training at Cannock Hockey Club. We then played in the Bill Buttle tournament at King Edward’s, Birmingham two days later. This was a great way to start the campaign and meant that we hit the ground running for the start of the fixtures. Early season form saw us achieve a string of good wins, the pick of the bunch being the 5-0 win over Bromsgrove. This was followed by two fiercely fought contests with Repton 1-2 and KES Birmingham 3-4. In both matches we showed too much respect to the opposition at the start of the games. Only once we were several goals down did we come out of our shells and show what we were capable of. I do believe that these losses did in fact give us confidence going into the remaining fixtures of the term. Good wins over King’s Macclesfield and King’s Chester set us up nicely for our 1st round tie in the National Cup Competition at Repton. Facing Repton on their home pitch was going to be a tough task. We wanted to keep the game tight and try to be in touching distance with ten minutes



to go. The team fought bravely, stuck to the game plan and we found ourselves 1-2 down with 5 minutes to go. A great chance presented itself to us but on this occasion we were unable to take it. We knew that it was going to be tough to win at Repton; we knew we needed to be at our best. We were very disappointed not to win but we were proud that we had been able to run a team of their calibre so close.

The first two post-Christmas fixtures were drawn, both from winning positions. We were disappointed to squander leads and this was probably down to being rusty. A rethink is needed for future seasons as to what we do in the Christmas break.

Bad weather and opposition cancelling fixtures for one reason or another, meant that the first half of the term was very stop start. This was not good preparation for our 1st Round National Plate fixture at Loughborough. We started badly and struggled to come to terms with the pitch. We went a goal behind but scored immediately to level the game at half time. Eventually we got to grips with the surface and took control of the 2nd half. Unfortunately, we could not take any of the chances that were created. This meant a penalty shoot out in which we failed to score!

The remainder of the term saw good wins and performances over Bloxham, Bablake, Princethorpe and Bishop Vesey's, a disappointing loss against Sandbach and a hard-fought draw with Warwick. The pick of these fixtures was the win over Bishop Vesey's, in which David Clarke hit the winner on the backhand from a tight angle with one second left.

The end of the season saw us compete at the Bath Festival. This was a fantastic way for the team to complete their season and for the Upper Sixth boys to finish their hockey careers at the School. It was a successful tour with 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss to a very good South African school. The playing kit for the tour was all orange and was arranged by Philip Wreford.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leavers – Joseph Price, Edward Bowen, Philip Wreford, Richard Bradley, Christopher Barker, Nicolas Starkey, Jack Hines, David Clarke and Thomas Vale – for all that they have done for hockey at the School. I do hope that they will look back at their time playing hockey for Solihull School with great fondness and that they do continue to play at university. I think that this set of players has achieved a great deal and have probably had the greatest improvement from Third Form to Upper Sixth of any year group before them. They have been a credit to themselves and to the School and I will miss them. For the players that remain, as ever the challenge ahead will be great.

Christopher Barker was captain of the team. Philip Wreford, Richard Bradley, Christopher Barker, Nicolas Starkey and David Clarke were awarded full School colours. Thank you to Mr Montieri, Miss Walton and Mr Babb for their help in the running of the team.

Finally, I would like to thank the players for their efforts and for making it a very enjoyable and rewarding season.

Mr C Mayer

2nd XI

P22 W13 D3 L6

This was a frustrating season as the team often only played to their full potential for half a match and then lost focus. When playing at their best, they produced some excellent hockey. The best performance was probably drawing against King Edward's, Birmingham after losing 7-2 in the first match when the defensive effort was outstanding.

In goal, Tom Clayton-Wright made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled his defence with aplomb. Ed Bates and Sam Orme defended very well throughout the season, ably assisted by Matt Deakin, Vickneswaran Sarveswaran and Harry Goodworth. In central midfield Ben Northam and Philip Blenkinsop were very influential players and they were ably supported by Luke Kent, Max Angelides and Dave Thomas on the flanks.

Added to this group of players in attack were Fraser Waddell, Charlie Osborne, James Hurt, Conor Gregory and Oliver Daniels all of whom certainly tested the opposition defence. Matt Rice spearheaded the attack and scored many goals from a couple of yards. Well done to all who played.

Mr N Leonard

3rd XI

The 3rd team has had a good season overall this year. The season started well with an impressive 4-0 win over Queen Mary's and six other wins followed in a strong first term. Particular highlights included an 11-0 hammering of Bablake and a 2-1 league win over King Edward's, Birmingham (our first in a couple of seasons). Unfortunately, after Christmas we suffered the usual problems with availability and our consistency was also affected. This meant that we could only add another three wins in the 2nd half of the season and we finished with a record of 10 wins, 2 draws and 9 losses from our 21 games.

We had a very young team this year and often over half the team was made up from pupils in the Upper Fifth. Hopefully though there will be a few that will manage to stake a claim for a 2nd spot next year and maybe even a 1st team spot by the time they leave the School. The team benefited from having an experienced defence including Ben Davidson, Tom Gill and Jack Berry, with Eamon Martin and Jack Davidson also impressing wherever they played. Jack Martin had some impressive games in goal but I'm sure he will be keen to improve his consistency so that he can compete for the 2nd team spot next year. The midfield was marshalled well by Fahd Janjua and Max Richmond, and David Thomas's energy impressed so much that he was called up to the 2nd team. Andy Hooper captained the side well from the front and Charlie Thompson deputised for him whenever he was absent. Ollie Daniels's pace proved a good weapon up front and the Upper Fifth trio of Jayant Kumar, Connor Green and Harvey Wilson impressed with their versatility.

All who played this year have impressed with their enthusiasm and improving technical skill and hopefully those leaving us this year will continue to play when they get to university. It would also be good to see some of the younger players really push for a spot in the higher teams next year.

Mr D Brough

U15

As ever, the A-team's season began with the traditional, gentle warm-up game against King Edward's School – always a nice, easy way to transition from close-season slumber into new-season action. Although by no means the worst performance or result in this fixture over recent seasons, there weren't many positives to be taken from the 1-7 loss suffered, other than Ramyank Chaganty opening his scoring account for the season and a little solace in the knowledge that our opposition had already had some pre-season action to blow away their cobwebs.

The next fixture saw a significant improvement in performance, if not result, as we battled against a physical Nunnery Wood side but, unfortunately, Elliot Morter's strike was rendered insufficient thanks to defensive errors that yielded two soft goals.

The first league match of the season was against Warwick and, after taking the lead through Fin Blake's conversion of our only chance – indeed, possibly our only foray into the enemy area – of the first half, nascent optimism of a shock result was felt. However, Warwick proved to be strong opposition and despite some heroic physical efforts we weren't able to hold out indefinitely, eventually conceding an equaliser and then two late goals to lose 1-3. If the end result was disappointing, and arguably a little harsh, the heart shown by the side was impressive.

The final game before half term was a home fixture against the always unpredictable Princethorpe College. Due to clashing commitments, Mr Anderton took the reins for this battle and oversaw an impressive performance and a fine 4-2 win. Of course, a little of his acclaim for presiding over our first A-team victory was lost by not recording the scorers' names...

After half term, and with myself back in charge, it seemed that normal service had been resumed as we lost the league fixture against KES 0-2. With Mr Anderton having also been in sole charge for the B-team's only victory so far (more of that later), some of the boys were beginning to wonder – a little too vocally, frankly – if it was their coach that was the jinx. A lesser man might have wavered in his conviction but, soldiering on optimistically, reward finally came on 27 November with a fine performance against a strong Lawrence Sheriff side. Everyone played with commitment and determination in a gritty, physical match where Fin Blake's excellent individual strike and Lukas Moment's heart-in-mouth, first-time, reverse-stick strike when through one-on-one with the keeper gave us a comfortable looking 2-0 result which in no way relates the difficulty or closeness of the match.

That match seemed to mark a turning point in the side's self-confidence and opened the way for much stronger performances, characterised by some really pleasing personal and team development. It also, of course, shattered the jinx-coach myth and opened the way for a few more victories that didn't rely on Mr Anderton's sorcery.

In fact, the rest of term was jolly good fun with a 3-0 victory over Loughborough (Dan Hofton and James Cusack getting their first goals), a tight 0-1 loss to Bishop Vesey's and back-to-back wins over Adams Grammar (1-0, Adam Beaumont – perhaps aptly – scoring the goal) and King Henry VIII Coventry (5-1, most notable for Amar Dosanjh's hat-trick) to show for our efforts.

The second term proved a mixed affair, with a large number of fixtures cancelled due to unreliable opposition, which didn't

help with maintaining progress. Nevertheless, performances continued to improve, against some tough opposition too, and some more excellent results were earned beginning with a pleasing result against Nunnery Wood in the away fixture. Thanks to Josh Crampton's goal and the Solihull umpire (identity undisclosed) completely missing what should have been a clear penalty for Nunnery Wood we returned 1-0 winners and, despite the umpiring error, probably deservedly so on performance.

Thanks to the cancellations we played only two more matches before half term, beating Newcastle-under-Lyme comfortably, 4-0, in the ever-popular annual Saturday morning fixture at Cannock, and losing 1-2 to Princethorpe in the league match. After half term, we played a tough match against Magdalen College School, in which we performed admirably but succumbed 0-1 which was followed swiftly by the second of the beloved Saturday morning fixtures against Warwick School. With a number of players already unavailable and let down by no-shows, we struggled against a strong Warwick side and lost by a disappointing eight goals to one.

Bouncing back quickly, we then registered our third league victory in the final league game of the season, beating King Henry's 2-1, before ending the season with the long away trip to Repton. Undoubtedly the strongest side we face (they're not frequent National Champions for nothing) we were outclassed but not outplayed and we battled with tremendous bravery – a number of players making their best performances of the season – putting on a display that deserved more than the Repton-flattering 0-4 result.

Of course, the Repton game wasn't meant to be the final game but we probably shouldn't dwell on the forty-five minutes that four experienced coaches and their respective Solihull and Bablake teams spent trying to get the padlock at Hampton's pitch open before finally declaring the match abandoned... In a season where the word 'draw' was unheard of, we suffered some heavy defeats but also earned some fine wins and it has been extraordinarily pleasing to watch the individual progress that the squad members have made. Without doubt, no Under 15 team in the last decade has shown more heart and enthusiasm than this side and, at times, that alone can win games.

So, what of the aforementioned B-team? As you might expect from a team comprising members of the same squad the season's story has many similarities to the A-team's: it began with a chastening 0-9 result against King Edward's Birmingham, the first victory was presided over by Mr Anderton (an epic 4-3 battle against King Edward's Stratford, in which Tom Loughran (2), Matthew Roberts and Gajan Ganeshalingam scored the goals) and the season was characterised by great commitment on the field of play and pleasing personal development.

How was it different, then? Well, for a start the B-team did actually draw a game (0-0 in the second fixture against KES Stratford) and I didn't manage to see them win a game. In fact, after the Anderton-inspired win in the second match, no-one else did. And no one else saw a goal either, as those four goals were the only ones scored all season. Which, along with availability leading to an ever-changing team line-up, makes the positivity and enthusiasm of the B-team all the more extraordinary and delightful.

Whilst the Under 15 record overall may be less than stellar, it doesn't really tell the story of a season of great progress and tremendous satisfaction for both sides.

Special mention and thanks must go to A-team Captain and Vice-Captain, Fin Blake and Adam Beaumont, and B-team Captain, Luke Bryant, for all their hard work and help and, of course, to Mr Anderton for his talismanic presence. I wish all those players who are continuing next year the very best of success as they embark upon their careers in the Senior Hockey teams.

Mr M Babb

U14A

P21 W9 D4 L8

The season started slowly for the U14A team in terms of results and performances. As the season progressed, the team made great strides by improvements in individual play as well as team play. The work rate increased dramatically too, which helped us to be more competitive and positive results stemmed from this. We also tried players in different positions and found this to be of benefit. Harvey Meacham moved to centre forward, Liam Mingo into midfield, Moiz Sandhu into centre midfield, Max Brown and Thomas Day formed a very good central defence pairing and Thomas Williams appeared to be comfortable at right half. The team acquitted themselves well against the likes of Dean Close and King Edward's, Birmingham, and managed to record great wins over Bloxham (2-1), MCS Oxford (2-1) and Loughborough GS (8-1).

Max Brown was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Brough who assisted me in the running of this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U14B

It was a short season for the B-team, with only 2 games possible before Christmas. The team kicked off with a 5-0 win against Arden and there were a lot of promising signs, with the passing and energy levels impressing. Unfortunately, after that, despite some very close games and further improvement in technique, the side were unable to claim another win.

There were a few tough losses in the 2nd half of the season but it was good to see that the players always stuck together and their enthusiasm for the game never wavered. More focus on individual skills at training will be important for them to improve their games further and it would be nice to see more of the squad compete harder for an A-team spot next year.

Mr D Brough

U13A

P16 W9 D3 L4

The U13A team had a good season, and there was commitment from the squad towards both training and matches. Their enthusiasm for the game was reflected in their performances, whereby individual skills improved and confidence to use them grew during the course of the season. Improvement was also seen in the type of hockey played: many a move was witnessed with the ball being moved around the backline, into midfield and then into the forwards. An area to focus on for next season is having a good work rate across the team at all times in the match.

There were fantastic wins against Loughborough GS (2-1) and Warwick (1-0), both of whom were very strong opposition. The

drawn matches with King Edward's, Birmingham, Bromsgrove and Foremarke Hall were all thrillers. The game with Foremarke Hall was of a very high quality from both teams.

Fergus Roll was captain of the team and thanks must go to Mr Montieri who helped to run the team.

U13B

P10 W2 L8

The U13B team played the vast majority of their matches after Christmas. Throughout the season there was a good attendance at training; players were committed, willing to learn and played with enthusiasm. Due to clashes with rugby, many of the players that had to step up to play for the A-team acquitted themselves well. There were good wins over Warwick and Arnold Lodge. The other fixtures saw us work hard on improving our shape, our understanding of the game and our skills.

The team was captained by Max Penney and thanks must go to Mr Leonard and Miss Black who both helped to run the team.

Mr C Mayer

U12

A-team: P21 W7 D6 L8

B-team: P6 W1 D1 L4

This was a season which showed the team have much potential. The best performance was against King Edward's, Birmingham when the hockey played was outstanding and we were able to win 4-1. The team had a strong spine starting with John Abram in goal who made some fantastic saves during the season. Oscar Montgomery and Miles Humphrey defended very well throughout the season. In midfield, Woody Pugh and Jacob Gordon were very influential players and in attack, Adam Visram-Cipolletta was always threatening to score.

Added to this group of players in attack were Oscar Ratledge, Luke Horgan and Marcus Osborne, who certainly tested the opposition defence. Flynn O'Connor and Dylan Bryant combined really well with the central players and dominated the midfield. In defence Harrison Batchelor and Yann Belling were very difficult to get past.

The B-team also had some success this season and many players were selected during the season. All played well and hopefully learnt many new skills due to the coaching they received.

Mr N Leonard

Cricket - The 1st XI

The 2015 season proved to be very successful once again.

The 1st XI, despite losing several key players at the end of the 2014 season, had a successful campaign culminating in a last over victory against Monmouth in the 2-day fixture and winning the Hugh Cherry County Cup Final.

Captained by Will Talbot-Davies, we saw the emergence of a new generation of senior cricketers; notably Fahd Janjua, Will Rigg and Ethan Brookes, who stepped up to replace those who had left. Other senior players – Joseph Lankester, Richard Bradley, James Hart and James Newman – all had good final seasons.

After a long winter in the indoor nets, the team started the season with a short pre-season tour to Taunton, playing against King's Taunton and Wellington School. This was the ideal preparation and an opportunity for the boys to experience a master class bowling session by one of the country's leading bowling and S&C coaches, Steffan Jones.

However, despite some encouraging performances, the season started slowly with early defeats against King's Worcester and Warwick. But after an impressive win against the MCCC, led by the captain who recorded his highest score of the season (97 not out), the team started to grow in confidence and began to play some good cricket. More wins soon followed, but it was the win away at Nottingham High School that showed the true potential of this maturing side.

Another impressive run chase, which brought victory against the Warwickshire Imps, saw Fahd Janjua and Will Rigg both score their maiden senior centuries. Janjua added a second in the 2-day game against Monmouth at the end of the cricket week, which ended in a thrilling 1-wicket win.

The batting was led mainly by Talbot-Davies, Janjua and Rigg who all scored well over 400 runs and they were well supported by Hart and Lankester. Whilst the bowling attack was led once again by Talbot- Davies, the leading wicket taker was Bradley.

During the season we saw the emergence of a couple of talented young players. Adam Beaumont, who stepped up to don the gloves, kept admirably and showed a lot of improvement throughout, whilst the highly talented Ethan Brookes (who for most of the season played aged just 13)

showed us the quality that he possesses. Both, I'm sure, would have benefited from playing with senior cricketers who are more experienced, as well as being physically and mentally more mature. I am certain that they will both be very successful and play a major role at senior level in years to come.

I would like to thank all of the squad who played for their support and efforts during the season and I would also like to wish the senior lads who are leaving the School, the best of luck for their future cricketing careers.

Mr D Maddy

2nd XI

P6 W2 L4

This was a short season due to exam commitments and weather disruption. The team were ably led by Will Cutbill who captained with great enthusiasm, and the School was always able to field a team. The best performance was the win against Warwick by 11 runs. Solihull batted first and posted a score of 169 for 8 (McStay 40, Haynes 37, Cutbill 26). After losing an early wicket, Warwick managed to score over the run rate required with a good 2nd wicket partnership of 99 runs. It looked as though they were coasting to victory but then with some excellent bowling from Matt Rice (6 overs, 5 wkts for 21 runs) and superb team fielding, they eventually finished on 158 for 9.

The fielding was often good during the season with only the occasional lack of concentration. The encouragement for the bowler was excellent. Catch of the season was by Stefan Gnyla against Old Swinford Hospital when he caught a steeppling catch, on the run, on the long on boundary. Top scoring batsmen were Liam McStay with 126 runs, with a highest score of 72 against Old Swinford, and Bradley Monk who scored 56 against RGS Worcester. Others who scored well were Oscar Haynes and Charlie Morgan who hit the biggest 6 of the season against King Edward's, Birmingham. Of the bowlers, Matt Rice took 5 wickets for 21 against Warwick, James Hall 3 for 38 against KES, Charlie Morgan 3 for 22 against RGS Worcester, and Tom Mitchell 3 for 12 against Bromsgrove. Will Cutbill bowled consistently well but with little reward over the season. Well done to the whole squad.

Mr N Leonard

U15A

The U15 Cricket team enjoyed a very successful season under the leadership of Arthur Townend. They reached the finals of the County T20 cup, as well as the Solihull Six-a-Side competition. On both occasions they were defeated by a stronger Warwick side. Nevertheless, on reaching those respective finals, the boys showed tremendous skill and strength of character as they battled through the early rounds. There were a number of individual highlights including Tom Serle's 51 against Bishop Vesey's and Matthew Bond's 58 against Nottingham High School.

Arthur Townend led from the front scoring an impressive 69 against Old Swinford Hospital, as well as capturing a five wicket haul against Trent College. Despite being on 1st team duty for most of the season, the talented William Rigg still managed to amass an impressive number of runs for the U15s, scoring 147 against RGS Worcester and 125 not out against King Edward's Birmingham.

Mr S Hart

U15B

The U15B cricket team this year was ably led by Finley Blake, who put a lot of effort into helping me organise the teams. Thanks also go to Benedict Harding, who always picked up our packed lunches – these little things matter when you are running a team! The season was tough, but all the boys who represented the School did themselves proud – team spirit was always excellent, with plenty of encouragement for the bowler and lots of good fielding. We played against strong teams, and while results were not always favourable, there were many strong performances, particularly from Finley Blake with the bat and Jake Evans with the ball. This was an enjoyable team with which to work and I wish them all success in the future.

Mr P Morgan



U14A

P 18 W 10 L 8

The U14A cricket squad had a very successful season by winning the inaugural Solihull School 6-a-side Tournament and being crowned County Champions. The latter provides passage to the national competition which is played when the team is in the U15 age group. The team started the season off slowly, but on the back of hard work and commitment, things improved greatly. The team defeated Warwick in the County Cup Final, in what proved to be a very close and tense affair. Set 114 to win after a superb bowling display, we started off badly by losing Ethan Brookes and Oliver Bevan early, both to run outs. It was left to Ikhlalas Ahmed (60) and Oliver Nesbitt (16) to steady the ship and take us close to the winning target. Three late wickets saw us stumble as we approached the finish line and it was left to Harvey Meacham to hit the winning runs with a four over extra cover.

The team played superbly throughout the Solihull School 6-a-side tournament and were deserved winners, defeating Wolverhampton Grammar School in the final. It was a great day and it was enjoyed by all.

An area of strength throughout the season was bowling, with many players chipping in with very useful spells. Ikhlalas Ahmed was leading wicket taker with 12 wickets at an average of 15.25. Oliver Nesbitt got 10 wickets, Oliver Bevan 9, Ethan Brookes 8 and Harry Mitcham, Hamza Nazar, Zakariya Saleem and Moiz Sandhu all achieved 7 wickets for the season.

Our batting was less consistent but there were many excellent individual performances. Ethan Brookes topped the batting averages with 68.8, whilst Oliver Bevan was top run scorer with 455 runs at an average of 37.92. There was also a very useful contribution with the bat from Ikhlalas Ahmed who scored 384



runs at an average of 38.4. In total, 5 centuries were scored, 3 coming from Ethan Brookes (132 n.o. at King's Worcester, 111 n.o. versus Lawrence Sheriff and 128 versus Bishop Vesey GS) and 1 apiece from Ikhlalas Ahmed (110 at KES Birmingham) and Oliver Bevan (100 n.o. versus Lawrence Sheriff).

Oliver Nesbitt captained the team and in his absence Oliver Bevan took over the reins.

This is a team that worked hard to improve their game. The team spirit, work ethic and attitude toward the game were a joy to be part of. I wish them all the best for the 2016 season and for their quest in the ESCA national cup.

Mr C Mayer



U14B

A very short season for the B-team this year with only time for 4 matches in the busy Summer Term. Instantly, the team impressed with their keenness to play and improve technically. After a tough first game against King Edward's Birmingham, we put in some good team bowling performances with some individual highlights being Robbie Monk's 3 wickets against Warwick and Mansukh Singh's 3 wickets against Magdalen College. Unfortunately we really struggled to build partnerships when batting and so never seriously threatened the opposition scores. It is this area that I would encourage the players to keep working on if they are to progress and try to pick up wins next season.

Despite the results it was an enjoyable season and I look forward to seeing their continued improvement next year.

Mr D Brough

U13

P 14 W 10

Throughout the whole of this season the U13A team have given their all to try and win every game.

The season got off to a brilliant start as the side completed a very well-deserved win over Warwick. Winning the toss, we batted first as Fergus Roll put on 73 to post a tremendous score. With the bowling, Guy Tomlinson stepped up and took 5 wickets to knockout the Warwick force as Charlie Cook took the final wicket in a dramatic finish.

Then we hosted an eventful game against King Henry VII School. Again batting first, Matt Smith scored a fantastic 116* and Roll 84 for a partnership of over 200 runs. Then Roll cleaned up the batting line up, taking 5 of their wickets, recording another victory to put away.

As we travelled over to Nottingham, Dan Gaffney was certainly in the mood for scoring runs as he scored 53 with the rest of the team not being able to score past 10. This was recorded as one of our few losses in the season.

At Bablake, we set another tremendous total, with Roll hitting an incredible 96 runs, just falling short of his first century; something that Smith had already achieved. Another win in the book was confirmed after some tidy bowling from Will Thompson, Tom McDonagh, Fraser Blackhurst and James Morris and good wicket keeping from Sam Day.

After a long journey over to Leicester Grammar School, the side lost a tight game which we really should have won. A fine innings from Tom McDonagh who scored 73 in a 20-over match was not quite enough on the day as the rest of the team, apart from Mack Perry, couldn't quite match his big hitting.

In the six-a-side tournament, our men stepped up to the challenge winning all of our games in the group. We then faced King's Worcester, with Matt Smith achieving 2 fours from the last

two balls, not to mention Gaffney retiring 25* off 7 balls including a smashed car window! The side then dominated the final against Tudor Grange with their first medals of the year. A great tournament and great result!

Bishop Vesey's didn't come as a threat to us as Fergus Roll scored 62* and Smith scoring 66 in the first innings, securing a very well-earned win.

The semi-final of the County Cup featuring KES Birmingham (undefeated in two years) saw an outstanding finale. Dan Bevan scored a tremendous 40 alongside Alfie Blundell (30). We then set out to defend our total and achieved that well with some superb bowling from Ethan Plain, Tom Gardner and Alfie Blundell, holding their nerve to win the game on the last ball. A brilliant game and perhaps the highlight of the season.

Then the side hosted the County Cup Final against Warwick, meeting for the second time. Our bowling did not fulfil the requirements even after a tremendous comeback as Warwick finished 151 off 20 overs. Gaffney scored a very good 44, as did Blundell, not out. However, it ended in defeat by two runs: heartbreak for us as the whole tournament was a dream come true.

The U13B team cricket has also had many successes with players being selected for A-team cricket. Jack Talbot, Adam Nazarali, Jacques Barker, Jamie Morrall and Charlie McGrellis have all represented the U13A teams on Saturday. The team has performed well at training and during matches and had two great wins against Magdalen College School and Bromsgrove. Congratulations must go to Fergus Roll, earning a place in the U13 Worcestershire county A side and Matthew Smith getting a place in the U13 Warwickshire county B squad.

Both teams give great thanks to Mr Phillips, Mr Maddy, Mr Smith and, of course, Mr Bishop, who devoted a lot of their time to the squad.

Fergus Roll (Captain), Shell Form



U12A

P 12 W 9 T1 L1 A1

This has been a very enjoyable, exciting and exceptional season! Despite the cricketing world fearing a troubled season, the coaching panel dominated by Messrs Covill and Emmet cajoled, galvanised and moulded a squad that can be justifiably proud of their achievements this year.

Despite a slow and disappointing start against Warwick, the mood soon became very positive. Daniel Bevan has led from the front, not only as captain but also as a supreme wicket keeper and very dependable opening batsman. Not only was he agile behind the stumps, but in scoring over 500 runs (including 70 v King Edward's Birmingham) averaging an astonishing 57 each game, he was our leading runs scorer. He was ably supported by Ethan Plain who not only bowled brilliantly (including 4-11 v King's Worcester – one of 4 four-wicket hauls) on his way to becoming leading wicket taker (over 30 wickets) but showed he was no mug with the bat either. Alfie Blundell bowled with accuracy and pace and found his batting touch with an exceptional 82 against Bromsgrove. Jacob Gordon also made key contributions throughout the season with both the bat and ball as witnessed by his 3-11 and 56 against King Henry VIII. Woody Pugh was also a main contributor with both bat, ball and in the field as witnessed by his 4-11 against Bromsgrove and 39 against Warwick. Despite a mid-season lull in terms of performance against RGS Worcester, two cancellations and an abandonment, the season continued with victories over Bablake, Bishop Vesey's and Bromsgrove before an excellent team performance saw revenge against Warwick in the County Cup semi-final. The rest of the team have worked around these key players with Patrick Meigh proving not only to be an excellent fielder but also a dependable bowler as shown by his 3-24 against Warwick, as well as the ever enthusiastic Marcus Osborne and Ben Stockdale and the reliable and dependable Yann Belling and Oscar Ratledge.

The final act of the season was the County Cup Final against KES Birmingham. Batting first, we scored 159-4 off 20 overs (Bevan 64, Blundell 68) before reducing KES to 114-6 – thanks to some good ground fielding and Ethan Plain's 4-0-14-4 – to be crowned County Champions!

Cricket 6s

The U12 team – Dan Bevan, Alfie Blundell, Ethan Palin, Jacob Gordon, Marcus Osborne, Patrick Meigh and Ben Stockdale – won the inaugural Solihull 6s competition on Friday 5 June on a wonderfully sunny day. Group victories over Tudor Grange and Old Swinford Hospital saw a narrow semi-final win against Leicester Grammar School thanks to a fantastic last over by Ethan Plain, before a 5-wicket victory against Loughborough Grammar School. Thanks to Mr Mayer for marshalling the troops to a fine win!

U12B

P 8 W 8 L0

When Will Sargent not only volunteered to have a go at being the wicket-keeper as well as the captain, no one could predict just how he would develop in each role, nor the incredible journey he and his team were about to embark upon.

To go undefeated throughout the season against some good cricketing schools, as well as giving up players to the A-team throughout the season, shows the depth of talent in this year group. He was ably assisted by Kyle Trainer who opened the batting and also bowled with accuracy taking 3-6 v Bromsgrove. Top run scorer Luke Horgan (162) averaging 40, Dylan Bryant and Arjan Nahal all showed good ability in the field, with the bat, and with the ball, which resulted in excellent victories over King's Worcester , Bishop Vesey's and Nottingham High School. Despite Marcus Osborne and Kyle Trainer playing at times for the A-team, the excellent fielding and tight bowling of Miles Humphrey (3-1-8-2 v Magdelene College School) combined with the accuracy and discipline of Jacob Langford and Sean Casey, saw continued success against Bromsgrove and King Henry VIII.

Many thanks to all players for their efforts and commitment throughout the season.

Mr Covill, Mr Emmet and Mr Thomas





Rounders - U15

This year's rounders for the U15 squad has been an exciting and enjoyable season. Since the beginning of the season all team members have had great attendance for training sessions and have had high spirits during difficult matches. Overall, the results from matches have been promising, with a 15-11 win against King's High early in the season. A very close and exciting game against RGS Worcester unfortunately ended in defeat 16 – 18. KEHS had a fantastic team and we lost 7 ½ – 15, however, we never gave up and worked hard right to the end. A good rounders season this year!

Many thanks to Mrs Smith for her constant entertainment during bus journeys and for being a great coach!

Anushka Karandikar (Captain), Lower Fifth



U14

The Summer Term had come and so had the rounders season. The U14 rounders A-team began the season with a match against King's High School for Girls. Unfortunately, although we had great determination, we lost 10-16. After a rocky start to the season, we soon had the Rounders Tournament upon us on Thursday 4 June. We went into the tournament feeling very enthusiastic and driven to do well for the School and ourselves and managed to win our first match against Lyndon, 9-1 ½. Feeling quite confident after an encouraging start to the tournament, our next two matches also proved to be successful as we won them both against Grace Academy (8- 1 ½), and Park Hall (6 ½ – 1 ½). Our next match against Arden School was very tense, as the result of this game would determine who went through to the final. Despite the fact that after a very narrow game, we lost 3- 2 ½, the previous results against the other schools meant that Solihull had made it to the final!

After a very tight three-way final, we drew an exciting game to St Peter's School 7 ½ - 7 ½ but lost against Tudor Grange 10-7, meaning that the result of the game against those two teams would resolve the final conclusion of the tournament. The team finished proud, coming runners-up overall. However, we hope to go back to the tournament next year and come away with a win. The B-team also participated throughout the season, putting in great effort and enthusiasm.

On behalf of the rounders teams we would like to thank Miss Wilcox, Mrs Smith and Mrs Baden for coaching and motivating us throughout this successful and enjoyable rounders season.

Sofia Cusack, Lower Fifth

U13

This term, the girls' U13 rounders team have really pulled together and have gone from strength to strength. After a slow start, the rounders just kept coming with some superb batting skills displayed by everyone. Our fielding skills improved and excellent teamwork was shown. The most memorable match was beating the local St Martin's team in the county tournament. We then went on to narrowly lose in the final to Tudor Grange Academy by 1 and a half rounders.

On behalf of the rounders team, I would like to thank Mrs Black, Mrs Hallworth and Miss Wilcox for coaching the team throughout the term and leading us to many successful games. Also, a huge thank you to Gemma Radbourn-Todd for being an inspiring captain for us; we are all really looking forward to playing rounders again next year!

Lily Evans, Shell Form



U12

The U12 rounders team started off the season well as they won their first match very comfortably against King's High. The A-team only lost two games and won the Borough Tournament, beating St. Martin's in the final. The U12s have an A, B, C and a D team which have all had many competitive matches. Every Friday we have triple games in which we play rounders, and there is an after-school club on a Monday night which you have to attend if you want to play for a team. There are many keen players who have made it from the C-team and managed to play a tournament for the A-team. All the girls this year have improved their rounders skills even if it is as simple as catching a ball. Many other schools commented on how well our batting was as every person managed to get at least a rounder in most games. The U12s are a very strong, sporty year group so it was tough to reach any team. I would like to congratulate all the players for all their hard work this season and for all the teachers for making all the matches happen. Overall, this year has been a very successful year for the U12s and I hope for many more like this to come.

Annabel Dalby, Third Form



Athletics

Overall Boys Borough Champions

U14 Boys Borough Champions

It was another successful season with two athletes selected to represent the West Midlands in the English Schools Championships; Phoebe Harland in the U15 Girls’ High Jump and Adina Bailey in the U19 Shot Put. Phoebe won the silver medal in the High Jump, losing out on count back having cleared the same height as the winner. Adina has also been selected for the West Midlands Multi-event team in the English Schools Championships.

There were many great performances throughout the season but probably the best individual performance of the year occurred in the Borough Championships when Phoebe Harland broke the Borough Record in the U16 Girls’ High Jump with a jump of 1.76m whilst being watched by a hundred or more spectators. Adam Visram Cipolletta also managed to break the Borough Record for the U14 boys 1500m. Solihull Borough won the West Midlands Championships again and many congratulations to those athletes selected to represent Solihull. Charlotte Rigg is West Midlands Champion for the U14 1500m, Sean Mhende for the U14 Boys’ Triple Jump, Fraser Blackhurst for the U14 Boys’ High Jump, Phoebe Harland for the U15 Girls’ High Jump and Matt Deakin for the U17 100m hurdles.

The following are all Borough Champions: Jack Talbot U14 Pole Vault and 80m Hurdles; Fraser Blackhurst U14 High Jump; Dan Gaffney U14 Javelin and Discus; Phoebe Harland U16 High Jump and 80m Hurdles; Arthur Townend U16 800m and George Armstrong U16 Shot Put.

Once again, on behalf of all the School’s athletes, many thanks to all the staff who have helped to officiate the matches. Without this we would not be able to host our inter-school fixtures.

Mr N Leonard

West Midlands Championship record

Phoebe Harland	High Jump (U15 Girls)	1.71m
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Borough records

Phoebe Harland	High Jump (Inter Girls)	1.76m
Adam Visram Cipolletta	1500m (Junior boys)	4m48.0s

School Records

Adam Visram Cipolletta	1500m	4m43.8
Annabelle Dalby	800m	2m.38.0

Georgia Jones	Long Jump	4.34m
Louisa Miles	Javelin	18.29m
Charlotte Rigg	1500m	5m14.8
Phoebe Harland	Hurdles	12.2s
	High Jump	1.76m
	Triple Jump	10.70m
Ella Stirling	800m	2m37.0

House Sports Records

Adam Visram Cipolletta	1500m	4m51.0
Charlotte Rigg	800m	2m37.0
	1500m	5m18.0
Phoebe Harland	Hurdles	12.3s
	High Jump	1.50m
	Long Jump	4.90m
Mia Sukkersudha	100m	14.1s
Lucy Fennell	Triple Jump	9.05m
Isabella Adderley	Discus	16.00m
Georgia Brown	300m	49.0s

House Sports Champions

Overall:	Jago
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Third Form

Boys:	Windsor
Girls:	Fetherston



Shell Form

Boys:	Shenstone
Girls:	Fetherston

Fourth Form

Boys:	Jago
Girls:	Jago

Lower Fifth

Boys:	Fetherston
Girls:	Jago

Sixth Form

Boys:	Fetherston
Girls:	Windsor

English Schools Track and Field Cup

U14 Girls	Midlands B Final
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Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Clay Pigeon group has had another successful year with numbers and experience both growing. The teams competed in various competitions including the Millfield Invitational and the Butler Cup with teams consisting of both ladies and gentlemen. The team came 10th in the Millfield Invitational Competition. The team came 15th in the Oxford Gun Club Schools Competition and the ladies' team came 3rd in the ladies' competition. Lauren Packham won the High Gun at Hereford & Worcester shooting ground in the Butler Cup. Thanks must, once again, go to the Parents' Association who have kindly provided the funds to purchase a further gun so that clay pigeon shooting can be offered to the Middle School as well as the Upper School from September 2015 onwards.

Mrs D Parker



Golf Report

2014/2015 was another successful year for Golf at Solihull School. The 'A' team reached the National Finals of the ISGA Competition at Essendon Golf and Country Club in Hertfordshire, after previously becoming regional winners upon defeating RGS Worcester. In the National Finals, the team comprising Andrew Hooper, James Scagell and Tom Brewer came a commendable 7th place. In the HMC Foursomes, the squad got through to the regional semi-finals before faltering to a strong Warwick team.

For the first time in over a decade, the School Championship was played. The event took place in April at Olton Golf Club. Andrew Hooper became the Champion Golfer of the Year with a striking 74 gross, whilst James Hall won the Best Nett prize with a score of 69. In the School vs. Old Sils match, the latter were triumphant by the close margin of a single point. For the first time in the fixture's history, there were three girls representing the School. Vicky Brewer, Katie Lyth and Gwynneth Horbury made their debut in School colours, and all three played masterfully. We look forward to them competing again next year.

The Tuesday lunchtime sessions continue to run throughout the year under the guidance of the Warwickshire coach, Stuart Bottrill. Emerging through the ranks are a number of talented players who are set to make the squad in the coming year. Among these are Tom Averill, Daniel Withington and Harrison Kentish who have all shown much promise.

Mr S Hart



Lower/Middle School Tennis

This season has been another strong one for tennis at both U13 and U15 levels. The teams have both participated in the AEGON Team Tennis Schools Championship. The season began well with fixtures against Heart of England where we narrowly won in both age groups in shootouts after the longest school match ever, lasting nearly three hours for two sets. Next we had Tudor Grange to face; the U13 team battled hard, with an impressive 8-4 win including strong 6/0 wins for George Sunderland and Carlo Giordanengo. The U15s went one better with a 12-0 victory with Alex Griffiths winning his singles match 6/0 and Theo Villepontoux and Dan Hofton winning their doubles match 6/0. This led to the concluding match against Arden, needing final wins to get a clean sweep and qualify for the knockouts in September. Alas, we were placed on the back foot due to being short three of our top four players at U15 level, leading to a disappointing 8-4 loss, with some solace that Theo managed another 6/0 victory. The U13 team, however, was not going to be beaten, producing a 10-2 victory including a 6/3, two 6/2s and a 6/1 in the four singles matches; Saul Greenburgh with the 6/1. This means that the U13 team have reached the knockout stages, but unless very lucky with results the U15 team will not win the group stage. This year we have also played friendly matches against Warwick and, for the first time at this age group, King Edward Camp Hill. Once again we showed excellent strength with the younger year groups winning convincingly, and I am looking forward to further victories in the league in the coming years. I would like to thank Theo particularly for his commitment to tennis over the past four years and captaining the U15 team so well this year: good luck in the senior squad.

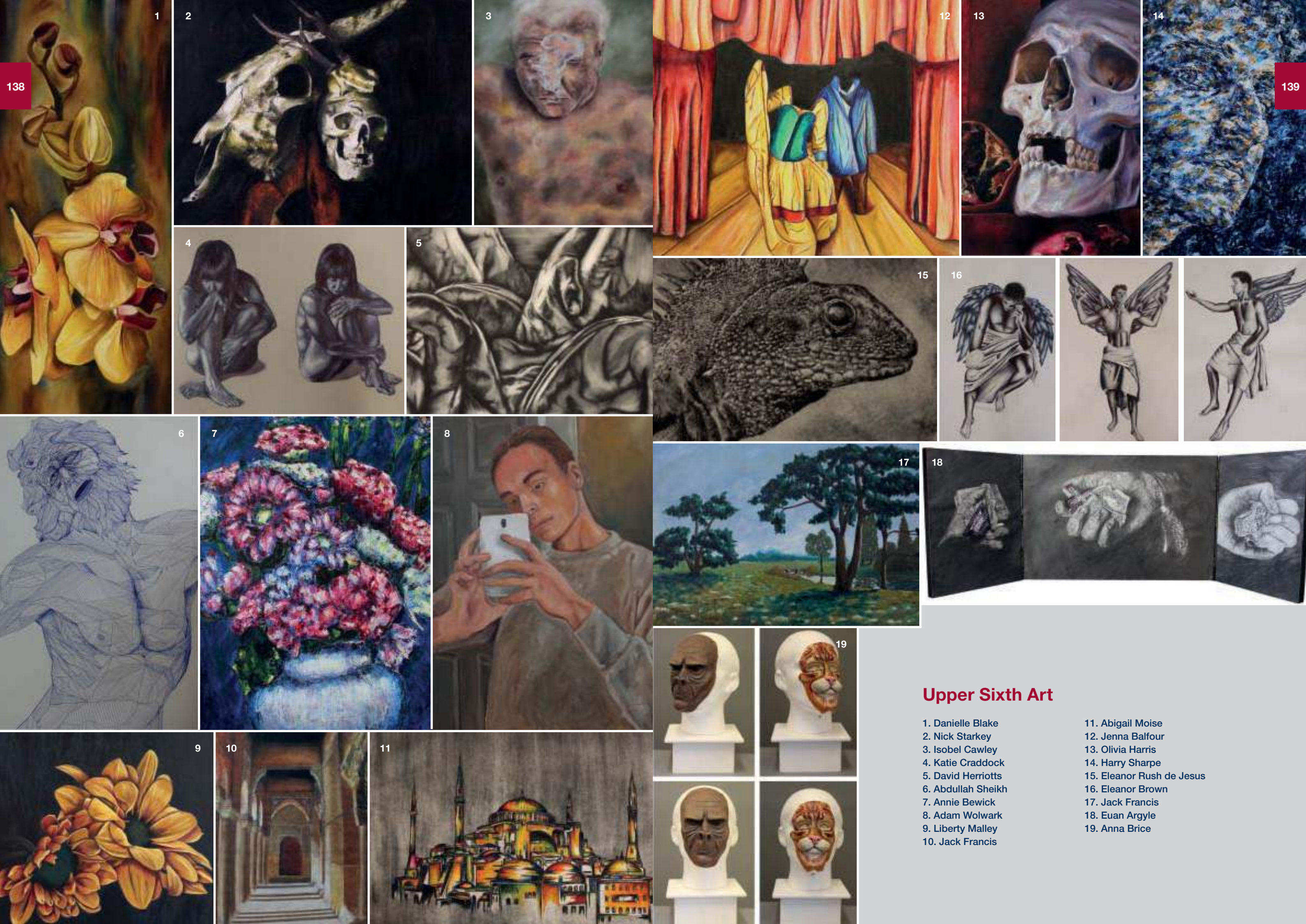
Mr O Anderton



Jack's Charity Cycling

Wanting to take on a challenge, I decided to cycle from London to Paris in April 2015 in aid of Help for Heroes. I chose this non-profit UK military charity due to the wonderful work they do for those affected by conflict. This four-day cycle took me from the busy London outskirts through the undulating Kent countryside and on into France. Even with favourable weather for the majority of the challenge, it was tough both mentally and physically. This was most obvious in the mixture of excitement and relief when I saw the Eiffel Tower for the first time. It was without doubt one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I would advise anyone who is thinking about a similar challenge to do it. One particular highlight was cycling around the Arc de Triomphe. Known for being the 'craziest roundabout in Europe', I imagine very few have had the opportunity to cycle on it. Thanks to the generosity of friends and family we were able to raise in total £1711.20. I would like to thank all those who sponsored and supported me throughout as well as the Global Adventure Challenge team. Special mention must also go to Solihull School who awarded me the David Grilli Trust Scholarship award, which allowed me to cover the costs of the trip, as well as all those who I completed the challenge with.

Jack Hines, Upper Sixth



Upper Sixth Art

1. Danielle Blake

2. Nick Starkey

3. Isobel Cawley

4. Katie Craddock

5. David Herriotts

6. Abdullah Sheikh

7. Annie Bewick

8. Adam Wolwark

9. Liberty Malley

10. Jack Francis
11. Abigail Moise

12. Jenna Balfour

13. Olivia Harris

14. Harry Sharpe

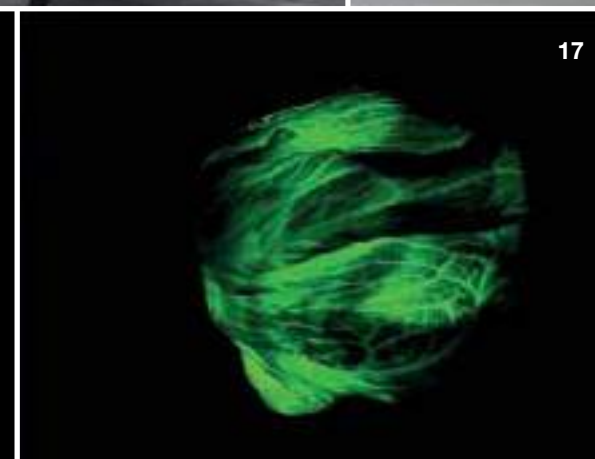
15. Eleanor Rush de Jesus

16. Eleanor Brown

17. Jack Francis

18. Euan Argyle

19. Anna Brice



Upper Sixth Photography

1. Luke Duignan
2. Zeena Ismail
3. Lottie Harland
4. Jon Altham
5. Fraser Mackie
6. Bhavandeep Sunner
7. Jenna Balfour
8. Luca Walker
9. Georgia Lovett
10. Eloise Boblin
11. Tom Gill
12. James Ward
13. Zoe Black
14. James Hall
15. Daniel Dowell-Lee
16. Anne-Sophie Gilson
17. Robert Comer

Travel and Trips

Ladakh Expedition 2015

For the 2015 adventure we went back to good old-fashioned expeditioning: a very remote valley with an attempt to summit not one but two peaks at around 6000m. Solihull School have been to Ladakh before but never to the region north of Leh (the area capital) as it has been a closed area. We arrived in Leh (having flown via Delhi) and were surprised by the way it felt like a mini Tibet and not India. You have to spend a couple of days in the town to acclimatise to the altitude before moving on upwards. For us, that meant travelling over the 18380ft Khardungla Pass, the highest road in the world. The views of the Himalayas were spectacular. This put us into the remote Nubra valley, a high-altitude desert full of sand dunes and camels, with the occasional green oasis containing a village. One of these was Hundar, our starting point for the trek. To make sure everyone would be acclimatised for the ascent of the peaks we took a week to trek up the Hundar valley, only walking for about three to four hours per day. Resting is such an important part of the process as the consequences of altitude sickness can be devastating to the group. We used the time to also practise using ice axes, wearing plastic boots and crampons whilst walking, roped up, in groups of four with a high altitude guide leading each rope. Nothing was going to be left to chance!



Our first peak was Samygal II, an Alpine-looking mountain covered in snow and ice, which needed to be attempted early in the morning before the snow became soft. This meant leaving our base camp (5200m) at 4am using head torches to light the way. Moving through snow at this altitude is slow going, especially when the group is thirty-five strong. Fitness is only half of the battle as you have to be mentally strong to overcome the fatigue that builds up in every part of your body. By 9am the first of our roped groups arrived at the summit at an altitude of 5910m. The feeling of conquering a peak like this is overwhelming and none of us wanted to make the long journey back down. In all, twenty-nine of the group reached the summit.

We spent the rest of the day and most of the next day sleeping before sixteen left at 1am to climb Dawa Peak (5960m). This had a more challenging route along a moraine ridge, then a glacier before ascending the final steep snow field. All sixteen made it, a first for the School as we have never climbed two peaks on one expedition.

A trip to India cannot be complete without spending time seeing the highlights of Delhi such as the Red Fort, and catching the train to Agra where many photos were taken of the Taj Mahal - a fitting way to finish our four-week adventure.

Mr M Garner

The Sir Garfield Sobers International Schools Cricket Tournament

I suppose, upon reflection, I could have insisted more strongly that the boys kept their hotel rooms neater and tidier. I thought I'd get the only negative Tour comment out of the way in the opening sentence.

We built fantastic batting partnerships, and Fahd Janjua's 107* was superb. We bowled superbly with a variety of seam and spin partnerships, and James Newman's 5-37 was our best bowling stats. Tom Brewer's dismissal of the Sedbergh opening batsman with the first ball of the match was spectacular. Our fielding was shown to be sharp, with impressive catches from Bradley Monk, Tom Serle's brace, and George Armstrong's Catch-of-the-Tour. Anthony Szarmach and Fahd Janjua led the tour party with energy and enthusiasm, whilst Will Rigg, with his batting, versatility and tenacity in the field, collected the award for Player of the Tour.

The Boardwalk Jog at 0700 (Lombardi Time!), Beach volleyball at The Boatyard, jet-skiing, team meals at Berts or Mojors or The Tiki, ice cream at Chilly Moos, music on the team bus, one great night at Oistins ('Valpolicella' I hear you shout!), and a truly wonderful six-a-side tournament are just a few outstanding memories. I know I've omitted many, many more!

Mr Darren Maddy brought all of his expertise, the boys listened intently, worked hard in training, nets and warm-ups, and I'm sure they will all join me in thanking him for his fantastic coaching and leadership.

Of all the major overseas rugby / cricket tours that I've been on, in 32 years of teaching, Barbados 2015 is Number 1. The respect, conduct, behaviour, camaraderie, and friendliness shown by all the players was, by a country mile, truly magnificent and made this tour the best I've ever been on.

Thank you, one and all.

Mr P Jackson



Colorado Ranch Adventure 2015

Soon after the end of the summer term in July, nineteen pupils embarked on a trip of a lifetime to the Drowsy Water Ranch in Colorado, USA. This is the third time the School has visited the ranch, and as before we were treated to a truly 'awesome' experience. The pupils, many of whom had never ridden before, soon got to grips with the basics of western horsemanship and were able to enjoy long trail rides through the Rocky Mountains, with stunning views to the Continental Divide. By the third day they were practising their 'loping' skills, meaning they could pick up the pace and try their hand at some exciting cowboy style canters through the mountain trails. Some of the more advanced riders were even allowed to tackle the notorious 'Aspen Slide', a hair-raising, steep descent down from Heartbreak Mountain on one of the all-day rides. Luckily the horses all knew exactly what they were doing, and were incredibly sure-footed!

A full day of white water rafting down the Upper Colorado River provided a change of scenery, and pupils were able to try out their line dancing skills and enjoy s'mores by the camp fire in the evenings. Following a blast across the enormous zip wire by those with a head for heights, one of the highlights of the week was our visit to the local rodeo. It was a real treat to see the wranglers who had been leading our rides all week doing their thing in the arena, roping calves against the clock and barrel-racing at breakneck speed. The bull riders and mutton busters in particular were a spectacle to behold, and caused many a jaw to drop in awe. Only in America!



My thanks go to Mrs Johnson and Mr Phillips who accompanied me, and to all the pupils for their exemplary conduct, who made this year's ranch adventure a highly enjoyable experience for everyone.

Ms E Campbell





Austria Ski Trip

On Friday 27 March, 33 pupils from the Third and Shell Forms, accompanied by two Lower Fifth chaperones, left School for St Michael im Lungau in Austria. We arrived at the Hotel in bright sunshine and little sign of snow. Luckily there was enough snow on the mountains to ski on the first day but it felt like summer. However, the next morning we woke up to snow in the village and lots of fresh powder to ski on the mountain. These conditions remained for the rest of the week. The pupils all had a great time and their skiing improved over the week due to the great conditions and excellent instruction from the ski school. The race at the end of the week certainly saw some very fast times. I would like to thank all the staff who helped make the trip such a success: Miss Lynch, Miss Rutherford, Mrs Hadley-Leonard and Mr Tovey.

Mr N Leonard



Snowdonia School

Shell R had a wonderful time in Snowdonia staying at the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in October. One of the highlights was coasteering off the cliffs of Anglesey when a seal swam past us looking to find out what all the commotion was! A night hike, a camp out, a morning canoeing, games of 'capture the flag', a high ropes course, football on the beach and a successful climb to the top of Mount Snowdon in cold windy conditions were all part of a very busy week. Miss Roberts kept everyone entertained with the Latin derivation of common words whilst Mr Farrington once more excelled with his fried eggs in the kitchen each morning. Thanks go to our senior pupil Izzie Kent who really helped out and a big well done to all the Shell Formers who tackled each activity with such enthusiasm and good humour – you were a real credit to the Lower School!

Mr O Bate





Shell and Fourth Form trip to Paris

The first day started with a visit to the Eiffel Tower, followed by shopping along the Champs-Élysées, ascending the Arc de Triomphe, and finally a meal in an authentic French restaurant, accompanied by authentic Parisian rush-hour traffic. The second day included a trip to the Cité des Sciences et Technologie, the Montmartre district, and an evening at the Aquaboulevard indoor water park. Finally, we used the last full day to explore Paris city centre by foot, calling at Notre Dame Cathedral, la Pyramide du Louvre, the museum of the Parisian

sewers, the aquarium, and finishing the day by eating in Hard Rock Café. To end with a memorable moment, we boarded a Bateau-Mouche for a night Seine river cruise, departing from the spectacularly illuminated Eiffel Tower.

We returned to Solihull with 30 pupils who had been captivated by the metropolitan ‘vibe’ of Paris and were enthusiastic to return later on in life. For us, then, ‘mission accomplie!’

Mr A Dowsett



Château de la Baudonnière 2015

February saw the School's eleventh visit to the Château in Normandy, France. The format was changed once again to offer the Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms the opportunity to re-live memories from their time in the Third Form or to embark on the adventure for the first time.

As well as the usual exciting activities of aéroballe, climbing, archery and the assault course, the trip was very much focused on GCSE and AS Level French revision. Pupils were only allowed to speak French around the Château and they took lessons each day, culminating in a mock speaking examination at the end of the week. The teachers were very impressed with their work ethic and level of French.

In addition to the on-site activities the Sixth Form enjoyed a visit to a local Organic Farm and Caramel Factory – tasting was of course obligatory! One evening they also interviewed a local bar owner and enjoyed a few games of darts. The group as a whole completed some work in the market town of Villedieu and enjoyed the sights of Mont St Michel in the glorious sunshine.

The trip was a huge success with all of the pupils reporting an improvement in their confidence, fluency and comprehension and of course a lot of fun and laughter was had by all along the way! On their return the group won Team of the Week for their excellent attitude, behaviour, hard work and camaraderie.

Mrs C Black



Shell Form field course to Castleton – October 2014

In October, the Shell Form visited Castleton in the Peak District to investigate tourist pressure and land use conflicts at a honeypot in a National Park. This visit supports the Christmas term work on limestone landscapes, and is an invaluable means of bringing classroom theory to life. Pupils have since completed an enquiry based exercise, which helps develop the skills needed for GCSE and beyond. Pupils were able to pick up pieces of weathered shales at the foot of the rotational slump at Mam Tor, helping them understand how rocks are weakened by weathering processes, and complete annotated field sketches identifying the varied land use of the Hope Valley. They walked through Winnats Pass, a limestone gorge which was once a coral reef, and of course experienced the spectacle of the underground landscape of stalagmites and stalactites. Once again, this was a very busy but excellent and highly enjoyable day of practical work, all of which is excellent preparation for further geographical studies at GCSE and A-Level.

Mrs A Roll



Geography Trip to Iceland

In October, the Geography Department undertook their 8th field course to Iceland. The group consisted of 36 Upper Fifth GCSE Geography students with some Lower Sixth. For a Geographer, nothing compares to the excitement of witnessing a volcanic eruption, and the sight of a fountain of fiery lava emerging from the blackness below as we flew over Holuhraun was an awe-inspiring sight. Our excitement was fuelled further by the quantity of snow that blanketed the landscape to the north of Iceland as we landed in Akureyri. This trip never fails to deliver, and pupils also had a fantastic experience crawling through lava tube caves, and, complete with ice axes and crampons, walking across the Sólheimajökull glacier. The northern lights were again somewhat evasive, but we did have a small glimmer, in a landscape devoid of light pollution. Iceland should definitely be on everyone's bucket list!

Mrs A Roll



History and Politics students in the US of A!

During the October half term, Lower and Upper Sixth History and Politics students set off on a five-day trip to Washington DC and New York. This allowed us to have an insight into our AS and A2 Level courses first hand, visiting iconic historical monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the White House, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building to name a few! We also found time to visit the more modern attractions in New York such as Times Square, Hard Rock Cafe and 5th Avenue for a spot of retail therapy! From all of us, we would like to thank all the teachers involved in the trip (Mr Anderton and Ms Harford), and especially Mrs Fair for all her efforts for organising this brilliant visit. We hope that future pupils have the same opportunity to expand their knowledge of the culture that America has to offer. It was truly an incredible experience.

Sophie Fowler, Upper Sixth



Classics Society trip to Turkey

On 11 April 2015, Mrs Johnson and Mr Jones took 25 pupils to Turkey, the Roman province of Asia Minor, accompanied by Bora Sertbas, a tour guide who was somewhat of an oracle/god himself. After a journey to Canakkale that took longer than expected, we took our three hours sleep before leaving for Troy (minus Brad Pitt, unfortunately), and Pergamon. These sites were really interesting - especially the asklepion at Pergamon which was an ancient psychiatric hospital, with an original walkway still in use. We also saw the famous Trojan wall which, while today it looks easy to conquer, gave a good impression of the great defence it gave the city back in the day.

The next day was Priene, Miletus and Didyma where there were lots of really unbelievably huge pillars, before Bora surprised us with a traditional carpet workshop and interactive show, with our first taste of the Turkish tea. The next day was Ephesus, which was a truly spectacular site, and we were lucky enough to be able to explore thoroughly the Terrace Houses, with their extremely well-preserved wall paintings. That afternoon there was another show of a traditional trade, leather - where our very own Joe Wright and Paloma Benjamin walked the catwalk. The next day was equally as full, as we left the hotel to travel to Aphrodisias and Hierapolis, where five of the group raced the full length of the amazingly preserved stadium (including Mr Jones - who was pipped to the finish line by a speedy Tom Loughran). The Roman spa town of Hierapolis with its lunar-like mineral pools gave us a very enjoyable afternoon, as we paddled our way up and down the warm bright blue waters.

The following day was always going to be the one with the most travelling, but nobody could have anticipated the 13-hour coach journey it really entailed, with much of the party being taken down by a mysterious sickness bug on the way. Special mention here must go not only to the group's camaraderie,

but also to Mrs Johnson, who spent the whole journey playing nurse, and (almost and amazingly) kept her smile up throughout. Luckily, by the next morning, everyone was in better health, and we left for the old city of Istanbul. There were numerous museums, before we saw the Aya Sofya, The Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome, and the Basilica Cistern under the city (where we were standing in the same spots as Sean Connery did for the 1963 production of *007: From Russia With Love!*), before taking to explore the markets, as Bora showed us a brilliant Turkish delight shop that the majority of us enjoyed! Overall, it was a week of non-stop movement, lots and lots of ice-cream (as always with the Classics Society!), good traditional Turkish foods and good fun too. We all really loved the trip, and I am certain it will be another memory well kept by everyone involved. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to Mrs Johnson and Mr Jones for making it so enjoyable.



Photography Trip to Witley Court

In September the new Lower Sixth Photographers got a taste of location work in the grounds and house of Witley Court in Worcestershire. Students spent the day putting their newfound practical skills to the test and came back with some stunning photographs for their coursework unit.

Ms D Trim



Sixth Formers visit London galleries

The Art and Photography students enjoyed a packed day of gallery visits in February to support their exam project ideas. Staff took over sixty students to Tate Modern, Tate Britain and the Royal Academy to see a vast range of work including the visiting exhibitions 'Conflict-Time-Photography' and 'Rubens and his Legacy'.

Auschwitz

We have all heard stories and tales. It does not compare to the actual, raw experience that one undergoes when visiting Auschwitz. I do not need to recount the things that I saw, the individual stories that I heard, what I witnessed. Such things I will leave for you to explore and to experience for yourself. However, what I felt is unique to me, and so that is what I shall tell you. They tell us that everybody reacts differently. Some cry, some wander aimlessly, however, others, such as myself, felt little. Why did I not feel? Perhaps I did not listen properly, perhaps I am heartless, yet I know that this is not the case.

I did not ‘feel’ because I could not feel. I have no major experience of being openly discriminated and told that I am not allowed to do something, go somewhere because of the colour of my skin, or what faith I may possess (or even the general faith that I may have been born into). I cannot relate to being separated from my mother, my father, my brother, maybe never to see them again. Tragically, such was the case of so many, too many individuals in the events that took place at Auschwitz and other areas.

One particular message resonates with me. We live such a free life compared to many who lived less than merely one hundred years ago. Enjoy life, while it is enjoyable. Cherish your loved ones, while you are currently with them. Celebrate your differences, for we are so lucky to live in a society which, although imperfect, is one in which we are able to do so. We are fortunate, so be thankful and happy, and don’t forget that it was not always so, and it may not always be so.

Arjan Bains, Lower Sixth

I want to focus on one part of my experience of Auschwitz - I want to focus on one moment that was just so emotionally striking for me. It was the end of the afternoon at the end of our harrowing visit when we took part in a ceremony led by a Rabbi and everything became polarised and focused on this moment of the day. Two hundred or so of us, mostly strangers, brought together and united by our shared experience and feeling the overwhelming weight of human suffering. We were standing at the end of the railway tracks each holding our own candle but with a feeling that we were one light. The candles we put on the railway make me believe that there is light of hope present in our generation, and that we now must disperse into the world as individual lights and bear witness and illuminate others about the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was hard to reconcile the bird song, the sunlight and the green landscape that surrounds one the darkest places of humanity in our history. There was a deep sense of grief, but in such contrast with the serenity of the early evening prayers; the beautiful Hebrew psalm sung by the Rabbi radiated such honesty and truth. We understood not only the pain that the Jewish people feel about the Holocaust but also their desire to remain so rooted in their faith, when we might ask the question ‘Where was God in Auschwitz?’

As we all carried our candle lights in the glowing sun at the end of the afternoon, there was no chill in the air. We didn’t need rain, we didn’t need dark skies for the place to induce the feelings of death and torment; it was underlying the whole time. I’ve read that there is no bird song in these places, well that’s not true - nature, seasons and birdsong continue even in one of the most horrific places in the world.

Holly Krober, Lower Sixth



Before my visit, I found that the word ‘Auschwitz’ carried a certain chill and sense of despair and dejection with it. For me, the Holocaust was a taboo topic of complete devastation that people are aware of; however, it always seemed that to discuss such extremities of the past, was deemed inappropriate.

Personally, the visit has enabled me to truly ‘re-humanise’ the victims of the Holocaust. After walking on the same paths which were taken by young children, unaware that they were experiencing their final moments with their family before meeting their death, the brutality of the Holocaust suddenly seemed real. I felt myself begin to understand how those persecuted were normal people like myself; who had the hope for a future, and dreams which they aspired to follow.

Today, I believe Auschwitz One and Birkenau stand not only as a lesson about the past, but also, a lesson for the future. I feel the importance of these sites is so significant in the modern day as the vivid images in my mind must be remembered and shared by future generations, to ensure that once again the human race does not destroy itself.

Victoria Newbery, Lower Sixth

The true extent of discrimination is inconceivable, the lengths that SS officers went to to ensure suffering, is beyond any train of thought. The sheer scale of both sites is nonsensical, rows of buildings all dedicated to torment. In Auschwitz-Birkenau over 6,000 people were murdered a day, and hundreds of buildings were dedicated to this. For the first time in human history, mass industrial methods were being used to exterminate people who did not fit within one man’s criteria. That is what seems harder for me to understand, how one opinion can be brainwashed across the world to commit acts such as these. It did not just happen in Auschwitz nor in Poland, it was happening in Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Through this article we do not write to make one feel guilty for their privileges, nor tell gruesome facts that increase the extent of suffering. Instead it is a message, one that asks not for religious awareness or Jewish sympathy, but instead a plea to consider our world in unity.

The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race. Whether it be languages people speak, the colour of skin, sexuality, religion, or gender we should all realise that we are just as similar as each other and beneath our physical and mental attributes are just human beings thirsty for solidarity.

To avoid torturous events such as the Holocaust we must realise that we need to stamp out discrimination and bigotry as a starting point.

Unfortunately, we have not wholly learnt as a global society from events such as the Holocaust, as we see similar acts of discriminatory killing and hate crime even today.

Thus on return from Auschwitz, I questioned the human race and urge you to consider how we treat one another. It is important to note that one who does not learn from history is bound to live through it again, so let’s make a difference and remember.

Leticia Salmon, Lower Sixth

Latin trip to Cirencester

This year, all pupils studying Shell Latin took a trip to Cirencester to see the Latin museum, amphitheatre and town. We arrived by coach, and split into our different groups. Our group kicked off the day with a look around the city. We saw foundations of houses, part of a Roman wall that had protected the town and a stone pillar from one of the villas. Next, we went to the amphitheatre. We could see where seats had once been constructed and the entrances that gladiators used. Finally, we had lunch before exploring the museum and filling in a booklet about the exhibits. Then we were taken to a talk and given belongings from different Roman people, whose life we had to describe using facts learnt from their belongings. It was a very enjoyable experience and I hope next year’s Shell Form find it as good as we did.

Penny Goodman and Hafsa Ahmad, Shell Form

Latin Trip to Bath

On Tuesday 13 January the Fourth Form Latin classes took an exciting trip to Bath to see the Roman remains. We learnt many fascinating things whilst exploring, like that the temperature of the water in the baths was 46 degrees Celsius and came from a natural hot spring. We also learnt that many Romans and Britons alike visited Bath if they were ill to be healed by the Goddess Minerva Sulis, and they threw things into the Bath as gifts to the goddess so she would make sure their future health was prosperous. Wandering around the museum was extremely interesting and we even got to taste some of the water that was meant to have healing powers. It tasted like metal and most of us hated it!

We had a fascinating Latin lesson where we saw real Roman artefacts up close. We even got to hold some of them and it is amazing to think that they dated back thousands of years. Some examples were roof tiles that would have been used around the bath complex. We were asked to translate a Roman inscribed stone which many of us found challenging. We all thoroughly enjoyed our day in Bath seeing how the Romans lived in Britain nearly 2000 years ago.

Sophie Besford and Isobel King, Fourth Form



Andalucía 2014

In December 2014, 17 Upper Fifth and Lower Fifth Spanish students spent 4 days in southern Spain with Ms Campbell and Mr Morgan.

On arriving in Málaga, we embarked upon our journey to Granada, the ancient capital of Moorish Spain. Once there, we visited some of the major attractions the city has to offer and went to have a look at the childhood home of Spain's most famous modern poet and playwright, Federico García Lorca. The next morning, having attended Spanish lessons in a local language school, we spent a happy couple of hours sampling tapas and then made our way to the stunning 'Parque de las Ciencias', a fantastic indoor and outdoor science museum. The next day's highlight, after more Spanish lessons, was a visit to the jewel in Granada's crown, the Alhambra, the Moorish palace that dominates the city's skyline. There, we walked through centuries of history and culture and explored Spain's multi-faceted cultural inheritance.

The following day, we went back to Málaga and spent a relaxing day walking around the city, trying the local delicacy of chocolate con churros and lazing on the beach in the late December Andalusian sun, before packing our bags for the return trip to Solihull.

Ms Campbell and Mr Morgan enjoyed showing the students what southern Spain has to offer and both our guide Ignacio and the teachers at the language school were very complimentary about the group's language skills and personal qualities.

Mr P Morgan



Third Form Trip to Old Trafford

On Monday 22 June, as part of Expeditions Day, the Third Form left the Level buoyed by the knowledge that they were off to visit the Theatre of Dreams: Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United. The day was split into three parts with each group having a tour of the stadium, spending time in the wonderful museum and also benefitting from a question and answer session.

On the tour pupils saw for themselves the vast labyrinth of passages in the ground, visited the changing rooms, as well as the players' lounge, saw the press room, sat in the dugout and even located the Police cell! The museum was the real jewel in the day, highlighting all the lows (such as the Munich Air Disaster) as well as the highs (all the Premier League titles) via a range of impressive notice boards and interactive displays. The question and answer session revealed more about the club's history and how a modern day football club is run. We heard about the club's role in the community, their commitment to sustainability and how they are attempting to reach out to fan bases across the globe. The enjoyable day was rounded off by the compulsory visit to the Mega Store!



Berlin 2014

Very early on Friday 28 November the group of Sixth Form Germanists set off from School for the biennial visit to Berlin. On arrival we were taken to the hostel where we were able to leave cases and headed off to Kurfürstendamm for lunch. Isaac remained at the hostel to complete a maths challenge paper. The rest of the day was taken up visiting the underground bunker system in the north of the city followed by the DDR Museum.

On Saturday we were shown round the city centre by a guide, finishing up at the Gendarmenmarkt, an enclosed undercover Christmas market. A guided tour around the Stasi HQ Museum, a Turkish meal and an evening at the Wintergarten Varieté finished the day off nicely. We set off early on Sunday morning to beat the crowds at the Check Point Charlie and Jewish Museums. The afternoon was spent watching 'Hinterm Horizont', a musical by Udo Lindenberg which depicts the history of Berlin from the building of the wall to the present day.

Monday got off to a great start with a fantastic view of the city from the top of the iconic television tower. From here we were able to take in the 3600 panorama. This was quickly followed by a tour of the Reichstag, Germany's parliament building. A chance for some shopping and to get warm was followed by a walk along the East Side Gallery, the last extensive section of wall still standing. A final meal was had at one of Berlin's many Blockhouse steak restaurants.

Tuesday morning saw our return to England and School. A great time was had by all, staff and students alike.

Dr J Troth



Teams of the Week 2014/15

Bigside Hockey Team	<i>An exceptional series of victories over Queen Mary's Grammar School</i>
U15A XV Rugby Team	<i>Tremendous performance and victory versus King's School, Worcester</i>
U14A XV Rugby Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory versus Royal Grammar School, Worcester</i>
Lower Sixth Form Photographers	<i>Fantastic contribution to the Witley Court Trip</i>
U12 Girls' Hockey Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory versus Princethorpe College</i>
School Ski Team	<i>Superb performance in the Midlands Telford Competition</i>
Clay Pigeon Shooting Team	<i>Excellent performance at the Milfield Competition</i>
Form IIIF	<i>Compassion & generosity</i>
School Challenge Team	<i>Tremendous performance in the Regional round of the Schools' Challenge Competition</i>
CCF Guard of Honour	<i>Excellent performance in the Wreath Laying Ceremony 2014</i>
U13 Chess Team	<i>Fantastic victory against King Edward's School, Birmingham</i>
Anglo-French Society Speaking Team	<i>Excellent performance in the Birmingham University French Speaking Competition</i>
1st VII Netball Squad	<i>Superb performance in qualifying for the West Midlands Championships</i>
Cast and Crew of Blood Wedding	<i>Two nights of fantastic drama in the Bushell Hall</i>
Chapel Choir	<i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
U12A Netball Squad	<i>Superb performance & victory (23-3) versus Bablake School</i>
The Upper Fifth Form	<i>Excellent conduct throughout the mock examinations</i>
U13 Girls' Hockey Team	<i>Tremendous performance & victory versus Saint Martin's School</i>
British Biology Olympiad Competition Team	<i>A wonderful all-round performance</i>
Boys' IVth XI Hockey Team	<i>Excellent performance & victory versus Warwick School</i>
French Château Team	<i>Wonderful ambassadors for the School!</i>
1st VII Netball Team	<i>Superb performance in the Regional Competition</i>
Golf Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory in the ISGA Plate</i>
Cast and Crew of Les Misérables	<i>Five fabulous nights of drama and music</i>
The Classics Team	<i>Fabulous Camaraderie in Turkey!</i>
2nd XI Cricket Team	<i>An excellent victory versus Warwick School</i>
Benchers 2014-15	<i>A fantastic team effort for 2014-2015</i>
U13 Chess Team	<i>Winners of the Birmingham & District Junior Chess League</i>
U12 Chemistry Team	<i>Winners of the Salters' Challenge</i>
U12 Cricket Team	<i>Winners of the Inaugural U12 Six-a-side Cricketing Competition</i>
U14A Cricket Team	<i>Victorious in the Six-a-Side Cricketing Competition</i>
DofE Bronze Expedition Team	<i>Excellent performance on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition</i>



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