



Extended Project Qualification

This academic year has been a great success for pupils undertaking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The OCR Extended Project aims to inspire, enthuse and motivate students by giving them the freedom to complete a project and extend their learning on a subject they're studying or in an area of personal interest. As students have the freedom to select their subject, it can support their practical, work-related approach to learning or be an extension of their A-Level studies.

Many universities encourage students to undertake the EPQ in order to ensure a smooth transition between A-Level and university study, through developing their research and independent learning skills. Indeed, the Extended Project offers a range of exciting opportunities for students: it provides them with the skills that higher education is looking for, by encouraging independent study, critical thinking and teamwork; it may also be useful when they are applying for university to help them 'stand out from the crowd', with an increasing number of universities making lower offers to students who produce a successful EPQ.

Undertaking the Extended Project Qualification encourages students to apply appropriate technologies in their studies and it is ideal for improving transferable skills such as planning, research, analysis and evaluation – all of which are skills universities value in their undergraduates. This year, over 50 students produced research projects on a variety of topics and they have a lot to be proud of. I have been particularly impressed with this year's students' projects, and there are high hopes for the next academic year!

Miss S Roberts



Ryman National Enterprise Challenge

This June saw the second visit of the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge to Solihull as part of the PSHE programme. Twenty Fourth Form teams participated in a challenge to design a product and a marketing campaign to launch a 'Back to School' stationery campaign. The winning team, 'Stationery Seasons', representing Shenstone, designed a backpack, and suggested different seasonal stationery items for purchase throughout the year, including a September bundle, some fun Christmas items and a special exam pack which could be added to baskets on-line, or even bought on a subscription basis. The team developed these ideas further for the National Enterprise Challenge finals which were held in early July at the Telford International Convention Centre. Here, they put together an impressive presentation for the judging panel.

Mrs J Mander

Young Enterprise

The Lower Fifth Young Enterprise company 'Profreshional' competed at the Solihull area Young Enterprise competition, held at the ARUP Offices in Shirley. It has been a difficult trading year, with two trade fairs cancelled due to the snow before Easter. The team has shown significant resilience to make money on confectionery sales after being thwarted by Health and Safety 'red-tape' and insurance complications which meant that great products could not be launched. With more time, these hurdles could be overcome so that their room fragrance and toiletry products could be brought to market! So, overall, some great (and frustrating) experiences and a good introduction to the business world!

Mrs J Mander





Knowle Fun Run

In May, just before Exam Week, a team of staff and pupils took part in the annual Knowle Fun Run in incredibly hot conditions. With assistance from a team of Fourth Form pupils selling drinks and cakes on the day, they helped to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity very dear to many pupils in the Lower School.

Dr P Spratley

Hats on for Charity!

The 1st XV rugby squad designed and sold Odd Ball Obble Hats to raise awareness of testicular cancer and money for St Giles Hospice, a charity close to the squad's heart. Sales have already raised over £600 for St Giles, with the hats being posted to alumni as far afield as the USA and Kent! Demand outstripped supply, and the squad took delivery of a new batch of hats in time for the Rugby tour to New Zealand in July. Tom Serle (Cpt) and the squad would like to thank all who have purchased hats and for everyone's support during a successful rugby season.

Mr T Emmet



Charity at Solihull

Once again, staff and pupils have been involved in a variety of events, raising money for a range of worthy causes. The beginning of the school year saw the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. This year two events were held – one for staff, and the other led by our Lower Sixth Charity Team.

This year's Children in Need Day proved very popular, particularly with our younger pupils. They were invited to enjoy a range of traditional funfair games and have their faces painted. Concerts, fun-runs, non-uniform days and doughnut sales have been held to raise funds for charities such as the Child Brain Injury Trust, the Teenage Cancer Trust, and the UK Sepsis Trust. All of these charities are very close to the hearts of our staff and pupils, and it has been fantastic to be able to support them.

The final event of the year was the annual Third Form Sponsored Read. Our Third Formers raised a fantastic amount to donate to the children's ward at Solihull Hospital.

As ever, thank you so much to staff, pupils and parents for your enthusiasm and support.

Miss R Airdrie



The Big Debate

On 11 June the School hosted its 4th annual Big Debate hosted by our patron, Michael Buerk. Claire Fox, author and frequent panellist on programmes such as the Moral Maze, proposed the motion with Oliver Rooney that 'This House Believes we have created a snowflake generation'. However, after an excellent debate it was the opposition (Ms Harford and Lorenzo Sinclair) that managed to sway the crowd. The following week, we hosted the Solihull Debating Competition where 72 pupils from over a dozen schools came and took part in debate training and then an all-day competition. This is the third competition we've hosted and again we managed to get some of the top judges in the country for a really wonderful day.

Ms D Harford



Debating Society

As ever, it has been a busy and exciting year for our debaters with regular lunchtime training sessions and numerous competitions around the country, including:

Durham University

Oliver Rooney and Thomas Williams were quarter-finalists at the competition. Alice Reeves and Georgina-May Hart reached the Novice semi-finals.

ESU Mace: Cerys Stansfield and Oliver Rooney were National semi-finalists and competed at Dartmouth House in London.

Warwick Schools

Oliver Rooney and Thomas Williams came fifth.

ESU Public Speaking: We hosted the West Midlands round of the event. The two teams consisted of Frederick Albrighton, Emily Baker and Joseph Morgan, and Isaac Miller, Katy Thomas and Emma Gahan.

Rotary Youth Speaks Solihull Competition: We enjoyed participating in this regular event, with Jem Perry, Tegan Gilbert & Kitty O'Sullivan finishing as runners-up. Our Third Form team of Georgia Barratt, Thomas O'Connor and Ryan Bates also had a great first outing.

ICYD (International Competition for Young Debaters): Jem Perry, Joseph Morgan, Pawan Bhamra and Guy Sandler competed at the Oxford Union.

Mr O Anderton



National Triumph Awards

Last summer, Emma Priestley was invited to Triumph Motorcycles headquarters as one of 26 finalists in the national Triumph Awards. During the day her A2 Commercial Design project was exhibited amongst a very strong field of projects from across the country, and she was quizzed in depth by a team of judges about her work. The judges were particularly impressed by the originality of the music stand, which set out to solve the combined issues of portability and use outside in bright or breezy conditions. As a keen musician, Emma had identified that existing designs only solve one or the other of these issues. She took inspiration from a Chinese fan design and through a lot of testing and modelling, and with the help of the 3D printer funded by the Parents' Association, she came up with an innovative solution that fulfilled all her focus group's requirements.

During the day she also spoke to Lord Digby Jones (Non-Executive Chairman of Triumph Motorcycles Ltd) and got a special mention in his speech due to her clever use of 3D printing and pewter casting. Whilst Emma did not win the overall prize, she was high commended by the judges in the two categories of 'Innovation' and 'Communication'. Having gained an A* in A-Level Design Technology at Solihull, Emma has started studying engineering at the University of Bath.

Mr N Corbett

Lower School Diploma

Congratulations to the 24 Fourth Form pupils who completed their Lower School Diplomas in the Christmas Term with a presentation evening where they were able to talk about their extended projects and fundraising activities with parents, teachers and fellow pupils.

Dr P Spratley



Speeches Evening

This year we were delighted to welcome Aoife Mannion, Birmingham City Ladies and England footballer, who spoke passionately about her career and the importance of perseverance and teamwork. Lots of prizes were awarded on the evening, including a number in the name and memory of Tsz Fok, generously donated by Dr Lee Aye (Old Sil).



LAMDA Speaking Qualification

The 2017-18 academic year saw the start of something new for Solihull School. A 'Speaking in Public' qualification examined by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) has been introduced at Solihull, helping students to develop confidence when speaking in public; a vital skill which is in great demand. This year saw our first teaching of the Grade 6 (Bronze) qualification. The Bronze qualification is split into four key components: one speech concerning a contemporary issue; one free speech; an impromptu speech and a knowledge section.

At the end of the previous academic year, I approached Dr Hart, Mr Gledhill and Miss Evans with my idea for a new Public Speaking project to add to Solihull School's co-curricular portfolio. I had completed the Level 3 specification of the LAMDA qualification to Grades 6 (Bronze) and 8 (Gold) prior to joining Solihull, gaining a Distinction in both. After submitting proposals to all the relevant members of staff, going to meetings, and clarifying details, the School's LAMDA programme was approved in Autumn 2017.

Despite the original intention that the programme would be open to all, the decision was made that at least the first year of this programme would be open to Scholars only, in order to see how the group progressed. In winter 2017, the Scholars started working towards their Grade 6 (Bronze) qualifications. Throughout the Thursday lunchtime sessions, Scholars worked on their two planned speeches, as well as being tested on their impromptu skills in preparation for their exam. Students were required to work on their speeches at home, in addition to learning the relevant material in the LAMDA knowledge books, as a form of independent study.

The weeks passed, with speeches being rehearsed and confidence growing amongst the Scholars. Meanwhile, there was another addition to our LAMDA group, as Josh Newby (Lower Sixth) joined with the intention of taking over from me as my A-Level exams loomed. Josh's additional input and ideas helped develop the Scholars' speeches, as well as the entire programme. He is, without doubt, the right leader for the second year of LAMDA at Solihull School, developing what has already started successfully. The long-term aim is for as many students as possible to develop public speaking skills.

The examinations for the first cohort of Solihull pupils took place on 11 June 2018. On the Monday before my A-Level results, Mr Gledhill sent around an email with the results of the pilot year. From 15 entries, there were 8 passes with merit and 7 passes with distinction. I am very proud of all these students, none of whom had any prior experience of LAMDA qualifications. Our slightly delayed start and the fact these students were younger than LAMDA's recommended age, show how these results are incredible, or as Mr Gledhill put it, 'astonishing'.

On a personal note, this experience has been one of immense pride, having seen LAMDA at Solihull progress from an idea to a programme which has received support from the entire school. Although I did not start with the expectation of receiving any accolade, I am extremely grateful to have been awarded the Headmaster's Commendation. I would like to wish the Scholars, Josh, and all the staff involved, all the best for the future. With the support of staff, parents and pupils, I hope this is the start of something which will become deeply ingrained in school life.

Zack Bhalla, Upper Sixth



Scholars Report

It has been a busy (and fun!) year for the Academic Scholars across the Lower School and Lower Fifth. The Third and Shell Form pupils enjoyed a guided visit to St Alphege Church and a tour with the commercial manager behind the scenes of Touchwood Shopping Centre related to the project 'Solihull: past, present and future'. These two year groups have also taken part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad with two pupils obtaining gold awards which was an outstanding achievement in a new discipline.

The Fourth Form and Lower Fifth have undertaken a range of activities including the School's first venture into LAMDA speaking exams, spearheaded by Zack Bhalla in the Upper Sixth as a way of giving back to younger pupils in the school community. We wish pupils well with their Level 6 (Bronze award) entries. In addition, the BBC School Report proved to be a great success with pupils making poignant pieces on mental health in schools and the effects of terrorism on teenagers. In the process, they learnt journalism skills through a BBC mentor team and some basic transferable project-management skills.



All four year groups have also taken part in half-termly sessions on matters such as the role of public education, the benefits or threats of artificial intelligence, an eighth wonder of the world and how to design a garden, collaborating between year groups, sharing and challenging ideas.

Mr M Gledhill



House Events 2017-18

Defending champions Shenstone got off to a flying start in September with victories in the Lower School quiz and the One Mile run; House Captains Dan Hofton and Serena Smith determined that theirs was once again going to be the House to beat. Windsor, Jago and Pole were not going to let them have it all their own way, though, taking the sailing, Third Form rugby and Bake Off trophies respectively, and at the end of the Christmas Term Shenstone and Jago were tied for first place. With only 16 points separating the Houses, it was all to play for as we entered 2018.

Shenstone once again set out their stall, taking an early U12 hockey victory, but Jago and Pole came back strongly to win U13 and U15 hockey and most of the netball honours. Windsor kept themselves in it, dominating the Senior netball competition, and Fetherston added significantly to their points total by arguing convincingly that demerits and detentions should be replaced with fines in the final of the term-long debating competition. By Easter, Shenstone retained their lead by a mere 2 points from a resurgent Pole, with Jago very close behind in third place.

As the weather heated up in the summer term, so too did the House competition. An exhilarating chess final produced an early lead for Pole, but Shenstone came back strongly, sharing rounders accolades with Fetherston and taking the inaugural House Enterprise honours. With cricket shared evenly between Pole, Shenstone and Windsor and the Lower Sixth games challenge won by Jago, the final results hung in the balance as we approached the highlight of the House calendar: Sports Day. An emphatic victory for Jago won the day and the overall competition, with Shenstone in 2nd and Windsor in 3rd after an impressive last-minute haul in the 5k challenge.

In other events this year, each House has adopted an animal



through the WWF scheme, and charitable events such as the Bake Off and doughnut sales raised well in excess of £1000 in sponsorship. Cuddly versions of Fetherston's penguin, Jago's snow leopard, Pole's polar bear, Shenstone's panda and Windsor's jaguar now reside in the House trophy cabinets, but the real ones in the wild have certainly benefited from the hard work put in by the House Captains and Solihull pupils and staff to raise money for this very good cause.

Thanks go to the 2017-18 House Captains:

- Fetherston: Elliot Harris & Ella Stirling
- Jago: Ellie Barbieri & Luke Bryant
- Shenstone: Dan Hofton & Serena Smith
- Pole: Olivia Barker & Benedict Harding
- Windsor: Evie Garner & James Spence

Mrs J Francis



Peer Mentoring

Solihull's Peer Mentoring Scheme has gone from strength to strength this academic year with more Sixth Form students than ever applying to take a pastoral role within our school community. The successful candidates went on to complete a four-week training programme within school to become confident mentors. We are really grateful to volunteers from Solihull Samaritans who gave up their time in November to give the mentors additional training, focusing on listening skills. A team of mentors were inspired to raise some money for the Samaritans and created a hamper of prizes to raffle. As we say a big thank you and good luck to last year's Upper Sixth Mentors we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of caring and supportive Lower Sixth students into the Peer Mentoring team.

Mrs L Spratley



CIPFA Sixth Form Games

Seven Lower Sixth students took part in the annual CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Sixth Form Games at the University of Birmingham. CIPFA is an accountancy body, that looks after and trains accountants in the public sector. It seems that it was not our turn to win this year, but the team performed with great professionalism and impressed the judges with their organisation and ideas. This year's challenge centred on the running of a university and the team represented various positions on the senior management team to decide on a programme of spending cuts, whilst developing ways of increasing student numbers to improve revenue. The team was led on the day by Liam Duffy, who got a special mention from the judges about his leadership skills. Hamza Nazar, Will Knight, Will Currie, Alice Sharpe, Calum Antonio and Amelia Cutbill also made excellent contributions and they gained an insight into the pressures faced in the real world when tough decisions have to be made!

Mrs J Mander

Bar Mock Trial

This January, the Lower Sixth Introduction to Law students, together with five eager Lower Fifth pupils, competed in the Independent Schools Bar Mock Trial, held this year at Birmingham Crown Court. Competitors were charged with arguing for the prosecution or defence in two fictitious criminal cases about possession of a bladed weapon in public and an ABH charge. Playing the roles of barristers, witnesses, clerks and ushers, the team performed very well and got to experience first-hand how a criminal trial works in a real court room in front of a real judge. A call to the Bar awaits!

Mr M Gledhill





Condemned to Remember

Over 750 people attended the British premiere of *Condemned to Remember* – a powerful documentary film by Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental – in our Bushell Hall. The screening was held to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, with Tomi and Emmy award-winning director Gerry Gregg visiting from Dublin. Dignitaries, schoolchildren, parents and members of faith communities from across the country saw Tomi embarking on a journey across Europe, visiting Germany, Poland, his native Slovakia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The premiere, held in partnership with the charity Remembering Srebrenica, shows Tomi witnessing the rise of the neo-fascist ‘People’s Party’ in Slovakia and meeting Hasan Hasanović and Dr Fatima Dautbašić-Klempić, survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre who also made the journey to Solihull for the screening and to take part in the question and answer session afterwards. It was a great privilege for the school to premiere the film and to welcome three of its remarkable subjects to Solihull.

Mr M Penney



Visit of Professor Cofone

Al Cofone – Professor of Sociology at Suffolk County College, Long Island, New York, and friend of Solihull School – returned for the 5th year in a row to inspire our pupils in their learning. Over the course of his 3-day visit in January, he delivered fascinating talks to many of our youngest and oldest students to complement their curriculum studies. Professor Cofone’s talks, listed below, were as well-received as they always are and stimulated lots of questions and lively debate.

- J1 Comparison: *America and Great Britain; Different but Alike*
- J2 Weather: *The Big Brawl*
- J3 North America: *A comparison of New York and London*
- J4 Natural Disasters: *The Changing Face of the Earth*
- Lower Fifth & Lower Sixth History Talk: *Mr Khrushchev Comes to Iowa*
- Lower Fifth & Lower Sixth Politics: *Guns, God, and Grammar: the Second Amendment and Rugged Individualism*

Mr M Penney

Classics Society

This year, there have been several Classics Society outings. In October we went to the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association’s Autumn Lecture, which was given by Professor Tim Whitmarsh (Cambridge) and was entitled ‘Walking through Athens with Socrates’. In November, a small group of Sixth Formers went to see the RSC’s productions of *Imperium Part I* and *Part II*, the story of the consulship of the great Roman orator Cicero. Not only was this a fantastic production, full of the turbulence and excitement of the end of the Roman Republic, but it was also very good revision for those A-Level Latinists who are reading Cicero’s speech ‘Pro Milone’ (In the defence of Milo). In February we went to the BMCA’s New Year lecture, and heard Dr Gareth Sears (Birmingham) speaking on how and why archaeological sites are being destroyed by ISIS and other terrorist groups, and why it is so important for us to preserve our past and learn from it. This was a very interesting and thought-provoking talk, and got us all thinking about areas of Classics we don’t usually consider.

Mrs J Johnson

Greek Club

Six of our students in the Upper and Lower Fifth are proposing to carry through their Greek studies to GCSE, having studied Herodotus’s *Histories* and Homer’s *Odyssey*. A further fourteen from the Lower Fifth and Fourth Form are now in the process of preparing for Greek GCSE in 2019. All lessons happen after school and during lunch times and it is a real credit to the students that they have demonstrated such enthusiasm and commitment to the study of the Ancient Greek Language! Well done to all.

Dr S Foster

Chess Club

Chess at Solihull has been a rollercoaster of a ride for our senior and U13 teams this season. Our players convincingly led both leagues until the winter snow caused chaos to the fixture lists. Sadly, the season concluded in a farce as our opponents defaulted match wins to one another invalidating the league standings. All is not lost for our players as foul play has been noted by the authorities and we hope integrity wins the day in the end!

Thanks to our captains Chun Chiu and Anton Deineka for leading our team to many victories and for their sportsmanship. Well done to our senior players – Milad Amel-Kashipaz, Gajan Ganeshalingam, George Sunderland, Adam ‘McDonalds’ Nazarali, Lewis Johnston, Ben McHugh and Sean McHugh – and our U13 players: Henry Close, Ned Goodman, Rahul Parmar, James Partridge, Jacob Perry, Alistair Tisdale and George Brown.

This year, Chess Club has relocated to E1 so it is even easier to drop in for a game next term. See you there every Friday lunchtime.

Mr P May

The Chemistry Department – a busy year!

The Chemistry Department has had a busy 2017-18 academic year. The Sixth Form students have had the opportunity to attend evening lectures at the University of Birmingham on Fireworks, Optical Isomerism and revision for the A-Level topic 'Acid Equilibria'. Unfortunately we were unable to attend the lecture on the Chemical Engineering of Chocolate Crème Eggs due to snow, which was very disappointing!

On Tuesday 6 March four pupils – two from the Lower Fifth (Joseph Morgan and Emily Baker) and two from the Upper Fifth (Penny Goodman and Ben McHugh) – took part in the West Midlands Chemistry Teachers Council's Chemistry Quiz at King Edward VIth Camp Hill School for Boys. They had a number of rounds to complete and although they did not achieve a top-3 place, they represented the School superbly.



On Wednesday 18 April John Jennings, Theo Lill, Jem Perry and Alistair Tisdale took part in the Salters' Chemistry Festival at the University of Birmingham. The four pupils worked excellently as a team throughout the day and came third in the practical problem solving activity called 'University Challenge'.

On Monday 3 July Lower Sixth Chemistry students spent a morning using infrared spectroscopy to analyse compounds. This hands-on work was enabled through both the Royal Society of Chemistry and the University of Birmingham's Chemistry Department. Dr Mark Read, from the University of Birmingham, gave a brief lecture to the students about I.R. before they had the opportunity to use the infrared spectrometer for themselves. An excellent opportunity to reinforce the theory taught in school.

Mrs C Goodman



E-sports success

Five pupils were chosen from a gruelling selection process involving 97 pupils from the Third Form to the Lower Fifth to represent Solihull School in the British E-sports Championships. These pupils showed great skill and ability in playing *Overwatch*, but more than that, they displayed great teamwork and flexibility. The team were committed and attended all lunchtime practice sessions in Mrs Patel's IT suite. Ned Goodman was always the first to arrive, leaving us all wondering what his trick was to get to the sessions at 12.50 prompt! The team quickly gelled and week by week they got better and better. Once the fixture list was released, our team were ready and pumped to play schools from all over England.

Fixtures were held after school and it was very exciting to see that Solihull were the dominators; we were beginning to be the 'team to beat' and we continued to reign over the weeks, accumulating high scores after each fixture. The team played beautifully, motivating each other along the way. Therefore, it was really no surprise to find out that Solihull won the championships and were crowned the British E-sports Champions 2018!

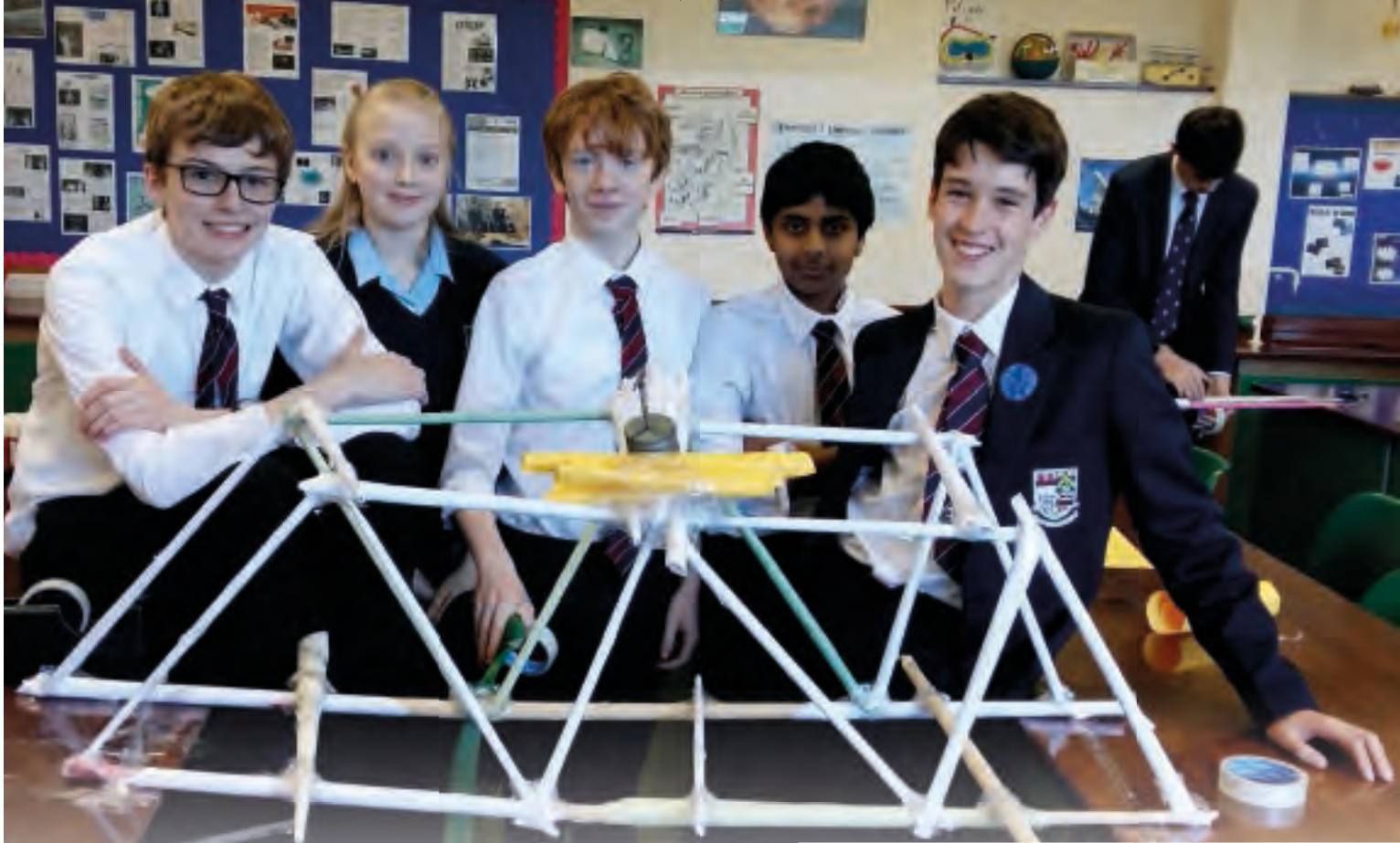
Pupils involved: Dhilan Patel, Sean McHugh, Zak Chohan, Ned Goodman, Emma Roberts, Adhi Ahuja

Mrs V Patel

Engineering Education Scheme - Celebration and Assessment Day

This year, as part of their Enrichment Programme, a group of Lower Sixth students from Solihull have been completing Engineering Projects. This was done under the guidance of Jaguar Land Rover, with one team looking at a new design of proximity sensor and the second team re-designing an attachment system for vehicle doors when they are taken to the paint shop. On Friday 4 May, they attended the Celebration and Assessment Day at Cranmore Park where they got to present their work to a group senior engineers as well as set up a display stand of their work. Both teams received excellent feedback with a great deal of interest in their projects and, as an even bigger bonus, the proximity sensor team managed to win the student vote award for the best overall project. Well done to both teams.

Mr M Davies



Engineering Club

The Engineering Club has had a very successful year, and now has around 15 regular members. We meet on a Friday lunchtime in the Physics Department. In the first term, for one project, the members of the club made some great bridges, which showed superb engineering intelligence and creativity. Members of the club were then set the task of seeing what projects they would like to have a go at longer term, and we also had a play with some old Technical Lego that was in the Physics Department. This proved to be a big hit, so we decided to work with Technical Lego, including motors, cogs and gearing as well as two radio-controlled Meccano sets.



A big highlight of the year was our visit to the Big Bang Science fair at the NEC where we had a great day looking at new innovations in Science and Engineering as well as seeing some great shows.

In the next academic year we are hoping to start to get more ambitious with our project work! Technical Lego has proven to be a big hit as has Meccano; as much as anything they can be picked up and worked on easily in the time we have available at lunchtime. They can also be easily dismantled and re-built. (It is, however, up to the students to decide what projects they want to work on in the next academic year.) We are also hoping to attend next year's Big Bang Science fair.

Mr M Davies





The English Society

The English Society enjoyed numerous guest lectures and theatre trips this year. On the evening of Tuesday 28 November Dr John Fagg from the University of Birmingham delivered an illuminating talk to students on ‘Surface and Depth’ in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*. The following week, on Thursday 7 December, award-winning novelist and Old Silhillian Susan Fletcher visited the School. Fletcher spoke to students from a range of year groups about her career as a novelist and her literary craft.

In the Easter Term, Dr Paul Prescott from the University of Warwick engaged students with a presentation on Hamlet, and Dr Sarah Macmillan from the University of Birmingham delivered an informative talk on Chaucer. Our A-Level English students also enjoyed two theatre trips, attending performances of Oscar Wilde’s *Lady Windermere’s Fan* in London and Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* in Northampton.

Dr A Routledge



The Kent Library

Another successful year for the Kent Library has seen many activities on offer for the whole school community. We kicked off in September with our new Third Form reading challenge, which saw favourite book jackets drawn in exchange for their very own Milton Mood Ball. This year we also introduced an exciting initiative by the Book Trust called Book Buzz to encourage our new Thirds to continue to develop their reading skills. Each Third Form pupil had the choice from a list of 17 fantastic titles to keep for their own.

Valentine’s Day saw a hive of activity as pupils gathered round to solve our ‘Lonely Hearts’ competition with Darcey Farr, India Koziol and Paige Redfern (all Shell Formers) all receiving books as prizes for their entries.

Football fever descended on the library due to our World Cup 2018 display and competition, as everyone pondered questions like: who will win? and who will score the most goals? Colour Yourself Calm continues to be popular and is available to all students and indeed staff throughout the week whenever they have available free time.

This year’s Most Avid Reader Awards go to Sirius Oldfield and Amber Huckfield (both Third Form) – keep up the good work! I’m sure you will all join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

Mrs A Vaughan



Art and Photography Workshops

In September, the Lower Sixth artists enjoyed a portrait-drawing workshop by local artist Nick Logan. Students spent the day exploring new techniques with Nick while working from a model in the life drawing studio. Many of the students have used this experience to develop their own A-Level coursework. Later that term, the Lower Sixth photographers had a very productive day working with professional photographer Jon Clover. Working in pairs, the students used studio flashes to create new and exciting lighting effects for a range of portrait photographs and many have now used the techniques in their A-Level work.



In November and December the Lower Fifth artists enjoyed two still-life workshops with Fiona Payne. The pupils spent their time experimenting with a range of drawing techniques to develop their skills. The Lower Sixth artists also spent a productive day exploring abstract painting and drawing techniques within the theme of architecture with Fiona in November.

In December, the pupils of Springfield School joined the Sixth Form artists and photographers for their annual silk-painting workshop.

Mrs D Trim



Art Exhibition

This year's Art Exhibition showcased the work of our A-Level and GCSE Art and Photography students. There was a range of pieces on display including painting, drawing, sculpture, installation and digital drawing. The friends and families were very impressed with the talented students along with many past Silhillians including Mr Roger Stubbs who left the School in 1956 and hadn't been back since then.

Mrs D Trim



Annual Staff Art Exhibition

In March, a wide array of artwork created by ten members of staff from across the school community was included in this year's Staff Art Exhibition. Paintings, drawings, printmaking, photography, textiles and ceramics were exhibited by the following staff:

Jan Baker, Robin Bate, Tracy Bryan, Ruth Lancaster, Karen Perrins, Louise Rooney, Donna Trim, Ruth Whaley, Mark Worrall and Liam Worth.

Mrs D Trim



Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Our South American Adventure – made possible by Solihull School!

Having just returned from the trip of a lifetime, we want to desperately spread the word to all Silhillians about the incredible untapped links Solihull School has in South America. Whether you are thinking about taking a gap year or even just planning your next summer adventure, we strongly encourage anyone to follow in our footsteps and reap the hugely rewarding benefits that volunteering in South America has to offer!

But first: who are we? Tom Griesbach and Grace Evans, Solsch class of 2014. Tom was Head Boy and went on to study History at Cambridge; Grace studied Law at Nottingham. After graduating university, both of us were left feeling unready to start climbing the job ladder and wanted to first see and experience the world. Where else than South America, right? The culture, the language, the food, the music, the way of life...

Rather than just your average capital city/tourist attraction visit, we also wanted to *truly* experience what South America had to offer. To live like a local. We turned to Julie Brown – our former Geography teacher at Solihull – who suggested teaching English in Argentina and Peru: travel off the beaten track, live with an Argentinian family, give back by volunteering in local schools. All whilst keeping the cost of travelling down... it sounded unbelievable!

First up: Corrientes, North Argentina. Solihull had previously hosted students from the local Yapeyú School and they were more than happy to return the favour. Jeronimo Gonzalez and Patty Getzrow placed us in separate local families and, whilst initially daunting, we soon found our way in this pretty river-side town. Teaching English in the morning, sight-seeing in the afternoon, and experiencing the country's famous night-life with our Argentinian 'siblings' at night, we soon felt at ease despite any major language barrier. We even had the opportunity to help out on Patty's activity centre for a weekend and visit Argentina's famous salt flats nearby. Corrientes gave us friendships across continents and a rare insight into the life of a local – things you can't put a price on.

After a month in Corrientes and a few unmissable stops (Rio and Machu Picchu) next up was the small sunset-and-surf town of Huanchaco, North Peru, working through a local charity 'Otra Cosa.' Teaching English is one of the many projects Otra Cosa runs alongside helping the environment, youths and women. Providing its own cheap accommodation and recommendations for the area (including surf lessons, Inca sites, Spanish lessons and even sandboarding!), Otra Cosa brought us together with other back-packing volunteers, and we quickly fell in love with this adorable coastal town and its laid-back way of life. Easily one of our favourite months of the trip!



So now it's your turn. If this sounds like the experience for you, we urge you to use these amazing links and contact Mrs Brown to start planning your own adventure. Don't worry if you don't know any Spanish either – you will very easily pick it up and return with an extra asset that is always useful in life. Corrientes and Huanchaco are waiting for you: don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Hasta la vista, amigos.

Tom Griesbach and Grace Evans, Old Sils (2014)



Solihull School LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) Team

This year, the LAFF Team was made up of nine committed members; Pawan Bhamra, Annabel Bagshaw, Zara Johal, Suna Ozsoy, Amelia Penney, Charlotte Pratt, George Rowe, and Lola-Blue Sattar-O'Dwyer, with the final member being Mrs Brown, who led us with experience and enthusiasm. Latin American Foundation for the Future is a UK-registered charity supporting marginalised and at-risk young people in Peru. Their aim is to enable these young people to access education and develop the skills they need to overcome personal and structural barriers, by building an independent future for themselves. To achieve this, LAFF work in close partnership with four local organisations based in and around the city of Cusco. One of the main benefactors of LAFF is the Azul Wasi orphanage, which the LAFF team at Solihull has been raising money for over the last 10 years. The orphanage is run by a former Peruvian police officer and care is offered for children and teenagers who have been abandoned or are at risk. The other benefactors are Casa Mantay, Sacred Valley Project and Mosqoy.

The first event we held was the bake sale which took place in October 2017. We made and sold lots of delicious cakes, cookies and brownies to hungry pupils, which resulted in a wonderful £250 being raised. This was a brilliant start to our fundraising for the year and motivated us to get organising for the next event.

The Parents' Association invited us to have a stall at the Christmas Fair in November so the LAFF Team sold many handmade products (made by the teenage moms at Casa Mantay), jewellery and sweets. We also made pom-poms during our LAFF meetings which we added to the leather keyrings. We raised another £200 to add to the Casa Mantay and Azul Wasi funds.

In February we had a Friendship Day and made little bags of sweets with a choice of messages. This was mainly for the Third Form who bought them and exchanged with pupils in their forms, but at break time lots of other pupils bought and exchanged them. On the last day of the half term we had a non-uniform day and added another £1700 to our total. Our final event for the year was during the 5K run on 3 July. Lola-Blue Sattar O'Dwyer and Francisco Campino ran wearing LAFF T shirts and raised over £300 from sponsorship for completing the event. During the run and at break, the team sold Ice Pops to everyone competing and supporting. And with that extra £100 the total raised for LAFF this year is £2550. We would like to thank everyone for supporting LAFF and especially to Sam Aghabeigi, Sirius Oldfield, Francisco Campino and Amber Lawana who helped in many ways. Lola-Blue, Amelia, Suna, Zara, Charlotte, George, Annabel and Pawan



Report from LAFF August 2018

We can't wait to tell you what we've achieved over the past year with your support! We would like to say a huge thank you to Solihull School and we hope that you enjoy reading about the positive changes we have made for children and young people in Peru this year.

Who do we support?

Azul Wasi is a home on the outskirts of Cusco for boys who have suffered abuse or who were found living on the streets. They receive the emotional and academic support they need to cope with their experiences and complete their education. Casa Mantay is a home for teenage mothers who have suffered sexual and psychological abuse. The home provides a safe environment where these girls can enjoy motherhood, complete their education and develop vocational skills. Mosqoy provides further education scholarships for talented young people from isolated rural communities around Cusco. By gaining a higher education, they can return to their communities and aid in their sustainable development. Sacred Valley Project enables girls from low-income families living in isolated communities in the Sacred Valley of Cusco to access secondary education, through the provision of accommodation, food and academic resources in the towns of Ollantaytambo and Calca.

What have we achieved this year?

- Fully covered educational costs for Azul Wasi, Casa Mantay and Sacred Valley Project, enabling 111 children and young people to go to school.
- Covered the travel costs for the 18 girls living at Sacred Valley Project's Ollantaytambo dormitory to travel to their school in the town of Urubamba, where they receive a well-rounded education that encourages their active participation and values their cultural heritage.
- Continued our successful partnership with Inglés Superior, an English language institute in Cusco, and secured scholarships for one Mosqoy student to study there. Their English is improving in leaps and bounds – a crucial skill in today's international job market and the dominance of the tourism industry in and around Cusco.
- Paid the salary of seven tutors, six based at Sacred Valley Project (three per dorm) and one based in Azul Wasi, to ensure that the children can gain as much as possible from education and succeed at school.



What's next for LAFF?

Besides providing access to formal education and general support to its partners, LAFF has exciting plans and activities for the next twelve months based on the partner needs assessment carried out with each partner.

- Continue to support Azul Wasi to improve its internal financial management and reporting processes with the help of an accountant. Also support Azul Wasi in managing the different volunteers that come from other organisations, making sure their support meets the needs of the children and the home.
- Establish an agreement between Arte Floral and Azul Wasi where Azul Wasi can cultivate flowers to sell to Arte Floral, marking the first joint project of mutual benefit for two of LAFF's partners.
- Improve our career guidance and personal development programme by establishing a clear set of goals, impact indicators and detailed tracking system for individual and group support with the help of expert volunteers.
- Strengthen local networking with NGOs and volunteers that work with children and youth in the Cusco region and promote collaborations.
- Support Mosqoy to develop the curriculum for their educational programme for 2019.

With your help we have been able to brighten the lives of so many children and young people. We aim to build on the achievements we have accomplished this year and strive to ensure that not one of the young people we support is left out or left behind. In doing so, we hope to move ever closer towards our vision of a world where every child, regardless of their age, gender and where they've been born, can access the quality education and employment opportunities they deserve.

Marcela Muñoz Téllez, Programme Manager
info@laffcharity.org.uk
www.laffcharity.org.uk
LAFF is UK registered charity number 1125872



Spanish Exchange / Intercambio Español 2017 / 2018

The Spanish Exchange with Colegio Oleza, our partner school in Orihuela (Alicante), took place for the fourth time this year, and as in previous years, the Fourth Form pupils from both schools who took part made new friends, learnt lots of new Spanish words and phrases and gained an invaluable insight into what everyday life is like in another country.

The first leg of the Exchange in October got off to a sticky start with the sudden cancellation of our flights to Alicante, but once there, the Solihull and Colegio Oleza pupils threw themselves into a range of activities, including a tour of Orihuela itself, a visit to nearby Murcia and a day of sunbathing and shopping in La Zenia. The Spanish families were delighted to host our pupils and many of them were in tears at the airport as we went through security!

The return visit of the Spanish pupils in April was also tremendously successful – we had a fantastic joint visit to Stratford where we learnt all about William Shakespeare, and there were also very memorable visits for the Spanish pupils

to Oxford and Birmingham, including the now traditional tour of Cadbury World. The pupils from both schools got on tremendously well during the week, and we all agreed that as a whole, the Spanish Exchange of 2017 -18 had been a fantastic experience.

Language Exchanges do not work without the dedication and commitment of a great number of people, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague Ms Campbell, who came to Spain with me, all my colleagues at Solihull who helped make the Colegio Oleza pupils' visit so enjoyable, and the Solihull pupils and parents who made all our Spanish guests so welcome. Also, the warmth of the welcome received by all of us when going to Orihuela is always incredible, and reminds us why doing an Exchange is such a special cultural experience.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that as always, Mr Garner provided an incredible level of support and guidance in relation to this Exchange, and as such, the Spanish Department will always think of him very fondly whenever we go back to Orihuela.

Mr P Morgan



German Exchange

On Friday 2 March we flew out to Germany to meet our exchange partners for the return exchange (they had already visited the UK in September). Fortunately, our flight was one of the only ones not cancelled due to snow so we were still able to fly out. This was the start of our exciting week where we all did different activities with our exchange partners.

On Saturday the host family took me to visit Frankfurt which was very pretty in the snow. We visited the blind museum which was interactive and made you appreciate what it was like to undertake daily tasks as a blind person. This included walking around a mock city, buying fruit in a market and posting letters. In the evening we met up with the other exchange partners and went bowling.

The next day we spent time with our partners' families and mine took me to the Frankfurt Opera House to see Rigoletto and I sampled cheese pretzels on the balcony at the interval! During the week the whole group visited Mainz, where we toured the headquarters of ZDF (the main German television company). We also took a trip to the catacombs under the city and finished off the day with a shopping trip. Later in the week we visited a climbing centre and went for an activities day at Schloss Freudenburg. In between all these exciting activities we also experienced a day in a German school to see how their lessons differed from ours at Solihull.

Bethan Bown, Lower Fifth



Routes into Languages Translation Bee

Following the tremendous success of last year's Spelling Bee, this year we entered the Routes into Languages Translation Bee for the first time, and we certainly made a successful start! Of the thousands of pupils across the country who entered the Translation Bee in French, German and Spanish – a competition in which one must translate as many whole sentences from English into the language in question in sixty seconds – six of our pupils made it through to the Regional Final. These pupils were Tara Warrington, Josh Kandola, Freddie Truman, Hannah-Louisa Cole, Daniel Sherkawi and Hiba Sandhu, and all of them did themselves proud on the day. However, this was not the end of the story, as Tara finished in the top five in German on the day, thereby winning a place in the National Final at Cambridge University on 25 June. Facing tremendously strong competition, Tara excelled on the day, translating brilliantly under pressure, but just missing out on the top four placings. Tara and the rest of our pupils who progressed through the competition should be very proud of their achievements, and special thanks should go to Mr Gledhill for co-ordinating the Spelling and Translation Bee competitions at Solihull.

Mr P Morgan



Spanish Spelling Bee

Across the end of the Christmas Term and the Easter Term, Third Form pupils took part in the national 'Routes into Languages' spelling competition for new students of Spanish. Three winners from each form were selected after hearing how many words from a selection of fifty they could spell correctly in one minute. For these fifteen pupils, another fifty words were assigned for the next round. After some outstandingly quick spelling in Spanish, three pupils went forward to the Regional Finals at the end of March, with a place at the National Finals at Cambridge University at stake. Out of a total of over 6,000 entrants in the first round across West Midlands schools, Daleen Sherkawi advanced through to the National Finals. ¡Fantástico!

Mr M Gledhill

Lazarillo de Tormes

In January, all Lower School pupils doing Spanish, along with A-Level Spanish students and pupils from other schools, were able to enjoy the Firewalk Theatre Company's staging of the Spanish play *Lazarillo de Tormes* in the Bushell Hall. Lazarillo is a young boy from Salamanca who finds employment with a number of different masters from whom he learns the art of survival in an unforgiving and often unpredictable world. The two actors brought the play wonderfully to life and I am sure the audience learnt plenty of new words as a result!

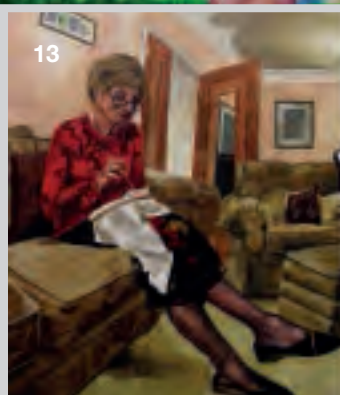
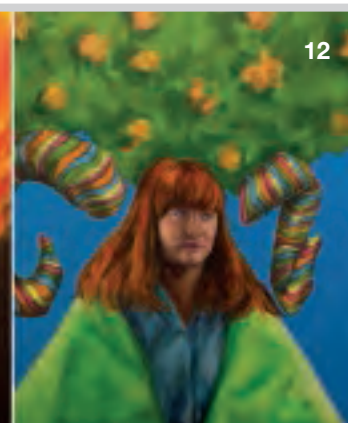
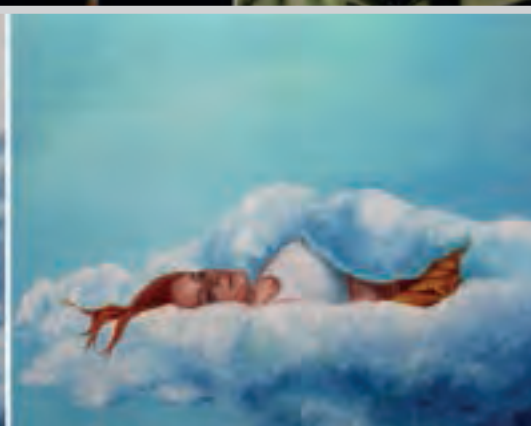
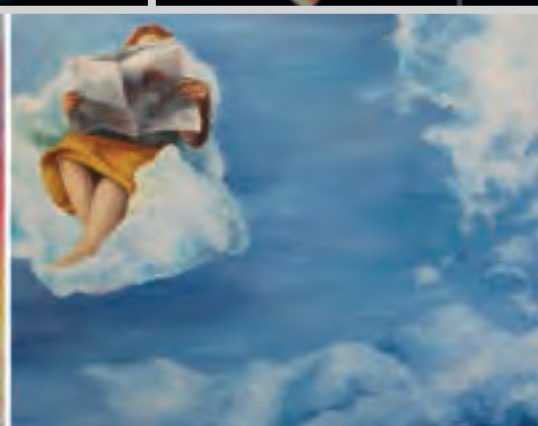
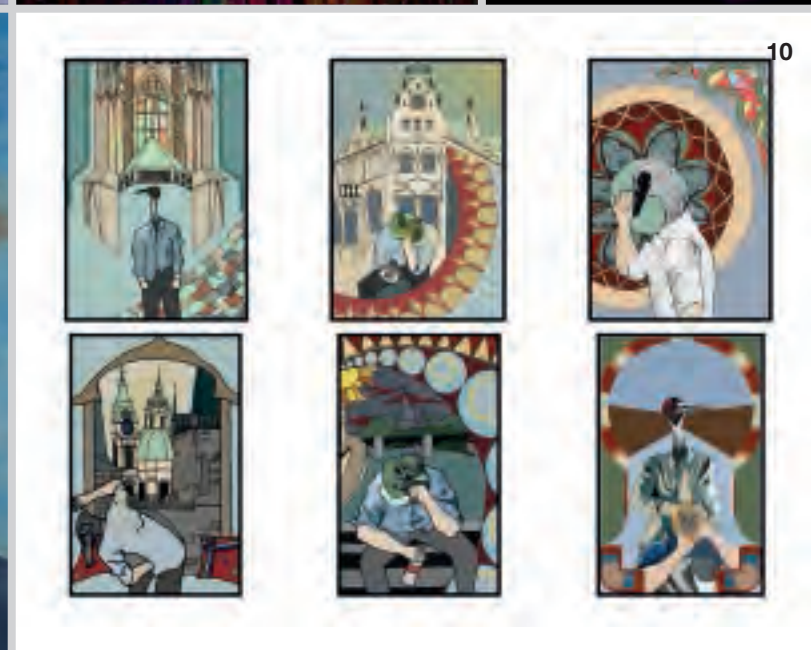
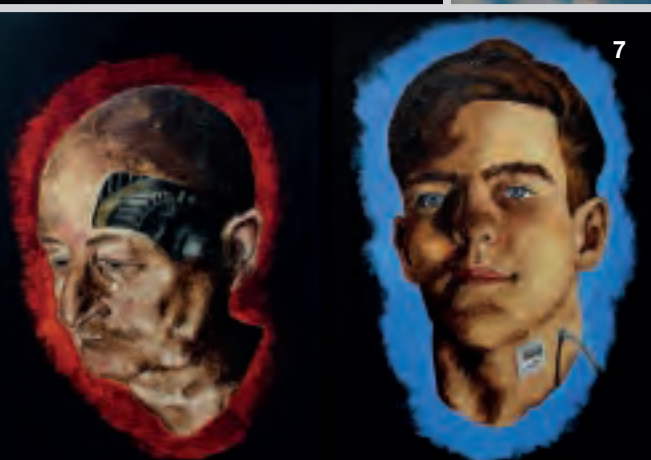
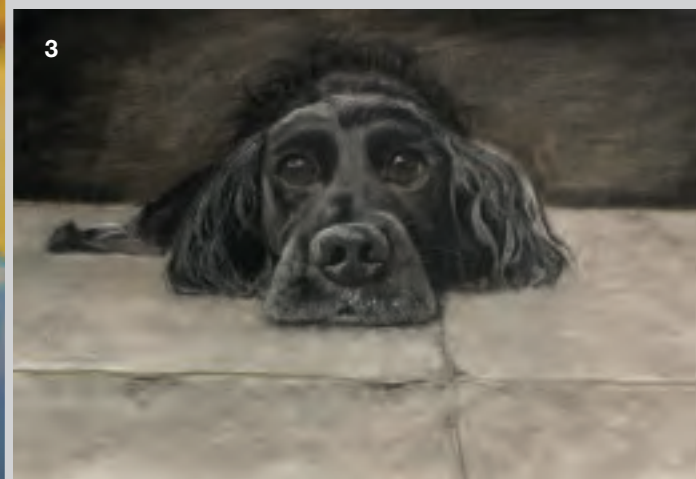
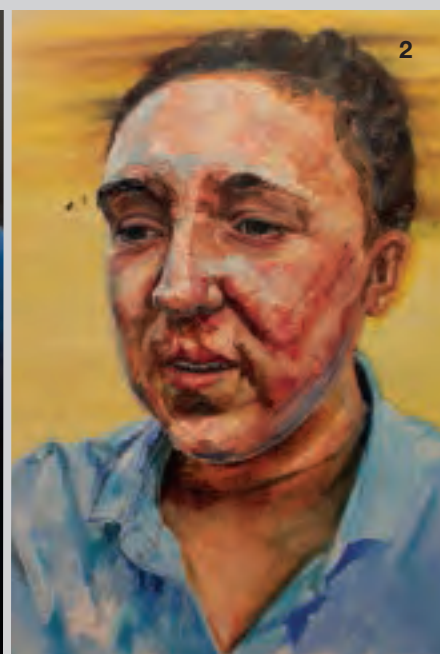
Mr P Morgan

European Language Challenge

On Tuesday 26 September, a group of Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth students of French from Solihull worked in partnership with students from a number of local schools in order to complete a marketing challenge. The event was organised by Business Language Champions and was a tremendous success. All the Solihull students used their French very proactively in order to complete a very challenging task that required them to do presentation pitches in the language using complex vocabulary.

Mr P Morgan





Sixth Form Art

- 1 & 2. Milad Amel-Kashipaz
- 3 & 4. Hannah Wolverson
- 5 & 6. Chris Baker
- 7. William Hardie
- 8 & 9. Finley Blake
- 10. Alex Stedman
- 11 & 12. Rennae Du
- 13 & 14. Ellie Ajao
- 15. Rebecca Monkhouse



Sport

Senior Netball

The Senior 1st team had a big hill to climb this season due to losing the majority of our players from last year's team so we started the year with almost a completely new squad. It took a lot of adjusting to who we were playing with as many of us had not played together before, and some girls were playing both hockey and netball. The squad worked hard and slowly, improvements started to show. After a couple of losses we got a win which settled us in time for the Solihull Borough Tournament. We won every game and secured our place in the County Tournament. Another win, some additional practices and we were ready and prepared for the tournament. Unfortunately, on the day, one of our squad was ill and another got injured. However, great team spirit shone through and despite everything being against us we came a respectable 4th. Three more wins and one loss by only two goals highlighted the improvements for the squad this season and how we had got used to how each other played. We had a lot of fun throughout the season, especially in the Red Nose Day charity match against the staff!

The Senior 2nd squad were a strong but big squad this season. Last season only winning one game saw them returning focused and determined to succeed and succeed they did! They got seven wins and only four defeats. The pinnacle was the Solihull Borough Tournament where at half time in their last match they were drawing with Tudor Grange. The atmosphere was electric, but unfortunately in the last few minutes of the game Tudor Grange scored a few goals and won the game. Solihull Senior 2nd squad gained an amazing 3rd place!

The Senior 3rds had a record number of matches this year. Six fixtures were played and a further two were scheduled however unfortunately were cancelled due to snow. Commitment to training was excellent and resulted in two great wins against Alcester Grammar and Nottingham Girls High School.

Annabelle Barker, Captain

U15

This has been a great year for the U15 netball team; we have had several wins and even won the league. We started off the year with a great win against a previously undefeated team and continued this winning streak for the rest of our matches throughout the year. Many of the matches we played finished with the score being very one sided, with Solihull obtaining winning scores like 43-2, 32-2 and 34-7. Recently, we took part in the U15 Borough Tournament and ended up on top, winning all our matches and returning with another victory. The squad has been very strong throughout the year, all contributing towards the team, and we are especially grateful for Mrs Smith coaching us and making us achieve these wins, and we hope that next year is just as successful as this year has been for us.

U15 netball squad: India Armstrong, Olivia Smith, Louisa Miles, Sophie Lamaison, Nicole Dann, Georgia Jones, Louise Green, Georgia Thorpe.

Sophie Lamaison, Lower Fifth



U14

The U14 netball team had a fantastic season this year, winning all of their matches in the borough, county and regional stages of the National Competition, allowing them to progress to the National Schools Final in Welwyn Garden City for the first time in the School's history. The team battled through harsh conditions of snow and bitter cold, finishing top of their group after winning all of their matches. We then went on to the semi-finals; further in the competition than we could have ever hoped for. This was a brilliant display of skill and excellent netball; we unfortunately lost 9-6 to Berkhamsted School, the eventual winners and the stand out team. The entire squad showed fantastic teamwork and determination to win the 3rd/4th play-off against Latymer and Godolphin School, placing the Solihull U14 team 3rd in the country, collecting a bronze medal. The team on the day consisted of: Rachel Chanji, Abigail Crampton, Izzy Gardner, Jenny Hodge, Aimee O'Malley, Izzy O'Malley, Claudia Reda, Mattie Sandford, Alex Warburton and Francesca Yeaman. We were excellently coached by Mrs Wana, Mrs Smith and Mrs Baden. The B-team also had a spectacular season showing determination and commitment throughout the year, winning the majority of their matches comfortably.

Alex Warburton, Fourth Form



U13

Despite having two of our best players out injured, our team performed brilliantly throughout the season and the final tournament. We had some really good training sessions at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre developing our A and B-teams where we really focused, allowing us to get better and better. We won eight out of our twelve matches, and proved to be tough opposition for RGS Worcester and Bablake.

We entered the Borough Tournament at the end of the season where we defeated Arden in the final. Throughout the season everyone has been very committed and determined which resulted in a great team spirit. None of this could have been achieved if it was not for our amazing coach Mrs Baden who was always positive and inspiring.

Sarah Gahan and Amelia Penney, Shell Form



U12

U12 netball this year has gone from strength to strength. With high numbers of girls attending practice and playing in matches, we have seen great success in all the teams. The girls' enthusiasm and attitude of wanting to learn and improve at netball has driven this success and we look forward to carrying this forward to next year when they move into the Shell Form.

Results from the netball season are as follows: A-team won 9/12 matches, B-team won 11/12 matches, C-team won 6/7, D-team 3/5, E-team 2/3, and F-team 2/3. The A-team also took part in the local Solihull Borough Schools Netball Tournament playing against local schools such as Arden and Tudor Grange. They won all their matches and achieved 1st place, which was an excellent result.

For the first time this year, 20 girls got the chance to go on a PGL Adventurous Activities/Netball Tournament weekend to Shropshire. This involved playing in a netball tournament and also taking part in adventurous activities in their free time e.g. zip wire, quad bikes, and giant swing. With the focus being on enjoyment and not on winning, we mixed the girls up so that they were playing with players they hadn't played with before. Solihull were victorious in the tournament taking 1st and 2nd place and receiving their trophies and medals from an England netball player. The sun shone and it was a glorious weekend; fun was had by all, including the staff! Due to its success, we hope to run the trip again next year for the new Third Formers. Thank you to all the girls for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm, making the season a truly enjoyable one.

Miss Z Jones

Rugby - 1st XV

P 19 W 12 L 7 F 531 A 170

Daily Mail Merit Table: 37

With a core of the 1st XV in their second and third seasons of senior rugby, there was hope and expectation that the boys would be rewarded for their long-term commitment to Solihull Rugby and a positive pre-season. The season got off to an excellent start with an impressive win during pre-season away to RGS High Wycombe for the first time since 2015 and a solid win against King’s School, Worcester, a team that Solihull lost twice to during the 2016-2017 season.

A heavy defeat against Denstone College was soon forgotten after a comfortable win against local rivals King Edward’s School, Birmingham in the National Cup Round 1. However, after frustrating and narrow defeats to Northampton School for Boys and Bromsgrove, the squad knew that the next fixtures would set the tone for the rest of the season. A renewed focus and determination resulted in a powerful first-half display and a deserved win against St Peter’s, Gloucester. An excellent back performance at RGS Worcester helped the team run in 52 points away at Flagge Meadow.

Games were now coming thick and fast and we welcomed Rugby School to Solihull in the next round of the Schools Cup. Two well-matched teams delivered an exciting and competitive fixture showcasing some of the best of schoolboy rugby. In the second half, Tom Serle and Noah Heward used their knowledge of the Coton Pitch to control the game and Solihull produced one of the most complete performances of the season to secure a 30-19 victory.

Solihull’s good form continued after the half-term break, winning two of their next three matches including a Round 3 National Cup victory against King Edward VI, Five Ways and an impressive 68-17 win away at Nottingham High School. The squad now believed anything was possible as they prepared for the local derby against Warwick in the 4th Round of the National Cup, however Warwick used their home advantage well and squeezed a tense affair to secure their place in the Quarter Finals. A testament to the perseverance of the squad, they got straight back on the horse three days later, scoring an impressive 76 points against Sandbach.



A very narrow defeat to Oakham rounded off the Daily Mail School Rugby 2017 season a week earlier than scheduled after a fixture against Monmouth had to be cancelled due to frozen pitches. In January, the 1st XV showed excellent grit to beat Sir Thomas Rich’s School and Loughborough Endowed Schools away before finishing the regular season with defeat at The King’s School, Macclesfield in a slog fest. Unfortunately, the weather all but decimated the Senior 7s rugby season, but thankfully the squad were able to welcome back the Old Boys for the final fixture of the season. While the game itself was one for the purists, it was great to see everyone come together to celebrate a successful season.

As a testament to the squad’s performance throughout the season, Alex Bartley and Noah Heward were both called up to England U18 and U17 training squads respectively and Cole Elleman was asked to train with the Irish Exiles. William Knight impressed in the Midlands set up and was asked to captain the side while William Rigg was rewarded with two England Counties caps and a Man of the Match performance against Ireland Clubs. Finally, Lewis Holsey gained invaluable experience when he picked up his first cap for England U18 in a fixture against Italy in April.

Special thanks must go to the grounds and catering teams for their support through the season. The squad know that they owe much of their success to Jonny Allen, who has been an invaluable addition to the senior coaching team and to Tom Serle who, as captain, worked hard to foster a team spirit and resilience within the squad. *Perseverantia*.

Mr T Emmet

2nd XV

This, unfortunately, was not a stellar season. Injuries, a small cohort, and cancelled fixtures all resulted in the season of hope not being fulfilled. As in previous years, the tone was set by the Upper Sixth, and in Jake Evans we had bravery and courage as he led the team from hooker before a mixture of injury and the lure of the first team restricted his overall influence. Benedict Harding similarly had enthusiasm which was never dented. Two stalwarts – Aleks Zadunaiski and Gajan Ganeshalingam – provided drive, enthusiasm and commitment, and their efforts were gratefully appreciated. They were ably assisted by Zackee Chughtai, with Jack Naisbitt pulling the strings as an ever-improving fly half. Alongside the runs of Waqaar Ul-Haq, there were many notable performances from the new guns. David Hanna reintroduced himself to the rigours of rugby and made many typically telling pugnacious performances before he was struck by injuries. These performances were mirrored by Matthew Empson and Jack Hughes who played some first team games. Konur Battal was a welcome returnee, equally effective in the pack or the backs. Will Currie was a welcome addition at scrum half whilst Jayden Lidhar showed promise in the centres with Dan Withington on the wing. With a Tour to Singapore and New Zealand, the Lower Sixth players have the opportunity to develop further and stake a claim for further rugby success.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Mr M Covill



U16

P 20 W 15 D 3 L 2

National Performance League: 21st

National All Comers League: 4th

Regional Cup: Runners-up

From the early soul-searching meeting held in the Pavilion, this tight squad of players went from strength to strength. They all lived by the understanding that failure to prepare meant prepare for failure. They were led superbly well by Mitchell Reeve who had taken a leaf from the Martin Johnson book of leadership, and he was supported by four other co-leaders. The start of the season saw the squad without their talisman and for me this showed the true character of these players; they would not let that get in the way and wanted to put the squad in a great position for his return. On a regular basis, 24 trained, be it on the astro, the training paddock or in the pool. Awesome! There was never a changing room left untidy and nor did I have to lift a dirty shirt after a match: such high standards both on and off the field.

The squad stuttered initially as they found their feet and we worked on patterns of play which suited our player make-up. The early losses were certainly games that at the back of the season we would have put to bed. But c’est la vie. I could run through a number of fixtures which all had a little bit of class and resilience but think it apt to pick three key ones. The semi-final of the regional cup against STR away: hostile crowd, well beaten the previous season by the opposition, it appeared a mountain, but, as expected, the squad to a man performed out of their skins, showing true grit and determination with a work ethic to be admired. Pressure turned to points and the squad maturely won the fixture 12-18 and progressed to the final. Loss for them wasn’t a word they enjoyed!

RGS High Wycombe was another. Torrential rain, freezing cold, long journey, early KO: all the excuses you could use. NO CHANCE! Again, the character and tightness of this squad pulled them through to a 5-7 victory. Not a day for expansive rugby, but one for basic yet effective rugby. It was a war of attrition and these boys had that in abundance. And along similar lines, Stamford away. An absolute standout fixture for the level of maturity and game management that every player showed that day. The squad won 10-27 against all odds, especially a crowd who obviously weren’t used to losing. The squad were goaded a number of times but kept to the task. A simple game plan that was superbly executed.

The strength in depth was great and this undoubtedly led to the high level of success. They all know areas to be worked on and I am sure, as has been the case all year, they won’t shy away from correcting these through hard work. It has been an enjoyable 15s season and I thank each and every one of them. Please ensure YOU ALL are involved next season.

The 7s for the U16s was seen as a little down time. But as you may expect having read the above, the squad still wanted to win. And so they did: Nottingham HS U16 7s winners!! This was a good way to round the season off. Allez allez allez. On behalf of Mitchell and the squad, I would like to thank Mrs Cropper for the thankless task of improving fitness levels, Mrs Rigg for putting up with non-swimmers in squad sessions, Mr Hifle and Mr Gledhill for their words of wisdom, Miss Evans for her continuing support and finally the parents for their unrelenting support in so many ways.

Mr S Thompson

U15

My final year of U15s was reminiscent of life when I started at Solihull when, as an all-boys' school, we were comfortably putting out A and B XV's. So it happened this year, with all B XV fixtures honoured, and the dual-sport players, such as Jonny Grice and Miles Humphrey making a major impact and contribution. Three matches were won, and three of the four defeats were all within a whisker. Led authoritatively by Patrick Gransbury and Archie Brown, the B XV developed as a 'club within a club', such was their unity and dedication. Seeing their happy faces afterwards, be it in victory or narrow defeat, was wonderful. The strength of our B squad, under the guidance of Messrs Morgan and James, was paramount to the success of the A XV; we had strength in depth coupled with enthusiasm. Much credit for this happenstance must also go to Mr Hifle, who coached and patiently nurtured these young men from U12 to U14.

The season started brightly with encouraging displays at RGS High Wycombe and Abingdon. So the opening Saturday defeat at King's Worcester was an anticlimax (we eventually gained revenge at the Warwick 7s!). After KW, things picked up and our victory over Rugby School in the NatWest Cup was for a long time our standout performance of the season.

Along the way, much credit must go to the willingness of players to be incredibly versatile:

- Oscar Montgomery (flanker, centre, prop at 15s; maestro as our 7s scrum-half);
- Simon Duffy (prop, second row, centre, wing);
- John Abram (scrum-half, fly-half, centre, wing);
- Dylan Bryant (12, 13, flanker, No. 8);
- Daniel Bevan (2nd Row, flanker, centre, wing, full-back);
- Luke Horgan (prop, fly-half, full-back);
- Archie Brown (hooker, flanker, wing);
- Yann Belling (prop, hooker, wing).



Alfie Blundell was a genuine powerhouse in the 2nd Row, with huge carries, a wonderful side-step and text-book clear-outs. Our lifted line-outs, under the leadership of Will Sargent, were a significant success, with Will, Freddie Albrighton, Calum White and Kyle Trainer consistently securing quality ball. Marcus Osborne, Daniel Hogg and Oscar Ratledge developed ever-increasing accuracy and timing with their throwing skills. Patrick Gransbury, Ben Stockdale, Nikhil Verma and Flynn O'Connor were versatile forwards, combining crushing carries with tenacious tackling. John Abram, Patrick Meigh and Sean Casey all brought their individuality to the scrum-half position, which was often shared and rotated between them. In the outside backs, Edward Roe was fully committed either at 13 or on the wing, and Greg Cook and Jacob Langford really impressed and developed throughout the season. For the majority of selections, Woody Pugh was the 'conductor of the orchestra' at 10; Dylan, the enforcer in the centre; Jacob Gordon, an omnipotent, free-ranging threat from 15.

The Spring Term saw the team play amazingly well in our domestic 15-a-side matches, yet so narrowly lose. Preparations for 7s were underway from December, and the team set a new performance-high, in the extreme mud and mire at Warwick, finally succumbing to Sedbergh in the Cup quarter-final. At our own sunny tournament, Oscar Ratledge's VII won all their six group matches in magnificent style (beating a much-fancied Bishop Vesey's VII), eventually bowing out in the Cup semi-final. At King's Macclesfield, we again reached the quarter-final, with Oscar Montgomery scoring from a perfectly executed 'SwitchBlade' move, and Woody Pugh showing a clean pair of heels for a wonderful long range try.



The following day, in a tough group at the King’s Worcester Tournament, we went on to win the Shield Final, with Oscar Montgomery’s outstanding solo score being the try of the tournament. What a fantastic weekend that was! We finished the season top of the All-Comers 7s League on the national ‘Schools Rugby’ website.

Next up was the much-anticipated tour to Italy. The weather played its part as we enjoyed a week of glorious sunshine and warmth, based in Chioggia, a resort at the southern end of the Venetian Lagoon. Our tenacious and genuine gas-man, Josh ‘The Flash Denton was unable to play due to a serious back injury. Ongoing injuries to other key players also affected selection. Nonetheless, our strength in depth kicked in - impressive contributions from everyone. Under warm morning sunshine, our first match against Castellana was epic! As was Arjan Nahal’s doggedness at the breakdown and his try-saving tackle, Dylan Bryant’s monster ‘hit’ and Marcus Osborne’s crucial two turnovers. We were seven points down, when Woody Pugh scored the try of his life! This seemed to bring new belief to the squad, and a game worthy of test-match quality ensued. Our 29-19 victory was incredibly hard-earned and fully deserved. The post-match celebration and hospitality was superb: Dylan, Jacob and I delivered our speeches in our best Italian, all respectfully received. Flynn received much admiration from our hosts, and Marcus entertained the crowd with his yo-yo skills. All the food was prepared and cooked by the Italian parents, and we duly gave them a standing ovation. The chicken was to die for, as were the homemade profiteroles!

Monday was a much-needed day off (morning flexes on the beach, afternoon football 5-a-side, and an enjoyable evening team meal), before Long Tuesday: up early and out for an excellent Paintballing Competition, lunch in Treviso, before transferring to Badia for Match 2. Badia had bolstered their squad by combining their players with other local clubs. It was a decent contest against their Regional U15s: they went two tries up, we clawed it back and sneaked ahead to win 19-12. We gave our Man of the Match to Yann Belling. May I thank Josh Denton - so ably assisting Mr Phillips with a number of injuries - and Nikhil Verma for looking after his injured roommate so well. We were now a tightly-knit touring unit.

Our final event was the 13th Annual Carwyn James Easter Trophy. This was a professionally organised Triangular Tournament, replete with public speeches, presentations, and National Anthems! We were playing first and third. Perfect...

Match 1, versus Reno Barca Bologna, we edged clear thanks to a stunning solo try by Jacob Gordon, to give us a 17-5 win. In Match 2, FTGI Collegium Bologna also narrowly beat Reno Barca.

The Final was set up ...
Half-time score - FTGI 10, Solihull 5
Full-time score - FTGI 10, Solihull 12!

The second half was unbelievably tense, with both sides declining penalty kicks at goal. Into the dying minutes, Simon Duffy sprinted 70m to make a match-saving tackle; we kicked clear to halfway, defended, eventually turned it over on our 10m line and banged it into Belgium!!

The final whistle blew, the bench invaded the pitch - what a fantastic way to end a wonderful season! To cap it off, our fly-half Jacob Gordon was awarded Player of the Tournament.

Once again, after the match, our players mixed superbly with our Italian friends, even signing autographs! It was a truly amazing evening, and an entertaining two-hour coach journey ensued, back to our hotel. Before the following day’s departure, we held our Awards Lunch.

After an hour of gentle humour, decanting Tour Medals and a variety of plastic creatures, we progressed to the serious awards:

Captain - Dylan Bryant
Perseverantia - Simon Duffy
7s Star of the Season - Woody Pugh
Player of the Season - Jacob Gordon
Player of the Tour - Oscar Ratledge
Best Tourist - Marcus Osborne

I would sincerely like to thank all colleagues, players and parents, past and present, for all your support over these past nineteen years at Solihull. I’ve had a fantastic time, and I truly hope that you have too.

Mr P Jackson



U14A

P 14 W 8 D 3 L 3 F 306 A 194

As the playing record above shows, this was a successful season of results for the U14 rugby team. The pre-season draw with RGS High Wycombe was most encouraging. Indeed, the season kicked off with successive wins over King’s Worcester, Denstone and Northampton before an admirable 19-all draw against Bromsgrove. The defeat at the hands of St Peter’s was a wake-up call, and reminded the team that they couldn’t rest on their laurels. The boys responded stoically with a hard-fought win over RGS Worcester and a 41-0 victory over Nottingham.

Injuries, illness and general unavailability were now starting to have an effect, yet we still salvaged a draw against Sandbach (three draws in one term - how rare is that in rugby?!) and fought bravely in defeat against Oakham. Rejuvenated after the Christmas break, we started with strong victories over Arden and Sir Thomas Rich’s. Then, the re-match v RGS High Wycombe: unfortunately, when the going got tough, we didn’t really ‘front up’, so a match that we could have won ended as a 5-24 defeat. Yet, once again, the boys bounced back to round off the season with a decent 17-7 victory over King’s Macclesfield.

Highlights of the 7s season included a commendable Cup quarter-final in the extreme mud at Warwick, and qualifying (as a group winner) for Day 2 at Rosslyn Park. There is undoubtedly much talent in this squad, and I hope that as they continue to develop and mature, they go on to achieve further success in their school rugby careers.

U14 Rugby Squad:
Cameron Rees (C), Will Couch, Alex Morrison, Rory Davies, James Gardner, Jack Pitchford, Tom Boake, Louie Bould, Dhilan Patel, Thomas Currie, Harry Jones, Declan Kelly, Luke Woodley, Benjamin Whitfield, Louis Dale, Louie Green, Archie Serle, Joshua Woodman.

Mr S Hifle

U14B

The U14B rugby team had a very challenging season in 2017-18, coming up against many teams who were picking a 1st XV from a much wider pool of players and suffering a number of cancellations due to poor weather. The best performance of the season undoubtedly came in a 43-29 thumping of Denstone College early in the season. Thanks to all the boys who played for the U14B team this year and well done for sticking together under challenging circumstances.

Mr P Morgan

U13A

The U13 rugby squad enjoyed a fantastic season of great progress as shown by all players improving their core passing and tackling skills, together with their overall understanding of the game. The recent changes to age grade rugby have continued to help improve players' decision making with time with the ball in hand. The A-team won all their games save for two, and the B-squad won far more than they lost against consistently strong opponents. *Perseverantia!*



In the 7s season, the free flowing, skill-centred approach paid dividends with the A-squad winning their group of 4 teams and progressing to the winners grouping at the Warwick 7s. At Berkhamsted 7s, Solihull won all 6 of their fixtures (the only team to do so out of approximately 80 teams) with some great grit and resilience to hold out as winners in final group games. However, it was the culmination at the National 7s at Rosslyn Park where the boys excelled for the second year running for this age group. Out of over 150 schools who entered the U13 National 7s, only 8 teams, including Solihull, won all their games. This was especially pleasing given that the morning fixtures were played amid a scene of ice and snow with sub-zero temperatures!

Mr M Gledhill



U12A

P 14 W 13 L 1

National Performance League: 9th

National All Comers League: 8th

Led by the captaincy of Harry Pemberton, the 2017/18 was the most successful U12 season to date, with a win percentage of 92.86%.

The season started off on the right foot with a superb 40-5 win against a strong King's Worcester side. Further wins came in the following weeks against Denstone College and NSB, however the winning streak was soon halted by a physical yet talented St Peter's Gloucester side; a good lesson for our lads! This was to be our last loss of the season with the team bouncing back in emphatic fashion. Impressive wins against Stamford, Nottingham, Sandbach and Oakham took us into the Christmas break with the team deserving a well-earned rest. Christmas was over, and the focus was now on an unbeaten second term of rugby. Comfortable wins against Pate's and Sir Thomas Rich's proved the team showed no signs of rust, coming off a 3-week break. An away trip to RGS High Wycombe beckoned, and a game full of hard running and strong tackling saw a mud-covered Solihull side win 25-15 – a real show of character and determination. A comfortable win against Loughborough GS followed which set up a season finale against a very strong King's Macclesfield side. After a very physical, well-fought game on a waterlogged pitch, Solihull once again came out on top with a narrow 15-10 victory.

The 7s season followed with the squad winning the Cup at Nottingham and Loughborough GS 7s, and the Shield at King's Macclesfield 7s.

Thank you to all the Big Side rugby players for their commitment to, and hard work during training throughout the season. Without this, there wouldn't have been the same success.

Mr J Allen



U12B

P 15 W 11 D 1 L 3 F 385 A 199

This has been a year of steady success – highlighted by the overall statistics. A number of boys were new to the sport and were grafted onto those who were accustomed to playing full contact rugby. There were many pleasing aspects to observe, not only through the dominant victories over Denstone College, Sandbach School and Pate's Grammar School, which showcased our progress and skill but also tenacity. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect was that throughout the season many players gained promotion to the A-team and provided genuine competition for places.

Thanks must go to all the players for their enthusiasm, regular attendance at training and desire to compete. Special mention must go to Tom O'Connor for a brace of tries scored against Loughborough, coming on as a replacement at fly-half. He took the game by the scruff of the neck and was instrumental in forcing a 25 – 20 victory. This epitomised the ethic of the entire squad this year and they should all be proud of their very successful 76% win ratio. The foundations certainly have been set and we look forward to monitoring the development of the squad over the coming years.

Mr S Phillips

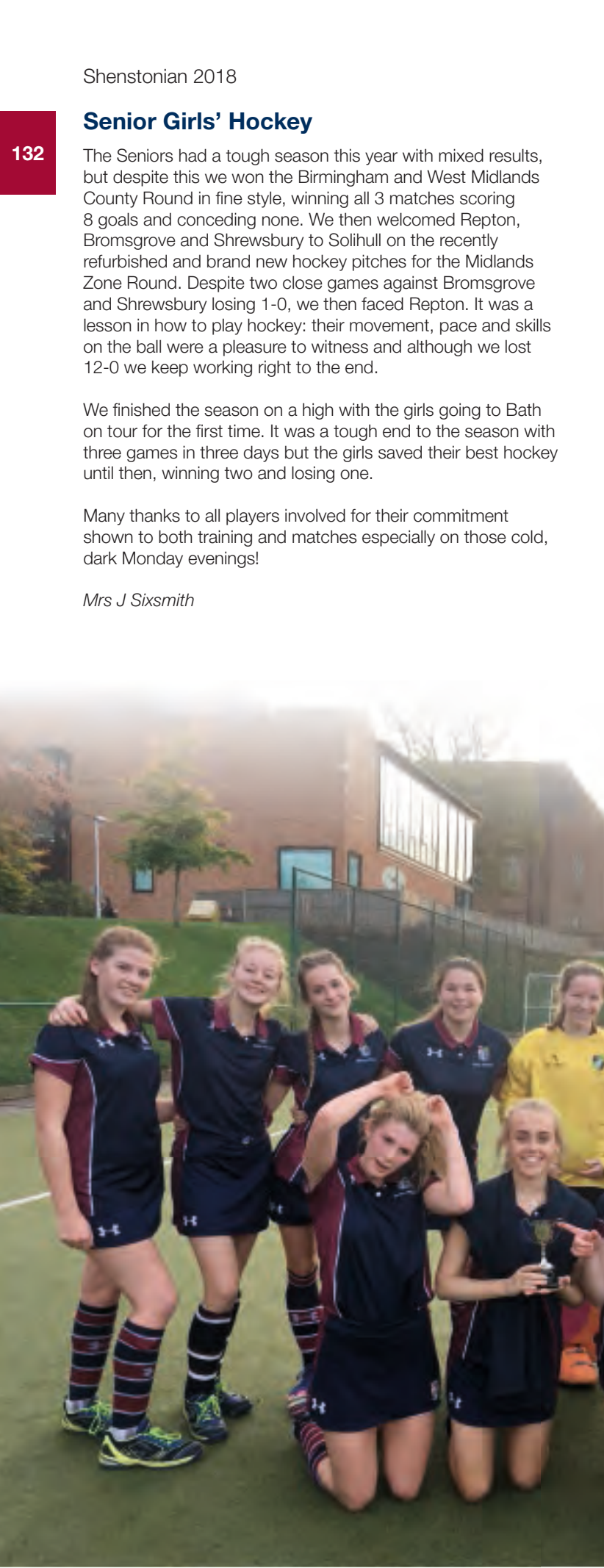
Senior Girls' Hockey

The Seniors had a tough season this year with mixed results, but despite this we won the Birmingham and West Midlands County Round in fine style, winning all 3 matches scoring 8 goals and conceding none. We then welcomed Repton, Bromsgrove and Shrewsbury to Solihull on the recently refurbished and brand new hockey pitches for the Midlands Zone Round. Despite two close games against Bromsgrove and Shrewsbury losing 1-0, we then faced Repton. It was a lesson in how to play hockey: their movement, pace and skills on the ball were a pleasure to witness and although we lost 12-0 we keep working right to the end.

We finished the season on a high with the girls going to Bath on tour for the first time. It was a tough end to the season with three games in three days but the girls saved their best hockey until then, winning two and losing one.

Many thanks to all players involved for their commitment shown to both training and matches especially on those cold, dark Monday evenings!

Mrs J Sixsmith



We would like to thank Mrs Fair and Mrs Sixsmith for helping and encouraging us all along the way, arranging and running all the training sessions. Also, a massive thank you to the parents who supported us along the way. Well done to the team and looking forward to a successful U16 season!

The U15 squad consists of: April Urry (Hampton), Bethan Bown (Hampton, County), Annabel Dalby (Performance Centre, Old Sils), Ella Edge, Ella Furber, Emily Baker (Hampton), Eva Mahoney, Georgia Jones, Hanaan Welch, Isabelle Collins, Joanne Barratt (Olton), Kyra Johal, Lana Ryan (Hampton, County), Lauren Raybould, Louisa Miles (Old Sils, County), Louise Green (Sutton, County), Nicole Dann, Sophie Lamaison, Sophie Lyndon, Imogen Starling (Hampton, County) and Emily Geens.

() = External hockey clubs and teams

April Urry and Bethan Bown, Lower Fifth

U14

This season the U14 hockey team has shown much improvement and dedication in both training and matches. The highlight of the season was definitely our win against King's High Warwick, where we won 3-2. Not only was this win an extremely proud moment for the team, especially since in previous matches we had just missed out on the victory, but it also showed our significant improvement over the season and our ability to pull together as a team when it really counted.

Our biggest win of the season was against Wolverhampton Grammar School. We won 7-0, which was a stand-out win for the team. With it being so close to the start of the season it showed so much promise for our future matches. This match was part of four consecutive wins against Princethorpe College (2-0), King's High (3-2) and RGS Worcester (5-0), which was an absolutely outstanding phase of our season.

As well as our amazing team performances there has also been a huge number of brilliant individual achievements with many team members being selected for the U14 Warwickshire County. Izzy Fennell, Izzy O'Malley, Aimee O'Malley, Naomi Horgan, Izzy Hamilton and Lainey Murphy were selected and represented our county. In the U15 team, Paige Fletcher, Lauren Besford, Jess Toogood and Izzy Gardner proudly played for the team on various occasions. This provided our individual team members a chance to learn new skills and improve. Also, as we played in different teams, we were exposed to new coaching points and techniques which allowed us all to bring new aspects to the team. I'd like to congratulate everyone who was selected.

Finally, the whole team would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Sixsmith and all other members of staff who have coached us and organised our fixtures this season, as without their help we wouldn't have made the progress we have this year, and we wouldn't have achieved so much individually. Overall, I'm so proud of our performance this season and I look forward to our forthcoming season!

Izzy Gardner, Fourth Form



U18B

Our season started with a very positive pre-season training trip to Cannock and our first win against Bablake. Saskia Freshwater took on the role of Captain and did a sterling job on and off the field. Our performances through the rest of the season were mixed against some very tough opposition. A most notable win was a 3-0 victory against Wrekin College. We were without a permanent goalkeeper this season, which meant the girls had to take it in turns to play this position. We did however discover some budding goalkeepers for next season!

The players worked hard as a team over the season and many have developed and galvanised their pitch positions for next year. I am looking forward to working with the girls again and welcoming some new players.

Mrs C Black

U15

The U15 Girls' hockey team carried on from where they left off last year with a high level of opposition to play against. Overall, we have had a mixed season, with some early defeats to Bablake and King's Worcester, which showed where we needed to improve as a team. However, we persevered and showed considerable improvement during the term and achieved some hard-fought successes towards the middle and end of the season. Highlights of the season include 4-0 wins against Princethorpe College and Wolverhampton Grammar School. In these games we worked really well together as a team and implemented some of the new skills we had learnt in training. In November, we went to KES in Birmingham to compete in the Birmingham and West Midlands Tournament. We emerged as overall champions due to great team enthusiasm and effort.



U13

The U13s have enjoyed a good transition from 7-a-side to 11-a-side hockey this season. The season started well with the girls finishing 4th in the Foremarke Tournament and this form continued throughout the season winning eight, drawing one and losing just two. The team showed great strength and character to overcome both Bromsgrove, winning 5-4 in the snow, and King's High, winning 8-4 despite losing two players with broken arms.

They won the U13 County Tournament convincingly and then finished 9th in the Midlands Finals which was a disappointing result especially as they had only lost one game. Overall, it was a very encouraging season with the B-team only losing one game throughout the season. Excellent commitment has been shown throughout the season during both training sessions and games afternoons.

Mrs J Sixsmith



U12

Even though we only came together as a team this year we have still achieved great things. Our commitment to the lunch and after-school training sessions helped us to improve our skills and fitness but also helped us to bond as a team. This has then paid off as we performed consistently throughout the season.

While we were just getting to know each other, we suffered a loss against Bablake, who won 3 goals to 1. Despite this, we still held strong in the next match against King's High but it was a well-fought draw of 3-3. However, after all the girls' hard work in our third match against Princethorpe College, we won 3 – 0. From then on, our consistent performance meant we won all of the next eight of our matches. Throughout the season we scored 39 goals and only conceded 11! Our main highlight was the In2 Hockey Tournament where we won all our matches, scoring five goals and not conceding any! This meant that we were through to the In2 hockey finals at Cannock where we would face a high standard of hockey. We didn't give up and had a positive attitude throughout. Overall, we came joint third after a loss in the semi-finals but the team were very happy with this result.

However, the A-team wasn't the only successful team because all the teams have worked incredibly hard and had great results. The B-team has had a strong season, winning all their matches but one, scoring a total of 49 goals and only conceding 8. Also, both the C and D-teams progressed well over the season, winning all of their games minus one. I think the U12s have had a great season and every one of us has improved significantly. We would all like to thank Mrs Wana and Mrs Sixsmith for all their help and support. We can't wait until next season!

Florence Pugh (Captain), Third Form



Two hockey pitches at Solihull School!

Solihull School is now the proud owner of two state-of-the-art hockey pitches. The Gordon Wilcox pitch has been refurbished and a new pitch has been laid alongside it. Both pitches look resplendent and the surfaces are fantastic to play on. This is a big boost for hockey at the school and we are hopeful that it will enhance the skills and the levels of play for all players. I would like to thank the Bursar, Richard Bate, and the Board of Governors for making this possible. A special mention must go to Karl Brotherhood, Head Groundsman, as he has worked tirelessly over several years on this project. The visual effect of the facilities, coupled with the quality of the surfaces will hopefully inspire pupils in their hockey.

Mr C Mayer



Boys’ Hockey - 1st XI

P 25 W 9 D 5 L 11

Having lost nine players from the previous season’s starting XI, the 1st XI had to go through a re-building phase through September and October. During this period the squad learned valuable lessons about playing 1st team hockey, with individual and team performances improving during this period. This group of players worked harder than any team has had to work before in order to make the necessary improvements. Fitness sessions were introduced on Friday lunchtimes and before school on Thursdays. This all helped to improve our fitness levels and the camaraderie in the team. Commitment to training was excellent.

The team produced a remarkable performance at the beginning of November in the 3-1 victory over a strong Rugby School team. This performance gave the players confidence and was the spring board for further quality performances. There were signs that this team could play fast, skilful and attractive hockey. There was now greater understanding of the tactics involved and the team structure was taking shape.

Many good performances followed, with resounding wins over Loughborough GS, King’s Macclesfield and Bromsgrove. Possibly the finest performance of the season came at Princethorpe in the Warwickshire League. The team played scintillating hockey and won 5-2 against a very strong opposition. This was a great team display, with several of the goals the result of fantastic approach play to the ‘D’. Noah Belling bagged himself a brace, with Fergus Roll, Calum Rice and Thomas Averill adding to the tally.

In the Warwickshire League we finished in 4th place. In the National Cup we won our 1st round match against Bromsgrove and then lost on penalties to Rugby. This took us into the Plate Competition where we lost to Bishop Vesey’s GS, again on penalties. We were bitterly disappointed to lose this close game

after we had been 2-1 up with 30 seconds left, with the ball in the top left-hand corner!

The end of the season saw us compete at the annual 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 Solihull. It was a good tour with 2 wins out of 4. One of the best performances of the season came in the first fixture of the weekend. Playing the host school KES Bath, the players produced a fine performance to win 3-0. This was in front of the whole of the school, who gave lively support to their team. It was a great experience for the boys to play in front of a crowd and for them to play so well. The goal scorers were Ramyank Chaganty, Fergus Roll and Thomas Averill.

Finley Blake finished as top scorer on 13 goals with Tom Averill ending the season on 8. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leavers – Finley Blake, Daniel Hofton, Nicholas Rice, Calum Rice, Joshua Rice, Ramyank Chaganty, Christopher Baker, Max Stanley – 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 with great fondness and that they do continue to play the game. I think that this set of players developed well and they were a pleasure to coach. Thank you! For the players that remain, as ever the challenge ahead will be great.

Finley Blake was captain of the team with Daniel Hofton and Nicholas Rice vice-captains. Finley Blake, Daniel Hofton, Nicholas Rice and Joshua Rice were awarded full School Colours. Calum Rice, Ramyank Chaganty and Max Stanley received half Colours. Thank you to Mr Leonard for his help in the running of the team, to Mr Allen and Mr Maddy for their strength and conditioning sessions and to Jon Cloke for umpiring the vast majority of the fixtures. 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

Having lost a reasonably large contingent of Upper Sixth players at the end of the previous season, 2017-18 was always going to be a season of squad rebuilding and so pre-season training, in the glamorous (and manure-fragranced) environs of Cannock HC, began with an inevitable air of uncertainty. However, any doubts there might have been about whether the squad could fill their predecessors’ shoes adequately were soon assuaged by a very positive two days of hockey.

Once term began, the endeavours of that training camp were promptly rewarded as we took on Warwick in the season’s first fixture. A strong and organised performance resulted in a hard-fought but deserved 5 – 2 win, courtesy of goals from Tom Day, Tom Williams, Alex White and a brace from Shivam Marwaha that included a deceptive, rocket of a drag flick.

Confident and lively, the team went into the next fixture against Loughborough in positive mood. The side played some very good attacking hockey and outclassed a relatively weak Loughborough team. However, despite dominating possession and spending most of the game in attack, we struggled to generate many clear-cut chances and those that we did create were squandered. Somehow, very much against the run of play, Loughborough managed to score the only goal of the game and we lost 0 – 1.

Whilst disappointed, the team was not disheartened as we knew that, but for our inability to score, our performance had been very good. As such there was no need to pick ourselves up for the trip to Mrs Sixsmith’s home turf in Sutton Coldfield to face Bishop Vesey’s, who always prove tough opponents, and we took to the task in a buoyant manner. Ethan Brookes’s hat trick and a dominant performance from our central defenders earned a 3 – 1 win in the first Warwickshire League fixture of the season.

This success was followed by an easy, but slightly ill-tempered, 4 – 0 win over Bablake (during which Mr Raza got extraordinarily good value for money out of his green and yellow cards) before we travelled to Eastern Road, Edgbaston for the League match against King Edward’s School. In recent years it has become standard practice to prove ourselves the less-prepared side and to lose this encounter – sometimes valiantly, sometimes feebly – all but ending our League prospects very early in the season. This year we worked hard, battled valiantly, weathered a few hairy moments and came away having secured ourselves a very welcome 0 – 0 draw. Somewhat bemused by the unfamiliar position, we wondered if this meant the League might be winnable this season.

Deciding not to spend too much time contemplating the whys and wherefores, we continued to go about our business, beating King Edward VI Five Ways 5 – 4 in a very tough, competitive fixture before despatching Adams Grammar School 11 – 0 in a decidedly less-competitive encounter. Lukas Moment, Shivam Marwaha, Tom Loughran and Calum Rice each netted one, whilst Tom Williams and Ethan Brookes rather greedily bagged the remaining seven goals between them (Tom narrowly coming out on top).

A cancelled fixture meant a two-week gap to the next match but the break did us no favours and we failed to produce our best against a decent Lawrence Sheriff team, drawing 1 – 1 in the League. Following this, Loughborough’s inability to fulfil or reschedule their League fixture against us resulted in the highly unusual situation of a walkover being awarded. The points were welcome but another week without playing was not and

the effect on sharpness was evident in the subsequent friendly against King Edward’s. Competitively fought once again, we were narrowly defeated 1 – 2 with Tom Daniels claiming our consolation goal. Whilst relieved that it was not the League match, pride was dented and we were disappointed to have run them so close but with nothing to show for it on this occasion.

The run in to Christmas was more positive, though, with a 6 – 1 win over King Edward’s Stratford and a 4 – 1 victory against Queen Mary’s Grammar School. The second term also started very well – which is another historically rare event – with an excellent 5 – 2 away win against Magdalen College School on a Saturday morning. The confidence from that win helped to fuel an extremely good 3 – 2 victory over Bloxham School, courtesy of Toms Loughran and Williams, as well as another hard-fought and well-earned 0 – 0 draw against King Edward’s.

The next fixture was a disappointing 3 – 3 draw with King Edward VI Camp Hill, in which a brace from Tom Loughran and a George Sunderland strike saved us from greater embarrassment, and, although the results may not suggest so, this marked the start of a run of underwhelming performances.

Nevertheless, a bit of grit and determination, the odd moment of fortune and the increasingly-needed reliability of Tom Loughran’s drag-flicks saw us through the next three League fixtures as we beat King Edward’s Stratford 5 – 0 (relative newcomer Will Currie amongst the scorers), Warwick 4 – 1 and Princethorpe 10 – 1.

During this period, Five Ways had unexpectedly but deservedly manoeuvred themselves into pole position in the League, leaving us able to finish second above King Edward’s if we didn’t drop any points, but as we came into our final League game of the season a check of the updated League table showed a change. A shock defeat to King Edward’s Stratford had rendered Five Ways’s position surpassable. All we had to do was win. And we did. In the end it was comfortable and largely without much tension, as we cruised past King Edward VI Aston 6 – 0 to make history.

On Wednesday 14 March 2018 the Boys’ 2nd XI became the first Solihull Hockey team, in any age group, to top their respective Warwickshire Schools Hockey League since its inception, thanks to seven wins and two draws from our nine encounters. It was – and is – no mean achievement.

The subsequent 2 – 3 loss to Bishop Vesey’s in the season’s final friendly fixture proved a slightly disappointing end to the season, especially for those representing the School for the last ever time. However, the outstanding achievements of the season were more than adequate compensation and our overall record speaks for itself:

P 20 W 13 D 4 L 3 F 78 A 25

it can certainly be regarded as a very successful season and one of the most enjoyable in recent years, setting a high standard for next season’s cohort to live up to. All the boys deserve congratulations for their efforts, whilst special thanks are due to Jack Davidson for his exemplary captaincy and Mr Raza for his inspirational coaching.

Mr M Babb

3rd XI

This year was a tough one for the 3rd team, ending the season with more games lost than won. That being said, there were a couple of good wins and narrow draws that demonstrated the team's desire to succeed. The season began poorly, with a 6-1 defeat to Warwick, but showed there was definitely promise in the squad, which came to fruition against Rugby, where the team celebrated a 7-2 victory. This was followed two games later with a 6-2 victory over Camp Hill Boys.

The boys all got involved, with a good rotation of positions and subs. Oliver Altham and Adam Holmes did a great job captaining the team throughout the season and it will be a shame to not have them next year. George Sunderland is worth mentioning, since he scored some great goals for the 3rd team before being moved up to the 2nd team due to his success. The team has worked well together as a whole throughout the season, with a good attitude and team spirit, even given the strength of some of the opposition teams relative to our own. They have been a pleasure to coach over this time.

Things bode well for the future, as over half the team were from the Upper Fifth or Lower Sixth and have all demonstrated clear progress throughout the season. Overall, it has been a season to be proud of: everyone has pulled their weight and although results have not gone our way, the resilience and positive attitude of the squad is something to be proud of. Roll on next year!

Mr O Anderton

U15A

In the 2017-2018 season, the U15A squad played 18 matches in all competitions. They won six, lost eleven and drew one game, scoring 23 goals with an average 1.27 goals per game and conceded 58 goals with an average 3.23 per game. Dominic Lee was the team captain, and the boys played attacking hockey and produced some outstanding results and performances.

These included a 3-1 win against Princethorpe College, a 1-0 win against Loughborough Endowed School, a 3-2 win against Haberdashers' Adams School, a 2-1 win against Queen Mary's Grammar School and a 2-2 draw against Newcastle-Under-Lyme School. The 3-1 win against Bloxham and 3-2 win against Rugby School were the results of outstanding team effort. Throughout the season the boys played attractive hockey, individually and collectively.

U15B

In the 2017-2018 season, the U15B squad played 7 friendly matches; four at home, two away and one at a neutral venue, in which they won 4 and drew 3. They scored 22 goals in total with the average of 3.14 goal per game and conceded 13 goals in total with an average 1.85 goals per game.

Jonny Grice was the captain of the U15Bs and under his leadership the boys played high-intensity, attacking hockey. The 5-1 win against Arnold Lodge U15A, a 3-0 win against King Henry VIII School Coventry, a nail-biting 3-2 win against King Edward's, Birmingham and a 1-0 win against Bloxham were the highlights of the solid U15B season.

Both the U15A and B squads had a decent season; players worked hard and played with high-level energy and enthusiasm.

Mr A Raza

U14A

This year was a good year for the U14A team. We had a team full of promise, finishing the season with a record of 7 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses and narrowly missing out on reaching the semi-finals of the County Cup due to injuries limiting our ability to properly compete on the day.

The beginning of the season saw us put in a good performance to beat Lawrence Sheriff 5-0, which was followed by two more big wins against Five Ways and Bablake. A narrow loss to a strong Bishop Vesey's side followed this but there was just enough time left in the Christmas Term for us to get back to winning ways before the holiday with a 4-0 win over Nunnery Wood. Because of this light fixture list, we were able to give opportunities to some of the players to be able to feature for the U15 team and I'm sure this experience will prove beneficial to them next year.

We started the Easter Term with a great performance to beat KES 2-0 but this was followed by the County Tournament where we unfortunately didn't make it out of our group. We still seemed to be suffering when we lost the following game but things picked up when we managed to win and then draw the next two games. The season ended on a high with a very impressive 3-1 win against a strong Princethorpe side.

The team was led ably by Pierce Ryan who also ran the midfield aided by Josh Golsby-Taylor and Yusuf Skinner either side of him. Harry Higgins marshalled a strong defensive unit regularly consisting of Uzair Mir, Tom Bate and Alex Starling. Rory Davies showed consistent strength in goal and we had attacking flair in the team through Charlie Villanueva, Aaron Townsend and Sam Cossey. A number of other players chipped in with impressive individual displays throughout the season and I look forward to seeing their continued improvement and hopefully an even greater number of successes next year.

Mr D Brough

U14B

P 7 W 4 L 3

The U14B team showed determination and a fair amount of skill throughout all of their fixtures. The team recorded their 4 victories against KES Birmingham, King Henry VIII and twice over KES Stratford. The best performance of the season came in the fixture with KES Birmingham: the team overcame the opposition 3-2 with a great team display and some individual brilliance. Daniel Sherkawi was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Brough for running this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U13A

P 12 W 10 D 1 L 1 (11-a-side)

P 23 W 17 L 6 (7-a-side)

This group of players has tremendous potential and enjoyed a fantastic season. In the 11-a-side version of the game there was only one defeat all season. This was to Warwick and proved to be the decisive result in the Warwickshire League. Earlier in the season we had beaten them in the 'friendly'. These are two good teams and I expect many close matches in the future. One of the best matches of the season was with Foremarke Hall which ended 2-2. Both team played well and it was a joy to watch. Over the course of the season the team amassed 57 goals and conceded just 11.

In the 7-a-side format the team again enjoyed a successful season, winning the County Tournament by beating Warwick 1-0 in the final. This took the team through to the Midlands Finals day where we performed well. The semi-final was a close affair, which saw us lose 0-1 to Warwick. We also entered the Independent Schools Cup for the first time and played our way to the finals day at Birmingham University. Along the way we recorded a magnificent quarter-final victory over St George's Weybridge, beating them 3-0. We underperformed in the semi-final and lost 1-4 to Calday Grange. In the bronze medal match we played much better and won 3-1 against Blundell's. Although there was disappointment not to reach the final, I feel that we can be proud of our medal.

Samuel Cossey was captain of the team.

Mr C Mayer

U13B

P 8 W 3 D 1 L 4 (11-a-side)

P 8 W 5 D 2 L 1 (7-a-side)

The U13B team played all but three of their fixtures after Christmas. There were good wins across both formats of the game, but it was the performance at the County B-team Tournament that took the eye. The team reached the final having beaten both Bishop Vesey's GS and Warwick along the way. In the final, the game with Bablake A ended in a draw and went to penalty shuffles that unfortunately saw us lose. The team improved steadily throughout the season by being committed to training and playing with great enthusiasm and tenacity.

Anton Deineka was captain of the team.

Mr C Mayer



U12A

P 18 W 14 L 4

Warwickshire County Tournament Runners-Up

Semi-finalists Midlands Tournament

This was a very enjoyable and successful season with the team losing twice to Bilton Grange in the final of the County Tournament and again in the semi-finals of the Midlands Tournament which they then won. Our only other loss was against a very strong Foremarke Hall team. When playing at their best, the team produced excellent hockey.

Caspar Lea was an influential captain and led the team with some inspirational performances. In goal, Oliver Baker and Hugo Murphy made some fantastic saves during the season and both marshalled the defence with aplomb. Charlie Anthony and Flynn Rickard defended very well throughout the season. In midfield, Jacob Lee, Tom Bavin and Sam Hughes were influential players and they were ably supported by Will Hodge, Will Turner and Ryan Bates on the flanks. Added to this group of players in attack, Noah Lea and Louis Taylor certainly tested the opposition defences. This team certainly has the potential to do very well in the future.

Mr N Leonard

U12B

7-a-side: P 12 W 10 D 1 L 1

11-a-side: P 1 D 1

Great commitment and enthusiasm were shown throughout the season. Attendance at training was excellent and this was reflected in both the results and performances of the B-team. In the 7-a-side format, there were many team performances and victories to be pleased about. In particular, the wins against Princethorpe, Loughborough and Magdalen College saw the team play with skill and good passing. However, it was in the County B-team Tournament that the team excelled. In a league format, the team won 5 and drew 1 to be crowned champions! Only one game in the 11-a-side format was played; this was away at Bishop Vesey's GS and ended in a 0-0 draw. Fergus Montgomery was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Leonard for running this age group.

Mr C Mayer

U12C

7-a-side: P 6 W 3 D 1 L 2

U12D

7-a-side: P 5 W 2 L 3

As always, the main objective for both the U12C and U12D teams was to get as many boys playing as possible. For this reason, both teams took large squads to most of the fixtures. Both teams managed some excellent results with the C-team defeating Loughborough GS, King Henry VIII and Warwick. The D-team achieved success over Loughborough and King Henry VIII. Unfortunately, several fixtures were lost to the inclement weather that we experienced over the course of the season. Both sets of players played with great enthusiasm for the game, which I hope continues well into the future. James Coppin and Abdulah Shammout were captains of their respective C and D teams.

Mr C Mayer



Cricket - 1st XI

P 17 W 9 L 7 D 1

The results achieved by this team will sadly not justify the talent and the potential that it possessed. At the start of the season it was easy to assume that this would be a strong and successful team. At times they demonstrated this in impressive style, recording wins against KES Birmingham, Nottingham High School, Loughborough Grammar School and King's Worcester to name just a few. On other occasions, however, they failed to flatter, suffering heavy defeats against Bromsgrove and Monmouth and culminating in a disappointing loss in the Hugh Cherry County Cup final against Joseph Chamberlain.

The headlines from the season must surely be dominated by individual performances and none more notably than from the 1st XI captain Will Rigg. Rigg, in his senior year, showed outstanding leadership qualities and led the team admirably with some astute captaincy. However, it was his batsmanship that he will be truly remembered for; amassing a grand total of 1029 runs for the season at an average of 73.5, which included five centuries and a fifty. The records tumbled as he scored four centuries in a week, three of which were in consecutive innings and five centuries in total in seven innings. A destructive batsman throughout his school career, his piece de resistance came against KES Birmingham in a T20 match when he scored 177 off only 81 balls. He also contributed with the ball, taking two five-wicket hauls in a total of 24 wickets at an average of 20.5 with his off spin.

However, it wasn't just the captain who enjoyed a good summer; there were others who performed well and made pleasing contributions.

Ethan Brookes had another fantastic season. He scored his maiden senior century; 169 off 117 balls against Loughborough Grammar School and was involved in a 265-run partnership with the captain. For the many who were watching from the balcony that day, they witnessed an onslaught of six hitting that will surely be remembered for years to come. Brookes also notched up two half centuries in accumulating 349 runs with a healthy average of just under 50 for the season. With the ball he forged a formidable new ball-partnership with Alfie Blundell, both of whom bowled with pace, and he was always reliable at the death of an innings.

More impressively, Ethan was selected to represent the Warwickshire 2nd XI at just 17 years old in a three-day match vs Lancashire 2nd XI, and scored 62 not out in the 2nd innings. He also took a wicket on debut and has since played again and is likely to continue.

Ashish Chakrapani and Alfie Blundell both showed the qualities, correct technique and temperament that is needed to be successful in opening the batting at senior level. Chakrapani, who is still only in the Fourth Form, batted beyond his years showing great maturity, style and grace in scoring three half centuries. He will no doubt rue the fact that he was unable to convert any of those scores into that elusive hundred, but if he continues it will only be a matter of time.

Blundell, who is still only in the Lower Fifth, has showed significant improvement with his batting and was rewarded by a promotion to the top of the order. When facing a fierce Wellington School bowling attack which included three boys bowling over 80mph, he demonstrated great courage and determination in compiling a good 72 and thus cemented his position as an opening batsman. He will undoubtedly follow closely behind Brookes as an outstanding opening batsman and opening bowler.

Other memorable contributions would be from senior year batsman Tom Serle, who has developed into a good cricketer during his time at school and is a natural hitter of the ball. Scoring mainly in boundaries, he scored 360 runs including 2 fifties with a top score of 81 not out. County wicket keeper Dan Bevan and batsman Nick Rice also recorded half centuries.

Finally, who will ever forget the two incredible boundary catches that were taken by Arthur Townend against Warwick and Ethan Brookes against KE Stratford. No doubt classic catches that will take some beating.

I would like to thank all the boys that have played this year in making it a memorable season and to the Captain Will Rigg for his leadership and control. As we say a fond farewell to the four senior players who leave us, I'm already looking forward to the challenges that face next year's team.

Mr D Maddy



2nd XI

Second team cricket at Solihull is based upon the enjoyment of cricket, and the chance to participate in a sport with your fellow pupils, rather than being based purely upon results. The success of the 2nd XI this season will not last long in the memories, but instead, the season was one of enjoyment and pride in the participation.

Due to exams, House tournaments, injuries, illnesses, Open Days, call-ups from the first team, work commitments, and the Great British weather, our squad never remained consistent. By the end of the season, six different year groups at Solihull had represented the 2nd XI. At times, players in the Upper Sixth (who had just sat their A-Levels) were playing alongside pupils in the Shell Form. In total, there were 34 different pupils who played in a Solihull 2nd XI game this year.

Although the names on the team sheet were never consistent, the cohesion within the squad certainly was. No matter who the opponent was and no matter where we played, the various year groups always pulled together, always wanting to do the best for themselves, always playing for the team and always wearing the kit with pride. Such cohesion amongst the players encapsulates, not only the values of second team cricket, but also of the School; ambition, to always try and do your best, opportunity, to capitalise on the chance to try a new sport, and community, to not only play for yourself but also for your team mates and your school. We demonstrated great perseverance throughout the season, showing great spirit to never give up and continue to fight till the very last ball.

Despite a few gloomy results, there were many highlights. In the first game of the season, against Bloxham, when we had our strongest team out, Oli Bevan hit the highest score of the year, an impressive 37, before being 'accidentally' run out. Waqaar UI-Haq also got the best bowling figures of the year that game, with 4 wickets in 4 overs. Of those wickets, he bowled out a player on 93, and the celebrations were something to behold. Elsewhere, an unfortunate dropped catch from Ramyank Chaganty, who bowled so excellently throughout the season, hit his chest, with the noise echoing so loudly that it was impossible for some of the team not to break into hysterics.

In other games, highlights included Jack Talbot's confidence, Alex Griffiths's, Tom O'Hanlon's and Cole Elleman's bowling, and Konur Battal's fearsome swing, which regularly got wickets with nicks often caught behind by our unbelievably good wicket keeper John Rich (!)

We actually played one game extra than what was shown in the fixture list, because Jake Evans, being so dedicated to cricket, actually asked to play more games! It has also been clear this year that the future of Solihull School cricket is bright. Not only do we now have a new kit, albeit a couple sizes too big for us all, but the abundance of talent in the younger years coming through has also been evident; they too will also proudly represent the second team machine in the near future. I am sorry that I can't name all of you. But to the younger members of our team, who went above and beyond to play cricket, I am sincerely thankful.

But as captain, I must particularly thank Mr Maddy, for his professional wisdom on the game of cricket and his help in organising the teams, Mr Affleck, for his personal cricket support in the classroom, and Mr Leonard, for going above and beyond for the team on match days, like taking the team to Nottingham and back on a Saturday morning.

As captain, and member of the Upper Sixth, it has been an honour to play cricket with such a great bunch of lads this season and I thank you all: you have all shown the cricketing spirit expected, for example highlighted through the constant 'encouragement' for the bowler. In playing cricket, I have met new people, and had a great time doing so. Who said cricket was dead? For it has been a season I will never forget. Ambition, Opportunity, Community: that's our team. That's second team cricket.

John Rich (Captain), Upper Sixth

U15A

P 10 W 5 L 5

The season started slowly for the U15A cricket team, with us struggling to put a sizeable score on the board. Over the following weeks, the players grew in confidence and the performance of individuals and the team resulted in us winning games and posting scores that gave us a chance. Sterling wins came over Bloxham, Nottingham HS, Loughborough GS, Washwood Heath and Bablake.

The team played superbly throughout the Solihull School 6-a-side Tournament but unfortunately didn't make the final after losing to Bishop Vesey's GS in the final pool game. It was a great day and it was enjoyed by all. Three bowlers took ten wickets or more over the course of the season. Dominic Lee was leading wicket taker with 14 wickets at an average of 12.21. Both Ethan Plain and Kyle Trainer took 11 wickets apiece. In total, five players took 4 wickets in a game; Kyle Trainer 4-1-11-4, Patrick Meigh 4-0-34-4, Dominic Lee 6-1-28-4, Samuel Graham 6-2-9-4 and Ethan Plain 6-2-16-4.

Great strides were made with the bat. Individuals might not have posted the big scores regularly, but the team found a way of posting a total by several players chipping in with a score. Ethan Plain was the leading run scorer with 257 runs at an average of 28.6. Luke Horgan was the second leading run scorer with 198 runs, averaging 22. Dan Bevan top scored with 106 not out against Washwood Heath in a cup match. Thank you to Ethan Plain for captaining the team and for doing a splendid job.

This team has been a pleasure to work with. By showing great commitment to practice, the improvements made in all aspects of the game were dramatic. I do hope that the boys continue to play school cricket during the 2019 season.

Mr C Mayer

U15B

Due to adverse weather conditions, the U15B cricket team only managed to play four matches, with the undoubted highlight being a crushing victory at KES Birmingham. Mr Morgan would like to thank Luke Horgan for leading the team so well and also all the boys who represented the School with so much enthusiasm.

Mr P Morgan

U14A

The U14s enjoyed another highly enjoyable and successful 2018 cricket season. The team only lost two Saturday fixtures, against RGS Worcester and Nottingham High School, and reached the semi-final of the County Cup, losing on a bad day at the office to Bishop Vesey's.

The team is blessed with quality cricketers who have talent with bat and ball and the aim with this team will be to transition a number of them into the Senior 1st team over the next 3 years. The U14s captain Ashish Chakrapani played a number of Senior 1st XI fixtures this season, making important contributions at the top of the order.

The stand-out players with the bat this summer were Ashish Chakrapani, Ben Whitfield and Declan Kelly with Alex Morrison, Uzair Mir and Louie Green also providing match-winning contributions when required. The wickets were shared throughout the team but Uzair Mir, Pierce Ryan, Tom Bate, Sam Graham and Ben Whitfield were the most consistent performers. We had a number of very close matches throughout the summer, winning against Bablake and Wellington School respectively off the final balls of the match. Special mention must also go to U13s cricketer Sam Graham who took two U14s 5-wicket hauls this summer against Nottingham HS and Bishop Vesey's, which included an incredible hat-trick.

All in all, a very enjoyable summer of cricket from a team that promises to provide the Senior 1st XI with cricketers for years to come.

Mr D Smith

U14B

The U14B cricket team managed 5 fixtures this year as good weather limited the number of cancellations that we have seen in previous seasons. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to capitalise on the extra match practice and could only register 1 win.

The first game against KES was a low-scoring affair which resulted in a 5-wicket loss as we were unable to set any kind of defendable total. The next game saw a good bowling performance restrict Queen Mary's to 83 for 9 off their 20 overs. Unfortunately, our batting let us down again and we were all out for only 69. In our 3rd game we finally hit some form and chased down Bablake's total of 122 with 2 wickets to spare. Unfortunately, this was not the start of a sequence of wins as we allowed both our final games to get away from us, despite some promising moments in each.

Despite the results I hope that the team still had an enjoyable season and I hope that many of the players will continue to improve and push for some more wins next season.

Mr D Brough



U13A

During the 2018 cricket season, the U13A team played 13 matches in all formats, winning 10. This included the Warwickshire County Cup final. The U13A boys played fantastic cricket throughout the season, especially a 1-run victory against Warwick School, a 35-run win against Bromsgrove School, an 87-run win against RGS Worcester, and a nail-biting 3-run win against King's Worcester. All were the result of wonderful team efforts. The U13A team also remained unbeaten in the County Cup competition and clinched the title by beating Warwick by 28 runs in the quarter-final, Princethorpe by 79 runs in the semi-final and King Edward's by 23 runs in the final.

Mr A Raza



U12A

P 13 W 11 L 2

First game of the season – Warwick. A good test for the team to start the 2018 cricket season off. Solihull posted a good score of 154-6 and looked to have the win within reaching distance, only for a tremendous knock by a Warwick batsman to nudge them over the line with one over to spare. It was a good effort from Solihull and there were plenty of positives to take away. Next up came an away trip to Bloxham with the team coming home with a very comfortable win, winning by 145 runs in 20 overs. Nottingham High School visited next; this proved to be another excellent game of cricket, with Solihull posting 166-5 off 30 overs. A good run chase by Nottingham saw them creep over the line with one over to spare yet again! This proved to be the turning point in Solihull's season, with the side then going unbeaten in Saturday fixtures with comfortable wins against RGS Worcester, Loughborough Grammar, Bromsgrove, King's Worcester, and Bablake.

In between block fixtures, Solihull hosted the inaugural Solihull Sixes Competition, with both A and B-teams being entered into it. The A-team played incredibly well, making it through to the final only to narrowly lose to a strong Warwick side. The County Cup brought similar success with Solihull advancing to the final including wins over King Henry VIII, Coundon Court, and KES Birmingham. The season finished in the same place it started – a home fixture to Warwick in the County Cup Final. Solihull were hoping to make it third time lucky and got off to a good start after posting 131-9 off 20 overs with some excellent running between the wickets, however everyone knew this Warwick side were capable of chasing it down. After a fantastic display of bowling and some good fielding, Solihull came out victorious, limiting Warwick to just 101-9 off their 20 overs. An excellent way to finish the season!

Mentions must go to all the players who captained the team throughout the season, and to Josh Reynolds for the highest score of 91*.

Mr J Allen

U12B

The U12B squad has had a fantastic season, not only winning the majority of their matches but also performing to very good effect in the Solihull Sixes. The team was very well led by Will Hodge who batted superbly throughout the season, particularly in his 83 not out against Loughborough Grammar School. Indeed, he was backed up by positive batting from Oli Baker, Luca Yeaman and Flynn Rickard. The bowling attack was very focused and accurate with many pleasing contributions from Luca Yeaman, Holly Whitfield, Jack Gallagher and Shlok Jha. Fielding improved throughout the season but final mention must go to Harry Pemberton who was exceptional behind the stumps.

A very pleasing season made notable by the camaraderie and the pleasing contributions in all areas of the game by the whole squad.

Mr M Covill

U12C

P 4 W 3 L 1

A good season for the U12C team, who played some enjoyable and competitive cricket. There were some impressive team and individual performances with good wins against Bablake, King Henry VIII and Bishop Vesey's. The individual highlight of the season however, came from Tobechi Achinivu who took 5 wickets in 5 balls against Bablake. All the boys were committed to practice and training sessions and made good improvements throughout the season.

U12D

P 3 W 1 L 2

The U12D cricket team played 3 games this season which included a soft ball match against Warwick and two hard ball matches against Henley-in-Arden. It was a wonderful opportunity for the whole year group to represent the school and play in competitive fixtures against other schools. All the boys who played for the D-team thoroughly enjoyed their matches which culminated with a five-wicket win against Henley-in-Arden.

Mr D Maddy



Girls' Cricket

2018 saw the inaugural girls' fixture played on the 1st XI pitch at Solihull.

After a year of summer term practices, it was fantastic to finally see the girls play some matches and it started with a pairs match against King Henry VIII.

The girls who were selected from the Third Form to the Lower Fifth played with passion and enthusiasm and performed admirably with both bat and ball. They also took some great catches and were brilliant in the field. Notable performances that day with the bat came from Chloe Mander, Amita Rao and Holly Whitfield who all played exquisite shots and ran well between the wickets. With the ball, Abi Crampton, Amita Rao, Holly Whitfield and Niamh Trainer bowled with pace and all took two wickets in an over. The team camaraderie was outstanding and it was a truly memorable occasion.

The same squad of girls were then invited to play in a tournament at King Henry VIII School and recorded impressive victories against Wolverhampton, The Kingsley, Princethorpe and King Henry VIII to win the first girls' cricket trophy for the School. All the girls impressed throughout with both bat and ball but especially in the field. Their skill level was unquestionable and it was also wonderful to see them enjoy the hot summer's day and get into the spirit of modern cricket by playing loud music, dancing and cheering at every opportunity. An enjoyable day was had by all.



Finally, the U13 girls played in a mini-tournament at Nottingham High School and were unbeaten at the end of the day. Once again, the girls, who this time were led by Holly Whitfield, performed exceptionally and it was pleasing to see how much they supported and helped one another; for some it was their first ever game of cricket. There was some great catching and fielding by all but none more so than from Pippa Meigh who was truly brilliant in the mid-wicket position. With the ball, Alex Townsend and Catrin Oswald bowled very well and with good accuracy, whilst Ellie-Mae Beeton, Niamh Trainer, Sophie Burtenshaw, Annabel Bagshaw, Florence Pugh, Jane Woodley and Lola-Blue Sattar-O'Dwyer were also amongst the wickets. Megan Croft proved to be a genuine all-rounder and was more than capable with the bat in hand (along with others) and she was particularly strong on the off side with her favourite shot, hitting over extra cover.

A special mention has to go to Amita Rao, Lana Ryan, Chloe Mander, Abi Crampton and Holly Whitfield who have all been selected to represent Warwickshire Girls. Holly has opened the bowling for the U12 boys' team this season to great effect, whilst Amita and Lana have also played for the boys' teams and performed very well.

It has been refreshing to see the enjoyment and passion with which this group of girls have played and I believe they are surely an inspiration for others to follow. As Lana Ryan continually commented at the KHVIII tournament whilst fielding: 'I'm so into this, I just love it and I can't get enough of it!' She was absorbed like many before, by it all.

Finally, a big thank you to all the girls for their commitment and efforts and also to Marie Kelly (Warwickshire Ladies captain) for all her help this year. This is the start of a new era; girls' cricket has started and is here to stay!

Mr D Maddy



Athletics

- Boys U14 & Girls U16 Borough Champions
- Girls Second Overall

Borough Championship records:

Adam Visram Cipolletta	U16 800m	2m03.8s
	Long Jump	6.04m
Erin Troop	Long Jump	5.18m
	High Jump	1.55m

West Midlands Champions

Jack O'Leary	U13 1500m
Monique James-Thomas	U13 High Jump

School Records:

Lower Fifth:		
A Visram Cipolletta	800m	1m59.7
A Dalby	800m	2m24.8
A Visram Cipolletta	Long Jump	6.00m
I Starling	Discus	19.60m
I Starling	Javelin	23.68
Fourth Form:		
I O'Malley	Shot	8.96m
Shell Form:		
S Gahan	800m	2m.30.0
E Troop	Long Jump	5.18m



Sports Day Records:

Lower Fifth:		
A Visram Cipolletta	400m	52.9s
	800m	2m03.7
	Triple Jump	12.59m
Shell Form:		
S Gahan	800m	2m33.0
E Troop	High Jump	1.55m
	Long Jump	5.03m
Third Form:		
K Maini	100m	12.5s

This year's Sports Day was won by Jago.



The following pupils are West Midlands Champions: Jack O'Leary (U13 1500m); Monique James-Thomas (U13 High Jump). Erin Troop qualified to represent the West Midlands in the Mason's Trophy.

The Junior Boys (U14) reached the Midlands A Final in the Track and Field Cup on the back of some excellent performances and the U14 and U16 Girls qualified for the B Finals. The Boys qualified in second place out of all the schools in the Midlands. The U13 and U14 Boys' and U13 Girls' teams won the South Solihull Super 6s Competition and the Regional Finals.

In the inter-school matches, the U14 Boys beat Bablake, KES Edgbaston and KE Camp Hill. The U14 Girls beat King's High Warwick, St Martin's and Edgbaston HS. The U16 Boys were successful against KES Birmingham, KE Camp Hill, Bablake and KE Aston. The U16 Girls beat King's High Warwick, Bablake, Edgbaston HS and Arden.

Many thanks must go to all the staff who helped to officiate the events during the season.

Mr N Leonard





Rounders

The Rounders season has been very successful indeed. Rounders has been enjoyed by every girl in the Third Form with A, B, C, D and E teams being fielded. They have enjoyed much success; victories against King Henry's and King Edward's Five Ways have demonstrated that progress is being made, and they were crowned Borough Champions at their recent tournament. Our U13s have remained unbeaten all season and show huge promise for the future. Their batting and fielding have been exceptional and they have always competed with professionalism and competitiveness. Our U14 team has also enjoyed much success; they qualified for the regional finals in Warwickshire and finished runners-up after winning five matches throughout the day. Our U15 team has continued to enjoy all aspects of their Rounders games, laughing and enjoying the sport whatever the result. We thank all the girls for their commitment to the sport this year and wish them much success next year.

Mrs D Wana



Ski Team

On the back of their racing successes, congratulations to George Daly, James Shakeshaft and Bella James for being selected to attend training camps in the Alps. These students were selected as a result of good performances in the ESSKIA championship races, as well as other race results. Bella and James both had a successful week training in Norway over February half term.

This year our skiers also competed in the final three races of the Winter Race League. When performance was averaged over the four races in total, Solihull pupils were on the podium nine times over the four age categories! A very well done to all involved!

Miss J Collier

Golf

It has been a year full of promise for the School's golfers. The B-team reached the regional semi-finals of the ISGA Matchplay Competition, narrowly losing to a skilful Bedford team, whilst the A-team progressed to the regional Plate Final before meeting a formidable Bromsgrove squad at Redditch Golf Club. In the HMC Foursomes, Solihull reached the Central Region semi-final after defeating Rugby and Loughborough in the earlier rounds. In a hard-fought match played on the punishing Open Qualifying course of Luffenham Heath, Solihull were deprived of a final place by a stronger and more rounded Oakham team.

In the School's Golf Championship, which was played at Copt Heath in June, Liam Mingo won the Best Gross and title of Champion Golfer with an impressive 79, whilst Sam Day scooped the Best Nett with a striking 66.

The prize for the Old Sils Golfer of the Year Award goes to Katie Lyth, who has devoted seven years of distinguished service to golf at Solihull. Most recently, she has been the School's first female Golf Captain; in carrying out her duties, she has acted with great integrity and professionalism both off and on the course. In particular, she has championed newcomers to the game and encouraged emerging players to take a greater part in the team competitions, thereby ensuring that, as she leaves for university, there is much hope for the future of golf at Solihull. Next year sees Liam Mingo as captain; we look forward to him leading the golf squad to great success and continuing the legacy that Katie has put in place.

Dr S Hart

Sailing Club

Sailing at Solihull has gone from strength to strength this year, with more boats than ever before travelling down to Chichester Harbour for Itchenor Schools' Sailing Championships, the highlight of the school sailing season. With fair winds, plenty of sunshine, spectacular surroundings and a fleet of over 100 boats providing tough competition, our four crews and two RIBs full of supporters had a fantastic three days on the water, gaining plenty of racing experience with tides and spinnakers (not often encountered at Olton Mere!). We clocked up our best results ever, with Will Sunderland and Ben Yearsley the first of the Solihull boats, recording a top-20 finish in the practice race, several top-30 placings in the 6-race series, and finishing a very impressive 40th overall. Megan Davies and Anna Whitmarsh narrowly pipped Jem Perry and Noah Rock in the hard-fought battle between the other Solihull boats, finishing one place ahead of them in the final rankings, with

Lainey Murphy and Toby Hancock only a few places behind. All the crews showed fantastic progress in their sailing over the three-day race series, especially in their spinnaker handling, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Once again, huge thanks must go to Richard Bower, Rob Yearsley, Richard Perry and Ian and Deb Hancock for their support and assistance – without them, our participation would not have been possible. Thanks also go to Mrs Julia Skan, who joined us at the regatta despite having sadly left Solihull School earlier this year. The current strength of the school club – with so many younger sailors developing in Saturday morning sailing at Olton Mere – owes much to her enthusiastic and energetic leadership over the past few years, and she will be sadly missed.

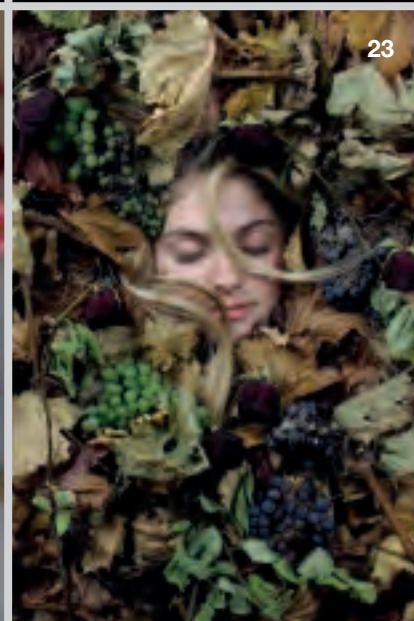
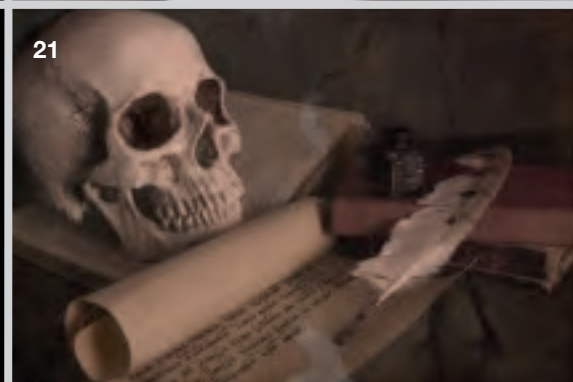
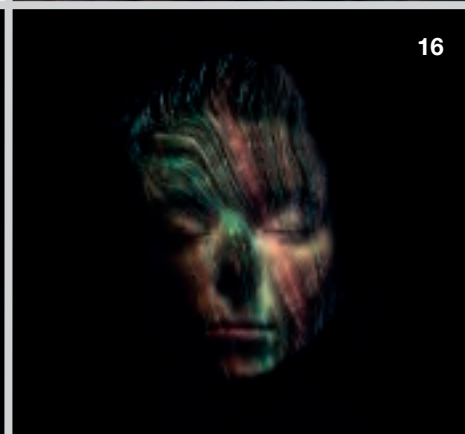
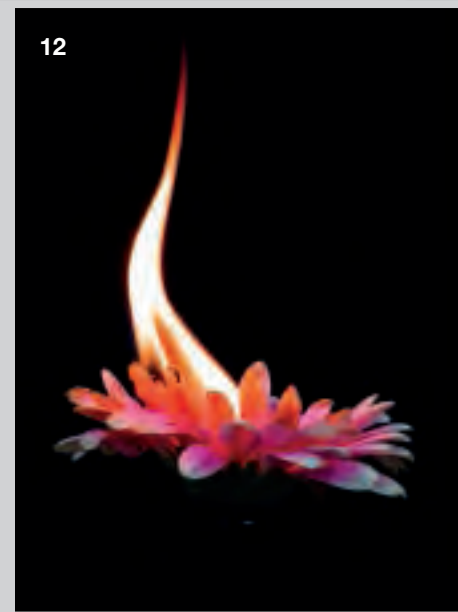
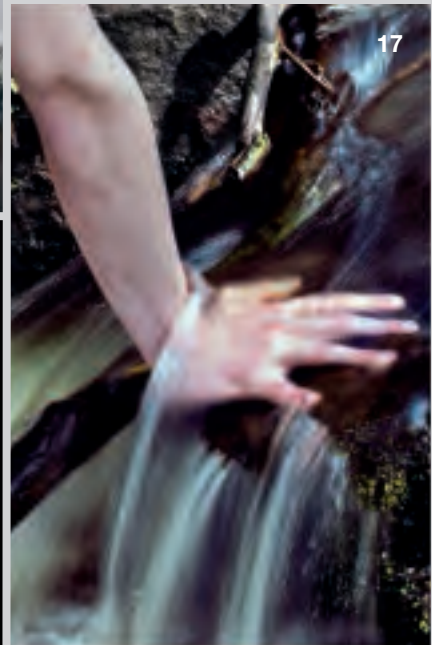
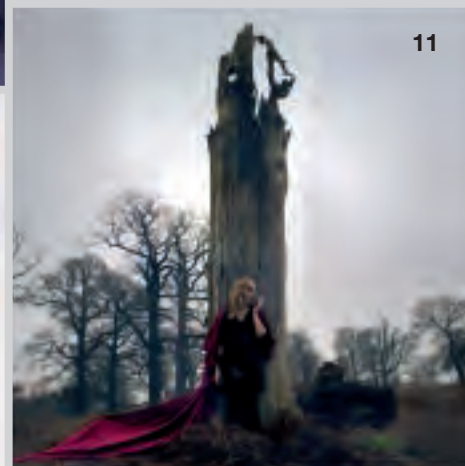
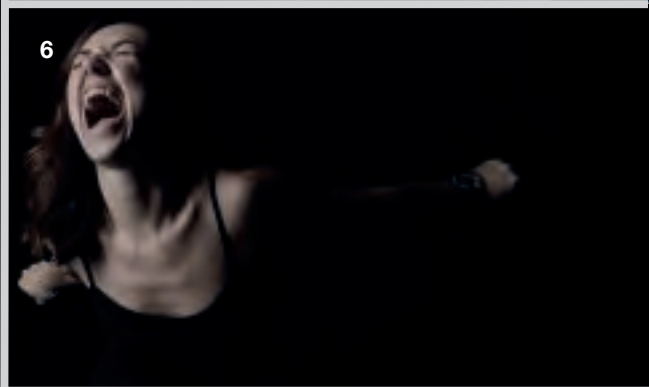
Mrs J Francis



Sports Scholars

Congratulations to our Sports Scholars for 2017/18!





Sixth Form Photography

1, 2, 3, 6 & 8. Jack Wilson
4 & 10. Benedict Harding
5, 11 & 17. Eleanor Shiels
7 & 12. Alexander Simpson
9 & 14. Oliver Altham
13, 18 & 19. Michael Balfour
15 & 16. Jake Evans
20 & 21. Olivia Barker
22, 23 & 24. Georgia Quirke

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Travel and Trips

Rugby Tour – Singapore and New Zealand

Our rugby teams had an incredible time in Singapore and New Zealand this summer. The boys saw breathtaking sights like Marina Bay, Huka Falls and Te Mata Peak and immersed themselves in Maori culture at the Tamaki Maori Village. They also visited Eden Park, home of the All Blacks, to pick up some inspiration before ending their tour with a fantastic 70% win ratio for both teams against tough competition. What a trip!





Hockey and Netball Tour – Singapore and Malaysia

Our girls spent an incredible two weeks exploring Singapore and Malaysia, while playing hockey and netball matches against local schools. The girls dined at the top of the Marina Bay Sands Hotel, spent a night in a traditional homestay, bathed baby elephants and took hundreds of selfies with the friends they made along the way! A holiday of a lifetime!





New Hampshire Ski Trip

Traditionally, the Middle School ski trip enjoys sub-zero temperatures and classic North American powder, and as we landed in Boston this year we were excited to be greeted by falling snow all the way to our hotel. This meant superb snow conditions for our first two days in the Attitash Mountain Resort area, and our pupils all made great progress. Day three saw the group move to a different ski area at Wildcat, which provides more challenging terrain to match the pupils' growing abilities. Unfortunately, the temperatures rose and we found ourselves first skiing in rain, and then on day four, the sun came out and it was more suited to sunbathing than skiing, with waterfalls and streams on the pistes as New Hampshire basked in the highest February temperatures for more than sixty years! Our groups weren't deterred, however, enjoying every minute of their skiing, plus their evenings of tubing, swimming, cinema and outlet shopping!

As we left the mountains and headed to New York City, always a highlight of this trip, we were greeted by cloudy skies, matching the sombre mood as we visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum, where our students had the opportunity to learn about and reflect on the tragic events that took place there. Fortunately, the drizzle held off later as we explored Manhattan by night, taking in the Empire State Building and Times Square, and eating at Planet Hollywood. The next day we enjoyed a coach tour of some of the most iconic sights of New York from the silver screen, took a trip on the Staten Island Ferry and visited the Freedom Towers for a view of the Manhattan skyline by day. Sadly, it was a very short visit as all we could see up there was cloud! All in all, it was another hugely successful ski trip, despite the rather uncooperative weather. My thanks go to Mr Leonard, Mrs Meigh and Mr Corbett for their invaluable assistance, and to the pupils themselves for their excellent behaviour, which helped to make the trip so enjoyable for staff and students alike.

Ms L Campbell



Austria Ski Trip

The Third and Shell Forms had a very enjoyable trip to St Michael in Austria during the Easter Holidays. The weather allowed for some excellent skiing even if the visibility was not always great. In all the years we have been to the resort it was the first time we had experienced zero visibility at the top of the mountain. Luckily no one got lost and the Human Slalom certainly helped in getting pupils down the mountain. All the pupils made good progress and the beginners were flying down the mountain by the end of the week. Many thanks to Mrs Johnson, Miss Rutherford and Mr James for giving up their time to accompany the pupils on the trip.

Mr N Leonard





Salzburg Music Tour

At the beginning of July, Saxophony, Advanced String Ensemble and the Chamber Choir were lucky enough to travel to Hüttau, a small town near Salzburg, Austria, on a music tour. After a boat trip across a stunning blue-green lake and a (slightly terrifying) cable car journey to the top of Zwölferhorn Mountain, we gave our first concert in a flower-covered bandstand in St Gilgen; a beautiful little town overlooking Lake Wolfgang. We gave a successful first performance, putting us in a good position for all of our concerts still to come. That evening, we participated in a hilarious lesson in traditional Austrian folk-dancing, which I think everyone enjoyed far more than they'd have imagined possible!

Upon our arrival in Salzburg the next morning, we visited Mozart's birthplace and one of the houses he lived in during his time as a composer. The Chamber Choir then gave a wonderful 20-minute recital in Salzburg Cathedral, which was well-received by a large audience. After an ice-cream stop in some beautiful rose gardens, and a quick yoga demonstration in the park from Mr Kermode, we continued our journey to another concert location: a small parish church on the outskirts of the city. The congregation seemed to thoroughly enjoy our performance, and we were treated to some delicious Viennese chocolates by the priest afterwards as a thank you.



The next morning we visited a very fun (albeit slightly cold) water park, and after a competitive game of water volleyball, and many trips down the dragon head flume, we ventured to Mondsee, another picturesque lakeside town. We visited St Michael's Cathedral, the iconic location of Fraulein Maria and Captain Von Trapp's wedding at the end of The Sound of Music, in which the Chamber Choir sang Mass (with some rather haphazardly sight-read Austrian hymns) followed by a brilliantly varied post-service concert. On Sunday morning, we walked round to Hüttau Parish church, where the Chamber Choir sang Mass before giving our penultimate concert. This was followed by our first (and last) period of proper relaxation; some chose to play table tennis, some chose to sunbathe, and some of our fantastic members of staff (yes, Mr Phillips, Mr Kermode, Mrs Martens and Miss Rosina, that's you) chose to dive bomb into the pool, fully clothed, to provide their own form of entertainment.

After a good laugh and a lovely final lunch at the hotel, we set off to Fuschl am See, where we took it in turns to ride a solo, self-controlled toboggan-like rollercoaster down the mountain. After a few goes, we got ready to perform our final concert in a bandstand in the town. Despite the weather's best efforts to ruin our first outdoor concert, with miniature gales that blew our music right underneath the stage, we gave an amazing last performance that I think we are all very proud of. On our final morning, we set off towards the Salt Mines, where (after being handed some questionable clothing) we were to travel hundreds of feet below ground level, via a log-like train and a series of wooden slides, to learn where Salzburg salt actually comes from within the mountain. We tasted pure brine which dripped out of the mountain itself, and wandered along the train tracks used to transport salt so many years ago. When we returned back to ground level, we headed towards Munich Airport where we said farewell to our fabulous tour guide, Tom, and where our trip was to come to an end. On behalf of Saxophony, Chamber Choir and Advanced String Ensemble, we would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Kermode, Mr Phillips, Mrs Martens, Miss Rosina, and of course, to our departing choirmaster Mr Woodrow, without whom this trip would not have been possible, or anywhere near as much fun.

Ellie Ajao, Upper Sixth

Madrid

On the final day of the Easter Term, 30 pupils and 3 members of staff ventured down to Heathrow for a flight to Madrid. Whilst the weather was a little chillier and wetter than we may have thought for Madrid in early spring, the pupils settled well into totally immersive Spanish at the outdoor education centre and working farm, CEI El Jarama, in the northwest of the capital.

Pupils tackled everything from archery, making funfair activities, basketball-canoe to milking cows! Whilst pupils enjoyed 'magdalenas' cakes and hot chocolate for breakfast (the staple diet of a Spanish child!) for some, the lentil soup was more of a challenge, but all pupils took on new experiences excellently. The day excursion to Alcalá de Henares (the birthplace of the literary giant Miguel de Cervantes) was a highlight, as was, of course, the disco on the last night. Many tears were shed on departure due to the Spanish friends they had met at the centre and with whom they have since stayed in contact.

Mr M Gledhill



Wednesday morning saw a return to the language school and then we were off to Parque María Luisa for a picnic and then on to the famous 'La Maestranza' bullring, where we learnt about the art of bullfighting and something of its history. Having seen more of Seville, it was then time to pack our bags and travel by coach to Malaga, the capital of the Costa del Sol. Once there, we got to know the city, spent time on the beach and even learnt some flamenco steps with our charismatic teacher, Nani.

No Spanish trip would be complete without some chocolate con churros, which we ate in Malaga's main square before heading for the Moorish 'Alcazaba', the fortress that dominates the Malaga skyline. Having spent some time at the beach and having bought a picnic in the market, it was time for us to head back to Birmingham.

Andalucía

In April 2018, a mixed group of Middle School and Sixth Form pupils, accompanied by Ms Campbell, Miss Noon and Mr Morgan, spent five days in Seville and Malaga. The trip was designed to give pupils who study Spanish the opportunity to practise the language in the country itself with native speakers, whilst at the same time learning a lot more about this fascinating region of Spain.

After having arrived in Seville and checked into our youth hostel on the Sunday, Monday morning was spent learning Spanish with native speakers at a language school, whilst in the afternoon, we had the opportunity to get to know the city in the capable hands of our tour guide, Ignacio. The highlight of this first day in Andalucía was quite possibly our visit to the magnificent gothic cathedral whose bell tower, 'La Giralda', dominates the skyline for miles around.

The following morning, we set out for beautiful (but in this instance, wet) Jerez de la Frontera, in order to witness an unforgettable performance of horsemanship at the 'Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre', (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art). The Andalusian horse is symbolic of the culture of the region, and on our way back to Seville, we stopped off to visit Itálica, an important Roman settlement that also tells us much about what has made Andalucía the region we know today.

Thank you to Ms Campbell for organising this fantastic visit, to Miss Noon for being such a patient, professional travelling companion, to Ignacio, our guide in Spain and to all the students who conducted themselves in exemplary fashion at all times.

Mr P Morgan

Food and Nutrition trip to the Bay of Naples

On our first day in Italy we visited a pasta factory in Gragnano. We got to try the world's biggest pasta called 'caccavella' and other types of pasta. After we tried the pasta we were then given a guided tour of the factory. We were shown how the pasta was made and the different types of machinery used.

The next day was an early start to visit the Gargiulo olive oil factory. We got to see where the olives were grown and also the citrus trees which were used to flavour some of the olive oil. After visiting the olive groves, we got to try a range of the olive oils. They sold a huge variety, ranging from chilli and garlic to vanilla. We then spent a few hours in Pompeii which is probably the most famous archaeological site in Italy. We learnt how Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, totally burying the city.

In the evening we had a pizza-making session where we got to make our own dough and see how traditional Italian pizza was made. We also had a go at making gnocchi and struffoli, which is traditional Italian bread sweetened with honey. All the food tasted amazing. Whilst we were eating we were entertained by two locals doing a traditional dance routine. They even got some of the pupils and staff involved!



On the last day we visited a mozzarella farm to see how authentic Italian mozzarella is made. We ate a traditional lunch at this farm. We then visited a gelato factory and had a go at making Italian ice cream. We all then got to sample some of the gelato and came away with a recipe sheet each.

The whole trip was amazing and great fun. I would definitely do it again, if I could!

Sophie Lyndon, Lower Fifth



Bosnia

In February, three Lower Sixth students, along with Miss Lloyd and Miss Rutherford, were incredibly fortunate to be invited on a delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina with Remembering Srebrenica, a charity that works to educate future generations about the Srebrenica genocide in 1995. We took part in the delegation with three other schools as part of the charity's Future Leaders in Schools programme.

We visited the key sites in Sarajevo such as the Tunnel Museum dating from the Sarajevo siege, the rebuilt City Hall and the deeply moving War Childhood Museum. We were also treated to traditional Bosnian food, including delicious Bosnian pies and kebabs with sour cream.

On the final full day of the delegation we visited Srebrenica itself, and toured the former Dutch UN base which is now a memorial. Hasan Hasanovic, whose father and twin brother were killed in the genocide, gave us a tour of the memorial and introduced us to Fadila, one of the mothers who lost her son and husband. We then spent some time in the cemetery at Potocari where thousands of victims are buried to reflect on a harrowing but very important experience.

Chrissie, Tom and Oliver were superb ambassadors for the School. Our thanks also go to Rebecca Heron from Remembering Srebrenica along with Resad Trbonja, our wonderful guide in Bosnia.

Miss L. Rutherford





Berlin

This year we launched a new trip for the Shell Form Germanists – a five-day city break in Berlin during the May half term holidays. Berlin is known for its historical significance, cosmopolitan vibe and cultural riches, and this trip was therefore a unique and exciting opportunity for our linguists. The first day kicked off with a visit to the Berlin zoo, the Reichstag, a river-boat cruise on the Spree and a globally acclaimed show at the Friedrichstadt Palast. We then spent a day at the Tropical Islands resort – a water park build in a former Zeppelin hangar – now the largest indoor space in the world. Finally, we visited a number of sights and museums of historical significance, indulged in some shopping, and enjoyed some fine German cuisine. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and greeted their parents at the airport, bursting with enthusiasm for Berlin! It was such a success that we now intend on running the trip annually, and for prospective German students in the Shells, I would strongly recommend signing up!

Mr A Dowsett



Château de la Baudonnière

During the February half term, six A-Level French students and 30 Shell Form pupils embarked on a trip to the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy, France. The five days we spent in Normandy were filled with a wide range of activities such as rock climbing, ‘aeroball’, a mud obstacle course and archery to name but a few. We all enjoyed the activities while improving our French at the same time. For the Sixth Formers, as well as the array of activities we also had various classroom sessions to improve our French speaking ability. Every evening, we had another activity such as bowling, cheese and wine tasting for the Sixth Form, and a French-themed dressing up competition. We enjoyed the French immersion experience and we have returned with more confidence and many fun memories.

Sophie Verrall, Lower Sixth



Shell Form Latin Trip to Cirencester

On Wednesday 7 February, Shell Form pupils who are learning Latin were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit Roman Corinium, known today as Cirencester. The day was split into two; half outside, where the pupils took part in a walk around the ancient town, and half inside the well-known museum with Roman artefacts and much more, improving the pupils' general knowledge of life in AD 43. Outside, we began the day with a pleasant walk around Cirencester. We visited different locations where there once stood key Roman buildings such as the old forum, the entrance gate to the town and a part of a rebuilt replica of the wall which surrounded Roman Corinium at the time. To extend our learning in greater depth, at each stop, the teachers explained these buildings' purposes, using images and modern-day examples, allowing the pupils to really understand the Romans. After this educational walk, the students then went on to visit the towering amphitheatre, so we could acknowledge how and why it was a key building in a large town.

Later on in the day, we were in the museum studying everyday artefacts that the Romans used, with the quiz we were given when we arrived. This helped the pupils to look at different aspects of the Romans' lives in more detail, expanding our knowledge. Once these tasks were completed, the pupils had classes with one of the experts at the museum, who showed us special objects that different types of Romans would use, dependent on their occupations. By doing this, it got us to work as a team to solve the 'mystery', by putting what we had learnt to the test, making sure that our tour of the museum was a valuable experience. Overall, the Latin trip to Roman Corinium was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Camile Abbotts, Shell Form



Latin trip to Bath

This January, the Fourth Form pupils taking Latin, accompanied by Mrs Johnson, Miss Roberts, Dr Spratley, Mr Gledhill and Ms Lodge, embarked on an exciting trip to the Roman Baths, in, well, Bath. Some of us went into the museum, armed with questionnaires to complete, while others listened to an informative talk about the history of the Baths and some of the people who helped to build it. We also got to see some real life artefacts from the time when the Baths were actually used by the Romans, about 1600 years ago. After a quick break for lunch and a stroll around the city, we met back up to go and look at the Great Bath from ground level, and the more adventurous of us tried the water pumped in directly from the spring. I have it on good authority that it is not to be recommended! All the pupils involved would like to thank our teachers for organising the trip and especially Mrs Johnson, for telling us even more information than our audio guides! We had a fantastic time and learnt so much about the Ancient Romans' way of life.

Katy Thomas, Fourth Form





National Portrait Gallery Visit

In preparation for two artist-led portrait workshops, the A-Level artists and photographers spent the day in London in September visiting the National Portrait Gallery, V&A Museum and the Photographers’ Gallery.

Mrs D Trim



Art Scholars at Compton Verney

The Art Scholars enjoyed two visits to Compton Verney over the year. In November they saw the illustration exhibitions by Quentin Blake and Jackie Morris. It was an interesting day where the pupils could see the ideas and early sketches showing how the artists developed their characters. The Scholars went on to develop their own range of drawings for display in the George Hill Building. In June the Scholars visited two further exhibitions, ‘Ravillious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship. English Artist Designers 1922-1942’ and ‘Created in Conflict’. The exhibitions were both inspiring and humbling experiences for the pupils in preparation for work to commemorate 100 years since the Armistice.

Mrs D Trim



Sixth Formers visit Parliament

In October, the Lower Sixth Politics students visited London. After viewing the statues of famous politicians at Parliament Square, we had a guided tour of Parliament, going into the Chambers of the House of Lords and the House of Commons (though we weren’t allowed to sit on the famous green benches!) After that, by special arrangement, we passed through heavy security and entered Downing Street, going right up to the door of Number 10 – we even saw Larry, the Downing Street cat!

Mr G Affleck





Bath Hockey Festival

The Bath Hockey Festival took place over the first weekend of the Easter Holiday. This year saw the long overdue introduction of girls' teams to the Festival so, for the first time, we were able to take both a squad of senior boys and girls on a weekend of quality hockey against schools from around the country. Well done to all the players, who represented the School so well, both on and off the pitch. A fantastic way to round off another great season.

Mr S Mitchell



PGL Netball and Outdoor Activities Trip

During the Easter holidays, we took a group of 20 Third Form girls away on a PGL netball weekend, where they got to compete in a netball tournament against other schools and also take part in outdoor adventurous activities. Some of these activities included zip wire, quad biking, giant swing and fun evening activities. With the focus being on enjoyment and not competition, the netball teams were mixed so that the girls got to play with players they hadn't played with before. Solihull were victorious in the tournament, taking 1st AND 2nd place, an excellent result! Due to its success, we plan to run another trip next academic year for the new Thirds.

Ms Z Jones

Visit to Forest Green Rovers

In the Easter Term, the Sixth Form Student Council visited Forest Green Rovers FC in Nailsworth, the 'greenest football club in the world', to explore sustainability and the green economy. Huge thanks to Helen Taylor, Forest Green's CEO for hosting us.

Mr T Emmet



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Snowdonia School

Each Snowdonia School experience is unique and this year's visits to our beloved Mountain Cottage were no exception with extremes of weather making the landscape more beautiful than ever. After heavy snowfall in March, Snowdonia School 324 set off a day late with Mr Garner leading the team alongside Miss Roberts and Mrs Spratley into a very white and sparkly Wales. Snowman building, snowball fights, sledging as well as climbing and caving were followed each evening by games, laughter and hot chocolate by the fire. A couple of months later in June, Snowdonia School 331 required shorts, t-shirts and sun cream. Ms Campbell, Mr Corbett and Mr Jenkinson were able to treat their group of Shell Formers to stunning views at the top of Snowdon and a fantastic trip to the beach. It's likely the odd ice-cream was consumed!

Mrs L Spratley



Teams of the Week 2017/18

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U13A Rugby Team	<i>Excellent victory v King's School, Worcester</i>
U13B Rugby Team	<i>Superb win v King's School, Worcester</i>
Edinburgh Fringe Team	<i>Fantastic performance at the 2017 Fringe</i>
U13 Netball Team	<i>Excellent victory v King's School, Worcester</i>
European Languages Team	<i>Winners of the European Languages Day Challenge</i>
Upper Sixth Biologists	<i>Wonderful teamwork on the Biology Field Trip</i>
1st XI Girls' Hockey Team	<i>Winners of the Birmingham & West Midlands County Round</i>
Junior Chess Team	<i>Excellent victory against Queen Mary's Grammar School</i>
Cast & Crew of Mermaid	<i>Two fantastic nights of drama ably led by our team of Sixth Form directors</i>
U14 Netball Team	<i>Winners of the County Championships, showing great team spirit and enthusiasm</i>
1st XV Rugby Team	<i>Excellent performance v Oakham School</i>
Chapel Choir	<i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
U12A Boys' Hockey Team	<i>Excellent team spirit and victory against Bromsgrove School</i>
Lower & Middle School Debating Team	<i>Superb performance in the ESU Competition</i>
Sixth Form Debating Team	<i>Winners of the West Midlands Mace English Speaking Union Regional Finals</i>
U14 Netball Team	<i>Excellent performance in the Regional Championships</i>
U13 Rugby Team	<i>Impressive team performance against King's, Macclesfield</i>
The Chess Team	<i>Excellent victory against King Edward's School, Birmingham</i>
Cast & Crew of Heritage & Remote	<i>Three fabulous nights of drama</i>
Mathematics Team	<i>Excellent performance at the Regional Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge</i>
U13 Rugby Team	<i>Outstanding performance at the Berkhamsted 7s Tournament</i>
Cast and Crew of Joseph	<i>Five fabulous performances of music and drama</i>
Shell Form Team	<i>Excellent performance in the University of Birmingham Salters' Challenge</i>
Lower Sixth Charity Team	<i>A fantastic team effort during Sepsis Awareness Week</i>
Benchers 2017-18	<i>A wonderful team effort for 2017-2018</i>
EES Team	<i>Excellent performance in the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) Assessment Day</i>
U15 Cricket Team	<i>Excellent performance and victory against Nottingham High School</i>
U15 Rounders Team	<i>Winners of the Solihull Borough Tournament</i>
Girls' Cricket Team	<i>Emphatic victory against King Henry VIII High School</i>
Sailing Team	<i>Fantastic performance at the Itchenor Schools' Championship</i>
Cast and Crew of Fuente Ovejuna	<i>Three nights of fabulous drama</i>



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