



SOLIHULL

# Shenstonian 2016-17





**SOLIHULL**

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Teaching Staff 2016/2017

1978		2005	S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; G Cureton
1979			
1980		2006	A Jones; P G May; D L Trim (Jan)
1981		2007	J E Humphreys; R A Atkinson
1982		2008	D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith; P Cramb
1983			
1984	P J Irving	2009	H M Smith; D R Harford
1985		2010	D E J J Lloyd; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips;
1986			
1987		2011	C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Compton; T B Emmet; E H Richardson; M Partridge;
1988	L M Fair		
1989		2012	L J Rutherford; R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Hanlon; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; D Wilcox
1990	M J Covill		
1991	D Reardon; S A Morgan	2013	M D Jones; S E Walton; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Roberts; S J Durkan; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov)
1992			
1993		2014	A T Kermode; L K Worth; W L Meigh; R H Smith; Y Canovas Canas; C E Mollison; S E Moule; M S Gledhill;
1994	H Dolby; A C Roll; N W S Leonard; M J Garner		
1995	D H Wild	2015	L E Spratley (Jan); A Abid; C A Baden; J Collier; P W G Ford; J Hammond; P Roman-Blythe; A E Routledge; F E Wernham; R C Whaley
1996			
1997	A C Hutchinson;		
		2016	O L Parsons; K C Griffiths; D A Super; A Thacker; A R P Woodrow; H Martens; K S F Lacote; J T Sixsmith; L K Browning; Z A Jones (Jan); G James (April)
1998	U Mynette; A M Vaughan		
1999	P R Jackson; M P Babb; S A Hart;		
2000			
2001	J S Brown; M Worrall; E R Hurst		
2002	S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer		
2003	M Smith; P J Higley; T J Bryan; K A Powell; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson; C Greswold;		
2004	D L Buckle; O W H Bate; D A Farrington; S Thomas; S A Crowther;		

Headmaster’s Report

Once again, it is that time of year for reflection and planning, and it is with pleasure that I report on the exploits of the 2016-17 academic year.

Let’s begin with academic results, and whilst not our very best year, 2016-17 was still another strong year. At A-Level, 80% of all grades were at A\*-B grade and 50% were at A\*-A grade.

At GCSE, 90% of all grades were at A\*-B grade and 65% were at A\*-A grades. 23 members of this year’s Lower Sixth start their A-Level courses with 8 A\* grades or more. Demand for places remains strong and we started the current academic year with circa 1,050 pupils, our highest ever.

For us, national A-Level reform is now complete and I do hope we can settle down for a period of stability with the political football that is education firmly in the cupboard. However, the GCSE landscape continues to change and pupils are now leaving the Upper Fifth Form with a mix of letter grades and number grades. In time, all GCSEs will be grade 1-9, with letter grades a thing of the past. Why, you may ask? Well, the main reason is to allow for more differentiation with, for example, 3 number grades (7, 8 and 9) replacing 2 letter grades (A and A\*). Consequently, any pupil obtaining a 9 will have scored close to full marks, securing the equivalent of a very strong A\* grade, or an A\*\* grade, if such a thing were to ever exist.

One trend that has become apparent at A-Level is the impact of university fees on pupils’ decision making. Anecdotally, two things seem to be happening. Firstly, more school leavers are going to university closer to home and living with parents to reduce future debt levels, and secondly, more leavers are opting out of further education, or seeking different routes to obtaining a degree. There appears to be a resurgence in apprenticeships and sponsorship programmes offered to A-Level leavers, such that gifted 18-year-olds are able to combine work and study with employers picking up the tab for university fees, thus saving the individual something in the region of £30,000 of tuition fees alone for a three year degree course. Whilst I see the attraction of living at home and/or joining the workforce, my advice to those doing A-Levels is not to be too transactional about going to university. It’s not just a precursor to work, but also an experience to be enjoyed for its

own sake. Living in halls of residence and then private rented accommodation and throwing oneself into undergraduate life is something to be cherished and remembered forever. Please don’t wish your lives away. Be mindful and live in the moment rather than judging each experience on where it might lead and how much money it may ultimately yield.

Talk of being mindful leads me nicely to another major development of the previous year. We introduced ‘Mindfulness’ to the curriculum in several year groups some time ago, but this is set to increase significantly in the near future. We plan to bring PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and wellbeing together, setting up a new department to deliver a rebadged ‘character education’ course throughout the school. We are currently in the process of recruiting a Head of Department to lead this exciting initiative and the course will also be driven by the much publicised skills gap we often hear employers’ associations and universities refer to. Indeed, many employers rank leadership and communication skills higher than academic results in their recruitment.

Mindfulness has also been informed by the national and local mental health agendas and will continue to be so. Whereas mental health was once a taboo subject, we are working hard to encourage members of the community to speak up when they are not coping or feeling (mentally) unwell. Mental health is a spectrum which we are all on and few, if any of us, remain in the same place on that spectrum. In other words, we all have good times and bad. Consequently, we have introduced or enhanced a number of initiatives to improve the wellbeing of the community. Several years ago we introduced the Employee Assistance Programme for all employees in time of need, for example, access to counsellors 24/7. And, when our School Counsellor (for pupils) recently retired after several years of distinguished service, we changed tack and formed a ground-breaking partnership with the charity, Safeline.

Safeline provide us with a ‘Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Worker’ and a suite of counsellors with different specialisms, for example, art therapy. We have counselling coverage every day and counsellors do sometimes visit pupils and their families in their homes during the holidays. The overriding aims are to talk openly and freely about mental health issues, to help those in need, and over time, to develop greater resilience throughout the wider school community.







There is so much expectation and pressure on the shoulders of young people and this has fostered a worrying fragility in the face of adversity and disappointment. Staff are committed to improving the wellbeing of our community and over half are now trained in Mental Health Youth First Aid – in stark contrast to the one member of staff in each school recommended by the Government! Furthermore, last year we officially launched our parent seminar programme which is intended to help parents better understand mental health and other pertinent issues. I believe that our stance and the partnership between the school and Safeline are quite unique, and I am very proud of the work we have undertaken.

Selecting the co-curricular highlights of the year is always a very difficult and potentially dangerous thing to do. We now talk about the 'Big 5': Academic Enrichment (debating, public speaking, etc), Drama, Music, Outdoor Education (Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, CCF, Terriers, etc) and Sport, and all are flourishing. Are we the best in the country at any one? Probably not, but not far off in several. Are there many schools who excel in all 5? Probably not, but we certainly do – without any doubt whatsoever.

As most are aware, the highest accolade that can be bestowed on any pupil is that of full School Colours and this is recognised by the award of our famous striped blazer. Those wearing a silver school crest on the colours blazer have received the award in a single activity and those with a gold crest have received the award in more than one area of school life. Full School Colours can be awarded for excellence and commitment in any of the 'Big 5', and also leadership and community service. This year we have introduced half School Colours and this is recognised by the award of a lapel pin badge. Half School Colours will be awarded to those pupils showing enthusiasm and endeavour, but who are not quite ready for full School Colours yet.

Another significant recent change is the formation of Solihull's own Pride group. The group aims to promote equality and diversity, advance education and eliminate discrimination in relation to LGBT+ and other groups, creating a safe place for all members of the community to thrive. I am very proud of the group's energy and work to date, and look forward to future initiatives.

So, returning to co-curricular activities, it is impossible to recount all the highlights, but I particularly enjoyed this year's senior musical, the rock opera Tommy, and I hope the pupils enjoyed it as much as the adults clearly did! Similarly, the Junior School continues to 'raise the theatrical bar' and the Amazing Adventures of Super Stan was a real treat. In 2016 we were invited to St James's Palace to meet Prince Edward in recognition of our many achievements in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and this year is no different with pupils achieving 76 Bronze awards, 47 Silver awards and 19 Gold awards, a remarkable achievement indeed.

Just this summer, our range of trips is further testament to the diversity of activities on offer. In addition to regular Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, CCF camp, language exchanges and pre-season training, festivals and tournaments, pupils trekked in Alaska and Canada, performed to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe, visited Japan and experienced horse riding and ranching in Colorado. This is a far cry from my school days when a trip to the Isle of Man was long awaited! Moreover, whenever pupils do go on school trips, I frequently receive letters and emails from third parties stating what wonderful ambassadors our pupils are.

Following on from recent high profile visitors such as Tim Reid (OS), co-writer of Car Share starring Peter Kay, and Mike Bullen (OS), writer of Cold Feet, we were delighted to welcome David Walliams who came to speak to pupils about his latest book, The Midnight Gang. I think it's fair to say that he was very entertaining and even surprised an unsuspecting class of mathematicians by squashing his face against their classroom window! In debating we hosted the regional rounds of Oxford and Cambridge competitions and proceeded to the finals in both, and this year's Big Debate, hosted by Michael Buerk (OS), was 'This House would jail the owner(s) of media organisations which publish factually misleading news'. We also competed successfully in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee competition, Rotary Youth Speaks, the Bar Mock Trial competition and the European Youth Parliament, speaking in the latter on topics of mental health, obesity and relationships with the Donald Trump administration. In excess of 100 pupils signed up for the Extended Project Qualification and we hosted our largest ever careers convention and our first international universities fair. Both were a triumph.

In music, we sang at St Paul's Cathedral and on BBC Radio's Morning Service, both now annual events, and we enjoyed two organ recitals on our Nicholson organ, a saxophone day and a chamber music workshop. As a Steinway Initiative School, we were able to use Steinway Hall in London for a concert and OSA gathering, whilst enjoying a piano master class from Steinway artist, Charles Owen. In addition, we now have strong relationships with the European Piano Teachers' Association and the European String Teachers' Association, the former holding regional piano competition rounds here at school.

In sport we have enjoyed individual success on both the national and international stage in archery, athletics, golf, sailing, skiing, swimming, and even karting, and our boys' and girls' teams have also had a very successful year. We reached two national cricket finals, with our U13 XI winning and U15 XI coming runners-up, the 1st XV reached the final of the NatWest Plate at Sixways Stadium and we now host what is arguably the largest schools 7s tournament in the UK, with over 2,000 players participating. In addition, our cricket 6s competition is growing in recognition and standing, with teams from England and Wales competing annually.

We have forged strong relationships with Worcester Warriors for rugby and Wasps for netball, and our netballers have maintained their status as County Champions across several age groups. Our Junior School athletes were once again victorious in the Director's Cup, fending off schools from across the borough, and our male and female hockey teams enjoyed typically successful seasons and are looking forward to playing on our two new artificial surfaces this year. Furthermore, we renamed the senior rugby pitch The Coton Pitch in memory of Claude and Dora Coton who were lifelong supporters of school and Old Silhillian rugby.

We also officially opened the Keith Sach Suite on the top floor of the Cooper Building in recognition of Keith's contribution to the school and life-saving, which later became a major part of his distinguished and selfless career. Both Senior and Junior School assemblies are packed full of good news and celebration stories each week and the Team of the Week contest is always a very difficult choice!

Probably my greatest highlight of the year, and certainly my most emotional, was going with a group of our pupil dancers to Reynolds Cross School. For the dancers this was a weekly event (and still is) and Reynolds Cross is a school for severely mentally and physically impaired pupils; many of the pupils at the school require one-to-one care around the clock. The school is run by an inspirational woman, who until this year was one of our parents and is an Old Silhillian herself! Although dance is a relatively minor activity at Solihull, we were fortunate to have a group of girls, who although now at university, have left a legacy for younger pupils to carry on. The momentum is very strong and exciting, and bodes well for the future. Watching the dancers teach these children was both heart-breaking and heart-warming. They did the most fantastic job and the children loved every minute of it. It was difficult to articulate my feelings at the time, but the experience encapsulated just what is so special, and dare I say unique, about the Solihull community, a community I feel very proud of indeed.

David E J J Lloyd

## Heads of School

The Head of School for the 2016-2017 academic year was Lydia Roll and her deputies were Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead.





# Development and Alumni Relations

For news, for connections, for support, for life

## Events

We have had a fantastic year of events with Old Silhillians, former parents and former staff from ages 18 to 90 attending events held at the School, Old Sils Clubhouse and in London.

### The Official Opening of The Coton Pitch

On 21 January 2017 the Senior Rugby pitch was officially renamed the Coton Pitch in memory of Claude and Dora Coton. Claude Coton (Shenstone, 1931 – 1938) passed away in 2009 aged 88, and Dora passed away in 2015 aged 91. Claude was a distinguished past captain and president of the Old Silhillians' Association Rugby Club and continued playing until he was 55. Claude and Dora Coton were great supporters of the School and Old Silhillians' Association Rugby, and as a result of their generosity we have constructed a new pitch perimeter fence and purchased an electronic scoreboard. It was great to see so many Old Silhillians gathered for the event. Headmaster David Lloyd paid tribute and Peter Thomas (Shenstone, 1966 – 1973), a great friend of Claude, cut the ribbon and said a few kind words. Solihull 1st XV went on to win the inaugural match on the newly-named pitch by beating Loughborough GS 1ST XV 33-15, before lunch was served for guests in the Alan Lee Pavilion.



### Old Silhillians' Sports Day

On 18 March 2017 the School opened its doors to former pupils, parents and staff for the alumni versus current pupils sports matches. It was an unforgettable day with great results all round. Netball: 17-12 to Old Girls; Hockey: 1-0 to current 1st team; Rugby: 24-0 to Old Boys. After the matches at school, we headed down to the Silhillians Sports Club where over £5,000 was raised for the RFU Injured Players Foundation. It was a busy afternoon of rugby, both on the pitch and on the big screen. We saw a fantastic win from Silhillians RUFC 1st XV vs Rugby Lions 26-21 to secure the Midlands Cup!



### Tommy and Alumni Drinks Reception

On 22 March we were pleased to welcome back Old Silhillians to attend a drinks reception and a performance of The Who's legendary Rock Opera *Tommy*. The event was extremely well attended. One of our guests, Tim Schwersenz (Pole, 1964-1972) was a cast member in the original 1975 film of *Tommy*, and took part in the famous Pinball Wizard scene with Elton John. Tim thought the musical was fantastic and was one of the first to give a standing ovation.



### Over 60s Tour and Lunch

On 10 May 2017 we were delighted to welcome over 40 members of the Old Silhillians Over 60s group back to the School for a tour. Old Sils from as far afield as America came back to see the recent developments and reflect on changes since their time as school boys. The Old Sils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, reminiscing about the School in their time and admiring the facilities available to our current pupils. Following the tours, the guests went on to the Old Sils Clubhouse where they could meet up with more old friends over lunch.



### Official Opening of the Keith Sach Suite

Keith Sach (Biology Teacher, 1970-1979) was a much valued member of the Solihull community. In his nine years at the School, Keith used his variety of talents to support pupils and staff alike through numerous extra-curricular activities including Middle Fifth House Tutor of Jago, Warden of the Chapel, Warden of the Swimming Pool, Assistant Careers Master, and Director of Biology Field Courses. Keith was a long-term member of the Royal Life Saving Society and left Solihull in 1979 to become RLSS UK Director and Commonwealth Secretary.

Keith was a great supporter of the School right up until his death in July 2016. He regularly attended a wide selection of school events and took great satisfaction from using his skills, experience and contacts to enrich the lives of Silhillians. He was a selfless man and supported the School's aims, particularly 'community', throughout his association with Solihull.

In memory of Keith and all that he has done for Solihull and Silhillians past and present, we were pleased to welcome family, friends, and former pupils and staff back to school on Monday 15 May for the official opening of the Keith Sach Suite. The Headmaster and Keith's daughter, Katy, both spoke of their memories of Keith and the importance of Solihull in his life and we were pleased to dedicate the top floor of the Cooper Building to Keith by naming it the 'Keith Sach Suite'.

Mrs S Jordan





## From the Archivist

One hundred years ago, the Shenstonian lamented... ‘The Summer Term ends with the War still on! Many of our friends have joined the colours, and others are steadily preparing themselves to join them... We have lost many of those whom we remembe... we see them as they moved among us, and we feel their loss’. Fourteen Old Silhillians were killed in 1917, and we pay tribute to their memory and salute their bravery, remembering of course that they lived and enjoyed their school days just as we do. They played hockey, cricket and football (no rugby until 1930) on Big Side, took lessons in the Big School Room in School House (now divided up into computer rooms) and sat exams. They drilled and shot in the OTC (CCF) then suddenly the playing fields and tranquillity of Solihull School was exchanged for the horrors of the Western Front and beyond, some leaving their blood in foreign soil. This is not a story or a film, but real life. The history of our School is real, and should never be forgotten.

1917, is of course the centenary of the Third battle of Ypres, Passchendaele, which has been honoured throughout the summer in the media. This most famous of battles was fought from 31 July to 10 November, and has come to symbolise the horror and futility of war in a murderous stalemate fought in the most awful of conditions as torrential rain turned the battlefield into a quagmire of clinging mud and shell holes full of stinking water, and then the greatest horror of all, gas. Old Sil Pte. Reg Patterson described the scene in his diary: ‘I fell over wire, tree stumps, and shell holes.....every now and then someone gave a groan and dropped either killed or wounded. I could not stop as the order was to keep on going.....it was hell in its worse conception’. Patterson was gassed twice and wounded but survived, one of our bravest former pupils. So too Lt. Charles Lander, who graphically described the conditions in the trenches, conditions he shared with his friend and fellow Old Sil Lt. F.P. Smith on the battlefield at Messine Ridge, the prelude to the Passchendaele offensive: ‘our trenches were flooded due to the water and all the sump holes were infested with rats as big as rabbits waiting to devour the dead or even the dying’.

Meanwhile back at school, in summer 1917, 22 older boys (twelve for the full six weeks) went fruit picking at Pershore under the National Service Scheme. There were also harvest camps at Bromsgrove and Leicester. The report on these activities said that the work was long and tiring, but rejoiced

in the fact that ‘we had done some part of our duty to our country’.

Old Sils fighting in the trenches often visited the School when on leave or recovering from wounds: ‘Lt Roe visited us this term, he has enjoyed the experience of being blown into the air and buried in debris by the explosion from a trench mortar... Lt. Oakley visited us he is still recovering from a wound in the head... Lt. F.P. Smith (Lander’s friend) is recovering after being gassed... We congratulate O.P. Crouch for winning the Military Medal (twice) but sympathize deeply with him upon the loss of his right arm. Lt. L.C. Smith has been taken prisoner at Passchendaele’. The Shenstonian is short of paper in 1917 but stoically records that ‘we are still adding to our List of Boys who are serving their King and Country to the honour of themselves and the School’.

Fourteen of those serving did not return.

Gunner Reginald Dare Day left School in 1913 and served on the Western Front under the name of William Garner, probably because he was under age when he enlisted. The youngest of four brothers from Hall Green, he was killed on 21 October 1917.

Lt. Norman Oliver Dingley, (School House)\* left school at Christmas 1911. An excellent cricketer, Norman’s finest hour as a batsman was versus Camp Hill on 2 July 1910 when he scored 83, ‘hitting freely... thirteen fours, four twos and a three’. He then took five wickets. He joined the Worcestershire Regiment and was killed on 5 May 1917, aged 22.

Lt. Harry Osborn Hackett (Acocks Green House), left school in 1910, after coming second throwing the cricket ball on Sports Day. He was killed on 28 August 1917, aged 22. He left a widow, Mollie, and lived in Moseley, and was a member of Robin Hood Golf Club.

Acting Captain William Foley is listed on the Serving Roll of Honour in 1914, but not on our War Memorial. He served in the Royal Irish Fusiliers and died of wounds on 1 November 1917.

Lt. John Harrison (Solihull House) from Kings Heath left school in 1912. He was a keen member of the OTC, and a member of the Wythall Patrol of Boy Scouts and was on camp when war was declared. He then found himself at the Front by March 1915 and witnessed heavy fighting. John was awarded the Military Cross ‘for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, leading a bombing party, in spite of heavy casualties’. He was killed on 16 April 1917, aged 21.

Captain Harold Jackson, from Coventry entered school in 1907 (Country House) and won prizes for Divinity and English in 1911. He played for the 1st XI cricket team as ‘a young bowler



Lieutenant Norman Oliver Dingley.

2nd Lieutenant John Harrison.



of much promise’. He won prizes for academic achievement, mathematics and science in his final year at School, 1912. Harold was killed in action whilst serving with the 41st Sqdn. of the Royal Flying Corps on 7 June 1917, aged 21.

Lt. Henry Arthur Matthews from Moseley was a keen hockey player at the School. He was captain of Erdington Hockey Club when war was declared, and he had also played for Warwickshire and Midland Counties. He served in the Royal Field Artillery and died on 25 October 1917, having been wounded in action the previous day.

Lance Corporal Sydney Vernon Pickering, from Moseley left school in 1910 having passed the Oxford local examinations. He was commended in the OTC, along with fourteen other boys, seven of whom never returned from the war. He worked for Midland Bank, New Street, Birmingham and joined the Banker’s Battalions before his transfer to the Middlesex Regiment in 1916, serving in France, where he was killed on 15 March 1917, aged 22.

Lt. Joseph Cecil Smith, (Solihull House) lived in the Manor House, High Street, Solihull. He was a keen member of the OTC, achieving First Class Marksman and promoted to sergeant in his final year, 1915. He was killed on 28 July 1917, flying with the Royal Flying Corps. He was never found.

Private Harold Tetley, 16th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed on 30 June 1917. Never found, he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Private John H. Watkins left in 1916 and was the goalkeeper for the football team. He also played in the First XI cricket team. John was killed on 25 January 1917, far away in Mesopotamia (Iraq), aged 20, serving with the Worcestershire Regiment. A poignant moment comes from a football match in winter 1915, against Sutton: ‘Sutton pressed the school defence very hard and John Watkins made some beautiful saves... we owed our victory largely to the wounded soldiers who cheered our side on’.

Able Seaman John Henry Williams from Dorridge died on 23 December 1917 when his ship, HMS Surprise, sank. It hit a German mine laid to protect the port of Rotterdam along with HMS Tornado and HMS Torrent as they went to escort

a convoy. 252 men were lost. Some historians believe HMS Surprise was torpedoed by a U-boat. He was 19 years old.

Private Bradford Neville Woollaston left School in 1910. He served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and was killed on 7 November 1917, aged 22 at the Battle of Passchendaele. He was never found and is recorded on the Tyne Cot Memorial, and on the Shirley War Memorial.

And finally, one former teacher was killed in 1917...

Lt. George William Hastings MA (Bangor University 1901-05). He joined the Monmouthshire Regiment when he left Solihull School, having taught English (1912-15). He was killed on 1 August 1917, aged 34, leaving a widow, Annie, who he met at University.

Each of these former pupils has their story. Some we know a little of their life and times at Solihull School, not too dissimilar to our own school days, and for others we know virtually nothing, but, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

The Shenstonian of 1917 captured the mood of the nation, which was very different to the optimism of the early months of 1914-5. The tone is more sombre but unequivocal in belief and optimism. ‘We are anxious to contribute what we can to the world’s deliverance from bondage, it is Armageddon-if that means the triumph of right over might ... self- sacrifice is the essence of life, and that is what this war is slowly teaching us’. There could be no peace, it must be victory or nothing, ‘otherwise all the deaths would have been for nothing’.

By the end of 1917, 34 Old Sils had been killed in action and many more wounded. There was no glamorising of war at Solihull School in 1917, but the values of duty, honour and bravery were expected as there was a job to do. Today we don’t revel in the victory that was to come in 1918, but we must continue to remember the fallen and respect those who built our history, conscious that our former school fellows secured the future for us today.

\*Houses before 1920 were called Solihull, Town, Country, Acocks Green and School.

Mr J Loynton



University & College Entries 2016

**ASTON**  
Nakita Basra  
Abdurahman Jawaid  
Alice Mann

Business and Management  
Pharmacy  
International Business and German

**BANGOR**  
Hector Brooke

Zoology

**BATH**  
Benjamin Davidson

Economics and Politics

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Thomas Brewer  
Christopher Fowler  
Hasina Khan  
Isobel Serle

Business Management  
International Relations  
Psychology  
English, Classical Literature and Civilisation  
Physics and Astrophysics  
History

**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
Laura Mannion

Primary Education with QTS

**BRISTOL**  
Hugh Atkinson  
Henry Eaton  
Anna Georgiou  
Chloe Houghton  
Samuel Orme

History  
Psychology  
English  
History  
Accounting and Finance

**CAMBRIDGE  
Clare College**  
Isobel Fuller  
Dominic Martens

Natural Sciences  
Music

**Homerton College**  
Leticia Salmon

Education with History

**Pembroke College**  
Luke Sheeran

Computer Science

**CARDIFF**  
Jack Allcock  
Oliver Banks  
Maxwell Emms  
Jack Martin  
Céline Simmons

Applied Software Engineering  
Biochemistry  
Politics  
Politics and Religious Studies  
Medicine

**CAP GEMINI**  
Isabelle Kent

Sponsored Degree Programme

**COVENTRY**  
Benjamin Tennet

Automotive and Transport Design

**DURHAM**  
Benjamin Fowles  
Amy Lewis  
Bradley Monk

Geography  
Economics with Management  
Biomedical Sciences

**EDINBURGH**  
Helena Newbould

Economics with Finance

**EXETER**  
Thomas Carson  
Will Cutbill

Annie Johnson

Helena Jones

Alexander Lavery  
Harriet Marshall

Charlie Morgan  
Cara Murphy  
Victoria Newbery

Philosophy and Sociology  
Civil Engineering with Industrial Experience  
Classical Studies with Study Abroad  
Medical Sciences with Professional Training  
Philosophy and History  
History and International Relations  
Business and Management  
Business  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics  
Zoology  
Exercise and Sports Sciences  
Economics  
English  
History

Lauren Packham  
Aled Phillips  
Edward Price  
Rebecca Timperley  
Angus Young

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
Nicholas Chitty

Television Production

**GRANT THORNTON**  
Ben Levett-Dunn

Sponsored Degree Programme

**KPMG**  
Arjan Bains

Sponsored Degree Programme

**LANCASTER**  
Cameron Baines  
Relations  
Maddie Browse

James Hall

History and International

Natural Sciences (Study Abroad)  
Finance and Economics

**LEEDS**  
Amy Allen  
Christopher Clay  
Brogan Kelly  
Holly Krober

Holly Marsh  
Ross McCormack  
Kirsty Murrall  
Iain Rodriguez-Brown

Management with Marketing  
Geography  
Fashion Design  
Theology and Religious Studies  
Law  
Management  
Psychology  
Economics and Philosophy

**LEEDS BECKETT**  
Hannah Clarke

Sports Business Management

**LEICESTER**  
Camani Lall

Isabel Lury

Vini Vinod

Mathematics and Actuarial Science  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Medicine

**LINCOLN**  
Michael Earle

Computer Science

**LIVERPOOL**  
Alex Agudo-Dunn

Siraaj Ahmed  
Tara Bennett  
Jack Berry  
Archie Clay

Adam Foster

International Business with Year in Industry  
Business Management  
Orthoptics  
Civil Engineering  
Business Management with a Year in Industry  
Aerospace Engineering with Pilot Studies  
Classical Studies  
Civil Engineering  
History and Business Studies  
Physical Sciences  
Business Management  
History and Business Studies  
Politics and International Business

Matthew Gibbons  
Stefan Gnyla  
Rebecca Hicks  
Oliver King  
Liam McStay  
Benjamin Osborne  
Harriet Woolley

**LONDON  
King's College**  
Emma Whitfield

Nursing Studies with Registration as a Nurse (Children's Nursing)

**London School of Economics (LSE)**  
Maëlliss Villepontoux

**Brunel College**  
Kiante Lightbourne

Government and History

International Business with Placement Year

**LOUGHBOROUGH**  
Adam Roberts  
Katie Saunders

International Business  
Construction Engineering  
Management

**MANCHESTER**  
Georgina Brownsword  
Frankie Phillips

Law with Criminology  
Law with Criminology

**NEWCASTLE**  
Owen Canavan  
Awralla Farax  
Freya Harding

Medicine  
Biomedical Sciences  
Geography

**NOTTINGHAM**  
Cameron Blake  
Sam Brown  
Eleanor Hodgskin-Brown  
Jacob Piggin  
Hannah Shakeshaft

Ethan Smallwood

Civil Engineering  
Animal Science  
Hispanic Studies and History  
Computer Science  
Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience  
Medicine

**NOTTINGHAM TRENT**  
James Griffiths  
Charlotte McGuire

Marketing  
Psychology

**OXFORD  
Worcester College**  
Jack Edge  
Benjamin Northam

Classics II  
Philosophy, Politics and Economics

**Merton College**  
Zershaaneh Qureshi

Mathematics and Philosophy

**Lady Margaret Hall**  
Lydia Stephens

English Language and Literature

**OXFORD BROOKES**  
Imogen Hanson

Human Resource Management

**PLYMOUTH**  
Odile Webber

Marine Biology and Oceanography

**READING**  
Alexander Cvijan  
Alexandra Finnegan  
Ciara Mahoney

Mathematics  
Primary Education with Art  
History and International Relations

**ST ANDREWS**  
Josh Samuels

Megan Woolley

French, German and Spanish (Year Abroad)  
Geography

**SHEFFIELD**  
Beatrice Cowley  
Frank Fogarty  
Rebecca Rodwell  
Ravi Sodha

Business Management  
History and Politics  
Law and Criminology  
Economics

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Thomas Knowles

History

**SURREY**  
Ben Lyons

Music and Sound Recording (Tonmeister)

**SWANSEA**  
Rebecca Bradbury

Business Management

**USA  
Illinois**  
James Scagell

Mechanical Engineering

**WARWICK**  
Mohammed Khimji  
Amy Mitchell Meades

Chemistry  
Psychology





## A-Level and GCSE Results Days 2017



## Leavers 2017







# Valetes

## Peter Irving

Just as Torvill and Dean were taking the world by storm, so Peter Irving took up the post of Organist and Choirmaster at Solihull School (January 1984). He worked assiduously to transform the Chapel Choir into the professional group of musicians it is today and began taking the choir to sing for services at Canterbury, Norwich, Gloucester, Bristol, Coventry and Birmingham Cathedrals. Peter organised two major performances in Birmingham Town Hall, three operas in The Royal Albert Hall and a rare performance of Benjamin Britten's *Church Parables* in the BBC Proms.

During his time here, Peter has organised three professional recordings of the choir and a performance with the flamboyant American organist Carlo Curly.

In 2001 Peter began teaching ICT, later taking on the role as Head of Computing, whilst for many years continuing to remain in charge of the Chapel Choir and playing for assemblies. He was renowned for his renditions of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* which were simply out of this world!

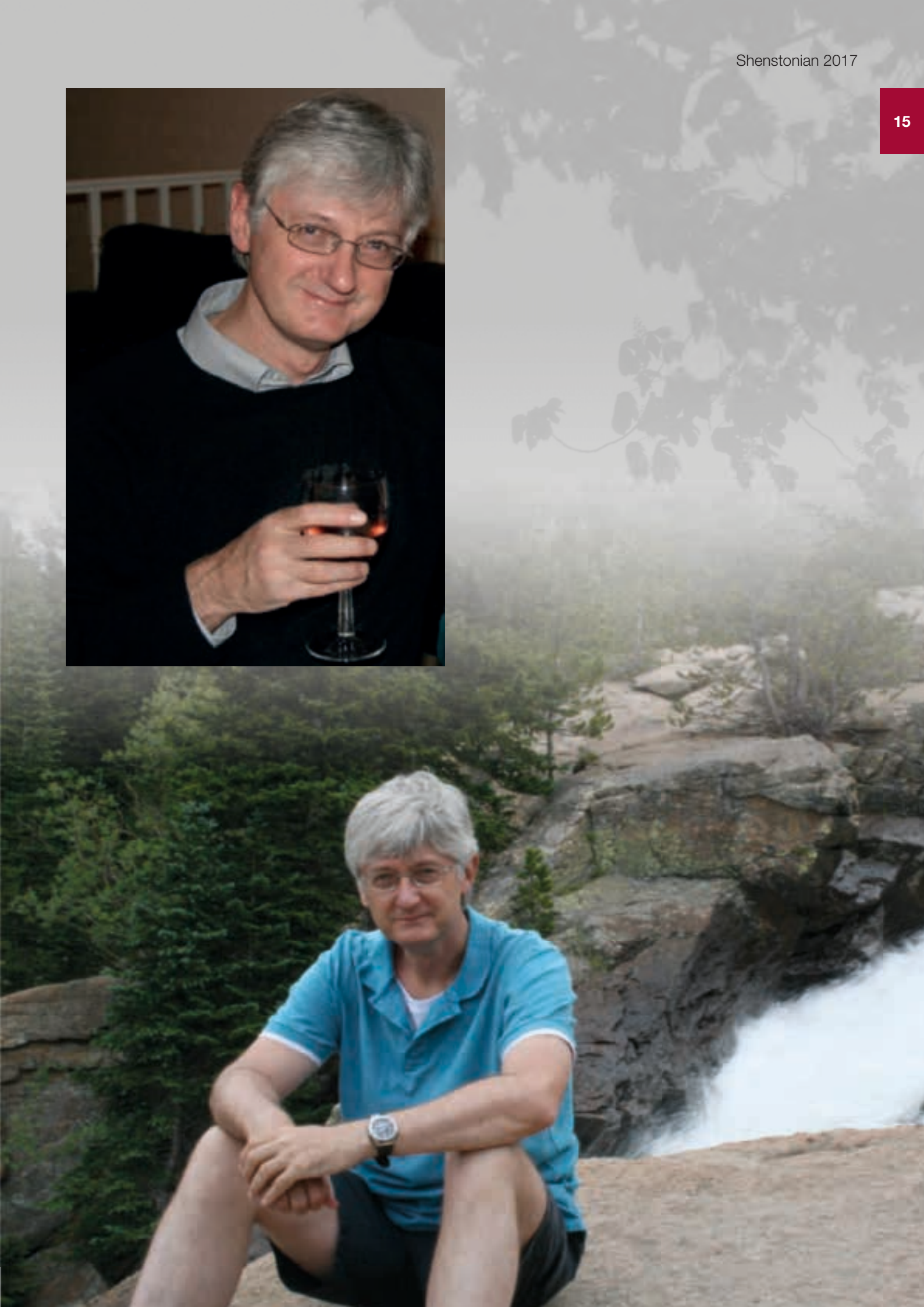
Peter has been commissioned to write anthems for various places and has arranged many carols and anthems, his most notable being a setting of 'For the Fallen' which was performed live from the School Chapel on BBC Radio last summer.

During Peter's distinguished career the chapel organ was rebuilt under his expertise and professional guidance. Prior to that Peter had been regularly seen entering the organ chamber to rectify faults over the years.

Peter has continued to offer excellence in the musical life of the Chapel and has been a great support to myself, Oliver Walker and Alex Woodrow.

Longevity of service (some thirty years) at one place of work is seldom heard of these days. Peter has been a brilliant and dedicated teacher; Head of the IT Department; Choirmaster; Organist and much loved colleague. We are enormously grateful for all Peter has done and thrilled he will be continuing as Chapel Organist for the time being. We wish Peter and Susan a very happy and very well-deserved retirement.

*Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson*







**Philip Higley**

Philip moves on from teaching at Solihull after thirteen years of service in the Design Technology Department. He previously worked at Rapid Electronics, Reepham High School, CTC Kingshurst Academy and the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore.

On his arrival, Philip was keen to quickly update the department and brought some of the latest technologies such as 3D printing and laser cutting which are heavily in use today, and ensured that the department was equipped with an IT suite. As Head of Department he introduced Food to the curriculum and oversaw the conversion of one of the classrooms into an excellent cookery facility.

Philip has always had an interest in experimenting with high level skills and processes, and encouraging students to produce demanding outcomes. He is particularly fond of making canoes from GRP and would often take over one of the workshops with large moulds, with all the doors and windows open to relieve the strong smell of polyester resin. As a result, during his time at the school there have been numerous boat-related A-Level projects including a motorised boat puller and a land yacht.

As a classroom teacher he was known for setting high levels of discipline in the workshops and focused on ensuring that pupils had a tangible outcome from each topic they studied. He taught product design at A-Level and most recently resistant materials at GCSE; however his real interest was the ‘dark arts’ of electronics and many of his students went on to submit some professionally finished and highly impressive projects.

Philip has also contributed great enthusiasm for water sports and has been a key figure in the provision at Solihull during his time with the school. He organised and trained pupils both during games and outside of lessons in readiness for competitions such as the London to Devizes race, and arranged several water sports trips to France and Snowdonia. Many pupils will remember his authoritative and resolute approach to lessons, whilst in water sports and many a Snowdonia School, pupils will recall his good humour and encouraging nature.

As a Form Tutor, he supported a wide range of year groups and most recently assisted the Upper Sixth with the writing of their UCAS statements.

Philip has now moved onto a part time role at Stratford Girls Grammar School. We won’t forget you and wish you well with your new career.

*Neal Corbett*



**Andrew Powell**

It is with real sadness that we say goodbye to Andrew Powell as he embarks on a new stage in his life, with his wife Joy, as a retiree. He joined the Chemistry Department at Solihull School 14 years ago, having previously worked for Lubrizol, most recently as Viscosity Modifier Technology Manager, for fifteen and a half years. Andrew is a perfectionist in his approach to teaching and his professionalism and flair for Chemistry has underpinned his lessons. As a result, he is much respected by the pupils, not only for his teaching but for his prowess outside of the classroom. Andrew has played an active role in all parts of the School, being a Captain in the CCF, Master in Charge of Chess in the both the Junior and Senior School for 7 years, and he was responsible for writing the timetable, along with Dr Atkinson, for 5 years. He is accomplished in many sports, having coached football, golf, badminton, squash and table tennis within the School. However, he is famous for giving the pupils in his lessons a weekly ‘top tip’ for making their lives easier, for example: ‘If you are claustrophobic and have to use a lift, always keep a pair of binoculars with you and then look through them from the wrong end!’

Andrew will not be relaxing too much in his retirement; instead he will be spending more time playing bridge, bowls and taking trips to watch Castleford Tigers, an exceptional Rugby League team (Andrew’s words!).

He will be greatly missed by the Chemistry Department and we wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

*Corinne Goodman*



**Christa Greswold**

When Christa joined Solihull in 1973, the first year that girls were included in the Sixth Form, she could not have possibly imagined that 44 years later she would be celebrating her retirement as Head of Woodwind from that very same school! Christa was invited to join the Visiting Music Staff in 1988 to teach just one saxophone pupil. We shall always be grateful to that solitary saxophonist because Christa has been a shining presence in the Music Department ever since.

Promoted to Head of Woodwind in 2003, Christa has dedicated herself selflessly and tirelessly not only to teaching her many individual pupils, but also to developing the numerous thriving ensembles of flutes, clarinets and saxophones that we currently have at Solihull.

Christa’s award-winning saxophone group Saxophony, as well as recording a CD, has been in constant demand for weddings and numerous other functions throughout the region.

Christa has had undivided loyalty from, and is held in great affection by, all the students who have had the privilege of working with her during the past 29 years. She is a charismatic conductor and a calm and inspiring teacher who cares passionately about both her pupils and making music.

All the staff in the Music Department will miss Christa immeasurably. She is the kindest, warmest, most thoughtful colleague who has supported so many of us both personally and professionally with her wit and wisdom.

We wish Christa and Malcolm a long and happy retirement in Hampshire.

*Helen Dolby*



**Sara Crowther**

Sara joined Solihull in September 2004 after working for twenty-five years at Light Hall School. She quickly proved to be one of the most dedicated and experienced members of the Mathematics Department and she earned the utmost respect from the Common Room and pupils alike. Sara, year on year, had a very heavy workload but she always handled this with complete professionalism and fortitude.

Sara’s classroom was always a calm and purposeful environment where collaborative teaching and learning took place. The pupils bought wholly into her ethos and the end result was that the pupils made significant progress and thoroughly enjoyed their mathematics. It was immediately clear when you watched Sara teach that the pupils understood they were in that classroom to learn; pupils entered the classroom quietly, sat down, sorted their books and were ready to begin. There was never any trouble in Room E6! Often in the background, once the pupils were tackling problems, music was played which added to the positive atmosphere. I particularly remember the dulcet tones of Michael Buble at Christmas time.

Sara’s class management skills were first-class and pupils were attentive, polite and always engaged. Furthermore, the pupils’ class books were always immaculate and I always used them for presentation at Open Mornings! Sara ensured that pupils took great pride in their written work and that they set out all mathematical working in the correct formal manner.

As a Form Tutor Sara was a superb addition to the Sixth Form Pastoral team in recent years. It was rare to come across a tutor who cared so much about her tutees and was willing to go so far to help them. Sara was incredibly committed as a tutor and did not see the role as an add-on to her teaching schedule but an important part of her professional role – she was constantly on the case of those in her form who are not arriving on time or whose effort grades had slipped, whilst always seeing the best in them and wanting the best for them.

Outside of the classroom, Sara helped run the department’s Maths Clinic and also assisted Jean Wilde with the Lower School play, ‘Outbreak’. Sara was also a regular attendee of departmental maths curries and was always great company.

Sara’s commitment to the pupils’ progress and welfare was often reflected in feedback from parents and she clearly retired from teaching at the height of her game. We wish her a very happy and healthy retirement and will miss her good humour, words of advice and expertise in the classroom. All the very best Sara, and please pop in for a coffee sometime soon.

*Mark Bishop*





**Betty Richardson**

Betty Richardson joined us in September 2011 as a newly qualified Physics teacher. She very quickly gained an excellent reputation, delivering high quality and inspirational lessons. Extremely confident in the use of new technologies, Betty soon gained the respect of the pupils and fellow teachers. Whatever their ability, Betty's pupils gained a great deal from her willingness to put in that extra effort.

Outside of the department Betty twice attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference in Boston and Chicago. Her meticulous organisational skills ensured these trips ran smoothly. More recently she was responsible for developing the scholars programme in the Middle School. These pupils are now engaged in a wide variety of activities thanks to Betty's input. Betty was also responsible for further developing the Engineering Education Scheme; the pupils on this scheme benefited greatly from her experience and personal connections.

Betty leaves us to begin a new and exciting phase of her life. She is relocating to Austria as her husband takes up a prestigious promotion. Betty is busy learning German and is hoping to continue teaching Physics in a local school.

We will miss Betty's energy and enthusiasm for teaching. She was a wonderful colleague; we learned much from her and we wish her all the best on her new adventure.

*Dave Farrington*



**Samantha Durkan**

In a relatively short time at the School, Samantha made a considerable impact upon the Solihull community. She taught Biology at all levels up to and including A-Level, Chemistry at GCSE level and Science at Key Stage 3.

In addition to her classroom teaching she enthusiastically organised and conducted the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Challenge competition, the Biology Olympiad competition and the Intermediate Biology Olympiad Competition, engaging both pupils and staff. In the pastoral setting, Samantha was a very good Sixth Form and Lower School Tutor. She knew and understood her tutees very well, not only in terms of their academic strengths and weaknesses, but also, and very importantly, in terms of their personal and social development.

On the co-curricular front, Samantha was a very enthusiastic member of the Terriers team, teaching both 'Mountaincraft' and 'Command Tasks', and maintaining an excellent rapport with both the Third Form pupils and Lower Sixth Form student helpers. She was also an asset on Snowdonia School trips, getting involved in all the activities and contributing to the overall success of this key provision for Shell Form pupils at Solihull.

Samantha also took part in the biennial Sixth Form visit to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC in February 2016. She enthusiastically supported school drama productions, and we all wish her well in her future ventures.

*Andrew Jones*



**Yolanda Cánovas Cañas**

Four and a half years ago, the Spanish Department was looking for a new Spanish Assistant to take over from Señora Cassano, who was retiring after many years of dedicated service to our students, and as luck would have it, my wife told me that there was a Spanish Assistant at her school who would be leaving them, and that we should certainly see her for an interview. When I asked my wife about the Spanish Assistant in question, she simply told me that this person was engaging, highly professional, bursting with enthusiasm and very well respected by both pupils and staff alike. This person was, of course, 'nuestra querida Yolanda'.

These four years have gone by in a flash (así que pasen cuatro años), and in that time, Yolanda has fulfilled an incredibly wide range of roles and responsibilities. To begin with, Yolanda worked as our Spanish Language Assistant, a role she continued to fulfil with great dedication and professionalism throughout her time with us. This role requires great flexibility and patience, and true to form, Yolanda carried out her responsibilities with creativity and enthusiasm, with the result that so many of our students went into their Spanish orals displaying both confidence in their knowledge and technique and excellent pronunciation.

Such was the success with which she carried out this role, we had no hesitation in giving Yolanda much more responsibility, asking her to take on the teaching of Spanish to J1 and J2, thereby giving our youngest pupils the best possible start to their Hispanic adventure and taking the language out onto the corridors and playing fields of the Junior School. I know that all the Junior School staff would agree that the impact Yolanda has had on what goes on there has been enormous, something that points, perhaps, to what Yolanda is planning to do next with her career.

However, we also felt that we needed Yolanda's skill and enthusiasm in the teaching of Spanish in the Senior School, so she took on both Lower and Middle School teaching sets, with the usual results - fantastic pupil progress, high standards and heightened enjoyment of the language for everyone concerned. At this point, therefore, Yolanda was already combining three roles - Language Assistant, Senior School Teacher and Junior School Teacher, but fear not, she could still find more channels for her enthusiasm - ¿CCF? ¡Sí, señor! Junior School Games - ¡Al ataque!

As far as trips and visits are concerned, Yolanda has always approached this side of education with tremendous vigour - having worked on Spanish educational camps in the past, she understands the importance of taking young people out of their natural environment and giving them new experiences. With this in mind, Yolanda has been on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, has co-ordinated the Spanish Exchange to Orihuela with me, during which time she has managed all sorts of situations with great patience and professionalism, and has also initiated and led our Third Form Spanish Immersion Programme in Madrid, something which I am sure will prove to be a fantastic legacy of her time at Solihull.

This year, though, Yolanda is leaving us - a fantastic job opportunity near her family in Madrid awaits and she will be swapping balti for cocido madrileño. Yolanda has made so many friends here at Solihull, and I know I speak for all of them when I say that things just won't be the same without her. However, we also know that when Yolanda gets on that plane, she will be carrying a little bit of Birmingham in her heart, so we are confident that even though a professional relationship may have come to an end, the friendships that she has built over the last four years will be something we can all count on for many years to come.

Hasta luego, amiga mía, y buena suerte.

*Paul Morgan*





**Aisha Abid**

Aisha Abid joined Solihull in September 2015 after we ‘tapped her up’ from King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls. It quickly became apparent that we had a talented and committed person on our hands and it is fair to say that Aisha has packed into two years more than most.

Aisha is a super classroom teacher with a passion for the subject. She is a strong mathematician, having achieved a First Class Degree in Mathematics from university, and was always looking to drive the department forwards. Despite joining us as an NQT, Aisha was extremely successful in guiding some of the more demanding classes at the school through their studies. The results that her classes achieved in internal and external exams were among the best in the department, but she did so much more than simply prepare her groups for examinations. Aisha was forever sharing resources and enrichment ideas with her colleagues and was always willing to talk about maths in the staff room. She was also in charge of all maths challenges at the school and I have to say that things ran like clockwork with her at the helm and that the pupils were always very well prepared.

Outside of the classroom Aisha had an equally big impact on the school. She participated in several Snowdonia Schools and completely immersed herself in the ethos and activities involved. She also gave up many weekends helping with Duke of Edinburgh expedition training sessions. Aisha was also very keen to involve herself with sports teams and she helped coach a netball team for two years. She also ran the 5K in July 2017 in sweltering conditions in the second faster time ever by a female member of the Maths Department.

She has been an absolute breath of fresh air for the department and is a thoughtful and caring person. Aisha was also a star as the Maths Department Social Secretary – we were taken to some of the best curry restaurants in the West Midlands and she always negotiated a decent discount.

We are really going to miss her and our loss is undoubtedly Queenswood School in Hertfordshire's gain. Good luck Miss Abid and please keep in touch!

*Mark Bishop*

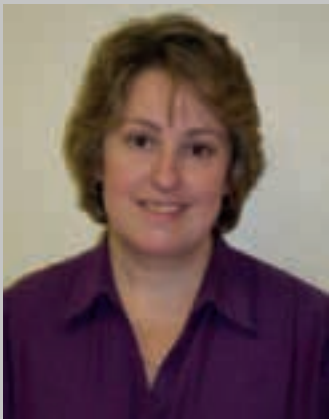


**Patrick Ford**

Mr Ford arrived here two years ago with an excellent academic record but no actual teaching experience – his interview lesson was the first time he had taught a class! However, he had complete confidence in his ability to do the job, and as it turned out, he was right. He has a real passion for both History and Politics, combining both in his recently completed Masters dissertation about Bill Clinton (his good friend, as you can see in the picture above). Lyndon Johnson once described Mr Ford’s namesake, President Gerald Ford, as being ‘so... dumb he can’t chew gum and fart at the same time’; this cannot be said of Mr Ford. Despite being, as he admits, the least academically able member of his family, he has brought a genuinely intellectual approach to his teaching which has greatly benefited his students. A recent award from the Kindness Ninja (an anonymous member of staff) stated it was ‘because you have created such passion and excitement in your students, because you are so curious and keen to learn, because you step into the breach without a thought’. This can be seen in Mr Ford’s creation of both Politics and History Book groups for which he managed to inspire a dozen Sixth Formers at a time to read a book (an achievement in itself!) and to stay behind for an hour after school to discuss it. Though it has to be said the provision of Domino’s Pizza probably played a part as well!

As well as adding tremendously to the teaching of History and Politics, Mr Ford has contributed widely outside the classroom. He ran the European Youth Parliament Team, taking it to the national finals in 2016. More impressively, in only his second year in the job, he organised and led an extremely successful History/Politics Trip to Washington. He has also contributed extensively to school sport, coaching hockey and especially cricket, devoting many hours at weekends and after school taking teams to matches. He has also helped out on drama trips, language trips, taken debating teams to competitions and gone on Snowdonia School. However, it is undoubtedly in the classroom where he has had the greatest impact. He gives generously of his time to his students, spending many hours providing one-to-one coaching in the weeks running up to the exams, and there is no doubt they appreciate it greatly. The final words should perhaps go to one of his students, Jim Garbett, who wrote the following to him: ‘I’m genuinely thankful and grateful for all your help and support over the last two years. You’re the best teacher I’ve ever had – thank you for everything’.

*Gareth Affleck*



**Jayne Round**

Jayne joined Solihull School in June 2006 as Jayne Matthews, having previously worked in a number of catering operations. As the School’s refectory manager for over 10 years, she oversaw significant developments in our catering function, amongst which were the introduction of a daily breakfast service for pupils and their parents, and expansion and innovation in the morning break tuck shop service for the Lower and Middle School, and also the Sixth Form tuck shop in the Cooper Building. She continued to develop the food served for lunch to the whole school at a time when numbers of pupils, staff and therefore lunch demands increased steadily.

The range and diversity of hospitality events at the school grew markedly during her time here, presenting an ever-growing challenge which Jayne and her team always met with a smile, at least outwardly, even if it meant some scrabbling around in the kitchen.

Jayne was a very visible and friendly presence around the school and also to the wider community and we wish her well in her new role as catering manager at a care home near to home in Stafford.

*Richard Bate*



**Christine Clarke**

For those fortunate enough to have known Christine Clarke personally or professionally, you will understand why we miss her so much since she left the School at the end of the academic year.

Chris first arrived in the Junior School in 1999 at a time when it was a very different place to what it is now. There was neither a VLE nor a girl in sight and you had to switch off fax machines at night in case someone sent you something you didn’t want... and used up your roll of paper. There were 143 boys, all referred to by their surname, and Chris worked for 3¼ hours per day as PA to a Head who was required to spend much of his time in the classroom. It was, in every sense, a department of the whole school.

Fast forward to this year and we are every inch a thriving and endlessly busy school. We have 213 boys and girls and Chris has worked flat out - full time, spinning plates like a cirque de soleil performer. Communications come 24/7, we have 50 percent more families in school, twice as many staff and ... she’s had the misfortune to be charged with the responsibility of keeping me on track!

The fact that Chris adjusted seamlessly to those changes during her 18 years here, whilst all the while making it look easy, is all you need to know about how remarkably competent and professional she is.

Perhaps though, worthy of even greater applause, are her warmth and discretion. Chris has always handled countless conversations and queries with an avowed sensitivity and a reassuring calm that left you in no doubt that she would do all she could to help you out.

Chris, you will be very hard to replace and you will be dearly missed by very many. Thank you for all you have done for the Junior School – you go with our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation for all you’ve done during your time here.

*Mark Penney*





**Christine Marchant**

Christine joined the Physics Department at Solihull in December 2013. At this time the department was undergoing a major refurbishment and Christine played an integral part in the redesign which allowed an extra science laboratory to be built. Throughout her time with us she has proved to be a superb colleague. Always hard-working, self-motivated and prepared to go the extra mile in order to support the department and the pupils.

Christine displays an excellent understanding of the role of technical support in education and she was always willing to adapt and take on new challenges. There is no doubt that we will miss her valuable contribution to the Physics Department and we wish her well with her future career.

*Dave Farrington*



**Darryl Brotherhood**

Darryl has been with us for only a year but to the Department it is as if it were forever. He has certainly become one of us and earned everybody's respect and admiration through working so hard.

Nothing has ever been too much for Darryl and his manner at all times has been well above his years. He uses his initiative every day and is great at trouble-shooting. Lessons he has led and helped in show great structure and attention to detail. His knowledge of all activities is excellent at this stage of his development/career.

Darryl has been committed to the co-curricular life of the School, helping with sports fixtures as well as attending Snowdonia School and Expeditions Day. Such is Darryl's enthusiasm that he also observed and helped in History lessons to add another string to his bow. Darryl was always willing to sacrifice time over and above his hours, demonstrated by his presence on the Sri Lankan Cricket Tour and King's Macclesfield.

If all of the above wasn't enough, during his time with us Darryl played an integral part in Solihull 7s and also the Cricket 6s. These are National Tournaments and Darryl's calmness under pressure was exemplary. His manner with visiting staff and pupils was outstanding and he was/is a massive credit to the School.

It has been an absolute pleasure having Darryl in the Department. He leaves a massive gap and he has certainly set the bar high for all others to follow. We have no doubt that Darryl will be a superb role model as a leader and teacher. Thanks for everything 'pip squeak!'

*Steve Thompson*



**Marion Mitchell**

While only here for a short time, Marion has made a positive impact on the School. She is a most caring person and the empathy she has shown to both pupils and staff alike has endeared her to many people. She has taught on the A-Level Business course; preparing and organising her lessons thoroughly and giving positive and constructive feedback to pupils in her ever-professional manner. She has also delivered a Sixth Form enrichment programme on financial literacy. Her calm and generous approach has been appreciated by all the pupils in her care. In the Middle School, Marion supervised the Young Enterprise company 'Think', helping them to win the Best Product category at the regional competition by passing on the benefits of her wide-ranging business experience and encouraging the team all the way. We wish her every success as she takes up her new position at Princethorpe.

*Jane Mander*



**Lijana Kaziow**

Lijana joined Solihull in September 2016 for a term until the arrival of Miss Jones in January. Lijana was a great addition to our department; she brought a wealth of experience in health and fitness and introduced some new ICT ideas. Lijana was a valued member of our and hockey and netball coaching teams and enjoyed her time with the 2nd XI hockey and U13 netball. We thank Lijana for her contribution to the life of our department and wish her well with her future endeavours and her business ventures.

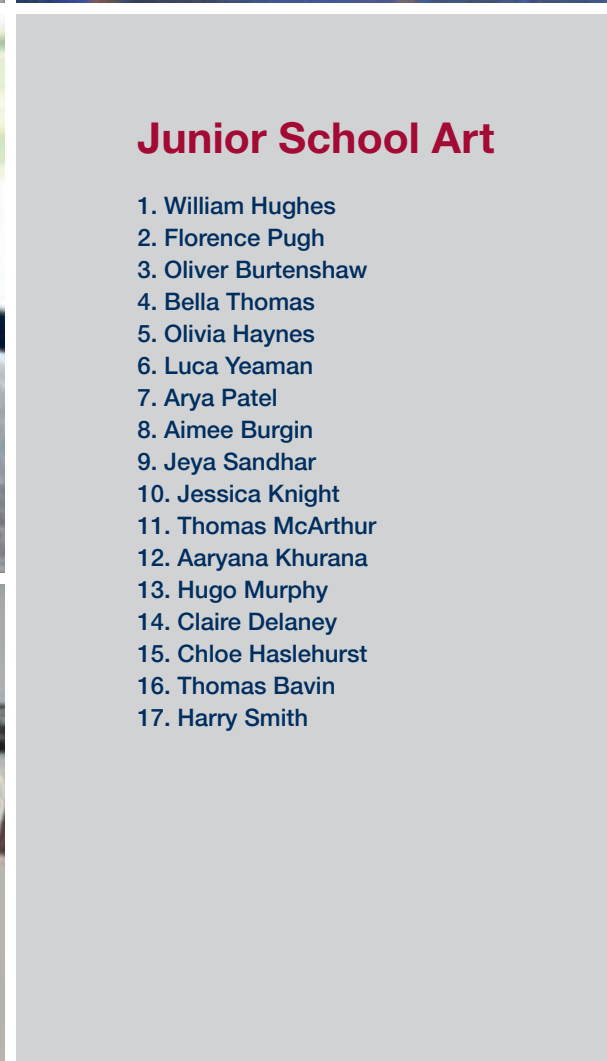
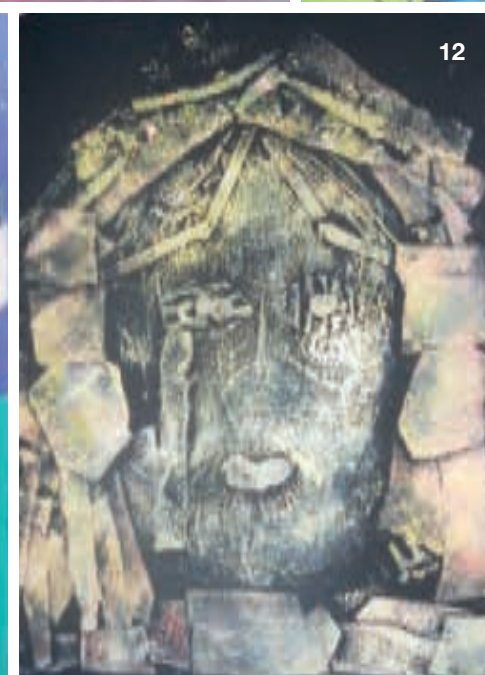
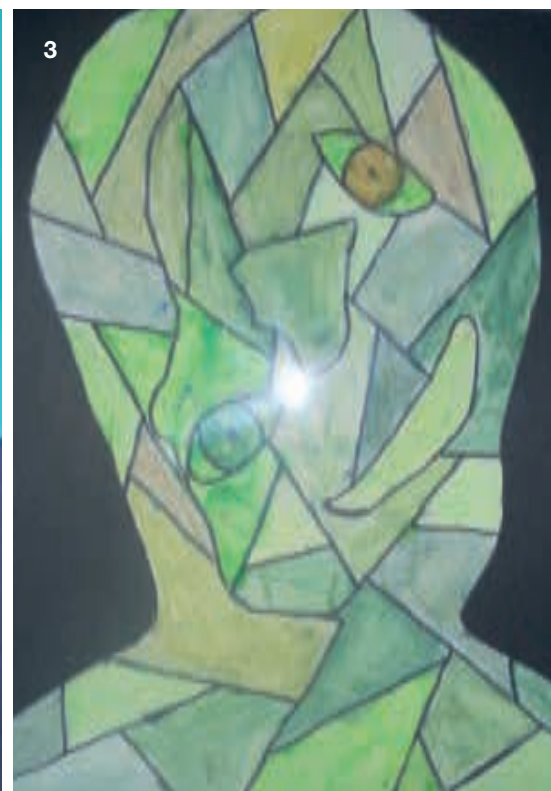
*Danielle Wilcox*

**Steve Beer**

Steve joined Solihull School originally in 1992 as a member of the Biology Department and was here until 1999 when he left to take up the Head of Biology at Bablake School. He was there for 3 years before leaving to work at Harrow International School in Bangkok. Whilst at Solihull, he contributed greatly to the School in the CCF and Army camps. This November saw Steve rejoin Solihull School and he quickly settled back in to Solihull life. Steve is an excellent Biologist who is passionate about inspiring his pupils to read around the subject, bringing them up to date with new developments in Science. His passion for supporting environmental causes has roused interest and support in his pupils. During his short time here Steve has organised the Biology Challenge, the Intermediate Biology Olympiad and the Biology Olympiad, and has run additional revision classes for students. His commitment to his teaching and dedication to his pupils and tutees has, again, been very much appreciated. We wish Steve every success in the future as he leaves us to work at KES Camp Hill.

*Dawn Parker*





## Junior School Art

1. William Hughes
2. Florence Pugh
3. Oliver Burtenshaw
4. Bella Thomas
5. Olivia Haynes
6. Luca Yeaman
7. Arya Patel
8. Aimee Burgin
9. Jeya Sandhar
10. Jessica Knight
11. Thomas McArthur
12. Aaryana Khurana
13. Hugo Murphy
14. Claire Delaney
15. Chloe Haslehurst
16. Thomas Bavin
17. Harry Smith



# The Junior School

## Maths Success in the Junior School

This has been a successful year for Maths in the Junior School. In the Christmas term four J4 pupils took part in the National Young Mathematicians award. This was a team event and the pupils were required to work together to solve challenging brain teaser questions. They were marked on their mathematical knowledge, their ability to collaborate as a team and on how well they communicated their ideas. Around 500 schools took part across the UK, with only half of these making it to the semi-final. Hannah Greenwood, Sophie Burtenshaw, William Hodge and Thomas O'Connor were an excellent team and did incredibly well in the competition. They were selected as one of the 12 out of 37 schools from the Birmingham area to go through to the semi-finals.

Once again, some of our J3 and J4 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This paper is sat by children up to the age of thirteen from all around the country and is designed to

challenge even the most able of the oldest pupils. Many of our pupils achieved bronze and silver certificates, and a special mention must go to Hannah Greenwood who achieved a gold certificate and qualified for the next stage of the event, Junior Kangaroo.

In June, three teams of four J4 pupils took part in the Year Six Team Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School, competing against eighteen teams from other schools in the region. The day involved several rounds of solving challenging maths problems and all three teams did very well. Matthew Ashby, Henry Close, Thomas McArthur and Daniel Palmer finished 9th overall, Sophie Burtenshaw, Maisie Le Van, Joshua Litwinko and Luca Yeaman finished in fifth place and Hannah Greenwood, William Hodge, Amber Huckfield and Thomas O'Connor won first place. This is the fourth consecutive win for Solihull Junior School.

Miss J Hanlon



## J4 Public Speaking

In April, J4 pupils took part in their annual public speaking competition. All pupils prepared a five-minute presentation on a topic of their choice and, after presenting to their own classes, six pupils were voted to present their talk in the Bushell Hall in front of their parents and the entire Junior School. Mr Bate, Head of Lower School, had the difficult job of judging the competition. His criteria for this included: speaking volume, pace, eye-contact with the audience, content of the talk and how well they engaged the audience. The six finalists were Fabian Botterill, Isabelle Burns, Thomas O'Connor, Daniel Palmer, Florence Pugh and Luca Yeaman. All six children did incredibly well and delivered their talks with impressive confidence. Well done to Fabian Botterill who came second with his talk entitled 'The Four Greatest Magicians in the Whole World Ever', and to the overall winner Florence Pugh with her talk on The Titanic.

Miss J Hanlon



## Junior School pupils celebrate scholarships

Our J4 pupils celebrated scholarship success in the Solihull School 11+ Entrance Exam. This was a fantastic achievement which recognises the pupils' hard work in the classroom and their outstanding talents. Six Academic Scholarships, one Sports Scholarship, two Music Awards and one Art Scholarship were awarded this year. We will be following their future progress and success as they join the Scholars' programme. Well done to them and all of our other J4 pupils who have earned their place in the Senior School in such a competitive exam.



Election fever in the Junior School!

My name is Ben Wild and while the whole country was busy voting in the General Election, Solihull Junior School were having their own election! Krish Maini, Hannah Greenwood and I were the three candidates running for office and after a close vote, I was elected as the Prime Minister of the Junior School, alongside my Deputy, Thomas O'Connor. My manifesto included the introduction of a Junior School newspaper, improving the learning pads which we use to search for information in lessons, and planting fruit and vegetables in the school garden for all to enjoy eating at lunchtime. Since the election, I have had meetings with Mr Seal, the IT Technician, and the school gardener, Mr Groom. We have discussed my policies and the learning pads' functionality has already been enhanced. We have all appreciated using them again. I am also working with Hannah to implement one of her ideas, which is to hold a bedding plant sale for charity. I am really looking forward to my time in office and seeing what we can achieve.

Ben Wild, J4



Mindfulness

The benefits of mindfulness continue to be recognised and practised by many pupils and teachers in the Junior School. Nearly two years after embarking on introducing mindfulness to pupils, we now have seven members of staff who, through their commitment to daily meditative practice, fulfilled the prerequisites to complete a course which qualifies them to deliver the 'Paws B' Curriculum. In this series of structured lessons, J3 and J4 pupils learn about their brains, minds and thoughts, and also a range of mindful strategies and responses to support them when they encounter the inevitable ups and downs of everyday life. Pupils in J3 and J4 are also welcome to start their school week with Mindfulness Club which runs before school every Monday. Here, pupils learn a range of mindfulness practices and simple meditations which they can learn to use independently to help them focus, relax and flourish. And not to leave the parents out, a seminar was delivered in March to share information about what we do in school, and how mindfulness has the potential to help every member of the family to be more aware of the present moment, enjoy the world around them more and understand themselves better.

Mrs D Penney



Science Week

British Science Week in the Junior School got off to a busy start with the launch of two competitions linked to Change. The first competition required pupils to design and build a prototype for a toy that they had invented. Eight finalists were chosen to pitch their design in front of a judging panel in our very own Dragons' Den style assembly. The inventions included talking dice, an automatic skipping rope, a resilient reader and a multi-surface trampoline. The lucky winner was Mack Sadler who invented 'Tornado Tummy', a teddy which had a tornado inside when shaken.

There was also a British Science Association (BSA) Poster competition where another eight finalists were chosen to have their designs sent off for external judging. Look out for these designs on the BSA facebook page and vote for your favourite. On Tuesday, pupils had appointments in Science Surgery to discuss any hurdles they might have been faced with when making their inventions, and they were lucky enough to receive tips from some Super Scientists. As well as all this, the pupils enjoyed a workshop from Severn Trent Water, where the pupils learnt how water changes as it travels through our pipes and down the drains. Just don't ask them about the three P's! On Thursday, Thinktank Birmingham came into the Junior School for the day and performed a workshop on Under Your Skin. This exciting show was followed by J3 Space Day, where the pupils got to experience an inflatable Space Dome and enter inside to study the star constellations. With the help of Sixth Formers, the pupils also enjoyed a carousel of activities and learnt about the different phases of the moon and the positions of the planets by running around the School field. Science Week was most enjoyable and definitely highlighted some budding Scientists of the future.

Mrs H Middleton





Charity Week 2016

This year, Junior School pupils raised over £8,500 for Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR) to help rebuild classrooms destroyed in the Civil War in Northern Sri Lanka. A further £1,000 was also donated anonymously by one current and one former Junior School family to bring the total over £10,500. On top of this, 167 pairs of football boots were donated by pupils, 60 new pairs of shorts and socks were donated by our uniform stockists Early Years and a Junior School family also donated boxes of frames and optical equipment. All of these will go to children currently studying at the Roman Catholic Tamil Mixed School, in Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK).



Junior School pupils participated in a number of fundraising activities, including a book sale, an accessories sale, a school-wide non-uniform day, a movie afternoon, a copper haul, a staff vs pupils football match and a Tuck Shop Takeover, where pupils sold a variety of treats to their peers, from cheese toasties to cans of fizzy drinks. These events, which happen as part of an annual Charity Week, are the latest in a succession of fundraising events at Solihull to assist charity work in Sri Lanka, from rebuilding classroom blocks in schools in Puthukkudiyiruppu and Mullivaikkal West to funding more than 400 cataract operations across the country. Mr Penney, Head of the Junior School, visited Sri Lanka last summer with his family to see these cataract operations taking place. They also spent a very memorable morning with the staff and children of Sivapatha Kalaiyagam School, Kilinochchi. They were present for the opening of the Assist RR-funded water tower and also saw the toilet blocks they are building, for use by its 450 pupils and teachers. They watched a demonstration football match played in jerseys donated by Solihull School and spoke to the children about how pivotal their effort and mindset is to their education. Thank you to all the parents and pupils who supported this initiative and helped raise such an incredible amount of money for PTK School.

Mr M Penney





### Mary Arden's Farm

All of the J3 children went to Mary Arden's Farm in Wilmcote this year. They experienced what life would have been like on a real working Tudor farm. They dressed up as Tudor children would have done and took part in activities such as bread making, painting, working with herbs and wool making. They also saw a blacksmith at work, watched a Tudor lunch and did some Tudor dancing, before stopping off at the gift shop and then venturing home. Great fun was had by all!

Mrs N Atkins

### Gardening Club

The Junior School Gardening Club has been very busy over the last six months. They have been involved in various activities from stone painting to clearing out the school wildlife and nature pond. The pupils had great fun catching fish and frogs in the thick mud!

Mr P Groom



### J4 Residential to Hilltop

On 19 May, J4 went on a four-day residential trip to Hilltop Outdoor Education Centre in Sheringham, Norfolk. The main focus was to study coastal erosion first hand as part of their geography unit on Coasts. They looked at slumps, coastal defences and the devastating effects erosion can have on people's lives. As well as this, they participated in a variety of outdoor activities such as mountain biking, zip wire, tree top trail and rock pooling! It was a fabulous weekend and a wonderful way for the children to end their time in the Junior School.

Mrs C Mollison

### Jaguar Land Rover Trip

J2 pupils enjoyed a unique experience when they spent an informative and fun-filled day at Jaguar Land Rover's production site in Lode Lane, Solihull. The visit supported their Geography topic of 'Settlements and Land Use' and gave them an insight into the importance of Land Rover to Solihull. The pupils were surprised to hear that Jaguar Land Rover tend to export most of their cars to China and that every car made has already been sold. After visiting where the cars were made, pupils then took part in a 'production challenge' in teams, which involved building Lego cars according to a prototype at speed (the same task that JLR give to apprentices) as well as a memory game, to test their attentiveness. A great start to half term!

Miss S Compton







Junior School visit the Mayor

On Tuesday 14 March fifteen members of the Junior School took the short walk across to the Civic Suite, part of Solihull Council House, to meet the current mayor, Mr Mike Robinson. They were treated to squash and biscuits before having their very own meeting in the Council Chambers. The Chairperson, Hannah Greenwood, opened proceedings and debated various topics from the agenda as well as issues raised by council members. They were assisted on the trip by Head of School Lydia Roll, along with her two deputies Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead. They all enjoyed the visit and have taken some fantastic tips from the mayor to use in their meetings back in school.

Mr M Jones



Gurdwara Visit

This year J2 were once again welcomed warmly into the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ) Gurdwara in Handsworth. The children had been learning about Sikhism in their Religious Studies lessons and were keen to put what they had learned into context. When we arrived at the Gurdwara and met our guide, Mandeep Singh Sehmi, it was a surprise to discover that he was in fact an Old Silhillian and went to the Senior School from 1995 to 2000! Mandeep took us on a tour of the Gurdwara so that the children could see the prayer halls, where the Guru Granth Sahib was being read. One was at the top of the Gurdwara below a beautiful mirrored dome, which the children were fascinated to see. They also got to see the langar, a communal kitchen, being used by visitors and worshippers. J2 learned about many of the key aspects of the Sikh faith on their visit, including the 5 Ks. The children not only got to expand their knowledge of Sikhism but got to experience first-hand the inclusive nature of the religion. We had a very enjoyable and informative morning.

Miss S Moule



Careers in the Junior School

Our Junior School pupils were treated to a special careers morning when a number of parents and Old Silhillians (and a Governor) visited to talk about their career journeys. They told stories, talked about their industries and shed some light on how academic subjects can be used in the real world. Visitors came from the world of law, engineering, IT, marketing, medicine, psychology and wellbeing, accountancy and physiotherapy to name a few. They all agreed that our pupils are very inquisitive and ask very shrewd questions!

Mrs J Skan



Journey to the Stable

As part of their Religious Studies topic, J1 visited St Alphege Church, to experience a 'Journey to the Stable.' They met a shepherd, a wise man, the inn keeper's wife and even Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus! The children enjoyed listening to the story of the Nativity from each of the characters and also took part in some craft activities, making their own Christmas bookmark. Pupils and teachers alike had a very enjoyable and festive morning.

Miss S Moule

J1 Bhangra Dancing Taster

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

Miss R Smith





J3 PGL Boreatton Park

The J3s once again got adventurous at Boreatton Park in Shropshire for the weekend. As soon as we arrived we were whisked away into groups to complete two exciting activities, with the giant swing being our favourite of the morning! After settling into our accommodation, we were then told to get ourselves ready for the mighty raft build! With the help from the PGL staff, all pupils managed to successfully stay afloat to the delight of the teachers on board! Being dry was not meant to last, when pupils (and teachers) were instructed to jump in the lake and swim around their rafts to the other side.

On the Saturday, a further four sessions were completed, with everyone canoeing down the river and playing games. Sunday was Miss Lynch's birthday, and the PGL staff ensured that she celebrated in style, wearing a bin bag as her forfeit for popping some balloons she was told to wear! The J3s have made some very special memories on their first year group trip away.

Miss S Compton



Junior Canoe Club

Canoe Club has been a big hit this year! We were very lucky to have some wonderful and experienced instructors at Solihull Canoe Club in Catherine-de-Barnes, who taught us all the important paddling skills, with a view to getting involved in kayak racing soon. The instructors are also pretty strong, pulling us out of the canal when we fall in! Over the four sessions, we used two-man kayaks, known as a Hody, and began to try out Lightning racing kayaks too. On our last session we had the experience of a 200m time trial. This really put us to the test! Thankfully we had more experienced and very helpful Senior School pupils on hand to help us go faster, work on our technique and manage the boats in and out of the water.

Miss L Lynch





Junior School Art Report 2016-17

Another year done and dusted and a constant hive of creative industry has been witnessed across all years in the Junior School, producing excellent art work across the board. The pupils' enthusiasm has definitely demonstrated the importance of art and creative practices within the curriculum, fuelling their imagination in other subjects.

Once again, there have been large numbers of pupils attending lunchtime art clubs and this year, clubs were differentiated to attract a wider range of pupils and also to help those pupils who wished to hone their drawing skills. Mrs Baker ran the very successful Artistic Challenge Experience (ACE for short) for the J3/J4 pupils, where they were able to extend their drawing and painting skills; especially important for those pupils hoping to apply for an Art Scholarship at 11+. Creative Skills Club was attended in great numbers by the J1/J2 pupils and this focused on developing basic drawing, painting and craft skills. Finally, Sewing Club for the J4 pupils has enabled a greater number of pupils than ever to attend, thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Sach kindly volunteering her time alongside Mrs Griffiths, allowing pupil numbers to increase. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Baker, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Sach and the Senior School pupil volunteers who have enabled these lunchtime clubs to run so efficiently.

Inspired by the work of a range of different artists, the Junior School pupils have yet again enjoyed a very productive year in their art lessons.

Barely had the Christmas term got underway, before the J4 pupils set off to London to visit the Royal Academy to view the work of internationally renowned, Yorkshire-born artist David Hockney in his exhibition, '82 Portraits and 1 Still Life' and also to take in the more abstract work of such greats as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko in an awe-inspiring Abstract Expressionism exhibition.



The pupils were suitably impressed by the vivid, textured brushstrokes of Hockney's large-scale portraits and returned to school brimming with ideas about how to create expression and add personality to their forthcoming self-portrait paintings. Whilst engaged in the project, the pupils learnt how to scale up their composition, mix subtle colour tones and add texture to create realistic 3D images of themselves. Their wonderful work took centre stage in the Junior School section of the Summer Exhibition and is also currently on display in the Junior School foyer.

The J3 pupils, studying Still Life composition, focused on the subject matter of 'Sweets and Treats' and on the work of contemporary artists such as Sarah Graham, Ralph Goings and Joel Penkman. Technique-wise, however, they were thrilled to receive a visit from local artist Fiona Payne, who showed the pupils how to work successfully with a range of unusual materials. They experimented brilliantly with sticks dipped in coffee to draw with, added salt and wax overlaid with watercolours to create texture, and painted without brushes. Fiona taught them about the importance of creating an interesting composition and encouraged the pupils to be bold and brave in their decision-making. They really enjoyed the whole experience!

Having spent half of the Easter term studying the colourful work of Austrian artist, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, the J2 pupils became fully absorbed in the abstract nature of his work and were busy creating their own composition in his style; incorporating geometric shapes, architecture and a myriad of lines into their designs. Their work, however, used our very own school buildings as a main focus to personalise their work. To further enhance their appreciation of his work, textile artist Andrew Wynne came into school to allow the pupils to work collaboratively on 3 large-scale pieces; the designs influenced by Hundertwasser's ideas, but interpreted on silk



using the Batik technique. The pupils experienced a totally different way of working, very much working together as a class team to produce 3 colourful abstract cloths and a great day was had by all.

Lastly, the J1 pupils rounded off the year with a visit to Oxford to visit The Story Museum and the Museum of Natural History. Whilst the former focused on storytelling and their writing skills, the latter very much concentrated on the development of the pupils' observation skills and required the children to locate natural objects of interest, especially fossils and shells and sketch their shape, line detail and texture in preparation for creating their own fossils upon their return to school. The pupils really enjoyed drawing from observation and learnt a lot about the world of fossils.

As successful as all these projects were, this year's piece de resistance in terms of the Junior School working together creatively as a community, harks back to the beginning of the academic year, when we embarked on a letter-writing marathon to our favourite author, David Walliams, inviting him to visit the Junior School to see the bench that was painted in homage to his wonderful stories. The 1st half of the Christmas term's art lessons were dominated by every single pupil, plus Mrs Morgan and Mr Penney, writing and illustrating some very persuasive letters to the man himself and keeping our fingers crossed as they were packaged up and sent with vast numbers of Maltesers (David Walliams's favourite sweets!) A huge thank you must go to Professor Hugh Montgomery for helping us with the delivery of the letters. This whole mini project really fired up the pupils' enthusiasm for all their art and English lessons for the rest of the year and as for the outcome..... well as we all know, Mr Walliams did indeed visit and a memorable occasion it was for the whole school community!

Mrs R Morgan







Junior School Summer Concert 2017

The Junior School Summer Concert took place on Thursday 22 June. The beautiful evening saw a packed Bushell Hall audience delighted and moved by a variety of performances. This year’s concert was particularly special as every child in the Junior School participated in at least one item. In addition to performances by larger ensembles such as orchestra, string group, wind band, guitar group and the Junior School choir, the concert included solos and small group items, which were particularly impressive given the age of the children involved and the confidence required to sing or play together so effectively. The J2s were given the opportunity to demonstrate all that they have learnt this year through their instrumental tuition scheme, and their friends and family thoroughly enjoyed the performances from strings, flutes and clarinets and trombones. A further highlight proved to be the choral performances by each year group; every child, from J1 to J4, sung competently, enthusiastically and joyfully. As usual, the concert concluded with the J4s singing a ‘farewell’ song; this year it was ‘Just one Person’, all about believing in ourselves. The concert really was an event that celebrated the musical achievements of the Junior School children over the past year, and we are already looking forward to next year.

Miss F Wernham

Junior School Orchestra

Junior School Orchestra, led by Jeya Sandhar, meet every Tuesday break and this year we have played a wide variety of music including Weber’s Huntsman’s Chorus in the Easter Concert and Handel’s Gavotte and Furioso in the Summer Concert. These works are both very challenging for young musicians and I was very pleased with the high standard that the pupils achieved in the performances.

Mrs H Dolby

Junior School Strings

Junior School Strings, led by Maisie Le Van, practise on Monday break times in the Recital Room. This is a lively and enthusiastic group that always shows real joy in playing music. We performed pieces from String Time Joggers in the Easter Concert and Sea Suite in the Summer Concert. Both performances were excellent and reflected all the hard work that the players had put in during the year.

Mrs H Dolby



Junior School Wind Band

Practice for this year’s concerts returned in September with several new faces joining us. After being reassured that we could still play our instruments after a long summer break, Miss Greswold began work on an array of pieces such as ‘The Good King Rocks’. By remixing the classic tune we soon got into the Christmas spirit. Shortly afterwards, we began playing ‘All About That Bass’ and in typical Junior School Wind Band fashion we gave a boisterous twist on a popular song. A crucial part of both the success in performance and more importantly, the fun, is our conductor Miss Greswold. We cannot thank you enough.

Alex Rooney, J4

The Amazing Adventures of Superstan!

At the end of January, the whole of J4 performed their impressive (and rather comical) musical, ‘The Amazing Adventures of Superstan!’ They were lucky enough to perform the show four times this year, a record number for the Junior School Drama Club, which included special performances for Reynolds Cross School and J4 Grandparents. There was even a post-show afternoon tea! The quality of acting and singing, we believe, was second-to-none and the team spirit and camaraderie wasn’t bad either!

Miss L Lynch



Decathlon Day

On the back of our successful Assist RR fundraiser in Charity Week, Decathlon Day was once again a very successful fundraiser for the amazing charities that we supported. All the children from J1-J4 took part in raising money for four charities: J1 nominated Target Ovarian Cancer; J2 nominated Anthony Nolan Trust; J3 nominated Cancer Research UK and J4 nominated Prostate Cancer UK. As you may have guessed the theme this year was Cancer charities and all four charities were selected because pupils had a family member who had suffered from the cancer in question. On the day, we participated in a range of activities: shooting baskets, wellie wanging, space hopper relay, target throwing, skipping relay, three legged relay, dribbling footballs, tennis ball balancing, obstacle course, javelin and shuttle relay. Once we had all the fun, we calculated the scores and J4M, J3H, J2W and J1S were the winning forms in each year but every class did an amazing job. In total, we raised £6060! We hope that everyone enjoyed all the great activities and thank you to everyone who donated!

Solihull Junior School Council





# Junior School Sport 2016/17

## Junior School Sport Report - Boys

The U11 boys started the year strongly with a 25-5 rugby victory over King Henry VIII, followed by a 2-0 football win against Hallfield. They followed this up with great team performances at the Warwick Invitational Rugby Tournament, winning 3 out of their 4 games. The U10s began with football wins against Hallfield (1-0) and Formarke (7-1). In addition to this, the U10 football team succeeded as runners-up in the Formarke Hall Tournament. In rugby, the U10s began with a narrow loss against King Henry VIII, however with hard work and commitment to training, they beat Eversfield in a 30-20 thriller. The U9 boys had a run of difficult fixtures with close losses against Hallfield and Eversfield. They worked very hard and improved greatly over the course of the Christmas term, which was evident in their rugby battle against Kind Henry VIII, a narrow 35-25 defeat. The U8 boys trained hard in rugby, hockey and football. They had their first ever football fixture against Balsall Common, winning comfortably 5-0.

In the Easter term, the U9 boys went from strength to strength, showing great teamwork and resilience. They played A and B rugby against Hallfield, with a 10-7 win and a 6-6 draw. In football, the A-team deservedly beat The Croft 3-0. To top it all off, the U9 boys had their first ever hockey festival against Bilton Grange and Ratcliffe College, beating Ratcliffe 3-0, and losing narrowly to Bilton Grange 1-0. Definitely a strong sporting year group in the making!

The U10 year group made history this year, with ALL members of J3 competing in the A, B, C & D football teams against Blue Coat School. Not only did everyone in the year group play, but they all won all their matches! Another strong year group, with a great work ethic and excellent attitude towards training!



Also during the Easter term, the U11 boys were runners-up at the Bedford Modern Rugby 7s Tournament, and came second at the Invitational Warwick School Rugby 7s Tournament, winning 5 out of their 7 games, managing to beat the likes of Crackley Hall, The Grange and St Olave's. In hockey, the A-team had a tough start to the term at the IAPS Regional Hockey Tournament, getting knocked out early on. However, they bounced back and managed to come second at the Warwickshire County Cup, beating Warwick, The Crescent and Crackley Hall.

In the summer term, 3 boys and 3 girls from each year group from J1-J4 competed at the Hallfield Athletics Competition. Out of 8 schools, our results were as follows:

J1/J2 boys came 1st place overall.  
J1/J2 girls came 1st place overall.  
J3/J4 boys came 1st place overall.  
J3/J4 girls came 2nd place overall.

*Mr D Super*

## Junior School Sport Report - Girls

They say that a number i.e. the score, does not give you a full picture of a game. However, I am going to give you a number now... in fact a whole lot of numbers that I feel highlight some of the best bits of girls' sport in the Junior School this year:

- 258 goals were scored on the netball courts and hockey pitches this year. That's 258 times that girls have worked together to create a goal-scoring opportunity and succeeded.
- 82 goals were scored in the netball matches on the U11 sports tour, in only 3 matches! The icing on a successful season.
- 16 and 10 goals: the biggest winning margins achieved on the netball court and hockey pitch this season, both by U10 teams.
- 100% win / draw ratio for the U9 girls in netball matches where EVERY single girl played.
- Biggest improvement in a re-match for the U8 netball team: from a 0-6 loss to a nail biting 4-3 win against a local school.
- 108 pupils (boys and girls) attending extra-curricular clubs on an average Friday after school in the summer term.
- 100% of girls in the Junior School played in competitive fixtures, representing Solihull School, in netball, hockey or rounders this year.

The energy and enthusiasm that the Junior School girls bring to PE lessons, games and clubs is boundless and impressive. They have, undoubtedly, made big improvements throughout the year and I believe will continue to do so with the positive approach they have. I will finish with a quote that has rung true with me and a philosophy that I hope will continue to grow: 'I never lose, I either win or learn'.

*Mrs L Browning*





**Borough Sports 2017**

This summer the J3 & J4 athletics team performed at the Solihull Borough Sports Athletics Championships against 39 other schools over 2 challenging days of heats, semi-finals and finals. The pressure was on, as Solihull has previously won the competition 4 times in a row. Could they make it a fifth?

The team competed in javelin, long jump, high jump, 75m, 600m and relays, against some strong opposition. The team gave 100% to every event, gaining medals in all field events and winning the J4 boys relay. They did it! For the fifth year in a row, Solihull Junior School finished in first place overall, taking home the 'Director's Cup', and being crowned 'Solihull Borough Athletics Champions 2017'. Congratulations to all J3 & J4 athletes; they should feel extremely proud of their hard work, excellent performances and professional manner. Thanks must also go to all Junior School staff for their support and coaching throughout the year.

*Mr D Super*

**Junior School Sports Day 2017**

The flags were flying, the chairs set out,  
In the distance 'Pole', 'Jago', 'Fetherston', 'Shenstone',  
'Windsor' chants rang about.  
Parents waiting nervously, stomachs felt tied in a knot,  
Would their child do their best and have they got a good spot?  
Out they trooped behind House flags, walking proud,  
Akin to an Olympic Ceremony they paraded into the ground.  
They were under starters' orders and they raced out of the blocks,  
The sprint races were fast, pupils running against the clock.  
A record was broken, young Jemima Meigh,  
A J2 pupil, what a performance, clearly of fine pedigree.  
Swiftly onto middle distance events,  
A test of endurance, resilience and mental strength.  
Junior School Sports Day for J4 for the very last time,  
Wins for Cameron and Florence, even dipping as they crossed the line.  
Next came the 'fun' race, the egg and spoon, but make no mistake,  
Races were competitively fought, thank goodness the eggs were fake!  
The 'Little Visitors' were up next in a 25m dash,  
Potential future Solihull School signings tore down the home straight as quick as a flash.  
The Mums' egg and spoon race saw record numbers taking part,  
Swiftly followed by the Dads who even in suits and unsuitable footwear made the quick dart.

The dispatch relay, and something happened for the very first time,  
No less than three teams all at once crossing the line!\*

The finale, next came the 4x100m relay races,  
A 22-year-old J1 record broken, what pace(s).  
All events over, onto the much-awaited calculations,  
And the awarding of Victrix and Victor Ludorum... the crowd gave standing ovations.  
Well done Sophie, Kelechi, William, Jemima, Erin, Jake, Alex and Krish,  
All-round top performers and winners of a silver dish.  
And finally the eagerly-awaited announcement of the winning House,  
All pupils sat in anticipation as quiet as a mouse.  
Shenstone, a truly magnificent performance, a great success,  
Joely and Harry receive the trophy, Captains of the House applauded as the best.  
Pupils can't all win, can't all receive medals and adulation,  
But all did themselves proud by trying their very best, congratulations.  
Every Junior School pupil out competing, giving their best for the team,  
Roll on 2018... suggestion Mr Super – not just strawberries but ice cream!

\*Note to self; photo finish software required for 2018

*Mrs L Browning*







# School Chapel

## Chapel Notes

The School Chaplaincy has continued to play a fundamental role in our life over the past year, involving many students in the liturgies and musical presentations, together with pastoral support and celebration of the sacraments. The Chapel Choir has grown and developed under the leadership, professionalism and expertise of Mr Alexander Woodrow and with Mr Peter Irving regularly at the organ console. We are very grateful for all that they have contributed, and honoured that Peter is willing to continue as Chapel Organist, despite his retiring from being Head of ICT in school.

Advent and Christmas, as usual, were celebrated with great panache, beginning with a wonderful Advent Procession and Carol Service involving many staff, pupils and friends in the reading of lessons. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a marvellous witness to the dedication and expertise of the choir. Indeed, many have commented about this 'gem' in the life of the School and have participated in these services and in the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

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



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

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

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

Our links with the Anglican Diocese of Katakwa, Kenya and the Province of West Africa have continued to develop. We hold them in our prayers and give thanks for their fellowship.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to so many people who have assisted in the life of the Chaplaincy this year. First of all to the Upper Sixth members of the Choir who have now embarked upon their chosen university courses and careers. Also my appreciation goes to our altar servers, Jessie Lloyd and Matthew Farrow, who have regularly and faithfully carried out their duties. I am grateful, also, for the assistance given more recently by Kate Stumper and Elliot Harris.

I also thank Mr and Mrs Lloyd for their support throughout the year and for all those who contribute to the decoration of Chapel.

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

Over the Easter holidays I enjoyed a three-week sabbatical to San Francisco, experiencing life in the Episcopal Church of America in three particular contexts. The first was Grace Cathedral where I had the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist and preaching. I also shared the Liturgies of Good Friday in the Cathedral and met with a number of pilgrims from all over the world who had come to walk the Labyrinth at the west end of the building. Secondly, I shared in the worship of a traditional Anglo-Catholic Church, namely, The Advent of Christ. I participated significantly in ministry to the poor and those addicted to drugs and alcohol. Thirdly, I shared worship, pastoral ministry and fellowship with the people of St Gregory of Nyssa Anglican Church, a newly-planted Church expressing in a unique way the ministry of all God's People.

The deacon's announcement on Palm Sunday (and at every other Mass) was simply 'Jesus welcomes everyone to his table, so we offer communion to everyone, and to everyone by name'. This set the context of my deliberations and soul searching. Serving under an ordained priestly leadership, the People of God share many of the deacon's traditional liturgical duties at St Gregory's: welcoming people into the service, setting the Table, announcing the Gospel, leading music and prayers and helping distribute Communion. Those words of welcome and acceptance began to resonate in other ways as I spoke them aloud myself in the various and many liturgies and experienced the lively and very moving liturgical dance routines.

Moreover, they found a significant place when I experienced and participated with the weekly Food Pantry. This is an initiative which has evolved over the past few years providing free groceries for the needy – week by week in the church sanctuary itself.

Basically, the Food pantry looked like St. Gregory's on any Sunday – a great, humming, chaotic blur of people moving together around the Altar Table, under the icons of the Dancing Saints and the Tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament, close by.



The Food Pantry was Communion. I understood it as a Sacrament as I helped to unload pallets of oranges, tomatoes and tinned soups, assembling the goods on tables around the Altar. Incidentally, the same Altar which serves the Bread of Life in the Divine Liturgies also serves coffee and cakes to God's people after worship.

During the Food Pantry event, which lasted most of the day, God's people arrived with buckets, suitcases and sacks in which to transport their goods home. I was privileged to administer the cabbages and carrots into the outstretched hands of the needy. It was a very humbling experience and connected significantly with my giving of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to God's People week by week for the past twenty-eight years of ordained ministry.

Each of us at some stage in life has been rejected for being the wrong age, the wrong gender, the wrong colour or culture, the wrong religion or the wrong sexuality to play a significant part and find acceptance in aspects of communal life. In the American Episcopalian Church I soon recognised, however, that gathered around God's table we become right together; the cornerstone of something God is building. Service is thanksgiving, because it means not only giving freely, but understanding how greatly we're loved. Such generosity, affirmation, unconditional love and warmth of welcome would certainly enable many of our churches and other institutions to become authentic witnesses for the Living God. That is precisely our agenda in the School Chapel.

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

Canon Andrew Hutchinson  
Chaplain



# Chapel Music

## Introduction

‘I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also’.

These words from 1 Corinthians, which form the motto of that venerable institution, The Royal School of Church Music, serve as a fitting précis of a remarkably energetic and successful year in the life of our hardworking Chapel Choirs.

Arriving at Solihull School in September 2016, I had already some idea of the School’s distinguished musical tradition and its long-established Chapel Choirs and, throughout the year, I have been impressed not only by the willingness and readiness with which our choristers learn new, and often complex, repertoire but, equally, by the loyalty they show to the Chapel and its music. That Solihull can maintain a fully choral chapel service Sunday by Sunday is something that is extremely special, and somewhat unique among day schools.

I should like to thank in particular Fr Andrew for his unflinching support of our music as well as his keen eye for liturgical detail, Mr Kermode whose work in training the Girls’ Choir continues to reap such dividends, and Mr Irving, who was formally appointed School Organist in early 2017, following 33 years of close association with Chapel Music, including 26 of those as Organist and Choirmaster. I am simply delighted that Mr Irving has agreed to continue to play for the Sunday Services and other major school services through the year beyond his retirement as Head of ICT this summer: to have such a committed, capable accompanist, whose own personal musical standards never fall below first-rate, is such a gift to us all. Finally, all of our choristers and their families make a substantial commitment in fulfilling the busy schedule that choir membership entails, and I am grateful to all for giving up that time in an increasingly frenetic world.

*Mr A Woodrow*



## Boys’ Choir

An octet of new recruits was drawn from J3 at the start of the academic year, bringing the total number of boys to a level almost exceeding the number of chorister gowns of suitable length! Those eight Junior boys were promoted to Full Choristers in May and it has been a delight to see them working as a team, enjoying their singing and making tangible musical progress as the year has progressed. After a couple of years’ abeyance, the positions of Senior and Head Chorister were reinstated in January, with Oliver Palmer and Freddie Truman proving a superb influence as Heads.

The boys have sung with the Full Choir on occasion, but a lot of their music-making has been as a distinct ensemble this year, singing music by composers as diverse as Gibbons, Tchaikovsky, Schubert, Britten and Malcolm Archer. Aspects such as tone, projection and uniformity of vowel formation have greatly developed through the year.

The exciting highpoint of the year was going to Manchester to sing for a live BBC Radio 4 broadcast of the ‘Daily Service’ at the end of June. It is rare that school ensembles have this sort of opportunity or exposure and our continued invitations to sing for this programme are testament to the hard work of each and every chorister. I look forward to next academic year, with a trip to St Albans Cathedral to sing Evensong in October among the first of our choral highlights.

Congratulations go to all the boys for a splendid year of singing.

*Mr A Woodrow*



# Girls' Choir

It has been another delightful year working with the Girls' Choir. I am always struck by the dedication and commitment of each member to all that we have done throughout the year. They have worked hard at projecting their sound, including more effective breath preparation and brightness of vowels in order to colour the corporate sound. A number of them have taken on solos and often surprised themselves with what they can do when they just go for it!

The girls have sung some services on their own, on occasions come together with the Boys' Choir and then also been involved in beginning and end of term services with both the Boys and the Chamber Choir – most noticeably the wonderful annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. In addition, they did themselves proud when singing (with the Boys) on the live broadcast of the Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 in June, to 250,000 listeners.

In addition to welcoming five new choristers from J4 back in September, at the end of the year we had to say a fond farewell to the six girls in the Fourth Form who have led with real distinction and influence: Ellie, Olivia, Courtney, Amber, Cassie and Lauren. Cassie moves back to the USA with her family and so we say a special thank you to her; the other five will have the fresh and exciting prospect of joining Chamber Choir next year, singing in 4-part harmony, and so we shall be able to hear the fruits of their musicianship for quite a number of years to come.

To all the girls this year – a very big thank you. You add so much to the musical and chapel communities and I hope that you enjoy your involvement as much as those who hear you sing.

Mr T Kermode



# Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir has numbered almost fifty singers this year and, as usual, has had a number of external services and commitments outside of the regular round of rehearsals and chapel services. We have been blessed with a particularly strong Upper Sixth and it was a poignant moment when we bade them farewell at the Leavers' Service in May.

September saw the choir sing for the Memorial Service for Keith Sach, a longstanding friend of the Chapel and its music, at St Mary's Church Warwick. A month later, we were in Manchester singing live for BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service', something we are privileged to have done a number of times, and on this occasion contributing a lovely setting of Psalm 23 by John Rutter. Then, before too many more weeks, we were into the Advent and Christmas season, with the usual highlights of the Advent Procession and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the latter featuring a premier of Will Todd's 'Adam lay ybounden'. This is an effervescent setting of the text, with an impetuous organ part and some highly energised vocal rhythms. We enjoyed preparing it and it was well received by the congregation: I must mark my gratitude to the Solihull School Parents' Association for allowing my predecessor, Mr Walker, to commission this work.

The Easter Term included the now annual highlight of a visit to St Paul's Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong, with music this year by Basil Harwood, Richard Ayleward and Sir Edward Bairstow. At home, we introduced a new liturgy to complement our Choral Eucharists and Evensongs, namely the Office of Choral Compline, a serene ancient service based principally around plainchant, but also allowing us in our introits and motets to study some Renaissance polyphony, with music by Byrd, Tallis, Gibbons and Batten complementing our Romantic and contemporary repertoire.

The Summer Term began with a large-scale choral concert in the Chapel whereby we combined with the Solihull Choral Society and instrumentalists from the Sinfonia of Birmingham in a performance of John Rutter's 'Requiem' on Saturday 29 April. Our choristers tackled this extended and often complex work superbly well and achieved such an impressive range of choral colour. Charlotte Sasse was the exceptional soprano soloist in the beautiful 'Pie Jesu'. The Leavers' Service followed swiftly, with Parry's stately and thrilling 'I was glad' sounding to full effect alongside music by Lauridsen and Rutter. The final few weeks of term have been dominated by public exams for many, but we have still maintained a quorum at rehearsals, working on repertoire for the academic year ahead.

The Chamber Choir's singing this year has reached the very highest levels and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year working with them.

Mr A Woodrow







**Pet Service**

Our Chapel congregation was once again boosted by the presence of some furry friends this year! Pupils were invited to take along their pets or favourite cuddly toys to be blessed during our Sunday service. There was a whole host of pets in attendance with a lizard being the most unusual. Of course canine pets were in the majority, including the Headmaster's dogs George and Boris! Many enjoyed barking through a range of animal-themed hymns! Father Andrew was on top form and the choir sang a special version of 'All things bright and beautiful' as well as 'Bless the Lord'.

*Mr M Jones*



**Community Service**

The life we live today is fraught with choices and a lack of time – we all are living at 100 miles per hour and the world does not appear to be turning any slower for it. Young people are also faced with so many questions – who are you going to be, what are you going to do with your life, etc. It is, therefore, very rewarding to be involved in the Sixth Form's Community Service programme which provides our students with the time to ask the question which Martin Luther King Jr said was the most important: 'What are you doing for others?'. If the purpose of life is to make the world a better place, then this programme definitely makes a difference.

We are in an enviable position to be able to offer nearly year-long placements at these hosts, which enables our students to really blossom and develop long-term relationships with the organisations and individuals they are helping. Our students have had the opportunity to volunteer in local schools – St. Alphege, Ruckleigh and Ulverley. There, they have had the opportunity to sit and read with pupils as well as to help out in classes. Other students have had a chance to visit a resident in local sheltered accommodation, providing companionship. AgeUK and the Air Ambulance shop in Solihull town centre also supplied us with placements for students this year, providing students with the chance to develop a wide variety of life skills.

I extend a hearty thank-you to all our hosts for the great kindness they have shown our students. I hope that these relationships will last for many years to come and that we will be able to further develop the range and scope of placements offered next year.

*Dr S Sawicki*

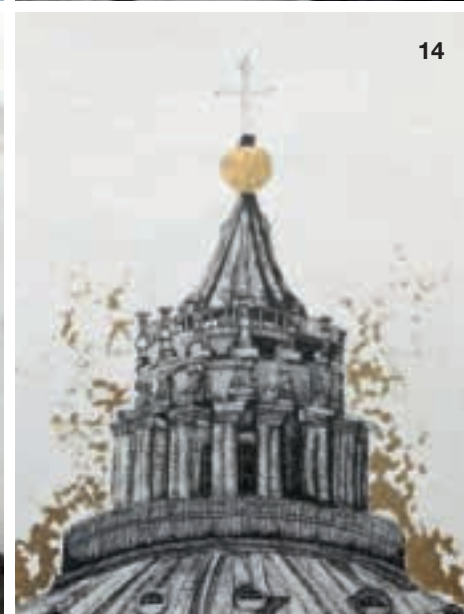
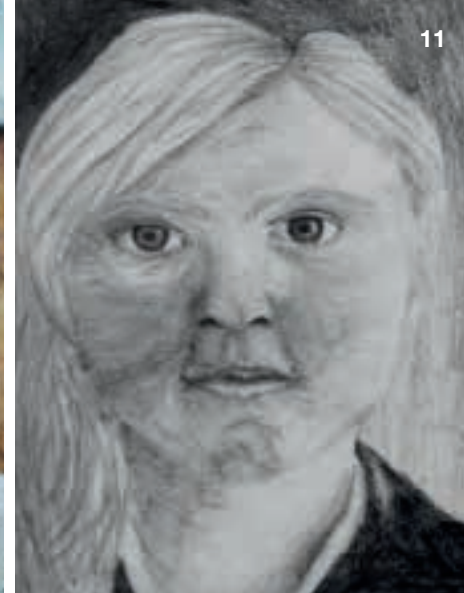
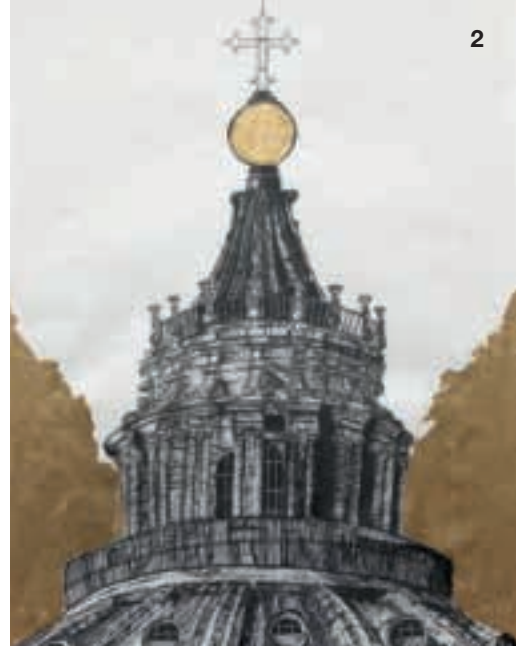
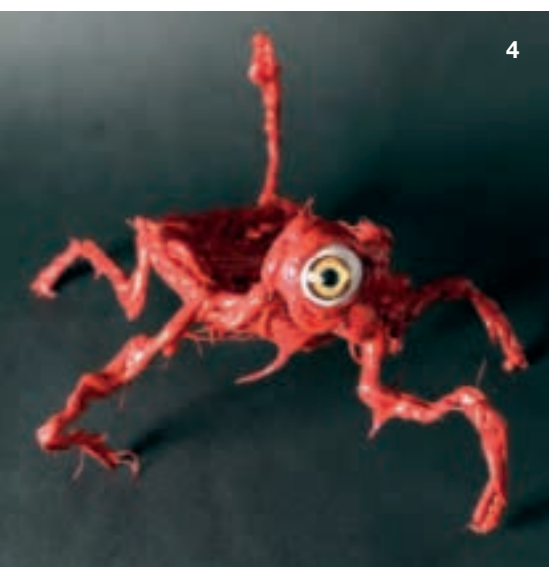
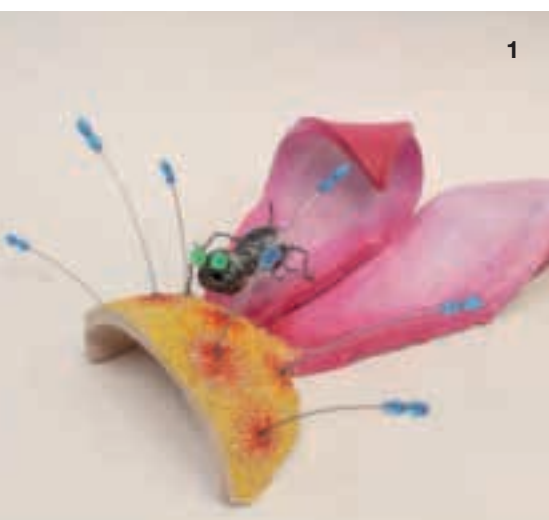
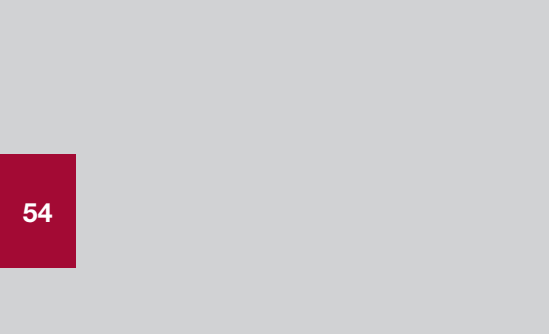


**Remembrance**

This year's outdoor Service of Remembrance, as in previous years, was attended by 1,200 pupils, staff and guests in front of the War Memorial, where the CCF paraded and played the Last Post.







## Lower School Art

1. Hiba Sandhu
2. Emily Geens
3. Bhuvan Chohan
4. Amelia Mohammed
5. Alice Batterbee
6. Cameron Rees
7. Amy Goodworth
8. Georgia Jones
9. Zarine Kumar
10. Nicole Dann
11. Lauren Mitchell
12. Thomas Currie
13. James King
14. Emily Ashby
15. Tegan Bristow
16. Chloe Mander
17. Melissa Yip
18. Uzair Mir
19. Jenny Hodge



# Music

## Music at Solihull 2016 - 2017

The musical year here at Solihull is always a busy one and activities and concert performances continue to thrive. Nearly 10,000 instrumental lessons have been given over the year and over 200 instrumental music exams taken – special congratulations go to those who took their exams in the Christmas Term as 30% were distinctions and a further 50% were merits. This has been complemented by many pupils playing in the string, wind and brass chamber ensembles, as well as the eight larger ensembles and six choirs that have met each week. It continues to be a delight to see such commitment and excitement in solo and ensemble performances at all levels – in and out of the classroom, young and old, beginner and advanced. The range of events and successes has been wonderfully wide, the enthusiasm of the pupils and the staff prodigious and the skill consistently impressive.

Across the three terms, the five large-scale concerts involved over 300 pupil performers. Add to that the whole of J4 in the Junior School musical and the cast, band and crew of around ninety pupils in the Senior School musical, and it is clear that music is central to the life of the School. Barely a week goes by without a concert – indeed some have had two. It is not surprising to hear, then, that there were no less than twenty formal concerts over the year, as well as six masterclasses, four performances of the Senior School musical *Tommy*, two performances of the Junior School musical *The Amazing Adventures of Superstar*, weekly Chapel services, three Carol Services, two 'Daily Service' live broadcasts on BBC Radio, and the annual visit to St Paul's Cathedral in London.



This has been my third year here at Solihull and I can honestly say that I feel completely at home and greatly enjoy working alongside such wonderful colleagues and pupils. My delight is, though, tinged with the sadness felt by many that this is the last year for our wonderful colleague, Miss Christa Greswold. Miss Dolby has written more about Miss Greswold's immense contribution to the musical life of the School in the Valette section of this publication. Suffice to say that Miss Greswold has brought so much to our community, not only in her individual teaching and in her ensemble direction, but also in her support of all the pupils and the music staff. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her dedication and commitment to the School; everything she has done has been meticulously prepared and then developed and guided with real passion, precision and great musicianship. We shall miss her, not only as a teacher, colleague and friend, but also for her lovely sense of humour and down-to-earth honesty.

Mr T Kermode

Following the arrival of the three new Steinway pianos in February last academic year, fifteen of our musicians travelled down to London to play in Steinway Hall in January this year – a real treat. A new event this year was the GCSE Composition Concert in September in which a number of coursework compositions were presented to the audience – showing off the wonderful level of creativity in our Middle School student body. Finally, we also had the inaugural recital series linked to Compline services on one Sunday each term: two were organ recitals given by our very own Mr Irving and Mr Woodrow; the third was a wonderful piano duet recital by Mr Woodrow and Mrs Martens. What comes across in all these events throughout the year is a real love of the music and a sense of great enjoyment. Running through this, as a central core, is the tangible level of mutual support the pupils offer to each other. I hope that you enjoy reading about the pupils' experiences of all this in their individual ensemble reports. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved throughout the year.





### Solihull Sings!

Our primary-age choral outreach programme has involved visitors from four different primary schools drawn from around the borough combining with our J2s in song this year, and counting all five schools, has involved nearly 250 children. Mr Woodrow has led weekly sessions in each of the schools, with the ten-week programme culminating in two splendid celebratory concerts in the Bushell Hall. It is always so uplifting to see all the children united in song and deriving so much pleasure from making music together and I should like to thank in particular this year's J2 year group for being such fantastic hosts to our visitors from other schools, as well as giving a fabulous musical lead to the events.

Mr A Woodrow



### Senior Wind Band

This year was another fantastic year for the Senior Wind Band. In the St Cecilia Concert at the end of the Christmas term, we played *Africa* and *Shrek Dance Party*, which were both thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. We later went on to play at the Summer Concert, where the theme was film music and jazz. We played the theme from the film *Guardians of the Galaxy*, which was made memorable by its 'low, primal chanting', followed by a medley of songs from *The Little Mermaid*, whilst scenes from both films played in the background.

I would like to thank Miss Greswold: without her leadership, the success of the Senior Wind Band would not have been possible. She is sadly leaving us this year, and her enthusiasm, energy and dedication will be sorely missed. We wish you all the best for your retirement!

Charis Holland, Upper Sixth

### Musical Masterclasses

Opportunities for pupils to perform under the scrutiny of professional musicians have been plentiful this year. Luan Shaw (clarinet), Peter Martens (cello), Roderick Williams (voice), Charles Owen (piano), the Nuance Quartet (saxophones) and the Coull Quartet (string quartet) are all wonderful practitioners in their own right and they skilfully guided, encouraged and challenged our instrumentalists and singers in aspects of technique, interpretation and performance skills. It is always great to see how all our pupils respond and interact; they all took away some great advice and realised that learning and performing need not be daunting.

Mr T Kermode



### Advanced String Ensemble

We started the academic year working on Warlock's wonderful Capriol Suite which we performed with great panache in the St Cecilia Concert in November. We then combined forces with Intermediate Strings and prepared a large repertoire of film music in readiness for the next concert. Favourites were the scores of *The Theory of Everything* and *Game of Thrones*. The highlight of the Summer Concert was a moving and unforgettable performance given by Charlotte Sasse of John Williams's masterpiece *Schindler's List* for solo violin and strings. Charlotte, who has led the ensemble, has been a tirelessly enthusiastic and committed member of the group since she joined Solihull School in 2010 and her contribution to the string department has been immeasurable. Her bubbly personality, outstanding musicianship and her willingness to help and mentor less experienced players will be missed by everyone. Others leaving are Ben Crocker and Harry Peachey who have been a real pleasure to work with over the years. Also, we sadly say goodbye and thank you to Lydia Roll who has been a bright light in one or other of my string groups every single week during her 11 years at school!

Mrs H Dolby



### Intermediate String Ensemble

Intermediate String Ensemble, led by Lauren Raybould, rehearses for an hour before school every Thursday. Although we sometimes feel a little reluctant, most of us manage to rouse ourselves and enjoy playing the music! This year we have explored a variety of classical and film music. In the St Cecilia Concert we gave a performance of *Variations on a Theme* by Handel composed by Herbert Bauman. This was a challenging work which allowed the ensemble to show off a variety of string playing techniques. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience in the Bushell Hall. The Summer Concert in May was a celebration of film music, complete with big screen images behind the players! For this performance we combined forces with Advanced Strings and the result was a Hollywood-style extravaganza of wonderful string scores including *Fiddler on the Roof* with Aviva Sandler and Lauren Raybould as charismatic soloists. The group is always a pleasure to work with and I am proud of the high standard that they have achieved this year.

Mrs H Dolby



## St Cecilia & Summer Concerts

As part of the busy schedule of concerts over the year, there are two Senior School concerts held in the Bushell Hall for our larger instrumental and vocal ensembles. The first, in late November, is the aptly named St Cecilia Concert (St Cecilia being the patron saint of musicians and whose 'name day' is 22 November). 125 pupils playing and singing in 10 different ensembles came together to perform to a packed Bushell Hall. The programme featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres. Intermediate Wind Band's rendering of *Tequila* and *Friend Like Me* got the evening off to a great start, with youthful energy. Next up was the 16-piece All Flutes ensemble, whose rendition of Fauré's *Berceuse* certainly got the audience's hearts beating calmly and reminiscing of early radio days when this piece was used as the theme tune for 'Listen with Mother'. Intermediate String Ensemble then brought a bit of Baroque style with their playing of six movements of Herbert Baumann's *Variations on a theme by Handel*. The reed players stepped up next with Senior Clarinet Ensemble's *Charlie is my Darling* and Saxophony's *Ode to Joy of Sax* and *Makin' Whooppee!* As if we had not had enough excitement by then, Advanced String Ensemble brought the first half to a close; their rhythmic performance of Piazzolla's *Libertango* certainly had some people close to getting up to dance! Interval refreshments were most welcome after all that energy!

Shostakovich's *Jazz Suite No. 2* brings saxophones into the Symphony Orchestra and the lyrical and characterful style worked well for all the players. Big Band were in fine swing as usual with Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies* and Joe Zawinul's *Birdland*. Advanced String Ensemble presented a beautiful performance of Peter Warlock's glorious *Capriol Suite*, with wonderful contrast between each of the five movements. The vocal item of the evening was provided by The Twelve, who displayed great skill in their secular repertoire in *She was Beautiful* (arranged by Roderick Williams, who later in the term led a wonderful vocal masterclass), nicely complementing the strong sacred music many of them sing in Chapel Choir. Senior Wind Band completed the evening with their typically tight and characterful playing of *Africa* and highlights from *Shrek Dance Party*. Throughout the concert all the ensembles combined both detail and musical sensitivity and balance, bringing off fabulously committed and effective performances on stage. In addition, they were all tremendous listeners – really supporting each other throughout. Huge congratulations to all concerned.



Later in the year, before the public exam period began, the Summer Concert had a slightly different twist in that it had a running theme of 'Music from the Movies' and also incorporated items that in recent years we had put into a separate Jazz and Light Music concert. The first half had items from the groups we have come to expect to hear in this concert: Intermediate and Senior Wind Bands, a combined Intermediate and Advanced Strings Ensemble, Saxophone and Symphony Orchestra. Repertoire included selections from the following films: *Harry Potter*, *The Dam Busters*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Schindler's List*, *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *How to Train your Dragon*, *Gladiator*, *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *The Little Mermaid*. In addition to the music being performed live, video clips of each film were projected on the big screen behind the performers giving a wonderfully multi-media experience.

The second half was for smaller, more intimate ensembles, many with a jazz bias. It featured The Twelve, Saxophony, Flute Choir, more *a cappella* vocal groups (one boys and one girls), four vocal soloists (Charlotte Sasse, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Zara Donaldson and Amelia Diccico), Blue Shift and Big Band. Repertoire included: *I'm a Train*, *Crazy 5th* (based on Beethoven's 5th Symphony), *Too Darn Hot*, *What Good would the Moon be?*, *My Funny Valentine*, *Let's do it*, *Let's fall in Love*, *Mister Sandman*, *For Good*, *Can you Feel the Love Tonight?*, *Summertime*, *How High the Moon* and *A Night in Tunisia*. Huge congratulations to all the performers for a truly wonderfully accomplished and entertaining evening.

Mr T Kermode





### Chamber Music for Woodwind

The ensemble comprises Emily Dekker and Asha Abram on clarinets, Harriet Bray on flute and Eleanor Shiels on bassoon. They have played as an ensemble for over a year now and performed many different genres of music, including works by Pleyel, Telemann, Zipoli, Mozart and Haydn. All are extremely accomplished musicians who have gone from strength to strength and improved all aspects of their performance skills. It has been my pleasure to work with such talented and enthusiastic musicians and to see them grow in confidence and refine their ensemble skills. Along with Emily Dekker, I must say farewell to these pupils but wish them every success as they continue their musical journey next year.

Miss C Greswold

### Senior Clarinet Ensemble

Senior Clarinets meet every Monday break time, and consists of Emily Dekker, Emma Priestley, Charis Holland, Asha Abram and Sophie Besford, and we are led by Miss Greswold. Sadly, this term Emma, Charis and I have said our goodbyes as we are in the Upper Sixth, so we hope our places can be filled by other clarinetists in the lower years! Not only this, but Miss Greswold is leaving too, and I can safely say that she will be missed greatly by all woodwind players across the School, even those of us who are leaving anyway – there will be a big gap in the music department that will be very hard to fill! Over the past two years we have become a very close group, and our performance as a team has really improved. In the Summer Concert this year we were able to play ‘Blues for an Autumn Night’ as entertainment in the interval, our final performance as a group, as well as playing ‘Too Darn Hot’ with Saxophony, which was a very fun experience. We have also played in various informal concerts and in clarinet workshops playing a variety of pieces, as well as the Christmas Concert. Our skills as performers have gone from strength to strength, and we would all like to thank Miss Greswold for working so hard with us and making Clarinet Ensemble such a success! I wish both Miss Greswold and the future Senior Clarinets the best of luck in the future.

Emily Dekker, Upper Sixth



### Senior Flute Ensemble

It has been a very successful year for the flute choir as we have covered such a wide range of repertoire ranging from jazz to baroque to popular songs such as ‘My Favourite Things’. At the end of the first term we got the opportunity to accompany the Christmas lunch. Shortly into the term, all of the Senior School flautists merged together to form a very large flute choir performing Berceuse by Faure in the St Cecilia Concert. This has been instrumental in getting pupils across all years to play together. The highlight of the year was playing ‘Mr Sandman’ and ‘Let’s do it, let’s fall in love’ in the second half of the Summer Concert. Many thanks to Miss Greswold for putting so much time and effort into the entire flute section throughout the year, and we look forward to playing new repertoire together next year. New enthusiastic members are always welcome!

Harriet Bray, Lower Sixth

### Trombone Ensemble

The Solihull Sliders, the trombone ensemble of the Senior School, has met weekly throughout the year. The five trombonists have worked hard to hone their skills of ensemble playing and have also had a go at especially arranged music such as theme tunes for computer games. They have performed twice in public this year, and I would like to thank them very much for all their hard work.

In the Junior School, six pbone players (trombonists who play on plastic trombones, which were specifically designed for young trombonists, as the trombones are much lighter to play and to carry) have met each week for the J2 music scheme throughout the year. They have done remarkably well, and managed to play in a Christmas informal concert, a spring concert, and the Junior School Summer Concert. They have kept Mrs Brookes very much on her toes, but they have been great fun to teach, and I am very proud of what they have achieved this year.

Mrs M Brookes



### Saxophony

Saxophony started the Christmas term in a strong position with nine players and I couldn’t help but feel slightly sad knowing that this would be my final year directing the ensemble. Since its conception in 2006 the group has continued to grow from strength to strength. I know from many of the pupils’ comments over the years that Saxophony has continued to inspire them to develop their skills in order to join us.

I would like to extend a huge *thank you* to Saxophonists past and present for the huge amount of time and effort they have put into making Saxophony the successful group that it has become.

Sadly, Saxophony is also saying goodbye to Megan Perry who has been an amazing Baritone player as well as the group’s unpaid secretary! I’m sure that she won’t mind me using a little quote from her leaving card which I think epitomises Solihull’s Music Department: *‘The department offers a lovely, welcoming and inspirational environment in which to develop musically’*.

I look forward to keeping in touch with both past and present members in the future!

Miss C Greswold

### Solihull Brass

Solihull Brass consists of a small group of Trumpet players that performs many different styles and genres of music each week. We rehearse each Wednesday morning before school and look forward to rehearsing pieces ranging from Baroque to Operatic and Jazz. We have played several different pieces this year including ‘Carnival of the Animals’ and ‘Chicago’. We have all improved due to this challenging but fun new music. On behalf of Solihull Brass, I would like to thank Mr Pascall for helping to organise the group and conduct us every week with such enthusiasm!

Luke Horgan, Fourth Form

### Saxbeats

Saxbeats have performed at a very high level this academic year. There are five members of the group: Hanaan and Oscar on alto saxophones, Ben on tenor saxophone, Annabel on soprano saxophone, and Ewan Waddell supports us on the Drum Kit. We work very well as an ensemble and are proud to represent the School in concerts. We have performed in the St Cecilia and Summer Concerts, took part in the Saxophone workshop earlier on this year and are currently preparing to entertain visitors outside on Open Morning. As a young group, we would like to improve and work hard and become as good as we can be. But we wouldn’t be where we are today if it wasn’t for our amazing conductor, Miss Greswold. She has worked with us since we were in Junior School and now she is leaving us, so thank you so much for creating our group and sticking with us even when we struggle through many difficult pieces! We hope you enjoy whatever you are planning to do next.

Annabel Dalby, Fourth Form

### Senior Brass Quartet

Senior Brass Quartet comprises four trumpets from members of the Lower School: Oliver Palmer, Liam Scagell, myself and Mr Pascall. We play arrangements of different styles ranging from Baroque to Jazz. Pieces we have played this year include a traditional trumpet quartet called ‘Canzon Cornetto’ which is a canon with different moving parts and a lively jazz piece called ‘Do It Again’ by George Gershwin. We all enjoy playing together in a group and the challenges that the different music brings. On behalf of Senior Brass I would like to thank Mr Pascall for organising the ensemble and conducting us every Thursday break time.

Bethan Bown, Fourth Form





The Twelve

Our first year in The Twelve with Mr Woodrow has been great; we’ve made an amazing start to a brand new group. The year started with a masterclass from the incredible Roderick Williams, a world-famous operatic baritone and composer. We sang a version of the well-known theme from *The Deer Hunter* which Roderick Williams arranged himself called ‘She Was Beautiful’. He completely changed how we performed as a group, so starting the year with this amazing opportunity set us up well for the year ahead. We went on to perform it in the St Cecilia Concert and it seemed to be well received. Leading up to Christmas we began rehearsing some well-loved carols, and during the Christmas Dinner in the refectory we sang some of our favourites to keep the festive spirits high which was a lot of fun! We’ve had a few early mornings in the Chapel where we’ve been able to lead the Eucharist service for Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. We then went on to perform one of our favourites, ‘I’m a Train’, in both the Chamber Music Concert and then the Summer Concert, before being asked to perform it in assembly. We’ve made a busy and brilliant start with Mr Woodrow this year and hope to continue it next year.

Ellie Ajao, Lower Sixth



Big Band and Blueshift

Big Band had a swinging start to the year with the arrival of many new members. We recommenced our weekly sessions with the direction of Mr Pascall, trying out repertoire of several different styles and tempos. We performed at the St Cecilia and Summer Concerts, featuring fantastic solos from several of the band members. A particular highlight of the year was the fast-paced ‘Night in Tunisia’, which ended the Summer Concert with a bang.

Alongside Big Band, Blueshift welcomed new members, and tackled a lot of challenging repertoire throughout the year during our weekly break-time rehearsals. During sessions we have learnt to read chord charts and improved our technique and understanding of jazz music. We finished the year with a performance of ‘Spring can really hang you up the most’ in the Summer Concert (the group’s first performance in a major school concert) featuring improvisational solos from all members of the group.

Both Big Band and Blueshift had a great year this year. Thank you, Mr Pascall!

Lili Mistry and Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Upper Sixth



Diploma Successes

Each year, a number of our pupils take their performance skills beyond Grade 8 level, and special congratulations should go this year to both Emily Dekker (clarinet) and Charlotte Sasse (viola) who have each had successes in their Diploma performance exams. In the same week as her Diploma success, Charlotte gained a very high ‘distinction’ mark in her Grade 8 singing exam. What talent!

Mr T Kermode

Shell Form Flutes

Every Thursday, the Shell Form Flute Group congregates in Miss Greswold’s teaching room, to improve our flute skills. By rehearsing many famous pieces (and some less well known!) we have enhanced our playing abilities. The Flute Group consists of myself, Rhea Bagga, Joanne Wu and Ziying He. Throughout the year, we have performed countless pieces of music in a multitude of concerts. Some of these include ‘Moon River’, ‘Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas’ and ‘Food Glorious Food’. Our performance of ‘So long, Farewell’ in an Informal Concert was our last piece together in the Shell Flute Group, and also the last piece of music conducted by Miss Greswold. We will all miss her greatly, especially as she has motivated us to further our musical skills and is always a delight to be around. On behalf of all of the Shell Flute Group, I would like to say a massive thank you to Miss Greswold and wish her all the best. Flute Group has been one of the most musically rewarding adventures for me and I hope to carry this experience forward into the future.

Lucia Eguiguren Wray, Shell Form



Festival Success

Congratulations are due to Ellie Ajao for being placed 1st in two categories and 3rd in another category at the Northfield Festival of Music and Speech.

Emily Dekker – Rising Stars

Emily Dekker has passed her ATCL Diploma on Clarinet. This Diploma is the equivalent to the standard achieved by someone after the first year of an undergraduate degree. Emily gave an outstanding performance lasting 35 minutes which included music by Schumann, Finzi and Weber. This showcased her technique and outstanding musicianship. As a result of this, Emily performed with Solihull Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 25 March as part of their Rising Stars Concert series.

Miss C Greswold





## Performing Arts

### Tommy

This year's musical was somewhat of a departure from previous editions in that it took the form of a Rock Opera, The Who's *Tommy*. Pete Townshend's 1969 masterpiece needed a great deal of energy to succeed and the cast and crew poured their passion into the rehearsal process, which began in late September.

Tommy is a sung-through musical and as such is driven by its rock music, from start to finish. There is no doubt, therefore, that the band needed to be top notch, and Mr Kermode succeeded in leading these talented musicians to enormous success. The band were perched high above the stage and were variously lit by special stage lights, so that their impressive performances could be witnessed fully by the audience.

All who came to see the show during its four packed nights in the Bushell Hall experienced a performance of enormous energy and dynamism with a talented cast who demonstrated real dedication to performing a spectacular show.

James Spence was a fantastic Tommy; from the great energy that he put into his scenes narrating the exploits of his younger self during 'Amazing Journey' and 'Sensation', to his enormous commitment to the role during the gruelling 'Smash the Mirror' scene, he was utterly compelling to watch. Tommy's mother was played by Emma Hadley who elegantly depicted both Mrs Walker's loving support of her husband in 'I Believe My Own Eyes' and her rage and frustration at the fate that life had dealt her in 'Smash the Mirror', a moving and, at times, terrifying performance. Oliver Daniels played the damaged war hero with real aplomb, projecting a reserved exterior during 'Christmas', but hinting at a deep well of emotion which was



only revealed during the 'Finale'. There were too many really strong performances during *Tommy* to mention them all, but it would be impossible to leave out Charlie Tucki's unnerving Cousin Kevin, prowling the stage throughout, revealing the character's savagery through a remarkable physical performance which reached its culmination during the song which bore the character's name. Ellie Ajao's 'Acid Quid' was many people's highlight of the show. Belting out the song made famous by Tina Turner, Ellie strode around the stage commanding the chorus with a shake of her head and a flick of her wrist.

Despite making mention of these enormously impressive performances, it's vital to say that Theatre is entirely a group endeavour, from the dedicated stage crew to the utterly reliable make-up team, from the sound mixer to the follow spot operator. All of those involved did all they could to make *Tommy* the resounding success that it was.

Mr J Hammond





His Dark Materials: Part Two

A mere fortnight after *The Wardrobe*, the Bushell Hall saw the completion of last year's epic *His Dark Materials* adaptation, this time performed as a whole school play. The second part of the *His Dark Materials* journey saw Will and Lyra continue their quest to find their way in the universe, while Lord Asriel completed his war against 'The Authority'. Nicholas Wright's version of Philip Pullman's masterpiece was entirely epic and demanded an epic commitment from its cast and crew.

Mr Hunton created an awe-inspiring set for the production, which filled the large space in the Bushell Hall with a vortex of paint and a cascade of platforms. Dr Jukes painted this space with a lighting design which incorporated a patchwork of ever-changing LEDs and helped to delineate the kaleidoscope of places and moods demanded by the script.



It was a titanic challenge to create a production of nearly three hours in length, which featured fifty different scenes and over a hundred separate characters, and in which the cast of fifty never dropped the pace or broke role for even a moment. From the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, the actors attacked the piece with such passion and professionalism, that the breathtaking pace was maintained from the first moment to the last.



The Wardrobe

At the start of the 2016/17 academic year, six Sixth Form students were tasked with directing their first play, *The Wardrobe* by Sam Holcroft. The play explored key moments in British history. Each scene featured a different set of children from a different period taking refuge in the same wardrobe from menaces as diverse as the English Civil War and the Blitz.

With enormous dedication, the directors (Eve Colyer, Emma Hadley, Anna Higgins, Gwynneth Horbury, Elle Miles and Megan Perry) marshalled and inspired their actors, organised set and costume, put together a programme and enthusiastically succeeded at all of the myriad tasks required of a play's directors.

What the Drama Studio audience witnessed in early November was a polished production which demonstrated the real talent emerging from the Lower School. The entire cast deserves enormous credit, but special mention must be given to Mattie Sandford who played an arrogant medieval princess with great conviction; Hiba Sandhu who performed a powerful monologue as a child victim of prejudice in Georgian England; Heidi Atkinson whose fear was chilling during a Royalist incursion during the Civil War and Megan Davies whose bullied teenager was utterly convincing during a school trip to a museum.

The next Shell and Fourth Form play (directed by Elle Miles and Kate Stumper) will be *Mermaid* by Polly Teale and will be performed in the Bushell Hall on 9 & 10 November 2017.

Mr J Hammond



The core of the *His Dark Materials* storyline is the relationship between Will and Lyra and these parts were played with great skill and great conviction by Saul Greenburgh and Olivia Hass, seemingly at home at the head of a full school production. Oliver Daniels reached the considerable pinnacle of his Solihull acting career with a mesmerising and commanding Lord Asriel opposite a glowering and devout Joshua Newby as his enemy Brother Jasper. Gwynneth Horbury created a mysterious and passionate presence as the head witch Seraphina Pekkala and Ellie Ajao twisted her body into all sorts of strange angles to depict the Harpy, no-name. Starting and finishing their too-brief Solihull acting careers, Thomas Mitchell and Harry Goodworth produced startling performances: Thomas summoned great stage presence and shredded his vocal chords to bring life to lorek Byrnison, the king of the bears, while Harry overcame his considerable doubts about puppetry to bring life to Lord Roke, the leader of the Gallivespians.

As ever, the enormous task of helping the actors into and out of their numerous characters fell to Mrs Thomas and her team of make-up artists as well Old Silhillians S Surran and B Woolaston who tirelessly waded through the costume store in search of the right pieces. The next full school play will be performed in the Bushell Hall on 27-29 June 2018.

Mr J Hammond







House Drama

This year saw the first edition of Solihull’s biannual House Drama Competition, which challenged each House to produce a performed monologue or duologue. Pupils rose to the challenge and produced performances of considerable variety and skill with the competition especially fierce in the Middle School and Sixth Form. Over consecutive lunch times in early February all competitors performed in front of lively and receptive audiences in the Drama Studio and the winners of each section were determined.

The Lower School winners were Courtney Holland and Freddie Truman who received gales of laughter for their spirited rendition of an extract from *The Virtuous Burglar* by Dario Fo. The Middle School winners were Ellie Berrow and Aoife Mackew with an imaginative and passionate section from *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane. Emma Hadley won the Sixth Form category with an insightful, nuanced and emotive performance of a speech from *A Streetcar Named Desire*. All three winners later performed their pieces in a whole school assembly.

Theatre Trips

GCSE and A-Level Drama students attended another broad programme of Professional Theatre this year, with ten trips taking in twelve different productions. Local destinations included the Birmingham Rep where many of our students were moved to uncontrollable weeping during a moving production of *Love*, and the Warwick Arts Centre where much fun was had during Kneehigh’s brilliant *946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*.

With the A-Level group we also ventured further afield to London, where students were lucky enough to witness the first ever public performance of Complicite’s *The Kid Stays in the Picture* at the Royal Court and a startlingly original *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Young Vic.

Next year’s programme features, for the first time, a professional Theatre Company coming to perform their hit show ‘Christmas Gothic’ at the Bushell Hall on 7 December. The performance is open to the public and tickets are available from reception.

Drama Dinner

On 1 July 2017, the first annual Drama Awards Dinner took place in the Keith Sach Suite on the top floor of the Cooper Building. Forty-five of the staff and pupils who had been most involved in an extraordinary year of Drama enjoyed a three-course meal together to celebrate all that had been achieved.

After the dinner, twelve awards were presented and guests re-performed highlights from the year, to the delight of all. Recognising everything from acting to technical and design achievements, awards were voted on by pupils who had participated in Drama over the course of the year.

Visiting Speakers

This year we began a new relationship with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and we were visited by a number of their educators and professionals to work with our Drama students on subjects as diverse as, ‘learning how to create a good ageing effect using make-up’ with Andrew Whiteoak, and ‘how to get into Drama School’ with Billy Coughlin.

Along with their counterparts in the English Department, our students also enjoyed a performance of *Macbeth* by Splendid Productions and afterwards took part in an excellent workshop on physical performance and storytelling.

Mr J Hammond

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017

In January, eighteen members of the Sixth Form began working on a production of ‘Beasts & Beauties’ for presentation at the 70th Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2017. This would be the first time that Solihull School had visited the world’s largest arts festival and there was tremendous anticipation and excitement at the prospect of having our work seen and reviewed by the wider public and theatre profession.

‘Beasts & Beauties’ featured four fairy tales adapted by the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and accompanied by original music composed by pupils Joe Chamberlain, Oliver Daniels and James Spence. Rehearsals were undertaken in a spirit of joyous adventure, with each member of the cast throwing themselves into the spirit of the production and pushing themselves to achieve a broad comedic style that many had not worked in before.

Over ten days in Edinburgh, the company performed ‘Beasts & Beauties’ eight times to full houses (four performances were total sell outs), performed on the Royal Mile stage three times, attended an average of twenty-five different shows each, received two extremely positive reviews, enjoyed two company dinners and attended two shows at the Edinburgh International Festival.

At the end of it all the company was left exhausted and elated. Throughout the experience the pupils demonstrated the dedication, focus and determination of professionals and were rewarded by the enormously enthusiastic reception that they were given by their audiences. Grey Dog Theatre Company will certainly ride again!

Mr J Hammond



The Last Resort

The Lower and Middle School production in June was *The Last Resort*. Set in a fading, fictional seaside town called Ferryton-on-Sea, the play is a fast-paced comedy about a typical day at the British seaside. The action opens with the arrival of the milkman (Harrison Jones), who imagines himself to be the Clint Eastwood of Ferryton, foiling muggers and charming housewives. The action moves to breakfast radio host Bobby Brewster (played by Freddie Truman) and the Brews Up Posse, who narrate the events as the town comes slowly to life. We are introduced to the lugubrious Dawson’s Donkeys, with their wry take on life and dislike of small children. Harrison, Freddie and Benedict Barker provided the accent, the attitude and the laughter.

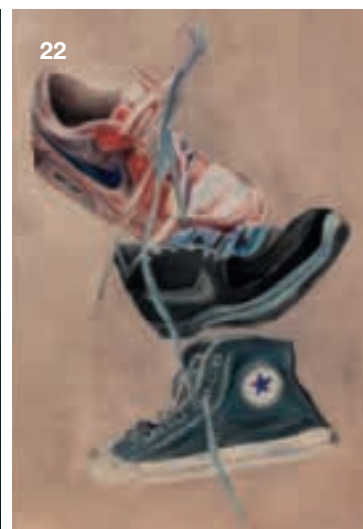
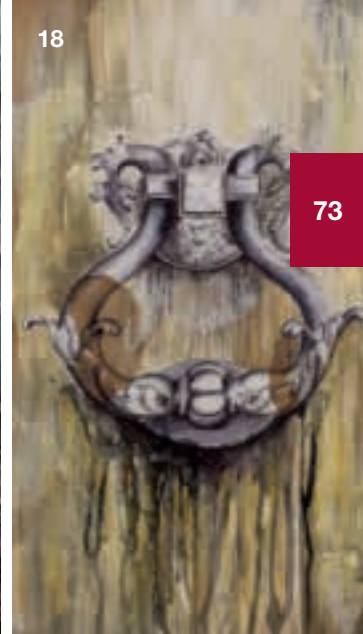
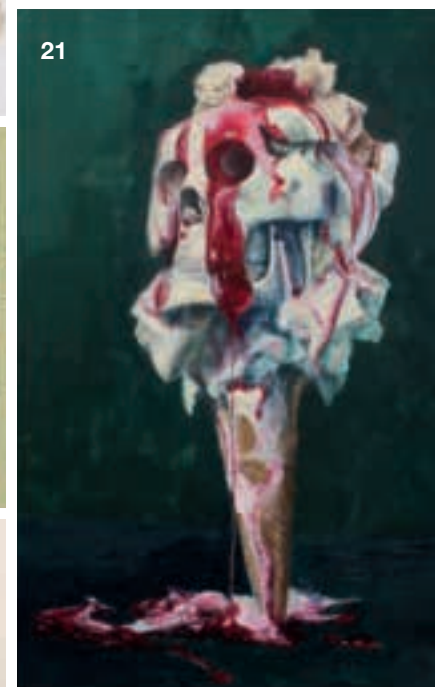
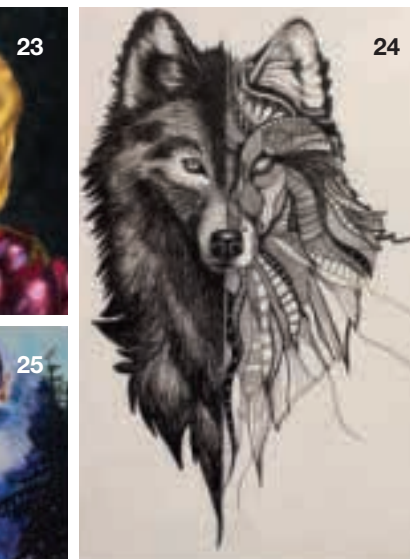
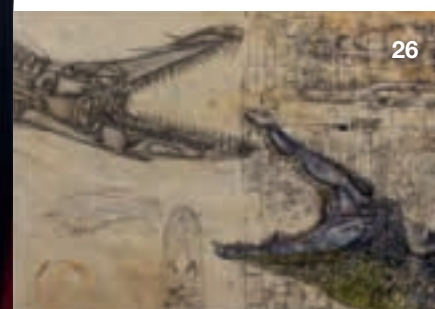
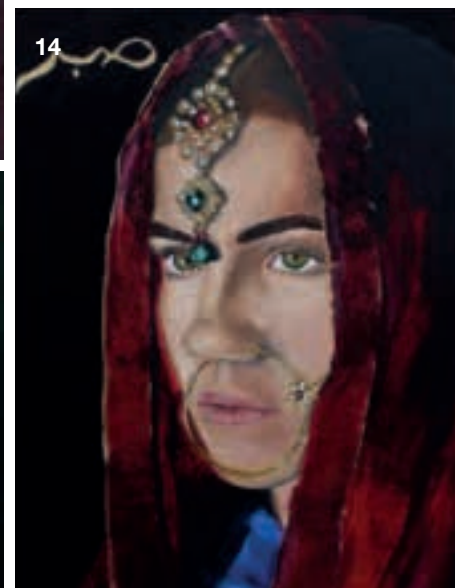
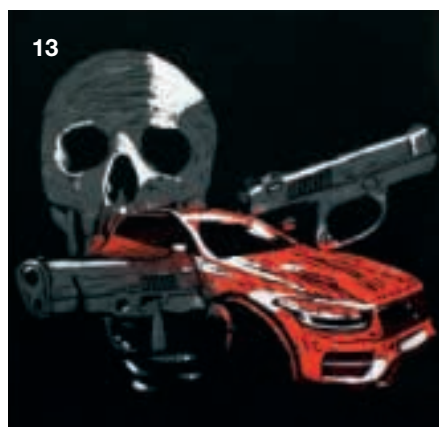
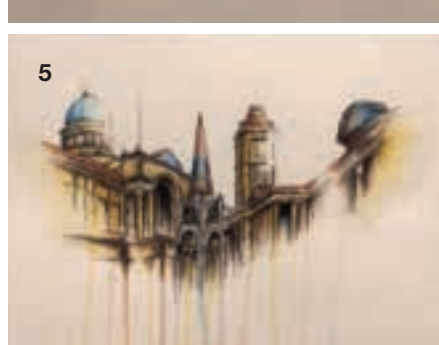
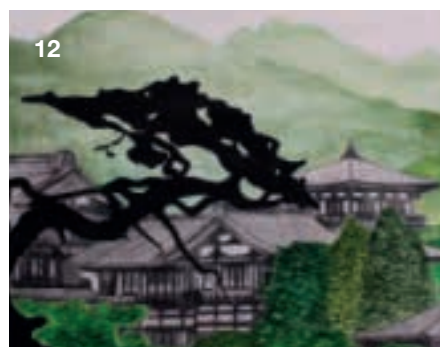
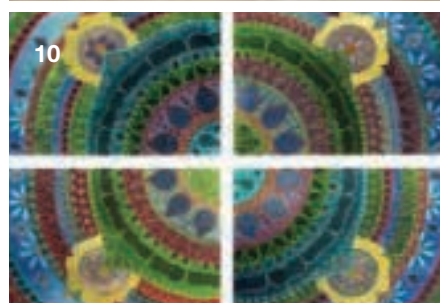
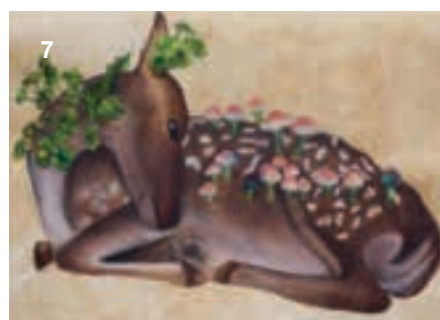
As an ensemble piece, it seems wrong to single out any individual performers, as the whole cast worked together to create the world of Ferryton, but the audience certainly loved the donkeys! Alex Duckworth, Courtney Holland and Olivia Hass were fabulous as the sweet old ladies, who we later learn had bumped off their husbands by sabotaging their fishing boat. Eden Lupoli, Charlie Tucki, David Hass and Molly Bate were the hapless Killjoy family, whose disastrous journey was probably very familiar to most of us who have ever been on a day trip to the seaside! Counterbalancing their misery, was the irritatingly upbeat Bright family, played expertly by Jess Blissitt, Sophie Borman, Toby Bagshaw and Ben Lyth. Special mention must be made here of Ben’s costume choices – visual comedy at its best!

This was no easy piece of theatre for young performers. On stage for the entire show, those not performing were chorus and chorus members transformed into performers. They provided pathos and laughter, choreographed dance routines, physical theatre, mime, monologues and choral narration as well as slapstick and even striptease! Fast-paced and funny, the show was on for two nights and received a warm response from the audience.

I look forward to seeing all those for whom this was their first experience of drama, performing in shows for the rest of their time here. Well done to you all! My thanks also to Kevin Hunton for the props and Paul Jukes for the technical wizardry.

Mrs L Fair





## GCSE Art

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Jacob Byrne             | 14. Haris Khan        |
| 2. Sofia Cusack            | 15. Aviva Sandler     |
| 3. Aishwarya Jagadeeswaran | 16. Daniel Withington |
| 4. David Hughes            | 17. Rory Maguire      |
| 5. Harry Wu                | 18. Katie Phillips    |
| 6. Eleanor Berrow          | 19. Fleur Street      |
| 7. Jenna Plain             | 20. Alice Sharpe      |
| 8. Beth Penhallurick       | 21. Tabitha Botterill |
| 9. Emilia Harris           | 22. Sophie Besford    |
| 10. Leesha Majid           | 23. Robbie Monk       |
| 11. Esther McAuliffe       | 24. Daryon Holland    |
| 12. Liam Duffy             | 25. Lucy Fennell      |
| 13. Joseph Embley          | 26. Mehar Singh       |





## Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

### CCF (Army)

2016/17 was another successful year for the Army Section. This year there were again numerous training events including Military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

The first weekend training saw our newest recruits spend a night under shelters in Hopwas Wood near Lichfield. In October we held Field Day at Swynnerton Training Area. On the Friday night we conducted an ambush and this was followed by a really successful day. All the cadets were able to put their training to good use. The cadets undertook a round robin of activities that included a patrolling exercise, a camouflage and concealment exercise, a Section Attack Stand and a CQB lane, and they also had the opportunity to use the 30m range, in order to practise their shooting skills. It was a long but enjoyable day.

The next event on the calendar was the Introduction to Fieldcraft Exercise. This took place in Longmoor, Hampshire, over three nights. The cadets lived in improvised shelters (bashas) every night come rain or shine, but mostly the former. The cadets were given Skill at Arms training and basic fieldcraft activities culminating in a Deliberate Assault on the Enemy Position. It was a very enjoyable experience for all concerned.

In November the contingent provided the Guard of Honour for the Wreath Laying party during the Remembrance Service and were inspected by 2Lt John Simpkins, an Old Sil who was a member of the Contingent during his time at the School.

In December the Section had a military training weekend at STANTA. The cadets all had the opportunity to take part in an ambush and a Platoon advance to Contact. This was followed by a second trip to STANTA in March where fieldcraft skills were honed in readiness for the Summer Camp in July,



The highlight and culmination of the year's training is Summer Camp, which was held at STANTA for 22 members of the Army Section. This was organised and staffed by the School. The weather was especially kind to us during the training phase. The first two days of camp involved the cadets participating in a round robin of Fieldcraft Activities followed by a Range Day which enabled the cadets to obtain outdoor shooting badges.

Targets were engaged at 100, 200 and 300m. The cadets also fired from a standing position in a fire trench. The cadets then deployed on a 72-hour exercise. The first phase of occupying a harbour area and building bashas passed smoothly in good weather. However, during the second phase of patrolling the weather changed and resulted in the cadets having to abandon their shelters and take cover in the Forward Operating Base (FOB). The cadets then had to operate from this base and defend it against enemy attacks. Like last year, we had two regular Fusiliers attached to the section for the camp. Cpl Vietch and Fus McMullan were excellent ambassadors for the 1 Battalion RRF. They certainly helped the cadets improve their skills in the field and even the cadets' drill!!!

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

*Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)*







### Terriers Report

Terriers is held on a Thursday for two periods, for the Third Form. It provides us with the chance to take part in a variety of activities which we wouldn't usually expect to participate in during school time, allowing us to be out of the classroom to enjoy the schools grounds. For people who are new to the school like I was, Terriers meant that we could interact with other pupils from different forms across the year, and take part in team challenges which helps make wider friendship groups. Overall, Terriers is a fun and enjoyable way of learning new skills which we would not typically get to study. It is a good way of getting us out of the classroom and something which people look forward to. We take part in activities ranging from Canoeing to fire-building and map reading to simple cooking.

Ben Stewart, Third Form



Terriers for me meant a chance to learn and gain new skills. It developed my understanding of teamwork and perseverance, which are essential values for any type of activity or work. The activities ranged from being up in the air on rope traverse, but also being on water whilst kayaking. One of my favourite parts about Terriers was discovering new skills that I had never considered to be mine, but through simple steps, I learned to understand and gain them. Not only can I now cook from a flame, but I can find my way with a map and compass. The phrase 'Not just achieving but thriving' engulfs the true meaning of Terriers, as the skills we practise are put forward and shown off in events such as Mission and tests, which really give you an opportunity to do well and achieve your personal best. I am proud to say that I am able to help anybody in a medical situation, and in serious events have the confidence to help. Terriers not only gave me a chance to expand upon my skills, but also learn new skills, while having lots of fun.

Charlotte Pratt, Third Form

### Young Enterprise

This year has seen us with 3 active companies taking part in the YE Company Programme: Think, Aspiration and Combine. All teams have learned a great deal from their efforts, not least of which are some valuable experiences and improved awareness of employability skills.

Think, ably managed by MD Molly Bate, were highly creative and made 3D pictures and Christmas decorations for the PA Christmas Fair. Their main idea, for which they won prizes at both the Touchwood Trade Fair and the regional finals for 'Best Product', was the incorporation of a QR code into key rings and stickers. This code was then linked to a database, to allow people who had lost phones and keys to be reunited with them. With more time, this product could have found real commercial success, and may yet be introduced in line with any future BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programmes!

Aspiration – managed by Eden Lupoli, with strong financial acumen demonstrated by Charlotte Hope – made highly profitable gift jars, containing the ingredients to make delicious cookies. After raising significant funds from their highly successful Tuck Shop Takeover, they went on to make decorative items using recycled bottles. These were collected from local bars, and taken to PI Castings in Altrincham for 'slumping'. Essentially, bottles were placed in a furnace and allowed to melt then cooled down! After much trial and error with the process, and with the expert guidance of Mr Paul Taylor and his team at PI, many items were produced, and due to the nature of the process, all items were unique. The generous donation of time and facilities by PI Castings allowed this product to make an enviable 100% net profit margin! Combine, managed by Jamie Morrall, designed and created a virtual reality headset. They made a prototype and several production items were sold after orders were generated at the trade fair.



We are extremely grateful to Mr Corbett in DT, for his assistance and for making the facilities in the Fort available for the company. The innovative approach and ideas from this team were praised highly by the judges at the Touchwood Trade Fair.

The teams have all learned the importance of team work, creativity, patience, and organisation. In the future, I am sure that those who worked hardest and contributed more than their fair share of time and effort will think about the occasional need for delegation and project management after they have ensured that they have a motivated and skilled team around them.

We are again extremely grateful for the contributions of our volunteer business advisors: James Bush and James Connell from ARUP and Beth Evans.

Mrs J Mander







### The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2016/17

During October half term, thirty-three Upper Sixth students took part in a four-day assessment crossing the Lake District from the coast in the West to the north end of Ullswater in the East. Despite thunderstorms, downpours and some very challenging routes, all of our students under Gold Assessment were successful. All of them wild-camped high up in the mountains for at least one night.

This year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has continued the national pilot in which Year Nine pupils can enrol to do their Bronze Award so it has meant that this academic year, we have had double the number of pupils from two year groups enrolling to do Silver. Forty pupils took part in a Silver expedition to North Wales at Easter and forty more attempted their Silver practice and expedition in the Cambrian mountains in July.

Seventy-five Fourth Form pupils enrolled at Bronze level this year and nearly all ended up successfully completing the expedition section. During the second weekend in May, twelve expedition groups accompanied by over twenty staff members (many non-teaching staff volunteers) completed a practice weekend in Shropshire and then one month later the same pupils travelled north to the Peak District for their assessment weekend. Almost one hundred staff and pupils camping over night is a huge logistical challenge and we are thankful for the support that we receive from the DofE team who make this possible.

Other than the trips already mentioned, expeditions have also taken place locally for a 'direct Silver' training camp in the snow and ice in February and then in late June, a four-day practice venture with Gold pupils to the Rhinog mountains of Southern Snowdonia. This later group will return to the Lake District next October for their assessment.

The Award is not simply about the expedition section, of course. Pupils complete a Skill, a Volunteering, and a Physical activity for a specified amount of time, and at Gold level there is a fifth Residential section which must be completed. In all of these the candidate's assessor looks for commitment, resilience and determination to develop, all of which are key life skills of course. Gold residential trips have included pupils attending various centres on their own including cookery courses, working in an orphanage in Peru, helping at a school in Sri Lanka, working with the National Trust and even attending week-long surf schools in Cornwall. Pupils must organise these themselves, attend on their own and then show commitment and determination to stay the course.



Well done again to all involved. Through the other sections of the Award, many pupils have learned new skills or taken up new sports helping them to develop in to well-rounded young people. For the volunteering section a great deal of good work has been done in the local community and further afield, working in old people's homes, animal shelters or working with younger pupils.

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

Well done then to all our pupils who have completed their Award at any of the three levels; you have achieved a very special and unforgettable thing.

Owen Bate / Philip Dean MBE







Third Form fieldwork at the Sherbrook on Cannock Chase

On Activities Day, the Third Form was taken by the Geography Department to Cannock Chase to get a taste of carrying out a river study on the Sherbrook. It has become even more important over the last few years that pupils at the school are given every opportunity to experience research activities outside the classroom as there is now a compulsory fieldwork element in both the new GCSE and A-Level courses in Geography.

We were blessed with wonderfully warm weather, which made the day far more enjoyable. It is surprising, given how close Cannock Chase is, that so few of our pupils get the chance to explore this fairly wild area in the Midlands. It is a great place to go on fieldwork as the landscape is very different – being moorland, woodlands and plantation – to what many of the pupils are used to. The Thirds were given a number of tasks to complete, including measuring the velocity, width and depth of the stream. Much fun was had splashing around in their wellingtons and using the equipment. The groups were also challenged to measure the cross-profile of the valley, which resulted in them needing to work very closely in a team, whilst mastering the use of clinometers. As an added challenge, the data collected was recorded on tablets and photographs were also taken so that the data could then be processed on their return to school using GIS software.



As a reward for all their hard work, the pupils were also treated to Go Ape, a rope climbing and high-wire course at the Forestry Commission's Visitor Centre on the Chase. It was pleasing to see how much fun and learning was had by all, including several of the (non-Geography) staff, who were also having their first tastes of fieldwork. We look forward to another successful trip next year.

Dr S Sawicki

Geography Field Course to Castle Head in the Lake District

Despite extremely dismal weather at times, the Lower Sixth Geographers tackled their five-day field course at Castle Head in the Lake District with great enthusiasm. The wet weather did not dampen our spirits, nor affect the quality of our data collection. This was largely because we used ipads in the field, replacing paper, which enabled us to geo-locate, log, and share data. Tree-hugging became normal behaviour as students compared carbon sequestration in different types of woodland. Despite the rain, students were surprised to find that evaporation from our evaporation trays had still taken place during our water cycle investigation, or had there been a visit by some thirsty four-legged friends? Students also used other contemporary techniques, such as discourse analysis and urban dérive sampling which generated curiosity and inspiration for their own Independent Investigations. The Lower Sixth were great company, worked incredibly hard, and the Geography team wish them good luck in their own data collection over the summer holiday!

Mrs A Roll

Geography Field Course to Slapton, Devon

In June the Lower Fifth Geographers spent two days on the south Devon coast completing fieldwork for their new GCSE Geography course. Blessed by glorious sunny weather at the start of the June heat wave, pupils were able to explore first-hand how physical and human processes are changing our world by investigating the need for hard engineering coastal management techniques between Start Point and Slapton Bay, and evaluating the success of regeneration in Plymouth.

Pupils learned to frame questions and collect, analyse and review data, all of which helps to make sense of classwork, and develops the skills needed to tackle the challenges of the future. Many geographers go on to careers where they continue to conduct field and desk-based research, while others enter professions where their problem-solving skills and appreciation of the inter-connections between different processes and scales are vital.



Pupils worked enthusiastically to collect data during the two days and were able to discuss their findings with confidence during class-based sessions. Everyone had a fantastic time, achieving a huge amount of work, but also with plenty of downtime too – a great way to end a busy school year!

Mrs A Roll





Classics Society

As ever, the Classics Society has been busy this year. The Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation students visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and also the Archaeology Museum at the University of Birmingham at the end of the Christmas term for a study day. The Upper Sixth Latin students attended a study day dedicated to the Roman poet Ovid. In the Easter term, the Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation group overdosed on Greek Tragedy, by spending a day at the University of Warwick attending workshops on a variety of different topics, and visiting the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, to see a production of *Antigone*, one of the four plays they are studying for AS-Level. The Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation group spent a study day at the British Museum, examining a range of Greek Art and Architecture including the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon, the Achilles fighting Hektor vase by The Berlin Painter and one of the maidens from the Erechtheum on the Athenian Acropolis. All members of the Classics Society visited the University of Birmingham to hear a talk on the great lawyer and orator Cicero, given by Dr Henriette van der Blom, and to attend the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association's annual Texts and Topics Conference, where there was even more on Greek Tragedy and Greek Art, but also talks on Homer, Virgil and Roman Towns. Our final visit to the University was to hear the writer, broadcaster and comedian Natalie Haynes speak about her new book, *The Children of Jocasta*, which is a retelling of the Oedipus story and so was a bit more on (you've guessed it) Greek Tragedy!

Mrs J Johnson

It's all Greek to me!

Χαιρετε!

Who was the Cyclops? What word does astronaut come from? Who was Homer? Or why is Alexandria in so many countries? Pupils in the Fourth Form and Lower Fifth have been finding out. Over the past year, a class of eager pupils has been learning Ancient Greek from scratch outside of the curriculum. They have been doing this with a view to taking GCSE Ancient Greek in 2018. The Greek alphabet, curious features such as 'The Middle' and 'Optative' and Homer's epic *The Odyssey* have all been on the menu. One of the stories that they have been exploring is that of the brave Odysseus's encounter with the beautifully-robed Nausicaa whilst washing clothes in the river. Truly a romantic meeting! What will happen next? A predictable outcome or not?



Pupils that have embarked on this have given the following views:

'I love the academic challenge of Greek and the real sense of achievement when I translate!'

'Can you imagine it? I'm really translating Homer's *Illiad* – an ancient author that's so famous and has been translated into so many languages'.

'There's a lot of work to do and lots to learn quickly but it will be great when it all comes together for the GCSE'.

'I like poring over the words and looking for English words that come from Greek – and guessing what sentences mean by deduction'.

Dr S Foster



History & Politics Society

The year started with a series of Book Groups. First up was House of Cards, pertinent at the time due to the Machiavellian exploits of the Conservative leadership contest in Summer 2016. Then we had an absorbing discussion about the concept of Just War in our discussion of Tim O'Brien's *If I Die In A Combat Zone*. Most recently, we sat down to read *Hillbilly Elegy* and had a wide-ranging and pleasingly balanced discussion of the notion of deserving and undeserving poverty. All events were catered for with Domino's Pizza, no doubt contributing to their popularity! We were also up early eating blueberry muffins, waffles, and bacon & maple syrup pancakes on the morning of the US election result in November: the mood in the room was somewhat funereal. The student-run Departmental magazine *Marginal Gains*, now in its second year, continues to go from strength to strength and the Department is well-recognised among students as providing an exciting array of academic and intellectual challenges.

Mr P Ford

Roman Masterchef

It was competition time for some Fourth Form Latin pupils, as they battled it out using the recipes from the Roman chef Apicius. Eight groups were pitted against each other, cooking authentic Roman dishes that varied from garum (fish sauce) to Roman honey cake, black pudding and wild boar (pork) and poached rose-infused pears. No stuffed dormice or broiled brains though!

The judges were suitably impressed with the authenticity of the dishes, their appearance and their sophistication. Pupils were amazed at the survival of some dishes into the 21st century. Where does custard come from for example? Where does pear soufflé come from? What about the great 'English' breakfast? Who invented sausages and burgers?

Some of our Fourth Formers can tell you the answers and provide you with a flavour of the gastronomic delights of Roman cooking!

Dr S Foster





**The Big Debate**

Old Silhillian and Patron of our Debating Society, Michael Buerk, joined us once again for our annual Big Debate. The motion – ‘*This House would Jail the Owner(s) of Media Organisations Which Publish Factually Misleading News*’ – was proposed by Upper Fifth pupil Oliver Rooney and James Field (Pole, 2000-2007) who is practising as a Solicitor Advocate, dealing with commercial litigation. The motion was opposed by Lower Sixth student Cerys Stansfield and Simon Neville who is a Business journalist currently writing for the BBC. Guests voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposition prior to the debate, however, Cerys and Simon used their exceptional debating skills to change the mind of the audience who voted in favour of the opposition at the end of the debate. The motion was debated intensely with the speakers facing some tricky questions from the audience. We were thrilled to have so many guests including former and current parents, pupils, staff and governors join us for the evening. Our special thanks go to Michael, James and Simon.

Mrs S Jordan

**Debating Competition**

Solihull ran its second annual Debating Competition this year which involved 12 schools from as far away as Cardiff. There were 56 students in Year 10 and below competing all day, and high level national debaters came in from across the country to train debaters, judge rounds and give useful feedback. The day was rounded off by Michael Buerk kindly awarding prizes to the winners. It was a fantastic event which looks set to be an annual feature of the debating calendar.

Ms D Harford



**Debating Society**

2016/7 has been another successful year for the Debating Society, with strong performances in competitions across the UK. Brexit, the election of Donald Trump and a snap UK general election, has ensured a constant supply of controversy; we haven’t been short of a motion to discuss! Furthermore, regular training sessions have allowed debaters to improve their skills. In the Sixth Form, there has been a particular focus on developing our rhetoric and use of tactics.

Our efforts have been rewarded with achievements in a wide range of age categories. In the Lower School, we were Birmingham Finalists in the ESU Public Speaking Competition, whilst we returned Birmingham Champions from the Rotary Youth Speaks Tournament. In the Middle School, Solihull won the Midlands Round of the U16 ICYD Competition and progressed to the final in Cambridge. In the Sixth Form, we narrowly missed out on a place in the Grand Final at Warwick University. However, two teams managed to break to the Novice Final. At Durham University, a competition that takes place across a weekend, we reached the Quarter-Final. Two Solihull teams also represented Central England at both the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge Competitions.

We are indebted to several members of staff who give a great deal of time and effort to the Society: Ms Harford, Mr Anderton, Miss Evans, Dr Spratley and Miss Roberts. Without their support, we would not have enjoyed such a brilliant year.

Joseph Gilyead, Upper Sixth





Speeches Evening 2016

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Speeches this year. Congratulations to all of our prize winners, and thank you once again to Dr Helen Pankhurst for joining us as our guest speaker. Dr Pankhurst is the great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst and granddaughter of Sylvia Pankhurst, leaders in the British suffragette movement. She is CARE International UK's campaign ambassador and she spoke to our prize winners in the Bushell Hall about gender equality and human rights.



European Youth Parliament

Well done to our pupils who attended the Birmingham round of the European Youth Parliament in the Easter term. Our pupils impressed with their proposals regarding dealing with obesity, mental health issues and relations with the Donald Trump administration.

Mr P Ford



The Kent Library

It was another busy year for the Kent Library! Way back in September the new intake of Third Formers presented us with their summer reading challenge items; a plethora of decorated rollercoaster carts were returned in exchange for their very own Professor Kent pen.

This year's Book Week again proved popular especially with the Lower School. The Library was transformed into Rapunzel's tower, much to everyone's delight, where we played host to four fabulous competitions throughout the week. They were very well supported and we would like to thank all participants and winners. 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' was won by Jetta Kaur (IVP), 'Match the Author to the Book' by Hannah-Louisa Cole (Shell Le) and Aleena Lone (Shell Le), 'Guess the Book Jacket' went to Tegan Gilbert (III TN) and our famous 'Where's Norman?' character hunt was won by Lucia Eguiguren-Wray (Shell Al).

Due to the fact that our Colour Yourself Calm club has been so well-received and has grown in popularity, it has now been extended to include any lunchtime, so please feel free to pop along if you have a spare moment to fill your world with calming colours.

Finally, the accolade of 'Most Avid Reader' this year goes to: Nupur Kumar for the girls and Ned Goodman for the boys, both from IIIBI. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

Alison Vaughan, Head Librarian







### Careers

Our biannual Careers Convention took place in January and was very well attended by parents and students alike.

With a broad range of speakers from Banking, Accountancy, Law, Engineering, Theatre, Landscaping, Property, The Forces, PR, Marketing and even Dog Handling, there was something for everyone. Universities were present to give course and campus information and a carefully selected range of gap year companies came to talk about enriching experiences in exotic locations.

Many of the speakers were Old Silhillians and our students were inspired to hear about their career journeys after leaving school. Our thanks go to them for their energy and encouragement to help our students dream big.

*Mrs J Skan*

### Archive Room Visits

This year, groups of Third Form pupils have been given the opportunity to visit and tour our Archive Room. Tours have been led by the School Archivist, Mr Loynton, who has shown the pupils a wide range of School memorabilia, going back many years.

*Dr P Spratley*



### Extended Project Qualification

On Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March, over 100 Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students presented their Extended Project Qualifications to an audience of governors, parents, staff and external visitors. The purpose of the event was for Sixth Form students who have completed the Extended Project to showcase their work and present their main findings, which forms 20% of their final assessment. The event is marketplace-style; each student had their own stand and presented individually about the investigations they have been undertaking. This year we also had representatives from the OCR Examination Board and the University of Southampton in attendance. Miss Roberts, the EPQ Co-ordinator, was delighted with the excellent cohort of EPQ candidates we had once again this academic year. All students involved valued the opportunity to share their research with guests, and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

*Miss S Roberts*



### Charity 2016-2017

The Charity Team at Solihull has had a great year raising money for various charitable organisations. We started off the year with a day devoted to Children in Need. This included events such as 'Hula Hoop Havoc', a Junior School treasure hunt, Tuck Shop Take Over and a non-uniform day. All of the activities were successful in contributing to the total amount raised and everyone enjoyed taking part by wearing something spotty, adding a personal touch to the Children in Need charity. This in total raised an impressive £2135 and was a successful and enjoyable day for the whole school.

The Charity Team also worked towards funding an ambulance bike for the local area. This included a Movie Night for the Lower School which proved successful in raising £103.50, with the selling of sweets and drinks throughout the movie School of Rock. Along with another non-uniform day and Sixth Form BBQ in the final few weeks of the year, our aim is now to complete the funding for the Fast Aid bike.

The teachers have also contributed to this year's events. In September the teachers hosted a Macmillan coffee morning in support of Macmillan cancer patients which managed to raise just over £300 by selling homemade cakes, baked by the teachers themselves. Overall, we have raised a huge amount for a number of different charities and are hoping to continue with another successful year in 2017-2018.

Lower Sixth Charity Team: Brooke Matthews, Ellie Fetherstone, Georgia Quirke, Annabelle Barker, Lillie Jenkins, Kate Stumper, Becky Monkhouse, Zackee Chughtai, Lewis Smith.

*Brooke Matthews and Lillie Jenkins, Lower Sixth*





### House Activities

House events have been happening throughout the course of the year. Students throughout the school have been involved, with competition being spirited and fun. Representation has been excellent with students from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth being involved in everything from House Drama, to Chess and Debating. There was even a House Bake-off and a Third Form Trebuchet competition! Well done to all those who have been involved both behind the scenes and in competitions themselves. Great teamwork and positive energy have been a characteristic shown by all those involved.

Sports Day was a great event and all year groups were involved. This day was closely followed by the School 5k Challenge race, which saw a new route being masterminded by Mr Jackson around the school campus. Over 70 students were involved and 20 staff.



Thanks go to the outgoing House Captains – Jessie Lloyd (F), Eva Penhallurick (J), Charlie Hadley (P), Thomas Robinson (S) and Fiona Foulkes (W) – for all their hard work. Good luck to the new House Captains – Elliott Harris and Ella Stirling (F), Ellie Barbieri and Luke Bryant (J), Serena Smith and Daniel Hofton (S), Benedict Harding and Olivia Barker (P) and James Spence and Evie Garner (W) – in their role for the forthcoming House season. No doubt it will again be characterised by a sense of community spirit and perseverantia!

With final totals being collated right up until the final day of term, the winner of the House Shield 2016-17 was Shenstone. Well done!

*Mrs H Fair*



### Solihull Business and Economics students win the Birmingham CIPFA Sixth Form Games

Seven Lower Sixth students – Tom Banks, Jim Bate, Zack Bhalla, James Cusack, Dan Hofton, Lukas Moment and Serena Smith – competed in and won the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) Sixth Form Games, held at the University of Birmingham Business School. It was our first success in four attempts at the annual competition! The team played senior management roles in a fictitious NHS Trust and had to make budget cuts to meet government spending targets by deciding on the appropriate areas to save money. The game posed a real economics in action challenge; to allocate scarce resources amongst competing uses. The team had to withstand some stern questioning from stakeholder groups who were affected by the spending cuts proposed and react quickly to changing goalposts in a variety of 'bombshells' dropped in throughout the game. The game concluded with a detailed presentation and justification of recommendations to a panel of judges. A super team effort!

*Mrs J Mander*



### Reynolds Cross School visit

On Activities Day, Reynolds Cross pupils visited our school for their annual visit. Twelve pupils took part in music activities followed by lunch in the refectory. In the afternoon they played games on the school fields. Once again, it was a wonderful opportunity for our two school communities to work and have fun together.

*Mr M Garner*







### Circle of Friends

Who are we?

We are a small group of pupils who come together on Thursdays during lunchtime. We do a variety of activities which could be working with Lego, cooking some pancakes, making smoothies, doing quizzes or crosswords, working at our origami or simply sharing stories and interests. The smallness of the group means we are all friends and this has helped us to widen our circle of friends from those we see regularly in form time. We decided to hold a Tuck Shop Takeover for Fair Trade Fortnight which meant we all had to bake about 60 chocolate brownies using fair trade chocolate, and sugar. It was a great success and we raised over £300 which we divided between two charities- Shelter and LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future). We intend to carry on with our club next year and hope others might like to join in.

*'Circle of Friends is amazing! You get to do really fun things like make pancakes and drink pink juice as well as have biscuits every time. And this year we sold brownies in the Tuck Shop'. Dylan*

*Ed Sears, Sidney Albrighton, Rose Ainsworth, Fynlee Hateley and Dylan Boora.*



### School hosts Civic Visit

On 4 October we were delighted to welcome The Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mike Robinson, The Mayoress Mrs Jenny Robinson, and their guests to a lunch and a tour of the School. Afternoon tea was served in our wonderful Archive Room where visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the School's history.

### Rugby legend visits Solihull

Welsh rugby league and union star Jonathan Davies OBE was guest of honour at the School's annual Sportsman's Dinner. Jonathan was awarded an OBE in 2015 for his services to charity, in his capacity as president of Cardiff's Velindre Cancer Centre for which he has raised more than £10 million. He spoke to guests about his journey from a schoolboy to an international rugby player. Mr Lloyd said: 'It was a very engaging evening, especially for rugby fans, of which the school has many, as we count a number of rugby internationals among our alumni'.







### David Walliams visits Solihull!!

Our Junior School and Third Form pupils were lucky enough to meet comedian, actor and children's book author David Walliams this year after naming him as their favourite author. As part of our involvement in the Big Read, a Birmingham initiative encouraging literacy through art, the Junior School created a homage to David Walliams's books with their Book Bench entitled 'Our World of David Walliams'. Every member of the Junior School took part in painting the bench before it was displayed in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery over the summer of 2016.

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

The children were treated to dramatic readings from Windy Mindy and Gangsta Granny, and pupils were invited to ask David questions about his writing inspiration and his favourite children's books. The winners of our bench design competition were also lucky enough to receive a signed copy of David's latest book, The Midnight Gang. Signed copies of all of David's books were donated to the Junior School library for all of our pupils to enjoy.

David caused a storm on the school social media pages as videos of his antics racked up over 42,000 views on Facebook, and over 2500 likes!

*Mr M Penney*



### Solihull Bake Off 2017

The hotly-contested 'Great Solihull Bake Off' returned in the summer term. The first round required pupils to create a cake which reflected their favourite subject at school. The standard of the cake entries was exceptional. The final saw the pupils cook two typically British bakery products which could be served at an afternoon tea party. Many thanks to the Thomas Franks catering staff who had the difficult task of judging the final. The following pupils competed in the final: Hassan Janjua, Annabel Bagshaw, Katy Thomas, Jane Woodley, Huw Foster, Rhys Foster, Freddie Truman, Arooj Ahmed and Heidi Atkinson. Congratulations to all those that competed, but especially to Heidi who was crowned 'Solihull Bake Off Champion 2017'.

*Mrs H Hallworth*





Chess Club

Chess Club at Solihull School has been hugely successful at all age groups this season. In the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League, all of our teams (1st, 2nd and U13 teams) came second in their respective divisions, adding three Runners-Up trophies to our chess cabinet!

In the Senior School, Chess Club on Friday lunchtimes has continued to attract many new players and has become one of the most vibrant and over-subscribed clubs within the School. With our teams taking many convincing wins against some of the best chess-playing schools in the West Midlands region, credit must go to our professional coach, Russell James, for training all of our players with a winning mentality.

Chess Club has also been very popular in the Junior School. In the Delancey UK School's Chess Challenge, several of our Junior School players took part in the 'Megafinals' and qualified for the 'Gigafinals'. Many of them already take part in Senior School Chess Club and this shows the depth of talent in chess throughout our School. Without doubt, the future of chess at Solihull School looks very promising!

Finally on behalf of the club, I would wholeheartedly like to thank Dr Powell for his enthusiasm and ongoing commitment in organising the whole Chess Society and running the House Chess competition, as well as facilitating considerable amounts of his own time for many chess matches.

Chun Chiu, Captain



Japanese Cultural Studies Club

Japanese Cultural Studies Club continues to be an exciting lunch-time club that offers pupils a light-hearted and fun exploration into the popular culture of Japan. From the folding of paper to fancy food, each week students explore a variety of arts, food, technology and traditions from Japan. These activities change seasonally to reflect Japan's close ties to the seasons. Activities range from: the Japanese tea ceremony, learning the Japanese language, the art of Calligraphy and Origami, to creating a Bento Box (the traditional Japanese lunch box) through to cooking the popular comfort food Ramen.

Mr L Worth



Medics' Society

The Medics' Society is thriving at Solihull School. Since September, twelve speakers have come in to talk to our potential medics, dentists and vets. The talks have proved invaluable, giving the pupils and students a better understanding of what they need to do to become qualified and an idea of the variety of careers available. It also gives them a greater understanding of what the daily life of a consultant, G.P, vet or dentist is actually like. The Upper Sixth applicants have also received interview practice, both for MMIs and panel interviews, and attended an Interview Workshop run by Dr Dent, the Admission Tutor for the University of Keele's Medical School. Many thanks to all the speakers who have given up their time: Dr Chauhan, Dr Taylor, Mr Wolverson, Mrs Karandikar, Dr Brough, Mr Ackroyd, Mr Youssef, Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Huissoon, Ms Crowe, Ms Bosworth and Mr Ellis.

Mrs C Goodman



Budding barristers: Inaugural Bar Mock Trial Competition for Independent Schools

On Saturday 28 January, a team of ten Sixth Form students and five Lower Fifth pupils went to Inner London Crown Court to compete in a series of mock criminal trials in real court rooms in front of serving Crown Court circuit judges. Detailed research and questioning techniques were needed to pick apart the fictitious cases in order to either convict or acquit the defendant. The court room team consisted of Sixth Form students taking the 'Introduction to Law' programme as part of their ASpire studies and included barristers, witnesses, a court clerk and an usher with schools competing against one another, acting either for the prosecution or defence. Some great advocacy was on display with Solihull winning all three cases, as decided by a jurors from other schools. A call from the Bar awaits!

Mr M Gledhill



### 2017 Art Exhibition

June came around very quickly this year and the Solihull School Summer Exhibition 2017 was a great success. This exhibition showcases the pupils' achievement in Art and Photography over the last two academic years and this is the first exhibition of work from the new Linear A-Level courses as well as the GCSE.

The exhibition also included artwork from Lower School pupils, Solihull Junior School and the local Junior Schools' art postcard competition.

Mrs D Trim



### Local Junior School Workshops

Children from Springfield Primary School enjoyed a Christmas-themed silk painting workshop with our Sixth Form students in the Art Department in December. Pupils created some wonderful pieces of work to take back to the school and show their family and friends.

Mrs D Trim



### Holocaust Memorial Piece

In January the whole school came together to create a collaborative piece of artwork to commemorate the Holocaust. Each pupil and staff member used their hand prints to produce an image of the Holocaust Memorial Day Flame. The work is now displayed in the foyer of the Bushall Hall for all to see.

Mrs D Trim





**Amy’s artwork wins top national honour**

Amy Mitchell-Meades’s artwork, ‘Loss of Self’, took the top honour at the NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) West Midlands finals, having been shortlisted last year.

Amy, who studied Fine Art at A-Level, is now studying Psychology at the University of Warwick, and was inspired to create her work by her grandfather’s experience with dementia. She was up against 13 other shortlisted former A-Level students from across the region at the awards reception of NADFAS’s Make Your Mark Young Arts Competition, held at The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) in Birmingham city centre.

Amy was presented with her trophy by glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin and Robert Neil, president of the RBSA.

*Mrs D Trim*

**Artist Workshops - Fiona Payne**

During the Christmas term local artist Fiona Payne ran painting and drawing workshops for the Lower and Upper Sixth artists, exploring architecture through abstraction. She also worked with the Upper Fifth artists to create mixed media still life drawings. Many of the pupils went on to use the new techniques in their coursework projects.

*Mrs D Trim*



**Art and Photography trip to UCL**

In December, the A-Level Artists and Photographers spent the day at the University College London Institute of Education attending a day of lectures on the creative process. Students were treated to first-hand descriptions of how the prominent artists Grayson Perry, Fiona Rae, Rosalind Wyatt and the photographer Martin Parr develop their ideas and create their award-winning artwork.

*Mrs D Trim*



**Staff Art Exhibition**

In November staff from the Art and Design Departments put on an exhibition of their own work in the George Hill building. Work included painting, drawing, print-making, illustration, photography, textiles and costume and set design.

The staff exhibiting were Karen Perrins (Senior School Art Technician), Kevin Hunton (Design and Technology Technician), Jan Baker (Junior School Art Technician) and the art teaching staff: Donna Trim, Tracy Bryan, Liam Worth, Ruth Whaley and Rachel Morgan.

*Mrs D Trim*



**Scholars Workshop - Ed Waite**

The art scholars enjoyed a workshop with the professional artist Edward Waite at the end of the Easter term. They created backdrop paintings of the school buildings and during the workshop Ed showed them how to ‘draw’ with liquid paint onto their work to add detail and texture. He is represented by the Eaton Gallery in Touchwood and the gallery displayed the scholars’ paintings over the summer.

*Mrs D Trim*



# Languages and Cultural Exchanges

## Reflections from our two Chilean Gap Students

The last time I was here at Solihull School was in 2013 and just for three short days but that was enough for me to want to come back. I aspire to be an English teacher so coming back as a GAP student to Solihull was the perfect opportunity to have some prior experience before going to university. During our whole stay here we have been able to participate in many different activities, but especially the CCF. They welcomed us warmly and let us be part of their leadership team. We took part in many CCF weekends and had an amazing time, camping and doing most of the activities with the rest of the cadets. We learned the safe handling of weapons, battle formations and map reading. I would like to thank Mr Dean, Mr Leonard and Mrs Watling for receiving us on the CCF team. Thank you.

Also, I had the chance to go to Snowdonia School where we did lots of fun activities such as coasteering, gorge walking, sailing and hiking up Snowdon; things that I never imagined I'd do! Many thanks to the school for letting me go with one of the groups and Mr Higley and Mr Swan for organising a fantastic week.

Being part of Spanish and English lessons has been very helpful because I am even more convinced I want to become a teacher. I truly valued helping students in Spanish lessons because I was able to see how they improved their Spanish speaking and writing skills. Spanish lessons also helped me to learn aspects of my own language I didn't know before. I would like to thank Mr Morgan for his great lessons and integrating us in them, Mrs Roman-Blythe for making me feel more at home and for always being cheerful, Miss Cánovas



and Mr Gunning for happily receiving me in their lessons, and Mrs Campbell and Mr Gledhill as well. Also thank you very much to Dr Routledge for letting me assist in your lessons and setting a great example of an English teacher.

In addition to the above we also participated in the Thursday Games afternoons with a group of Fourth Formers doing watersports. We tried the Canadian canoe and a dragon boat which was lots of fun. When it was starting to get chilly we changed to ice skating and had a wonderful time because I had never been in an ice rink that big before. Even though I fell a few times it was definitely worth it. Whilst being here we had the opportunity to attend different cultural events such as the St Cecilia Concert, the school play His Dark Materials Part 2 and Nine Lessons and Carols. I loved every one of them. Music at Solihull is of such a high standard; I was amazed by the students' abilities in the concert!



When I arrived I was assigned to form IIIbI with Mrs Roman-Blythe and I would like to thank them for making my stay here happier and for making me laugh every morning. They have given me even more reasons why I want to become a teacher. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Brown for making all of this possible; for letting me have the greatest and most valuable experience of my life; for arranging our accommodation, always being there for us and for being our 'English Mum'. Thank you.

*Florencia Castillo*

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to visit Solihull School for the first time, as part of my school's trip to Europe. We stayed here for three days with families from the school and I absolutely loved it! So when I knew there was a chance for me to come back I could not let it pass by. Luckily I was chosen, along with Florencia, and we arrived at Solihull for the start of the academic year.



In the past three months I have been helping out in Spanish lessons and it's been a great experience which has helped me improve my English and even my Spanish! The students are really great and it's amazing how well the older students have grasped the language and taken so much interest in it and the Spanish culture. Thank you to all of the MFL Department for receiving us and especially to the Spanish teachers who let us participate in lessons and were always willing to give us a hand. I was assigned IIIbI as a form and they were lovely; they are really great kids and I wish them the best for the future. I've also had the opportunity to try new things that I have never done before, such as joining the CCF. This has been an incredible experience right from the start, and I have enjoyed every bit of it, especially the camps, where we got to play enemy, do escape and evasion activities and learn more about army life. It wasn't all serious though; as the Christmas Term was ending we got to use Nerf guns to teach the cadets how to clear a building.

In addition to this I also participated in food technology lessons which I really enjoyed because the students were really enthusiastic about it and I even got to teach a lesson in Spanish where they had to make Quesadillas which was a nice change for them as they had never had a cooking lesson in Spanish. Thanks to this, I was able to attend a taster day at Birmingham College of Food where they showed me around the campus, and after I had a delicious Christmas dinner. Thank you Solihull School for having us, it has been such a great experience and I will never forget it. Special thanks to Mrs Brown for organising everything and to all the teachers that we worked with: Mr Morgan, Mrs Roman-Blythe, Mr Gunning, Mr Gledhill, Mrs Campbell, Miss Cánovas, Mr Leonard, Mr Dean, Mrs Watling, Mrs Hallworth, Mr Ford, Mr Higley, and Mr Loynton.

*Rocio Martinez*  
December 2016

# Languages and Cultural Exchanges

## Reflections from our two Chilean Gap Students

The last time I was here at Solihull School was in 2013 and just for three short days but that was enough for me to want to come back. I aspire to be an English teacher so coming back as a GAP student to Solihull was the perfect opportunity to have some prior experience before going to university. During our whole stay here we have been able to participate in many different activities, but especially the CCF. They welcomed us warmly and let us be part of their leadership team. We took part in many CCF weekends and had an amazing time, camping and doing most of the activities with the rest of the cadets. We learned the safe handling of weapons, battle formations and map reading. I would like to thank Mr Dean, Mr Leonard and Mrs Watling for receiving us on the CCF team. Thank you.

Also, I had the chance to go to Snowdonia School where we did lots of fun activities such as coasteering, gorge walking, sailing and hiking up Snowdon; things that I never imagined I'd do! Many thanks to the school for letting me go with one of the groups and Mr Higley and Mr Swan for organising a fantastic week.

Being part of Spanish and English lessons has been very helpful because I am even more convinced I want to become a teacher. I truly valued helping students in Spanish lessons because I was able to see how they improved their Spanish speaking and writing skills. Spanish lessons also helped me to learn aspects of my own language I didn't know before. I would like to thank Mr Morgan for his great lessons and integrating us in them, Mrs Roman-Blythe for making me feel more at home and for always being cheerful, Miss Cánovas



and Mr Gunning for happily receiving me in their lessons, and Mrs Campbell and Mr Gledhill as well. Also thank you very much to Dr Routledge for letting me assist in your lessons and setting a great example of an English teacher.

In addition to the above we also participated in the Thursday Games afternoons with a group of Fourth Formers doing watersports. We tried the Canadian canoe and a dragon boat which was lots of fun. When it was starting to get chilly we changed to ice skating and had a wonderful time because I had never been in an ice rink that big before. Even though I fell a few times it was definitely worth it. Whilst being here we had the opportunity to attend different cultural events such as the St Cecilia Concert, the school play His Dark Materials Part 2 and Nine Lessons and Carols. I loved every one of them. Music at Solihull is of such a high standard; I was amazed by the students' abilities in the concert!



When I arrived I was assigned to form IIIbI with Mrs Roman-Blythe and I would like to thank them for making my stay here happier and for making me laugh every morning. They have given me even more reasons why I want to become a teacher. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Brown for making all of this possible; for letting me have the greatest and most valuable experience of my life; for arranging our accommodation, always being there for us and for being our 'English Mum'. Thank you.

*Florencia Castillo*

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to visit Solihull School for the first time, as part of my school's trip to Europe. We stayed here for three days with families from the school and I absolutely loved it! So when I knew there was a chance for me to come back I could not let it pass by. Luckily I was chosen, along with Florencia, and we arrived at Solihull for the start of the academic year.



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*Rocio Martinez*  
December 2016



### Argentinean students visit Solihull

Solihull School welcomed nineteen 17-year-old pupils from Yapeyu School in Corrientes, northern Argentina from Sunday 2 July to Wednesday 5 July. They were on a 4-week visit to the UK, Spain and the Netherlands and we were their first stop. This was the fourth time we have hosted our friends from Argentina, and as with the previous times, we all had lots of fun. Eleven Solihull families hosted the twelve boys and seven girls and discovered more similarities than differences between their two cultures. Some of the Solihull parents sent me the following comments:

*'Our two boys were just lovely; most polite and they wanted to do everything to fit in. It was an absolute pleasure. I hope they enjoyed Kandola family life for a couple of days!'*

*'I just wanted to say that the Argentinean students were absolutely delightful! They were very well-behaved and they were very helpful!'*

*'As a family we all really enjoyed having Costi and Lu staying with us. They were lovely girls and it was so nice to learn about life for them at home in Argentina. Molly and Jacob enjoyed having them here. It helped them realise just how many similarities there are between children all around the world! Thank you for the opportunity to host the students and be part of your great exchange work. It's so worthwhile.'*

During their stay they participated in Spanish lessons and Franco Peroni (one of the boys) performed a classical Argentinean folk song to two Shell Form classes. They enjoyed a friendly game of Rounders, managing to not only learn how to play the game, but also to beat us by one rounder (8-7)! The hot summer weather made our time together all the better and the ice-creams did just the trick after the Rounders games.



Yapeyu students spent one of their days visiting Kenilworth Castle and learning its history from our Archivist, Mr John Loynton, followed by a visit to Coventry, the Transport Museum and the Cathedral. They also had a stroll along the canal by Knowle locks to see how barges move uphill, enjoyed the countryside and experienced a traditional pub (even if only for a coke)! On Wednesday we said our farewells and they moved on to Manchester by train to start the next leg of their trip.

Such visits from our South American friends can only be possible because of our Solihull School families and I thank you all for offering to host and for being such a fabulous community.

Mrs J Brown



## Volunteering in Peru

This summer, Asha Abram and I spent four life-changing weeks volunteering for Otra Cosa in Huanchaco, Peru. I had the privilege of helping at the special needs school. The facilities were surprisingly impressive compared to the lack of them in other schools I had seen. Both staff and attending mothers cared enthusiastically for the children. However, it was clear there were not enough hands to help; through spending time there (chasing children down corridors) I understood that each child needed individual attention from the start to the end of the day.

I also adored spending my mornings in the company of my excitable canine friends; working in the dog shelter consisted of cleaning out the concrete rooms and wooden roofs under which the animals slept. Only a few of the forty dogs would be allowed out on a walk with the volunteers while the others remained in the rubble-strewn compound. Despite this, each would jump for attention upon arrival. The few shelters did not account for the abundance of stray dogs on every street, and this has inspired me to help in animal care back home. The experience was incredible; we only wish we could have helped for longer!

*Madeleine Koral, Lower Sixth*



As well as visiting schools to give out stationery and art supplies (also donated before I left), I spent four weeks assisting (at first) in the teaching of English to 5-9 year-olds. However, after two weeks largely teaching by myself, I was soon creating lesson plans according to a very makeshift syllabus provided by the charity.

My time in Peru opened my eyes to the great disparities of income worldwide as well as the privileged life I lead here in Solihull. However, it was also an excellent opportunity for me to improve my Spanish, to become more independent and also to experience a new culture.

*Asha Abram, Lower Sixth*

Having understood that poorer women in Peru rarely have access to the everyday toiletries and sanitary products that we take for granted I decided, in advance of our departure, that I would like to gather donations of such items and take them with us to give to those most in need. I approached local businesses, pupils and staff at the school, and family and friends to create the handmade bags (made out of donated curtain fabric) to be filled with the supplies so kindly donated. I also approached British Airways, who immediately offered us two free additional baggage allowances, meaning that we could fly the donations at no additional cost.





# Spanish Immersion Program – CEI EL Jarama

In the Easter holidays, 33 Third Form pupils went out to Madrid for a week to discover Spanish culture and language through games, songs and real interaction with Spanish students. Every day was a school day for everyone in the beautiful and cosy farm of CEI El Jarama. Pupils discovered the Mediterranean diet, the existence and use of shutters and the Spanish style of being woken up by Enrique Iglesias and going to bed at 11:30 pm.

During the week they all tried archery, horse riding, basketball in boats, dancing to Spanish music, and cooking Spanish omelettes, they saw a bee colony, baked a cake, made oil-filled bracelets, ate Spanish food and engaged in some mountaineering. In addition they tried a Tibetan Bridge game, and successfully completed a treasure hunt in Alcalá de Henares, birth town of Cervantes. However, all of the students agreed that what they are really going to miss is living in an environment which was surrounded by farm animals, the everyday blue skies, the heat, their Siesta time and what is more, the friendliness of Spanish people.

All leaders of the group and the director of CEI El Jarama commented on how polite and fantastic our pupils were. All in all, I can say we are very proud of the pupils for being so open and being part of this Spanish Immersion Program: they were a credit to the School.



It is amazing to see how quickly the pupils expanded their knowledge of the Spanish language when they had the need, together with the right support. I consider myself very lucky to have been able to witness the benefit of the fully Spanish Immersion Program and the happy faces on the pupils as they achieved new personal goals.

At the end of the week all boys and girls came back more mature and positive in their attitude to learning and full of stories to share with friends and family.

Proof of the above are the following positive comments collected at the end of the week on our reflexion evening:

*'I found Spanish people great and really friendly. This made me feel special and welcomed'.*

*'I would love to come back because I have learnt a lot at the same time as being fun'.*

*'I will miss the nice weather, the country and the lovely people'.*

*'I wish phones were banned in school, we would then play more between ourselves in our free time'.*

*'I would love to have more hours practising spoken practical Spanish in school that can be used for day-to-day communication'.*

*'This trip makes you grow as a person and gives you the opportunity to make new friends'.*

*'What I like most about Spanish culture is the people: they are really close, happy and friendly'.*



To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Solihull School for giving us the chance to create this new program. Also, thank you to everyone from CEI El Jarama for their excellent work with our pupils and being great hosts, and to Mr Gledhill and Mrs Brown for their support during the trip.

Ms Y Canovas Canas







### Spanish Exchange

In October, nineteen Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth students, accompanied by Mrs Roman-Blythe and Head of Spanish Mr Morgan, travelled to Pinto in order to complete the first leg of their exchange programme with students from Colegio Mirasur. We visited Spain's capital and we also had the chance to discover the enchanting city of Toledo. Our friends from Colegio Mirasur made us feel at home and took care of our students, treating them as members of their own families. We also had the opportunity to attend school with our exchange partners and experience what life is like for a Spanish student.

In January, our friends from Colegio Mirasur came to visit us, accompanied by their teachers Mrs Corta and Mrs Seigford. They stayed for a week and we did our best to show them what life is like at Solihull. They came to our lessons and we organised plenty of activities after school such as ice skating and a visit to one of our favourite restaurants: Nando's!



They went for a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, where they visited Shakespeare's house and did a very interesting workshop. We all went to visit Cadbury World and the Bullring; it was a great opportunity to spend the day together and do a bit of shopping.

This exchange has been a great opportunity to practise Spanish and to make some new friends. Esperamos ver pronto a nuestros amigos españoles.

Mrs P Roman-Blythe



### Linguistics Olympiad: Lower School linguists tackle Basque, Inuit and more!

For the first time, Solihull entered pupils from the Third and Shell Forms for the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Run by University College London, pupils develop their analytical and critical thinking skills to work out sentence structures and written symbols in a number of unknown and different languages. From deciphering symbol-writing in Inuit and the origin of Indo-European languages to Tshiluba (an official language of the Democratic Republic of Congo...if you did not know!) to Basque, pupils enjoyed applying the linguistic rules learnt in a modern foreign language to unfamiliar ones.

In total, pupils from across the two year groups obtained 14 Bronze certificates, 5 Silver certificates and special mention must go to Oliver Palmer who obtained a Gold certificate, placing him in the top 5% of entrants across the country.

Mr M Gledhill



### Fourth Form trip to the Goethe Institute in London



The Goethe-Institut is a non-profit German cultural association operational worldwide with 159 institutes, promoting the study of the German language abroad and encouraging international cultural exchange and relationships.

Once again the Fourth Form German classes had tremendous fun learning more about the German Language through drama and song at the Institute.

Everyone got the opportunity to speak and new vocabulary has been remembered well after the event. The second half of the day was spent sampling German food in the Bavarian Restaurant in London.

Mrs P Cramb

### German Exchange

On 3 March, we set off from Birmingham Airport to spend a week with our exchange partners and their families around the Frankfurt area. We had a mixed programme of activities and highlights included visiting Frankfurt, spending time in the exchange school, a tour of the ZDF Broadcasting Studios in Mainz and organised activities by our host families. We particularly enjoyed spending time at a nearby water park with both English and German friends. It was interesting to experience the German culture first-hand and to sample many German specialities including the multiple types of 'Wurst'!

Mrs P Cramb



## LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) Charity Work 2016-17

Last year was a huge success since £4400 was raised and sent to LAFF for the education of the children at Azul Wasi orphanage. The Old Sils also raised substantial amounts to help Dante, the oldest boy at the home with extra tuition to enable him to get into university to study Physics.

This year, Solihull School pupils (past and present) and parents have excelled again. We have raised £3000 for LAFF, thanks to the help of so many of you. The LAFF Group was formed by pupils wanting to use their work as 'Service' for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The group comprised Yann Belling, Pawan Bhamra, Jake Cooke, Tommy Simmons and Sam Aghabeigi. They organised and sold leather items made by the teenage mums at Casa Mantay, Cuzco, at the Christmas Fair and helped sell sweets at the school drama and music productions. A group of Shell Form girls (Malaika Khan, Emma Gahan, Soraya Johal, Hiba Sandhu and Shriya Sharma) held a Tuckshop Takeover and raised £300 for LAFF. The Circle of Friends Club members held a Fair Trade chocolate brownie sale and added another £150 to the sum. The last generous donation came from everyone's contribution on non-uniform day in February.

This summer I visited Melissa (Project Manager) and her team at LAFF in Cuzco, Peru and was able to see the work and progress in all three areas of LAFF we have been supporting. Azul Wasi orphanage has added a second storey to their buildings, giving the boys more space in their dormitories and adding a new study room. Some of the boys who have turned 18 have moved out of the home into the army or hospitality industry, and Dante is the first lad to make it to university.



New boys have arrived (undocumented, off the street, or from the Amazon). David, their tutor, is having to do lots of extra teaching since the state school teachers have been on strike for the last three months over their low pay (£300 a month). In addition to the progress at Azul Wasi, I took part in a new venture at the teenage mums home called the 'Casa Mantay Experience' which offers visitors a chance to meet the mums and their families, have lunch and participate in the key-ring making venture. I proudly produced one and recommend the experience to fellow travellers and visitors. I passed on donations from Solihull parents of a variety of padded jackets to the girls in the Sacred Valley project. They were very gratefully received as the girls have to walk many miles at the weekends to their mountain villages high in the Andes.

The last project I visited is a new idea for Solihull School. This is Casa Moscoy where the most able students from the poorest, most disadvantaged backgrounds are supported into and through University with accommodation and guidance. It would be wonderful if Dante could be welcomed and join Casa Moscoy because I believe he would benefit from an environment of stability, serious study and support. As I left Cusco I reflected on how satisfying it was that Solihull School could play such a part in helping these boys and girls. Long may it continue through donations, student participation and awareness.

Mrs J Brown



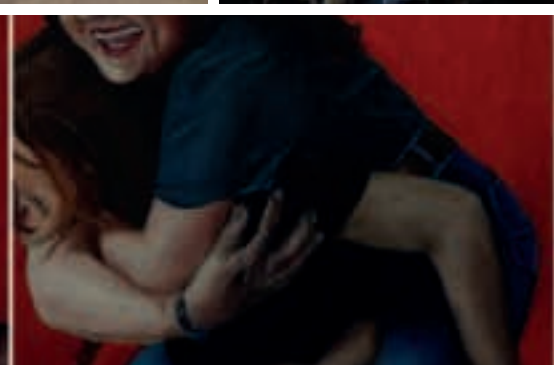
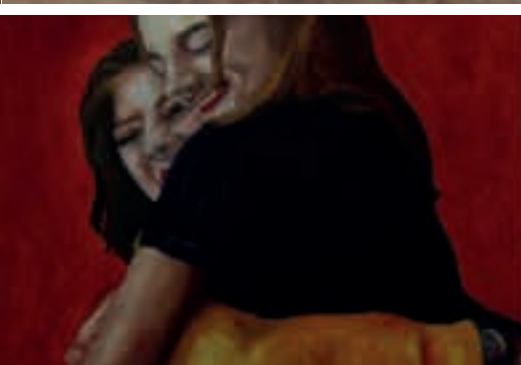
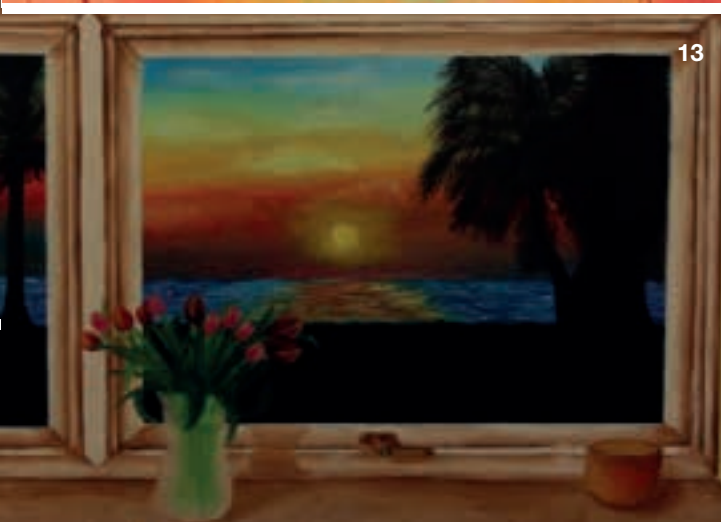
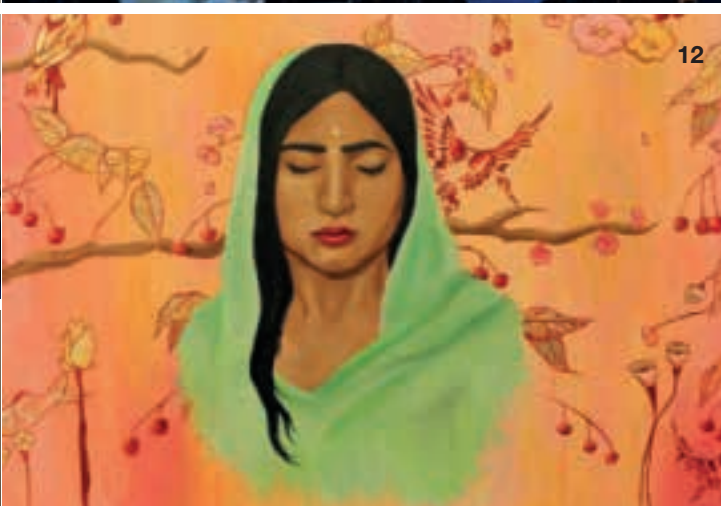
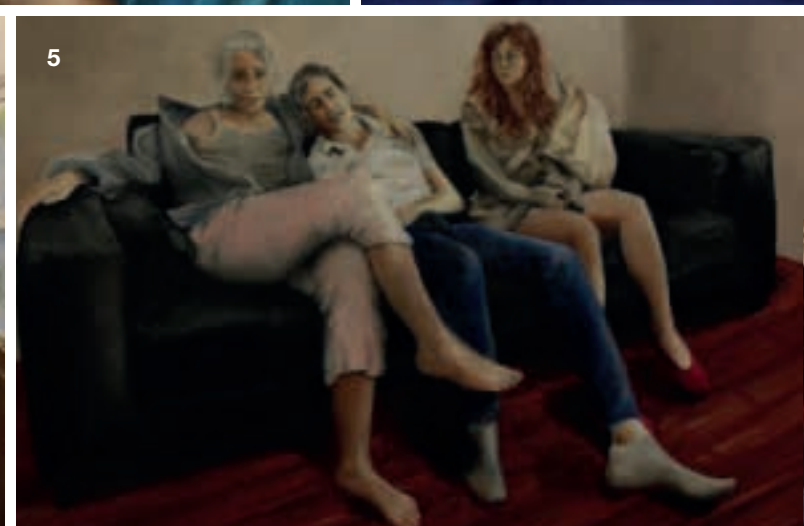
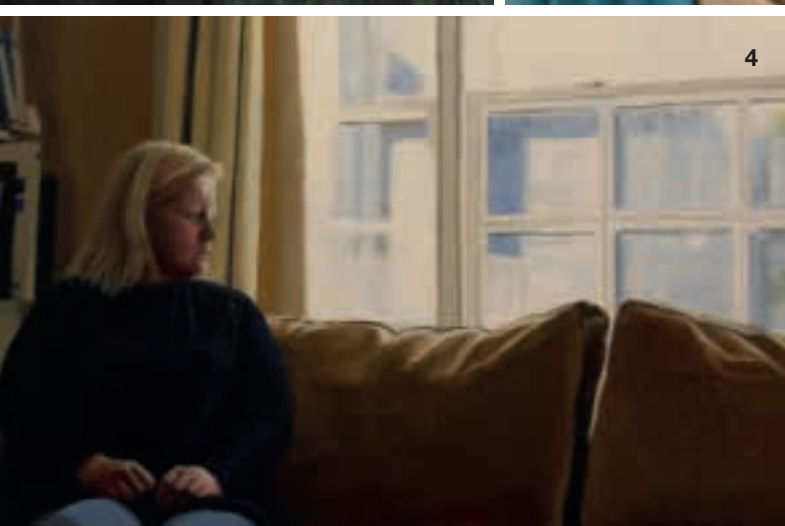
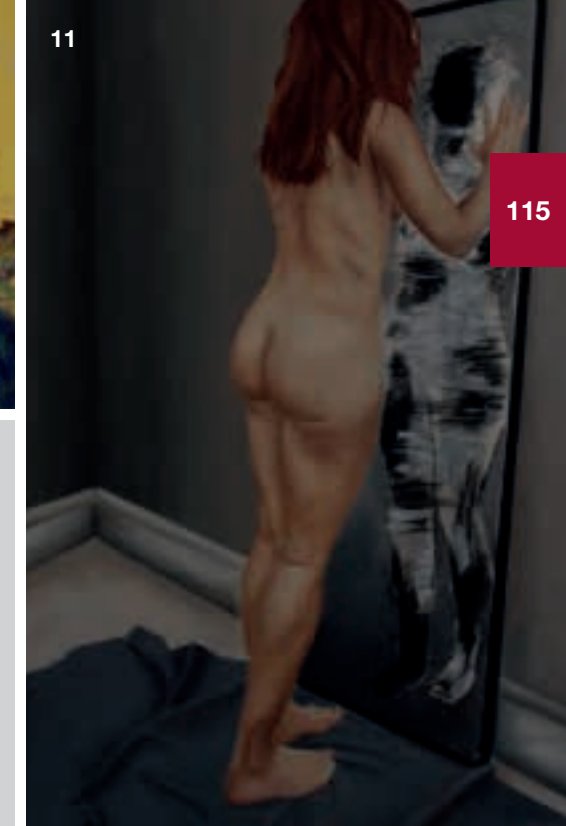
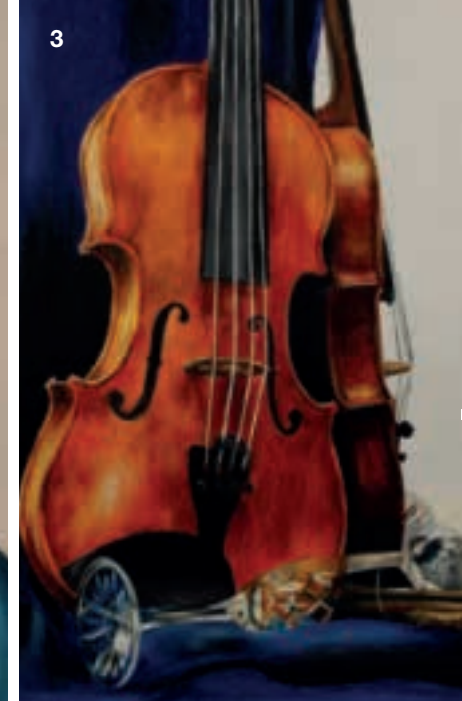
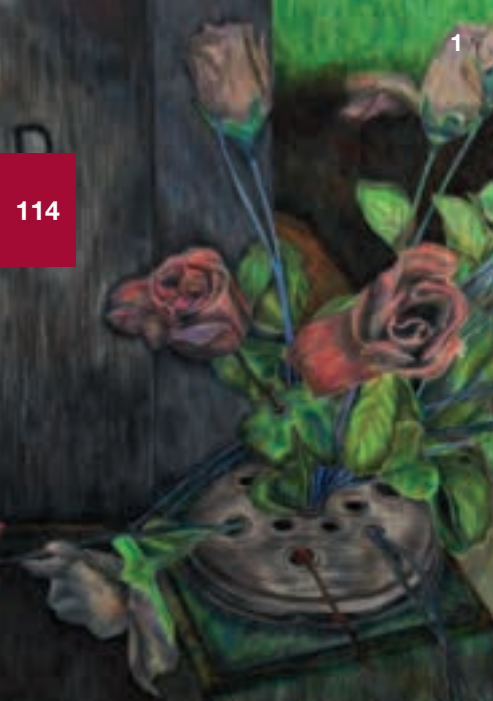
## Third Form take on foreign language Spelling Bee challenge

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 6,453 entrants in the first round across West Midlands schools, all three Solihull pupils made it through to the National Finals, which took place on Friday 30 June. Congratulations to Anton Deineka, Francisco Campino and Max Martin who placed first, second and fourth respectively in the Regional Finals. Their participation in the National Finals placed them in the top 104 pupils in the country out of over 65,000 original entries (that's the top 0.1% of pupils)! ¡Suerte a todos!

Mr M Gledhill







## Sixth Form Art

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Abigail Humphreys     | 9. Jessie Lloyd        |
| 2. Lydia Roll            | 10. Benny Watson       |
| 3. Meredith Hanson       | 11. Emily-Jayne Watson |
| 4. Ted Warner-Knowles    | 12. Amnish Sall        |
| 5. Maxine Perroni-Scharf | 13. Jade Gilmore       |
| 6. Emily Shepherd        | 14. Isabel Gaffney     |
| 7. Michael Woolley       | 15. Austin Henderson   |
| 8. Tom Lawrence          | 16. Emily Moise        |





U15

The U15 netball team made tremendous improvements throughout the year, going from strength to strength as the season progressed. The team consisted of Lily Evans, Libby Shepherd, Harriet Toogood, Tiegan Pound, Alyssa Morrison, Eden Lupoli, Bethan Williams, Beth Currie and Ellie Couch.

We started the year playing some very tough and well-trained teams, finding it difficult to secure a win and only narrowly losing to King Henry VIII School 10-16. However, after many Monday night training sessions, we improved our game, showed commitment and team spirit, and played very well, managing to draw to Princethorpe College 14-14. After that our morale was high and we went to our next game against Nottingham High School and had a great victory of 37-12! Following this the girls played extraordinarily well and beat Bromsgrove School 17-8 where we obtained team of the week for our excellent play against a team that is well known for being a strong side.

As the season progressed, we carried on our hard work and perseverance in our games and managed to win against Lode Heath School 24-8. Not long after, we took part in a large tournament for many schools and due to our determination (and consumption of many sweets) we managed to come 1st in our group, including a victory against Tudor Grange School 6-5 who we had previously lost to. We lost in the semi- finals to a well-trained Langley School but we were proud to get that far.

The season ended on a high where we won our final game against Langley School 12-9, after losing to them in the semi-finals of our tournament. Well done to all the U15 girls for this strong and successful year and I look forward to the years to come in netball as the team continues to go from strength to strength. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Smith for all her hard work in coaching us.

Sport

Netball - 1st VII

Overall, this season for the 1st netball squad was not our best. We lost the majority of our players from last year's squad and so we started the year with an almost completely new team. We worked hard at pre-season, looking at combinations and fitness. It took a lot of adjusting as many of us had not played together before, and some girls were playing both hockey and netball. The U19 Solihull Borough Tournament came too early in the season; we came 3rd which meant we did not qualify for the next round. A win against Alcester just before Christmas lifted our spirits, and gaining the hockey players full time meant January training was more positive. We picked up another win against King's High. It was not until the end of the season that we got used to how each other played. That said, we persevered despite not winning many of our games, and had a lot of fun, especially at the Red Nose Day match. Hopefully next year we can get a few more wins!



2nd VII

The 2nd netball squad had a much more positive season, gaining five wins. We worked hard at training, and playing regularly against the 1st squad pushed us and helped us to improve.

3rd VII

The 3rd netball squad had a good season, playing nine games and winning five! Regular attendance at training helped towards the wins. Thank you to Mrs H Smith, Miss Z Jones, Mrs W Meigh and Mrs A Roll for all their hard work and guidance this season.







### U14

This season has been a successful one for the U14 netball team. After a tough match against Tudor Grange School towards the end of the season, the U14s were crowned league champions. Despite just missing out on going through to the county rounds, we still came third in our Borough Tournament and it certainly did not damage our spirit. A highlight of the season was coming close to beating our tough rivals RGS Worcester 18-10. A big thank you goes to the whole team including those who stepped up from other teams to play and of course to Mrs Baden and Miss Wilcox for coaching us to victory this season.

*Louisa Miles, Fourth Form*

### U13

The U13A team has had a brilliant year, winning 11 games, drawing 1 and losing just once unfortunately in a hard-fought second round match of the National Cup against Wrekin College. They proved to be tough opposition, playing an excellent strategic game. However, we kept our spirit high and came back from a tough loss, continuing to improve as a team and showing resilience in defence, with solid shooting in every match.

We finished our season taking a squad of twelve to the Solihull Borough Tournament where we convincingly won every match finishing with a great win in the final against St Martin's. Thank you to our coach Mrs Baden, and we are looking forward to another successful season next year.

Squad: Izzy Gardner, Isabel Fennell, Jenny Hodge, Aimee O'Malley (C), Rachel Chanji, Paige Fletcher, Claudia Reda, Izzy O'Malley and Alex Warburton.

*Aimee O'Malley, Shell Form*



### U12

This season has been a great journey of improvement and teamwork. The U12A squad has played many matches, all with determination, drive and spirit. We started off the season with 3 very close games, which we unfortunately lost, although this was not due to lack of trying. We proceeded through the season triumphing against all but 3 schools. We ended the season on a high. We won our first tournament, winning all the matches we played, apart from drawing with one team. We then went through to represent South Solihull in the regional competition. At this competition we won every match, apart from our final match against the eventual winners. After a narrowly contested game, Solihull just missed out on first place, but still came second in the region. These achievements were all due to the squad's hard work and commitment, but none of this would be possible without our AMAZING coaches - Mrs Baden and Miss Jones. On behalf of the team, we would like to say a huge thank you to them as they made all our netball come to life.

*Pippa Meigh and Amelia Penney, Third Form*

### Solihull School netball and Wasps partnership

This year, Solihull School netball has formed close links with the Superleague netball team Wasps. Wasps are a newly-formed team and represent the West Midlands in the Superleague, which is made up of the ten best netball teams in the country. As part of this partnership, students have been able to attend netball workshops run by Wasps players and also act as guards of honour at their home matches. The workshops are extremely valuable in providing our students with expert knowledge and advice and also inspiring the girls by allowing them to meet high-level netball players. As guards of honour, they have been able to get up close to the players and be involved in creating an electric atmosphere at Wasps matches. In the future, students will also have the opportunity to attend masterclasses run by Wasps players.

*Ms Z Jones*





Rugby - 1st XV

The Fifteen

P 20 W 10 L10 National Plate Finalists.

The pre-season campaign saw The Fifteen pitch their trade at the King's Macclesfield Tournament and also against RGS High Wycombe, with mixed results. The atmosphere was relatively buoyant despite some inconsistent performances as The Fifteen approached the first game of the season against King's Worcester.

Unfortunately, the new season started slowly with The Fifteen losing 5 out of the first 6 matches, one of which meant the team exited the Daily Mail National Cup and entered the Plate. Confidence improved over the next three matches with a 32-0 victory over Ellesmere College and The Fifteen progressed to Round 4 of the National Plate with solid wins against RGS Worcester 12-5 and Newcastle-Under-Lyme 43-20.

The following 5 matches witnessed 3 wins and 2 losses; our Natwest quarter-final game against Wimbledon College was the pick of the season. End-to-end, nail-biting rugby that eventually saw The Fifteen take a 19-17 victory and earn a place in the semi-final versus Lymm High School.

The last 3 games of the league season brought wins against Bishop Vesey's and Loughborough, with a loss to Sir Thomas Rich's, but at the back of players' minds was the away match in the semi-final of the National Plate. Preparation was intense with selection being made increasingly difficult. Eventually The Fifteen was selected and won an extremely well-fought match against a hostile/physical Lymm High School 8-10. The final now loomed at Sixways Stadium.

Reigate Grammar School went on to lift the National Plate, beating us 16-20. They withstood The Fifteen throwing everything bar the kitchen sink at them.

It was end-to-end entertainment with every part of the 3G surface being used. The Fifteen were a huge credit to the School with their style of play and attitude throughout the experience.

Congratulations to all concerned and many thanks for months of commitment. Good luck for future careers. Further congratulations must go to Alex Bartley for his England U17 XV selection.

Mr S Thompson



2nd XV

P 13 W 11 L 1 D 1 F 311 A 97

As another season of playing hard competitive rugby dawned, there was a genuine air of expectancy and an overwhelming desire from the battle-hardened stags of the Upper Sixth – especially Messrs Holland, Farrow, Cawley, Farnworth, Gordon and Lee – to pass on the never-say-die attitude of the 2nd XV. Indeed, it was new year, new mantra – ‘Individually we are weak; together we are stronger’ – under the inspirational and passionate leadership of Matt Farrow.

The pre-season victory over RGS High Wycombe, based around the silky running lines of the twiglets (aka our sublime centre partnership of Farrow & Gordon) set the bench mark for our style of free-flowing 15-man rugby that was adopted throughout the season. Indeed, there were 14 different try scorers equally distributed between backs and forwards but Matt Farrow just pipped Dan Lee to the leading try scorer award!

The first test was a trip to King's Worcester. The tightness of the squad huddle on the pitch, and the steely determination set the tone for the belligerence, focus and determination that was to serve us well throughout the rest of the season. The ferocity of the tackling and sheer will to win laid the foundation for the season that lay ahead as backs and forwards integrated seamlessly as the opposition was brushed aside in an emphatic 31-0 victory which is best remembered by a superb length of the field try, full of off loads and continuity, in the last minute of the match before Dan Lee scored one of his long range efforts from 5 metres!

What followed were clinical displays against RGS Worcester, Bromsgrove and St Peter's School, all in part due to the emergence of a subtle half back pairing of Will Farnworth

and Aidan ‘Georgie Best’ Cawley as well as very stubborn defence led by Alex Sasse (who was to become a thorn in the oppositions' sides) plus a rejuvenated Sam Miller and Jamie Francis - all the more pleasing due to the movement of Henry Nicholls and Bart Payne to the first team.

After half term we despatched Ellesmere College (47-5), Trent College (31-0) and Nottingham High School (31-10) in what was perhaps the game of the season. The final try was again a well-worked team effort finished in the corner by Sam Miller after about 15 phases of play. A minor slip against Adam's Grammar School with a vastly weakened team was atoned for in the final game before Christmas with a hard fought but thoroughly deserved 26-7 victory against King's Macclesfield.

After Christmas we hosted an Alcester Grammar School first team and despite conceding a last minute score, secured an impressive 12-all draw, before travelling to Bishop Vesey which resulted in a very favourable 17-7 victory. Determination, character, resilience and no shortage of skill was best epitomised by Captain Farrow stepping his way through the mud and scoring the winning score in a tumultuous and enthralling 15-14 victory away at Sir Thomas Rich's.

That game was a fitting conclusion to the season as the remaining games were all cancelled due to weather. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole squad for all their efforts throughout the season, culminating in what was a most enjoyable year. My thanks also to all the Upper Sixth boys for their commitment and expectations that were passed down to the younger players. Well done to all, especially Captain Farrow, for all their efforts, on and off the pitch, throughout a very demanding but ultimately successful season.

Mr M Covill





U15

Highlights of the autumn term were the two narrow victories over Northampton and Ellesmere, and the gallant performance against Warwick in the NatWest Cup.

Losing Mitchell Reeve through injury for much of the season was a huge blow, yet my sincerest thanks go to the two guys who took over the leadership and captaincy in Mitchell's absence, namely Matthew Smith (XVs) and Fraser Blackhurst (7s). At XVs, Jack Talbot was our top points scorer (93), and Guy Tomlinson our top try scorer (16).

The 7s Tour Weekend culminated with Solihull reaching the final of the King's Worcester Tournament - and with just seven players barely fit to take to the pitch at the end, this spoke volumes of the boys' commitment to their School.



Our Easter Tour to south-west France was tremendous. The boys truly represented their school and country with honour, both on and off the pitch. After an opening defeat versus Bordeaux-Bègles, the boys bounced back with a thrilling 9-try victory over Le Bouscat, with Fintan Bristow scoring four tries. By the time we got to our fourth match, the demands were too great, so I'd like to sign off on a real high and finish with our third tour match, against US Salles.

What a game! And what a second half fight-back! This is one of the finest Solihull U15 rugby matches I've ever witnessed over the past 18 years at our school. That we lost (by one try) actually didn't seem to matter in the face of such bravery, tenacity, skill and heroism. On behalf of Mr Morgan, Mr Phillips and myself: we were all so proud of you boys that night. If there should be one night, one match, one performance which you should carry with you, forever, then this is the one.

My sincerest thanks go to my colleagues Mr S Phillips and Mr S Morgan, and to all our parents, for all your help and support. Finally, I wish all the players the best of rugby fortunes in their senior years at Solihull.

Mr P Jackson



U14A

P 12 W 7 L 5

The team has made great progress this year and were unlucky in a couple of matches to end on the losing side.

We began with pre-season games against RGS High Wycombe and St Paul’s School which was excellent preparation for our matches that started early in September. We started against a very strong King’s Worcester side and the boys were very competitive for long periods of the game. They ended up on the losing side but the players had made significant improvements from the previous year’s match. The next game was against a RGS Worcester side and we responded well by winning 42-0. Losses to Northampton 17-5 away and a strong Bromsgrove side were to follow. Excellent victories followed against St Peter’s Gloucester 27-7, Ellesmere College 27-5 and Nottingham High School 26-5.

The team’s exemplary fitness levels enabled us to achieve total defensive security for longer periods of time, particularly as we approached the last quarter in games. In attack our forwards, led by Dylan Bryant, often laid the foundations for our victories and we started to secure more quality possession providing quicker balls by offloading and dynamically clearing out the contact area. This allowed Jacob Gordon to take the ball going forward and release our backs with an expansive brand of rugby using the pace of Archie Brown, Simon Duffy and Josh Denton. The season finished with victories against Trent College 47-7, Adams 37-22, and a narrow loss to Sir Thomas Rich’s. Matches against King’s Macclesfield and Loughborough were cancelled due to poor weather.

The 7s season was a nice way to finish, reaching the quarter final of the Cup at the Warwick 7s, losing to Sedbergh, and reaching the same stage at the Old Swinford Hospital 7s, losing to Warwick.

I would like to thank Mr P Morgan and all the players for their enthusiasm, determination and dedication to the cause. My sincerest thanks to all colleagues and parents who have supported U14 School Rugby this year.

Mr S Hifle

U14B

The U14B rugby team had a very challenging season in 2016-17, coming up against many teams who were picking a 1st XV from a much wider pool of players. The best performance of the season undoubtedly came in a narrow defeat to the always competitive St. Peter’s in Gloucester – all the boys who played showed an incredible level of commitment and were fearless in their tackling and very skilful in their support play. Patrick Meigh captained the side very well and honourable mentions must go to Pawan Bhamra and Tommy Simmons for leading by example in the forwards. 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

U13

The U13 rugby squad enjoyed a 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 helped improve players’ decision making with time with the ball in hand and this was shown through an improved set of results than the previous season for both the A and B squads; the A-squad winning 13 matches and losing only two, one being in the National Cup and the other being against a strong Welsh visiting side. In total, 615 points were scored (there are no conversions at this age group any longer) and 215 conceded. In the B-squad, five matches were won, two drawn with only one loss. 255 points were scored and 120 conceded, with the performance of the season coming from the B squad to win 35-30 against Adam’s Grammar trailing heavily at half time and with numerous boys playing their first rugby fixture for the School. Perseverantia!

In the 7s season, the free-flowing, skill-centred approach paid dividends with the A-squad winning their group of four teams and progressing to the winners grouping at the Warwick 7s. In Solihull’s own 7s Tournament, the A-squad again won their initial group and then learnt valuable lessons against strong RGS High Wycombe and St John Baptist teams. The B 7s squad performed admirably, showing great promise for the future. At Berkhamsted 7s, Solihull won 5 of 6 fixtures with some great grit and resilience to hold out as winners in the final group games. However, it was the culmination at the national 7s at Rosslyn Park where the boys excelled. Out of 132 schools who entered the U13 national 7s, only 8 teams, including Solihull, won all their games. The squad capped off a fine season with a truly outstanding final game against Hampton School to win 30-25. They must now work hard to stay together as a squad and build on their promise.

Mr M Gledhill



U12A

P 12 W 7 L 5

This was a successful season for the U12 A XV, with the team bonding as the time passed and playing an excellent brand of expansive rugby.

The early days saw two relatively straightforward wins against the Worcester Schools prior to a couple of blips from which lessons were learnt. With a defensive structure in place and playing positions established, the U12s then went the rest of the season deservedly unbeaten.

Notable scalps were Nottingham High School 35-0, Trent College 60-5, King’s Macclesfield 40-0 and Bishop Vesey’s 55-5. The last two games of the season were certainly the hardest and most pleasurable. Both Sir Thomas Rich’s and RGS High Wycombe were placed higher in the National Performance League at the time. Two awesome team displays saw the U12s defeat STR 10-0 and then RGS High Wycombe 15-10. A brilliant end to an extremely enjoyable season.

Congratulations to all players involved and also a huge thank you for the parental support - distance was never an issue. Good luck to the boys for next season and remember... ‘Train Hard – Play Hard!’

Mr S Thompson



U12B

P 11 W 8 L 3

This year has been one of steady evolution and progress – highlighted in part by the overall statistics. There were a number of boys who were new to the sport, grafted onto those who were accustomed to playing full contact rugby. There were many pleasing aspects to observe, especially in the dominant victories over RGS Worcester, St Peter’s Gloucester, Nottingham High School, Pates GS , Adams GS and Sir Thomas Rich’s, 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. The foundations have been set and we look forward to monitoring the development of the squad over the coming years.

Thanks must go to all the players for their enthusiasm, regular attendance at training and desire to compete. The side was captained by Ben Raybould, and ably supported by Blake Adams, Will Black, George Stich, Conor Collins, Cian Morgan, John Jennings, Kris Hartland, Josh Kermode and Zack Lewis to mention but a few who played in the majority of the games.

Mr M Covill



Girls’ Hockey - U18

Both the U18A and B teams had excellent seasons, displaying a great team spirit throughout with the first team playing 18 matches and winning 12, losing 5 and drawing just one, and the U18B team winning 7, losing 4 and drawing 1.

Having won the Birmingham and West Midlands County Round in fine style, winning all 4 matches, scoring 12 goals and conceding none, spirits were high. We then travelled to Rugby for the Midlands Zone Rounds to face Malvern, Shrewsbury High and Rugby. We lost 3-0 to Rugby, but overall it was a good start against a strong team fielding a couple of junior internationals. Our second game was against Malvern College and despite having the greater possession we failed to convert our chances and lost 2-0. We managed a win in our final game against Shrewsbury High 2-0. Overall, the team played some terrific hockey, working the ball out of defence and into midfield, and on another day we may have converted some more chances.

Following on from the tournament, there was still plenty of hockey to play and the team continued to improve in all areas of the pitch producing an excellent string of results, with the highlight of the season being a 1-0 win away at Malvern. Many thanks to all players involved for their commitment shown to both training and matches, especially those cold, dark Monday evenings!

Mrs J Sixsmith

U14 and U15

This season the U14 hockey team has been very successful. We won our County Tournament and whilst we were not successful in the next round, it was a great team performance on the day. We also had a number of hard-fought matches and we beat a tough opponent, King Edward VI, 4-1. This was characterised again by the great teamwork and work ethic that the group showed. Hopefully next year we can continue to improve and develop our winning performances. Player of the Season was awarded to Eva Mahoney and the top goal scorer was Annabel Dalby. Annabel was also selected for the England Hockey Performance Centre for next year which is an incredible achievement.

The U15 team has shown great improvement and determination this year. The team consisted of Lily Evans, Libby Shepherd, Eden Lupoli, Tiegan Pound, Scarlett Humphrey, Charlotte Hope, Alyssa Morrison, Molly Bate, Imogen Houghton and Lana Ryan as our goalie, along with many U14s who have joined our team for various matches. Although we had a slow start to the year, losing narrowly to The King’s School, Worcester and St Martin’s, we came very close to winning against King’s High School for Girls, with a hard-fought match, narrowly losing 2-3. As the season progressed, we got into our stride, demonstrating our skills and coming together as a team by winning against Wolverhampton 2-1 and beating Wrekin Collage 1-0 after an exciting, but tense game.

The girls have all played extraordinarily well as a team and all deserved awards, but overall Imogen Houghton got the award for Most Improved Player, Charlotte Hope won the award for Top Goal Scorer, Molly Bate achieved the Players’ Player award and Lily Evans received the award for Player of the Season.



Thank you to all the girls for a great year of hockey and I would like to thank Mrs Sixsmith and Mrs Fair for all their hard work in coaching both the U14s and U15s and we look forward to the teams continuing to go from strength to strength next season.

Louisa Miles, Fourth Form and Lily Evans, Lower Fifth

U13

This season the U13 hockey team has shown great improvement and enthusiasm in both matches and training. After a steady start to the season we had a great run of wins: in four matches we scored 31 goals and conceded none, thanks to our fearless goalkeeper Izzy Hamilton.

Over the course of the season the team scored an amazing total of 43 goals. The team’s best result of the season, in terms of goals scored, was our match against Stafford Grammar School where the final score was 10-0. This is one of many examples of our ongoing determination and strength as a team. However, even after many high-scoring games, our highlight of the season was the tournament at King Edward VI High School where we were placed second, beating our rivals St Martin’s. After a flying start to the competition and many wins, we drew to St Martin’s and lost to King Edward VI High School. Although we did not win, the team performed impressively. Overall, we have had an extremely successful season and the whole team would like to thank Mrs Hallworth and all other members of staff that have helped us with our progress this season.



U12

Having only just started as a team this year, the U12s have performed consistently well together in matches and have been very committed to training both at lunchtimes and after school. Over the past season not only have we improved our skills, fitness and stamina, we have all got used to playing together as a team.

We started off strongly, winning our first three matches against Bablake, King’s High and St Martin’s, scoring a total of 12 goals and conceding only 1. However mid-way through the season we suffered 2 heavy defeats against RGS Worcester and Princethorpe. Despite this, the team kept their heads held high and went on to win five more matches. The B-team had a similarly strong season, winning five matches, drawing one and losing four.

The highlight was at the end of the season when the team played in the County Tournament, winning all five matches scoring a total of 24 goals without conceding any and we qualified for the Midland In2Hockey Finals, as Birmingham & West Midlands Champions. The standard of hockey at the Midlands was very high and we never gave up, winning 3 matches, drawing 2 and losing just one game. This meant the team finished in fifth place which was a great achievement. As a team we would like to thank Miss Wilcox and Mrs Sixsmith for all their help and support and we look forward to next season.

Ellie-Mae Beeton, Third Form



Boys’ Hockey - 1st XI

P 28 W 22 D 1 L 5

This 1st XI proved itself to be a very good team: 111 goals were scored and 43 goals were conceded. The forward line notched up many of these goals with Charlie Hadley top scorer on 38, Tom Mitchell chipped in with 19 and Luke Kent finished the season with 17. In total, 21 players were used during the season. The team was built on having a fantastic goalkeeper, a solid back four that worked well as a unit, a midfield that had skill, vision and work rate and a forward line that scored goals and were unpredictable. I believe that this team benefited from having pace and athleticism. Commitment to training was excellent and the team spirit was fantastic.

The season started slowly with the team recording 3 wins, 3 losses and a draw during the first half-term. The fortunes turned round once a line up for the team had been settled upon. The stability of having a back four that worked gave a solid foundation and allowed the team to prosper. The tour to Holland proved invaluable in terms of trying things out and enhancing the team spirit. The team then went on to record 6 wins on the bounce during the second half term.

This good form continued post-Christmas with the team managing many excellent wins. The best performances of the season came in the wins over Warwick and Princethorpe in the league. After an average first half against Warwick, the team produced a superb second half performance which was full of great skill, team play and hard running. The game ended with a 5-0 win, and we were a joy to watch. For the match with Princethorpe, we went into the game missing several key players because of a school trip and we were most definitely the underdogs. They needed a win to stay at the top of the league. The players produced a complete team performance, one in which we played with our heads as well as our hearts. The team had been sent out with very specific tactics and they were executed perfectly. The result was 4-2.

The early season losses to Bishop Vesey’s GS and King Edward’s, Birmingham cost us dearly in the Warwickshire League and we ended up in 3rd place. In the National Cup we won our 1st round match against Queen Mary GS and then lost 0-5 to the national champions Repton, who were extremely strong. This took us into the Plate Competition where we defeated Warwick. The team came back strongly from being 2 goals down to take the game to penalties. We scored all of our penalties which took us through to the next round at Trent College. We were bitterly disappointed to lose this close game 2-3 after we had started the game so well.

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 the School. It was a successful tour with 4 wins out of 4.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leavers – Jonathon Shiels, Ben Green, Harry Goodworth, Matthew Deakin, Harry Peachey, Conor Gregory, Luke Kent, Tom Mitchell and Charlie Hadley - for all that they have done for hockey at Solihull. I do hope that they will look back at their time playing hockey for Solihull School with great fondness and that they do continue to play the game. I think that this set of players has achieved a great deal and they were a pleasure to coach. Thank you! For the players that remain, as ever the challenge ahead will be great.



Charlie Hadley was captain of the team with Harry Peachey and Tom Mitchell vice-captains. Jonathon Shiels, Ben Green, Harry Peachey, Luke Kent and Tom Mitchell were awarded full School Colours. Thank you to Mr Leonard and Mr Brotherhood for their help in the running of the team 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

At pre-season training in glamorous Cannock, there was a pleasingly large turnout of potential 2nd XI players and the standard of hockey demonstrated during those two days was greatly encouraging. Even more positively portentous were the motivation and endeavour on display. Right there and then, it began to feel like a good season might lie ahead.

Fixtures began well, with a 1-0 win over Warwick and a 9-0 demolition of Loughborough, in which Lukas Moment scored five, and, despite the disappointment of not performing to our potential in a 0-2 loss to Bishop Vesey’s, we quickly bounced back with a 1-0 win over Bablake.

It seems odd to suggest that a 0-1 loss in our next match, against King Edward’s Birmingham, was encouraging but having been outclassed by them in recent seasons, feeling hard done by to lose a game in which we had probably been the better side marked significant progress.

That game was followed by two more big wins, against Adams Grammar School (4-0) and Lawrence Sheriff (7-0) before we faced King Edward’s again. Little time had passed since the last meeting and little had changed on the pitch. Again, we competed well and, again, we lost by a single goal, albeit 1-2 this time.

Any frustration at this was soon taken out on King Edward’s Stratford (5-0) and Queen Mary’s Grammar (8-1) before a new year was heralded by the ever-popular Saturday morning away trip to face Magdalen College School in Oxford. Unlike the Rugby teams, who are accustomed to such things, Saturday outings are always something of a shock to the system for hockey players used to a midweek schedule. Nevertheless, we performed impressively and prevailed 3-2.

We continued our very good start to the term by despatching King Henry VIII Coventry 4-1 and overcoming Bloxham School by three goals to one, before we faced King Edward’s Birmingham for the third time in four months. This time, both teams scored more in a six-goal skirmish but, like the last encounter, King Edward’s sadly netted twice as many as we did.

On the plus side, that proved to be the last loss we endured in the season as we went on to beat Camp Hill 1st XI 3-2, King Edward’s Stratford 1st XI 5-1 and Warwick School 3-1. We then recorded a rare draw, 1-1, in the match against Five Ways 1st XI before satisfyingly chastening Princethorpe with a very impressive performance that earned a 5-0 victory. Following that, we beat King Edward’s Aston 1st XI 1-0 in our final home game before travelling to Bishop Vesey’s in the hope of exacting retribution upon them for our loss earlier in the season.

The impressive 2-0 win exemplified the best aspects of our season: good hockey, total commitment, unwavering endeavour and good humour. It proved to be a fitting way to end the season and a fine send off for our Upper Sixth leavers – Captain Jack Davidson, James Hurt, Liam Donaghue, Matthew Brain and Oliver Daniels – who had contributed so much throughout the season. The tone set by those senior players and the example shown by them on the pitch undoubtedly played a major part in the positive team spirit and work ethic that had earned so much success in the preceding seven months.

With an overall record of:

P 21 W 16 D1 L4 F 68 A 19

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 showed a marked improvement for the 3rd team, ending the season in 3rd position out of 9 teams in the Warwickshire League and with 10 wins and 2 draws from 18 games. After a narrow loss to Warwick early on, the team bounced back and secured three wins on the trot including a 12-0 win over King Edward’s Stratford and a 9-0 win against Bablake.

The boys all got involved, with good rotation of positions including a variety of goalkeepers during the early stages of the season, until Oliver Altham took on the position long term. Joe Treanor did a sterling job captaining the team and although he had a slightly relaxed approach to warm-ups he was reliable and organised throughout. Shaun Watson and Ed Bates provided a solid defence alongside Joe, with only 43 goals conceded all season, compared to 67 scored. Oliver Daniels showed great spirit in the early stages of the season, before ascending to bigger things in the 2nd team. Harvey Wilson also deserves mention for his playmaking in the centre of the pitch, often being the starting point for passages of play that led to goals.

Things bode well for the future, as over half the team were 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 to have averaged over three goals scored per game is testament to the energetic and positive approach the team has taken to their hockey. Roll on next year!

Mr O Anderton

U15A

P 16 W 6 D 2 L 8 F 31 A 29

The Boys’ U15A hockey team is full of talented and enthusiastic players. Fergus Roll was the captain and Thomas Averill was the vice-captain. During the 2016/2017 season, the team played attacking hockey and produced some outstanding results and performances. The best results of the season were the 4-0 win against a strong Princethorpe College, a 4-1 win against a well-organised Nottingham High School, a resounding 8-0 win against a hard working Adams Grammar School and a 3-0 win against Bablake in the Warwickshire league. Arguably the most impressive performances of the season were the 0-0 draw with King Edward’s Birmingham and the 2-2 draw with Warwick; these were both the result of outstanding team efforts. During the season the U15A hockey team improved greatly and played attractive hockey, both individually and collectively.

U15B

P 8 W 3 D 2 L 3 F 12 A 5

The Boys’ U15B hockey team had a decent season, with Thomas Daniels as the captain. There was a 3-1 win and a nail-biting 2-1 win against King Edward VI School Stratford, along with a dominating 4-2 win against Arnold Lodge School U15A. The team improved gradually during the season and played with a high level of energy and enthusiasm.

Mr A Raza

U14A

This year was a tough one for the U14A team. The year started and ended with good wins but unfortunately sandwiched between these were far too many frustrating performances where we ended up on the wrong side of the result despite having the opportunities to get something out of the game. We finished the season with a record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 9 losses in the regular season and narrowly missed out on reaching the semi-finals of the County Cup due to being placed in a very tough group.

The beginning of the season saw us put in a good performance to beat Lawrence Sheriff 3-1, followed by a hard-fought 5-3 loss against a strong King Edward’s side. A disappointing loss to Bablake followed this and due to cancellations these were the only games to be played in the Christmas term. Because of this light fixture list, we were able to give opportunities to some of the players to feature for the U15 team and I’m sure this experience will prove beneficial for them next year.

We started the Easter term with the County Tournament and unfortunately didn’t make it out of our group despite some very good performances. Unfortunately, the rest of the Easter term only yielded 2 more wins as, despite our best efforts, we struggled to deal with the oppositions’ better players and couldn’t convert enough of our chances at the other end. The team was led ably by Oscar Montgomery and he was assisted by Dominic Lee who made a big impression in his first year at the School. Yann Belling marshalled the defence whilst John Abram turned in some impressive performances in goal and Simon Duffy provided the team with a strong attacking threat wherever he played. 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 a greater number of successes next year.

Mr D Brough

U14B

P 5 W 4 D 1

The U14B team showed great determination and a fair amount of skill throughout all of their fixtures. The team recorded their 4 victories against King Edward’s Stratford, Warwick, King Edward’s Birmingham and Loughborough GS. The only draw came against Bloxham. This fixture saw the team battle hard to record a 2-2 score line. The best performance of the season came in the fixture with KES Birmingham: the team overcame the opposition 4-2 with a great team display and some individual brilliance. Thomas Smith 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 17 W 12 D 1 L 4 (11-a-side)

P 14 W 7 D 3 L 4 (7-a-side)

This U13 team has plenty of potential for the future and enjoyed a good season. In the 11-a-side version of the game the team amassed 72 goals and conceded 14. The most impressive wins of the season came in the matches with Warwick and Trent College. In the fixture with Warwick, the team dominated proceedings but only led 1-0 deep into the 2nd half. Warwick then scored against the run of play but the team stood firm and rallied to score 2 late goals. The win at Trent was a thriller.



Both teams created several excellent chances and the game was end-to-end. Both goalkeepers were in fine form but with 10 minutes to go Charles Villanueva scored with his trademark backhand shot. Both teams continued to create goal-scoring opportunities but Solihull managed to hold on to their slender lead. The team finished 3rd in the Warwickshire league, 3rd in the Foremarke Hall 7-a-side tournament and 3rd in the 7-a-side County Tournament. Charles Villanueva was captain of the team.

U13B

P 4 W 1 D 1 L 2 (11-a-side)

P 2 W 1 D 1 (7-a-side)

The U13B team played all but one of their fixtures after Christmas. There was a good win over Bishop Vesey’s GS and a splendid 4-1 victory over Nottingham. The team improved steadily throughout the season and played with great enthusiasm and tenacity.

Mr C Mayer

U12A

P 24 W 19 D 1 L 4

Warwickshire County Champions

Runners- Up in the Midlands Tournament

This was a very enjoyable and successful season with the team winning the County Tournament. In the Midlands Tournament the team were very unlucky not to win and came second after losing a penalty shoot out. When playing at their best, the team produced some excellent hockey. Sam Cossey was an influential captain and led the team with some inspirational performances. In goal, Ben Raybould made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled his defence with aplomb. Tom Nicholson, George Brown, Jack Kinder, Blake Adams and Jem Perry defended very well throughout the season. In midfield George Sitch, Seb Thompson and Dan Abrahams were influential players and they were ably supported by Pierce Smythe and Adil Uddin on the flanks. Added to this group of players in attack were Harvey Blackhurst, Tom King and Will Black, who certainly tested the opposition defences. This team certainly has the potential to do very well in the future.

Mr N Leonard

U12B

P 1 W 1 (11-a-side)

P 7 W 5 L 2 (7-a-side)

This year group showed great commitment and enthusiasm for hockey throughout the season. Attendance at training was excellent at both the lunchtime and after-school practices. This was reflected in the results and performances of the B-team. In the 7-a-side format, very good team performances resulted in big wins over Magdalen College Oxford, Loughborough, Warwick, Bishop Vesey’s GS and Nottingham HS. Only one game was played in the 11-a-side format; this was away at Bishop Vesey’s GS. The team was very impressive and recorded a 5-0 win. Pierce Smythe was captain of the team and a big thank you must go to Mr Leonard for running this age group and to Mr Raza for his help with the coaching.

U12C

P 4 W 2 L 2 (7-a-side)

U12D

P 4 W 3 L 1 (7-a-side)

The main objective for the both the U12C and U12D teams was to get as many boys playing as possible. For this reason, both teams took 13 players each to most of the fixtures. The team would start the game whilst another set of players waited on the side to go on. At the midpoint in the half, all outfield players were replaced by the substitutes. Both squads managed some excellent results. The C-team achieved good wins over King Henry VIII and Warwick, and the D-team had success over Bromsgrove, King Henry VIII and Warwick. Both sets of players played with great enthusiasm for the game, and I hope that this continues into next season.

Mr C Mayer





Cricket - The 1st XI

P 15 W 9 L 5 Abandoned 1

The 1st XI recorded another successful season, with impressive victories over KES Birmingham, Warwick, King’s Worcester and Monmouth, before winning the Hugh Cherry County Cup for the 3rd consecutive season. Under the leadership of Will Rigg for the 1st half of the season and then Ethan Brookes for the 2nd, we saw a young team really develop and maximise their full potential, playing some entertaining cricket.

Both captains had outstanding seasons; Rigg was at his destructive best scoring 523 runs and averaging 65.4 for the season. In total, he scored 4 fifties with an impressive century (116\*) against RGS Worcester after narrowly missing out against Warwick (94) the week before. His knowledge of the game was evident in his captaincy and his batting showed great maturity.

Brookes, meanwhile, had an outstanding all-round season and is maturing into a top-class all-rounder. He scored an impressive 621 runs which included 6 half centuries with a top score of 98\* in the County Cup Final and finishing with a healthy batting average of 51.8. With the ball, he was naturally the leading wicket taker with 25 dismissals, recording his best bowling figures of 5-14 against Bloxham and finishing with an average of 12.92.

It would be misleading to suggest that the 1st XI was a two-man team as without the support of their team mates both individuals’ success would not have been made possible. 2017 saw the emergence of several younger players who all contributed and enhanced their reputations; Alfie Blundell was a menacing opening partner for Brookes and for a number of matches they were without doubt the fastest opening attack the school has probably ever produced. Both were well supported by the consistency of Arthur Townend’s medium pace and the ever-improving off spinner of Zak Saleem. With the bat, Fergus Roll, Dan Bevan, Jacob Gordon and Tom Serle all scored their maiden 1st XI half centuries, with both Fergus and Jacob looking solid at the top of the innings.

I would like to thank all the players who represented the 1st XI this year for their continued commitment and effort. Also, to Karl Brotherhood for the outstanding pitches that he has produced; by far the best wickets and outfields on the circuit and of course to David Smith whose support is always appreciated.

Finally, it is always sad to have to say farewell to the 3 senior players who have come to the end of their school career and I would like to thank Benny Watson, Tom Mitchell and Harry Goodworth for everything that they have contributed to school cricket.

Mr D Maddy



2nd XI

P 6 W 3 L 3

This was a short season due to exam commitments and weather disruption. The team was ably led by Jonny Shiels who captained with great enthusiasm and the School was always able to field a team. The best performance was the win against Bloxham.

The fielding was often good during the season with only the occasional lack of concentration. The encouragement for the bowler was excellent. Of the bowlers, Jonny Shiels took 3 wickets for 14 runs against Nottingham HS, while the other bowlers bowled consistently well but with little reward over the season.

The batsmen all made reasonable contributions at some point during the season. Top score went to Jonny Shiels with 61 against Bloxham. Another batsman to make a half century was Matt Farrow (58) against Old Swinford Hospital School, and in the same match Jack Naisbitt hit 46 runs.

I would like to thank all the players and especially those boys in the Upper Sixth for their commitment to cricket over the last couple of years and in some cases since they joined the School in the Third Form.

Mr N Leonard

3rd XI

P 1 W 0 L 1

For the first time in over 10 years we were able to field a 3rd XI team. 3rd XI cricket is about enjoyment and participation whilst giving the boys an opportunity to represent the School. More importantly, it plays an integral part in raising the standard of the 2nd XI, hence improving the quality at 1st team level. This is something that I definitely intend to pursue and it was encouraging to see that we fielded 3 senior teams on the same afternoon.

Mr D Maddy

U15A

In comparison to last year’s U15 team, which reached the National Cup Final against King’s School, Taunton at Oakham, this year’s team have found success harder to come by. Despite coming runners-up in the Solihull 6s Competition for their age group, their domestic performances have been disappointing. They played eight matches and won only three, losing the rest, including a first round cup tie against Warwick School. Largely, they have been affected by a lack of depth. With Fergus Roll and Matthew Smith regularly on 1st XI duty, the side lacked a strong foundation upon which to build a solid performance. Moreover, poor batting technique and ill-judged shot selection at crucial times were often issues for many of the batsmen. There were some moments of inspiration, such as Fraser Blackhurst’s five wickets for two runs against Bablake School; however, such instances were rare.

Mr S Hart

U15B

An enjoyable cricket season for the U15B team built to an exciting climax at Bromsgrove, where Max Dale scored an unbeaten 23 and Zaki Hashmi produced some inspirational bowling to take three wickets in one over. The team gained a creditable away win at Princethorpe, and there were many good performances this summer. Team spirit was good at all times, and Mr Morgan would like to thank Jamie Morrall for being such a dependable captain, and all the boys who played for giving up their time to represent the School.

Mr P Morgan

U14A

P 10 W 6 L 4

Player of the season: Jacob Gordon

The team entered the season with a giant target etched onto their backs, having won the U13 National Cup last year. Many of the group were lucky enough to tour Sri Lanka in preseason: an invaluable experience, but the dustbowls of Colombo were hardly fantastic preparation for the juicy green pitches of chilly British spring! Nevertheless, the season started well with increasingly fluent wins against KES (twice; Meigh 5-25 in the Cup game), Bloxham (Stockdale 5-14), and Warwick (the latter achieved without our County players). With all four of our Sports Scholars absent through promotion or injury for vast swathes of the season, however, we slumped to defeats against RGS Worcester and King Henry’s, and were dumped out of the Cup against KE VI Aston. The season finished with a heartening win against King’s Worcester (Pugh 76), and a run chase for the ages against Vesey’s, orchestrated masterfully by Gordon (74). Overall, we never produced a complete performance – especially in the field – and were heavily reliant on Gordon for runs, but there is plenty of talent in the team.

Mr P Ford

U14B

The U14B cricket team were limited to just 4 games (with 1 other abandoned because of rain) due to fixture cancellations, but this gave them a chance to work on their skills during net sessions.

The first full game against King Edward’s, Birmingham was hard-fought and contained some good batting from captain Will Sargent as well as a few cameos from the rest of the team. Our total of 113 always looked enough and we duly restricted them to 106 to win by 7 runs. We came up against a strong Warwick side in the 2nd game. Unfortunately our batting never got going (not helped by some careless run outs) and their opening batsmen got off to a flier, so we ultimately lost by 10 wickets. Our 3rd game against King Henry’s A-team was hard-fought but despite some lower order hitting, we were unable to muster a large enough total to pressure the opposition. We picked up 5 wickets due to some good bowling, a brilliant run out and a great catch but couldn’t restrict them enough. The final game saw us play Bromsgrove and with a few changes to our team we bowled well initially but a few too many extras allowed them to build a total that proved too much to chase down.

Despite only getting the one win it was an enjoyable season and I hope that all the players will continue to improve and push for some more wins next season.

Mr D Brough



U13A

P 19 W 14 L 5

Following on from the cricket tour to Sri Lanka during the Easter holidays, the U13A cricket team made great strides over the course of the season. So much so, that we made the County Cup final and the National Cup final. The County Final was a comfortable win over Washwood Heath and the National Final was a loss to a strong King's Hall School, Taunton in a rain-affected match. In getting to the National Final, the team played in many close games but came out on top due to being very good in the field and running well between the wickets. At times our play was of the very highest standard in both of these areas. Our route to the final saw us defeat Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Magdalen College School Oxford, Trent College, Bromsgrove School in the Midlands final and Manchester GS in the national semi-final. The team played superbly throughout the Solihull School 6-a-side tournament and were crowned champions, beating Leicester GS in the final. It was a great day and it was enjoyed by all.

The batting line-up had strength in depth and I was able to regularly change the order. Ashish Chakrapani topped the batting averages with 51 and was also leading run scorer with 561 runs; Declan Kelly achieved a total of 367 runs at an average of 36.7. Louie Bould was the only player to score a century: 131 not out at Bloxham School, and he ended up with 287 runs with an average of 35.9.

Our bowling was very strong throughout the season with four players taking ten wickets or more. Thomas Bate was leading wicket taker with 19 wickets at an average of 12.2. Sam Graham topped the averages with 7.8 having taken 13 wickets. Both Ben Whitfield and Louie Green took 14 wickets. Ashish Chakrapani captained the team well with Louie Green vice-captain.

This is a very good cricket team and an outstanding season was enjoyed by all involved. Getting to the National Final was a fantastic achievement and the team should be proud of this. It was a great shame that the final did not reach a conclusion after the rain had made its mark. I wish them all the best for the 2018 season.

Mr C Mayer

U12A

P 14 W 11 L 3

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



Ben Raybould captained the side very well indeed either in the field or from wicket-keeper, ably supported by the Prince of Spin in Sam Graham and the all-round exploits of George Sitch. The season started well with victories over King Edward's, Birmingham and Warwick before the demolition of Bloxham which saw Ben Raybould score a half century and Sam Graham return figures of 3-1-3-5. Next up was Nottingham High School, a close game which we won in part due to George Sitch's 67 runs. An entertaining victory away at RGS Worcester was followed by a narrow defeat by a run to Loughborough GS despite Tom King's valiant 46 runs. Further victories followed against Broadway Academy and King Henry VIII School. Despite a narrow loss against Bromsgrove, King's Worcester and Bablake were defeated in part due to the hostile bowling of Jack Kinder, ably supported by the swing of Alfie Hunt. A disappointing conclusion to our Cup campaign was offset by a super bowling and fielding display against Bablake, epitomised by Will Black's 4 wickets from 4 overs. Dan Abrahams, Harvey Blackhurst and Adil Uddin provided good all-round contributions throughout the season along with Seb Thompson who was also stand out fielder of the team.

U12 B and C

The B and C teams, admirably led by Ben Pulley and Aarnav Sharma, played over fifteen fixtures between them, improving with every game. There are some individuals who will be competing for an A-team squad place next year, such was the depth of talent in this year group.

U12 6s

Success was achieved by winning the Solihull 6s competition where the team – Ben Raybould, Sam Graham, Seb Thompson, George Sitch, Adil Uddin and Jack Kinder – defeated Lawrence Sheriff, Bablake and King Henry VIII in the group stages before defeating Queen Mary's GS Walsall in the semi-final. The final was against Leicester Grammar School and some excellent hitting from Thompson and Raybould resulted in a score of 84 being set with 30 runs coming from the last over. Tight bowling and some excellent fielding saw us home by 35 runs and crowned champions.

Mr M Covill

Girls' Cricket

Since 2005, over 1.5 million girls in state schools have started playing cricket and it has become one of the fastest growing sports for girls around the world. With full-time professional contracts, World Cups and franchised T20 competitions, there are plenty of opportunities for girls to not only start playing cricket but to make a full-time living.

I am pleased to announce that this year, in partnership with Complete Cricket, we were able to start our first girls' cricket practice sessions and were lucky to acquire the services of Warwickshire County cricketer and coach Amy Weir.

This is something that I intend to develop here at Solihull with the introduction of cricket fixtures in the future.

Mr D Maddy





Athletics

Boys Overall Borough Champions  
Boys U14/ U16 Borough Champions  
Girls Second Overall  
Borough Championship Records:

J Dunleavy	U14 800m	2m.14.0s
A Visram Cipolletta	U16 800m	2m.06.0s

West Midlands Champions

Adam Visram Cipolletta	U15 1500m
Krystian Shine	U14 100m
Harvey Blackhurst	U14 Long Jump
Erin Troop	U14 High Jump

West Midlands Team:

Multi Events

A Visram Cipolletta, T O'Hanlon



School Records:

E A Troop	U13 Long Jump U13 100m	4.63m 13.3s
J Dunleavy	U14 800m	2m09.5s
M M Sandford	U14 Shot put	8.70m
E M Furber	U15 100m	12.9s
A Visram Cipolletta	U15 800m U15 1500m	2m.06.0s 4m.21.9s
A Dalby	U15 800m	2m.28.0s
C E Rigg	U16 800m	2m.37.0s

Sports Day Records:

Third Form

E A Troop	200m High Jump Long Jump	28.1s 1.42m 4.53m
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Shell Form

J Dunleavy	800m 1500m	2m.20.4s 4m.45.0s
M M Sandford	Shot Put	8.70m

Fourth Form

A Visram Cipolletta	400m 800m Long Jump	55.9s 2m.12.0s 5.89m
H Batchelor	High Jump	1.68m

Lower Fifth

C Rigg	1500m	2m.37.0s
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Sports Day Winners: Shenstone

This was a successful season with the Junior (U14) Boys team winning through to the Regional A-Final for the ESAA Track and Field Cup and the Inter (U16) Boys and Junior (U14) Girls qualifying for the B-Final. The A-Final is for the Top 8 teams in the Midlands region. The U13 Boys also qualified for the Regional Finals of the Super Sixes Competition.

This season also saw the girls come second in both age groups in the Borough Championships which is the first time we have witnessed this. It looks very promising for the future. Highlights of the season were the many record-breaking performances and the willingness of pupils to volunteer to step in to compete in an event to gain points for the team.

In the inter-school matches the boys' teams achieved victories over RGS Worcester, King Edward's, Birmingham, King Edward's Camp Hill and Bablake. The girls achieved success over St Martin's, Edgbaston HS and RGS Worcester. Congratulations must go to those athletes selected to represent the West Midlands in the English Schools Multi Events Championships: Adam Visram Cipolletta and Tom O'Hanlon.

I would like to thank all those staff who have helped officiate at the matches this year as these could not happen without this assistance.

Mr N Leonard







Rounders

The rounders season to date has provided both highs and lows for our girls. Rounders has been enjoyed by every girl in the Third Form with A,B,C and D teams being fielded. They have enjoyed much success thus far; victories against Princethorpe College and King Edward’s Five Ways demonstrated that progress is being made. Our U13s have recorded some notable wins against RGS Worcester and King Henry VIII School, and finished as Borough runners-up in their tournament – missing out on first place by only one rounder. Our U14 team has also enjoyed much success; they won all of their matches and qualified for the regional finals in Warwickshire. Our U15 team has had some difficult matches against Bablake School and King Edward’s High School but continue to make good progress. We thank all of the girls for their commitment to sport this year and wish them a successful season next year.

Miss D Wilcox



Tennis

Tennis Club on a Friday evening has been very popular and well-attended throughout the summer term. The U13 girls finished 3rd in the Solihull League, winning two and losing two, with the opposition having some exceptional tennis players. Highlights of the season were Eve Busby playing as No. 1 coming up against two National players and just missing out on winning both matches despite taking many of the games to deuce.

The U15 girls started off their campaign with a loss to Arden, however, this spurred the team on to win their remaining three games, 12-0 v Heart of England and Tudor Grange and a thriller v St Martin’s which was tied 6-6. There cannot be a tie, so a Championship tie-breaker was played with the pairs being split. Nicole Dann and Annabel Hill paired up and went on to win 10-8. Despite having the same number of points as St Martin’s, Solihull finished 2nd in the league due to not winning enough games overall.

Well done to all those who took part in team tennis this year!

Mrs J Sixsmith

Sailing at Itchenor Sailing Club

Solihull’s sailing team of six sailors, three RS Fevas, two RIBS, supporters and parents made the journey to Chichester Harbour once again to enjoy three days of top-level racing and excellent hospitality.

The fleet of 100 boats racing was a spectacle to behold in the bay and provided very tough competition. Olympic medallist, Volvo Ocean Race winner and RYA Director of racing Ian Walker overseeing the races had us somewhat star struck and proved testimony to the profile of the event.



Golf Report

After losing a number of key players to university (James Scagell, Tom Brewer), this season was always going to be a difficult one. Nevertheless, the team, which was captained by Warwickshire player, Vicky Brewer, did commendably well, reaching the National Plate Finals held at Magnolia Park, Oxford where they came tenth in a strong field of other schools such as Charterhouse and Dulwich. Congratulations must go to Vicky who is the first female golf captain of Solihull School. With the loss of James Scagell and Tom Brewer, opportunities arose for some of the younger and less experienced players to represent the School. To this end, Ben Whitfield, Liam Scagell and Katie Lyth all impressed. Particular congratulations must go to Ben who won the School Championship at Ladbrook Park with a gross 87. Tom Averill won the Best Nett with a one under par 70, whilst Warwickshire player, Katie Lyth, was a further shot back. In the annual Golf Match versus the Old Sils, played at Olton G.C., the latter were triumphant on the day playing some fine golf.

Mr S Hart

We didn’t expect to win but we aimed to learn about racing on the sea in wind and tide, gain valuable sailing experience and to have some fun. That we did and we were even treated to an aerial display by a Chinook helicopter!

Huge thanks go to Simon Clarke, Thomas Yearsley, Richard Bower, Rob Yearsley and Richard Perry, without whom our participation would not have been possible.

Mrs J Skan



## Skiing

It's been another fantastic year for the Ski Team, with all students showing excellent commitment and camaraderie! In October, the students competed in the British Independent Schools Ski Race, with our A-team winning the mixed category.

The skiers have also had another successful year competing in The English Schools' Ski Association (ESSKIA) races. The season started with the qualifiers at Gloucester, with a strong performance from the senior boys. They qualified for the British finals, and despite 7 hours in the cold and wet they managed to keep spirits high. All raced well against some of the top school ski racers in Britain.



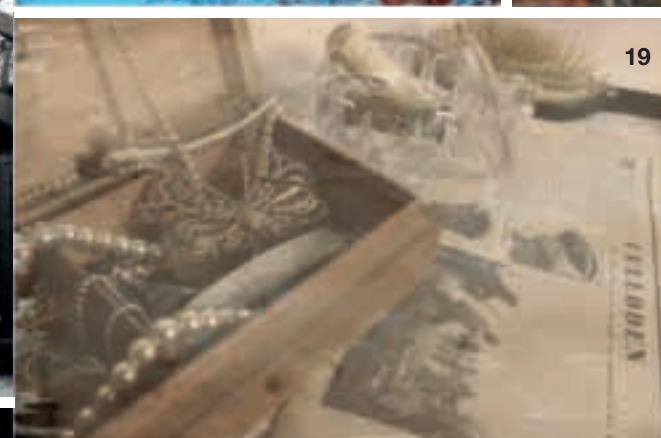
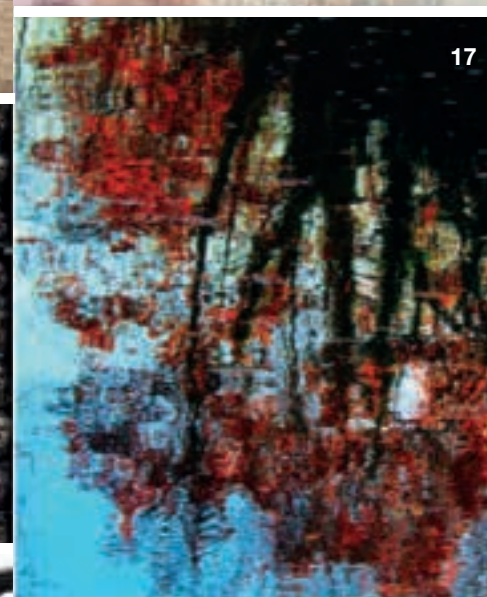
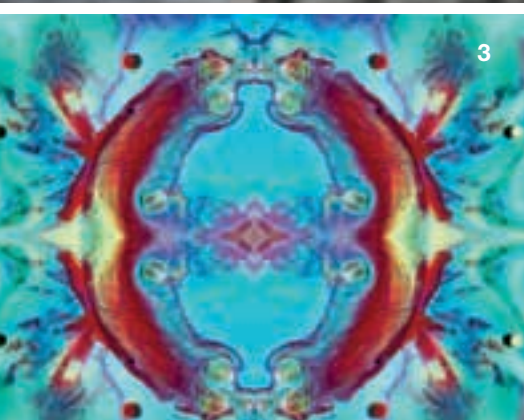
In March we travelled to Switzerland to compete in The Aiglon Cup, against some incredibly strong competition including many schools which are based in the Alps. For some of our racers, this was their first experience of racing on snow and all students performed valiantly.

Although all of our racers are deserving of praise this year, there are a few special mentions for outstanding performance. Ella Giles has had a very successful season, winning 3rd overall at the ESSKIA qualifiers and an impressive 3rd in the U14 ladies slalom at Aiglon.

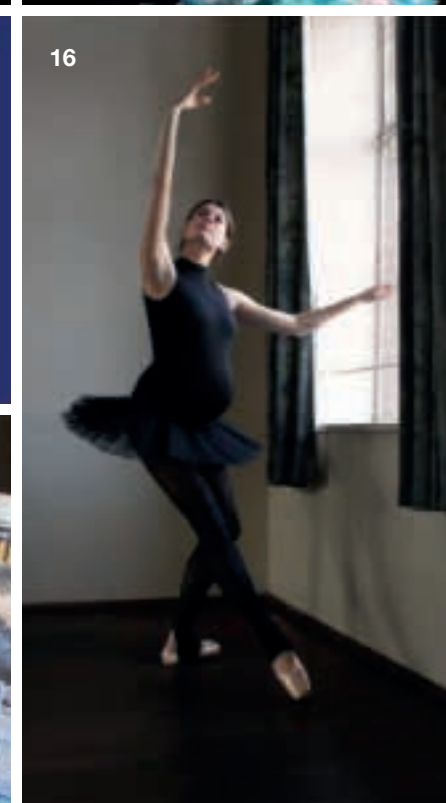
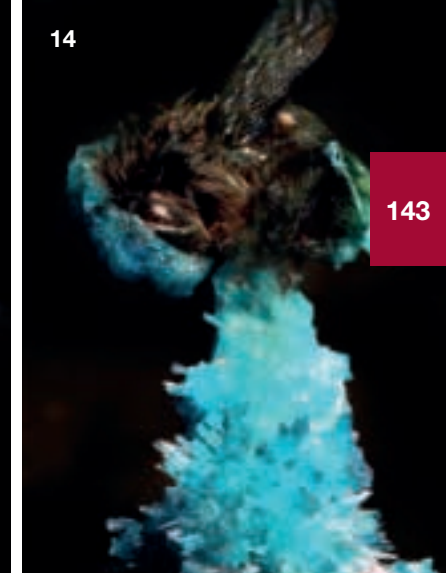
Tom Lawrence, who is an Upper Sixth leaver this year, finished first overall in the ESSKIA qualifiers, 4th in the British finals and again narrowly missed the podium at Aiglon; a very good performance and an excellent member of the squad. We wish him all the best moving forward!

*Miss J Collier*





## Sixth Form Photography



1. Tom Chambers
2. Jessie Lloyd
3. Samuel Miller
4. Maeve Grogan
5. Josh Gee
6. Lauren Kiely
7. Matthew Gransbury
8. Tom Chambers
9. Jonny Shiels
10. Abigail Humphreys
11. Isabel Douglas
12. Sophie Shakeshaft
13. Aidan Cawley
14. Matthew Deakin
15. Megan Stretton
16. Emily-Jayne Watson
17. Matthew Stansfield
18. Georgia Greenburgh
19. Emily Shepherd
20. Ella Talbot
21. James Gordon





## Travel and Trips

### Sri Lankan cricket tour

Easter saw the inaugural U13 and U14 cricket tour to Sri Lanka. Thirty-six boys across the two year groups departed London Heathrow en-route to Colombo. The hospitality, hotels and cricket was absolutely outstanding with fifteen matches played and two practice days. Every boy played five games of cricket, with the highlight of the tour being the opportunity of playing at P'Sara International Cricket Ground in Colombo. From a cultural experience the boys enjoyed a city tour of Colombo, visiting the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and a tea factory. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

*Mr D Maddy*







### Holland Hockey tour 2016

During the first week of October half term, a party of 32 boys and four members of staff flew to Holland for the first senior boys' hockey tour for eight years. Highlights of the tour included watching a Dutch Premier League Match, a visit to the Escher Museum, a canal trip through Amsterdam and, of

course, playing hockey against some good quality Dutch sides. The boys played well with a record of three wins and three losses, with some keenly contested matches. Well done to all the boys, who conducted themselves admirably throughout the week.

*Mr S Mitchell*



### Easter Ski Trip

Thirty-two pupils and four members of staff enjoyed four seasons of weather in Austria during a successful trip to the Oberlungau region. Our first day saw blue skies and many green fields but luckily there was enough white stuff to ski on. The second day proved to be like mid-summer with temperatures of 20°C at 10.00am half way up the mountain. Luckily, the cloud built up and the temperature dropped and

for the last two days in Obertauern we even had fresh snowfall. The whole group had a great holiday, with many stories to tell of big falls, many claims for who skied the fastest on a particular piste, and lots of chips and frankfurters eaten on the mountain. My thanks to Miss Rutherford, Miss Jones and Mr Jenkinson for making the trip such an enjoyable experience for the pupils and myself.

*Mr N Leonard*





**Lessons From Auschwitz: The trip all teenagers should take**

On 22 March 2017, students from across the West Midlands took part in The Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons From Auschwitz' (LFA) programme. Students between the ages of 16 and 18 took part in this one-day trip to Poland. Solihull School was one of the many schools taking part, and we were the ones selected to take part in this thought-provoking, enlightening experience. For Zack, a Jewish teenager and a member of Singers Hill Synagogue, the opportunity to visit Auschwitz Concentration Camp was one that could not be missed. Ancestral research has found some of his relatives were murdered in the Holocaust; primarily in the Lodz Ghetto and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, we walked along the saturated mud path, and saw the daunting, deathly symbol that was the main building. Photographs and digital media cannot capture the eeriness of the camp. We went to several buildings, including the latrines and a quarantine block. Then we went along the train tracks to a memorial; originally a Soviet commemoration. To the right of it lay the remains of a gas chamber — lying in pieces after the Nazi SS tried to destroy this incriminating evidence as they fled the camp shortly before liberation. Despite the building being a wreck, the scale of murder could be clearly seen.

This was followed by a ceremony, conducted by a Rabbi, which included prayers in both Hebrew and English, followed by the blowing of the Shofar (a ceremonial ram's horn). After this, we walked back to our coach, ready to return to the airport. However, before we did so, we had a chance to light a candle at the memorial and Zack recited the Kaddish (the traditional Jewish mourners' prayer).

Reflections:

**Amy:** 'The day was a moving and unique experience which, it is safe to say, will always remain with me'.

**Serena:** 'Visiting Auschwitz made me aware of the brutality that mankind is capable of, and has since encouraged me to ensure education prevents history ever having the opportunity to repeat itself. A completely eye-opening trip'.

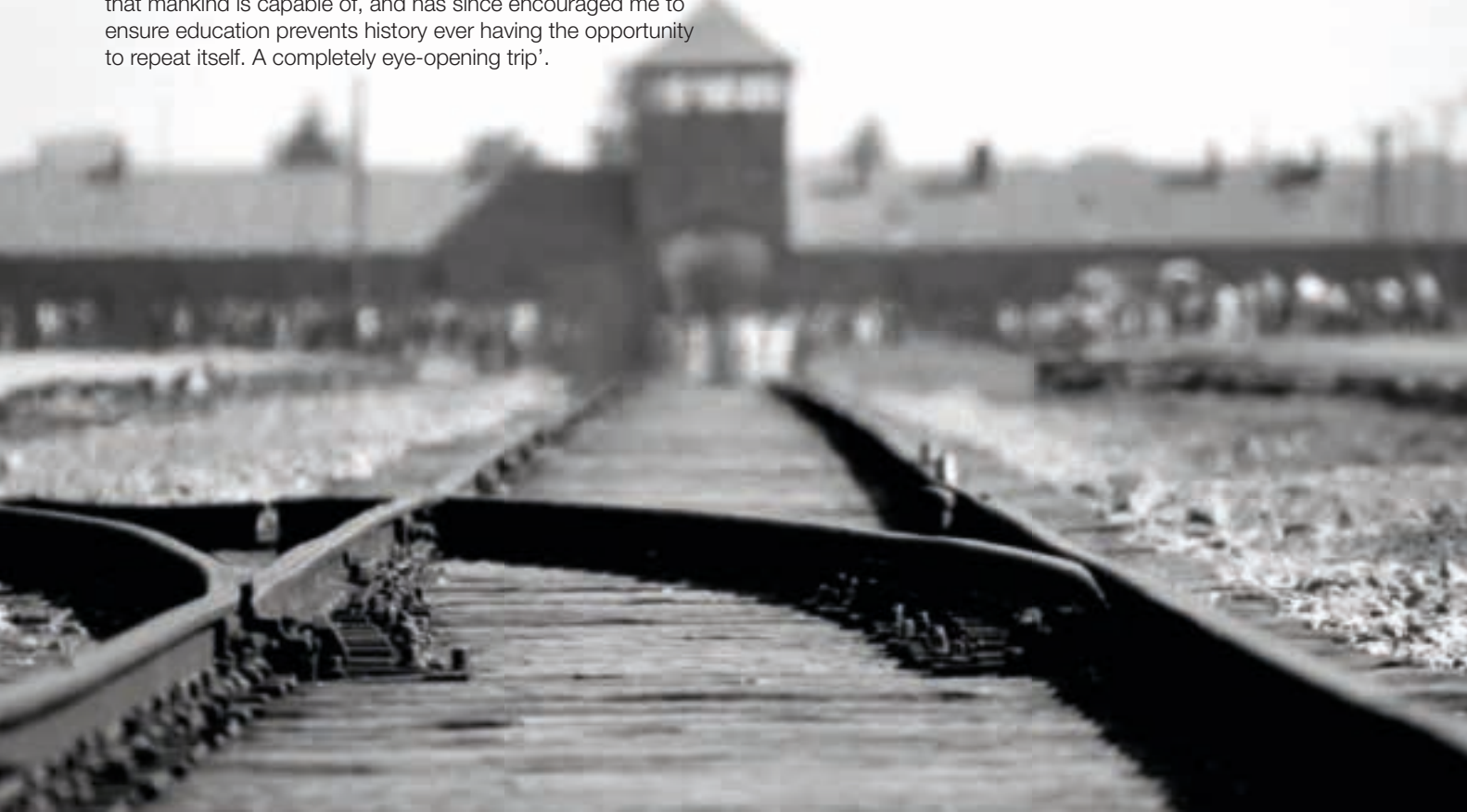
**Aisha:** 'Initially, I saw the opportunity of visiting Auschwitz as a way to expand my own personal knowledge of the time period and heighten my understanding of wartime Germany. However, after having had the opportunity to walk the same route as those who were imprisoned in such an inhumane way, I now understand the real purpose of young people educating themselves on the events is to ensure that the legacy of those who perished lives on — I gained a real insight into the ways in which society today must work towards a greater level of tolerance and acceptance. The experience was truly life-changing and will never be forgotten'.

**Zack:** 'As a Jewish teenager, the day was a harrowing experience, but also an enlightening one. Two things really stood out to me: the grass and the hair. I found out prior to the trip, having spoken to Mindu Hornick, people were so desperately hungry they ate the grass. None was left by the time Mrs Hornick was there. Now the grass has grown back, the scale of the desperation could be seen. The mounds of hair was also horrific for me, especially considering there is a very high chance there is a genetic link between the many strands of hair of those murdered in Auschwitz, and my own hair. This shows how the Holocaust affects all of us'.

After this trip, we must undertake a 'Next Steps' project. We plan to make a rock memorial to complement Solihull School's sapling from the tree opposite Anne Frank's home, in Amsterdam. We will use rocks, as they are the traditional item placed at a Jewish memorial.

We would all like to thank the Holocaust Educational Trust for providing this opportunity to so many young people, and to Solihull School for selecting us as their representatives on this programme in 2017. We would also like to encourage more students in the community to partake in this incredible programme, which is open for students between the ages of 16-18.

*Zack Bhalla, Amy Edge, Aisha Hussain and Serena Smith, Lower Sixth*



**Berlin 2016**

Friday 25 November saw the German students head for the biennial visit to Berlin. Our arrival on Friday allowed us to have a guided tour around the Berlin Unterwelten, followed by a visit to the DDR Museum. On Saturday we had a tour around the city centre, followed by a tour around the Stasi Museum, a meal in a Turkish restaurant and a visit to the Wintergarten Variety Theatre. On Sunday we visited the Check Point Charlie Museum, Jewish Museum and the East Side Gallery (the longest surviving stretch of Berlin Wall). On Monday we went up the Television Tower and had a guided tour around the Reichstag Building. It was a fascinating and enriching trip.

*Mrs P Cramb*





**Klondike Expedition**

For the expedition this summer we headed to Canada and Alaska, the idea being to follow in the footsteps of the Klondike prospectors of the 1890s. This involved walking the Chilkoot Pass from Skagway, Alaska over the mountains to Bennett in Canada. This was a five-day trek carrying full packs and wild camping each night with the addition of making the camps 'bear proof'. After this we canoed down the mighty Yukon River for 470km from Whitehorse to Dawson City, the location of the Klondike River. This part of the trip took eight days and involved us being remote in the wilderness of wild Canada, cooking on open fires, making shelters and camping some nights on islands in the river. Overall, it was a fabulous expedition with a wonderful group of students.

*Mr M Garner*







## Japan 2017

This year's cultural trip to Japan was a phenomenal success, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, with culture, history, wildlife, landscapes, food and a population like no other country.

Nineteen students and three staff took part in the ten-day trip. The itinerary was planned to perfection, with each day completely full from start to finish. Every day we saw something new and amazing... imposing temples, sacred shrines, wild animals and geological wonders. Everything in Japan is a work of art.

Tokyo was an exceptionally energetic metropolis. So many people in one city, but so suitably organised, clean and efficient. Cutting edge technology, neon lights and bold skyscrapers such as the Tokyo Sky Tree towered alongside intricate ancient temples, shrines, fish markets, karaoke bars and cat cafes. The people were polite and hospitable. Nobody rushed or pushed and there was not a scrap of litter to be seen.

We found new friendships based on our shared interests in various videogames, manga comics and anime. At the heart of Japanese animation or 'Anime', Studio Ghibli allowed us to visually connect with some of the genre's most popular artists and founders, giving us a true insight into contemporary Japanese motion-picture.



The food in Japan was never dull... sometimes odd, sometimes delicious and sometimes unexpectedly ghastly, but always beautiful to look at. We tried our hand at making some of the traditional ramen noodles, mochi desserts and wax food models, which are traditionally displayed outside Japanese restaurants. We travelled from Tokyo to Kyoto and Osaka by Japan's famous bullet train, visiting the stunning Hakone National Park at the foothills of Mount Fuji and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park; a thought-provoking and moving experience.

The temples and shrines we visited were awe-inspiring and our guides explained the unique traditions and customs practised there by the Japanese people. Itsukushima Shrine, the iconic floating torii gate on Miyajima Island, was stunning and tame deer roamed freely on the island, being shooed out of shops by the Japanese shop keepers. The back streets of Kyoto were lined with a multitude of shops, shrines, temples and tea houses. Geishas in traditional Kimonos wandered through the atmospheric maze of narrow alleys. Our visit to the Golden Temple was a mesmerising experience. The diversity in Japan was so much more than I could have expected and, given the chance, I would love to go back and see more of this amazing country.

*Lewis Smith, Lower Sixth*



Iceland 2016

Over the first six days of the October half-term, the Geography Department took 48 pupils to Iceland. The first two days were spent in the north of the country where we were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights before returning to the south of the island. As well as sampling the national recreation on offer in terms of various hot tubs and geothermal pools, we also saw many outstanding features such as the waterfalls at Goðafoss and Gullfoss, as well as geysers and mud pools. The trip wouldn't have been complete without the experience of lava tubing and a glacier ice walk!

Mr M Covill





**History & Politics Trip to Washington DC, 4-10 April 2017**

Twenty-one students travelled to Washington DC on the well-worn Birmingham-to-Dulles-via-a-four-hour-stopover-at-Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle route to cast their eye on the first one hundred days of the Trump Administration. Remarkably, everyone got through immigration and we were able to visit many museums and galleries, including the powerful Holocaust Museum and the National Gallery of Art. But by far the most interesting exhibition was seeing how Solihull students coped with the 2\* accommodation of Hotel Harrington, replete with a decor that makes Stonehenge look edgy and contemporary, and an air conditioning system which is considerably more ancient than some of the states in the Union (although its downtown location is unrivalled).

The students were great tourists as we surveyed the war memorials, checked in to the Smithsonian, and watched a play at the historic Ford's Theatre. Off the beaten track, we were granted a private audience with an Aide to Congressman Lee Zeldin at the US Capitol, and we peered down our giant hotdogs to see Washington Wizards succumb to a narrow defeat to Miami Heat. We also spent a pleasant afternoon in the quaint environs of Georgetown and paid our respects to the fallen at Arlington Cemetery. It was a great immersion into the American political scene and the students were a pleasure throughout the whole trip.

Mr P Ford



**Paris 2016**

The annual French Department Paris trip was a success again this year! As per our established itinerary, we visited the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Élysées, the French national stadium, the Aquaboulevard indoor water park, and of course, Disneyland. This year also saw the introduction of the Louvre Gallery to the tour, and a dedicated shopping afternoon at *la Grande Arche*. For the pupils, the highlights have to be the spectacular firework display at Disneyland, the impressive Eiffel Tower illuminations, or buying expensive gifts for their parents in the shopping centre!

For the staff though, the highlight was probably stepping in as waiters and waitresses, when we had to serve the three-course dinner to all 40 children on the first night, in a restaurant equipped with only *deux serveurs*! What a treat after a 12-hour coach journey! We are already looking forward to our next visit.

Mr A Dowsett





### Edgbaston Watersports Centre

For Activities Day this year, the entire Shell Form had a whole day of fun on the water at Edgbaston Reservoir in Birmingham. On a gloriously hot June day, pupils had a go at sailing, kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding. It was a wonderful day at this fantastic hidden oasis in the centre of the city!

*Dr P Spratley*



### Netball International

On Sunday 4 December, Solihull students visited the Ricoh Arena in Coventry to watch England v Jamaica in the deciding netball match of the series. It was very close all the way through, but England narrowly lost 56-61. It was an exciting game and a great experience. We would like to thank Mrs Smith, Mrs Baden, Mrs Meigh, and Miss Lloyd for organising and supervising this wonderful trip.

To our surprise, we were able to watch a bonus match between the Wasps senior squad and the England U21s beforehand. This followed on from a trip in November where we were lucky enough to meet the new Wasps squad. We had an opportunity to ask them questions about their netball experiences, training and future goals. After the Q&A we had the fabulous opportunity to watch them train.

*Harriet Toogood, Lower Fifth*

### Hampton Court Trip

In the Easter term, 30 Lower Sixth Historians spent a chilly but productive day at Hampton Court Palace. As well as soaking up the general Tudor atmosphere by admiring and analysing huge paintings and tapestries and exploring the kitchens and gardens, pupils took part in a focused A-Level workshop. This allowed them to use the Palace as a source of evidence and consider the reasons why the once highly influential Cardinal Wolsey fell out of favour with King Henry VIII.

*Mrs L Spratley*





## Greece 2017

Throughout the first week of Easter the Classics Society visited Greece, visiting a number of different ancient sites and museums. After spending the first day travelling, we awoke early in Athens to visit the Acropolis, a rocky complex built on a high hill. Here, we explored the Areopagus Hill, which was a court for murder trials, and a number of temples including the Parthenon and the Erechtheion. After this we walked to the Theatre of Dionysus, which was extremely exciting as it was the birth place of many famous Greek tragedies and comedies. We then visited the Agora, the marketplace, where we visited the Temple of Hephaistos before stopping for lunch in Athens. After lunch, we visited the New Acropolis Museum which included the Parthenon Gallery and the five out of the six Erechtheion maidens.

The next day we headed on the coach to the Keramikos, the potters' quarters and its museum, which displayed a variety of tombstones allowing us to guess the identity of the people buried there. The National Archaeological Museum allowed us to marvel at lots of statues relevant to the A-Level Classicists as well as the Mask of Agamemnon, an ancient king of Mycenae. This museum gave us a greater insight into the world of the Ancient Greeks including the art that they created and enjoyed.

The third day began with us departing the hotel and arriving at the site of Delphi, which was the sanctuary dedicated towards Apollo and the centre of the ancient world. Surrounded by breathtaking views, we saw the mysterious Tholos and the grand Temple of Apollo which would have housed the oracle. Delphi was also home to Dionysus meaning that we were able to compare the theatre at this site to the one in Athens. After this we visited the Delphi museum which housed the twin statues of Kleobis and Biton as well as the Delphic Charioteer, which was a popular statue. Then we got back on the coach and travelled to Olympia.

At Olympia we were able to explore the ancient sanctuary and learn about its dual role as a religious and sporting site as it is the birth place of the Olympic Games. As well as racing in the stadium we visited the Temple of Zeus and learnt about the thirteen-metre-tall ivory and gold statue of Zeus which was named one of the Ancient Wonders of the World. As we walked around the site we discussed the different influences that other cultures had on the site, especially the Romans. We visited the museum which was paired with the site allowing us to see the artefacts found in and around the ancient site. Olympia is also the home to the statue of Hermes and Dionysus, one of the finest statues surviving from the sculpture Praxiteles. After exploring the museum we travelled to the coast of Tolo where we spent an evening exploring the modern town.

The next day brought us to Mycenae, a Bronze Age site which is distinctly different from others we saw on this trip and home of the infamous Agamemnon. Placed on a hill top, Mycenae was known for its defensive walls which were over six metres tall and we marvelled at their ability to build such strong structures. Mycenae is also known as the city of gold due to the masses of golden offerings found in their beehive-style graves. We compared the two different types of graves seen at the site as well as the different burial rituals that they had, included smashing pottery at the door. We also visited Tiryns, a neighbouring city state and learnt about the relationship that they would have had - Tiryns is thought to be the harbour town for Mycenae. After a long lunch we travelled to Epidaurus, an ancient hybrid of health spa and psychiatric hospital, though many of their medicinal methods were questionable! Epidaurus is also home to a very impressive theatre which is still used to host literary festivals every summer, meaning we could experience ancient acoustics.



When we visited the highly elusive Eleusis the following day we were presented with a challenge of understanding exactly what happened at this ancient site. As a site dedicated to Demeter, we saw plenty of images of corn and flowers, contrasted with a supposed entrance to the underworld. Since nobody truly understands what happened here, we tried to guess what happened in this mystery cult which was appropriated by the Romans.

Always looking for an opportunity to learn, on the day of our departure we visited the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion. One of the many reasons this site is famous is due to the visit from Lord Byron, the Romantic poet who carved his name on the temple – not that we condone this behaviour in the Classics Department! This temple is still remarkably intact and seeing the creamy marble contrasted against brilliant blue skies was truly the perfect ending to a glorious week. A big thank you must go to Mrs Johnson, Miss Roberts, Mr Jones and Izzy Serle who made the week so enjoyable and educational.

*Charlotte Williams and Georgia Greenburgh, Upper Sixth*





### Shell Form Latin Trip to Cirencester

Travelling back in time, the Shell Form Latinists became part of the Roman world, learning about the town of Cirencester almost two thousand years ago. As the second biggest settlement at the time, Cirencester (or Corinium as the Romans called it) is a true Roman town.

From the amphitheatre to the museum we were amazed by the number of artefacts left behind and when we dressed up we felt like true Romans or should I say 'Romani vera'.

The remains of the amphitheatre gave us a vivid image of what it would have been like almost two thousand years ago. We were able to imagine the thrill and excitement of the amphitheatre and we learnt about the types of entertainment that would go on there. The amphitheatre, which is one of the largest in Britain, would have been able to hold about 8,000 spectators. Here, people could watch entertainments such as plays and animal fights, and also hear public announcements. We learnt lots about the amphitheatre and were amazed at the amount that it echoed!

We also visited the Corinium Museum in Cirencester where we looked at Roman graves, rooms and artefacts. We learnt about a range of topics including Roman military, jewellery and fashion, education, medicine, and much more. Whilst we were at the museum we also had a lesson where we got to look at artefacts and decide who we thought would have owned them.

We also went on a tour around Cirencester where we saw the remains of the Roman wall, forum and temple. We also looked at the places where the entrance gates would have been to the town. It was a very interesting trip as a lot of the time we had to use our imaginations to try and understand what the town once would have looked like. Everybody learned a lot from the trip and we now feel that we have a better insight into life in Roman times.

*Jenny Hodge and Emma Gahan, Shell Form*



### Fourth Form Bath Latin Trip

On Wednesday 25 January, the Fourth Form Latinists set out on an educational trip to the Roman Baths in the spa town of Bath, known to the Romans as Aquae Sulis. Firstly, we went into a classroom full of fascinating artefacts, some of which were used by the Romans. We also translated some Roman gravestones into English and we learnt more about their life in Roman Britain. Whilst studying characters in our Latin lessons we found it interesting to find out more about them and to see their gravestones in real life. The visual factor had a large impact on our learning as we got to understand more details about things such as brickwork, cleanliness, and heating in the Roman era.

After having our classroom lesson, we were let loose for lunch. Whilst walking around Bath, we all noticed the beauty of the city, and how old some of the buildings were. Once we returned from our lunches, we entered the museum and looked around the different exhibitions. We filled in our booklets, which told us even more information about who made all the different artefacts and how they were made. As we walked through the original bath experience, we saw all the different rooms and the places of worship; one of the key places for worship that we saw was The Sacred Spring. We saw all of the different offerings that had been thrown into the spring such as silver dishes, headdresses, and jewellery. As well as looking at different pieces in the museum, there were also a lot of interactive activities that some of us took part in.

After strolling through the interior of the baths, we finally reached The Great Bath where we were all intrigued to find out that it was previously covered by a high vaulted roof. We then calculated the area of the baths which some of us found very challenging. Some of us were brave enough to try some of the



Bath water, however most of us were repulsed by the taste. After viewing The Great Bath we worked our way to the East and West Baths, where we saw the Apodyterium, Caldarium, Tepidarium and Frigidarium.

We would like to thank the Classics Department for arranging the trip and all the other teachers for accompanying us on this informative and amusing trip. A great time was had by all.

*Ella Furber and Rebecca Vidal, Fourth Form*





**Snowdonia School**

All pupils in the Shell Form have once again had the opportunity to visit the School's Mountain Cottage in the Snowdonia National Park for a week of fun, adventure, hiking and learning about the history and culture of North Wales. This year's Group 318 who stayed at the Cottage in June, was blessed with glorious weather and after our ascent of Snowdon, we were treated to some wonderful views from the summit. We also enjoyed canoeing on Llyn Padarn, a day of rock climbing along the Llanberis Pass, a tour of Caernarfon Castle, and visits to the National Slate Museum and the Electric Mountain in Llanberis. Hot Chocolate and games at the Cottage were the perfect way to end our fun-filled days, and everyone had a fantastic experience.

*Dr P Spratley*







### Third Form at Woodlands

It was only the second school day of the academic year when the whole of the Third Form descended upon Woodlands Camp near Sutton Coldfield. Various outdoor activities helped each of the five new tutor groups to work together and the pupils get to know each other. Despite getting wet and very muddy a good time was had by all.

*Mr O Bate*



### Safeside

The Third Form visited Safeside in Birmingham, to learn about staying safe at home and when out and about. They took on the role of safety advisors and walked around Safeside's mock village, advising its 'residents' (students from the Birmingham School of Acting) about how to stay safe in a variety of situations, such as when on the bus, or when visiting the shops. The pupils did a fantastic job of identifying hazards and thinking of ways to avoid them. A great day was had by all!

*Miss M Lloyd*



# Teams of the Week 2016/17

U13A and B XV Rugby Team	<i>Excellent victories v King's School, Worcester</i>
Theatre Team	<i>Tremendous Summer Holiday commitment</i>
1st XI Cricket Team	<i>Warwickshire County Champions</i>
The 'Chariots' Team	<i>An excellent performance!</i>
Ski Team	<i>A superb performance in the British Schools' Ski Race</i>
CCF Cadet Parachute Team	<i>Successfully completing a solo parachute jump</i>
DofE Gold Expedition Team	<i>Completion of the Gold Award: Lake District Expedition October 2016</i>
Hockey Skills & Drills Team	<i>Excellent Instruction at the Hockey Transition Event</i>
Girls' U15 Hockey Team	<i>Fantastic victory v Wolverhampton Grammar School</i>
Girls' U13A Hockey Team	<i>Congratulations on a series of great wins!</i>
The Wardrobe Sixth Form Directors	<i>Excellent direction of the Lower School Play</i>
Schools' Challenge Team	<i>Tremendous commitment, enthusiasm &amp; performance in the regional rounds of the competition</i>
The LAFF Charity Team	<i>Superb fundraising initiative</i>
The IT Team	<i>Exemplary teamwork</i>
Cast and Crew of His Dark Materials: Part Two	<i>Three nights of fantastic drama in the Bushell Hall</i>
Chapel Choir	<i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
Lower & Middle School Debating Teams	<i>Excellent performance in the ICYD Debating Competition</i>
Lower Sixth Drama Student Directors	<i>Superb direction of the Junior School's Drama Workshop</i>
Squash Team	<i>Fantastic victory against King Edward's School</i>
Boys' U13A Hockey Team	<i>Tremendous performance &amp; victory v Trent College</i>
Bar Mock Trial Team	<i>Excellent performance in the Independent Schools' Competition</i>
Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team	<i>Congratulations on a series of great wins!</i>
U15A Netball Team	<i>Excellent performance &amp; victory v Bromsgrove School</i>
LAFF Charity Team	<i>Excellent team effort preparing for charity 'tuck-shop' takeover</i>
Cast & Crew of 'Mind Over Matter'	<i>A fantastic charity dance concert in aid of Mind &amp; Birmingham Children's Hospital Star Appeal</i>
Young Enterprise Team 'Think'	<i>Winners of the 'Best Product Prize' at the Touchwood Trade Fair</i>
Cast and Crew of Tommy	<i>Four fabulous nights of music and drama</i>
Benchers 2016-17	<i>A fantastic team effort for 2016-2017</i>
Middle School Debating Team	<i>Regional Winners of the International Competition for Young Debaters</i>
Cross Country Team	<i>Excellent performance in winning the Albutt Borough Championship Finals</i>
Young Enterprise Team 'Aspiration'	<i>Winners of the 'Best Trade Stand Prize' in the YE Birmingham Area Finals</i>
The Chess Team	<i>Runners-up in the Birmingham &amp; District Chess League</i>
U13A Cricket Team	<i>Excellent victory against Trent College in the National Cup</i>
Cast and Crew of The Last Resort	<i>Two nights of fabulous drama</i>
Business and Economics Team	<i>Winners of the CIPFA Games</i>
Third Form Spelling Bee Team	<i>Excellent performance in National Competition</i>





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