



Solihull School



MEDIA CUTTINGS
2010 - 2011



Solihull School

2010 - 2011

A new era for the School was ushered in at the end of its 450th anniversary year with the arrival of David E J J Lloyd as the new Headmaster.

New head takes helm at top independent school

SOLIHULL School has appointed a new Headmaster to maintain and build on its outstanding reputation for academic, sporting and extra-curricular success.

David Lloyd, who has 20 years experience in the independent sector, has taken up his post at the start of this autumn term.

The 42 year old has joined the co-educational

independent school, which is celebrating its 450th anniversary, from Ryde School with Upper Chine on the Isle of Wight where he has been Deputy Headmaster for the past five years.

He is married to Debbie, a nursery teacher, who also worked at Ryde in the School's Preparatory Department. Their two daughters Jessie (11) and Megan

(13) have joined Solihull School in Year 7 and Year 8 respectively.

Having a strong business background and a wealth of knowledge of the area, David was previously Head of Economics and Business Studies and also Senior Master at one of Solihull's main rivals, Warwick School, for 11 years.

David said: "I am extremely

excited and proud to have joined a very successful school that also enjoys a reputation as a caring and family orientated community, with many families actively maintaining their association with the school long after their children have left.

"Its motto of 'Perseverantia' (perseverance) is abundantly evident in the legions of Silhilians that have gone on

to be pioneers and leaders in their chosen fields.

"To ensure that we continue to move forward as a school, I want to encourage a spirit of aspiration with pupils and staff being as ambitious as possible for their school and themselves.

"I also want to engender a life-long love of learning through a modern, balanced curriculum."



● David Lloyd

Birmingham Press
September 24th 2010

David takes school reins

A NEW Headmaster has taken over the reins at Solihull School.

David Lloyd took up the post at the start of the autumn term, succeeding Phillip Griffiths who retired after five years as Headmaster in a 38-year teaching career spent entirely at Solihull School.

The 42 year-old has joined the co-educational independent school, which is celebrating its 450th anniversary, from Ryde School with Upper Chine on the Isle of Wight where he has been Deputy Head-

master for the past five years.

He is married to Debbie, a nursery teacher, who also worked at Ryde in the School's Preparatory Department. Their two daughters Jessie aged 11, and Megan aged 13, have joined Solihull School in Year 7 and Year 8 respectively.

David was previously Head of Economics and Business Studies and also Senior Master at Warwick School for 11 years.

He said: "I am extremely excited and proud to have joined a very successful school that also enjoys a



■ New Solihull School headmaster David Lloyd

reputation as a caring and family orientated community, with many families actively maintaining their association with the school long after their children have left."

An impressive 84% of leavers won places at the university of their choice.

Students make the A level grade

SOLIHULL School's Head Boy and Head Girl were among 47 students who achieved at least three A or A* grades in their A levels.

The Independent School in Warwick Road recorded a 100 per cent pass

Chris Willmott

rate for the sixth year running, with an impressive 83 per cent of passes graded between A* and B and 58 per cent between A* and A.

There were a total of 400 exam entries by 127 students.

Head Girl Emma Johnson got an A* in biology and A grades in chemistry and mathematics.

She will now be going on to read medi-

cine at Cardiff University.

Head Boy Michael Hawkes will be taking up a place at York University to read psychology after his A* in maths and As in psychology and biology.

Headmaster David E J J Lloyd said: "I

am delighted with this outstanding set of results. An overall pass rate of over 80 per cent at grades B to A* is a tremendous achievement and rewards all the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff."



Headmaster David Lloyd congratulates Head Boy Michael Hawkes and Head Girl Emma Johnson on their outstanding A level results (s)

Solihull Observer
August 25th 2011

Solihull Observer
August 25th 2011



Solihull School students who gained at least three A or A* grades celebrate their success on the School lawn (s)



Rising competition for Oxbridge places

KATKEOGH

Education Correspondent

As experts predict England is set to become the most expensive place in the world to study, the race for university places at the country's top two universities shows no sign of slowing down.

Research published by the University and Colleges Union reveals England could overtake Iceland and the United States as the most expensive university education provider if tuition fees rise to £5,000 or more.

But with thousands of students battling out for places at Oxbridge universities, can you afford to put a price on a first-class education?

More than 17,000 people applied for an undergraduate place at Oxford for entry for the 2010 intake, up 12 per cent on the previous year.

And Cambridge earlier this year unseated Harvard to top the league table of the world's best universities.

The universities' reputation as the home of the academic elite is not lost on hundreds of the region's brightest students, who were this week putting the finishing touches to their Oxbridge applications.

Under the strict admissions process, students are required to submit their applications to Oxford or Cambridge by October 15 – three months earlier than sixth formers vying for places at other universities have to apply through UCAS.

But a thirst for knowledge and straight As may not be enough to secure a place, and with competition fiercer than ever, students are expected to put in hours of extra work in a bid to land a place at their chosen college.

At Solihull School, the work starts in the summer holidays, when students are encouraged to read around their chosen subject in preparation for the selection process. Weekly group sessions follow to

give guidance to students on completing the application form, with all-important personal statements, along with support on an admissions test and interview.

About 50 former Solihull School students are currently studying at Oxford or Cambridge, according to director of studies David Morgan.

"We want to give all our pupils the chance to realise their potential, and Oxbridge is not right for everyone," he said.

"But Oxford and Cambridge remain popular because they are two of the world's great universities and the reasons for going there have remained the same for hundreds of years.

"There is a sense of personal satisfaction on their behalf when someone is offered a place because it is such a competitive system."

Among the 25 Oxbridge hopefuls from Solihull School this year is head boy Mike Hawkes, who is applying for a place to read psychology.

The 17-year-old said: "Applying was something that was always at the back of my mind, as studying at Oxford or Cambridge is the epitome of higher education.

"The school makes you believe that if you have the potential you can put yourself forward.

"We have group classes, so it's not just about focusing on your own application – you can give encouragement to the others who are applying too."

Extra reading and classes may sound like a lot to take on in what is already a challenging year for upper sixth formers, but Mark's classmate Rachael Ridler relishes the challenge.

The 17-year-old, who is hoping to read philosophy, said: "There is extra work, but it's a subject I'm interested in so there's the motivation there to put the work in.

"I'm quite a determined person and I see it as a personal challenge. It's quite exciting and it makes you work harder."

For more information on UCAS visit www.ucas.ac.uk



Solihull School's Oxbridge applicants (front row, from left) Rupert Duihouse, Sinha Mrigank and (back row) Robert Blakey, Rachael Ridler and Mike Hawkes

Polar explorer Ben Saunders urged his audience to fulfil their potential in one of the most inspirational Speech Day addresses in the School's history. His philosophy ...“impossible is just an option”.



Polar explorer Ben Saunders

Polar explorer at speech day

Polar explorer and record-breaking long-distance skier Ben Saunders was guest speaker and presenter of prizes at Solihull School's annual Speech Day.

Parents, governors, teachers and pupils in a packed Bushell Hall were enthralled by his account of how he defied freezing temperatures to become, at the age of 26, the youngest person to ski solo to the North Pole.

He was welcomed by headmaster David Lloyd as one of a number of principal guests which also included the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts, and Graham Hughes, who will be retiring at the end of the year after six years as chairman of the Governors and 17 years as a member of the governing body.



Sasha Lyttle, Alistair Lyttle, Alan Hill

Pictures: Edward Moss



Frankie Levey, Ashley Fraser, Alex Darlington, David Lloyd, headmaster; Dominic Harding, Roisin Noo

Birmingham Post
October 22nd 2011

IT'S A FACT: As befits one of the most traditional events in the school calendar, Speech Day remains the one academic occasion at which all teachers wear full academic dress.



A former pupil from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the parent regiment of the School's Combined Cadet Force, was guest of honour at the Remembrance Service.

All ages pay respect to the fallen in war

And at Solihull School, a former pupil - now a soldier - came back to take part in a Remembrance Day service.

Alex Gay, an officer with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, returned to lay a wreath at the war memorial.

The 23-year-old was a member of the cadets and decided he wanted to pursue a career in the armed forces.

"Remembrance Day is hugely important and it's good to be back, because the Fusiliers are the parent regiment of the school's cadets," he said.

Solihull News
November 19th 2010

IT'S A FACT: More than 120 ex-pupils have given their lives for their country



Pupils Elle Berrow, nine, and Jack Rootkin-Gray, eight, lay their own wreath at a special service at Solihull School. (s)

Solihull Observer
November 18th 2010

The School was judged to be outstanding by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

School set to expand

SOLIHULL School is opening its doors to an even larger number of pupils after being described as one of the most outstanding schools in the Midlands.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has found the Warwick Road school, which has maintained a full complement of 1,000 students despite the recession, to be excellent in almost every area in its inspection report.

So great has been the demand for places that the 450-year old school will be increasing the number of forms joining the junior school from two to three for the first time from September 2011.

Last inspected in 2005 when it went fully co-educational, Solihull School was adjudged to be "outstandingly successful in educating pupils in accordance with its aims".

The report found that public examination performance was "consis-

tently above average for maintained selective schools", while "creativity" was "strongly encouraged, resulting in art work of superb quality and exceptional standards being achieved in music and drama", and pupils were found to "enjoy all aspects of their work and achieve very high levels of success in sporting and academic competitions".

Personal development was seen as excellent with the school's "wide curriculum and wealth of extra-curricular activities" resulting in "well-balanced individuals with a good sense of their own and others' worth". Pupils were also found to be "fiercely proud of their school and highly appreciative of the numerous opportunities open to them".

Headmaster David Lloyd said: "We are all delighted with this report which shows just how successful we are in providing pupils with a rich educational experience and it has bolstered already strong demand for places from the junior School to



■ Headmaster of Solihull School, David Lloyd

the sixth Form. We aim to provide pupils with inspiring academic, intellectual and extra curricular lives and a suitable preparation to becoming responsible caring adults."

As well as going fully co-educational in the past six years, Solihull School has made a major investment in facilities including a new music school, sports pavilion, performing arts centre, food technology suite, new departmental classrooms and pupils' social areas and the refurbishment and extension of the junior school.

Solihull News
June 10th 2011

Pupil admissions boost

A leading independent school has announced plans to increase admissions after being named one of the most "outstanding" schools in the Midlands.

Solihull School is set to increase the number of forms joining the junior school from two to three for the first time from September.

The co-educational school, which currently has 1,000 pupils on roll, said demand for places has remained high despite the recession. An inspection carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) found it was "outstandingly successful in educating pupils in accordance with its aims".

IT'S A FACT: With mixed classes in every year, girls now make up approximately 40% of the school roll.

Birmingham Post
March 26th 2011



The Independent Schools Inspectorate Report confirmed how the School's encouragement of "creativity" has resulted in "exceptional standards being achieved in music and drama".

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

Life's a jig for Joe

A young Irish dance champion, and film star, has his feet firmly on the ground - most of the time

What are you studying?

I'm in my first year of A levels studying Maths, Psychology, French and Business

Tell us about yourself and what you have done to be a 'Bright Young Thing'

I am the World Under-17 Irish Dance Champion, having retained the world title for my age group for the past five years. I started Irish dance lessons at the Kennelly Dance School in San Francisco at the age of seven while I was growing up in Silicon Valley California. My sister Caroline danced so I wanted to as well. I loved the music and the fast pace and progressed so well that within a year I won my first British title.

For the next two years I travelled regularly to the UK and Ireland for competitions before my parents decided to move to Britain so that I could go to the world-leading Danny Doherty Dance Academy in Coventry. I trained at first under Danny and then under John Carey, eight-times world champion and understudy to Michael Flatley in Lord of the Dance.

John's teaching and choreography have enabled me to win every competition that I've entered since 2009. Irish dance has opened many doors including the opportunity to star in a new feature film 'Jig' about the 2010 World Championships in Glasgow. Directed by Sue Bourne, the film has been released at cinemas nationwide and opened in America in June. I've enjoyed all the media

attention including appearing on ITV's Daybreak and BBC's Breakfast shows and Ireland's Late Late Show, and being interviewed for the US premiere in New York.

What are your ambitions?

I have had a great Irish dance career. I would now love to branch out and take up tap dancing. But my first priority is to get into a good university to possibly study Business, Economics or Law, or a combination.

What's best about Warwickshire?

As well as having two outstanding schools in Solihull School and the Carey Academy, it has great transport links. I live in the countryside with a front garden overlooking a canal and a back garden abutting a cricket club yet just five minutes from the M42 motorway and Birmingham Airport. It's like having the world on your doorstep.

What do you do in your spare time?

I stay very active. If I'm not dancing, I'm likely to be keeping fit at my local David Lloyd Centre. I also enjoy going out with friends to the cinema and doing other things that keep me entertained.

What is your favourite book?

These days all I seem to have time for are textbooks!

What is your favourite film?

'Blood Diamond' because it illustrates how the Western world funds civil wars



Joe O'Donnell Bitter
in the film 'Jig'

through the use of Africa's most prized resources.

What is your favourite TV show?

'Friends'. It's the funniest programme on TV. I've seen each episode repeatedly - they never seem to get old.

BRIGHT YOUNG THING IN A NUTSHELL

Name: Joe O'Donnell Bitter

Age: 17

Lives: Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull

Attends: Solihull School

ARE YOU A BRIGHT YOUNG THING? OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 WHO SHOULD BE FEATURED ON THIS PAGE?

Email tony.lennox@archant.co.uk and tell me why.

Creative Boom.

West Midlands

the guardian
culture professionals network

Grease is the word for Solihull school students

Posted by [Katv Cowan](#) in [Events](#) on Thursday 24th March 2011.



The swinging '50s have returned to Solihull School as a staggering 250 students applied for the 17 named roles in its latest production of Grease the Musical.

Three weeks of competitive auditions led to Philippe Marks being cast as Danny, the leader of the T-Birds, and Sarah Bradbury as Sandy, Danny's love interest, in the high school musical which is being staged in the School's Bushell Hall from March 22-26.

Fifteen A-level Theatre Studies students are appearing in the show, which has a 70-strong cast and chorus drawn entirely from the Sixth Form. Live music will be provided by the School Band supplemented by two ex-pupils currently at university.

Former pupil Sam Mason has also been helping the main cast to choreograph and rehearse the unforgettable songs such as You're The One That I Want and Summer Nights under the overall direction of Lisa Fair, Head of the Sixth Form.

Lisa Fair said: "To help meet the staggering level of interest, we decided to develop large enough chorus roles to enable as many as possible to get involved. With everyone working terrifically hard in rehearsals, the show promises to be electrifying."

A small number of tickets, priced at £5, are still available for performances of Grease at Solihull School's Bushell Hall in Warwick Road, Solihull by calling 0121 705 0958.

Caption: Sarah Bradbury and Philippe Marks (centre) head the cast of Solihull School's new production of Grease the Musical

Creative Boom
March 24th 2011

Lure of the stage pulls in numbers

A RECORD number of Solihull School pupils have shown their passion and enthusiasm for the stage after 130 boys and girls auditioned for the 30 roles in their Easter term show.

The production of Grease, which called for acting, singing and dancing skills, is one of seven being staged this year and the 21st in just three years for the school (excluding Sixth Form Theatre Studies course projects).

The record audition followed the recent success of the Lower School play 'Titanic' in which 68 students performed the David Footon classic in music hall style.

The School, which is celebrating its 450th anniversary, is also returning to its 16th Century roots to stage Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' from November 24 to 26.

With a cast of 50 supported by six back stage crew, the production follows the success of the School's previous Shakespeare production 'Romeo & Juliet' in 2007.

The Middle School will also be following up its acclaimed show of 'Living with Lady Macbeth' by Rob John last year with Willy Russell's smash-hit musical 'Blood Brothers' from December 6 to 8.

The enthusiasm and versatility of the



pupils has also extended to an open air performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' that was produced entirely by the students at the school's 450th Open Day after the summer exams and again at its recent Speeches evening.

Joan Wade, Head of Drama, said: "Interest in drama at Solihull School has soared in the past five years with more shows put on than in any period in the School's history."

"The number of pupils actively involved in productions has more than doubled, while more than 30 pupils now regularly attend our weekly

Drama Club meetings.

"Much of that interest is down to the first-class performance facilities in our Bushell Hall, the support of teachers and A-level Theatre Studies students, and to the superb opportunities our talented students are given to express themselves artistically."

Emily Hodge and Lucy Rosier, both aged 15, play Tweedledum and Tweedledee in Solihull School's recent production of Alice in Wonderland. Picture by Edward Moss Photography. (x)

Solihull Observer
December 2nd 2010



Goodmedia

MUSIC

JUNIORS MAKE IT A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER!



The main cast of What a Knight! (standing) William Hardie (Watt Cobblers), Luke Bryant (Merlin the Magician), Benny Wu (King Arthur); and (kneeling) Emma Hadley (Dusty the Dragon) and Eloise Burchell (Princess Alice)

Solihull Junior School was transformed into Camelot for the evening as more than 50 boys and girls performed the musical What a Knight!

The nine to 11 year olds from the Drama Club donned medieval dress and used drama and song to bring Arthurian England to life in Solihull School's Bushell Hall.

One of the largest-ever audiences for a Junior School production gave a rapturous response to the show which featured the hilarious quest by Watt Cobblers and his friends Dusty Dragon and the wayward Princess Alice to rescue King Arthur's kidnapped daughters, find the lost Excalibur and defeat the evil Black Knight.

Janet Humphreys, Teacher in charge of Junior School Drama, said: "All the children were absolute stars. Everyone acted and sang confidently and enthusiastically as if they had been on the stage for years. Most importantly, they all had lots of fun rehearsing and performing to their friends and families."

Goodmedia
June 2011





■ **By the book:** Cerys, who recently moved from St George & St Teresa's School in Bentley Heath to Solihull School, will be signing copies of her book at Waterstones, in Solihull High Street, this Saturday, from 12noon.

Cerys has the write stuff

A TEN-year-old girl has become one of the world's youngest ever authors, with her first story launched tomorrow (Saturday).

Cerys Stansfield, from St Alphege, was only eight when she started to write her own fairytale - *The Power of the Pendant*.

The story took about a year, with Cerys' mum, dad, brother Morgan and schoolmates appearing as characters.

"I enjoy writing and love using my imagination," said Cerys.

"We do English every day at school and I've written lots of little stories."

The book started out as a creative writing exercise, with her tutor Shirley Thompson - a published writer herself.

"It's a remarkable achievement for someone so young," said Shirley.

In no time at all the ideas had grown into a 56-page tale and the story was picked up by Brewin Books.

And proving that creativity runs in the family, the book has been illustrated by Cerys' 17-year-old cousin Micheal.

The young writer has now started work on a short story anthology, but it might be a while before it hits the bookshelves - she's busy studying for the 11+.

IT'S A FACT:

A record 250 students auditioned for the 17 named roles in *Grease the Musical*



Solihull School appoints new Chapel Organist and Choirmaster

An Oxford University Organ Scholar and conductor of a world-leading choir has been appointed the new Chapel Organist and Choirmaster at Solihull School.

Oliver Walker, aged just 24, joined the independent co-educational School from Wells Cathedral where as Senior Organist he accompanied and conducted the internationally renowned Wells Cathedral Choir. He has replaced Peter Irving, an accomplished virtuoso who nurtured the Chapel Choir to cathedral standards and has stood down after 26 years in the dual role.

Oliver Walker said: "I am

delighted to have joined Solihull School in its 450th anniversary year. I aim to build on the School's outstanding musical tradition by encouraging more young people to develop an interest in singing with the help of a wider repertoire and more touring opportunities." He added: "I am also proud to be playing the wonderfully refurbished organ in Solihull School Chapel, which is now celebrating its 50th anniversary."

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Solihull pupils sing at Worcester Cathedral

Posted by Katy Cowan in Events on Thursday 21st April 2011. Tagged with solihull choir, Choir.

Solihull School's Chapel Choirs are reaching out to an ever-wider audience after its Chamber Choir enjoyed the privilege of singing Choral Evensong in Worcester Cathedral.

The music, which included Elgar's 'Light of the World', an anthem that was given its first performance in the cathedral 115 years ago, and Stanford's 'Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in C', was sung so gloriously that the Choir has been invited back.

The Choir, led by new Chapel Organist and Choirmaster Oliver Walker with his predecessor Peter Irving on the cathedral organ, was delighted to sing in the 1,000-year-old building.

Oliver Walker, a former Organ Scholar of Keble College, Oxford and conductor of the renowned Wells Cathedral Choir, said: "Singing Choral Evensong in the glorious setting of Worcester Cathedral with its close links with Elgar was an immense privilege for the Chamber Choir."

He added: "The Choir, accompanied with great aplomb by Peter Irving, rose to the occasion superbly, filling the building with its radiant, majestic and sensitive sounds."

The event followed a visit by Chamber Choir members Julie Whiting, Simon Turpin, Alexander Deol, Helen Carayounan and Florentina Harris to Merton College, Oxford, where they enjoyed music master classes and workshops before singing Choral Evensong with the college's world-famous choir.

Solihull School Boys Choir will be singing Choral Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral on Thursday, May 12 and at St Alphege Church, Solihull on Wednesday, May 4.

The Organ
Winter 2010

Creative Boom West Midlands
April 21st 2011



David Morgan, director of studies; Sean Morgan, deputy headmaster; David Lloyd, headmaster; Christopher Warren, bursar; Bob Melling, deputy headmaster

Pictures: Dave Warren

Right: Rob and Lesley Luckham, Mike Huggins



Paul Whittaker, Amanda Fleming, Anne Lavery, David Birtwhistle



Commemorative St Cecilia concert

The largest group of musicians ever assembled at Solihull School captivated a capacity audience at a commemorative concert held in the Bushell Hall.

Some 600 guests enjoyed works performed by 60 pupils in 12 orchestras, bands and choirs at the event honouring the Patron Saint of Music, St Cecilia.

The programme included a specially written alternative to *Land of Hope and Glory* to accompany Elgar's music, to celebrate the school's 450th anniversary.

The David Turnbull Music School, opened this year by renowned pianist Peter Donohoe, has inspired many more of Solihull School's 1,000 boys and girls to take up music.

From singing in St Alphege to trekking through Alaska to learning new skills in School, pupils have never enjoyed more extensive opportunities to widen their horizons



A flipping good lesson

SOLIHULL School pupils Megan Gill, 11, and William Jervis, 12, cook up some flipping tasty pancakes in the state-of-the-art new Food Technology Department to celebrate Pancake Day on Tuesday.

Picture supplied by Solihull School

Solihull Observer
March 10th 2011



■ The youngsters get stuck in to their design work

Building work

BOYS and girls from Solihull Junior School became architects for the day after being asked to create bridges and shelters using only wooden sticks and elastic bands.

The nine to 11-year-olds applied teamwork, ingenuity and knowledge from their Maths, Design & Technology and Science lessons to build structures.

Maths Co-ordinator Stephen Mitchell said: "The boys and girls completed their tasks admirably and thoroughly enjoyed exploring some of the Maths, Science and Design & Technology involved in architecture."

Solihull News
April 22nd 2011



Met office link goes down a storm

The catastrophic flooding in Australia and drought in Brazil and North Africa were brought vividly to life for pupils from Solihull Junior School, West Midlands.

The eight to nine year olds boosted their understanding of extreme weather with an expert from the Met Office in a video conference direct from their School hall.

Boys and girls put their own questions to an on-screen meteorologist by microphone on subjects ranging from how

to predict the weather to how hurricanes are formed.

The event followed the success of a similar link-up with the Met Office about Climate Change for 10 to 11-year-olds organised by the School last year.

The School's Year 6 also learnt more about the experiences of those who fought or were evacuated as children in the Second World War. The 'Meet the WWII Veterans' video conference involved a live link up with the Imperial War Museum in London.

Global star set to give organ recital

SOLIHULL School is hosting an organ recital by world-renowned Thomas Trotter on Tuesday (October 5) as part of its 450th anniversary celebrations.

The City of Birmingham Organist will be performing a range of works on the School's Chapel organ following its £220,000 restoration.

He will be joined by the Chamber Choir and Boys' Choir at the independent co-educational School, which was founded in 1560.

The event follows the recent opening of a new £3million dedicated music centre offering some of the best teaching, recital and recording facilities in the country.

Thomas Trotter will be reciting works from the 16th Century to the 20th Century including a work for pedals alone, Variations on a Theme of Paganini for Pedals, composed by his predecessor the late George Thalben-Ball.

The audience will be able to watch all the foot movements in the piece on a video screen via a live camera link from the organ console.

The School's choristers will be singing Charles Villiers Stanford's Magnificat in C, The Lord Bless You and Keep You by John Rutter, and I Was Glad by Charles Parry.

Other works to be performed include J. C. Bach's Concerto in



D, Four Anonymous 16th Century Pieces, and the first movement of Widor's Fifth Symphony. Mendelssohn's Scherzo from A Midsummer Night's Dream and his War March of the Priests and Dan Locklair's Rubrics - a liturgical suite

for organ - are also in the programme.

As well as being City Organist since 1983, Thomas Trotter is Artistic Adviser and Resident Organist at Symphony Hall and visiting Professor of Organ at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Alongside his weekly recitals in Birmingham, he has played at many international festivals including Bath, Salzburg, Edinburgh and the Proms, and is an active recording artist. He won the Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumental award in 2002 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to classical music.

Stephen Perrins, Director of Music at Solihull School, said: "This is the fifth in a series of recitals by distinguished organists since our Chapel organ was refurbished two years ago and it will be a fitting way to help commemorate our 450th anniversary."

Tickets for the organ recital are available priced at £5 by calling 0121 705 0958 (www.solsch.org.uk). The event starts at 7.30pm.

The world-renowned Thomas Trotter will be performing an organ recital at Solihull School on Tuesday (October 5).

Solihull Observer
September 30th 2010

IT'S A FACT: More than 150 activity trips to all parts of Britain were organised last year





■ The Solihull School EE5 team, from left, Elliot Davis, James Garfield, Nikhil Parekh and Samuel Griffiths with their teacher Ray Pugh, with the blue spoiler currently on the car and the white polycarbonate prototype they developed

On the road to design success

BUDDING engineers demonstrated their teamwork and ingenuity – by producing a new rear boot spoiler for Jaguar’s sporty XK model.

Lower Sixth physics and maths students – Elliot Davis, James Garfield, Samuel Griffiths, and Nikhil Parekh – worked with graduate engineers, Dave Hirds, and, Stuart Hawes, from Jaguar Land Rover, along with their physics teacher, Ray Pugh, over a six-month period to produce the spoiler.

The talented quartet produced the actual size prototype through the Engineering Education Scheme.

by Niamh McLarnon


solihull_news@mrn.co.uk


The Engineering Development Trust (EDT) initiative, links students with local companies to work on real-life engineering problems, as an addition to A-level studies.

The project culminated in a formal presentation to the EDT and 50 other schools.

Les Ratcliffe, head of community relations for Jaguar Land Rover, said: “Recruiting young engineers for the future is paramount to the success of our company.”

Solihull News
July 22nd 2011





“We went to SCA, and all we got was this lousy ad for our website”
© Lewis & Clark - Creative Boom in-crowd - London

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Juniors have a brush with space age painting

Posted by Katy Cowan in News on Wednesday 20th August 2011. Tagged with Art, solihull.

A world-leading digital artist has helped to raise the painting skills of pupils at Solihull Junior School to another dimension. The 10-11 year olds were shown how to use their computers as their canvas to create space-age images in webchops with Gary Tonge of games developer Codemasters.

The boys and girls were able to create fun images of themselves in space suits and as aliens within stunning outer space and underwater settings.


Gary, who worked as Conceptual Art Director for the BAFTA award-winning Formula One 2010 video sports game, helped the pupils to create the images using just a photo of themselves and Adobe Photoshop as a digital painting tool.

His three-day residency resulted in 85 pictures being created in just two weeks and Gary being asked to produce a mural for the 450-year-old School.

Gary, who lives in Solihull, said: “The boys and girls were incredibly enthusiastic and were looking forward to creating even more images in their holidays. The great thing about Photoshop is you can get creative and achieve satisfactory results quite easily.”

He added: “I am delighted to have been commissioned to create a mural of what I think Solihull School will look like in the next 450 years.”

Gary’s current book, *Bold Visions: The Digital Painting Bible*, is now available explaining his digital painting techniques with another book due out later this year. More details and images about his work are available by clicking online at www.visionsofart.com.



Creative Boom West Midlands
August 10th 2011



Students welcome guests from the House Of Lords

LORD PHILIP HUNT, SHADOW DEPUTY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HEART OF ENGLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST, HAS PAID A SPECIAL VISIT TO SOLIHULL SCHOOL.

The Labour peer, who is also Opposition Spokesperson for both the Cabinet Office and the Home Office and lives in Birmingham, was invited as a guest by the independent co-educational School as part of the Peers in Schools programme.

He was accompanied by the Conservative peer Robert Edmiston, Chairman of Coleshill-based I M Group, who was raised to the peerage as Baron Edmiston of Lapworth this year.

Peers have been visiting schools to talk to students about the work and role of the House of Lords and Baron Hunt of King's Heath explained its composition and importance in scrutinising legislation, holding the government to account and debating contemporary issues.

He encouraged his audience of 100 Sixth Formers to take an active interest in local and national politics before being involved in a lively discussion about university tuition fees and the proposed high speed railway between London and Midlands. Lord Hunt was appointed to the House of Lords in 1997. His career has included being Government Spokesperson for Education and Employment and Minister of State for Quality at the Department of Health and Government Spokesperson for Health.

He has also been Minister of State and Government Spokesperson at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. He was made an OBE in 1993 and is a former Birmingham city councillor.

David E J Lloyd, Headmaster of Solihull School, said: "It was an honour to welcome Lord Hunt and Lord Edmiston to our School. The event provided a superb opportunity for pupils to learn more about the workings of our political system and it was so successful that we have arranged for the visit to be repeated next year."

Touch Base Magazine
October/November 2011

Pupils give the 'Pastor' hero's welcome



Mr and Mrs Henriquez are welcomed to Solihull School. s

AFTER his visit to see the Mayor Mr Henriquez was given a hero's welcome by pupils when he dropped in at Solihull School.

There he gave the boys and girls the chance to be among the first people in the UK to hear a first-hand account of the 'miraculous' rescue that gripped the world.

Known as the 'Pastor of Los 33' because he asked for bibles to be sent down to the men and kept up morale during their ordeal, Mr Henriquez was given a tour of the school and addressed pupils before answering their questions using his wife Blanca as a translator.

Mr Henriquez was also introduced to the heads of school and met gap year students from Chile who are helping with Spanish language teaching at the School, which has built up a thriving exchange programme with Wessex School in Santiago.

Solihull School Headmaster David Lloyd said: "Our pupils were thrilled that Mr Henriquez was able to spare the time to meet them and enthralled by his account of the miners' ordeal, one of the great international news stories of 2010."

Solihull Observer
February 3rd 2011



A sensational sporting year saw the School's rugby players return triumphant from Twickenham as national winners of the Daily Mail RBS Under 18 Vase. The girls' hockey team were West Midlands Champions and the boys made it a clean sweep by winning the Warwickshire title.

On the slippery slope to success

SOLIHULL School u16 girls have reached the peak of success on the piste after skiing for England in their very first season as an official school team.

The quartet represented their country in the mixed-age slalom at the British Schools National Finals in Stoke in an achievement that was all the more remarkable because they were up to five years younger than other teams taking part.

Helena Newbould and Leticia Salmon, at 13 the youngest racers on the day, and Libby Thomas and Amy Middleton, both 15, finished 20th out of 22 in

the international competition between England, Scotland and Wales.

Libby's reward for finishing 17th out of 47 as an individual will be a trip to Norway in February 2011 to take part in national squad training.

The foursome reached the National ESSSA Finals after winning their regional qualifier at Solihull and coming third in the u16 England finals at Rossendale where they also finished sixth out of 22 in the mixed-age event.

Martin Garner, Head of Skiing at the independent co-educational School in Warwick Road, said: "With around 200 pupils that can ski at Solihull School, we have a number of parents to thank for

helping to train up our first official ski team this year.

"The success of our young skiers in representing England in national finals against competitors as old as 18 heralds an exciting future for the sport at our school."

Skiing has joined golf, fencing, equestrianism and clay pigeon shooting among the widest possible range of sports available at Solihull School.

Solihull School is hosting an Open Morning on Saturday, January 15 from 10am to noon.

The Admissions Secretary can be contacted on 0131 705 4273 or by emailing enquiries@solihull.org.uk.



Leticia Salmon, Helena Newbould, Libby Thomas and Amy Middleton have enjoyed a successful first skiing season. (s)



Leticia Salmon, Thomas Lawrence, Helena Newbould and Sophie Shakeshaft celebrate winning their team trophy at the Midlands Schools Ski Race in Birmingham

Young skiers strike gold

BUDDING Winter Olympians from Solihull School have won gold at a top UK ski event.

Thomas Lawrence, Helena Newbould, Leticia Salmon and Sophie Shakeshaft clinched the Under 14 team trophy at the annual Midlands Schools Ski Race in Birmingham.

Libby Thomas, aged just 15 and a member of the national development squad, was the fastest female overall in the downhill slalom, recording the quickest time not only in the Under 16 year group but also at Under 19 level.

Helena Newbould, aged 13, won the gold medal as the fastest female at Under 14, while silvers went to Hannah Shakeshaft in the Under 16s, Thomas Lawrence in the Under 12 boys, and Sophie Shakeshaft in the Under 12 girls.

Solihull School's Under 16 girls team of Liz Thomas, Amy Middleton, Hannah Shakeshaft and Laura Newbould finished second in the mixed slalom, beaten only by Princethorpe College Under 16 boys who are national champions.

Martyn Garner, Head of Skiing at Solihull School, said: "I am very proud of all 12 of our skiers who took part in this major competition. Their performance bodes well for the nationals in September and heralds an exciting future for the sport at our School."

The Midlands Ski Race, held at the Ackers Adventure Ski Centre in Small Heath, attracted more than 120 competitors from schools throughout Birmingham and the South Midlands.

Solihull Observer
December 30th 2010

Solihull News
April 22nd 2011

Twickenham glory for Solihull School

TWO tries from Alex Winter helped Solihull School clinch their first ever u18 Daily Mail RBS Vase as they overcame a spirited St. George's College side 28-21 at Twickenham.

Fly half Max Rodman broke the deadlock with a penalty on 11 minutes after an even start to the match that saw neither side exert pressure for any significant period of time.

Rodman doubled Solihull's tally four minutes later, but his opposite number Chris Hanson halved the deficit almost immediately with three points of his own.

Hanson slotted an equalising penalty in the 20th minute and St. George's were given a huge boost when Solihull's giant number eight and captain Conor Joyce was yellow-carded for persistent infringement.

Although St. George's elected to kick the resulting penalty to touch rather than goal, they were awarded another within seconds that Hanson nailed to hand his side the lead for the first time in the game, but Rodman restored parity with his third penalty just short of the interval.

Solihull scored the first try of the match six minutes after the restart through centre Winter, who rounded the defence after a number of phases had been built inside their opponents' 22. Rodman added the conversion to make it 16-9.

Hanson spurned the opportunity to take his side to within four points when he pushed a penalty wide on 46 minutes, and just 60 seconds later, Winter pounced on a wayward St. George's pass and scorched home under the posts for a try converted once again by Rodman.

Solihull School celebrate their success at Twickenham. (s)



Rugby Union

In control of the game and with a comfortable 14-point cushion behind them, Solihull were widely expected to go for the jugular, but they allowed their opponents to enjoy a sustained spell of possession and eventually St. George's mercurial England u18 full back Anthony Watson, well shackled by Solihull up to that point, went over for an unconverted score.

St. George's put themselves on the brink of staging a remarkable recovery when scrum half Eoghan Sweeney strolled in under the posts after Matt Bennett's clean break, particularly when Hanson

kicked the extra two points to make the score 23-21, but Solihull replacement Jack Hobbs' try in the last play of the match ensured that his side would return to the West Midlands with the trophy.

Solihull's hero Winter revealed his team's tactics heading into the game and reflected on a memorable experience at headquarters.

"We really targeted their danger man Anthony Watson, we really stuck to our game plan and made sure he didn't come into the game much because we knew what a threat he was," he said.

"It's just unbelievable to play at Twickenham. Obviously the most important thing was to win, but to score the tries was just brilliant," he added.

Jubilant Julie bids for European success

SOLIHULL hockey sensation Julie Whiting is aiming for European Championship glory in the Czech Republic this summer after being selected for the Wales' u18 squad.

The 16-year-old defender, who is up to two years younger than the rest of the side, will be travelling to Prague for the European u18 Championships in July.

Whiting, who is studying for her GCSEs, has already played in test matches against Scotland in the run-up to the tournament.

She has enjoyed a whirlwind 12 months that started when she was picked for the Wales u16s for matches against Scotland and Ireland, resulting in her selection for the u18s at the 2010 UK School Games, where she played against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Olton and West Warwickshire club member is in her fifth year at Solihull School and a member of the first XI that won this year's West Midlands Championship.

"I feel very excited about getting the opportunity to represent my country in such a major competition. The selection came as a nice surprise," said Julie, who has also represented her school in athlet-

ics, rounders, swimming and tennis.

The highly gifted all-rounder is coached by Solihull School's Master in charge of Hockey, former England international and 2008 Olympic team member Chris Meyer.

MEANWHILE, Solihull School history teacher Hannah Smith has qualified for the European Cup Finals in Holland as a member of the 2011 National League Champions side Leicester. The former u21 international, also coached by Chris Meyer, will be playing against Slough in the semi-finals on June 10 after Leicester beat Berliner 1-0 in the qualifiers.

The success of both players has crowned an outstanding year for hockey at Solihull School not only for the girls but also for the boys whose 1st XI and u11 sides both finished the season as Warwickshire Champions.

"We are all proud of the achievements of Julie and Hannah in what has been a terrific year for hockey at Solihull School where we now have 300 regular players, with A and B level team fixtures at every age group and five senior teams," Chris Meyer said.



Julie Whiting is aiming for European Championship success with the Wales u18s. (6)

Solihull Observer
March 26th 2011



■ The triumphant hockey team: Solihull School's Bath Festival squad: left to right, back row, Stuart Bradley, Paul Smith, Ed Johnson, Dave Harrison, Jamie Wallis, Dom Harding (captain), Mrigank Sinha, Dom Coghlan, Tom Hunt, Xander Barnes; and front row, Chris Pettman, Angus Archer, Jon Coleman, Chris Thomas, Dan Chamberlain, with goalkeeper Conal Dowling

Win is jewel in Solihull School's crown

SOLIHULL School has crowned a triple championship winning season on the hockey field by beating the best at the prestigious Under 19 Bath Festival.

The Senior Boys at the co-educational School in Warwick Road notched up 12 goals in their four games after overcoming top sports school Millfield 4-0, Haberdashers' Aske's 4-1 and Monkton Combe 3-0. Solihull drew their other match against Victoria College 1-1.

The School's success followed a sensational season in which the Boys finished as Warwickshire Champions and regional semi-finalists in the National Schools Cup, and the First XI Girls team won the West Midlands title.

The Boys beat the likes of Rugby School, King Edward's Birmingham and Newcastle-under-Lyme School, with 12-goal Jon Coleman who also played National League

Hockey for Olton and West Warwickshire First XI leading the individual successes. The First XI Girls gained their championship glory with notable wins against Princethorpe College, Bablake, Wolverhampton High School and KES Birmingham, while in the Junior School the Under 11 Boys clinched the Warwickshire title.

European success has also come Solihull School's way both at student and teacher level with 16-year-old Julie Whiting winning selection for the Wales Under 18 squad for the European Under 18 Championships in Prague in July.

History teacher Hannah Smith, a former England Under 21 international who plays for 2011 National League Champions Leicester, is off to the Netherlands this Easter to play qualifying matches for the European Cup Finals in June.

IT'S A FACT:

The School offers one of the widest ranges of 'minority' sporting activities in the region, including golf, clay pigeon shooting, skiing and fishing.

Solihull News
April 22nd 2011

Class Coach

DAVID HEMP HAS BEEN ONE OF ENGLAND'S MOST PROLIFIC CRICKETERS. WITH 30 FIRST CLASS CENTURIES AND MORE THAN 21,000 RUNS IN A 17-YEAR COUNTY CAREER TO HIS CREDIT.

Starting and ending his career with Glamorgan, which he captained for his final two seasons before retiring in 2006, David also spent five years as a top-order batsman with Warwickshire, toured with England A to India and Bangladesh, and represented Bermuda – the country of his birth – in the finals of the 2007 World Cup.

Now eager to put something back into the game, the 40-year-old is directing his extensive experience and expertise at developing new generations of young talent as Master in charge of Cricket at Solihull School.

How did you come to join Solihull School?

At the end of the 2008 season I was out of contract with Glamorgan and developing my skills on the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) Level 4 coaching course. Living close to Solihull School as I do, and aware of their strong cricketing tradition, I wrote in asking whether they would be interested in some winter coaching. They came back and offered me a full-time job, which was wonderful.

What is your training regime?

In essence we have tried to take a more professional approach to the way the sport is played at the School and the individual approaches to the game in general. Traditionally Solihull School started training in January but now we work from October with classroom sessions discussing the different aspects of bowling, batting and fielding and what is expected of each player in terms of standards and preparation. We tailor individual coaching packages so that everyone becomes aware of their strengths and weaknesses and what they need to work on.

What versions of cricket are played at Solihull School?

Most matches are 50 overs a side but with all the interest from England winning the Twenty20 World Cup, we are playing more 20-over fixtures. I love Twenty20 because each player has to perform under constant pressure as every ball is

important. We have also introduced the two-day game with a regular fixture against Monmouth School. Playing in a four-innings match requires batsmen and bowlers to maintain their discipline and build pressure over a longer period of time.



EducationNews



What sort of season is the School having?

Pretty good. The First XI have won seven of their first 11 games in our fixture list of 24 matches, not including cup competitions. We have beaten our old rivals Warwick and won our opening round in the Warwickshire Under 19 Cup with victory over

Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby. Our current captain Dominic Harding has already scored 500 runs before the half way point of the season including centuries in our wins against King Edward's Aston and the Midlands Club Cricket Conference. We are looking forward to playing the MCC on June 29.

How successful was the School last season?

No less than 13 centuries were scored and three five-wicket hauls and two hat tricks were achieved across the School, but the performance highlight was without doubt captain Chris Williamson's 263 against Nottingham High School. The aggregate score of 809 runs in the match is the highest ever recorded in a 50-over match between England schools. Chris has since been invited to a trial with Derbyshire, which could lead to his emulating the success of recent pupils James Ord and Richard Johnson who have gone on to play for Warwickshire. Tina Gough, who practices with the Senior Squad, is also a member of Warwickshire Ladies.

How would you rate the facilities at Solihull School?

Second to none. As well as being able to practise in a fully equipped sports hall, the School has a superb pavilion overlooking one of the finest school cricket squares in England. Last season, our Head Groundsman Karl Brotherhood won the Cricket World@Pitchcare Groundsman of the Year award.

As the current captain, you scored a career best one day international score of 102 not out during Bermuda's loss to Kenya during the qualifying matches for this year's World Cup. How do you see your future with Bermuda?

It was disappointing that we didn't reach the qualifying tournament for the 2015 World Cup. But I'm looking forward to travelling to Fort Lauderdale, USA in July for the qualifiers for next year's Twenty20 World Cup. I still feel fit enough to play at the highest level and would love to be able to play in the finals in Sri Lanka.



Karl Brotherhood at the superbly maintained cricket pitch at Solihull School

Karl nets a top award for his first-class pitch

The head groundsman at Solihull School has scooped a top national award for creating a cricket square of first-class county standard.

Karl Brotherhood was recently crowned the Cricket World Pitchcare 2010 Groundsman of the Year for his hard work in preparing the perfect pitch for a record-breaking performance last season.

The 45-year-old produced a wicket that saw Solihull School and Nottingham High School score an incredible 809 runs in one day.

Solihull went on to win the first XI match, which set the record for the highest aggregate in the history of schools' 50-over cricket in Britain.

Karl, who leads a team of five grounds-men at the school, said it was an honour to earn the recognition and the award.

"I am delighted to have received the award," he said.

“

I'm full of pride in how Solihull School made history on the cricket pitch last season

"It wouldn't have been possible without the support of my team, our coaches and the school itself, which has continued to invest in the latest grounds maintenance technology.

"I'm full of pride in how Solihull School

made history on the cricket pitch last season.

"It was a golden day for my whole family as my 15-year-old son Darryl played in the game for Solihull and took the final wicket that won us the match."

The fixture was one of the highlights of Karl's five years at the school.

Captain Chris Williamson scored a staggering 263 in a Solihull score of 408 for five on the superb batting surface.

It won him a trial with Derbyshire County Cricket Club as he joined the likes of Richard Johnson, James Ord and Jamie Spies, who have all progressed from the school to play for their county in recent years.

Before working at the Warwick Road-based school, Karl spent 23 seasons as assistant groundsman at Warwickshire's County Ground in Edgbaston.

His cricket duties at the school include preparing and maintaining four large cricket squares for all age ranges. He

also looks after the school's artificial practice area and indoor cricket nets where training is already in full swing for summer 2011.

Last year Karl prepared wickets for 130 fixtures and worked alongside former Warwickshire batsman David Hemp, who is director of cricket at the school.

The Redditch resident's passion for his job is boosted by the fact he is a huge cricket fan himself and regularly turns out for Burnt Green CC.

Last year the First XI square gained such an outstanding reputation that the school received approaches to host Warwickshire 2nd XI fixtures, as well as matches against more top-quality cricket schools.

Alastair Symondson, from Cricket World, said: "We are delighted to recognise the efforts of groundsmen who are so often forgotten when the focus is all about the playing of sport and the results achieved by the teams."

British title success for youngster



TEN year-old Niall McManus from Solihull Junior School has taken the martial arts world by storm after being crowned British Taekwondo Champion.

Big kicking Niall won gold in the Under-11 individual point sparring event at the Independent Taekwondo Schools British Championships.

A member of the Verve Taekwondo Club, Niall also won silver in the mixed team patterns event performing a sequence of martial arts techniques.

He was up against martial artists from across England, Wales and Scotland in the tournament, held at Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre in Kidderminster.

Niall's father James said: "We are all very pleased and proud of Niall's success in the world's most popular martial art and hope he will go on to even greater glory."

Champ - Niall McManus in action at the British Championships. (s)

Solihull Observer
May 26th 2011

Solihull News
July 29th 2011

Dominic wins run accolade

DOMINIC Harding of Solihull School continued his impressive form this season by finishing as the leading run scorer in the 25th Sir Garfield Sobers International U19s School Tournament in Barbados.

The tournament which has seen the likes of Brian Lara, Alistair Cook and Dale Benkenstein along with other West Indies International players take part, consisted of 24 teams from all around the Caribbean and 4 teams from the UK.

Solihull School finished a creditable 11th in the competition.



Solihull School's successful golfers, from left, to right (standing) Will Harland, George Taylor, Rory Grogan and Miles Deacon (kneeling), and (kneeling) Stefan Cycha and Andrew Huggins. The school has reached the regional level of a major golfing competition, the Headmasters' Conference Foundation.

Warwickshire Life
June 2011



The Fire Services were thanked by pupils for their supreme efforts in combating a fire during the summer holidays that destroyed the old gymnasium.



Fire crews fight blaze at Solihull School

PART of Solihull School was completely destroyed in a severe fire on Wednesday morning.

Twelve fire engines from Solihull and Birmingham and more than 60 firefighters tackled the blaze at the independent co-educational school on Warwick Road after they received a call at around 2.45am.

A Fire Service spokesperson said: "The incident involved a severe blaze engulfing 100 per cent of a single-storey timber building formerly used as a gymnasium.

"It was totally devastated by fire and there was a slight spread to the existing sports hall."

The old gym was used for

small club sports including fencing and weightlifting.

A police spokesman said: "The early indication is that it is not arson."

Christopher Warren, bursar and clerk to the Governors at the School, said: "The damage will not have any impact on school operations.

"The most important thing is that no one was injured.

"The fire was put out at 4.30am. West Midlands Fire Service did an excellent job."

Headmaster David Lloyd added that school life, including the release of GCSE exam results would not be affected by the blaze.

■ Firefighters tackling a fire at Solihull School early on Wednesday morning/ Picture courtesy of West Midlands Fire Service

Solihull News
August 26th 2011

Crew Commander Ian Wishart and Firefighter Wayne Sheehan show pupils Rhea Bagga and Dara Dhadwal (both seven) how to use thermal imaging cameras. (s)



Solihull Observer
September 29th 2011

Pupils say thanks to firefighters

PUPILS from Solihull School honoured the courage and skills of local firefighters when crews from Solihull and Hay Mills fire stations joined them at their School Assembly.

The crews had saved the school from a fire in the summer holidays that destroyed its old gym by successfully containing the blaze to prevent damage to other buildings.

The pupils praised the firefighters before presenting them with their 'Team of the Week' award.

The certificate, which read "To the Fire Service, for their exemplary courage and professionalism on 24 August", was accepted by John Kemp, Commander of White Watch at Solihull, on behalf of all

the firefighters who tackled the blaze.

The boys and girls also had the chance to look at some of the state-of-the-art vehicles and equipment that the crews had used to protect the School.

Vij Randeniya, Chief Fire Officer, said: "Children are the parents, teachers and policy makers of tomorrow, so it is really important – and reassuring – to know that they have taken a keen interest in the work we do at such an early age."

Headmaster David Lloyd added: "We are very grateful to the Fire Service for coming to School Assembly and for dealing with the recent fire so swiftly and efficiently.

"Our pupils enjoyed meeting the fire fighters as well as the opportunity to learn about the less obvious work of the Service."

IT'S A FACT: The old gym was one of the last wooden buildings on the School campus.

Former teacher John Loynton produced the first history of the School to be officially published since 1939 to celebrate the School's 450th anniversary.

Write to: Solihull News, 150 High St, Solihull B91

Book charts history of a popular school

A FORMER Solihull School teacher has produced the first official history of the prestigious school in almost 70 years.

John Loynton, who taught history for 25 years and is now the School Archivist, was invited by the previous headmaster Phillip Griffiths to write the book to help celebrate the school's 450th anniversary. It took John nine months of research including countless interviews

By Cathrina Hulse
cathrina_hulse@men.co.uk

with former pupils and teachers to write 'A History of Solihull School 1560 – 2010', the first since John Burman's 'Solihull and its School' was published in 1939 and reprinted in 1946.

The fully illustrated perfect-bound publication charts the Warwick Road's school from its origins in 1560 to the leading co-educational independent that it is today, with a special emphasis on the life and times of those who passed through it.

"I have my predecessor, Denis Tomlin, to thank for keeping the School's archives in such good order. I was able to rely on hundreds of letters, documents and photographs, and even the first 1884 issue of the School Magazine, which made the task much more manageable," said John.

"My aim was to produce a balanced and readable history emphasising the human angle rather than just a history of the buildings. I hope readers will enjoy the many stories, anecdotes and illustrations and that many former pupils will recognise themselves or others," he added.

John Loynton joined Solihull School in 1982 and was one of the very few teachers who taught all year groups, from aged seven to 18. He also commanded the RAF section of the School's Combined Cadet Force for ten years until his retirement in 2007.

He is one of five current members of Solihull School to have achieved publishing success, starting with ten-year-old Cerys Stansfield whose fairytale 'The Power of the Pendant' made her one of the world's youngest-ever authors, and 16-year-old Robert Blakey who wrote 'How to Achieve 100% in a GCSE' dur-

ing his summer 2009 holidays before he got his 10 A* GCSEs.

The roll of honour includes history teacher Dr Dan Coetzee who has had his first historical novel 'The Serpent' published as part of a trilogy, with the second book, 'The Heaven Tree', due out this month. Having completed six novels, Dan aims to produce a book a year for the next 50 years.

Richard Wright, Head of Religious Studies, has also published a book on ethics called 'Understanding Religious Ethics: a complete guide for OCR (Oxford and Cambridge and RSE Examination Board) AS and A2 students'.

John Loynton's 'A History of Solihull School 1560 – 2010' is priced at £10 and available direct by calling 0121 705 0958.



John Loynton with copies of his new book in the grounds of Solihull School

Solihull News
November 19th 2010

IT'S A FACT: A copy of the History of Solihull School 1560-2010 can be found in the White House Library in Washington DC.



