



SOLIHULL

Shenstonian 2018-19



Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Teaching Staff 2018/19 | Page 2 |
| Headmaster's Report & Heads of School | Page 3 |
| Development and Old Silhillians' Office | Page 6 |
| From the School Archivist | Page 10 |
| University and College Entries 2018 | Page 12 |
| A-Level and GCSE Results Days 2019 | Page 14 |
| Leavers 2019 | Page 15 |
| Valetes | Page 16 |
| Junior School Art | Page 24 |
| The Junior School | Page 26 |
| School Chapel | Page 44 |
| Lower School Art | Page 50 |
| Music | Page 52 |
| Drama | Page 62 |
| GCSE Art | Page 70 |
| Societies, Visitors and Academic Success | Page 72 |
| Languages and Cultural Exchanges | Page 110 |
| A-Level Art | Page 118 |
| Sport | Page 120 |
| A-Level Photography | Page 148 |
| Travel and Trips | Page 150 |
| Teams of the Week | Page 168 |

Teaching Staff 2018/2019

| | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1983 | | 2010 | D E J J Lloyd; B M E Rossay-Gilson; D E Penney; L J Lynch; P F Spratley; S R Phillips |
| 1984 | | | |
| 1985 | | 2011 | C L Black; D J Brough; S L S Farnan; T B Emmet |
| 1986 | | | |
| 1987 | | 2012 | L J Rutherford; R Morgan (Jan); R E Airdrie; N L Evans; S E Foster; C H Goodman; J C Bernamont; J L Mander; S S Sawicki; D Wana |
| 1988 | L M Fair | | |
| 1989 | | | |
| 1990 | M J Covill | 2013 | M D Jones; H K Hallworth; A J Dowsett; S C Rasmussen; N J Dickerson; D L Maddy (Nov) |
| 1991 | D Reardon; S A Morgan | | |
| 1992 | | 2014 | A T Kermode; L K Worth; W L Meigh; R H Smith; C E Mollison; S E Moule; M S Gledhill; |
| 1993 | | | |
| 1994 | A C Roll; N W S Leonard | 2015 | L E Spratley (Jan); C A Baden; J Collier; J Hammond; P Roman-Blythe; A E Routledge; F E Wernham; R C Whaley |
| 1995 | D H Parker | | |
| 1996 | | 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 Patching-Jones (Jan); G James (April) |
| 1997 | A C Hutchinson | | |
| 1998 | U Mynette; A M Vaughan | 2017 | M D Davies; P K Deu; J C Francis; R A Jennings; V Patel; A R J Poole; L M Rosina; J A Spraggett; L Super; G Wallbank; Z Zhou; L E M Rooney (Jan); C M Dignon (Jan); E A Shearing (Jan); H L Grady (April); H Roberts (April) |
| 1999 | M P Babb; S A Hart | | |
| 2000 | | 2018 | M M Luiselli; D C Rice; R S Chillcott; S L Chillcott; D Brotherhood; H E Davidson; M H Briggs; A J Macarthur; R Noon; A Y Burt (Jan); J Michelet (Feb) |
| 2001 | J S Brown; E R Hurst | | |
| 2002 | S R Hifle; N J Atkins; C I Mayer | | |
| 2003 | M Smith; T J Bryan; A R Lancaster; M Bishop; M P Penney; J Johnson | | |
| 2004 | D L Buckle; O W H Bate; S Thomas | | |
| 2005 | S J Thompson; G J Affleck (Jan); S G Mitchell; N E Corbett; G Cureton | | |
| 2006 | A Jones; P G May; D L Trim (Jan) | | |
| 2007 | J E Humphreys | | |
| 2008 | D G Morgan (Jan); P E Morgan; H J Middleton; O R Anderton; E A M Campbell; H E P Smith | | |
| 2009 | H M Fair; D R Harford-Fox | | |

Headmaster’s Report

Welcome back to the start of the academic year 2019-2020. I must say that pupils look happy, enthusiastic and very smart in their appearance. Staff too, and long may it continue! May I also congratulate last year’s Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth on a great set of public examination results.

You may recall that I recently took the school out of examination league tables – so you will not find us listed in the media. I remain deeply concerned about the crudeness and inaccuracy of this type of ranking in assessing a school’s

worth, and I am pleased to hear that several long-established and successful schools have done the same as us. Another growing concern of mine, shared by the majority of colleagues across all schools, is that of the inconsistency with which public examinations are marked, the high (prohibitive) cost of ‘remarks’ and the inherent unfairness with regard to those unable to pay for this facility. Rest assured that we, many other schools, and the sector as a whole are communicating our views forcibly on this matter.



Turning to this year, my comments are very unlike those of previous years.

12 September 2019 will go down in the school's history as a most significant date and event; one to rival the admission of girls into the Sixth Form in 1973 and throughout the school in 2005.

Further to considerable research, discussion and professional advice, we took the decision to merge with St Martin's School, with the new combined school opening its doors for the first time in September 2020. This is a very exciting change and together we hope to create the region's leading 3-18 coeducational day school.

So, what will the school look like in approximately 12 months' time? My strong expectation is that the 3-18 school, called Solihull and with me as its Headmaster, will begin with circa 1500 pupils split across two sites. Infants and juniors will be based on the St Martin's Campus and seniors here on the Warwick Road Campus. Daycare provision will also be a feature of the new school. Whilst there are many wonderful facilities on both sites, we are committed to capital expenditure programmes on both sides of the road, and this will include the repurposing of our current Junior School. With regard to numbers on roll, I envisage an 1100/400 split (initially), which is almost identical to current pupil numbers at Solihull and St Martin's respectively. The new school will encompass the ethos, values, traditions and Christian foundations of both, and we have a unique opportunity to broaden the curriculum and co-curriculum by combining the best of two schools. I anticipate increased opportunities for pupils and staff and a school to be immensely proud of.

Over two sites, pupils will enjoy approximately 70 acres of facilities and open space, and having spent time at St Martin's I am very impressed by their buildings and performance and play areas, not least their theatre, dance studio, swimming pool, artificial pitch, playing fields, library and much more. Our juniors will have a fantastic campus to call their own.

I cannot ignore how tough things are becoming for independent schools and you may have seen the latest campaign from the opposition party, 'Labour Against Private Schools'. Changes to how pensions are funded, Brexit uncertainty, proposals to levy VAT on school fees, as well as other prominent measures, have made consolidation and closure significant features of the sector. It is my hope that this merger secures the future of the new school for the next 460 years. Indeed, the new school is expected to generate higher income streams and these will be reinvested in teaching and learning, continuing professional development for staff, facilities and bursaries – as they are currently.

What I cannot hide from in all of this is the loss of a single sex girls' school in the town and the creation of a bigger school. However, please remember that Solihull has been through a coeducation transition twice before and that we have lots of experience of girls (and boys) moving to us from a wide variety of schools at all entry points, including St Martin's itself. Furthermore, our academic and pastoral priorities will not change. Thus far, we have invested heavily in school nursing, counselling, Mental Health Youth First Aid training for staff, with over 70 teachers and support staff qualified, and Wellbeing and Personal Development, and we fully intend to maintain strong momentum in this crucial area. We will also retain our current parameters for class sizes, which are consistent with similar schools in the sector and in many cases better, and should the number of classes or form groups rise, then

staffing levels will expand accordingly. One of our three aims is 'community' and maintaining a sense of family and exemplary levels of care remain uppermost.

Both schools are blessed with excellent teachers and pastoral carers, and I have no intention of reducing standards in any area; far from it – it is my belief that the best of two historic and successful schools will combine to offer an outstanding education to current pupils and those in the future. Nor do I have any intention of diluting entry thresholds or selectivity across the 3-18 school, ever mindful that selectivity requires great sensitivity and very careful handling for younger pupils, and that we have committed to special transition arrangements for all pupils in Solihull or St Martin's on announcement day.

In all of this we recognise that change of this magnitude will be challenging. There will be stumbling blocks and questions, moments of rethinking and learning. Sometimes it will be stressful and sometimes we will struggle, but it will also be exciting and our legacy will be the school we create. It will bring new conversations and new ways of working, it will make us ask questions we haven't previously considered, and we will become even better and even stronger with a school that stands front and centre in the region.

David E J J Lloyd



2018-19 Bench

We thank this year's Lower School, Middle School and Senior Bench for all of their wonderful work.

Head of School

The Head of School for the 2018-2019 academic year was Phoebe Harland and her deputies were Marisa Veloso, Oliver Rooney and Katie Phillips. We thank all of them for their wonderful service to the school.

Development and Old Silhillians' Office

For news, for connections, for support, for life



The Silhillian Fund

Our most grateful thanks to all those who so generously donated to The Silhillian Fund for bursaries in the names of Denis Tomlin and Phil Holt. The pupils who have benefited from these gifts are a credit to those valued and much-loved former teachers. If you would like more information about how you too can play your part in providing transformational opportunities for young people, please contact Lucy Lunt, Director of Development and Alumni Relations on 0121 703 2898 or at luntl@solsch.org.uk.

Opening of the Graham Hughes Room

We were delighted to open The Graham Hughes Room in honour of one of the school's lifelong champions and benefactors. Graham joined the school as a pupil in 1954. He was President of the OSA in 1993 and served as Chairman of Governors for five years. Graham unveiled the plaque in front of his family, friends and school associates. The school is delighted that Graham's generosity and dedication is now recognised in this way.



Oxbridge Dinner

In January, Oxbridge former pupils and staff came together for dinner at the Caledonian Club in London. The Headmaster welcomed guests who had an age range of over fifty years. They listened to an excellent presentation from Daniele Harford-Fox about Curriculum 2020 and Ben Perry, a patron of our bursary campaign, reminisced about his own school days and spoke about his commitment to The Silhillian Fund.

Birmingham Event

Former pupils from across Birmingham came together with staff to meet at Primitivo Bar & Eatery in March, for the biannual Birmingham Business Drinks. Alumni enjoyed networking with old friends and making new connections while having the opportunity to catch up on the latest news from school.



Reunion of the Class of 1984

It was a pleasure to welcome back the Class of 1984 on Saturday 9 March, many of whom had not been back to school since the day they collected their A-Level results. They enjoyed reminiscing about old times and being led on a conducted tour of the campus by Sean Morgan. Much had changed after 35 years, but while having afternoon tea, they admired the view from the top of The Cooper Building.

Chamber Choir returned to St Paul's Cathedral

Now a much-anticipated event, the school Chamber Choir returned to St Paul's Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong on Monday 11 March. They gave a magnificent performance, supported by a large congregation made up of many from the school community. Following Evensong, Old Silhillians came together for a drinks reception at The Happenstance Bar.

Made In Dagenham Musical & Drinks Reception

We were delighted to welcome back former pupils, parents, staff and their families to a drinks reception and a performance of *Made In Dagenham*. It was a wonderful performance and extremely well attended.





Over 60s Tour of the School

Our Over 60s Luncheon Group joined us for a tour of the school before heading off to the Silhillians Sports Club for Lunch.

Reunion of the Class of 1979 and 1989

It was a pleasure to welcome back to school the classes of 1979 and 1989 on Saturday 11 May. They were bowled over by how much had changed since they left 30 or 40 years ago but many old friendships were rekindled over afternoon tea in the Keith Sach Suite and then an evening at the Silhillians Sports Club.



A Celebration of School Musicals from 1976 – 2016

Over 130 former pupils, parents and staff returned to celebrate 40 years of the musical at Solihull. They saw a documentary charting its history from the Turnbull and Slaughter days right through to Perrins and Fair. The audience then enjoyed an enthusiastic singalong, led by the irrepressible Stephen Perrins, accompanied by the legendary Jill Godsall.

Mrs L Moseley



Martyn Garner Memorials

To honour Mr Martyn Garner who died in 2018, we have erected a slate monolith at the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia and have renamed the Outdoor Pursuits Centre the Martyn Garner Building for Outdoor Education.

These two tributes recognise both how loved and admired Martyn was by the Solihull community, and how much he valued and promoted outdoor education at the school.





From the Archivist

‘Twelve months ago last September when the war clouds threatened, our Editor was fortunate enough to be able to say that...the worst, as often happens, did not come. Now that the worst has come in the sense that we have passed from a state of peace into one of war, there is one thing above all that we must do – carry on’.

These are the opening remarks of the Shenstonian, January 1940. 80 years ago, on 3 September 1939, Great Britain declared war on Germany. The whole nation was to endure 6 more years of hostilities, which was to disrupt the life of our school and claim the lives of 67 Old Silhillians.

The editorial continued... ‘Our school life goes on almost unaffected by wartime conditions; only our activities after school hours are curtailed; and what is to us especially important, The Shenstonian goes on as usual. We form a vital link which in wartime means so much more than ever it did in times of peace. Our pages can chronicle the deeds of those Old Boys and friends of the School who are fighting for their country, and who, in turn, can read therein how we are carrying on at home’. Over the next few years, the Shenstonian certainly did that. Subsequent editions offer us a fascinating window into the life and times of the generation that experienced the Second World War. By September 1945, the Shenstonian recorded the names of the fallen, along with

10 reported missing, 5 still held as prisoners of war and 23 who were decorated for service and gallantry. And, of course, the joy of peace: ‘The War is over! That which we have waited so long and striven so hard is now an accomplished fact...we pass from a dismal past to a bright future’.



Back in 1940: ‘Last term our A.R.P. arrangements were completed-the shelters were finished and equipped with lanterns and first aid kits, and a full dress rehearsal was held. In fact we reached such a state of efficiency that we feel confident, in the unlikely event of a genuine air-raid, that any enemy planes which might succeed in penetrating our defences would perceive the effectiveness of our preparations, lose heart and fly home convinced of the futility of their task. This is the first Editorial of the Second Great War to come from our humble pen. It remains only for us to express the sincere hope that it may be our good fortune to tell of victory and peace’.

The holder of the ‘humble pen’ was Ronald Arculus, who was also Head Boy in 1941, House Captain of Shenstone and Captain of Athletics. He served as a Captain in the Queen’s Own Hussars during the war, seeing action in the Middle East and Italy, and thereafter enjoyed a highly distinguished Diplomatic career, serving as British Ambassador in Italy. Ronald, later Sir Ronald came back to Solihull School to open the new Modern Languages Department in 1985 in K Block. He died in 2016, aged 93.



A young Paul Instone in 1939. Paul has continued his links with Solihull School all his life. He was OSA President in 1980.

Old Silhillian Paul Instone, (1937-1944 Fetherston) now 92 years old, remembers his school days during the War:

The first days of the Christmas Term 1939 involved several meetings of the teachers followed by Assemblies and then air raid shelter practice. The shelters had been dug along the border with Hampton Lane during the Summer holidays and were large enough to accommodate 40 people, although they tended to flood after heavy rain. Shelter practice was a common feature of life during the war, and sometimes it was for real. If there wasn’t enough time to get to the shelters (or they were flooded) desks were pushed together and boys hid underneath. The Shenstonian of May 1941 wrote: ‘there is a new procedure when air raid warnings are sounded. It was decided that the boys incurred greater risks from colds caught during long periods in damp chilly concrete shelters than from the danger from enemy bombs, accordingly a large number of form rooms had wire netting fixed on the inside of their windows to restrict the flight of splintered glass. Boys in these classrooms continue to work in the normal manner after the sirens have sounded; those forms which are caught in unwired rooms retire either to a vacant room which has protected windows or to an indoor passage where they can resume their studies in safety’. The siren for Solihull was situated in Poplar Road. Little changed in the first few months of the war although several teachers left to join the Forces and as Paul recalls on many occasions you didn’t know which teacher was going to come and teach the lesson. Actual bombing was rare, although some damage was done to the tennis courts but this occurred during the holidays. What did cause



interest and excitement was the occasional dog fight that happened overhead. The boys found stray bullets embedded in the bicycle sheds and these were highly prized. Gas masks had to be carried everywhere and black outs were strictly enforced which curtailed after-school activities. Street lights were banned and Bradford House (now the Bursary) was the local Air Raid Warden’s post. Paul lived in Blossomfield Road and had to walk home in complete darkness during the winter months. Headmaster Mr Thompson lived in School House and his garden was used to grow vegetables. He also kept chickens and fed them every morning before school started. During the holidays, Paul enjoyed going on the harvest and fruit picking camps organised by the Red Cross and run by Mr Mackenzie (1927-1963) which were a 1940s version of Snowdonia School. Second Master and German teacher ‘Mac’ produced excellent meals. Back at school, senior boys volunteered to patrol and guard the premises complete with guns but no bullets!

Straight after leaving school, Paul joined the RAF where he served for the next 4 years, mainly in East Africa, the Middle East and Egypt. During his time overseas he corresponded with former classmates and teachers, hearing the latest news from school. One letter in Paul’s collection was from Mr Mackenzie telling him that Ronald Arculus had passed the Foreign Service Exam.

Long-serving Head Cook Kate Keeling joined the staff two days before war broke out and remembered the difficulties of the war years as food shortages and rationing made catering for 300 pupils and staff, (50 or so were boarders) quite a challenge. The dining room in those days was in School House. It later became the Sixth Form Common Room and is now split up into computer rooms. Kate lived in School House and was a familiar figure on fire duty, complete with tin hat. The HQ for Air Raid Wardens was Bradford House, now the Bursary. From the front of Big School in November 1940, Kate and the Senior Boarders watched the crimson glow in the sky as Coventry burned.

Life at school had of course the ever-present threat of tragedy as School Assemblies informed the pupils of the deaths of Old Silhillians fighting in the war. 67 Old Sils lost their lives from a total of 412 who are known to have served. I will pay tribute to many more of the Old Sils who died in subsequent editions of the Shenstonian, so for now let us remember the generation who left school not to go to university but to fight in the Armed Forces in a war that was to last for 6 long years.

Mr J Loynton, School Archivist

University & College Entries 2018

ASTON

Kiran Singh Thandi Pharmacy

BATH

James Cattell Economics
Federico Collini Chemical Engineering
William Hardie Robotics Engineering
Henry Lee Mechanical Engineering
Thomas Loughran Chemical Engineering
Lukas Moment Business Administration (2019 entry)

BATH SPA

Emily Jayne Watson Fine Art

BIRMINGHAM

Mohammed Taushifur Rahman Policy, Politics and Economics
Kate Stumper Liberal Arts and Sciences

BIRMINGHAM CITY

Bismah Saleem Law with Criminology
Alexander Simpson Property Development and Planning

BOURNEMOUTH

Ellie Featherstone Communication and Media

BRISTOL

Asha Abram Law and Spanish
Anna Higgins Law
Yahvin Pillay Medicine
James Spence Theatre and Performance Studies (2019 entry)
Jonathan Tennet Music

BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE SCHOOL

Emma Hadley Professional Acting

CAMBRIDGE

Clare College
Beatrix Huissoon Natural Sciences

Lucy Cavendish

Megan Lloyd English

Selwyn College

Cerys Stansfield Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

CARDIFF

Joseph Church Chemistry with Industrial Experience
Waqaar Ul-Haq Pharmacy
Benny Wu Psychology
Haidy Youssef Architectural Engineering

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN

William Rigg Business Management (2019 entry)

DURHAM

Zack Bhalla Business and Management
Matthew Bond Mathematics
Mary Davies Archaeology and Ancient Civilisations
Amy Edge Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Moses Fakatou Psychology
Aisha Hussain History

EAST ANGLIA

Hari Ramachandran Medicine

EDINBURGH

Ziyu Ding Biological Sciences

EXETER

Annabelle Barker Modern Languages
Alexander Bartley Economics and Finance
Edward Bates History
Adam Bruton History
James Carrington Mechanical Engineering with International Study

GLASGOW

Elliott Harris Politics and International Relations
Daniel Hofton Geography (2019 entry)
Alexandra Marshall Politics and International Relations
William Rees Mechanical Engineering
Serena Smith Economics and Politics
Ellie Richardson Medicine
Alexander Sasse Economics

GLASGOW

Kristian Borghoff Economics and Psychology

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA

Gwynneth Horbury Acting

KEELE

Adam Holmes Physics with Astrophysics

LANCASTER

James Cusack Accounting and Finance
Frederick Richmond Mechanical Engineering
Eleanor Shiels Engineering

LEEDS

Benjamin Evans Electronic Engineering
Jamie Francis International History and Politics (2019 entry)
Saskia Freshwater Psychology
Natasha Jones Theology and Religious Studies
Adam Zaman Medicinal Chemistry

LEICESTER

Joseph Humphries Geology with Geophysics
Anika Rao Medicine
Joshua Rice Geography (2019 entry)

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES

Jack Wilson Business Studies (2019 entry)

LIVERPOOL

Thomas Banks Psychology
Bethany Davis Psychology (2019 entry)
Katie Lyth Physiotherapy
Jack Naisbitt History and Politics
Myles Simmons Medicine

LONDON

KING’S COLLEGE
Anushka Karandikar Dentistry

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Arthur Townend Economics and Economic History

ST MARY’S

Tom Serle Sports Coaching Science (2019 entry)

TRINITY LABAN

Z Donaldson Vocal Studies

LOUGHBOROUGH

Ellie Barbieri Communication and Media Studies
Matthew Leadbetter Computer Science
Hannah Plumbly Sport and Exercise Science

MANCHESTER

Emily Moore Pharmacology
Nicholas Rice Politics and International Relations
Aishani Somaiya Medicine
Ted Warner-Knowles Engineering (2019 entry)

NEWCASTLE

Michael Balfour Computer Science (Games Engineering) (2019)
Lillian Jenkins Nutrition with Food Marketing

NOTTINGHAM

Christopher Baker Architecture
Finley Blake Architecture
Simon Clarke Mechanical Engineering
Max Mendonca Geography
Rebecca Monkhouse History of Art
Georgia Quirke History
Benjamin Webster Management
Thomas Whitfield Accountancy

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Josh Crampton Business
Harriet Jones Early Years and Psychology
Brooke Matthews Real Estate
Elisa Mottram Psychology with Criminology
Rais Raja Spanish and Media
John Rich Business Management
Matthew Stansfield Business Management and Marketing
Ella Stirling Broadcast Journalism

OXFORD

Lady Margaret Hall
Jim Bate Music

Regent’s Park

Harriet Bray Geography

PORTSMOUTH

Jake Evans Economics, Finance and Banking

READING

Louis Garland History
Madeleine Koral Psychology
Manushree Malu Management with Information Technology
Elle Miles History and Philosophy
James Wynne Real Estate

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Ellie Ajao Music

SHEFFIELD

Megan Perry Quantitative Social Sciences
Calum Rice Business Management

SHEFFIELD HALLAM

Shaun Watson Business and Financial Management

SOUTHAMPTON

Evie Garner Oceanography with Physical Geography
Annabel Lyle Geography

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Lina Alani Chemistry
Rennae Du Engineering and Architectural Design

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WRITTLE

Hannah Wolverson Veterinary Physiotherapy

WARWICK

Ramyank Chaganty Economics
Chun Yin Henry Chiu Engineering
Isabelle Conway History
Kirsty Scheiby English Literature
Max Wilkinson Data Science
Ranya Younis Management



Leavers 2019



A-Level and GCSE Results Days 2019



Valetes

Lisa Fair

Lisa joined Solihull from Park Hall School in 1988 and never looked back, making a simply massive contribution to our community in that time, both in and outside the classroom. Expectations were high: former Head Girl, County hockey player (not many know that!) and Warwick University Graduate... and she didn't disappoint, committing to 31 years of outstanding service and becoming a pillar in the school's recent history in the process.

A first-rate teacher of English & Drama (with well over 30,000 lessons here under her belt), equally at home with the less confident and the most able. A succession of Departmental Heads – Tony Dunn, Phil Holt and Stuart Hart – have valued her approach immensely and legions of pupils have benefitted from it. Her unpretentious and compassionate style has left colleagues grateful and in awe (in equal measure) throughout and it's fair to say that in that time she has not embraced (or even entertained) gimmicks and modish ideas!



Arguably some of Lisa's finest hours have been spent directing and producing shows and plays of outstanding quality (over 40, in fact) which continue to live long in the memory of cohort upon cohort of pupils and parents, left starstruck by Lisa's mesmerising talents.



Lisa ran the Sixth Form for a number of years, expertly and with a real understanding of the 16-18-year-old student. Those years were particularly dear to Lisa and I know that those who experienced the Sixth Form at that time look back on it incredibly fondly.

Lisa's reign as Assistant Head and DSL has been characterised by wise decision-making, commitment, calm and care, often dealing with the worst of all situations fuss-free and logically, yet with a compassion that few could match. Lisa's place at the SLT table over the last few years has also been incredibly highly-valued. She is a voice of reason and she has brought a pragmatism, a clarity and a depth to any discussion taken.

Colleagues, young and old, respect Lisa; her opinion and her counsel. She has been for many years an inspiration, confidante and friend. She will be missed enormously, though I'm sure we'll find ways to keep her as part of our fabric. We wish her the very best as she embarks on an incredibly well-deserved retirement which will allow her to spend much more quality time with her family and of course...with Aston Villa.

Keeping with the football theme: some people retire once they have started to lose a bit of pace, once niggling injuries start to hamper performance and enthusiasm and very often, having slipped down a league or two. Lisa retires whilst still top of the Premiership – where she was when she walked in 31 years ago and where she remains today.

Sean Morgan



Richard Atkinson

Dr Richard Atkinson joined Solihull in 2007 as Teacher of Mathematics. He arrived with excellent qualifications and many years' experience as a university lecturer. It was a providential appointment as the then timetabler announced his retirement later that term and Richard was ideally suited to take over this crucial role.

Dr Atkinson is a mathematician from head to toe, never happier than when puzzling away at some abstract numerical problem. His collection of Rubik's cubes / hexagons /spheres was only one manifestation of his passion. Richard's love of his subject was communicated strongly to his pupils throughout his time here, both in lessons where surprising questions would be asked and in activities such as his running of Maths Club for younger pupils. Many mathematical pupils have been inspired by Dr Atkinson. He was the driving force behind a number of mathematical extension activities, from the trip to the last public lecture given by Stephen Hawking to Marcus du Sautoy's visit here in January this year. In all this Richard clearly modelled what it is to be a practitioner of Mathematics.

As timetable, Richard made enormous contributions to the development of the school over the last eleven years. His ability to see ahead and find answers to questions that others would not have known to ask allowed us to facilitate a huge range of options and to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex curriculum. Richard was a very hard worker, indefatigable at worrying away at a timetabling problem until a solution could be found even if his fondness for wielding a long stick did make visiting the timetable room hazardous at times! In both these key roles Dr Atkinson enjoyed being a colourful character, not least in his wearing of waistcoats (a habit for Wednesdays) and bow ties.

For a deep thinker and high level statistician, Richard had a strongly developed practical side. He was often to be found in the Fort actually making the model he had designed in his head or in some characteristically illegible jotting – Richard had the terrible handwriting of the brainy. Few of his colleagues and pupils would know of his expertise in stringed instrument making. He has crafted a whole quartet of instruments and is also handy with an embroiderer's needle.

Richard was interested in lots of things; his sustained support for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme was just one example of his readiness to help out in a range of areas.

Dr Atkinson has now moved to another timetabling role and we wish him every success in his new post.

David Morgan



Michael Smith

Prior to joining Solihull in September 2003, Michael taught at the British School of Brussels for fourteen years. Whilst there he describes one of his most harrowing experiences being when he was 'interviewed' by the BBC's Europe editor about his son's progress in Physics! A move to Solihull, where he was appointed as Head of Physics would surely be less eventful. As a teacher Michael has always had the highest expectations of his pupils and many times they have exceeded their own expectations in public exams because of his thoroughness and the high quality teaching. As a Head of Department I know that many colleagues have benefitted from his leadership, and have progressed as teachers of Physics under his guidance.

Michael is fluent in French and on a European Language Day he has taught some of his lessons entirely in French! I was surprised to learn recently from Dave Farrington that Michael enjoys roller coaster rides – perhaps a reason why there were several trips to Drayton Manor Park to study the 'Physics of Rollercoasters' when he was Head of Department! Mr Farrington told me that on one occasion when he was teaching Michael's daughter Hannah in a Lower Sixth class, he was introducing the Drayton Manor trip to the class and one student asked who was going on the trip and when he mentioned Mr Smith the student complained that it would be unlikely to be much fun. As he continued to complain Hannah said to him 'I am here you know!' The student did apologise and said 'But you know what I mean?' Hannah smiled and replied 'I do know what you mean!' However, they were both wrong; Michael is great fun on a theme park trip and can always be found in the queue for the biggest ride!

In his time at Solihull Michael served on the leadership team of an inner-city Baptist church in Coventry and has taken a number of school chapel services for various year groups. His favourite theme is that far from science and faith being enemies, many leading scientists have been driven in their scientific discoveries by their belief in God. Michael is very proud of his family and enjoys the successes of both his daughter Hannah (an Old Silhillian) and his son Ben. Hannah's health issues have meant that she has taken longer than usual to complete her undergraduate studies in Physics but she has now been offered a prestigious postgraduate place at Oxford and I know that Michael is very much looking forward to being able to support her when the family moves to Kidlington near Oxford upon his retirement. Michael retires with the very best of wishes from Solihull.

Andrew Jones



Ann Blake

Ann joined the Bursary team in December 2005 and has been a vital cog in this busy machine ever since. As cashier and accounts assistant, her quiet efficiency – whether counting hundreds of copper coins from the Junior School, checking and often correcting staff expense claims or helping out staff who had got themselves in a mess while trying to account for a school trip – was invaluable and welcomed by all. She was immensely popular with all her colleagues, both teaching and non-teaching, probably because her calm and friendly personality shone through whatever unexpected query arose. Ann always exhibited meticulous accuracy, a result of the bank training of her early career. You knew that if you asked Ann, it would get sorted.

She was renowned in the Bursary for being the first to book her holidays every year and she was very much someone who had the admirable attitude of working to live and ensuring she enjoyed every minute of it. And why not? What must be noted for posterity is that for someone who claims not to enjoy the limelight, her leaving speech in the Upper Common Room will go down in history, with all attendees in uproar. It was a wonderful moment! Ann retires to spend more time with Geoff and the rest of the family, no doubt involving more holidays and travelling.

She will be sorely missed.

Richard Bate



Don Ashford

Don joined the school's maintenance team in 2005 after a varied career in a number of industries. For much of his time at the school, he worked as one of the school's maintenance assistants, though took on the role of Deputy Head of Maintenance between 2010 and 2014.

Don's role involved undertaking a wide range of general maintenance tasks to repair, maintain and improve the buildings and facilities across the whole school site. His particular skills were in carpentry, decoration and the maintenance of mechanical items, including locks and similar projects but could turn his hand to many other types of work. In addition, he would be part of the team involved in setting up and breaking down rooms and other spaces for special events, both large and small; a regular occurrence at the school. His 'cheeky chappie' personality was infectious and his willingness to help out was much appreciated by all staff.

We wish him well in the future.

Richard Bate



Lee Harris

Lee Harris joined Solihull as the Music Technician ten years ago, at the time of the move into the then new David Turnbull Music School. It was an exciting time for the department in many ways, not least in the increased scope for music technology. The building has a recording studio that can record from four different rooms – the main Recital Room, the Ensemble Room and the Percussion and Rock (now Brass) rooms. In addition, there is a dedicated music computer classroom. Lee's experience in IT and interest in sound recording enabled him to support the work of the department in so many ways: he managed the Mac server, which controlled all the Apple Mac computers in the IT classroom; he populated the two display screens in The Street to advertise important music notices; and he would set up for and record all the concerts in the Recital Room.

On at least one occasion, Lee acted as sound recording engineer for one of the Saxophony CDs with Christa Greswold. Lee also took a lead in the general management of the Music School building, not least in trying to help sort out the seeming limitations of the heating system. In addition, Lee supported the whole school with various AV requirements, managing all the notice display screens across the school and helping to set up PA sound systems when required. Lee worked closely with Dr Jukes in the Bushell Hall; not only with the stage management of large-scale music concerts but also with many other bookings in the Hall.

When it came to the time of the Musical each year, Lee would spend hours programming all the required sounds into the computers used for the keyboard players in the band. Stephen Perrins well remembers a very amusing cow mooing sound for *Spamalot*, much played – irritatingly so! – by Mr Walker. In all his work, Lee was calm, organised and extremely willing to do whatever was asked of him. On the fitness side of life, Lee used to put many of the music staff to shame as he cycled to and from school every day – come rain or shine – and was a regular runner at the Saturday morning Park Run in Solihull. Lee's level of fitness seemed to give him excellent blood flow as, throughout the year, he would usually be seen wearing a short-sleeved shirt with no jumper or jacket! We wish Lee all the best as he heads off to pastures new.

Tim Kermode



Steph Rasmussen

Six years ago, Steph Roberts bounced into the Classics Department and almost immediately became the Marcus Agrippa to my Augustus! She is passionate about teaching Classics, and has the ability to bring the Ancient World to life for pupils of all ages, from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the Third Form to the consequences of the Battle of Actium at A-Level. Her enthusiasm for Classics and for teaching has never waned, and she has been an inspirational colleague to work with. Steph's enjoyment of the Classical World isn't restricted to the classroom – she has been an invaluable sidekick on many trips, both home and abroad. She helped to bring the inhabitants of Roman Bath and Cirencester to life, whilst also adding to the smooth running of these days. On a Classics Society trip to Greece, Steph and I formed an impressive double-act, telling tales of Greek myths and tragedies, as we travelled around the various sites – I will never forget Steph's dramatic re-enactment of Clytemnestra standing at the look-out post at Mycenae, waiting for the news to come that Troy had fallen: the pupils were spell-bound. Beyond Classics, Steph has been a real force for good throughout the wider school – as a form tutor, as a leader on Snowdonia School, and as Social Secretary for the staff Common Room, a role in which she set up and helped to run the very popular Staff Quiz.

Steph was a huge part of the Classics Department and the school, and her absence is felt very much. Steph got married last year and now as Mrs Rasmussen, she has sailed off to the Cayman Islands, with husband Harry, into the next chapter of her life. Even in the Cayman Islands she is spreading her love of Classics, and has already increased the number of pupils studying Latin at all levels, something which has made her very happy!

Steph, mea soror, ave atque vale!

Joanna Johnson



Liam Worth

Liam is leaving Solihull to take up a teaching post at Prior Park School in sunny Gibraltar. The last five years have flown by since Liam joined the school as an NQT. He has taught art and photography to all year groups as well as some IT and Design & Technology where he put his love of cooking to good use. One of the reasons that Liam was successful at interview was because he brought some strong technology skills to the department alongside his artistic traits. The PA kindly helped us buy some digital drawing tablets and Liam set up the digital drawing club for interested pupils. This quickly became very popular and we had our first A-Level student digital paintings a couple of years later.

Liam also took over as Head of Terriers two years ago. He has introduced some new activities including safe drone flying and a redesigned Terriers badge. More recently, Liam has been the school photographer, documenting all aspects of school life and I know that his new school are looking forward to benefiting from Liam's photographic knowledge in his teaching role.

Liam is well-known among staff and pupils for his love of all things Japanese and he spearheaded the school's first cultural school trip to Japan in 2017 which was a great success. He also started the now legendary Japan Club which he tells me covers culture, spoken language and how to write some basic words which is quite impressive. However, there are also bold-patterned kimonos, weird and wonderful Japanese sweets, Nintendo gaming championships and lots of Kentucky Fried Chicken involved...no wonder it's so popular!

He has made a big impact in a relatively short time and I know that the pupils will miss him and follow 'worthworld' with interest on Instagram. I am grateful for all of Liam's help and support over the last five years and I hope the experience has given him some good tips to take off to sunny Gibraltar. Good luck in your next adventure Liam, we wish you and Sophie every success in the future.

Donna Trim



Sophie Lodge

Sophie spent an incredibly busy and successful three and a half years at Solihull. Very early on, we tapped into Sophie's digital skills specialism to support our marketing offer of the time. Her professionalism and expertise shone through to such an extent that she was promptly elevated to Marketing Officer and very shortly afterwards, to Marketing Manager, transforming our approach and transition into the digital marketing age.

Sophie led our campaigns, philosophy and strategy whilst also chairing our PR meetings and being integral to the Marketing/ Communications sub-committee. We now have two formal school films and a whole host of further, skilfully-constructed seamlessly knitted-together footage at our disposal thanks to Sophie, as well as a state-of-the-art website and a Facebook/ Twitter presence that is the envy of all our competitors.

Sophie certainly did not confine all of her energies to the digital side of school life. She introduced and led our dance club, directed our first dance show, helped students with UCAS, and assisted on trips to Singapore, Malaysia and PGL amongst a whole host of other incredibly valuable contributions.

Sophie has enriched and improved our community through her expertise but more importantly, through her kindness, generosity of spirit and 'can do' attitude. We wish Sophie well (while imploring her not to be a stranger) as she embarks upon a new and exciting life with Liam in Gibraltar.

Sean Morgan



Hilary Grady

Hilary had the difficult task of taking over Dr Partridge's classes in the middle of the year, but her dynamic approach to teaching, combined with a fierce refusal to accept any misbehaviour, quickly made the classes her own. She has brought great professional expertise to the department, thanks to her experiences as a head of department, pastoral manager, examiner and teacher trainer, working with Birmingham City University.

She has thrown herself enthusiastically into life at Solihull, contributing to Junior School Games, and acting as a mentor to students with particular issues. Finding good quality cover for a short period is often difficult but we have fallen on our feet with Hilary – her expertise and professionalism have been a great asset to the department and we hope that this will not be the last we see of her.

Gareth Affleck



Lindsay Browning

Lindsay joined us in September 2016 and in that relatively short time has transformed the current and future landscape of Girls' sport in the Junior School, whilst also making a very significant contribution to the delivery of curricular A-Level PE. From the outset it was her desire to create an infrastructure that would both cater for would-be sport scholars and sport for all. The time, energy and commitment to achieve that goal can neither be underestimated nor overstated and the proof, as they say, is in the pudding.

In a year when our U11 girls – no less than three of whom were awarded a sports scholarship to the Senior School – reign supreme as County Hockey Champions, Regional Midland Netball Champions and National Netball finalists, every girl in the Junior School has had the opportunity to represent the Junior School in a competitive fixture during the year. The number of Junior School girls participating regularly in curricular and co-curricular sport has never been higher, nor arguably has their appetite and enthusiasm for every element of the provision that Lindsay has orchestrated during her time here. Throughout, her meticulous planning, organisation, expertise, vision and unwavering commitment have gone hand-in-hand with a patient warmth and an energising joie de vivre that has benefited us all. As parents we are advised to be the type of person we want our children to be. By extension the same, I believe, is true of teachers and their pupils. Be it skipping through the Warwick half marathon, making light of the London Marathon or running across the French Alps, Lindsay exemplifies all that she teaches and preaches. That said, in winning the Millennium Way 66km ultra cross-country marathon in high winds and torrential rain, you could argue that Lindsay needs reminding why humans invented the wheel.

Lindsay's contribution and impact during her time has made a real and enduring difference. She leaves with our sincere thanks and our very best wishes for all she chooses to do in the future.

Mark Penney



Crystal Wilkins

At the end of the Summer Term, we said farewell to Crystal, a former pupil and Old Silhillian. She joined school after graduating with a degree in Psychology and has made a valuable contribution to the Learning Support Department throughout the past academic year. Crystal's care and dedication to her role made her a perfect fit within our busy department; in addition to the more serious aspects of her work, Crystal shared her wonderful sense of humour and her infectious laughter often brightened our days! She also found time to be involved in many other aspects of school life, particularly those relating to her great interests - music and drama - and she will be greatly missed. We wish Crystal well as she starts her PGCE in Religious Studies at the University of Birmingham.

Eleanor Hurst



Luke Bryant

Luke joined Solihull School in 2007, entering J1 at the tender age of just seven years old, and finally leaves this summer after 11 years as a student and latterly a year as GAP tutor. It may have taken him a little while to adapt to being 'Mr Bryant', but Luke quickly settled into his new role and really made it his own. His passion for all aspects of school life and the enthusiasm with which he approached even the most mundane of tasks quickly made him indispensable in so many ways, from the Junior School sports fields to Senior School Engineering Club, the DT classroom to the Bushell Hall, Learning Support to marketing; from Careers to IT support.

The plethora of trips and expeditions supported by Luke included at least four ascents of Mount Snowdon (even twice in one day, on one Snowdonia School!). He developed a strong rapport with colleagues and pupils alike, and his cheerful and positive outlook will be greatly missed in the staff common room and in classrooms and sports pitches throughout the school. One colleague even suggested that he was 'the best Gap tutor I have ever worked with', and he has certainly set the bar very high with his professional, personable, flexible and proactive approach to his role. We wish him every success in his next adventure at Jaguar Land Rover, and we hope that he will return to share the benefits of his experiences in the future.

Jo Francis



Sara Crowther

The school community was saddened to hear of the death of Sara Crowther earlier this year. Sara joined Solihull School 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. She retired in August 2016 at the height of her game and many pupils still at the school today will remember her with great fondness and respect.

Sara was an extremely popular and well-respected member of the Common Room and when she spoke, people listened. She was always willing to give advice and guidance to new colleagues and was a calm, thoughtful and caring person to be around. Sara's commitment to pupils' progress and welfare was often reflected in feedback from parents and the response at school and on social media to Sara's passing has been moving. Sara had a tremendous impact on the lives of so many pupils and colleagues and she will be enormously missed.

Mark Bishop



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Junior School Art

1. Abigail Walsh
2. Alistair Skinner
3. Arya Patel
4. Aubrey Plunkett
5. Freya Ye
6. Gabriel Rickard
7. Jingtong Ye
8. Josie Nye-Brown
9. Lottie Gardner
10. Martina Green
11. Monty Hanvesakul
12. Milly Farrer
13. Robert Jones
14. Sophie Ji
15. Sophie Mitchell
16. William Cooper
17. Zara Mohammed



The Junior School

Maths Success in the Junior School

The Junior School had another very successful year of results 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. Each year, the Junior School enters some of the J3 and J4 pupils and this year, thirty-eight of these children achieved a certificate. Five pupils achieved a gold award, twelve pupils achieved a silver award and twenty-one pupils achieved a bronze award. A special mention must go to Oliver Cooper in J4 who also qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad; a fantastic accomplishment.

Mrs J Bernamont



J4 Scholars

Congratulations to our fantastic J4 pupils who have been awarded scholarships for our Senior School next year.

Junior School Council

The Junior School Council, with the assistance of Head Girl and deputies, visited the Solihull Council Chambers for a very important meeting with the mayor in the Easter term. The purpose of the trip was to experience what it would be like to be a member of the Council House. We all had the privilege of having a proper meeting there. The Head of the Junior School Council sat in the mayor's chair and the deputies sat beside him. Everybody had a chance to speak through microphones and have an input. Overall, it was a great experience and all the members enjoyed it.

Harry Griffiths-Pointon, Isabella Skinner and Jessica Bond, J4



Megathlon

Junior School youngsters took part in 14 different activities – one for every class – for the sponsored charity Megathlon, which raised over £4000 to be divided between four charities nominated by pupils. The activities included wellie boot throwing, obstacle courses, bouncy hopper races, skipping, dribbling a ball, basketball shooting and even running a course with plastic cups filled to the brim with water on their heads! In their form groups, the pupils moved from one activity to another throughout the morning, working together and competing against other classes in their year group. Each year group voted and nominated a charity to support for the event after listening to presentations from pupils and the total amount raised will be split evenly between the four charities.

J1 chose The Eve Appeal, which is the only UK national charity raising funds and awareness into the five gynaecological cancers. For its chosen good cause, J2 put forward Inspire Afrika! The charity raises money for children at Ronaken School in Kenya. It was selected after one of the pupil's parents visited the school and was shocked and humbled by what he saw there.



J3 chose Edward's Trust to support. The trust was set up in 1989 by Peter and Hilary Dent in memory of their son Edward who died of cancer, aged just seven, at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Edward's Trust provides holistic family bereavement services supporting people across the West Midlands. The pupils of J4 chose Assistance Dogs UK because of the fantastic work it does to help people live independently. The charity trains and provides autism assistance dogs, seizure alert dogs and disability assistance dogs.

Mr M Jones





Christingle!

On Sunday 3 February, the annual Christingle service took place in Chapel. Many of the Junior School pupils had spent their lunchtimes in the preceding week in the 'Christingle Factory' in the Junior School Art Room, attending to the creation of 160 sweet-laden treats for the congregation to enjoy. In addition, the two Junior School choirs, Scuffle Singers and Junior Singers treated everyone to some beautiful, harmonious singing. At the end of the service, a special cheque was presented to the Children's Society.

Mrs R Morgan

J1 Public Speaking

In the Summer Term, our J1 Public Speaking winner and runners-up delivered their talk to all of the J1s and J2s in assembly. This was the year group's first experience of researching a topic (their hobby) and delivering it to an audience in an interesting and informative way. We were so impressed with the standard delivered by all pupils! The overall winner was Alistair who spoke about football and the runners-up, Tabitha and Leon, spoke about slime-making and art respectively.

Miss L Lynch



Junior School Charity Week

Former West Bromwich Albion manager Darren Moore teamed up with the Junior School this year to help raise more than £8,000 for charity. Our football-mad pupils donated money to take part in an exclusive coaching session with the ex-Baggies boss, who also donated a football signed by the West Brom squad to the raffle. Other fundraising activities included a new photo booth, as well as the usual favourites including a book sale, a giant tuck shop, a talent show and a 'Monitors versus Staff' football match.

The money raised will be shared between Heronfield Rescue Centre – a popular, small animal shelter in Knowle – and Kids Out, Giving Tree Appeal by providing over 500 presents for children who will spend Christmas this year in a Women's Aid refuge.



Appeals to donate second hand trainers and spectacles were also made on behalf of Assist RR, a charity we have worked with regularly in recent years and continues to focus on assisting innocent victims of war in Sri Lanka. This was supported by children in the Lower School and was a huge success as we collected 1135 pairs of glasses and 255 pairs of trainers, which will now be sent to an eye clinic and schools in Vanna and Kilinochchi respectively.

Mr M Jones

Science Week

Science Week in the Junior School was as eventful as ever with several activities running throughout the week. The week began with an invention competition where four finalists were selected from across the different year groups by a panel of ‘Dragon’s Den’ judges. This year the pupils had to create and design an innovative vehicle for land and water. One winning design lifted queuing traffic off a congested road and placed the car on an alternative route. Other pupils designed new monorails and underwater tunnels to transport the growing population around the country.

Later in the week, Birmingham Thinktank delivered a ‘Fabulous Forces’ Show to the whole Junior School, inspiring them with tins that travelled up ramps and parachuting rodents! The Thinktank team brought their travelling planetarium with them and the J3 pupils stepped inside to learn about the star constellations and the positions of the planets. Running parallel to the planetarium were other workshops led by our very own Sixth Form superstars. They knowledgeably taught the J3 pupils about the phases of the moon and showed them physically on the school field how the planets move in relation to the Sun. As well as all this Physics, elements of Biology were possible thanks to the thirty caterpillars that arrived in the Science room. The school webcam was set up so that it was possible to view the complicated process of metamorphosis, which was rather slow it must be said! The pupils were delighted to launch the butterflies into the hot house in the Biology department at the end of the term.

Thanks to all involved for making the Junior School Science Week another action-packed week.

Mrs H Middleton



Learning about teeth!

As part of the J2 curriculum the pupils have been learning about teeth. The pupils enjoyed a visit from Orthodontic Excellence where they were fascinated to learn about the structure of the tooth and how to keep their teeth in good health. Their favourite part was when two brave pupils used a disclosing tablet to show the areas their teeth were most dirty. It was amazing to see how much plaque was on their teeth even after brushing.

Hopefully, fewer sugary foods and drinks will be consumed by all of J2. A captivating morning where pupils were delighted to take home a special ‘goodie bag’ to help them keep their teeth clean!

Mrs H Middleton

Thinktank visit

On Monday 17 June J2 visited the Birmingham Thinktank Science Museum. In the morning we all arrived at school and we got all our belongings together. When we had collected the lunches we set off on the coach. All of J2 went through the front doors and through another door into a room that is quite small (but not that small). A man told us all of the rules, like we weren’t allowed to run in the hallways as we could bump into people. We put our coats on pegs provided when we went through the door into the museum and we put our water bottles away.

Inside there were old Victorian machines, for example a water engine which used to run the sewers. In those days it tipped one thousand five hundred litres of water a minute but the one we saw only tipped every eight minutes. There were also other vehicles, for example a steam engine and a car that could go four hundred miles per hour called a Railton.



On the second floor, we saw a small yellow car that was from the early nineteen hundreds. We learned about what it looked like and what material it was made from. There were also other small things like nuts and bolts. We also learned how wires were made. One of the machines was very loud and we could hear it from the other side of the room. We could feel the vibration from it as well.

The third floor was about prehistoric creatures. There were also statues of the animals. After this, we had our packed lunches that were provided. We then went to a section called ‘All about me’ and we learned about how our body works and how to keep it healthy.

Finally, we went to the playground, where there were all sorts of fun activities. Our favourite activity was the bottle rocket that blasted up into the air and sprayed water everywhere. Finally, we went to the gift shop and bought some souvenirs to take home with us.

Sophie Ji and Joshua Grant-Pearce, J2



J1 Cotswold Farm Park

The J1s visited Cotswold Farm Park as part of their farming, trade and sustainability topic in Geography. They were introduced to the concept of Fair Trade and discussed, with interest, the financial implications of banana trade. The children also learned of the differences between farming in the UK and farming in different parts of the world. They were then able to spend time exploring the farm, feeding and handling some of the rare breed animals and instigating lots of very cute photo opportunities!

Miss L Lynch



Mary Arden's Farm

In June, the J3 pupils went to Mary Arden's Farm in Wilmcote to learn more about the Tudors, which they have been studying this year. The children dressed up in Tudor costumes and took part in a variety of activities throughout the day. This included feeding the sheep, making a wattle and daub panel, painting a wall hanging, baking bread and making butter using Tudor methods. They also enjoyed Tudor dancing and a picnic lunch!

Mrs N Atkins





Tortoise Appreciation Society

It is now the second year of the Tortoise Appreciation Society, which is much loved by all who attend. In fact, the membership numbers seem to increase week on week! Children have learned a lot about the Solihull School tortoises: the breed, what they can eat and what they can't, as well as how they should look after them indoors and out. Mr Paul Groom allows the children to take 'Jeff' and 'Michelle' home at the weekends, so they are now well prepared and confident in feeding and caring for them.

The outdoor area has proved an interesting challenge for the children; the project has included many aspects of Science, Technology, PSHE, Geography and even Maths and English. Questions such as 'How can we build a house with a ramp? Where should this be positioned so that the tortoises can warm up in the morning? Which plants would be suitable for their mini herb garden? How can we create a patio area for the tortoises to have their breakfast on?' have been asked. These have been amusing conundrums for the pupils to solve. They undertook a lot of research about other outdoor areas and using this, we have combined our thoughts to create our own! It is really coming together. We are endeavouring to complete it for the last week of the Summer holidays. The photos show the progress we have made.

Mrs N Atkins



Zoolab

The J2 pupils had first-hand encounters with a corn snake, giant snail, cockroach, tarantula and an iguana when Zoolab visited and taught them about the different habitats as part of their Science topic 'Living Things'. The children were fascinated to observe and hold these creatures and the corn snake was definitely a firm favourite amongst the children!

Mrs H Middleton



Journey to the Stable

On 27 November, J1 visited St Alphege Church in Solihull to take part in a 'Journey to the Stable' as an RS curriculum link. All pupils were involved in four activities that focused on different parts of Christmas story, including the birth of Jesus, the Innkeeper, the Shepherds and the Wise Men. All pupils listened carefully, asked lots of intriguing questions and thought carefully about the real meaning of Christmas.

Miss R Smith

J2 Gurdwara Visit

In Religious Studies lessons, J2 have looked at what it means to be part of a community. On Tuesday 19 March, we visited the Gurdwara in Handsworth. We enjoyed learning about the Sikh religion and finding out more about the Gurdwara. When we went into the Gurdwara, we needed to remove our shoes and wear a hat or scarf to cover our head as a sign of respect. We had a tour of the Gurdwara and got to try parshad, a sweet tasting food which has been blessed. We learnt a lot and were made to feel very welcome.

Mrs J Bernamont





World Book Day

On Thursday 7 March, the Junior School celebrated World Book Day. The school's theme for the day was 'Share a Bedtime Story', so the children were invited to spend the day in their pyjamas. Many also brought in their favourite teddy bear and of course, all children brought in a special book from home that they either currently enjoy reading at the end of each day, or enjoyed listening to when they were younger. The highlight of the day was when the older children in J3 and J4 shared books with the younger children in J1 and J2. It was delightful to see the children reading together and being introduced to authors they hadn't yet discovered.

Mrs C Mollison



J4 Hilltop Residential

From Friday 10 – Monday 13 May, J4 travelled to Sheringham in Norfolk for an action-packed weekend at Hilltop. All pupils took part in a range of activities including mountain biking, orienteering, zip-wire as well as rock-pooling on the beach. The trip involved plenty of opportunities for personal challenge, team-building, learning new skills and most importantly fun with friends. The weather was glorious and made the ice-cream taste even sweeter! A super time was had by all pupils and staff who went.

Miss R Smith



Junior School Art

Whilst looking back and celebrating the creative success of Junior School pupils this year, it has made me reflect on how many opportunities the pupils were afforded across the course of the last busy academic year and how they enrich and enhance the pupils' regular art lesson practices. From a variety of weekly co-curricular clubs, to gallery visits, in-house art workshops and our end of year 'Art Walkabout', there is something artistic for everyone to be involved in. It is wonderful to see that the number of pupils attending creative clubs continues to grow. The enthusiasm of J1/ J2 pupils attending Creative Skills club this year has been very rewarding to see. The focus is very much on involving the children in a variety of fun craft activities, where they apply skills they have learned in lessons, whilst producing something fabulous to take home. This year the pupils have created everything from tote bags to Christmas decorations, Easter wreaths to personalised dream catchers. A huge thanks must go to our Senior School pupil helpers who have given up their time each week to help the club run smoothly.

Artistic Challenge Experience (ACE) club aims to improve the hugely important drawing and painting skills of the J3/4 pupils. They look at composition, shading techniques, proportion, mixed media application, etc and work hard to improve their skillset as they move on up the school. These sessions also help pupils to have confidence in their ability, especially when they are considering applying for an 11+ Art Scholarship. We are also very fortunate to have a Junior School sewing club, thanks to the commitment and expertise of former parents Mrs Belinda Griffiths and Mrs Elizabeth Sach, who give their time each week to teach our pupils valuable techniques whilst helping them to produce fantastic textiles. Numbers attending have been able to increase year-on-year thanks to the very generous financial contribution from the Parents' Association, which enabled the purchase of new sewing machines. The PA have, in addition this year, funded a whole new set of Junior School aprons, which are a much appreciated and important addition to the Art Room resources.

In J3 and J4 Photography Club, the children use the DSLR cameras also funded by the Parents' Association to take photos around the school grounds and work on specific projects. They learn what makes an effective photograph, how to use the different settings on the cameras and how to edit the photos they have taken using software in the Junior School computing suite. The children also became involved in events such as Charity Week by taking photos to record the fun activities that took place.



In addition to the co-curricular schedule, pupils have also benefited from informative trips and exciting workshops in school. Earlier in the year, the J3 pupils were very fortunate to be able to travel to Oxford to visit the Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers Museums to supplement their studies about East Asian design in school. Whilst there, they took part in sketching and observation tasks and also participated in a specialist workshop on mask design to help inspire their own designs in class. It was a fabulous day out.



In the Summer Term, the J1 pupils followed up a trip to Cotswold Farm Park by taking part in a workshop led by former pupil and now professional artist, Rosie Super. All three forms worked on a combined piece, influenced by her style of working on wooden planks. The pupils learned how to plait and how to create artwork using mixed media. The overall effect of the three J1 sheep, Jilly, Jimmy and Woolly on the finished piece, and how thrilled the pupils felt about what they had achieved in a day, was wonderful to observe. It now has pride of place on the wall in the Art Room.

Finishing the year in style, the JS hosted its very own Art Walkabout again, after the success of its inaugural one last year. Inviting parents and extended family to walk around the Junior School's very own 'Art Gallery' was once again a very exciting prospect. Proud pupils couldn't wait to share what they had accomplished throughout the year with art work on display in the Junior School hall. An amazing array of masks were to be viewed in the Art Room and on display boards in the foyer, and art and photography was to be found in the corridors around school. It was a super celebration of all the wonderful efforts of our pupils throughout the year and I would very much like to thank all those who came along to support the children. I'd also like to thank the AMAZING Art team in the Junior School, without whom all of the above would not be possible.

Mrs R Morgan



Junior School Summer Concert

On the evening of Wednesday 26 June, family and friends of Junior School pupils filled the Bushell Hall for the annual Summer Concert. It was wonderful to see so much support for the musical endeavours of the pupils, who were excited to share what they had been working on in both class and individual instrumental lessons throughout the year. It was evident that pupils had worked very hard to prepare for each item; performances included the String Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Wind Band, Brass Ensemble and J3 and J4 Clarinet and Flute Group, in addition to competent J4 soloists and trios. The audience also enjoyed choral performances from the Junior Singers and Scuffle Singers, as well as year group songs, which included every pupil in the Junior School. In addition, the Concert provided the opportunity for pupils in J1 to showcase what they had learnt during the year as part of the J1 Instrumental Scheme, and there were delightful performances from pupils playing cornets, trombones, violins and cellos, flutes and clarinets. The Concert was embraced and enjoyed by all, performers and audience alike, and we eagerly anticipate next year's event.

Miss F Wernham

Clarinet and Flute Ensemble

During Monday break times we have attended the Junior School Clarinet and Flute Ensemble, directed by Miss Rosina. We have played in many thrilling concerts over the year, alongside the other clarinet players from J2-J4. We have played pieces such as 'Oh, Susanna' and 'The Lonely Goatherd', collaborating with the flute players. Over the academic year, in between practices, all of us have entered for ABRSM Music Medals, and we have all achieved Copper and Bronze Medals. Both of us have really enjoyed performing with the Clarinet and Flute Ensemble.

Alice Pinkney and Olivia Haynes, J4



Junior Brass Ensemble on Tour!

In the final half term of the year, the Junior Brass Ensemble, a 14-strong group with representations on trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba, clocked up a fabulous and extensive 3-mile round trip in a school mini bus. On the return journey, pupils could be heard planning the next Brass Ensemble trip to Australia via Dubai! Watch this space.... The group played a varied programme of music that they had learnt across the school year to a packed and expansive hall of fellow Junior School pupils at Eversfield Preparatory School, many of whom had not seen or heard some of the instruments the Solihull pupils were playing. This punctuated a brass demonstration by staff and solo performances by Eversfield pupils. The Junior Brass Ensemble were not at all fazed by playing outside of their normal comfortable concert zone and put on some splendid performances, working well as a team with timing, tuning, balance and sensitivity to articulation in all that they played. Their approach to performance etiquette was excellent, as was the way in which they conducted themselves as superb ambassadors of Solihull School. Well done, Junior Brass. Onwards and upwards.

Mrs J Spraggett



Rock Bottom

Prehistoric cave folk caused Neolithic naughtiness in our J4 play 'Rock Bottom.' They were joined by scientists, timekeepers, three Mexican amigos, a group of miners, and our very own Stone Age celebrity Lady Lava and her hilarious sidekick Gravel. Let's not forget the flock of prehistoric birds, a vacuum-cleaning mammoth and a sabre-tooth tiger called Tiddles! The J4s worked together to put on a fantastic performance and should be proud of all they achieved.

Miss S Moule



Junior School Sport 2018/19

The Junior School can proudly say that every pupil has represented the school in competitive fixtures in one or more of the following sports: hockey, rugby, netball, football, cricket, rounders, athletics, swimming & gymnastics.

- Our swimming squad has trained hard all year, competing at multiple galas against Warwick, King Henry's, Bablake, and many more strong swimming schools. For the second year running, we qualified for the IAPS National Swimming Finals at the London Aquatics Centre (Olympic Pool), in backstroke, butterfly and freestyle relays.
- In athletics, we were again crowned Solihull Borough Champions, competing in track & field against over 40 schools from around the Solihull Borough. Also, we were overall winners at the Hallfield Athletics Relays for three consecutive years.
- The gymnastics squad came 3rd at the Midlands WMSGa Floor & Vault Competition, and then gave another fantastic performance at the 2019 Gymfest Show.
- The U11 netball team made history, winning the Regional IAPS Tournament, then going on to represent Solihull School at the IAPS National Netball Finals, where they came 6th in their section.
- In hockey, our boys' U11 team played well at the Warwickshire County Cup – finishing in 3rd place. Our U11 girls' hockey team won the Warwickshire County Cup and went on to the Regional Hockey Finals where they came 4th in their section.

Junior School Sport continues to go from strength to strength, with all pupils playing their socks off and having lots of fun!

Mr D Super



School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The School Chaplaincy has continued to play an important 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, expertise and good humour of Mr David Rice and Mr Tim Kermode, together with Mr Peter Irving regularly at the organ console.

After welcoming our school community into the life of the chaplaincy we soon celebrated the Harvest enabling significant donations towards the work of St Basil's Hostel and the Kings Norton Foodbank. Remembrance Day was also poignant with our wreath laying service in the school Quad, Sixth Form Chapel and the Sunday Requiem Eucharist. Advent and Christmas, as usual, were celebrated with great style, 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 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. Again, we were significant givers to this charity in the West Midlands.

The Summer Term saw the return of our Pet Service, when the Junior School members and others brought their delightful 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 nevertheless appreciate our prayers and support.

Throughout the year, a number of our extended Sunday congregation have participated in the '3D Initiative' – a diocesan course for developing discipleship – which I have had the privilege of teaching. This is intended to build confidence in faith for those already established in the Christian community. It provided a weekly opportunity to meet in small groups to study the scriptures, discuss issues of faith and life and pray together. The course concluded with a wonderful service in Birmingham Cathedral where participants were presented with certificates and encouraged to consider future ministries to which God may be calling them.

Our annual chaplaincy and parish visit to Walsingham brought the academic year to a close when we joined hundreds of young people from across the country and beyond for the Youth Pilgrimage. Aside from our usual activities, we were treated to some very lively liturgies accompanied by the popular Christian band CJM. We were supported by members of 'Christians in Sport' and 'Ambassadors Football' to explain how sport and faith can go together.



This year's theme was 'Wonderfully Made: Your body, Christ's body', reminding participants that we are all beautiful – not because of what we wear or what our selfie looks like – but simply because God made us and sent his Son to die for us, promising the life of heaven with Mary and the saints. At this year's pilgrimage we were asked to consider what it means to live in a body. In a culture where so many become stressed by body image, we considered what the Gospel tells us.

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 continue to exercise a busy ministry in the Solihull Team of churches and support St Alphege by celebrating the Sunday Eucharist, funerals, weddings, baptisms, counselling and other pastoral involvement. I have also been involved in a number of other churches including St George, Edgbaston and St Agatha, Sparkbrook.

Our life here and in the other churches has been full and varied. Many thanks to those who support us with their presence and prayers.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson



Chapel Choirs

It has been a delight to arrive here to find choral singing in such good shape, at every level of age and experience across the school! I have enjoyed getting to know the distinct personalities of all our choral groups and testing their mettle in various ways during my first year here. Our chapel community is immensely supportive of good quality singing, and I'm very grateful to work with a chaplain who is so tuned in to the value of music in worship.

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir hit the ground running in September with some demanding new repertoire; this set the tone for a year which involved plenty of exploration of music old and new. Remembrance Sunday was our first major event of the liturgical year, and the choir took the opportunity to demonstrate their versatility. Faure's sublime *Requiem Mass* was presented with an abundance of light and shade, and a dramatic feeling which allowed for both terrifying description of eternal hellfire, and a comforting message of resurrection and hope for the souls of the dying.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, sung twice to a packed-out chapel each time, was perhaps the highlight of the year. Lauridsen's intimate *O Magnum Mysterium* was a favourite with the congregation, while the choir seemed to enjoy the spiky rhythms of Matthias's *A babe is born*.

As is the case every year, a visit to sing at St Paul's Cathedral was an inspiring opportunity; the choir were professional in demeanour and musicianship. The repertoire was all new to the choir – a great challenge which they rose to very well. Mr Irving played the organ delightfully, as indeed he does throughout the year.

The Leavers' Service, always a poignant occasion, forced us to say goodbye to a number of our strongest singers. In particular, a number of fine baritones are unfortunately departing, and as a swansong they enjoyed the endlessly flowing melodies of Howells's *Like as the Hart*. The service ended with Oliver Francis conducting Rutter's *Go forth into the world*. The Chamber Choir sang the very next Sunday with greatly reduced forces but not reduced gusto, and the last few weeks of rehearsing without the Upper Sixth Form have demonstrated what a fantastic year we might have ahead of us in 2019-20!

Boys' Choir

Anywhere else, it might be a challenge to recruit successfully to an elite group like our Boys' Choir, but the strength of singing in Junior School Curriculum music, as well as Scuffle and Junior Singers, have meant that we had a very strong intake of probationers this year. Inevitably with this group, some boys move onwards and upwards when their voices change, and two of our choristers are now much-valued members of the Chamber Choir.

The weekly round of rehearsals and evensong services was complemented by special events in collaboration with the other chapel choir sections, including the Nine Lessons and Carols service, and a visit to the extraordinary Tewkesbury Abbey, which was inspiring for all.

I'm indebted to Tim Kermode for sharing in responsibility for training this remarkable group of singers.

Mr D Rice

Girls' Choir

It has been a busy yet successful year for Girls' Choir. In addition to the many regular Sunday services we have sung at, we joined with the Boys' Choir to commemorate Remembrance Day in November, for all the soldiers that bravely fought for us, in which we sang a moving piece ending with 'The Last Post'. We welcomed the festivities of Christmas with another outstanding rendition of 'Nine lessons and Carols', with the soloists being as good as ever. Right at the end of the year we had the very enjoyable and eventful trip to Tewkesbury Abbey where we sang Evensong and had a lot of fun without getting into 'treble'. We have had the privilege of expanding the Girls' Choir by ten members this year and all the new members have settled in well and are contributing with great tone and commitment; the popularity of the Chapel Choirs grows year on year!

In his first year here at Solihull as Head of Choral Music, Mr Rice's addition to the choirs has really struck the right chords; his inspiration and focus to detail has vastly improved the overall ability of the choristers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff involved in the life of the Chapel: Mr Kermode, who has conducted Girls' Choir throughout the year; Mr Rice, who conducts and plays the organ; Mr Irving, who plays the organ; and Father Andrew with his quick wit that amuses the congregation and increases the numbers every Sunday. We look forward to the many exciting opportunities that next year will undoubtedly hold.

Tegan Gilbert, Fourth Form

Helping the wider community

Everyone benefits when individuals give up their time and talent to help others in the community around them. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I am able to report that the Community Service Programme in the Sixth Form has had another successful year with students completing placements at Ruckleigh, Reynolds Cross, St Alphege, Ulverley and our very own Junior School. Our students have had wonderful opportunities to get involved in supporting learning in the classroom, pupils reading and an after-school football club.

This year has proved to be very fruitful in terms of building on the relationship that the school has established with Reynolds Cross School over the last few years. Four of our students were able to complete their nearly year-long placements at the school, working directly with four of their students. This involved providing support in lessons and then in helping to feed the students at lunchtime. As the teacher in charge of this enrichment option, it filled me with joy to hear our Sixth Formers talk about the students and their experiences when they got back to school.

This programme would not be possible without the unstinting support of our host organisations. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the staff who have supported our students and made them feel so welcome. I hope that these relationships continue to be of mutual benefit and can be maintained long into the future.

If there are organisations based near the school where it would be suitable for our Sixth Form students to undertake community service, then please let me know as we are always on the lookout for new and exciting opportunities to develop the Community Service Programme even further.

Dr S Sawicki



Pet Service

The Pet Service was a marvellous experience, and a great evening. Father Andrew's words refreshed everyone's minds, reminding us how important it is to celebrate the beautiful creations of the world, whilst the Junior and Scuffle Singers' performance was very impressive and full of fun. Everyone who attended the event would agree that all the way through the service there was a constant bark, squeak, or some other odd noise coming from the over-enthusiastic animals, but most of us never minded this, as we were having the time of our lives!

Mr M Jones



**Remembrance 2018 –
Centenary Commemorations**

A series of events to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War began before October half-term, when every member of the school community printed a poppy on a white silk flag and assembled on the fields for an aerial photograph of a human montage to honour the Silhillians who fought in the war. ‘Solihull Remembers’, a gala evening of music, drama, history, original poetry, CCF drill and historical artefacts from the era was followed on Friday by the traditional wreath-laying ceremony in the Quad, at which crosses were planted bearing the names of every Silhillian who sacrificed their life in the conflict. The Chapel was decorated for the Remembrance Service and requiem mass with two stunning silk hangings produced by Karen Perrins in the Art Department.

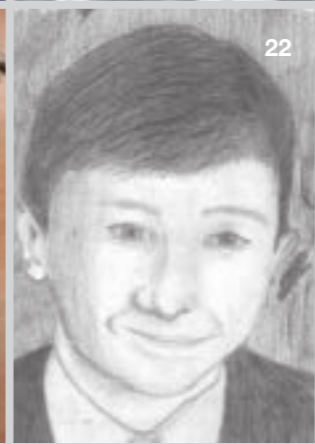
Mrs J Francis





Lower School Art

1. Karolina Rarko
2. Aimee Burgin
3. Alice Batterbee
4. Bella Thomas
5. Ben Blakemore
6. Emily Wood
7. Emma Roberts
8. Florrie Grice
9. Gurneet Jheeta
10. India Koziol
11. Jake Evans
12. Jonathon Maundrell
13. Joshua Simia
14. Kayra Cowan
15. Lola Adesanya
16. Noah Harrison
17. Olivia Owens
18. Samuel Sitch
19. Shell Form Sculptures
20. Skye Homer
21. Thomas Phillips
22. William Burrell
23. William Spence



Music

Music at Solihull 2018 - 2019

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 were among the 32% who achieved distinctions and the 80% who achieved either merits or distinctions. This has been complemented by many pupils playing in the string, wind and brass chamber ensembles, as well as the eight larger ensembles and six choirs that have met each week. It continues to be a delight to see such commitment and excitement in solo and ensemble performances at all levels – in and out of the classroom, young and old, beginner and advanced. The range of events and successes has been wonderfully wide, the enthusiasm of the pupils and the staff prodigious and the skill consistently impressive. Across the three terms, the five large-scale concerts involved over 300 pupil performers; add to that all our J2s singing in the 'Solihull Sings!' choral outreach event, 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-six formal concerts over the year (five for larger ensembles and eleven for soloists and chamber groups), as well as three masterclasses (for violin, piano and trumpet), five magnificent performances of the Senior School musical *Made in Dagenham*, two performances of the Junior School musical *Rock Bottom*, weekly Chapel services, two 'sell-out' Carol Services, the Solihull Remembers evening (marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1st World War), a lunchtime concert given at Solihull Methodist Church, the GCSE and A-Level Composition Concert, a trip to Tewkesbury Abbey for the Boys' & Girls' Choirs and the annual visit to St Paul's Cathedral in London for the Chamber Choir. As part of the recital series linked to Compline services on one Sunday each term, four music staff, two Sixth Form Music Scholars (Aviva Sandler and Maisie Stewart) and local professional musicians presented a sparkling performance of chamber music by Prokofiev, Mozart and Jewish Klezmer music; the other two recitals were for organ, given respectively by Mr Rice and Max Dormon.



Detailed in other articles you will see that there has been wonderful work in separate instrumental families – choral, keyboard, woodwind, strings and brass – in the form of masterclasses and Music Festival successes. A new venture this year has been the introduction of Rock groups. Three groups met each week under the guidance of Mr Laurence Hunt (our percussion teacher) and performed a few times, including in Junior and Lower School assemblies. In the final week of the year Miss Rosina, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Martens ran a small music tour to Jersey to link up with the Jersey Music School. Ziying He (piano), Lauren Raybould (violin) and Katy Baker (clarinet) presented music both as soloists and as a trio, and worked alongside musicians from Jersey in joint repertoire. The joy of music making together proved to be infectious and a great time was certainly had by all.

None of the activity detailed above would be possible without the wonderful professionalism, commitment, musical skill and energy of all the music staff that work in the David Turnbull Music School. During the year we have said farewell and our collective thanks to Mr Lee Harris (Department Technician – see more in the Valet section), Mrs Gill Reynolds (flute, clarinet & saxophone) and Mrs Gail Kirby (violin). In their place and in new positions we have been delighted to welcome Mr David Rice (Head of Choral Music), Mrs Isabel Baumber (Music Administrator), Mr Mike Nowland (cello), Miss Helen Foster (flute), Miss Liz Larner and Mrs Abigail Newton (both guitar) and Miss Chloe Percy-Smith (saxophone). We have also welcomed back from maternity leave Mrs Rebecca Dawkins (oboe) who has been so ably covered by Mrs Ann Hagyard. In September 2019 we also welcome Mrs Louise Carey (violin). To all these staff especially, but to all the others as well, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the school and the Music Department – they have brought so much to our community, not only in their individual teaching and ensemble direction but also in their support of all the pupils and the music staff.

Mr T Kermode



Musical High Achievers

Many pupils have made great progress in their own right, whether that be at the beginning of their musical journey – passing their first Prep Test exam or giving their first concert performance as a soloist – or heading beyond grade 8 and performing longer recital programmes. A very healthy number of pupils have gained strong marks in their grade 7 and 8 exams – many at distinction level. In addition, many have had the courage to perform at local music festivals and received high plaudits from the adjudicators. The full list of successes would take up too much space to detail in full, but we would like to congratulate three groups of pupils: those gaining a 1st and/or a 2nd place award at a music festival, those who have done well in competitions and external concerts, and those who have progressed beyond grade 8.

In the first category we congratulate the following on their 1st and 2nd place awards at music festivals in Leamington Spa and Lichfield:

Jacques Barker (three), Kaia Berry (two), Kieran Bown, Oliver Cooper, Will Daglish, Claire Delaney (two), Burcin Demiroglu (three), Ziqi Ding, Lara El Daief, George Finney (two), Ella Furber (two), Eleanor Gooderidge, Joshua Gooderidge, Hannah Greenwood (three), Isabel Morgan, Yichen Pan (three, including the trophy for the most promising pianist in all the grade classes), Yiyang Pan, Viraj Parmar, Isabella Piggott-Kwofie (most promising saxophonist), Aubrey Plunkett, Florence Pugh, Shriya Sharma, Hannah Smith, Gemma Winfield (five, as well as the trophy for ‘Most Promising Clarinetist’), Leon Ye (three).

In the second category we congratulate:

- Ziqi Ding (in J3) who was selected to play two movements of Haydn’s Piano Concerto with the Solihull Symphony Orchestra in their ‘Rising Stars’ Concert in March. Ziqi was also runner up in the Schools’ Piano Competition run by Loughborough Schools Foundation.
- Maisie Stewart gained a place for the second year running in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.
- Katy Baker has again played with the National Children’s Orchestra (both on the cello and clarinet) and Yichen Pan has played with the South Westerlies Orchestra of the National Children’s Orchestra (on her second instrument, the cello).



- Oliver Francis had great success in the EPTA (European Piano Teachers’ Association) National Piano Competition, progressing through to the grand finals held at London’s Royal Academy of Music. This is no mean feat as many of the competitors attend one of the five specialist schools across the country. Oliver played like a dream in the finals and, unofficially, came second. We are delighted for Oliver that he has gained a place at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music to study piano for a further three years. Keep your eyes peeled in the future for this rising star.

In the third category we congratulate the following for their post-grade 8 successes:

- Ziyang He, who gained her second Performers’ Diploma. For a pupil to have gained two by the age of 14 is outstanding – usually this would be the domain of students in higher education at Music Conservatoire. Ziyang has also now become part of the CBSO Youth orchestra as their orchestral pianist.
- Hot on the heels of her engaging and characterful performance in *Made in Dagenham*, Chrissie Bate gained her Musical Theatre Diploma as a singer.

Mr T Kermode



St Cecilia Concert

On 22 November, musicians celebrate the life of St Cecilia – the patron saint of musicians. It was apt, therefore, that our St Cecilia Concert this year fell on the day before her name day. The concert brought together nearly 125 pupils playing and singing in ten different ensembles. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres.

The music was presented by Chamber Orchestra, String Ensemble, Concert Band, Big Band, Saxophony, Combined Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, ‘Jazz 793’ and ‘The Twelve’ (Sixth Form close harmony group). In addition, two pupils had significant solos: Aviva Sandler played the viola with Chamber Orchestra in Telemann’s *Viola Concerto* and Oliver Rooney played saxophone in a transcribed versions of *Gabriel’s Oboe* (the main theme from the film score for *The Mission*) along with Concert Band. Both of them played with great skill and musicianship, as did the two groups accompanying them.

Mr T Kermode



Strings Orchestras

This year, the Intermediate String Orchestra combined with the Advanced String Orchestra to form one massed orchestra of string players. Over the year we have played music such as ‘Shut up and dance’ and ‘Besame mucho’ in the Summer Concert, as well as ‘Ode to St Cecilia’ and ‘Conquistador’ in the St Cecilia Concert. The smaller group of chamber orchestra players have enjoyed tackling some more challenging pieces and have loved playing the Telemann Viola concerto with soloist Aviva Sandler and Mozart’s 2nd piano concerto in A major with Oliver Francis on the piano. Overall, the two string groups have had a very successful and productive year and look forward to learning new music in the new term!

Lauren Raybould, Upper Fifth





Summer Concert

At a point in the term when the weather really did feel as though summer was on its way (before the rainy June), 130 pupils played and sang in 11 different orchestral, woodwind, brass, string and jazz ensembles in the Summer Concert. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres and all the performances were impressive both for their musical sparkle and consistency in quality. One particular highlight was Oliver Francis's performance of two movements of a Mozart piano concerto, accompanied marvellously by Chamber Orchestra. At the end of a great evening we recognised the significant impact the leaving Upper Sixth students have made over the years to the musical life of the school by presenting them each with a rose as a token of our esteem. There was then more than a hint of dewy eyes in the hall!

Mr T Kermode



Concert Band

It is important for a musician to get used to playing with others in the orchestra as it teaches important skills that are really valuable and can improve your playing a great deal. We're certain that we have both become better musicians from our participation in Concert Band. We have greatly enjoyed playing more difficult and exciting pieces such as 'In the Mood', and some excerpts from film scores, like 'The Pirates of the Caribbean' and 'This is Me' from *The Greatest Showman*, which are well-known and were very well-received in our concerts earlier this year. Concert Band can be joined by all wind players from around Grade 4+ standard. Miss Rosina is always happy to welcome new players, so don't hesitate to speak to her if you'd like to join the largest ensemble in the school!

Andrew Gach and Olivia Mueller – Lower Sixth



Clarinet Choir

The highlight of our year in Clarinet Choir was when we discovered that there were two bass clarinets in the woodwind cupboard, so we grasped this opportunity to play them in the ensemble. We were very keen to volunteer ourselves for a new challenge! Surprisingly, the new instruments didn't take too much time to get used to - the bass clarinet has similar fingerings to a regular clarinet, and we enjoyed them so much that we couldn't stop practising them! To an untrained ear, they may seem a small addition to the group, but the bass clarinets increase the tonality and texture within the ensemble and definitely introduce some variety. We played various fun and exciting pieces this year, including 'Bare Necessities' and 'Yesterday' by the Beatles. The group is ever growing and is full of life! Please see Miss Rosina if you'd like to join.

Andrew Gach and Olivia Mueller, Lower Sixth



Flute Choir

We have had a great year in Flute Choir which consists of 13 players ranging from the Third Form to the Lower Sixth. To start off the Christmas term, we learnt 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two' by Lionel Bart. We prepared this for the St Cecilia Concert which took place in November. We worked really hard in order to prepare for this concert and the outcome paid off. After the St Cecilia Concert, we started to work towards the Summer Concert in May. For this, we began to learn 'All that Jazz' by John Kander. While this was a very challenging piece to put together, we managed to work hard every week in order to make it sound the best it could for the concert.

Miss Foster has been a great asset to Flute Choir; despite being new this year she has been extremely helpful in organising the group and making sure that we performed to our best standard. We are very thankful for all of the help that she has given us over the year.

Harriet Toogood, Lower Sixth

Saxophony

It's been another amazing year for the school's leading saxophone group. Having lost three members of the team last year, the numbers were kept up with the addition of three new members: Annabel Dalby, Hanaan Welch and Maisie Stewart. They joined Oli Rooney, Will Daglish, George Daly, Ben Cusack, Emily Ashby, Lauren Besford, and me!

We rehearse every Thursday at 8am, and despite the early start we manage to get the banter rolling within minutes, even if the quality of playing takes a little longer to arrive! This year we learnt a lot of new pieces, including the Sesame Street theme tune, 'Thriller' by Michael Jackson, 'Under the Sea' by Alan Menken, 'New York, New York' by John Kander and 'Cantina Band' from *Star Wars* by John Williams. We have a vast repertoire in our back pockets to whip out at events such as Open Mornings, where we greet prospective parents with famous tunes like 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' and 'Wonderful World' as they walk into school.

Saxophony wouldn't be half the standard it is today if it wasn't for our hugely talented conductor and teacher Miss Rosina, who, whilst only in her second year at the school, has made a massive impact on the music community at Solihull in her position as Head of Woodwind.

There are two members of the team who sadly won't be enjoying any more years at the school, and it is with regret that we say goodbye to our two Upper Sixth members, the highly talented, Diploma-level saxophonist Oli Rooney and the 'World's Best Drummer' Ewan Waddell. Oli has been in Saxophony it seems for longer than the rest of us have been alive; Ewan has been the unsung hero of pretty much every group in the Music School. Saxophony will never be the same without them and I wish them the best of luck at University and beyond.

William Pearse, Lower Sixth





School Bands

There are two bands at Solihull School: Even If The Cover Is On and The Carpet Lids. The bands were started in the second half term of the year, with our first songs being ‘Creep’ by Radiohead and ‘Eye of the Tiger’ by Survivor. We rehearsed for about eight weeks, after which we performed our songs to a small group, and it was a great success! I’d like to thank Mr Hunt for giving up every Wednesday after school to help our bands grow and develop, as well as Miss Rosina for supporting the idea. We are now doing the songs ‘Zombie’ by The Cranberries and ‘Love me again’ and the Carpet Lids are doing ‘Seven Nation Army’ by The White Stripes and ‘Believer’ by Imagine Dragons. Being in a band has been a great experience, and apart from the occasional wrong note, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope to continue this for as long as I can: being a vocalist in a band like this is really rewarding and a great deal of fun!

Frankie Deehan, Shell Form



Trebles and Tewkesbury

A week before the end of the Summer Term our Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs had the wonderful experience of singing Evensong in the magnificent Tewkesbury Abbey. Their sound has progressed impressively this year and their voices resounded around the abbey with sparkle and precision.

Mr T Kermode

Trumpet Day

In February, Solihull hosted a collaborative trumpet masterclass with four other independent schools, joined together by their respective trumpet teachers. Murray Greig, Senior Trumpet Tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music and Principal trumpet with Opera North, came to work with students in their chamber groups that rehearse weekly at school – the Lower School Trumpet Quartet, the Solihull Trumpet Ensemble and the Advanced Trumpet Quartet. The three groups presented an array of musical styles to Murray in their prepared pieces and he worked with the students on aspects of tuning, performance etiquette, sound, trumpet technique and listening skills as well as finer details of the music.

He had students singing frequently, using his wealth of experience of playing in the Opera Orchestra, and he talked about singing coming from the same part of the brain as trumpet playing due to the many physical similarities. The intonation of all the groups that played that afternoon certainly raised a level between the afternoon masterclass and the early evening concert. The concert then concluded with two mass pieces with nearly fifty trumpet players on stage conducted by Murray – what a sight and a sound! Trumpet playing across the school has gone from strength to strength this year and our trumpet players young and old will have been heard, and sometimes seen, in remembrance services, concerts aplenty, prize giving events and outside venues. Well done for a wonderful year, Team Trumpet.

Mrs J Spraggett

European Piano Teachers’ Association Competition

This year Solihull once again hosted the first and regional final rounds of the EPTA competition, welcoming pianists from all over the UK. The standard was extremely high and both Oliver Francis and Claire Delaney performed really well during their respective first rounds. The next few weeks saw Oliver progressing to the National Finals – one of three pianists to do so in the Diploma Category. Oliver gave an excellent performance of works by Brahms and Gershwin during the National Final round in London. A wonderful achievement! Oliver said afterwards, ‘Playing at the Royal Academy in London for the final round was a really fun and yet daunting task. The experience really challenged the way I critically think about my playing and receiving feedback from such well-respected performers was such an honour. I had the best time’.

Warwick Group Piano Celebration

The first Warwick Group Piano Celebration Day was held at Warwick School in February. As a non-competitive event, this gave pianists from the Warwick Group Schools the opportunity to have lessons from teachers of different schools, also meeting and listening to pianists from different schools. The day concluded with a concert celebrating the excellent work pianists in these schools do. Ziyang He, Max Dormon, Kaia Berry and Yichen Pan gave wonderful performances. We are looking forward to hosting this event at Solihull next year!

Mrs H Martens

Piano Masterclasses

We were delighted to welcome both Kathryn Page and Graeme Humphrey to Solihull during January to work with several of our gifted pianists. Kathryn’s lessons were filled with lots of laughter and great enthusiasm. Pupils from to Junior, Lower and Middle Schools thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from the experience. Graeme Humphrey worked with our Grade 8 and Diploma pianists and all the pianists involved found the lessons inspirational and extremely helpful.

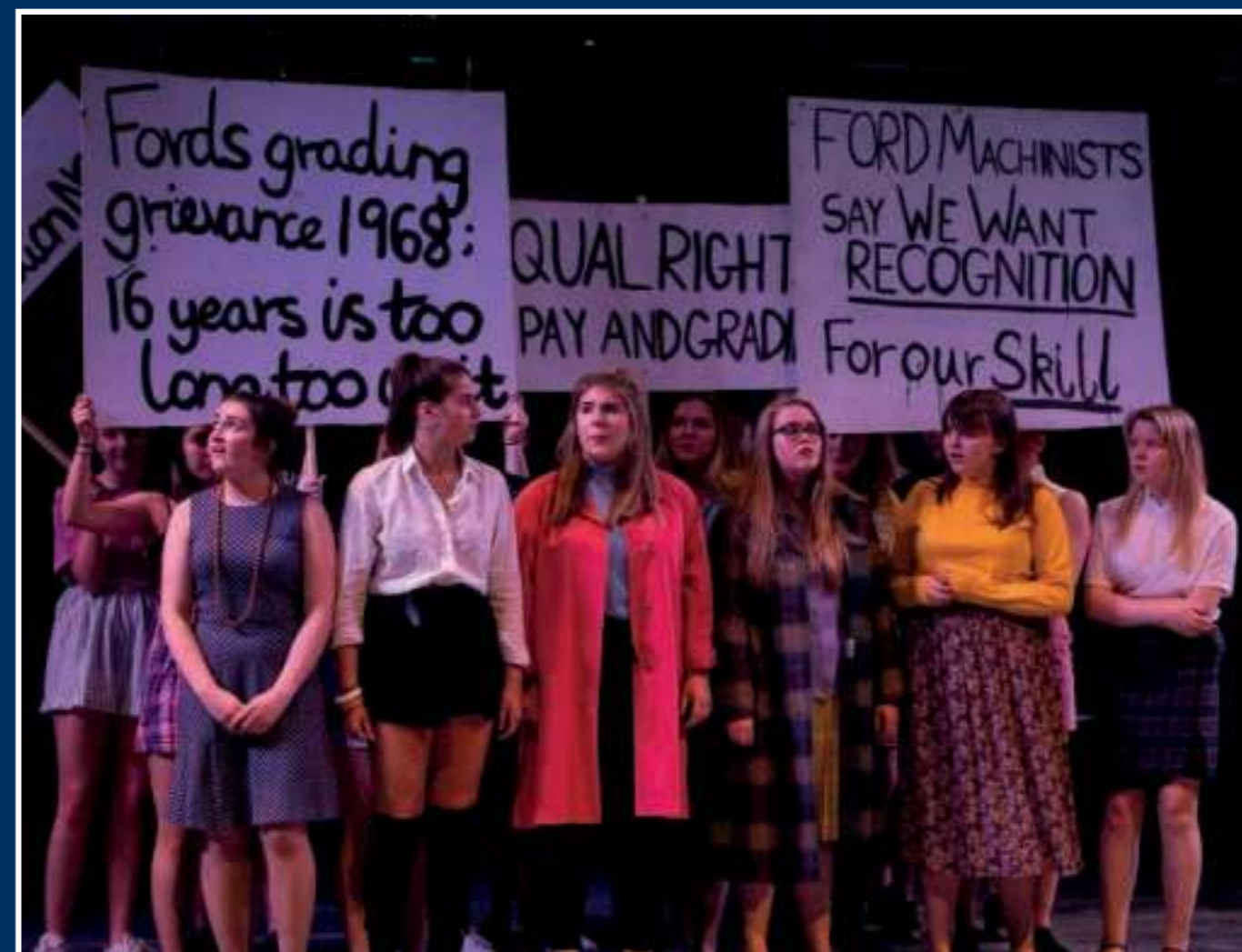


Drama

Made in Dagenham

Made in Dagenham is a comic and joyous musical that explores the 1968 equal pay strike at Ford Dagenham and it drove into the Bushell Hall at the end of March. The musical follows the efforts of Rita O'Grady, brilliantly and tenderly played by Christina Bate, and her awakening to the injustice of unequal pay. Featuring catchy tunes sung by well-known political figures such as Barbara Castle (a magnetic Helena Massoud) and big chorus numbers, *Made in Dagenham* delighted sold out audiences for four nights. The new thrust stage was energetically filled with a colourful chorus of Ford workers, who skilfully wove their way around an ambitious set and in time to expertly realised music. The show ended with Rita making her impassioned plea for equal pay, as the audience rose to their feet spontaneously in support, and pictures of women the company especially admired flashed across a screen. Particular mention must be made of those in the departing Upper Sixth who played Rita's inner circle with such colour and life, including Tabitha Botterill as Sandra and Marisa Veloso as Beryl. Such talent was also evident in the Lower Sixth, and we look forward to future productions with eager anticipation.

Mr J Hammond





A Midsummer Night's Dream

In June, Bushell Hall audiences were treated to an immersive production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A cast of 40 brought the story to life using lots of glitter, festival-inspired costumes and an especially magical set, designed by Mr Hunton. Thomas Giddings was spectacular as Bottom, Freddie Truman and Alex Warburton were fantastic as the Fairy King and Fairy Queen and Lola-Blue Sattar-O'Dwyer's Puck tormented the audience with her mischievous tricks. Pupils learnt a challenging Shakespearean script and enlivened the play with humour and sensitivity. Drama is a truly collaborative endeavour, and this was certainly seen in the importance of live music played by Will Naisbitt, Katy Baker and Gemma Winfield. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a truly visual spectacle and a real achievement.

Mrs L Super



The Glove Thief

The first production of the new academic year proved to be another enormous success in the growing trend of student-directed productions. *The Glove Thief* by Beth Flintoff, performed by the Shell and Fourth Forms, was the first production in Solihull history to be entirely directed by a Sixth Former, Alexandra Hogg. The play, which dealt with the tumultuous relationship between Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots, was ably performed by a passionate cast, which included an excellent Lola-Blue Sattar-O'Dwyer as Rose, an imperious Alex Townsend as Mary and a magisterial Lily Feist as Elizabeth. The play, which was also designed and lit by Sixth Form practitioners, was enjoyed and appreciated thoroughly by audiences.

Mr J Hammond



The Royal Hunt of the Sun

In early December the Senior School was treated to an ambitious staging of Peter Shaffer's 1964 epic concerning the Spanish invasion of the Incan empire in 1533, *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*. A cast of forty brought this sweeping tale to life using physical theatre, masks and an especially striking set, designed by Mr Hunton. At the centre of the tale is the aged Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro, who strikes up a strange friendship with the Incan King Atahualpa. Joshua Newby was fantastic as Pizarro, striding the stage with a feverish menace and, over the course of three hours, charting the course of an extraordinary journey from cynicism to hope and from hope to despair. Atahualpa was brought to life by Aoife Mackew with majesty, authority and an ethereal physical presence which dominated the stage.



Mention must also be made of the stirring and otherworldly live music, directed by Mr Phillips, which was vital in lifting the action from the historical to the truly epic. Strong performances were to be found throughout the company and there's no room to mention them all here, but it would be remiss of me not to mention Beth Miles's honourable De Soto and Ewan Waddell's gnarled narrator, Old Martin. Dramatic performance is a truly collaborative endeavour, and this was certainly seen in the importance of the Incans' masks, designed and created by Hiba Sandhu. *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* was a truly visual spectacle and a real achievement.

Mr J Hammond

House Drama

House Drama resumed this year and was often closely fought. In the Lower School, the honour of performing in Senior School assembly was decided between Fetherston (directed by Lower Sixth students Alex Duckworth and Beth Miles) and Pole (Eden Lupoli) with Fetherston's extract from *Second Person Narrative* proving to be the winner. Telling the story of an unnamed protagonist through the early years of her childhood, *Second Person Narrative* thoroughly amused the audience in whole school assembly. In the Middle School, things were even closer, with Fetherston's Olivia Featherstone and Olivia Hass sharing the prize with Windsor's Courtney Holland and Freddie Truman. Both performances were dedicated and engaged as the actors delivered moments of high drama with sensitivity and insight. Hopefully, next year will see this competition continue to grow and develop, occupying its rightful place as a vital part of the drama calendar.

Mr J Hammond



Theatre Trips

GCSE and A-Level Drama students have enjoyed a very busy schedule of theatre trips and workshops this year. They were profoundly moved by VAMOS theatre's touching portrayal of living with dementia in *Finding Joy*, experienced a bilingual English/Korean production in *Orange Polar Bear*, were spellbound by the theatrical adaptation of *The Lovely Bones*, and were filled with joy after experiencing a musical version of *Twelfth Night* in London. One highlight was a visit to the Vault Festival under the arches of Waterloo Station in London. In this unusual location, our A-Level students saw 'Counting Sheep', an immersive theatre experience about the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution which put them right at the centre of the action. Students have also taken part in a variety of workshops run by solo actors, the Birmingham Rep and students from the applied theatre course at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

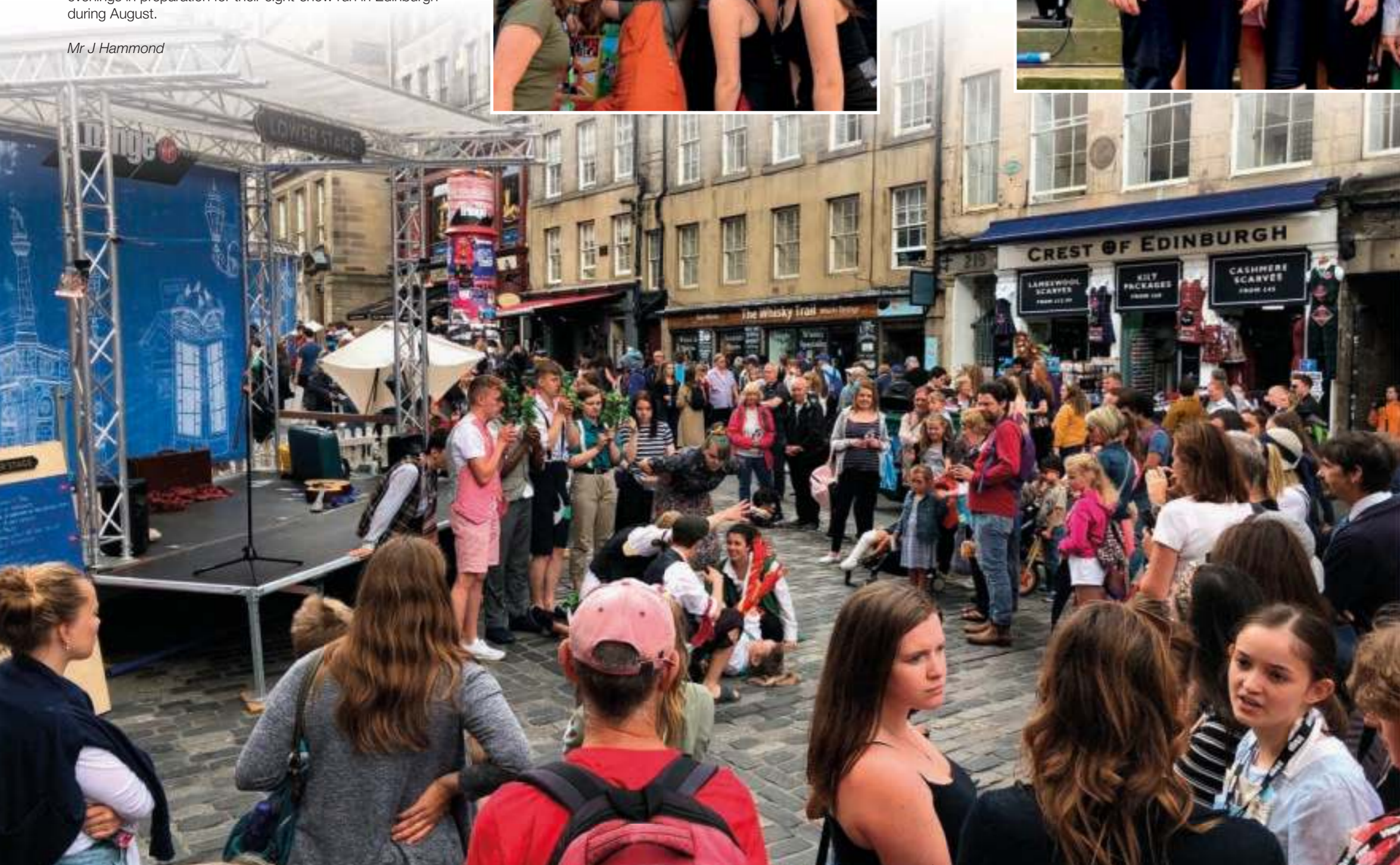
Mr J Hammond



Edinburgh Fringe Previews

Early July saw our Sixth Form theatre company, 'Grey Dog Theatre', present the Solihull previews of their much-anticipated shows 'Grimm Tales' and 'Invisible'. 'Grimm Tales' was performed by members of the Lower Sixth and re-imagined several much-loved fairy tales in an exuberant and joyful style. Before performing to local audiences, the 'Grimm Tales' cast also took their show on the road to local primary school children, who were delighted by its energy and good humour. The original music for 'Grimm Tales' was provided by Alexandra Duckworth and the varied parts were played by a talented cast of eleven, using puppets, an enormous array of props and much expert manipulation of a dozen old suitcases. The Upper Sixth presented 'Invisible', an adaptation of *The Invisible Man* by HG Wells, which combined the classic and thrilling tale of science gone wrong, with an original and relevant contemporary narrative. Conceived and largely created by the performers, 'Invisible' also featured original music, custom-created puppets and showcased a cast of talented young performers eager to tackle a meaningful and relevant subject. Both shows thrilled audiences over several evenings in preparation for their eight-show run in Edinburgh during August.

Mr J Hammond



Drama Awards Dinner

The evening of Saturday 6 July saw the Third Annual Drama Awards Dinner, 'The Gwemmas', take place in the Keith Sach Suite. Guests were treated to welcome drinks on the balcony before enjoying a sumptuous three-course meal and an awards ceremony celebrating all of the wonderful things that had been achieved in Drama this year. Special thanks must go to the outgoing Theatre Arts scholars, Aoife Mackew and Holly McClenaghan, who did such a brilliant job of decorating the venue.

Mr J Hammond



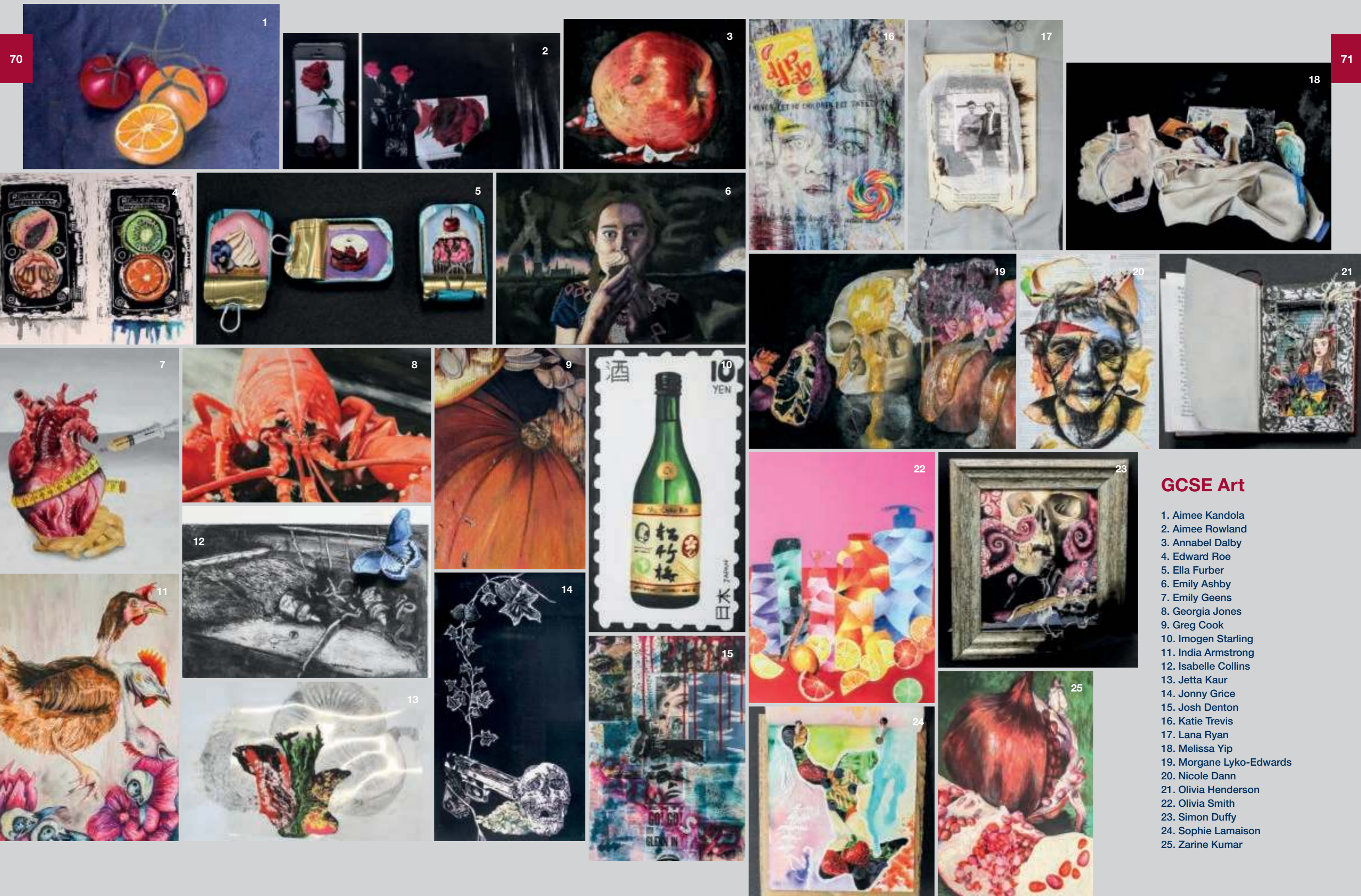
Edinburgh Fringe Performances

On 31 July, after their rigorous schedule of preview performances, Grey Dog Theatre Company made their way to the biggest arts festival in the world, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe. There is a special sense of anticipation when you gear up to present your work to an audience of total strangers for the first time, and our students had worked so hard acting, writing, designing and making our shows that they were keenly looking forward to the first performance.

The students displayed an exceptional level of professionalism as they carried props from place to place, marketed their shows on the Royal Mile and around the city, and performed every day to a very high standard. The shows were a real success, playing at over 50% capacity, a real achievement at the Fringe, and receiving enthusiastic responses from their audiences. These audiences often included Old Silhillians from the 2017 Edinburgh Trip, many of whom were involved in their own shows with their universities or on their own.

As well as performing, students were encouraged to see as many shows as possible, often as many as five a day, including comedy, theatre and circus. Rave reviews, heated debates and thoughtful discourse were never far away, with the entire group constantly sharing recommendations and seeing shows together. When the group piled onto the coach back to Solihull after ten days in the festival city, they were exhausted, triumphant, wiser and already planning their next Fringe.

Mr J Hammond



GCSE Art

1. Aimee Kandola
2. Aimee Rowland
3. Annabel Dalby
4. Edward Roe
5. Ella Furber
6. Emily Ashby
7. Emily Geens
8. Georgia Jones
9. Greg Cook
10. Imogen Starling
11. India Armstrong
12. Isabelle Collins
13. Jetta Kaur
14. Jonny Grice
15. Josh Denton
16. Katie Trevis
17. Lana Ryan
18. Melissa Yip
19. Morgane Lyko-Edwards
20. Nicole Dann
21. Olivia Henderson
22. Olivia Smith
23. Simon Duffy
24. Sophie Lamaison
25. Zarine Kumar

Societies, Visitors & Academic Success

Solihull School CCF (Army)

2018/19 was another successful year for the Army Section. In 2019, the Contingent was led by CSM Olivia Tennant, who was an excellent and inspirational leader. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the cadets, she was selected as a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, the first the school has produced. Her duties involved accompanying the Lord Lieutenant to many official duties, including meeting Princess Alexandra and finally being invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace where she was introduced to the Queen. An amazing experience and a just reward for all her efforts.

This year we welcomed two new officers, Robin Bate and Edward Walden. There were again numerous training events including Military training weekends and Range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges. The first weekend training saw our newest recruits spend a night under shelters in Hopwas Wood near Lichfield.

In October, we held the Introduction to Fieldcraft Exercise. This took place in Longmoor, Hampshire, over three nights. The cadets lived in improvised shelters (basha) every night, come rain or shine (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 Sqdn Ldr Dan Jones, an Old Sil and current fast jet pilot. In December, the section had a military training weekend at STANTA. The cadets all had the opportunity to take part in an ambush and a Platoon advance to Contact.

In February, we held Field Day at Swynnerton Training Area. On the Friday night we conducted a Night Navigation Exercise which was then followed by a really challenging day. All the



cadets were able to put their training to good use. The cadets undertook a round robin of activities that included a patrolling exercise; a camouflage and concealment exercise; a Section Attack Stand and a CQB lane. It was a long but very enjoyable day. This was followed by a second trip to STANTA in March where fieldcraft skills were honed in readiness for the Summer Camp in July.

The highlight and culmination of the year's training is Summer Camp, which was held at Wathgill, North Yorkshire for 15 members of the Army Section. We were also accompanied by 10 cadets from King Edward's Birmingham CCF. This was organised and staffed by the 4th Infantry Brigade Cadet Training Team. The weather was especially kind to us during the week. The first day of camp was spent on the Tactics Stand followed by our own 24hr Exercise involving a night ambush and a Platoon Advance to Contact. Our next stand was Training In Built Up Areas (TIBUA) which taught the cadets how to enter a house and conduct room clearances, followed by an introduction to patrolling in an Urban environment.



This was followed by a day on the ranges shooting at targets from 100m and 200m and a shotgun range. The week ended with a day at Adrenaline where the cadets completed the Krypton factor obstacle course and a high ropes course.

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 2Lt P G Dean MBE and all the other officers.

Maj N W S Leonard (Contingent Commander)





RAF Section

Another year came to an end with the CCF cadets going on Summer Camp. Five CCF units from all over the country came together at RAF Halton for a week of exciting activities and learning. The week started with a visit to the RAF Museum at Hendon in London. The cadets were split into two flights and competed to answer questions about the history of the RAF and had time to get to know each other. The week continued with other activities forming part of a competition between the two flights.

A full day of canoeing, sailing and raft building had the cadets come up with some excellent designs. Shooting, Drill competition, low ropes and team building all took part during the days, while bowling, a trip to the cinema, a visit to Go Ape, and a pizza and prizes night, made the week as packed as possible. The cadets returned very tired but ready for another year with the CCF RAF Section.

Flt Lt P Hadley RAFAC



Terriers

The Third Form pupils participate in Terriers. It is a weekly co-curricular activity, teaching a whole range of useful life skills, teamwork and mental wellbeing. In the Christmas term we learnt many survival skills including first aid, bicycle maintenance, different knots and their uses, and map skills. We put our newly learnt skills to the test in Mission which involved being dropped off in small teams at a local countryside location, and using map and compass skills we worked together to plot a route back to the waiting teachers and minibus.

In the Easter and Summer terms we participated in thrilling activities such as photography, outside cooking, a House football competition and even circus skills! Cooking was my personal favourite because we got to fry sausages and beef to create hot dogs and burgers, and on the second week we toasted marshmallows! Terriers is fun, entertaining and social. The skills learnt are worthwhile for everyday life and can be useful in future school events such as Snowdonia School and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Maisie Redfern, Third Form





Eighty-two 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 completed a practice weekend in Shropshire and then one month later the same pupils travelled north to the Peak District for their assessment weekend. This was unseasonably wet and the pupils showed real Perseverantia spirit to complete this successfully. Following the Peaks Expedition, there were then two successive DofE weekends which included a Gold extra navigational training day around the Clee Hills and then a Bronze 'catch up' weekend in Warwickshire.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2018/19

During October half term, four expedition teams of Upper Sixth students took part in a four-day Assessed Expedition crossing the Lake District from the coast in the west to the north end of Ullswater in the east along some very challenging routes. All of the students were successful. Expedition teams camped high up in the mountains for at least one night. All students coped magnificently and some have already since completed the other sections of their DofE and have attended St James's Palace to collect their Gold Award; well done to all!

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



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 and tents, rucksack packing and expedition kit and a great deal of time on map and compass work for route planning. For the large numbers of staff involved, two winter skills training weekends at Capel Curig have also been held and have been well attended.

Well done then to all our pupils who have completed their Award at any of the three levels; you have achieved fabulous things and all challenged yourselves in various ways. The reason why we have so many staff who wish to volunteer and assist our young people with their Award is because they get to see some inspirational individuals who show huge resilience and great determination to succeed when the 'going gets tough'. The commitment you have shown will stay with you as you move forward.

Mr O Bate / Mr P Dean MBE



Once again, I must thank the school staff and external volunteers who give up their time to make these trips possible. To all of our leaders, I and the pupils are hugely indebted.

The Award is not simply about the expedition section of course. Students 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. The latter involves students spending five days away from home, working with people they do not know doing a variety of 'shared activities'. Gold 'Residentials' this year have included students attending various courses, working with the YHA, Cornwall Police Force, First Aid and Lifeguarding in Dorset, Cookery in the Alps, Ski courses in the Cairngorms, sailing courses, surfing courses, work with the National Trust, charitable work with young people who have physical disabilities, and many more. Students 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 into well-rounded young people.





Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) continues to be a popular option for our Lower Sixth students as they investigate a topic that really interests them personally. It is almost entirely self-driven and this year's cohort of students chose a wide variety of issues to investigate with filmmaking, gender discrimination, historical debate, fashion design and nutrition being just a small selection of the ideas being explored.

Our annual EPQ presentation events in March were a great success with students explaining their research and conclusions to parents, staff and fellow students with great confidence. Throughout the process they have developed many skills that will be invaluable to them no matter what they do in the future.

Mrs L Spratley



Wellbeing and Personal Development

The first year of delivery of our new Wellbeing and Personal Development Curriculum has been well-received and taken into the heart of the school very quickly. This new subject represents an amalgamation of all things RSE, PSHE and essential elements of wellbeing including mental resiliency training and mindfulness. Aside from the fact that every student in school has dedicated lesson time for WPD, the key highlights of this first year include some of our pupils representing the school at a Youth Mental Health Conference, the introduction of the Guardian Shield qualification for Sixth Formers (which includes training to be Mental Health First Aiders) parent training opportunities in some of the same themes that our pupils have been exploring, and generally fostering a community of care and encouragement.

Mrs L Rooney



SIFA Fireside is such an amazing place. I thought it was just a ‘soup kitchen’, but it’s way more than that. They have approximately 160 clients every day. Between 9am and 1pm guests:

- eat nutritious food supplied and prepared by volunteers
- shower and use washing machines if necessary
- see doctors / dentists/ podiatrists and other health support services
- seek advice where necessary in developing CVs for work, sorting out benefits, looking for employment
- meet other people and form friendships.

It is about helping people to not just get back into a home but develop the skills to keep it.

Since completing my project I have talked in various churches, organised afternoon tea to raise funds, collected toiletries, food and other items and delivered them to the Fireside. The last non-uniform day at school was to support the Fireside Centre, when each student donated £2. I recently helped at a new and used clothes sale with donations from parents from Solihull School. Since completing my project I have helped raise more than £10k for the homeless in Birmingham. I am so proud and so grateful to everyone who has supported me. If you have any donations in the future we will be holding the new/nearly new sale twice a year and I will happily collect anything you would like to donate. Thank you for your continued support.

Hats off for Charity!

Following sales of our OddBalls hats, we were delighted to present a cheque of £1010 to the St Giles Hospice. The hospice supports cancer patients and their families in and around our local area.



Charity and Community Outreach

A huge well done and thank you to Solihull School for all its charity and community work in 2018-19. Students and parents have given generously, including bags of toiletries for St Basil’s at Christmas, new clothes for SIFA-Fireside and spectacles and sports equipment for projects in Sri Lanka. A wide range of local, national and international charities have benefitted from generous monetary donations, many of which are the result of our students giving of their time to bake, sell, dance, act, read or fulfil difficult sporting challenges to raise funds. A special thank you to students who have given of their time on a regular basis to volunteer at Reynolds Cross and those who spent a portion of their summer this year at the LAFF projects in Peru.

Ms C Dignon

One student, in particular, has gone the extra mile and has fully embodied the community ethos we aim to encourage at Solihull School.

My SIFA-Fireside Journey – Kitty O’Sullivan (Fourth Form)

As part of my Lower School Diploma this year I completed an extended project on the homeless Crisis in Birmingham. I never realised that the problem was so huge. More importantly, I didn’t realise that there were lots of things I could do to help. There are so many reasons why people find themselves homeless. For example:

- Breakdown of the family unit
- Loss of a job
- Alcohol or drug problems





LAFF Update

Mrs Brown returned to Peru this year and went to visit LAFF in Cusco. LAFF has been running as a charity for the last 12 years and in that time they have gone from strength to strength with a team of volunteers supporting the three projects they have been involved in from their inception: the teenage mothers home 'Casa Mantay', the hostel for rural girls 'Sacred Valley' and the boys' orphanage 'Azul Wasi'.

I visited their headquarters, celebrated their 12th birthday with them, met the new team and went with two volunteers to Azul Wasi to see how the orphanage is developing. It is growing in its physical size and is taking in more street children. While I was there, Alcides, the retired policeman who runs the home, received a phone call requesting him to take on another boy; this raised their number to 21 boys aged between 5 and 18. I was delighted to hear that those boys who finish their schooling at 18 have gone on to apprenticeships in the catering industry, joined the army, continued their further education, with others working in the tourist industry. Solihull School's fundraising and donation of around £3000 every year has been essential in giving these boys the extra tuition they need to catch up and progress, after long periods of time where they might have been abandoned, abused, orphaned and left to fend for themselves.

Alcides and the boys never fail to say a huge 'thank you' every time I visit them and they really would love volunteers from Solihull to come and live with them during their summer holidays. If anyone would like more information regarding LAFF and Azul Wasi, their website is <https://www.laffcharity.org.uk>. Or, email Mrs Brown brownj@solsch.org.uk.

Mrs J Brown



Debating Society

Debating continues to thrive at Solihull, and this has been another successful year with students developing their speaking skills and growing in confidence, both in national competitions and lunchtime sessions within school. We have a number of talented debaters throughout the school, from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, and training takes place on most days of the week.



Students have represented the school at competitions all over the country: in Birmingham, Durham, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Nottingham, and here in Solihull at our very own Solihull School inter-schools competition. In Durham, Rhea Deshpande and Madeeha Saher reached the novice quarter-finals, and the same pairing reached the final of the competition in Nottingham. Two pairs broke to the Oxford finals; Oliver Rooney and Thomas Williams, and Jack Arrowsmith and Georgina Hart. Jack and Georgina also succeeded in becoming our highest ever ranked pair, being placed in the top 20 teams out of close to a thousand teams that enter the competition. In addition, Georgina was the 14th best speaker and Jack was the 2nd highest ranked novice in the whole competition.

This year we also sadly say goodbye to Oliver and Thomas who leave Solihull having represented the school in debating so superbly for seven years.

Dr P Spratley



The Big Debate

For the fifth year running the school hosted an inter-schools debating competition aimed at broadening access to debating in our local area. Fifty pupils took part in the three rounds of debating, judged by high-level university debaters who came from across the country to help the younger pupils succeed. This event was followed in the evening by the annual Big Debate, chaired by the award-winning journalist and Patron of the Debating Society, Michael Buerk. The motion on the table was 'This House would ban private schools' and an in-depth, passionate and incisive debate ensued. Whilst the majority of the house opposed the motion, the proposition actually swayed more voters. Thanks to all involved.

Ms D Harford-Fox



Speeches Evening

This year we were delighted to welcome Dr Eugenia Cheng to Solihull to present the prizes to our students. Dr Cheng is an eminent mathematician, musician, baker and writer, and she delivered a fascinating and thought-provoking speech.



Public Speaking

This year we have been ably represented in the public speaking arena by two of our Lower Fifth pupils, Emma Gahan and Ciara Savage, working alongside Jacob Perry from the Fourth Form. This young team made it through to the third round of this year's English Speaking Union's Churchill Public Speaking Competition, successfully winning their place against peers who exceeded them in both age and experience. Along the way, they discussed issues including the mental health of young people and the dangers of internet anonymity. Special mention must be made of Emma's success, having being declared winning chair in two out of the three rounds. A successful year!

Miss N Evans

Solihull Speaks

In January we hosted one of the country's most distinguished experts in neuroscience and neuroimaging, along with a number of other expert speakers, at a conference focusing on gender equality in education. Professor Georgina Rippon, Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Neuroimaging at Aston University's Brain Centre, led the inaugural Solihull Speaks lecture event, which attracted education sector delegates from across the UK. Focusing on a wide range of issues, from promoting openness in boys to how to encourage risk-taking and boldness in girls, six speakers took part in the innovative discussion day, which featured a number of expert lectures and workshops, followed by a champagne buffet supper and panel discussion.



The next Solihull Speaks event, Tackling Prejudice and Discrimination in a Digital Age: what can schools do? took place in September and featured Eva Schloss and Mindu Hornick, along with other keynote speakers and anti-persecution charities. In January, the focus will be on mental health and wellbeing in education. We hope that these events will continue to grow in popularity, as we tackle some of the biggest and most important issues facing young people today.

Ms E Campbell

Warwick Group Heads of School

In October, we hosted our annual Warwick Group Heads of School day. The new Heads and Deputies from Bablake, King Henry VIII School, Loughborough Grammar School, Nottingham High School, Warwick School, and Wolverhampton Grammar School worked on their communication and leadership skills before embarking on a busy academic year for them all.





Professor Cofone returns to Solihull

In January, Professor Al Cofone, friend of the school and lecturer at Suffolk Community College, Long Island, New York returned to deliver another series of eagerly anticipated talks to hundreds of our students. He again covered a wide range of topics and offered a fascinating and welcome perspective to one and all. Professor Cofone’s lecture series included:

J1 Comparison: *America and Great Britain: Different but Alike*

J2 Weather: *The Big Brawl*

J3 North America: *A comparison of New York and London*

J4 Natural Disasters: *The Changing Face of the Earth*

Sixth Form History students: *The Election of JFK: Catholics, Mobsters and the Perfect Foil – a Brief History of a Campaign*

Sixth Form Politics Students: *Trumplandia 2020: Republicans, Democrats and the Fight for the Soul of the Common Man*

Mr M Penney



The SSPA’s ‘An Evening with Mike Tindall MBE’

It was a rollicking night of rugby and royalty as the SSPA hosted ‘An Evening with Mike Tindall MBE’ on 7 June. With more than 150 guests in attendance, the event showcased stories from Mike’s legendary sporting career, including hilarious, behind-the-scenes tour tales from England’s 2003 Rugby World Cup win. As part of an audience Q&A, Mike also shared insights on his fellow players, family life with Zara Phillips and his first royally nerve-wracking meeting with Her Majesty the Queen. Thanks to generous guest and sponsor support, the event raised over £10,000, bringing the SSPA’s 2018/19 fundraising total to over £34,000.

Mrs A Sadler

Jeffrey Archer

Three Lower Sixth students (Georgie Hart, Libby Shepherd and Tom Daniels) had the opportunity to meet the novelist and former MP, Lord Jeffrey Archer at the Hilton Metropole. They listened to a fascinating speech in which Lord Archer spoke about his career as a politician working for Margaret Thatcher as well as then going on to become one of the most prolific and successful novelists of modern times (350 million novels sold). They also had a number of their questions directed to him during the Q & A before chatting to him over lunch.

Dr S Hart



Classics Lecture

When people mention the Roman Empire, our minds drift towards the great and terrible line of the Emperors, the immense power they held and the incredible acts they undertook that helped shaped modern society. One only needs to mention the word Emperor to remember such rulers as Julius Caesar, the man who started it all and was stabbed in the back for it and Octavian, his foster child and heir, who brought about a great time of peace for Rome. But was Augustus actually in charge? Or did the Roman Senate use him for their own commissions?

On 11 October, the Classics Department travelled to the University of Birmingham to listen to Dr Amy Russell’s interpretation on this matter. The artefact in discussion was the Ara Pacis Augustae ‘Augustan Altar of Peace’, dedicated to the goddess Pax which was a commission by the Senate as a ‘gift’ to emperor Augustus. The altar was decorated with many friezes, with a large exterior frieze depicting a religious procession, with many carvings of human figures to form a dense congregation. Only five figures stand out in the crowd as they have their own unique face, leading many to believe that these figures were the imperial family. In actuality, these five special figures are more likely to be Senators due their animosity in the crowd. In this way, the frieze almost likens itself to a self-portrait of the Roman Senate, a ‘musing’ of what it is to be a senator. The lecture was incredibly informative and engaging.

Richard Loughran, Upper Sixth



Oxford University Mathematics Lecture

On Wednesday 9 January, Solihull hosted Oxford University’s inaugural Mathematics Midlands Public Lecture. This was the first time the Oxford University Mathematics Department had ventured outside of Oxford or London to present a lecture and the event was a great success. With topics ranging from prime numbers to the lottery, from lemmings to bending balls like Beckham, Professor Marcus du Sautoy provided an entertaining and, perhaps, unexpected approach to explain how mathematics can be used to predict the future. Professor du Sautoy (OBE FRS) is a British mathematician, author, and a well-known promoter of science and mathematics and we were delighted to have him deliver such a fantastic lecture to a packed Bushell Hall.

Mr M Bishop

Budding Barristers

This year saw Solihull enter two teams into the prestigious Independent Schools Bar Mock Trial competition, held at Birmingham Crown Court on 26 January in front of serving Crown Court judges. Solihull were the only school able to field two teams, given the number of pupils participating in the Lower Sixth law course. Teams prepared fictitious criminal cases on possession of an imitation firearm and an assault charge. Some great advocacy from the barristers and role play as witnesses, court clerks and ushers was on display with impressive feedback from the judges.

Mr M Gledhill



House Report 2018-19

It has been another exciting year in the House competition, with Shenstone being crowned winners by just two points! House Captains did a brilliant job encouraging students to participate in House activities throughout the year. The inaugural House Pancake Race was a roaring success and other annual competitions in sports, drama, debating, chess and many more were all enthusiastically supported by students and staff alike. Across the year there were hundreds of points up for grabs, and the opportunity to gain many more for the Houses on Sports Day was no different. The combination of a wider variety of events for more students to get involved in, some glorious July sunshine and ice lollies, meant it proved to be a terrific afternoon. Houses were led eagerly by the newly appointed Heads of Houses, and students throughout the course of the afternoon proved themselves to be dedicated, loyal and enthusiastic members of their Houses. Again, the event was characterised by a terrific sense of fun, community spirit and endeavour, which is what the House system is all about. Very well done to all this year!

Thanks go to the outgoing House Captains:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Fetherston: | Tabitha Botterill and Liam Duffy |
| Jago: | Sofia Cusack and Lewis Holsey |
| Pole: | Ella Whatley and Aoife Mackew |
| Shenstone: | Mohan Deo and Emeline Fakatou |
| Windsor: | Helena Massoud and Thomas Yearsley |

And the newly appointed Heads of House:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Fetherston: | Mrs G Lowe |
| Jago: | Mr D Brough |
| Pole: | Mr G James |
| Shenstone: | Mrs R Lancaster |
| Windsor: | Mrs V Patel |

Final standings:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FETHERSTON | 1102 |
| WINDSOR | 1043 |
| SHENSTONE | 1104 |
| POLE | 890 |
| JAGO | 829 |

Mrs H Fair



Lower School Diploma

On Tuesday 13 November, 34 Fourth Form pupils participated in the Lower School Diploma Evening in the George Hill Building, where they presented the portfolios and exhibitions that documented their work over the previous nine months, since enrolling in the Diploma programme during the Shell Form. The Lower School Diploma showcases Academic and Co-curricular endeavours, Charity and/or Community work, Leadership skills and an Extended Project piece, all underpinned by the Core Values of Humility, Compassion, Individuality, Integrity and Inclusivity.



Bosnia House

On Sunday 25 November, we were invited to the official opening of Bosnia House in Birmingham to receive a Community Impact Award to mark the work that we have done over the last year at school to commemorate and raise awareness of the Srebrenica genocide in 1995. Since visiting Bosnia last February, our three Future Leaders Chrissie, Oli and Tom have fundraised, led assemblies and contributed to a permanent display about Srebrenica that is now on view in School House. At the event, Chrissie received our award from the Minister for Faith Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth and we were treated to a delicious Bosnian lunch, traditional dancing and reflections on the genocide and the experiences of Bosnian refugees. We are delighted to receive the award and we pledge to continue teaching and learning about Srebrenica.

Miss L Rutherford

Between them, the 34 pupils raised money and volunteered for 29 charities, including LAFF, The Cure Parkinson's Trust, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Teenage Cancer Trust, Mind, Molly Olly's Wishes, Northleigh House Special School, Women's Aid and Lumos, whilst the breadth and quality of the extended projects was extremely impressive and included such diverse topics as photography, filmmaking, composing music, creating artwork, traveloguing, poetry, creative writing, research projects, genealogy and environmental surveying. Congratulations to the 34 pupils whose hard work and achievements earned them the Lower School Diploma award.

Mr M Babb



Salters’ Chemistry Festival

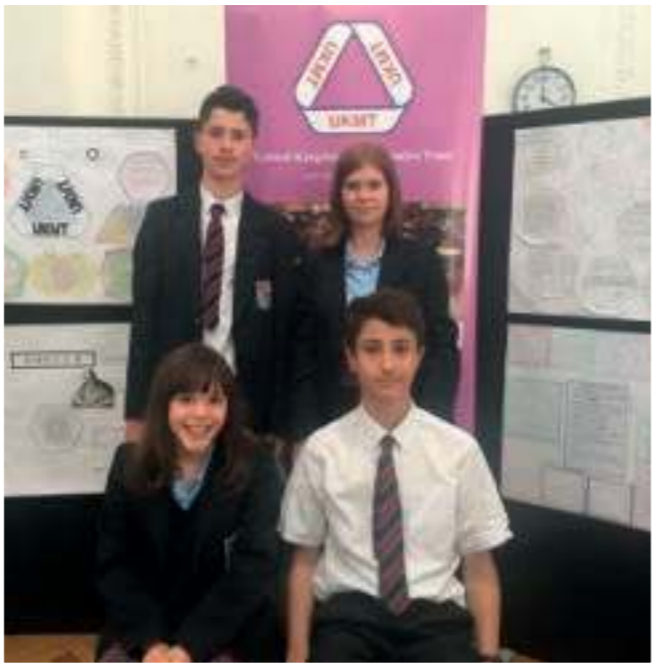
In April, four Shell Form pupils – Emma Roberts, Tom McArthur, Noah Maclean and Hannah Greenwood – took part in the Salters’ Chemistry Festival at the University of Birmingham. The day entailed solving two practical chemistry challenges in the University’s new laboratories. Both exercises required high levels of team work, problem solving and practical skills in order to complete the task. The four pupils worked extremely well together and came second in the afternoon challenge on controlling the speed of chemical reactions. The day ended with a ‘chemical magic’ demonstration by Dr Ray Plevey. Well done to all four pupils!

Dr R Jennings

Chemistry Olympiad

The Chemistry Olympiad is the leading Chemistry competition for A-Level students and is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. This is a very difficult exam which goes significantly beyond the specification. Dr R Jennings and Dr A Jennings ran weekly sessions during the Christmas term to help prepare four students for this exam. Congratulations go to Max Dormon for achieving a Gold award and to Aman Boparai, Mehar Singh and Alice Yip for achieving Bronze awards.

Mrs C Goodman



Team Maths Challenge Success

Having finished in first place in the UK Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge Regional Final in March, our team of four Lower School pupils travelled to London on 17 June to take part in the National Final. This event was held at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London and comprised the 88 winning regional teams from an original total of over 1,600 teams.

The competition consisted of five rounds requiring pupils to solve challenging mathematical problems by working as a team. Our pupils demonstrated excellent mathematical dexterity, teamwork and communication skills resulting in them finishing the competition in the top 2% of the country.

The successful team: Conor Collins, Hannah Greenwood, Amber Huckfield, Anton Deineka.

Mr M Briggs



STEM Enrichment Events

Students from Solihull School have attended two Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) enrichment days at the University of Birmingham this academic year.

The first, in September, involved a group of 12 Fourth Form pupils, and was intended to encourage more girls into STEM-related subjects. During the day, the pupils completed a series of workshops to give them an insight into what might be involved in a degree or career in a STEM-related subject.

The second event was the Year 10 Discovery Day and was aimed at both male and female pupils in this year group. The day included a tour of campus and an opportunity to speak to current students about life at the university and also the types of courses and study they are involved in.

Mr M Davies



IDEA Award

Shell Form pupils were busy in the latter part of the Summer Term completing the Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. They have been busy working on completing a series of online challenges to badge their brilliance by developing skills, gaining knowledge and learning information about the digital world. All of the pupils are aiming for a Bronze award. However, I am extremely delighted that after only a few days of launching the programme, Noah Treanor, William Higgs and Matthew Johnson achieved their Bronze award. What is even more astonishing is that Noah Treanor has achieved his Silver award! An email was sent to Mrs Patel from Buckingham Palace congratulating Noah on his impressive achievements.

Mrs V Patel





Brain Day

In November, we hosted the first Warwick Group Brain Day. Psychology A-Level students from Solihull, Nottingham High School, Warwick and Wolverhampton Grammar School were all introduced to the latest research in neuroscience by the inspirational Dr Guy Sutton. After fascinating presentations on functional neuroanatomy, neurocriminology, drugs and schizophrenia, students were directed through brain anatomy during a live sheep brain dissection.

Mr T Emmet



The Big Bang Science Fair

On Friday 15 March, a group of 36 students from Solihull attended The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC. This event is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. The Fair is a combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers information from STEM professionals. The students who attended had a great day looking at how the STEM subjects they study in the classroom are relevant to many different education and career opportunities outside of school.

Mr M Davies



Green Power Racing Project

Green Power Racing was introduced this year as a Lower Sixth enrichment option, and has challenged Solihull's team of six students to design and build an electric car using a standard motor and battery. The team has worked hard to research and make decisions on the design and geometry of the vehicle before starting to manufacture their racing vehicle from scratch – there was even a crash course in wheel building to start things off! The F24+ series that they are competing in will see them up against university teams, some of which use a base chassis as a starting point.

Our students have taken the more challenging option of doing things their own way, however. Whilst working within strict regulations, they have completed a rolling chassis and developed innovative features including a tank steering system to make it easier to get in and out of the cockpit, and utilised a dual disc brake system, should things get a little hairy out on the track. We hope to have the motor and body shell built next year, so that the vehicle can be raced against other teams at the likes of Goodwood and Castle Combe. Initial testing of the base chassis around the Level has been very encouraging and all those involved have developed some excellent engineering skills and taken trips out to Bentley and Williams F1 as part of their experience.

Mr N Corbett

Engineering Education Scheme - Celebration and Assessment Day

As part of their Aspire Programme, a group of 12 Lower Sixth students completed the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) at school, working on two Engineering projects in conjunction with Jaguar Land Rover. One project was to look at improving the parking / manoeuvring systems for large vehicles and the second team produced a prototype of a system which would raise / lower a sensor-controlled ground level spoiler system when it detected obstructions in the road.

At the start of the programme, the students attended a launch event at Chetwynd Army Barracks in Nottinghamshire. This saw the students completing a series of problem-solving activities during the day as well as learning about project management. Later on in the term, the students were able to visit Jaguar Land Rover's plant at Gaydon, which gave them an idea of the scale of the design and research work that the company is involved in to develop their vehicles.

The highlight of the programme was a two-day workshop at Loughborough University where the students had access to state-of-the-art equipment, including sophisticated design software, to enable them to complete most of the practical work for their projects. On Thursday 2 May, the EES students attended their Celebration and Assessment day at Cranmore Park. Their projects generated a lot of interest from the visiting Engineers and they all received very positive feedback from the senior industry professionals who assessed their work. All 12 students passed the project and graduated with an Industrial Cadets Gold Level award.

Mr M Davies



Engineering Club

The Engineering Club at Solihull School has had a very successful year and has around 15 regular members. We started the year with some Engineering project work, including constructing paper bridges and towers as well as completing project work with Technical Lego. The initial weeks were used to establish how we were going to spend the budget very generously given to us by the PA, and a selection of Technical Lego kits were selected by the students, with 8 kits purchased in the second half of the Christmas term.



We have found that some extremely advanced Engineering is possible with Technical Lego, with some students working on kits aimed at an age bracket older than their own age, which has posed a good challenge to them. Lego also has the advantage of needing no glue or paint and, as such, it is possible to get the kits out easily and quickly during a lunchtime session. The use of Lego has encouraged more students to give the club a try, especially following the very successful trip to the Big Bang Science Fair in March.

Mr M Davies





Moon Rocks!

In the Easter Term we were lucky enough to have some rocks from outer space in school. In Physics, our pupils were able to get up close and personal with part of a meteorite and rocks from the moon.



Poet Laureate

Congratulations to Sarah Spence in the Lower Sixth, whose fantastic poems won her the prestigious title of Solihull School Poet Laureate. Sarah faced stiff competition from other poets across the school, but her excellent poem commemorating the centenary of the Armistice was judged to be the best and she gave a beautiful reading of it in whole school assembly.

Dr A Routledge

Digigirlz Day

In June some of our Shell Form girls visited Microsoft for their DigiGirlz Day. The girls got an inside look at what it's like to work at Microsoft and were tasked with creating a pitch for a piece of wearable technology.

Mrs V Patel



The Kent Library

Here we are again at the close of another exciting year at the book face. Way back in the dim and distant past of last summer our new Third Form flooded us with their favourite books to board the 'Kent Express' from stalwarts like Harry Potter to newer titles such as Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson. This year we continued with the Book Trust initiative, Book Buzz, which enables us to provide each new Third Form pupil with a brand new book of their choice from the list provided.

Fast forward to Christmas and much fun was had by an eager group of Lower School pupils who joined us in the making of festive origami bookmarks. I think you will all agree they look super! Time flies when you are having fun and soon Easter brought us the excitement of our 'Bunny Hunt', where pupils had to scour the library to find the hidden rabbits and answer the attached clues to the identity of a famous Lepus. The winners were Florence Pugh and Hannah Skinner. Congratulations also go to Benjamin Barclay-Jones and Dominic Higgins for correctly guessing the 'How Many Easter Sweets in the Jar'.



Finally, we draw to a close this year with praise for our most avid readers. This year's recognition goes to Yichen Pan and Helena Tisdale, both in the Third Form. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating them on this fine achievement.

*Alison Vaughan
Librarian*





German Conference in Cambridge

The Upper Sixth German students spent a great day in Cambridge in February, taking part in the Undergraduate Conference in German Studies, organised by the Department of German and Dutch at Cambridge University. In the spectacular Gonville and Caius College, our students had the rare opportunity to attend university lectures on the topic of 'migration', studied this year for their A-Level course and delivered by young scholars as part of their most current research. They also enjoyed a lovely lunch in one of the college's traditional dining halls. It was a highly interesting day spent in one of the most prestigious universities worldwide, offering a precious insight into university lectures and life.

Dr M Luiselli

Dance Club

From humble beginnings, this year Senior School Dance Club has seen more pupils than ever before! Over the course of the year our club has met on Tuesday lunchtimes to learn and help choreograph a number of routines, focusing on contemporary dance. We have been lucky enough to have two wonderful Upper Sixth students with us to lead choreography, Nicole Ingram and Helena Massoud. Their guidance and enthusiasm has injected our members with more passion and excitement for dance than we have ever seen.



Emma Gahan and Hiba Sandhu, two of our very talented Lower Fifth dancers, have also ably led the very popular J1 & J2 Dance Club this year to great success. February's Dance Show saw more than 50 pupils from across the whole school take to the stage. The evening celebrated all kinds of dance including ballroom, ballet, gymnastics, Bollywood, contemporary and Irish dance, and made £450 for Future Leaders Underprivileged Children's Centre (UCC) in Ghana. I am grateful to Nicole, Helena, Emma, Hiba and all of our members for their continued commitment and enthusiasm for dance, and I can't wait to see what Dance Club will do next year.

Miss S Lodge

Japan Club

Japanese Cultural Studies Club has been running for five years under its founder, Mr Worth, who is leaving Solihull in July for new adventures. This year we have eaten more Japanese snacks than we can count, competed in hair-raising MarioKart tournaments and celebrated the end of the year with our annual sushi party. Mr Worth's presence and knowledge of Japanese culture will be sorely missed next year but our Lower Fifth pupils are ready to take the reins. Goodbye, and thank you Mr Worth!



Textiles Club

Since September, Lower School pupils have been attending Textiles Club at lunchtimes on Mondays. Pupils have been given the opportunity to work with a range of fabrics to make their own cushions. They have been selecting and using a range of decorative techniques such as appliqué, hand embroidery and application of sequins and buttons. They have also been using machine-stitching techniques for both appliqué and the construction of their products.

Mrs H Davidson



Lower Fifth GCSE Geography fieldwork at Nettlecombe Court

At the start of the final half term of the year, the Lower Fifth Geographers spent two days at Nettlecombe Court in Somerset, a 16th-century Elizabethan, Tudor and Medieval architecture mansion with Georgian refinements. Nettlecombe Court and park is an old estate within the Exmoor National Park. It has been designated by English Heritage as a Grade I listed building, and so it was rather like being guests at a stately home. Students worked exceptionally hard collecting data on the first day at Porlock Bay to investigate the coastal processes operating, their impacts on beach sediment, and coastal management strategies in place. On the second day spirits remained high despite the weather, and pupils gathered data to evaluate the success of regeneration in Taunton. This created some excitement as we collected data in the cultural quarter extending from the Somerset County Cricket Club along the River Tone, where preparations were underway ahead of hosting ICC Cricket World Cup fixtures.

Mrs A Roll

Geography fieldtrip to Devon

The Upper Fifth began the year with a two-day residential field course at Slapton Ley in Devon. With the bonus of excellent weather, pupils worked hard to collect data investigating coastal processes and management techniques from Start Point to Slapton Sands, and the comparative successes of regeneration projects in Plymouth. This was an excellent way to focus the mind on work covered last year and apply this understanding to real examples, and to make a really positive start to the year ahead in a practical and fun way.

Mrs A Roll



Lower Sixth Geography fieldwork in Castle Head, Cumbria

It was at the end of the Easter Term that the Lower Sixth Geographers headed up to the Lake District to complete their four-day fieldwork experience, as part of their A-Level course. Students embraced the variety of fieldwork techniques with enthusiasm and continued to work hard into the evenings. Physical geography fieldwork included an investigation of the water balance of the Lindale Beck catchment and the role of trees and woodland within the wider carbon cycle. Human Geography fieldwork looked at formal and informal representations of place in Grange-over-Sands, and the success of regeneration and rebranding in Morecambe, including primary data techniques such as sound mapping, rephotography and environmental quality assessments.

This fieldwork opportunity supports the content covered during the year in the classroom, as well as opening up students' minds to the possibilities that they may pursue for their own Independent Investigations which they plan during the last half term before the summer holiday. This is a week of long days and hard work where students support each other, together with plenty of time to socialise and form long-lasting and fun memories.

Mrs A Roll





Holocaust Memorial Day

The theme of this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day was ‘Torn from Home’. As we do every year, we encourage pupils to reflect on the reality of genocide through assemblies, lessons and special events. We make links to genocides elsewhere in the world, such as Rwanda in 1994 and Bosnia through our partnership with local charity Remembering Srebrenica. We held a special Chapel service on 27 January where Tom, Chrissie and Oliver, our Remembering Srebrenica Future Leaders, shared their thoughts about their experiences in Bosnia and the unsettling truth that the lessons of the Holocaust are still going unlearned in many parts of the world. Our school Poet Laureate, Sarah, read a powerful and moving poem she had written for the occasion.

Miss L. Rutherford



Finding Home

Home was a country
Hearth of your soul
Birth of your culture
Be it the crescendo of a bubbling city
Or the soft hum of distant hills and mountains
It was safe at Home
Your country
It was safe to be different.

Then, Home was a house
When all the world outside was cold
- Threw fears, filth and fists
When neighbours spat
Home was four walls filled with familiar voices,
Their quiet, rumbling chatter
- the only music -
Could not be taken away

Until home was no place
Until you were ripped
From warm embraces,
Herded
to ovens, freezers,
Voices silenced
By the lash of waking nightmares
Whipped by mortal monsters.
Home was a box of memories in the mind,
A strong box,
Wherein Für Elise bounced wall to wall,
Wind danced with rays of sunlight
Laughter echoed in crowed rooms...

Where was home after?
After pits were filled with final farewells,
After the reaper abandoned his post on the horizon,
After hell slunk back into the crevices of human minds,
Home was in tentative smiles
Shared with those you never knew,
Home was in a new born baby’s first mew,
Home
Is in you.

Sarah Spence

The power of faith; the potential in humanity

‘We learn from history that we do not learn from history’. No longer can we bury our heads in the sand and ignore the catastrophic events that shaped our pasts, but we face it with a new sense of empathy and a reshaped view on the world today.

We are the new generation of Holocaust ambassadors and we are here to tell you the story of those who could not. Those who deserve a voice when it was taken from them so unjustly. We saw, with our own eyes, Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau, and I cannot express in words the emotions that ran through us. Throughout the day in Poland, we were told of many stories, the tales of brave individuals, who throughout it all still managed to spread some kindness. Ask yourselves, in a time of such darkness, could we have managed to have such love towards others? One thing that will stay with me forever is the sense of community and love towards others: it was an older woman stepping in place of a young man about to be shot as penance for other prisoners escaping, the ‘angel of Auschwitz’ Gisella Perl.

The victims were people and not percentages. It is hard to forget the statistics when you are confronted with a room full of 8000 shoes, stolen from the feet of the innocent, knowing that this is less than a fifth of those who lost their lives to hatred. It is heart wrenching to say the least. Personally, this left me with the burning question, how could the devout Jewish prisoners still hold so firmly onto their faith when everything surrounding their day-to-day life invariably reminded them of the severity of their situation? I very quickly found an answer to my question.

When we met as a group we carried out our remembrance ceremony, accompanied by a sermon from Rabbi Shaw who had directed us throughout our visit. Talking about his family and his faith, there was an undeniable sense of hope and spirit that emerged from his words, filling the empty air that had surrounded us as the sun slowly set above. Then, a group of Jewish men that were also carrying out a ceremony nearby to us, began to pray loud enough that we could hear them clearly, regardless of the distance between our groups.



India Koziol and Kitty O’Sullivan, Fourth Form

As both ceremonies continued in length, the survivor accounts and personal views of Rabbi Shaw were accompanied by the song-like nature of the prayer taking place beside us. In this moment, I began to realise why faith in a time of such desperation could be one of the main motivations to continue through the excruciating existence of life in Auschwitz. This came with the realisation that in a place void of any fathomable comfort or humanity at all, faith in a better future could provide one with the much-needed motivation to continue living.

We are so lucky to live in a country that prides itself on diversity and equality. But this does not mean we can sit back and become bystanders. There are still remnants of anti-Semitism in the world today. According to The Independent, in 2017, a record number of anti-Semitic attacks were recorded in the UK - a total of 767 incidents were reported between January and June, the highest since records began in 1984. We only have to turn on the news to see the rise in xenophobia among powerful nations, with leaders rallying supporters with unjust comments and slurs.

We are the next generation of leaders. And we must refuse to give into hatred. We, at Solihull School, have the power to change the world. We can either change it for the better, or bring it to its knees. Do not be the one that chooses ignorance over understanding. Be the one that chooses love over hatred; compassion over apathy and most importantly, be the one who chooses action over inaction.

Abigail Kaur-Bennett and Cameron Kilpatrick, Lower Sixth

Our experience as Anne Frank guides

We were all very honoured to be chosen for this experience. We started the week gathering information about Anne Frank and her story from the staff at the Anne Frank Trust, and also from the panels that had been put in the George Hill social area. We then got assigned panels and we had to devise a speech to give from the information on the panels. We spent time building our public speaking skills and began presenting Anne’s story to other pupils and teachers; from the Junior School to the Shell Form. We also presented to our parents, the Headmaster, Heads of Section and a man who had fought in the war. It was a very moving presentation and we learnt so much.

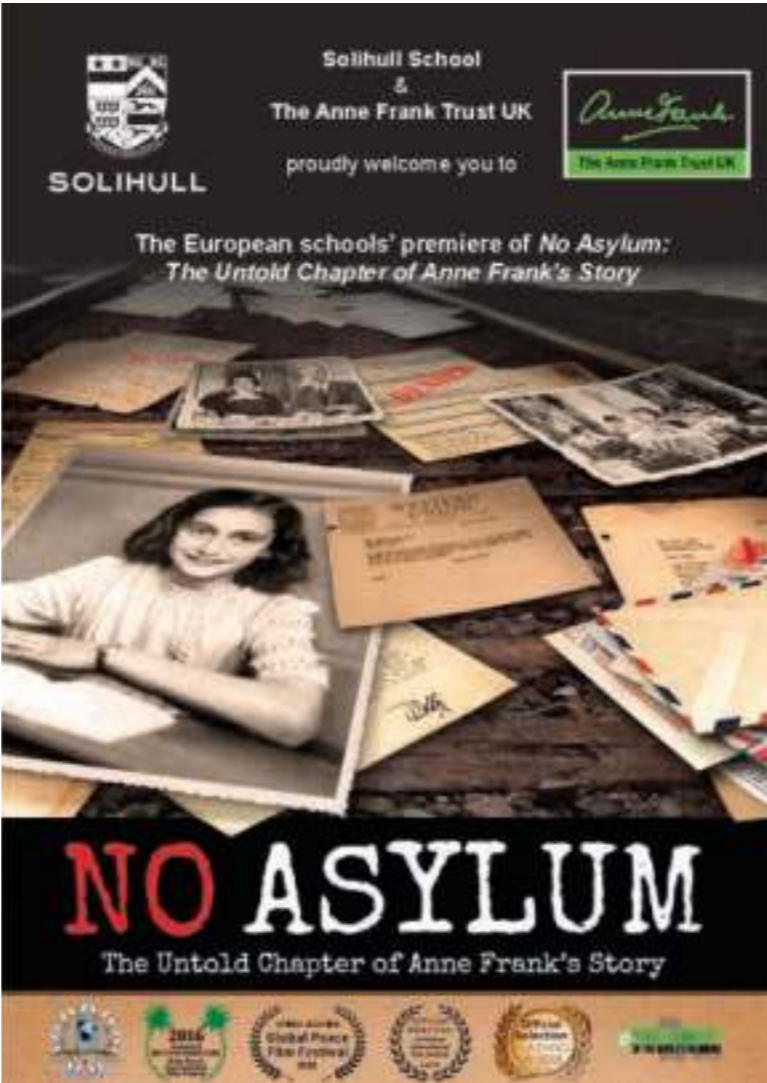


No Asylum

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2019, Solihull School partnered with The Anne Frank Trust UK to screen the European Schools' premiere of *No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank's Story*. An audience of over 1000 watched the highly acclaimed documentary over two screenings. In the afternoon we welcomed students from all over the Midlands and in the evening VIPs, dignitaries and representatives of various organisations and charities joined our school community for a hugely memorable event. Both audiences also took the opportunity to view the Trust's impressive *Anne Frank: A History for Today* exhibition in the George Hill Building.

No Asylum brings to light the stunning discovery of lost letters written by Otto Frank, Anne's father, revealing new information about the family's dramatic struggle to escape the tyranny of the Nazi regime, and further evidence that the world turned its back on the Franks and millions of others. Major Leonard Berney, who liberated Bergen Belsen where Anne and her sister Margot perished, also relates his harrowing experiences in the film and it was a privilege to have his son, John, join us for the screening. Something of a prequel to Anne's iconic diary, the powerful film is a moving call for tolerance, respect and understanding.

Mr M Penney



Holocaust Survivors

Solihull has a long-standing commitment to providing a platform for all those who speak out against prejudice and discrimination and it was a great privilege for the school to welcome three Holocaust survivors. Vienna-born Eva Schloss, a childhood friend and posthumous step-sister of Anne Frank, shared her thoughts on the importance of remembering the Holocaust in the current European climate of increased far-right activity and religious intolerance.

'It is slightly different but it is the same result – it starts with hate groups when people are taught that others are not the same as they are. It is unfortunate we don't seem to learn', she said.

Eva took the stage with two further Holocaust survivors – Tomi Reichental, who survived Bergen-Belsen, and Birmingham's only Holocaust survivor, Mindu Hornick, who was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1942. Tomi said, 'After the war the saying was 'never again' but I went to Srebrenica and saw the graves of 8,000 people. This didn't happen in 1945 - it happened in 1995, in the middle of civilised Europe. So we can no longer say 'never again'.

Mindu added: 'Commemorations like this mean a great deal to me. I know it will never bring back my parents or brothers, nor the six million innocent people that perished, but it must never be forgotten. It is very important to pass the message to future generations'.

Mr M Penney



Kindertransport Legacy

We feel incredibly proud to have had Kindertransport survivor Walter Rabl attend the school in 1939, and even prouder to have Walter's great grandson William in our Junior School today.





Summer Exhibition

The 2019 Summer Exhibition showcased the work of our A-Level and GCSE Art and Photography students alongside work from younger pupils and the Art Scholars. This year some of the staff also joined the celebration with a variety of work on display. Guests and families were very impressed with the talented students along with the Mayor and many Old Silhillians who joined us for drinks and a catch up with teachers and friends.

Mrs D Trim



Remembrance and the Armistice in the Art Department

The Art Department played a key role in the Armistice Remembrance celebrations this year. In September every Senior School pupil came up to the department to print their own poppy flag to wave during the whole school aerial photograph. Karen Perrins (art technician and illustrator) created two five-metre-long silk paintings to hang in the Chapel and also made commemorative crosses for each member of the school who lost their lives in the Great War. The crosses were displayed with some of the poppy flags in the Quad during the service and we have also created a permanent display from some of these pieces along with photographs from the school archive on the first floor of the George Hill Building.

Mrs D Trim





Rotary Club photography success

Lower Sixth photographers were very successful in the Rotary Club photography competition this year. Mitchell Reeve and Harrison Kentish both achieved Highly Commended awards and Gabriela Oberheim won the Senior competition overall.

Mrs D Trim

Art Workshops

In October, pupils from Reynalds Cross School visited the Art Department to create some lovely silk poppy paintings to take back to their school for the Armistice Day celebrations there. The children of Springfield School joined the Sixth Form Artists and Photographers for a silk painting workshop in December. Karen Perrins created some more striking Christmas scenes for the children to paint and this has become an annual event that staff and pupils look forward to as part of the festive season.

Mrs D Trim



Artist Workshops

The Lower Sixth artists took part in a portrait drawing workshop by local artist Nick Logan in September. Students spent the day exploring new techniques whilst drawing from a live model with Nick. You may recognise our portrait model as Mark Worrall, retired maths teacher, who did a sterling job for us!

In November, the Lower Sixth photographers had the opportunity to work with London-based photographer Lucy Williams. They explored studio lighting techniques and how to direct the model to create some striking portraits. The students went on to use the experience in a project about 'switching identity' based on the work of Cindy Sherman.

Professional artist Tom Shepherd introduced the Lower Sixth artists to speed painting techniques during a full day practical workshop. This work really helped the students 'loosen up' their painting styles and become more expressive artists.

Mrs D Trim





Languages and Cultural Exchanges

Volunteering in Peru

Solihull School has been volunteering and supporting two charities (LAFF and Otra Cosa) in Peru for the last twelve years. Otra Cosa supports children and women in the coastal community of Huanchaco with social support, education and environmental improvements. Many of the families live in informal dwellings around the edge of the town and are very disadvantaged. This year three Lower Sixth students chose to volunteer there during their summer holidays:

This summer, we went to Peru in order to travel, volunteer and help develop our Spanish as A-Level students. Our trip started off with a week travelling in and around the area of Cusco, including an amazing visit to the historic Machu Picchu. After this, we travelled to Huanchaco, a small seaside town, where we started our volunteering with the Otra Cosa network. Throughout our four weeks spent there, all three of us participated in various projects, including teaching English in three local schools, helping out in an afterschool club at a skate ramp, going to a medical clinic and caring for children at an orphanage.

This trip was truly an experience unlike anything that we have done before, and we are grateful to have had this opportunity to help the community in which we stayed. Firstly, we would like to thank the school for the travel scholarships that helped to fund the trip. We would also like to show our thanks to those who contributed towards the £600+ which we were able to donate to a variety of good causes; this included art equipment for the children at the orphanage, board games, and even fifteen new skateboards for the ramp.

Ellie Couch, Adam Ball and Scarlett Humphrey, Lower Sixth



Alongside the HELP English and Youth programmes, I was also given the opportunity to help out at a small clinic in a settlement called 'el Tropicó', just outside Huanchaco as I would like to study medicine at university. The clinic was located in an old government building as the previous building was considered unfit for purpose. Each morning the waiting room was full, mostly with mothers and young children as some of the main services offered were pre-natal and health check-ups for children (an important part being the vaccination programme which allowed members of the poorer communities to be vaccinated).

It was small but seemingly well-run by the five members of staff who worked there (a doctor, an obstetrician, a pharmacist and two nurses) and during my time I rotated between who I was working with. On one day I was inputting information from patient consultations into a computer, on others I would be searching for patient histories and helping out by weighing the patients – I was even allowed to take somebody's blood pressure!

What I found most difficult was the language barrier: nobody there could speak English and whilst at times I had difficulty understanding what was being asked of me, we got there in the end (even if it required Google Translate). What I remember most will be when a woman asked me to hold her seven-day old baby as she needed her stitches to be checked as it made me realise the amount of trust people put in a stranger to care for them. By the end I was enjoying it so much and was sad I couldn't have spent more time there, hopefully when I am more qualified, I can come back and offer more help!

Scarlett Humphrey

If you would like to know more about this charity, their website is <https://otracosa.org/> or contact Mrs Brown at brownj@solsch.org.uk



German Exchange

Once again, the annual German Exchange with our partner school in Hofheim near Frankfurt was an absolute success. The link between the schools has been kept alive through exchanges for years, and first came about over twenty years ago. As usual, we hosted the German pupils in late September, and the Solihull pupils went over to Hofheim in March on the return visit.

Spending a week with a German family, participating in lessons, seeing German daily life and culture first hand, and exploring the Rhein-Main region – the financial and business heart of Europe – make the exchange a unique experience for our pupils. This, at a time when traditional exchanges are dying out in other schools. This year, the Solihull pupils were particularly positive about the lifelong friendships they have forged with their partners. They were paired up carefully and all got on extremely well. The pupils were immersed in the target language, yet the programme goes far beyond just being about preparation for GCSEs. It is a chance to step out of the ‘Solihull bubble’, cross boundaries, and really see daily life in Europe in a different light.



In terms of cultural visits and excursions, the Germans visited London, Stratford, Birmingham and Leicester when here in September. During our visit to Germany we were taken around the ZDF television studios in Mainz, to a local climbing centre in Kelkheim, and to the local spa town of Wiesbaden. Of course, during the weekend, pupils were treated to days out with their host families and partners, and in the mornings, they accompanied their partners to school where they attended lessons. As always, many of the participants will stay in touch with their partners for years to come, and some may even return privately. In the meantime, we will be launching the next visit and all Germanists are strongly encouraged to take part!

Mr A Dowsett and Mr P Morgan



114

**Argentineans visit Solihull School,
July 2019**
**Reflections by Patty Getzrow
(English Teacher)**

For the fifth time, students from Argentina have visited Solihull School. During their five-day stay, they have been kindly hosted by Solihull families. Families opened not only their homes, but their hearts to their visitors. As short as the stay was, sincere hugs and occasional tears were shared when it came time to say good-bye.

When I asked the students to summarise their time with their Solihull families, these are a few of the comments I received:

*'My time with Josh and his family was very special. We cooked recipes from both countries, and shared not only great food, but a good laugh. I hope to see him again in Argentina someday'. **Andrea***

*'Our host Fergus was great. We had lots of fun at his place and had a great day out at the Hanbury Agricultural Show'. **Franco and Tomas***

*'I was impressed by the generosity and hospitality I got from my hosts, Lily and parents. They were constantly offering me food, or anything to make me feel at home'. **Jadiyi***

Our boys and girls were also surprised at how friendly and open the Solihull students and staff were at school, always trying to help us feel welcome and make the most of our stay. Solihull is a very well-resourced place which made our students quite envious:

*'I wish my school back home had sports facilities like those I saw at Solihull, I really loved that'. **Valentina***

'Can we just stay here forever?' asked **Constanza**, on the last day.

Mr Paul Morgan took the group on an afternoon visit of Stratford, giving us a chance to see the town where Shakespeare was born. The next day, Mrs Brown and Mr Loynton took us to Kenilworth Castle, where stories about English history were very much enjoyed by the teenagers, as they got to see places where history actually happened such as Queen Elizabeth's visit to Kenilworth in 1575 at the invitation of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. We got back in time to participate in the last few events of Solihull's Sports Day. A couple of lads ran in the relay.

Mrs Brown's efforts to organise this visit, as all previous ones, have been exceptional.

'Julie's will and energy always contribute to make our visits unforgettable'.

Jeronimo Gonzalez (visiting teacher in charge)



'If everyone had opportunities like this, to meet people from other cultures, in different parts of the world, there would be a better chance for tolerance, peace and understanding'.

Patty Getzrow, 10 July 2019

I would like to thank the Solihull parents and students for hosting our visitors. The way in which our parents embrace the global cultural experiences such visits can bring is truly wonderful. Although our visitors were 16-17 years of age, Solihull pupils from ages 11-18 were very happy to host and these families show an enormous interest in languages and cultural curiosity. I asked the parents for their reflections and here are some of the responses:

'Gaston spent four days with us. His English was impressive and made communication very easy. Our puppy Amber made him feel at home straightaway reminding him of his own poodle Chatita. Avoiding any competition with Argentinean beef, we tried to give him a wide culinary experience from the traditional English roast to the full range of Birmingham curries from mild to hot and a visit to an Italian restaurant where an animated conversation was had with the friendly waiter on the merits of Argentinean, Italian and English football!'

As Gaston might like to be a marine biologist, a visit to the Sea Life Centre was just the ticket. It was nice to experience Birmingham through Gaston's eyes. He saw it as a modern city full of large new buildings popping up on the landscape. It was also a very positive experience for Michael who got an insight into a different culture through Gaston's stories.

We hope Gaston enjoyed his time with us and wish him the best for the rest of his trip'.

Ms Sophie Lagarde and Michael Draper (Third Form)



116

'As a family we were excited to welcome Patricio into our home and eager to find out about him and his homeland. Patricio slotted into family and school life and soon made friends with us all. Through spending time with Patricio, Euan was able to discover how he lived his life back home, if there were many differences, and also find out about his culture. We would socialise whilst playing cricket in the garden and language didn't seem to matter. It was fun! We went shopping to purchase his beloved England rugby kit, soaked up history at Baddesley Clinton and spent time with family. At meal times our conversations revolved around how life is for us presently and what the future might bring. Our encounter with Patricio actually highlighted many similarities between young people today, their aspirations and interests - even if they do hail from distinct backgrounds. Patricio was looking with wonder out of the car window on a simple car journey back home one afternoon and commented, 'This is another world'. It made me think, yes it is - but it is his world too. Our hope as a family is that our children will be inspired by Patricio's efforts and enjoy what this beautiful world and its people have to offer, just as Patricio did'.

This was an experience of sharing; sharing our home, our food, our time, our family, our values, our culture, and our school community and it provided an opportunity to be educated on each other's 'worlds'.

Mrs Zowie Vale and Euan Vale (Third Form)

'I thought the visit was great; not only could I practise my Spanish and learn new things about Argentinean culture, it also came with meeting a new person, Andrea, and ultimately a new friend. I hope I can go over to Argentina next summer!'

Joshua Kandola (Lower Fifth)

Mrs J Brown



117

Spelling Bee and Translation Bee

As has been the case in previous years, Solihull School pupils have enjoyed considerable success in the 'Route into Languages' Spelling and Translation Bees.

Three pupils from the Third Form qualified for the Regional Finals of the Spanish Spelling Bee which took place at Tudor Grange. A very high standard semi-final saw Kieran Bown move into the final where he came 2nd in the West Midlands. In July, Kieran then took part in the National Final held at Cambridge University. He performed very well amongst a competitive field and just missed out on making it into the Grand Final. Reaching the final was a significant achievement, and Kieran should be very proud to have done so.

At the Regional Finals of the Translation Bee, which is designed for Year 9 pupils, our six finalists – Francisco Campino, Piers Kemp, Anton Deineka, Megan Croft, Balaarka Cheekoti and Roma Morris – all did themselves proud, firing off phrases in their chosen language under immense pressure. In the final reckoning, we were delighted to discover that Francisco had translated phrases from English to Spanish so quickly and so accurately that he had made it into the top five, thereby qualifying for the National Final. Here, Francisco performed very well under pressure and showed great skill in producing instant Spanish translations of a wide range of English sentences provided in a number of different tenses. Well done to both our representatives! ¡Buena suerte!"

Mr P Morgan





A-Level Art

- 1. Tea Tullah
- 2. Aishwarya Jagadeeswaran
- 3. Alice Sharpe
- 4. Beth Penhallurick
- 5. Darcey Hawker
- 6. Daryon Holland
- 7. Eleanor Berrow
- 8. Holly McClenaghan
- 9. Jacob Byrne
- 10. Katie Phillips
- 11. Pippa Vella
- 12. Tabitha Botterill
- 13. Lucy Fennell



Sport

Senior Netball

The Senior 1st team had a great season from start to finish. We won our first match against Malvern College in the first round of the ‘Sisters in Sport’ knockout competition and subsequently achieved the school’s ‘Team of the Week’. We were then crowned Solihull Borough Champions for a second year in a row at the annual tournament. We also achieved a mighty 67-38 win against Thomas Telford College. Unfortunately, we missed a place to play in the Regional Tournament as we came 3rd in the County Tournament. With very few matches lost this season, the team demonstrated how much their hard work has paid off.

Completing the season in March, we played the annual Red Nose Day charity match against the staff. As students started filling the balcony to watch the match, the atmosphere was electric. The first whistle blew and a strong start from the students put them into the lead. At half-time the staff managed to catch up and the score was levelled. The final quarter was tense with all to play for as the staff were narrowly in the lead. They retained their lead despite a brave fight from the students but to no avail and as the final whistle blew staff had won 29-26. However, the match was a great success as we raised a magnificent total of £122.04.

The Senior 2nd squad had two great wins against Alcester Grammar School and King Henry VIII School. They also came 3rd again in the Solihull Borough Tournament, narrowly missing out on a place in the County Tournament. The squad has demonstrated great commitment this year with the full squad attending after school training each Thursday.

The Senior 3rds and 4ths had mixed results this year but must be commended for 100% effort and commitment to their team members and for their perseverance despite disappointing results.

Thank you to the girls who came to Thursday after school training. I believe this extra practice helped girls learn and hone new skills which were then implemented in their play on Wednesday match days.

Thank you to all the teachers for their support and understanding which has enabled us to play our matches. A very special thank you to Mrs Smith for her time and effort with the netball coaching. She has encouraged each player to give their best and reach their potential. All this dedication has produced great results. My experiences at Solihull School wouldn’t have been so special without netball. It’s been a privilege and a pleasure to captain such a great team this year.

Ella Gardner, Senior Netball Captain



Netball Scholars

Congratulations to our fantastic netball scholars who have been selected to represent regional teams this year. Izzy and Lily have been selected for the U19 Wasps Netball Academy, Aimee and Isabel have been selected for the Loughborough Lightning Netball Superleague Academy and Rachel has been selected for the Severn Stars Academy!

Red Nose Day Netball

Our senior netball team played staff in a match for Comic Relief: Red Nose Day. Thank you to all of the pupils who came to support and more importantly donated, as we raised £122.04!





U15

This season has been phenomenal for the U15A netball team, as we have been crowned national champions in the Sisters In Sport competition as a result of beating St Swithun's in the final with a score of 42-31. We also competed in the Solihull Borough league and tournament, coming first in both. We have won all our games this year, except a friendly against Wrekin School, which ended in a draw. One of our most difficult games this year was the semi-final of the Sisters In Sport national competition, where we played The Grange, which went to extra time. The determination shown by our team was exemplary, as we managed to grasp a 51-50 victory in extra time. This year has shown how incredible this team is and how we have been able to come back from losing positions, as we have always kept our heads up and worked as a team to win. We have scored over 530 goals this season and have only conceded 268, which shows the incredible team ethic, from defence to attack. A special mention goes to Izzy Gardner, our main GA who obtained the Most Valuable Player in the final. Congratulations to all members of our team; I look forward to seeing what we can achieve next year as an U16 squad.

Aimee O'Malley, Lower Fifth

Squad: Aimee O'Malley, Rachel Chanji, Jenny Hodge, Claudia Reda, Izzy Gardner, Izzy O'Malley, Alex Warburton, Francesca Yeaman, Georgie Nesbitt, Abi Crampton and Eesha Marwaha.



U14

This year, both U14A and B teams have performed extremely well in practices, matches and tournaments. The A-team won six matches with our focused mindset and hard work, and we narrowly lost three matches against very skilled opposition. We hope that next year, with dedication, we can come back stronger and turn these defeats into victories.



The A-team participated in three tournaments. In the Borough Tournament we won all our matches, crowning us champions for the third year in a row. Next was our County Tournament in which we won all but one match, making us runners-up. We then went to regionals to represent Warwickshire County where we made it to the semi-finals, but we were unfortunately knocked out by the eventual winners of the competition, Bromsgrove School.

The B-team also had a very successful season, winning four of their matches and only losing one. Some of the U14 B-team members also played in the U15 B-team, giving them more knowledge and experience of the game. This year all the girls participating have shown great enthusiasm and commitment and we hope next year we will continue to thrive in all aspects of our netball.

Niamh Trainer, Fourth Form

U13

Our U13 netball teams have had an incredible and very successful year. We have all improved and progressed so much. This year our U13A competed in their first Sisters in Sport Cup Competition and made it to the semi-finals which was a great achievement. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the semi-finals by a very strong opposition, however the team showed a great team spirit and continued to fight for a place in the finals until the last whistle blew. Our U13A team also took part in the Borough Tournament where we were undefeated and had many strong wins against the Solihull schools.

During the course of the year, all of our U13 netball teams have played a large number of matches and won against some strong opposition, including RGS Worcester, King's High Warwick, King Henry VIII and many more. One of the few matches that we lost was against Bablake, in which we were very close, however Bablake managed to just pip us at the post. Hopefully, next year with even more improvement, we will be able to win.

Queta Taylor, Isabelle Ratledge and Florence Pugh, Shell Form



U12

It has been another successful year for netball at Solihull and it has been pleasing to see such a high number of U12 girls attending practice and showing an interest. Results this season are as follows: A-team: 9/12 wins, B-team: 7/8, C-team: 3/6, D-team 3/6. The A-team also took part in the Solihull Borough Schools Netball Tournament, playing against local schools such as St Martins and Tudor Grange. They won all their matches and achieved 1st place, which was an excellent result. They also participated in the National Sisters in Sport Competition, a new competition set up this year to get girls involved in netball. They managed to get through the first couple of rounds, beating Bromsgrove by 1 goal in one of their matches, before coming up against a very strong King's High Warwick team who unfortunately they lost to. We will hopefully be entering the competition again next year.

In March, we took 20 girls away on a weekend trip to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire. We took two teams and the girls competed in a netball tournament, and had a go at various outdoor activities in their free time including zip wire, quad bikes, and giant swing. Both teams played well and the final standings were: Solihull team 2 came 1st in their group, with Solihull team 1 coming 2nd in their group. A great weekend was had by all; the girls behaved impeccably and it was a joy to take them away.

Thank you to all the girls for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm this year, making the season another enjoyable one.

Mrs Z Patching-Jones

Rugby - 1st XV

P 15 W 7 L 8

The story of this season has to be one of injury. Rugby can be so frustrating and after this year a number of people will be saying ‘WHAT IF’ or ‘IF ONLY’. But such is life, and morale was always upheld superbly by Captains Elleman and Reeve.

Off the back of an unbeaten tour to the hotbed of world rugby, New Zealand, we would have been forgiven for perhaps thinking this season could be a very successful one for The Fifteen. And such thoughts were further cemented with a pre-season jamboree against the Old Boys XV, which the school won 15-11. Then the domestic league matches started!

With a full complement of players, The Fifteen dismantled King's Worcester (away) by 3-41 playing some scintillating rugby on a beautiful September day. The Fifteen ran in 7 tries and took great confidence from the win. The following Saturday saw the arrival of Denstone College to Solihull; to a man, they were the size of barn doors! Sadly, The Fifteen went down 25 – 31, but it was a day on which the players learnt that technique can challenge size.

The next two Saturdays were to be the last time that season we would be able to field a complete XV. Both were close encounters, narrowly beating RGS Worcester 16-10 and NSB 22-17. Over the two matches The Fifteen scored 5 tries and were able to convert pressure into points with penalty goals.

And so Bromsgrove, away from home. A day to forget and where the season took a nose dive with the injury to Noah Heward. We lost 25-5, but The Fifteen knew we had lost far more than a match. The following 3 matches saw bad losses to St Peters 27-15, RGS Worcester 10-13 and then most humiliating of all, a heavy cup defeat to Warwick 0-55 (with 20 minutes left to play).



But, in the spirit of *Perseverantia*, The Fifteen dusted themselves off and played a confident Malvern College team. With free-flowing rugby (the monkey off the back), the team scored 6 excellent tries and gained a well-deserved victory 38-10 and this was further backed up with a euphoric 47-31 victory over Nottingham High School. Our game against RGS High Wycombe was an epic match. In total, 8 tries were scored in the game, 5 by Solihull.

Sadly, the last 3 matches of the season witnessed 3 losses. Against an extremely strong Oakham side, we went down 40-10 with a spirited fight to the final whistle. Monmouth was such a painful experience for everybody as we lost with the last kick of the game, following a penalty march forward. Harsh lessons learnt as the ball crept over the bar. Bishop Vesey's was a game too far in arctic conditions which were more suitable for polar bears!

The Sevens season started slowly but built to a crescendo at the King's Worcester 7s. We were crowned champions as the squad was boosted by the return of a certain Noah Heward. It was the perfect way to end the season!

Congratulations should go to both Lewis Holsey and Noah Heward for gaining Worcester Warrior contracts next season. Thank you to everybody involved throughout the season, not least Fynlee Hateley for doing the recording. Parental support was much appreciated and as always the Solihull support crew (medical, catering, grounds) was second to none.

Mr S Thompson

2nd XV

The 2nd XV rugby team had a very positive start to the season, winning five of the first seven games. The squad put in some very strong performances against King's Worcester, Denstone College and Royal Grammar School Worcester. The best performance of the season came against Nottingham High School where the boys played some fantastic free-flowing rugby, resulting in some of the best tries scored all season. Unfortunately, the second half of the season did not live up to expectations after the team was struck by the injury plague.



The team were on the losing end of hard-fought games against RGS High Wycombe and Monmouth School for Boys. However, the losses provided the team with some important learning experiences. I would like to thank all of the boys who represented the second team for their hard work and commitment throughout the season.

Mr D Brotherhood

U16

P 18 W 14 D 1 L 3 F 538 A 221

The U16 team made great strides, ending up having their most successful season finishing 3rd in the All Comers League. We started pre-season on a hot sunny day at the Abingdon School Festival on their 4G pitch with matches against Abingdon, Stowe and St Paul's School. This was excellent preparation for our season ahead. Daniel Hogg was the surprise find on the day, excelling at fullback.

Our first game of the campaign was against a strong King's Worcester side away and the boys were very competitive from the start, keeping the ball for long periods of the game. Our defence held out when put under pressure especially in the last quarter. The squad's match fitness from the pre-season games proved to be decisive, and they ended up winning 17-7. This was the first time the boys had beaten King's at this age group. The next match was against Denstone College away and they produced a complete performance winning 41-5. Next up was Northampton, but unfortunately we just failed to turn up on the day and were beaten comprehensively by a better team. We went away and did some soul searching during the week and agreed we did not want to go through that experience again.

Next up was Bromsgrove away and we responded very well, drawing 22-22 in an entertaining match. This was to be Alfie Blundell's first game of the season and straight away he brought plenty of energy and strong ball carrying capability around the pitch. Confidence was now high and the team went on a winning streak of ten games! Dylan Bryant was growing in stature as a leader and always got through a mountain of work on the pitch; an example for all to follow. Excellent victories followed with an away win against St Peter's Gloucester 55-7, and RGS Worcester at home 36-12. Jacob Gordon was controlling the game from fly half and releasing the backs with an expansive brand of rugby. Woody Pugh playing inside him was hitting some excellent lines and his ability to beat tackles and offload was making a real impact.

Our first Cup match was against King Edward's Aston at home which we won 62-7. The next round was against Sir Thomas Rich's at home; a thrilling win 13-12 with Simon Duffy scoring a great team try in the corner. It was nip and tuck throughout. We defended our line for long periods towards the end of the game and showed real character to hold out. Next up was Old Swinford Hospital in the semi-final away and we won 38-0.

The team's exemplary fitness levels were enabling us to achieve total defensive security for longer periods of time. In attack, our forwards – led by Dylan Bryant, Yann Belling and Kyle Trainer – often laid the foundations for our victories. We started to secure more quality possession from our set piece with Will Sargent leading the lineouts and Oscar Ratledge carrying strongly from the base of the scrum. We provided quicker balls by dynamically clearing out around the breakdown and this allowed Jacob Gordon and Woody Pugh to take the ball going forward and this brought our back three into the game, using the pace of Simon Duffy, Daniel Hogg and Sean Casey's dancing feet!

Wins followed against Nottingham High School 67-0, RGS High Wycombe 28-12, Monmouth 52-0 and a terrific win away against Oakham away 17-14. Special mention goes to Oscar Montgomery who played through the pain barrier, displaying ferocious work in defence. The last game before Christmas was against our local rivals Bishop Vesey's away and this was a feisty affair ending in a 31-0 win.

After a long layoff with the Christmas break and exam leave it took us a while to get back to match fitness. We lost away to Sir Thomas Rich's 34-5 and won against Loughborough at home 15-8. In both these games we struggled to find continuity and made far too many errors. The season finished with the County Cup Final against Bromsgrove played on the 4G pitch at Stourbridge. We lost 24-3, however I could not fault the effort and attitude: they gave it everything out there.

As a testament to the squad's performance throughout the season, Dylan Bryant, Woody Pugh and Jacob Gordon were all called up to the 1st XV. The success is down to a squad effort with the likes of unsung heroes Patrick Gransbury, Marcus Osborne and Freddie Albrighton really developing as players as the season progressed.

The Sevens season was a nice way to finish and the team were very successful, reaching the semi-final of the Cup at Warwick and winning the Leicester Grammar School Sevens Tournament. In both these tournaments we played some terrific Sevens.

I would like to thank all the players for their enthusiasm, determination and dedication to the cause. My sincerest thanks to all colleagues and parents who have supported U16 School Rugby this year. It has been a real pleasure to have coached this group again.

Mr S Hifle



U15

P 16 W 10 L 6 F 376 A 334

The start of the season for players and coach alike was a steep learning curve, as neither had met until three sessions before term started. It was unfortunate that key players were injured and there was no pre-season opportunity to see the players in action before the first game. It was not a great surprise, therefore, that the first game against King's School Worcester was a very disjointed affair, a game we could have won, resulting in a 10-19 loss. The squad was bitterly disappointed as they knew they had not performed to their best, in fact well short. However, this was used as the motivation to improve. There was some serious reflection from the players and coach resulting in much reorganisation of the team and a change of approach.

The next game, against Denstone, was a much more positive performance against highly motivated opposition. It was the beginning of the team evolving their game to play in a different manner to the previous season; not easy to do for any side, but a necessary change. It soon became obvious that all sides we would face in the coming season would be physically bigger than us in all areas! The game was very close early on, but the boys showed great determination and dominated in the last quarter resulting in a very satisfying 34-14 win.

Expectations and standards for the season were now set and the National Cup game v King Edward's was won 27-0. This was an opportunity to introduce some U14 players to the squad for cup only. Our two most difficult fixtures then followed, Bromsgrove and Northampton School for Boys. Although they lost to two very physical and large sides, the team competed and managed to score 20 points in each. Special mention must go to Louie Bould who scored a hatrick against Northampton but more importantly led by example, competing for any scrap of possession in a very hostile environment.

In the next two performances against St Peter's and RGS, the team bounced back well and played some excellent rugby, forwards and backs combining very well to win both. Malvern followed, a difficult game away from home with a blustery wind and a steep slope. On reflection in the conditions, having not scored enough points down the hill first half, losing 8-10 was a reminder for the need to be more accurate in taking our chances. Warwick School in the 2nd round of the Cup followed, and while they lost the game, the team can be very proud of their performance. They scored three excellent tries through our backs and forced the opposition to resort to a 15-man driven lineout and a massive pack to score all their points.

In the last half of the season the team won six out of seven matches, not always playing great rugby but showing much grit, determination and a refusal to give up; a quality that is key to any successful rugby side, and can only come from an excellent team spirit. This was especially the case against RGS High Wycombe, winning 23-21.

The Sevens season was a tough one with five tournaments in a short period of time. We peaked early, winning The Warwick Sevens Plate, followed by a runners-up finish in the Leicester Grammar Sevens. We reached the semis in the Solihull Sevens Plate competition, beating Warwick on the way. After this, injuries took their toll and we struggled. The upside was that some boys who had played very little Sevens in previous years had more game time, an experience which can only be of benefit.

At the start of the season our aims were to not only have a better win percentage than last season but improve our skill levels and above all, enjoy our rugby. During the season all the squad members had 'their moments' and gave much, which was integral to the team's success. Whilst not quite achieving the first aim, we were close. However, the boys certainly improved in terms of skill levels, grew as a team and enjoyed the season. Indeed, the squad grew in numbers which is positive for next season.

Before concluding, I must mention some individuals who contributed to a successful season: James Gardner, who was ever-present in attack and often defence. Louie Bould for his work rate in attack and defence, often scoring game-changing tries and continually leading from the front. Last but not least, Alex Morrison as Captain for his leadership and commitment on the pitch, always putting in an inspiring shift. Alex was also a great help in organising the squad and making the season for me, as the new coach, a very rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Mr N Leaney

U14A

P18 W18 L0 F 647 A 130

With an updated fixture list, the first requirement was an atlas and a pillow for the journeys we were about to endure on the road. However, it was made all the more palatable by the fact we were travelling in the elite executive coaches that regularly ferry around such notables as the Worcester Warriors as well as other professional sporting teams across the Midlands.

With 'Work to Win' firmly ingrained in our psyche following a successful pre-season tournament at Bedford Modern, the first task was to appoint a captain; a task readily accepted by Seb Thompson. The first game for this year's braves to cut their teeth was against a rejuvenated King's Worcester in the damp and drizzle. Old habits die hard and there was some reverting to type (aka U13 play!) but it was enough to secure a 38-0 victory with the promise of the potential that may lay ahead. This was then followed by the game against Denstone College which we won 17-12 showing the competitive, never say die spirit of the team as they continued plugging away to score, deservedly, at the death, after welcoming Dan Abrahams back to the fold. Northampton School for Boys was the first time that the new centre pairing of Thompson and Jack Kinder performed together and they set the tone not only for this superb victory but also the dominant defence that was to be a thorn in most opposition sides. A 52-25 victory also saw the emergence in A-team colours of Ravi Sehmi, a place that he was not to relinquish, alongside Adil Uddin.

Bromsgrove were defeated 19-12 with the winning score coming with the final play of the game in a match that was played at a fast pace and was characterised by some ferocious defence from John Jennings & Ben Raybould, the support and offloading of Tom Burnett, the industry of George Brown and the finishing prowess of Krystian Shine.

Throughout the rest of the Christmas Term we played with real swagger with backs and forwards complementing each other and showing good skill levels. Ben Stewart began to pull the strings at fly half and the oft-used back row of Tom King, Ben Rowbotham, and Sid Albrighton did what back rows do best: annoy the opposition. As a result, St Peter's (41-5) RGS Worcester (35-0) and Malvern College (28-12) were all ruthlessly despatched. Despite labouring to a victory over

Nottingham High School (39-7) this marked the point where Harvey Blackhurst joined the party at full back, attacking with pace and hitting some great lines.

With the weather changing and the pitches becoming heavier, we were forced to work even harder and with perpetual dynamo Tom King, and the renaissance of James King driving the forwards at every opportunity, we entered our most competitive stage of the season. A trip to RGS High Wycombe perhaps saw one of the most complete performances, especially in defence across the whole team, favourably commented upon by the opposition.

The promise of an undefeated season loomed, and despite losing Conor Collins to what turned out to be long term illness, the boys brushed aside Oakham (24-7). The game against Monmouth was nearly our undoing as we trailed by 2 points going into the final phase of play before securing the try that resulted in a 24-21 victory. The end of term would see us sit at the top of the SchoolSports U14 league undefeated: a huge reward for all the effort, desire, determination, courage and commitment shown by the whole squad.

The post-Christmas matches saw the regular introduction of Will Chater & Josh Kermode in the front row. Blake Adams, Will Black and Pierce Smythe in the backs were confronted by wind, water, ice and postponements in and around victories against the likes of Bishop Vesey's (56-7) Sir Thomas Rich's (24-10) and Loughborough Grammar School (27-7), highlighting their value to the team. They were fully deserving of their selection after very positive B-team performances.

This post-Christmas period was also memorable for the team winning the inaugural U14 Gordon Miles County Cup at a rain-soaked Old Silhillians to cap off a memorable year. I would expect that the feats achieved – National league leaders at U14, Midland leaders and County Champions – will rarely be repeated! 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. Statistics don't lie and we were very successful but it all starts again next year where there will be many challenges to maintain, let alone improve upon this year's endeavours!

Sevens

After a successful 15-a-side campaign the Sevens season, perhaps understandably, didn't quite ignite in the same manner. We managed to reach the Final at Warwick and Leicester Grammar School, the semi-finals at Old Swinford Hospital and for the first time in a long time, we reached the second day at Rosslyn Park, just missing out on a quarter-final place in the National Sevens. Despite a 'could have done better' feeling, we were still ranked as one of the best twelve Sevens teams in the county!

Mr M Covill

U14B

P 9 W 2 L 7 F 180 A 260

This was always going to be a difficult year for the B-team now that we were moving towards 15-a-side rugby. There was plenty of endeavour and honesty and in Blake Adams there was a very good scrum half and captain. He was ably supported by Will Chater, Josh Kermode & Will Black, who along with Pierce Smythe, would all go on to represent the A-team, such was the development of their skill set. The fabulous victories against King's Worcester and Denstone College highlighted the potential, but the ravages of injuries and a small squad meant that the team would not play together again. However, from the despair rose Jamie Egan who received many positive comments throughout the season, alongside the dynamism of Ben Bednall and the stoic performances of Zack Lewis and Alfie Hunt, as well as the commitment of Aarnav Sharma, Ben Pulley and Cian Morgan. This was reflected in the narrow losses to Nottingham High School, Monmouth and Bishop Vesey's and proved what a capable and skilful set of rugby players they were.

My thanks go to Mr P Morgan for all his efforts with the boys on a Saturday.

Mr M Covill

U13

The Shell Form U13 A & B squads have enjoyed a very productive season in their development in all areas of the game. The highlight must certainly be their first tour to foreign shores... South Wales on a very wet weekend in November! Playing the Welsh version of the game (effectively men's rugby rules!) was a great challenge for the players as they adapted to the conditions superbly and were great ambassadors for the sport and the school.

The regular season brought plenty of highs too for the A-squad with excellent performances and victories against a robust King's Worcester side away, a gifted Monmouth School for Boys at home, local rivals Bromsgrove at home and Warwick away.



Excellent game management combined with true grit has been a hallmark of this season. The B-squad also enjoyed some fine outings with great wins against Denstone College, Nottingham High School and Oakham School away. To see so many Shell Form boys (over 65% of the year group) playing across the course of a busy season is testament to their effort and desire to participate as a collective.

Pupils were also treated to a session from Russell Earnshaw, former England Men's Sevens head coach and U18 England coach, who delivered a session on the 'gamification' of rugby to develop skills and engagement. The Sevens season brought more highs, including qualifying amongst the highest ranked teams at the Warwick 7s, and becoming joint winners at the Solihull School 7s with a fine comeback victory against a very strong Warwick side. The icing on the cake must surely be winning the Nottingham High School 7s and then being one of 17 out of 165 schools to go unbeaten at the prestigious National 7s waterfall competition at Rosslyn Park. A real squad effort on all fronts to get to this point.

Mr M Gledhill

U12

The U12 rugby squad enjoyed a successful first season together with over 40 boys representing Solihull on the rugby field across three teams. Narrow defeats for the A-team at the start of the season to King's Worcester and Denstone College were soon forgotten after impressive wins against Nottingham High School and Cheltenham Bournside. The B and C-team had an equally successful season, scoring over 350 points in total, with standout performances against King's Worcester and Oakham respectively.



The squad consistently demonstrated excellent core skills and a willingness to play with adventure and style, which set them up for a competitive Sevens season. A long trip to Monmouth was rewarded with a win in the Shield competition and impressive performances against Warwick School B and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Ebern saw Solihull top the group at the prestigious SOCS Warwick School Sevens tournament. Oliver Ackroyd did an excellent job of leading the A-team on the pitch and there were some excellent all-round performances by Matthew Hemming, Michael Draper, Alex Pulley and Jake Evans throughout the season. Daniel Langford's enthusiastic leadership of the B-team, Benjamin Barclay-Jones's bravery and Orrin Sampson's pace all deserve a special mention. The future is bright.

Mr T Emmet

Girls' Hockey - 1st XI

P 22 W 10 D 4 L 8

The Girls' 1st XI has had a great season this year playing 22 matches, winning 10, drawing 4 and losing 8. We were successful in winning 2-1 against King Henry VIII in the first round of the National Cup towards the start of the season, however, this was as far as we made it, despite the girls' great efforts as we lost a close game to Dean Close in round 2 and to RGS Worcester in round 3, the National Plate. Despite these losses, the girls' commitment to training on a Monday evening and corner training on a Friday lunchtime meant we had some excellent wins against Loughborough Endowed, Wrekin College, and Shrewsbury to name a few.

We finished the season off by attending the Bath Hockey Festival for the second year running, where the girls displayed some of their finest skills and team play, resulting in three wins against Churcher's College, Ratcliffe College and Lord Wandsworth College which was a fantastic way to end the season.

Many thanks to all the girls for their time and effort in attending both training and matches, and to our coach Mrs Sixsmith for all her help and encouragement, and helping us to reach our full potential.

Sophia Cusack, Upper Sixth

2nd XI

The year started with a very productive and high-energy pre-season training camp in Cannock. Ella Whatley took on the role of Captain and was organised, calm and encouraging. We had a fantastic start to the competitive season with wins over Ratcliffe College, King's School Worcester, and Wolverhampton Grammar School.



Our performances through the rest of the season were mixed against some very tough opposition. A notable win was a 3-1 victory against Shrewsbury School and the girls particularly enjoyed beating the boys from King Edward VI School, Stratford!

We were fortunate to have Caro Kappes working with us this year who is an ex-Chilean international player. She ran some excellent training sessions on Monday nights and encouraged the girls to work hard on and off the ball. This season all players made progress with their skills, positional sense and aggression and we particularly improved our attacking play, making it more fluid and dynamic. I am looking forward to working with the girls again next year and welcoming the new players.

Mrs C Black

U15

P 16 W 11 D 1 L 4

Over the course of this season the U15 hockey team has shown great improvement and development in both training and matches, demonstrating their determination and overall outstanding perseverance and team work.

This season the team played 16 matches in total, winning an impressive 11, drawing one and only losing four. During these matches we managed to score 39 goals and only concede 12, due to the notable strength and skill of our goal keeper Izzy Hamilton.

We would like to thank all of the coaches for their valuable support throughout the season which undoubtedly helped us to reach the level of success we achieved this season. We would also like to thank all the staff involved in the incredible hockey tour to Holland which was not only a fantastic experience but was also vital in our individual and collective improvement as players.

Isabella Gardner, Lower Fifth



U14

P14 W9 D2 L3

I am so proud of how we have performed as a team this season and how much we have progressed since the Third Form. We have had a really positive season, winning nine of our fixtures, drawing two and losing just three. We showed great teamwork and spirit to win the Warwickshire County Championship, beating Rugby in the final 2-0, which meant we qualified for the Midland Zone Finals.

At the Midlands we narrowly lost to two very strong Bromsgrove and Oakham sides.

The team has shown excellent commitment throughout the season by attending both lunchtime and after school clubs.

Ellie-Mae Beeton, Fourth Form



U13

P19 W15 D0 L4

Another great season this year! Although it was a big step up as we have started playing 11-a-side hockey as well as our usual 7-a-side game, we have managed to adjust well. Our commitment to our after-school and lunchtime practices as well as a short-corner practice has meant that we have all improved as a squad in our skills, fitness and game play.

We started the season off with a tournament at Formarke Hall and given we hadn't played together for a while we were very pleased to come 3rd. We then went on to play against other schools, winning 15 games out of 19. The team showed great strength by beating Bablake School, whom we lost to last year, by 2-0 and 5-0 on different occasions and Bromsgrove 3-2. Our main event of the season was the Warwickshire County Tournament at King's High, and we won! That then led on to the Midlands Tournament where we came up against a few difficult teams, so were pleased to finish joint 5th and happy with how we played.

Overall, we have all had a great season including the B-team, who only lost three of their matches and the C-team who didn't lose any! We would like to thank all the members of hockey staff that helped us achieve this year. We can't wait until next season!

Florence Pugh, Catrin Oswald and Hannah Skinner, Shell Form





U12

The U12s started off the new season with victories for the A, B and C-teams. We kept trying to improve; always working on feedback our teachers had given us to help develop our hockey skills. In the A-team, we displayed our teamwork best in three consecutive matches where we conceded 4 goals and scored 20. The most memorable match for all U12s would most likely be their first when we were just getting to know each other and starting to play as a team.

The atmosphere at all matches was full of the spirit of perseverance! Even if we had conceded more than we had scored in the first half of a game, we still showed lots of effort and stamina in the second half. The U12s always played their matches with grit and resilience. Finally, all the girls would like to thank the teachers who have shown commitment to training us at lunchtimes and after school, giving up their free time to help us progress throughout the season. Those teachers are Mrs Wana and Mrs Sixsmith. With their feedback, we went from strength to strength. I also wanted to mention that all of the girls across all the four teams have shown much promise and improvement this year. Well done to all of the U12 girls!

Erica Adams, Third Form



Boys' Hockey - 1st XI

P 28 W 15 D 3 L 10

After a tough start, the team settled down and produced many fine performances over the course of the season. Going to The Netherlands during October half-term proved to be a huge benefit. The team and individuals developed a great deal over there by playing and training during a hockey-intensive week. Back at school, commitment to training was excellent and the attitude towards the game and each other enabled us to have a very rewarding season. The team spirit was there for all to see.

The first stage of the season saw many changes in personnel, structure and positions that players were playing in. Once a structure and team set up had been decided upon, the performances and results improved. In that early stage of development, there was an impressive performance at Rugby School, resulting in a 4-0 win. This performance along with The Netherlands, was the start of the team playing with consistency and confidence.

After half-term and up to the Christmas break, it could be argued that the team produced their best form of the season culminating in brilliant performances against Repton and Bromsgrove at the back end of the term. The scorelines in these fixtures were 3-1 and 9-1 wins respectively. These performances were so pleasing as they were real team efforts with individuals playing at the top of their games. When this team passed the ball with purpose, played through their lines, transferred the ball across midfield and high up the pitch, it is my belief that they played the best hockey seen by a Solihull 1st XI for many a year.

We had a slow start after Christmas, but again the performances improved the more we trained and played. We had to make a few tweaks structurally to remind ourselves of how to set up and as a team that made all the difference to our confidence and quality of play. During this period we had impressive wins over Bablake, King Henry VIII and Princethorpe. We also drew 1-1 with BVGS, which proved to be a very hard-fought match by both teams.

The season ended at the Bath Festival, which as ever was a fantastic way for the team to finish the season and for the Upper Sixth boys to complete their time playing hockey for the school. The team performed well throughout and the results certainly did not reflect just how well we played. We finished with one win, a draw and two losses: all fixtures were played against strong opposition.

In the Warwickshire League we finished in 4th place. In the National Cup we won in the first two rounds against Bablake and King Henry VIII. We then lost our 3rd round match to Rugby; this was a match that we underperformed in.

Noah Belling finished as top scorer on 27 goals with Max Brown ending the season on 26.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leavers – Noah Belling, Max Brown, Jacob Byrne, William Currie, Thomas Day, Liam Duffy, Shivam Marwaha, Liam Mingo, Moiz Sandhu, Thomas Williams – for all that they have done for hockey at the school. I do hope that they will look back at their time playing hockey for Solihull School with great fondness and that they do continue to play the game. I think that this set of players played to their potential and they were a pleasure to coach and be around. Thank you! For the players that remain, as ever the challenge ahead will be great.



Max Brown was an exceptional captain with Moiz Sandhu a good foil as vice-captain. Noah Belling, Max Brown, Jacob Byrne, Thomas Day, Liam Mingo, Moiz Sandhu and Fergus Roll were awarded full School Colours. Thank you to Mr Leonard for his help in the running of the team, to Mr Maddy for their strength and conditioning sessions and to Jon Cloke for umpiring the vast majority of the fixtures.

Finally, I would like to thank the players for their efforts and for making it a most enjoyable season. I hope that they feel the same.

Mr C Mayer

2nd XI

The previous 2nd XI had set the bar quite high with their league-topping season and, with almost all of those players having departed or moved to the 1st team, it was left to a very new-looking squad to follow that proverbial tough act. As has become the norm, pre-season training at Cannock was well-attended and the newbies showed both endeavour and potential as they tackled the onslaught of devilish drills Mr Mayer had devised for them, so the season began with a cautious optimism.

The first fixture was a tepid and unconvincing affair at Warwick School, which culminated in a 2-2 draw courtesy of a great effort by Adam Nazarali and another from George Sunderland. Neither side looked like world-beaters, but at least the cobwebs had been blown away and the prospect of an early defeat not entertained. The subsequent game was a more encouraging

affair as we squeezed past Loughborough and earned our first Warwickshire league points with a 2-1 victory, thanks to another goal from Adam and Luke Horgan's first of the season. Sadly, this result did not prove to be the catalyst for a fantastic run of victories and was, instead, followed by a sobering 0-2 league defeat at the ever-physical Bishop Vesey's School.

Next was a disappointing 1-2 defeat by Bablake, notable only for Shivam Marwaha's goal and an unconventional mid-game tutorial on implementing the 'advantage' rule, delivered across forty metres of AstroTurf from the Bablake umpire to our own. The following fixture provided less controversy but greater encouragement as, despite not being quite strong enough to avoid defeat, we gave a decent King Edward's Birmingham side a good run for their money in a 1-2 defeat, during which Luke Horgan netted our consolation.

It was evident by this stage, however, that our inexperienced, nascent 2nd XI squad was going to face a challenging season against some strong sides who had retained many of their players from the previous year and nowhere was this more starkly apparent than at King Edward VI Five Ways, where we suffered a chastening 0-6 demolition at the hands of a very quick, skilful and well-drilled team, whom we had bested 5-4 twelve months previously.

Somewhat disheartened by this stage, many of the squad were secretly relieved to avoid defeat in the final fixture of the half term, even if only – perhaps – due to Rugby School cancelling on us. After a long half-term break, the first fixture in November often proves to be a disjointed and lacklustre affair and, following the journey out to just beyond the back

of beyond, both ourselves and Adam's Grammar School did our best to achieve new depths of dreary in a fixture where literally everything, including the weather and the disintegrating dugouts, seemed dismal. Despite starting with some encouraging pressure and a goal from David Hass, the remainder of the game offered little quality or entertainment and finished 1-1 after an aptly awful equaliser in the first half.

Another cancelled fixture meant we had now played only one game in six weeks when we took on Loughborough again and, despite valiant efforts, suffered a reversal of fortunes as they scored five to our three. On the plus side, David Hass, Josh White and JB Morgan's contributions marked our largest tally of goals to date. As a tough November continued, we suffered another defeat, 0-1, by King Edward's Birmingham before facing the strongest King Edward's Stratford side that I can recall. Having gone 0-3 down, during a first half in which we were largely outclassed, a much improved performance and Luke Horgan and Shivam Marwaha's strikes had begun a strong comeback just after half time. Unfortunately, just as we had begun to dominate, we appeared to arrive at the ill-conceived conclusion that their quickest, most skilful, most dangerous player did not need to be marked. Consequently, from a promising position, we suffered the most catastrophic of capitulations as Stratford rattled in four more goals in the latter stages to inflict a 2-7 defeat upon us.

A lesser side may have given up on the term's hockey by this stage but a display of festive determination earned only our second win of the season in the last match before Christmas. Two goals from Shivam Marwaha, two from Morgan and one from Horgan (although, due to my near-illegible match day notes, it's possible the latter three were distributed differently between JB and Luke) sealed a buoying 5-2 victory over Queen Mary's Grammar School.

The yuletide hiatus did nothing to hamper momentum and the return to action in January began with a fantastic 3-0 win at Magdalen College School and a thumping 6-0 victory over a visiting Bloxham School. Another cancellation was then followed by a third consecutive victory of the term, extending the winning run to four in total, as we despatched King Edward VI Camp Hill 3-1 thanks to JB Morgan's hat-trick.

However, all good things must come to an end, so they say, and they did in quite some lack-of-style with an extremely flat performance in the second fixture against an under-strength but still-too-strong King Edward's Stratford. The misery of a 0-4 loss was compounded by a brow-splitting injury to Luke Horgan, who discovered the painful way that heads are much less suitable objects for propelling hockey balls than sticks. As Luke headed off (no pun intended) for a few stitches, the remainder of the deflated side were left to contemplate a disappointing end to our impressive run.

Just one week later however, Luke was courageously straight back into action, scoring against Warwick School but, unfortunately, his efforts did not prove enough to avert a 1-3 loss. Further cancellations by opposition made for a somewhat sparse close to the season, with only two fixtures in the final five weeks. The first was a very satisfying 7-0 thumping of Princethorpe with top-scorer Luke Horgan smashing in four, whilst JB Morgan added another and Adam Nazarali and George Sunderland scored to mirror their season-opening contribution.

Although that was the final game in which we scored, there was still one match to finish the season; an anticlimactic 0-3 loss to Bishop Vesey's proving a somewhat disappointing end to a

much improved second half of the season. The overall record for the season was:

P 18 W 6 D 2 L 10 F 37 A 42 GD -5

Despite the stats not looking all that impressive, they belie the determination to keep fighting – *Perseverantia*, if you will – that was shown against older, more experienced sides. Such spirit, and the individual growth and development seen, are the real positives to be taken from this season. The experienced gained and progress made will hopefully stand us in good stead for a statistically more successful season in 2019-20.

On a final note, many thanks are due to Mr Raza for his coaching, umpiring and the enormous passion with which he always approaches hockey at Solihull.

Mr M Babb

3rd XI

This year started with numerous difficult matches for the 3rd team, though as we moved into the Easter term, things improved and we started seeing stronger performances and some good wins. Some of the highlights were wins over KES Stratford's 2nd team and a 4-2 win against KES, starting a run of two wins and a draw to finish the season.

The boys all got involved and it was pleasing to see a good team spirit throughout, particularly when faced with tough opposition. Thomas Yearsley did an excellent job captaining the team from defence, having a calm composure under pressure. It was pleasing to see players excel and move up to play for higher teams as a result of their efforts and also to observe some good promise within the younger members of the squad. The group has been a pleasure to coach, maintaining a mature and polite approach to their matches and for the most part turning up on time!

The future looks promising, since the vast majority of the squad were Upper Fifth or Lower Sixth, suggesting that things should further improve as we move into next year. Overall it has been a season to be proud of: the boys coped well in the first term and reaped the rewards of their persistence as we moved into the second half of the year. Roll on next year!

Mr O Anderton

U15A

The Boys' U15A team were led by Harry Higgins, and in the 2018-19 season, they played 20 matches in all competitions, winning 9, losing 9 and drawing 2 matches. They scored 55 goals and conceded 31.

In 12 friendly matches, the U15A won 5 and lost 7, scored 31 goals and conceded 21 goals. In the Warwickshire League, they won 2, lost 1, and drew 2, scoring 15 goals and conceding only 8. In National Cup matches, the team won 2 and lost 1, scoring 3 and conceding 4.

During the season, the boys played attacking hockey and produced some outstanding results, especially beating Loughborough Grammar School 4-0 and Warwick School 7-1 in the Warwickshire League. However, reaching the 3rd round of the National Cup Competition after beating Ratcliffe College 3-1 and Rugby School 2-1 is the highlight of the season.

Mr A Raza

U15B

In the 2018-2019 season, the Boys' U15B played 12 matches in all competitions, and they won 7 and lost 5. The boys scored 28 goals and conceded 19.

Beating Warwick School 1-0, King Edward's School Birmingham 5-0 and Loughborough Grammar School 4-0 in the Warwickshire League are the highlights of the 2018-2019 season.

Overall, the U15A and U15B hockey teams had a good 2018-2019 season, with both groups producing outstanding performances and achieving remarkable results in respective competitions.

Mr A Raza

U14A

This year I was delighted to be in charge of a talented group of players and we finished the season with a record of 16 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses. We also won the County Cup and reached the semi-finals of the Regional Cup. We had a tricky start to the season as we fielded an inexperienced side against Warwick and despite a good performance we narrowly lost 2-1. The season then picked up as we won our last four fixtures in the Christmas term including an impressive 2-1 win over KES.

We started the Easter Term with a 4-4 draw with KES before heading to the County Cup. Impressive performances in the group stage saw us beat both Princethorpe and Bishop Vesey's and left us having a rematch with the Warwick side who had handed us our only loss of the season so far. Eager to avenge the loss, the team wasted no time in putting Warwick under pressure and some clinical finishing led to an easy 3-0 win. A tight game against KES followed with our team starting to struggle with injuries and tiredness. We still managed to battle to a 1-1 draw and again demonstrated our clinical nature in front of goal with a 3-2 win in the shootout to make us County Champions.

An amazing 3-1 win against Warwick (with only 10 players and our usual keeper up front) was followed by the next round of the Cup where we made short work of Abbotsholme and Adams Grammar scoring 16 goals in the process (Tom King incredibly scored 9 of these). The regional round saw two group stage wins against Oundle and Newcastle but our long unbeaten run came to an end at the hands of Repton (despite being 1-0 up at half time). We then played Oakham in the semi-final and unfortunately tiredness and injuries caught up with us and we were unable to put in our usual dominant performance, losing 1-0. I'm sure that the team was disappointed that we couldn't get to the National finals but there is definite cause for optimism for future seasons with this group of players.

The team was captained by George Sitch and he led the side by example, demonstrating his skills and work rate in some strong displays in the centre of our midfield. Adil Uddin and George Brown marshalled the defence whilst Ben Raybould turned in some impressive performances in goal. A number of other players chipped in with impressive individual displays throughout the season and I was very impressed by the overall improvement of all the players throughout the season. We used a lot of players in the A-team this year but whoever stepped in seemed to rise to the occasion and never looked out of place, even against some really strong opposition.

U14B

The B-team had an incredible season this year, captained by the ever-reliable Tom Giddings. I was always impressed by the incredibly positive mentality and their impressive work rate on the pitch. All the players' skill levels improved as the season went on and this definitely bodes well for the future. The results were impressive too with 10 wins, 2 draws and only 1 loss including a winning run from the start of the season all the way to mid-February. Highlights were an early 3-1 win against KES and a 4-1 win over Warwick. A 1-0 win away at Nottingham was also impressive as the team only had 10 players for the whole of the game. Overall, it would have to rank as one of the best B-team seasons ever and I'm sure many of the players will be fighting for A-team spots next year.

Mr D Brough

U13A

P 15 W 12 D 2 L 1 (11-a-side)
P 15 W 9 D 2 L 4 (7-a-side)

The team enjoyed a very good season, one in which some excellent hockey was played. The players demonstrated a great attitude and were committed to both training and fixtures. In the 11-a-side version of the game there was only one defeat all season, to Bishop Vesey's. It proved to be the decisive result in the Warwickshire League. We had beaten them earlier in the season in the 'friendly', both matches ending 2-1. One of the best matches of the season was with Foremarke Hall which ended 1-1. It was a game played to a high standard and was excellent to watch. Over the course of the season the team amassed 50 goals and conceded 15.

In the 7-a-side format the team produced many fine performances including good wins over Trent College, Bromsgrove and Denstone College. We entered the Independent Schools Cup and reached the quarter-final, where we lost to a very strong Bristol GS.

The team made great strides over the course of the season. Looking ahead, I would like to see them continue their desire to improve their skills and to work hard in both training and fixtures.

Caspar Lea was captain of the team.

Mr C Mayer

U13B

P 13 W 4 D 1 L 8 (11-a-side)
P 7 W 6 L 1 (7-a-side)

The U13B team might have lost more matches than they won in the 11-a-side version of the game, but they never gave up, they continued to commit to both training and fixtures and because of this they improved greatly over the course of the season.

In the 7-a-side format, the team were crowned Tier 2 county champions! We reached the final having beaten both Warwick and KES along the way. In the final, we beat KE Stratford 'A' 3-1. This was a great team effort.

James Coppin was captain of the team.

Mr C Mayer

U12A

P18 W11 L5 D2

This was a very enjoyable and successful season. When playing at their best, the team was able to produce excellent hockey. Sam Sitch was an influential captain and led the team with some inspirational performances. In goal, John Gallagher made some fantastic saves during the season and marshalled the defence with aplomb. Gil Grace, Alex Abrahams and Alex Pulley defended very well throughout the season. In midfield Henry Regan-Elson, Will Burrell and Harry Smith were influential players. Added to this group of players in attack was Milo Gidda, who certainly tested the opposition defence. This team has the potential to do very well in the future.

Mr N Leonard

U12B

P15 W 9 D 1 L 5 (7-a-side)
P 2 W 1 L 1 (11-a-side)

There was good commitment and enthusiasm shown throughout the season, with attendance at training high. We had several players new to the game and they practised hard to work their way into the team, along with those that had come through the Junior School. In the 7-a-side format, there were many team performances and victories to be pleased about. The wins against Princethorpe, Loughborough and Bishop Vesey's saw the team play particularly well.



Only two games were played in the 11-a-side format. The players took to it well and were unlucky to lose to Foremarke Hall, but did manage a win over QMGs. The win was sealed by one of the goals of the season from Zachary Michael. Daniel Langford captained the team well.

U12C

P 9 W 5 D 2 L 2 (7-a-side)

U12D

P 9 W 5 D 1 L 3 (7-a-side)

The main objective for both the U12C and U12D teams was to get as many boys playing as possible. For this reason, both teams took large squads to most of the fixtures. They both managed some very good results with the C-team achieving victories over Warwick, Princethorpe, Bromsgrove, King Henry VIII and Warwick again. The D-team achieved success over Warwick, Bromsgrove, Loughborough, Princethorpe and King Henry VIII.

Both sets of players played with great enthusiasm for the game, which I hope continues well into the future. The captaincy of the teams was shared around.

Mr C Mayer

Cricket - 1st XI

P 11 W 8 L 3

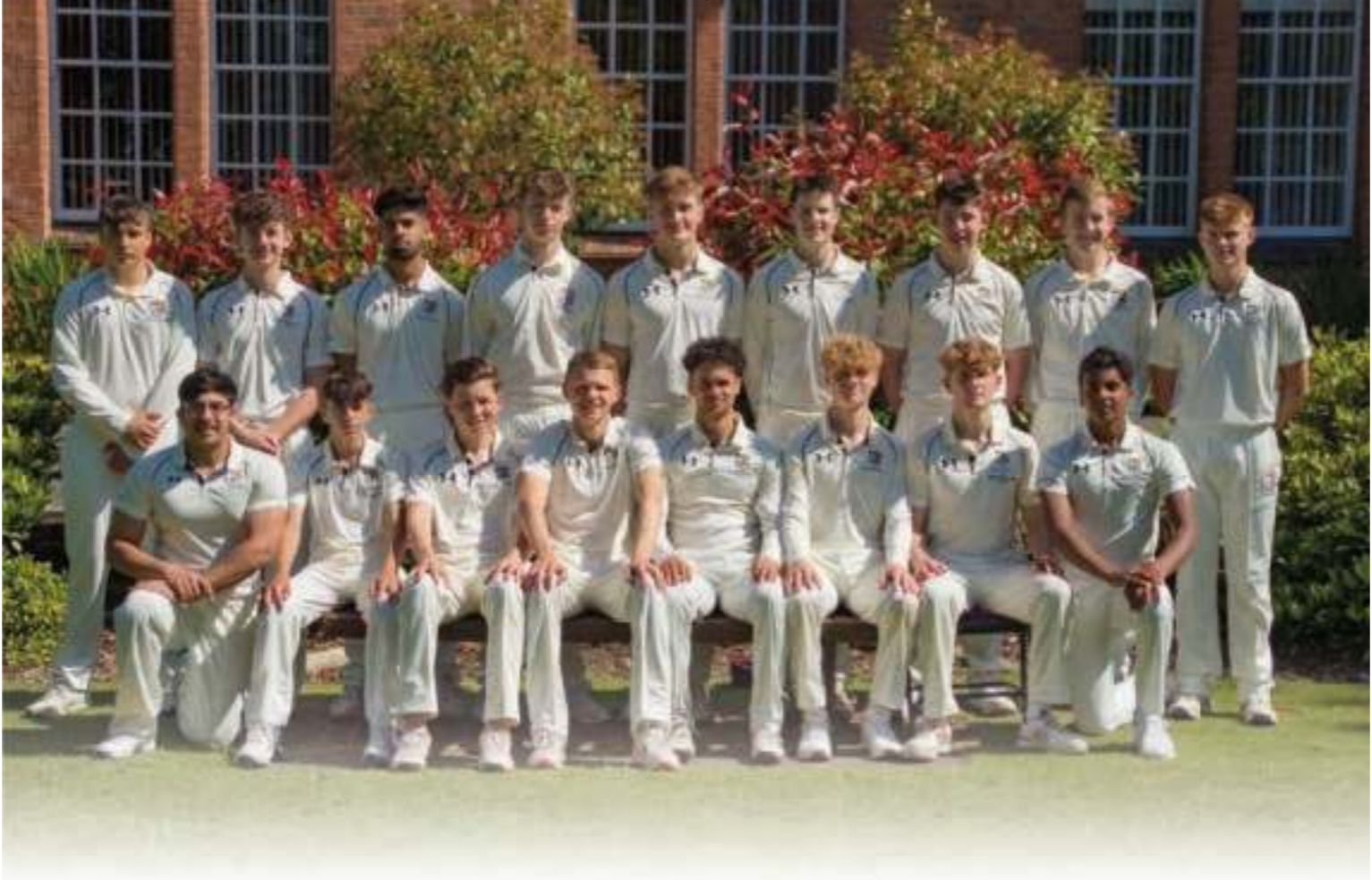
Despite the short nature of the summer term and the loss of two weeks of cricket due to the inclement weather, the 2019 cricket season proved once again to be very successful.

Impressive victories against Warwick, RGS Worcester, Monmouth and Leicester Grammar culminated in the best performance of the season when we beat a full-strength Wellington School in the last over of the game. The adrenaline, passion and camaraderie at the end was evident for all to see and epitomised the cohesion and spirit within this group of players. A very talented squad with the right balance of senior and junior players was captained by Ethan Brookes in his senior year. However, due to his Warwickshire commitments, Fergus Roll acted as his deputy in his absence and showed outstanding leadership qualities, whilst bringing a calmness and togetherness to the team.

We are extremely proud to be able to promote the number of players that we already have involved within the county pathways, but were fortunate enough to welcome two other Warwickshire players into the team this season; academy wicket keeper/batsman Ben Griffin who finished the season in fine form scoring a century against Monmouth School, and development player Saif Mir, who had an impressive first season, opening the bowling with his left arm pace as well as scoring valuable middle order runs.

Most pleasing of all was seeing the development and emergence of our younger boys; Ashish Chakrapani backed up a good first season, scoring his maiden 1st XI century against Bloxham School and another against RGS Worcester. Both innings were of the highest quality and for a winning cause. The other is Samuel Graham who bowled his leg spin with great accuracy and control, bamboozling batsmen when taking his 15 wickets at an average of little over 10. Jasper Grace, in three innings, smashed the bowling to all parts and recorded two impressive half centuries with a highest score of 84. Finally, Pierce Ryan and Ben Raybould, who made their senior debuts and looked very promising as an opening fast bowler and opening batsman respectively.

First team caps were proudly presented to Saif Mir, Ben Griffin, Jasper Grace and Samuel Graham.



However, this year has really been about teamwork as everyone who has played has contributed to its success. It would be unthinkable to undervalue other notable and memorable contributions that were made from players that have not been named. Whether it was a good spell of bowling, taking an important wicket, saving a boundary, holding a great catch, forming a partnership or scoring some runs, it has been a pleasure watching this team perform.

Finally I would like to thank Ethan Brookes, Oliver Nesbitt, Dominic Orton, Shivam Marwaha, Liam Duffy and Dan Bevan for the contributions that they have made to school cricket during their time at Solihull. It is with sadness that their time here has ended and I would like to wish them the best of luck in their future careers; they will all be missed.

Mr D Maddy

2nd XI

The 2nd XI cricket team managed three fixtures this year. Each match showed promise with bat and ball and it was only the weather that stopped further fixtures being played.

The first game against Warwick School was a competitive match which resulted in a 35-run victory. The next game saw another victory; the team posted a score of 172 all out and a good bowling performance restricted Nottingham High School to 130 for 6 off their 20 overs. In the final game, we performed well with the bat, scoring 183 all out; then an impressive bowling performance restricted King Edward VI School to 107 for 7. An impressive performance with bat and ball from Dan Gaffney was a highlight.

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

Mr O Parsons

U15

P 10 W 7 L 3

The U15A cricket team started the season well and continued this good form throughout. There were impressive wins over Bloxham, Nottingham HS, RGS Worcester, and Bablake in the regular fixtures. The team enjoyed a good run in the cup and were crowned Warwickshire county champions. We met a very strong KES Birmingham in the first round and performed to the best of our abilities to win by 7 wickets. These strong performances were repeated in both the semi-final and final, with respective wins over Bablake and Bishop Vesey's GS. All three of these cup fixtures were won with us batting second.

This qualified the team for the Midlands rounds and in the quarter-final we were drawn away at Malvern College. We

bowled and fielded superbly and restricted the opposition to 98-8 off 20 overs. In reply we never got on top of the required run rate and we fell 3 runs short. After such a strong start, this was a great disappointment to us all.

The team played well in the Solihull School 6-a-side tournament but unfortunately lost to KES Birmingham in the semi-final. It was a most enjoyable day.

Thank you to Benjamin Whitfield for captaining the team and for doing a good job.

The B-team were restricted to just one game this year which they won by beating Bromsgrove by 10 runs. Despite this, the team was full of enthusiasm in the nets and I hope that many will continue to enjoy their cricket in the future.

Mr C Mayer and Mr D Brough

U14

P 10 W 4 L 6

The U14A cricket team had an incredibly mixed season, at times showing flashes of a very good cricketing side. After the first game of the season against Warwick School became a victim of the Great British weather, the team lined up to face a strong Bloxham side. With Solihull bowling first, we managed to restrict Bloxham to 113-7, and after some strong batting performances the team strolled to a 6-wicket victory. King Edward's Birmingham were the opposition for the next game. The game was a nail-biting affair with the match going down to the final ball where KES needed 2 runs. Unfortunately, we came out on the losing end, however it provided the team with an opportunity for learning and self-reflection. Regrettably, this led to a series of disappointing results with losses coming against a very strong Bromsgrove side, Nottingham High School and RGS Worcester.

Next on the calendar was the annual 6-a-side tournament, and despite the weather threatening to spoil the occasion, the team put in three commanding performances in the group stage to advance to the semi-final. The opponents for the match were Loughborough Grammar School, and after an under-par performance with the bat, the bowling could not save the day as LGS dashed our dreams of winning the title. Up next came our first league game of the season, where we travelled to Rugby School on a beautiful Thursday afternoon. The boys put in their best performance of the season as our bowling attack dominated, bowling them out for a mere 34 runs. The openers took little time in chasing down the total leading to a 9-wicket victory. Wins against King's School Worcester and Bablake were sandwiched between a heart-breaking, last over loss against Wellington College. The final game of the season came against Princethorpe College in the county cup final. Unfortunately, the boys did not put in the performance that we hoped for, losing in convincing fashion. Overall, amongst some fine performances the season provided us with some harsh cricket as well as sporting lessons which hopefully the boys can reflect upon and learn from.

The U14B team played four games and lost all four but there were some close matches and very good individual performances. The team showed character during training and match time and the future looks promising.

Mr D Brotherhood and Mr M Bishop



U13A

The U13s enjoyed a successful 2019 season, recording 8 victories out of 11 matches played and finishing runners-up in the county cup final to deserved winners on the day Warwick School. The side enjoyed success against Warwick, Bloxham, KES Birmingham, KES Stratford, RGS Worcester, King’s Worcester and Bablake School and Christchurch Academy in the National Cup.

The school narrowly lost to Leicester Grammar, in a game that could have gone either way, in the next round of the National Cup. The leading performers with the bat were Joshua Reynolds (337 runs / average 56.2), William Turner (182 runs / average 26), Ben Blakemore (169 runs / average 21). Congratulations to Joshua Reynolds, Caspar Lea and Jacob Lee who all made 50+ scores. The highest wicket takers this summer were Charlie Anthony, Daniel Palmer and William Turner with 11, 10 and 9 wickets respectively.

The U13s age group is exceptionally talented with 17-18 players highly capable of playing A-team cricket, making selection on a weekly basis challenging. It was really promising to see so many players whether in the A, B or C team make huge strides forwards in terms of their development on and off the field. On the whole, it was a thoroughly enjoyable summer with outstanding contributions from every member of the squad.

Mr D Smith

U13B

P 4 W 4

The U13B cricket team is a talented and strong group of players, of whom several in any other year would easily be playing at A-team level. Captained by William Hodge who showed good qualities as a captain, they had impressive wins against Bloxham, KES Birmingham, Nottingham High School and Bromsgrove.

It has been pleasing to see the development of this team and there have been notable contributions from Holly Whitfield and Ibraheem Khan, who both scored half centuries against KES Birmingham.

Mr D Maddy

U12A

The U12A squad had a successful 2018-2019 cricket season, playing ten matches in total, winning eight and losing only two. The boys performed well in all three departments (bowling, batting & fielding). The bowling pace of Archie Willox, Will Gilbert’s swing, and the line and length of Alex Wong and Gus Clarke have all been outstanding. Jai Chauhan’s leg spin and Ryan Chahal’s off break also caused lots of problems for the opposing batsmen.



In the batting department, Samuel Sitch and Gil Grace have been the most consistent batsmen for the U12A. Both Samuel and Gil batted with great confidence and maturity: Samuel’s stylish match-winning half-century against strong Manchester Grammar School and Gil’s blustery seventy-nine runs against Monmouth School for Boys were the batting highlights of the season.

During the season, the overall fielding standard of the U12A has been impressive. Wicket-keeper Michael Draper has been outstanding behind the stumps. His seven catches, five stumpings and several runouts are the fielding highlights of the season.

Overall, the boys performed well against all their opponents, especially the five-wicket win against Warwick School, the twenty-seven-run win against Nottingham High School, the nine-wicket win against Bromsgrove School, the seven-wicket win against Manchester Grammar School and the ten-run win against King’s Worcester.

It’s a great privilege to coach such a talented group of players. I wish them all the best for the future. Thank you.

Mr A Raza

Girls’ Cricket

The continued development of girls’ cricket has been very pleasing with good numbers in regular attendance for practice. The girls are committed, enthusiastic and always willing to learn, showing good improvement during the term. Currently we are proud to have three county players in Holly Whitfield, Jane Mander and Abi Crampton in the team and I’m sure it will only be a matter of time before more of the girls will aspire to follow in their footsteps.

As the girls’ game grows it is imperative that we can provide more fixtures and opportunities for them to develop. Unfortunately though, this season, we saw a number of softball tournaments cancelled. However, when the girls did play, their enjoyment was evident for all to see.

The highlight of the season was, without doubt, playing in and winning our very first hard ball fixture against Monmouth Girls School. It was a fantastic all-round team performance, with all girls contributing and enjoying a spectacular day out in the sunshine.



The player of the match for smashing an impressive 88* in 20 overs was Holly Whitfield who was well-supported by Catrin Oswald, and together they put on a 70-run partnership. With more schools starting to play girls’ cricket, there will be more opportunities to play and an exciting future is ahead of us. The school is in partnership with Complete Cricket Academy and there are winter coaching programmes available for girls who would like to continue to play and improve.

Mr D Maddy





Athletics

Borough Championships:

U14 Girls and Boys are Champions

Girls and Boys are Overall Champions

Individual winners:

Krish Maini 100m;

Seb Thompson 300m;

Jack O’Leary 1500m;

Noah Maclean 80m Hurdles and High Jump;

Orrin Sampson Long Jump;

Erin Troop High Jump and Long Jump;

Monique James-Thomas High Jump;

Hannah Skinner Javelin.

- In the Super Sixes Competition the U13 Girls were County Champions.

West Midlands Champions:

Orrin Sampson: Minor Boys Long Jump

Erin Troop: Junior Girls High Jump

Adam Visram Cipolletta: Inter Boys Triple Jump

Noah Maclean, Erin Troop and Adam Visram Cipolletta were selected to represent the West Midlands in the Mason’s Trophy. Erin and Adam have also been selected to represent the West Midlands at the English Schools Championship.

New school record:

Hannah Skinner, Shell Form, Javelin 21.88m.

Equalled school records:

Third Form 100m, Erin Jennings 13.3s.

Shell Form 100m, Krish Maini 11.9s

- The Junior Boys & Girls (U14) reached the Midlands A Final in the Track and Field Cup on the back of some excellent performances and the Inter Boys qualified for the C Finals.

- Shenstone are House Athletics Champions.

Unfortunately, the weather caused the cancellation of our inter-school fixtures this year.

Well done to all those pupils involved!

Mr N Leonard



Rounders

The Rounders season was a very positive one for our girls. Rounders is accessible to all girls and provides both a fun and competitive environment for them to develop essential striking and fielding skills. 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 this season; victories against Princethorpe, King Henry VIII and King Edward's Five Ways show real promise for the future and we continued our winning streak in our Borough Tournament by winning all of our matches and finishing in first place.

Our U13s demonstrated skill, talent and commitment. They are a strong squad and finished runners-up in their Borough Tournament, narrowly missing out on overall victory by half a rounder. The U14s continued in an excellent fashion; they have been exceptionally unlucky with the weather putting a stop to some of their games this year, but finished off the season strongly after winning the Borough Tournament and qualifying for the Warwickshire School Games finals, finishing in fourth place overall. The squad has been outstanding in terms of their commitment and enthusiasm.

The U15 squad focused on tactical play in training this year. Their best win of the season came against Princethorpe 20.5 to 7. They were captained well by Eesha Marwaha this summer and we congratulate all girls who have represented the school so fantastically this year, in wash out weather!

Mrs D Wana

Golf

2018/9 was a mixed year for the school's golf squad. Despite some valiant tussles, the teams did not progress far in the ISGA Matchplay tournament and the HMC Foursomes. In the former, the A and B teams lost to Shrewsbury and RGS Worcester respectively, whilst in the HMC Foursomes, the team lost to Bromsgrove in the second round after defeating a strong Uppingham team in the opening round. Largely, the team's modest fortunes are down to the lack of single figure players at the current time. To compete competitively against the stronger schools in the scratch competitions, the players need to develop greater length off the tee, improved consistency with their iron play and a sharper short game. Next year, much will depend on the form of Harrison Kentish, Lauren Besford and Liam Scagell.

Taking that aside, 2018/9 was a historic year for the golf squad as we saw the first female winner of the school's golf championship. On a swelteringly hot Sunday in June, Zara Houghton shot a near faultless 76 gross to become the champion golfer, followed by Daniel Withington on 80. For good measure, Zara also won the best nett with a 69, beating Louie Bould on a count back. The occasion was a grand affair with seventeen players turning out including one from J4, Jensen Jennings, and two Old Sils, Katie Lyth and George Taylor, the latter having just returned from a golf scholarship in Texas where he read Chemistry. On the day, the prizes were awarded by the current President of the Old Sils Golf Society and school archivist, John Loynton, who commended Zara on her historic victory and what it promises for the future of golf at Solihull School.



As we look to 2019/20 we bid farewell to Liam Mingo and Harry Llewelyn as they embark upon their university careers; both have played a pivotal role in the squad's success in recent years. We look forward to playing against them in the future in the annual School vs. Old Sils match.

Dr S Hart



Skiing

This year has been another successful year for the Ski Team. Our senior squads qualified and competed in the ESSKIA British Championships at Hill End in Edinburgh, putting in an excellent performance on a very challenging slope. Our skiers had great success in the Winter Race League and also competed in the Midland Schools Ski Race in March, with our U19 team coming first overall, and our U16 and U12s coming second. With a new influx of younger skiers this year, we look forward to what next season brings!

Miss J Collier



As always, huge thanks go to our dedicated support team, without whom school sailing could not happen. Rob Yearsley has been crucial to the development of our race team this season; Richard Perry, Jane Sunderland and Clare Yearsley made an enthusiastic and efficient support crew at Itchenor; and Richard Bower's guidance and expertise have proved invaluable: you have our immense gratitude. Thanks must also go to the Sixth Form instructor team: club captain Tom Yearsley, Pru Dixey and George Sunderland.

Mrs J Francis

Sailing

Another successful year for school sailing saw the Solihull team make its debut on the team-racing circuit in the NSSA two-boat championships at Oxford in March, with sailors adapting quickly to the unfamiliar Firefly dinghies and rapidly getting the hang of the exciting tactical nature of the format. We built on this in fixtures against Rugby and Oundle, with good boat speed and increasing tactical awareness leading to three convincing wins out of four, which augurs well for our busier fixtures list next season.

The highlight of the year was, as always, the National Schools Championships at Itchenor in July, where we recorded our best ever results: William Sunderland and Benedict Yearsley stormed to 11th place in the first race and finished an excellent 23rd overall in a fleet of nearly 90 boats. Veterans of the event, Jem Perry and Anna Whitmarsh, sailed competitively throughout, and new helm Noah Rock recorded impressive top half finishes in a number of races. New to the team, Anton Deineka and Michael Gabriel honed their skills and ended the regatta efficient and capable crews.

The final weekend of term saw the end of season regatta, in which House teams put their boat speed and backwards sailing skills to the test in a series of races and a highly competitive game of boat-ball. It was particularly encouraging to see our younger sailors put their new skills to the test with much success, and the final result was so close that the top three teams all finished within half a point of each other. Fittingly, the trophy was eventually awarded to House and Sailing Club captain Tom Yearsley for Windsor.





A-Level Photography

- 1. Matt Ritson
- 2. Charlotte Griffin
- 3. Cole Elleman
- 4. Harry Hollier
- 5. Hollie-Mae Gallagher
- 6. Matt Walker
- 7. Max Brown
- 8. Niall McManus
- 9. Niamh Smythe
- 10. Rebecca Toher
- 11. Richard Loughran
- 12. Robbie Monk
- 13. Sasha Hofton
- 14. Sophie Besford
- 15. Will Knight



Travel and Trips

Sri Lanka 2019

The 2019 cricket season started with a pre-season tour to Sri Lanka over the Easter holiday. 33 boys from the Lower and Middle School departed Birmingham International and arrived in Colombo for a 2-week tour of the country with 5 members of staff.

Playing at the Psara International, the club and school grounds, the hotels, wickets and facilities were all excellent whilst the standard of the opposition was perfect for our requirements. The cricket was outstanding with a total of 15 matches being played in hot, humid conditions. The matches were closely contested and all the boys performed well with some outstanding contributions. The highlight of the tour was the visit to Anuradhapura, a former capital city, where the boys were greeted by a guard of honour from the local players. One of the three matches that were played there had an exciting and tense finish, entertaining a very vocal local crowd. A memorable moment for all who played, before a storm of biblical proportions flooded the ground seconds after the last ball was bowled.

The tour was also a cultural experience and the boys enjoyed a trip to the ancient Sigiriya Rock Fortress, which is now a world heritage site. The ruins of the kingdom at the top of the 300 metre rock had panoramic and breath-taking views and was a former Buddhist monastery dating back to the 3rd century BC before being built for King Kashyapa. We also visited the Pinnawala elephant orphanage, which gives refuge to injured and abandoned elephants, as well as a day trip to the country's oldest fort in Galle, which was built by the Portuguese in 1584.

The tour concluded with a fantastic and colourful six-a-side tournament played on a hidden ground surrounded by forest and wildlife. With loud music and traditional Sri Lankan games to keep us entertained, the boys were split into 6 teams which allowed a few of the siblings to join in the fun. The competition was fierce with Mr Mitchell's 'Sigiriya Sun-worshippers' being crowned the eventual tournament winners after beating the Pinnawala Elephants, Mr Mayer's team, in the final.



There was even enough time for a parents vs staff cricket match... which saw a closely fought contest won by the staff. The day was made even more special when we were able to present the donated sports kit that the school had collected for under privileged children in Sri Lanka via the charity Pranav.

This was an amazing tour and a great time was had by all. The opportunity for the boys to develop their cricketing skills will be invaluable and the memories everlasting.

Notable performances were made by:
Ben Raybould - 52 Vs B.R.C
Ben Blakemore 50 Vs Royal College
Ben Blakemore 5 wickets for 13 runs Vs Anuradhapura
Archie Willox - 55 Vs B.R.C
Archie Willox - 50 Vs S De Silva Academy

Tour prizes were given to:
U12 Batsman of the tour – Archie Willox
U12 Bowler of the tour – Ryan Chahal
U12 All-rounder of the tour – Gil Grace
U12 Wicket Keeping – Hugo Murphy
U12 Tourist Award – Tom O'Connor

U13 Batsman of the tour – Cameron Holland
U13 Bowler of the tour – Jacob Lee
U13 All-rounder of the tour – Charles Anthony
U13 Wicket Keeping – Nicky Ahuja
U13 Tourist Award – Jack Gallagher

U15 Batsman of the tour – Ben Raybould
U15 Bowler of the tour – Pierce Ryan
U15 All-rounder of the tour – Ben Blakemore
U15 Tourist Award – Kristian Hartland

Mr D Maddy





Senior Girls' Holland Hockey Tour

27 girls and 4 members of staff flew out to Holland to experience hockey at its best and learn from the best. We certainly weren't disappointed. We travelled to Amsterdam, Venlo, Eindhoven and Harlem, played 4 matches and had 2 masterclass training sessions. We watched a Premier Men's Hockey Match, experienced a Dutch school, spent 2 nights with Dutch families, and took in some culture visiting the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank's House and the home of Ajax FC. A great experience was had by all!

Mrs J Sixsmith



Senior Boys' Holland Hockey Tour

During the first week of October half term, a party of 35 boys and four members of staff flew to Holland for the 2018 Senior Boys Hockey Tour. Highlights of the tour included some great cultural visits to Den Haag, Rotterdam, Amersfoort, Utrecht and Amsterdam; watching a Hoofdklasse (Dutch Premier League) hockey match; a visit to the Van Gogh Museum; a tour of the Ajax Johan Cruyff Arena and, of course, playing hockey against some good quality Dutch sides.

In total, the two squads played eight matches - with a tour record of 2 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. All matches were keenly contested and the boys displayed tremendous progress throughout the week. Well done to all the boys, who conducted themselves admirably all week.

Mr S Mitchell





CCF Trip to Boston, USA

In June 2019, five CCF cadets (Penny Goodman as the Senior NCO, William Sunderland, Cedric Mergental, Tom Boake and Benedict Yearsley) visited Boston to take part in the Junior Leadership Challenge in a US Army Base called Fort Devans. We went with our partner school, Tile Cross School, Welbeck College and 180 American cadets from a wide variety of schools in New England. Many of the other cadets came from very different backgrounds yet the Solihull students integrated well and threw themselves into all the activities; these including flying in a Black Hawk helicopter, kayaking, shooting, abseiling and commemorating the fallen in the US Revolutionary war in Concord and Lexington. They also took part in the Annual Bunker Hill Parade which marked the start of the War of Independence and was watched by thousands of Bostonians. An amazing experience for all concerned.

Mr S Chillcott



Rome and Naples Trip

The Easter holidays saw a group of Latin and Classics students, ranging from the Fourth Form to the Upper Sixth, travel to Rome and Naples. Following an early departure from Gatwick, we wasted no time chipping away at our extensive list of ancient sites, starting at Baia, a seafront retreat for ancient Romans. Having spent the evening in Sorrento, we prepared for an intense few days at Pompeii and Herculaneum, perhaps the most impressively preserved sites we would see. From Sorrento we continued to Rome, stopping off at the Naples Archaeological Museum, and then Montecassino Abbey. The following day in Rome saw the group wade through the city with expeditionary force, cramming in the Colosseum, the Forum, the Palatine and the Vatican all before dinner, fuelled exclusively on pasta and ice cream(s). After a second day exploring Rome, and sampling its ice cream, we left the hotel for the last time, and having spent our last day of sunshine exploring the ruins of Ostia, we rounded the trip off with a final healthy helping of pizza.

A huge thank you to Miss Rutherford, Mr Jones, and especially Mrs Johnson for leading such a successful trip!

Thomas Daniels, Lower Sixth





Jersey Music Tour

On Thursday 4 July Miss Rosina, Mrs Martens and Mrs Roberts set off for Jersey with Katy Baker, Ziying He and Lauren Raybould. After a short flight, we arrived to beautiful sunshine and clear blue seas and made our way to the home of Jersey Music Academy - Chateau Vermont - where we would be eating, sleeping and rehearsing for the next five days. The Chateau is a huge mansion with epic bedrooms - we even had a grand piano in ours! That evening, Solihull pupils had rehearsals with their duet partners from Jersey. Despite having never met them before, we were soon making wonderful music together!

We began Friday with a concert to GCSE and A-Level music students at Hautlieu School, playing a variety of solos and ensemble pieces. The audience was really attentive and interactive which was greatly appreciated. After the concert we enjoyed walking along St Brelade's beach, paddling in the sea and eating toasties and ice creams. We met with our Jersey duo partners for rehearsals again in the evening to prepare for upcoming concerts. On Saturday we spent the day at the zoo, learning about the Durrell Conservation Centre and the inspiring work of Gerald Durrell. We watched feeding times and talks about macaques and gorillas. The orangutans were definitely our favourite and we sat for ages watching them play hide and seek with each other in old sacks!



On Saturday evening, we performed in a packed-out concert in St Mark's Church alongside a marimba concerto and a choir. We performed in two concerts on Sunday in the Le Hocq Suite at the Radisson Hotel. The room overlooks the sea and was one of the most stunning concert venues we have ever played in! On our final day, we played a short concert to a class of Year 9 music students at Victoria College and were in awe of the Hogwarts-esque atmosphere there.

Our tour to Jersey was an amazing experience; we discovered the island, performed in wonderful concerts and made friends with other students. We had a fantastic time and often cried with laughter! We are very thankful to both the Jersey Academy of Music and our teachers for taking us.

Lauren Raybould, Upper Fifth



Parliament Trip

In September, the Lower Sixth Politics students went to London and we began with a visit to Parliament Square. Then we had a tour of Parliament, with an excellent exhibition about women's suffrage, followed by a workshop on voting systems. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Downing Street where by remarkable coincidence we bumped into Ed de Minckwitz, an Old Boy of the School, who works as a special advisor to Theresa May!

Mr G Affleck



Madrid Trip

Over the Easter week (Semana Santa), 29 Third Form pupils and three teachers flew to Madrid for a five-day residential trip to the international education centre CEI El Jarama, approximately 45 minutes north of Madrid. After managing to negotiate Heathrow Terminal 5, the group arrived to a first hot meal on the Friday evening and then straight into night game activities! It seemed that English pupils enjoyed the normality of a Spanish teenager's daily life of going to bed around 11pm each night!

Each morning, pupils were woken to Spanish music played through the announcement system at the camp with a breakfast of 'magdalenas' (cakes) and chocolate milk...again, all very normal for a Spanish child. Activities ranged from tending to the animals on the working farm, making bracelets in the sun outside, baking their own 'churros' to eat with dipping chocolate, archery, wall climbing and doing Easter treasure hunts across the farm campus.

Highlights must include the nature hike in glorious sunshine, walking through olive groves as a warm-up for Snowdonia School next year, plus the excursion to Alcalá de Henares, the birthplace of the great Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote de la Mancha. Here, pupils took part in a town-based treasure hunt and then enjoyed the shopping centre shortly after. All of the activities were conducted with the centre staff speaking only Spanish to the pupils to aid their immersion and appreciation of other cultures with all receiving their diploma due to their fantastic participation. ¡Bien hecho!

Mr M Gledhill



Berlin Trip

Once again, around 30 Shell Formers and five staff members set off on the May half term trip to Berlin. The objective is to provide pupils with an authentic taste of the vibrant, liberal and cosmopolitan life of the German capital, and of course, provide an opportunity to try out the language. This is the second year running the trip, and as before, the itinerary consisted of a day visiting the major tourist attractions (Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Zoo, Tierpark), a day at a local water park, followed by shopping, and a day visiting historical museums and sites (GDR museum, Allied Museum, Stadium Tour). We travelled about using the city's efficient U-Bahn network and stayed in a stylish and modern central hotel. A particular highlight this year was seeing the Vivid show in the Friedrichstadtpalast, a world-renowned display of acrobatics, dance and costumes. We also visited the *Hofbrauhaus*, a typical Bavarian-style German eatery where the staff rounded off the week with a well-earned Stein of beer!

Mr A Dowsett



Brussels Trip

In February, six of our Lower Fifth Language Ambassadors, accompanied by Ms Campbell and Mr Morgan spent two days visiting the fascinating city of Brussels, capital city of Belgium and the home of the major European Institutions. We travelled in style by Eurostar on the Friday, and on arriving in Brussels, we set about getting to know the city and eating a delicious meal in a typical Belgian bistro where we practised our French and enjoyed some local hospitality. The following morning, we visited the European Parliament and visited the Parliamentarium Museum, where we learnt about the origins of the European Union and how seventy-five years of peace and prosperity were built out of the ruins of the Second World War.

Before getting back on the Eurostar, we had time to do some shopping, make the ubiquitous trip to see the charming figure of the 'Mannequin Pis' and, of course, buy lots of chocolate. Both Ms Campbell and Mr Morgan greatly enjoyed taking such an enthusiastic group of young linguists on this exciting trip, and we hope that the experience has inspired them to keep widening their linguistic and cultural horizons.

Mr P Morgan



Computing Live!

The Computing Department's first residential overseas trip took place in February. 82 Computing pupils from the Shell Form to the Upper Fifth arrived at Disneyland Paris to attend the Computing Live! conference. The talks gave our pupils lots to think about and they were inspired by the careers advice shared. The talks were followed by a question and answer session where Frankie Deehan was selected to ask his brilliant question about female and ethnic group representation in the tech world.

The rest of the time was spent in the park enjoying the rides, parades and fireworks with a focus on the tech required to operate such a park. In summary, the pupils and staff had an amazing time and I am delighted and proud to say that the first residential Computing Department's trip was a huge success.

Mrs V Patel



Cirencester Trip

Earlier this year we visited a town called Cirencester. Despite its relatively small size, it used to be one of Roman Britain's major towns, and was known as Corinium Dobunorum. To begin our amazing trip, we were taken around the town and saw one of the old gates that would have been an important entrance to Cirencester. Unfortunately, only ruins remain and the main wall is buried under a tall mound of grass. We also came across a few leftover artefacts, such as an intricately carved stone column.

Secondly, we walked to the amphitheatre that the Romans used as their primary source of entertainment – but all that is left of this landmark is an exceptionally tall ring-shaped hill, because the villagers had stolen all the stone after the Romans had left Britain. To conclude our awesome day, we went back to the museum and after answering a fun quiz about the Romans, were presented with a short but interesting lesson about daily Roman life. Overall, our trip to Cirencester (or Corinium!) was an incredible experience – I loved it all, and would gladly go again.

Emma Roberts, Shell Form



Bath Trip

The Fourth Form Latin trip to Aquae Sulis (commonly known as Bath) was a fun and educational adventure through time as we learnt about the fascinating things that the Romans experienced in Britain. When we arrived, we were given a tour of Aquae Sulis in all its splendour as we were digitally guided through the museum by virtual tour guides, giving us a detailed summary of each room, developing our understanding of Latin language and Roman culture in Britain. After our fun-filled morning exploring the museum, we were given an extremely captivating and enthralling study session, about the somewhat morbid subject of death in Roman Britain and how they dealt with these distressing yet inevitable situations.

After this thought-provoking session we stopped to explore and absorb the beautiful city of Bath while we had lunch. Finally, we were able to drink the water from the spring located in Aquae Sulis. It had an 'interesting' taste, although everybody endeavoured to try it, regardless of its unique flavour! It was a great opportunity to visit such a historical and important place, and experience and understand the Romans' way of living, and it really helped to bring our studies to life.

Niamh Trainer and Callum McAleer, Fourth Form



Snowdonia School

Muddy boots and wide grins characterised Snod School 334 where we paddled lakes, scaled rock faces, scrambled river gorges, tobogganed through the damp forests, checked out the constellations on a night hike, tossed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, ate scones the size of Moel Siabod and even spotted a red squirrel on Anglesey.

Ms C Dignon



British Museum and London Mithraeum Trip

On Saturday 24 November, A-Level and GCSE students took an exciting trip to London to visit the British Museum and the London Mithraeum. We saw many magnificent pieces of art, such as the metopes, statues and the Theseus kylix. We also did some exploring in other exhibits, such as the Egyptian exhibit and the Anglo-Saxon exhibit. Most of the pieces in these exhibits were gold and we even saw a mummified cat! After exploring the British Museum we took the tube to the London Mithraeum. It was fascinating to see all the archaeological objects and we managed to identify an item which looked suspiciously like a pair of tongs which we use in school! Then, we all went below ground level to walk around the ruins of the Temple of Mithras. We discovered the mysterious cult of Mithras and had a presentation which gave us an idea of the rituals performed there. Overall, we all thoroughly enjoyed our day in London and most of us slept on the train home!

Grace Morgan, Lower Fifth



Shell Form Rugby Tour to South Wales

On a wet Friday in November, 31 Shell Form pupils and 3 staff set off for a weekend of rugby in the rugby heartland of South Wales. Following torrential rain overnight in Merthyr Tydfil, Solihull played Risca RFC U13 team on the Saturday morning in somewhat wet and muddy conditions with players adapting to line-outs and 15-a-side very well. Bowling, laser quest and a meal out ensued on Saturday afternoon and night. The Sunday game succumbed to the weather but the pupils still enjoyed an impromptu beach Sevens tournament!

Mr M Gledhill





MJG2DFMC Cycle Team

Early on Saturday morning on the first day of May half term, 36 staff, friends and helpers assembled on the Field of Mars for what was to be the start of an epic three-day adventure. As a huge personal challenge for all involved, and in memory of a beloved friend and colleague, we were attempting to cycle from the recently named Martyn Garner Building at school to the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in Snowdonia, a place which was very special to Martyn and where a memorial to honour his memory has been erected. The route was an especially challenging one which took us over some of the highest mountain passes in Wales, a total of 170 miles and 12000 feet of ascent.

Immediately from setting off, the team gelled together and with a wonderful support crew of five staff who fed us bananas, flapjacks and wine gums every 10 miles, somehow we all made it! On the Monday evening we finally arrived at the cottage, exhausted, drenched and filled with emotion. The finish line had been adorned with pictures of Martyn. Well done to all who took part in an event which was incredibly special and which individually we will never forget. Thank you to those who donated too. We raised over £4100 for Llanberis Mountain Rescue, a charity close to Martyn's heart and his love of the region. The spirit of Perseverantia had absolutely shone through.

Mr O Bate



Teams of the Week 2018/19

168

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| U16 Rugby Team | <i>Outstanding team performance against King's School, Worcester</i> |
| Senior 1st Netball Squad | <i>Winners of the Sisters in Sport Knockout Competition</i> |
| U13 Girls' Hockey Team | <i>Excellent victory against Bablake School, showing great determination and team spirit</i> |
| U14 Girls' Hockey Team | <i>Warwickshire County Champions & unbeaten throughout the tournament</i> |
| Ski Team | <i>Outstanding performance at the English Schools' Finals</i> |
| School Council | <i>Insight, resilience and compassion shown at the Mental Health Conference</i> |
| CCF Guard of Honour | <i>Commitment and excellent conduct during the Remembrance events</i> |
| U13A Rugby Team | <i>Excellent performance v Warwick and RGS High Wycombe Schools</i> |
| Cast & Crew of The Glove Thief | <i>Three fantastic nights of Historical Drama</i> |
| U12 Girls Hockey Squad | <i>A strong team performance against King Edward VI High School for Girls</i> |
| 1st XI Boys' Hockey Team | <i>Excellent victories against Repton and Bromsgrove</i> |
| Cast & Crew of <i>The Royal Hunt of the Sun</i> | <i>Three nights of spectacular Drama</i> |
| Chapel Choir | <i>Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols</i> |
| U14 Boys' Hockey Team | <i>Winners of the County Championships</i> |
| Squash Team | <i>Excellent victory versus Kings Edward VI School, Stratford</i> |
| Peer Tour Guides | <i>Excellent Presentation of the Anne Frank Exhibition</i> |
| U13A Hockey Team | <i>Two fantastic wins against some tough opposition, showing great determination and team spirit</i> |
| Dance Show Team | <i>A superb performance and excellent choreography throughout the show</i> |
| Sixth Form First Aiders | <i>Showing commitment, focus and engagement during their three-hour First Aid Course</i> |
| Maths Team | <i>Winners of the Regional Final of the UKMT Team Challenge</i> |
| Lower Sixth Form Physicists | <i>Showing enthusiasm, expertise & kindness towards J3 pupils whilst leading a session on the Moon and Solar System</i> |
| U13 Sevens Squad | <i>Fantastic performance in winning all five matches at the Rosslyn Park Tournament</i> |
| U15 Netball Team | <i>Amazing series of victories to become National Champions in the Sisters in Sport Competition</i> |
| Cast & Crew of <i>Made In Dagenham</i> | <i>Four fabulous nights of music and drama</i> |
| The Bench 2018-19 | <i>A fantastic team effort for 2018-2019</i> |
| Shell Form Chemistry Team | <i>Fantastic performance in the University of Birmingham Salters' Festival Challenge</i> |
| EES Team | <i>Excellent performance in the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) Assessment Day</i> |
| Sailing Team | <i>Fantastic performance in the Three-Boat Team Racing Event</i> |
| MJG2DFMC Cycle Team | <i>An incredibly poignant and inspiring achievement</i> |
| Lower Fifth Geographers | <i>Excellent contribution to a successful Geography Field Trip</i> |
| Cast & Crew of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> | <i>Three wonderful nights of drama in the Bushell Hall</i> |
| IVIT B2 Class | <i>Fantastic contribution to a successful afternoon with Reynalds Cross pupils</i> |
| 1st XI Cricket Team | <i>Won a thrilling match against Wellington School and then beat Monmouth the following day</i> |
| Girls' Cricket Team | <i>Fantastic victory over Monmouth in their first ever hard ball game</i> |
| Sailing Team | <i>Superb performance at Itchenor Regatta</i> |

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