

Summer Term 2022



# The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



*Bugsy Malone, our Shell and Fourth Form Production and J3's PGL Residential*





**Since last October, the Prep School pupils, staff and visitors to the Saint Martin's campus have witnessed an emergence of a major change to the campus infrastructure.**

The previous uneven, poorly drained and badger damaged playing field as well as some adjacent areas have been extensively upgraded to produce additional car parking and new grounds team accommodation, both of which are now in use and also a new levelled playing field with an enhanced irrigation and drainage system. The final grass seeding is in the process of being completed which, subject to Mother Nature, will be in operation from next September.

The field will incorporate four football pitches and two rugby pitches in the winter, and a cricket pitch as well as an athletics track and rounders pitches in the summer.

In addition, we have enhanced the area immediately to the rear of Malvern Hall.

It has been a major and complex project and I am most grateful to Miss Deery (Assistant Bursar), Karl Brotherhood (Grounds Manager) as well as the wider maintenance and grounds team at the Prep School for their support in completing this transformation. In addition, thanks should go to the main contractor, O'Brien Contractors Ltd. as well as the school's many professional advisors.

*The Bursar*

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### How long have you worked in education and what do you enjoy most about your job?

I'm just coming to the end of my fourth year at Solihull. Before then, I supported struggling pupils at schools near my university, then worked at a school in New Zealand, and finally had a short stint as a private maths tutor before joining Solihull.

Since joining Solihull, I am yet to have two days in a row that are 'the same'. Pupils always bring different challenges, ask new questions, and personalities change and develop over each year. There are also so many different activities going on in the co-curricular programme, and I see variety as an important way to keep things fresh. I love that on the same day I might teach a WPD lesson about online safety, a Third Form lesson on percentages, and a Sixth Form lesson on complex numbers, then go to discuss sustainability with the Bursar, and finally help out with some cricket coaching.

What other job gives you all of that?

### What attracted you to the role of Sustainability Coordinator?

I was not very engaged with issues of environmental sustainability until I went to university but I have tried to make up for lost ground since then. I ended up very involved with a student-led climate change conference and I came away with a sense of the importance and urgency of tackling environmental challenges.

Since that time, I've tried to make changes to my own way of living. For example, my girlfriend and I decided to use the car for fewer and fewer journeys and eventually sold it completely. I've also drastically reduced the amount of meat I eat, since even the carbon emissions and water usage statistics for chicken do not compare well with other sources of calories and protein. That said, I know there is plenty I could still do to live more sustainably.

The Sustainability Coordinator role will enable me to play a larger part in pushing the whole Solihull community towards choices that are better for humanity and for the planet. There is a lot of work to do. I see it as a big challenge to ensure we have as many people as possible on board with the effort.

### If you didn't work in education, what career would you most want and why?

When I came back from New Zealand, I had a few spare months and lined up some work experience at a small law firm. I saw an analogy between logic in maths and legal reasoning. While I'm still interested in the philosophical foundations of our legal system, I don't think I would enjoy the day-to-day work of a lawyer.

Instead, I think my love of science and mathematics would take me into a research-focused career. I enjoy enabling others to develop their problem-solving skills, but I also love opportunities to discover more myself. The world is facing plenty of big problems (in economics and sustainability for example) and there are lots of other unanswered questions that maths can play a part in answering.



*The Greyhound Interviews ...*  
**Andrew Macarthur**  
Teacher of Mathematics and  
Sustainability Coordinator

### What do you like doing outside of school?

I actually spend plenty of time thinking about mathematics even when I'm not at school. It's a lifelong obsession. I'm also quite outdoors-y and try to go on a couple of walking trips each year. In the summer half term holiday, I had the great opportunity to join other members of staff on the Lon Las Cymru cycle ride from Holyhead to Cardiff. More routinely, tennis, hockey, plenty of reading and an occasional cinema trip or theatre visit are enough to keep me happy.

### What's your favourite book of all time?

This is such a hard question! Despite loving a good novel, most of what I read is non-fiction. I think it keeps you humble because you realise how much more there is to learn.

Most people, most of the time, seem to overestimate how much they understand. Maybe reading more, including work by authors we disagree with, can burst that bubble. I think it helps us recognise the limits of our knowledge and that might be a good first step towards better understanding.

If I am forced to choose just one book, I have to highlight 'The Problems of Philosophy' by Bertrand Russell because of the influence it had on me. It's far from perfect (even the title is probably wrong) but I read it as a Sixth Former and it was my way into the fascinating debate.







## The Greyhound Interviews ... Lower Sixth student Anna

### When did you join Solihull?

I joined Solihull in Third Form (Year 7), in September 2016.

### What A Levels are you studying?

I am currently studying English Literature, Design & Technology, Psychology, and have just completed an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification).

### What would you like to do next?

I have a number of boxes I would like to tick over the next year or so, including becoming Company Sergeant Major in the school's CCF, achieving full Colours in one of the 'Big Six', and furthering my sailing qualifications onto Dinghy Instructor and Coastal Skipper. I am also aiming to go to university, to possibly study Law after completing my A Levels.

### Which co-curricular activities do you enjoy?

The wide range of co-curricular opportunities is one of my favourite aspects about school, and I have enjoyed many of them over the years, including DofE, Equity Group, playing bass guitar in the Jazz Band, being in the school's sailing team, taking part in 13 drama productions both on and off stage, and the school's CCF. Recently, I was selected by the MOD to take part in a six-day long Master Cadet Course at Frimley Training Centre, which consisted of military obstacle courses, sleeping under bashes for four days, overnight sentry positions, numerous section attacks, and lots of weapon handling. It was definitely the most physically and mentally challenging thing I have ever done, however it was also extremely rewarding, and am pleased to say I have passed the course, and am now a Master Cadet, as well as having received a promotion to Staff Sergeant.

### Tell us something else about yourself ....

I volunteer every week with a disabled sailing charity called 'Sailability', and I thoroughly enjoy seeing the difference it makes to people's lives.



### Prep School Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to George and Alice who were appointed Prep School Head Boy and Head Girl for the summer term. The pupils were superb in their roles which included marketing the school through video presentations ahead of Open Morning.

*Here's a bit more from George and Alice:*

George joined Solihull in J1 and his favourite subject is Science because "it's fun and we are involved in lots of experiments!" For lunch George enjoys the chilli as it's not too spicy! George is excited to move on to the Senior School and join his brother who is already there.

Alice likes Art as you can be as creative as you want! Alice loves a cheesy lasagne lunch and sometimes selects the vegetarian option. Co-curricular clubs Alice enjoys are Rounders and Tennis. In September, Alice will join her big brother at Senior School and she is also looking forward to seeing old friends who are joining from other schools.



### Benchers' Summer Soiree

On Tuesday 10 May, staff and students enjoyed our Benchers' Summer Soirée. This year's guest speaker was professional rugby player and founder of Noggin Sport, Old Silhillian Conor Joyce.



### Prep School Prime Minister

On Thursday 12 May, Prep School Prime Minister candidates presented their pitches to Junior School pupils in assembly. Highlights from the pledges includes: A 'chill out area and sports for all' from Jacob, 'World Culture Day' from Priyanka, Harnaam's 'Fun Water Fight', 'Cultural Menu Week' from Myra, Sophia's 'Pets 4 Pupils.' Votes were counted and verified, and Sophia was announced as the winner! In the last week of term, Sophia and her Commonwealth helpers organised a game of 'capture the flag' for 12 pupils.



### 'Wow' Awards

Our Alice House pupils 'Wowed' us in many ways during the summer term ... well done to all our weekly Wow Award winners.



### Prep School Prizegiving

On Thursday 30 June, we were delighted to welcome Albin Cofone, Professor of Geography and Head of the Honors College at Suffolk County Community College, Long Island, New York, as Principal Guest Speaker at our Junior School Prizegiving.

Professor Cofone, who has a long-standing association with Solihull, joined staff, governors and specially invited guests for the evening event to celebrate Junior School pupils' Academic Excellence, All-Round Progress, Engagement in Learning, Outstanding Attainment and Special Prizes.







### Cycling Challenge

During half term, Solihull staff, partners and friends participated in a cycling challenge - with a super support crew! Fundraising for Breast Cancer Now, a charity close to the cyclists' heart, the team of 16 took to two wheels to ride 270 miles, over four days, from Holyhead to Cardiff on the Lon Las Cymru – with nearly 17,000 ft of climbing, it was a hilly one! Well done to all involved, and congratulations on raising over £2,200 for Breast Cancer Now.



### SIFA Fireside

In June, we collected items of clothing for a new and used sale organised by Lower Sixth student, Kitty. Kitty held the event at Scanlon's Members Club fundraising for SIFA Fireside – a Birmingham charity which supports the homeless. In addition, Kitty took any old clothes or bedding which were too old for resale to be weighed for payment.

Over the last few years, Kitty has made a huge contribution to SIFA Fireside and has, in the process, helped create an ongoing relationship between Solihull and the charity.

Well done, Kitty, we look forward to learning the total raised in due course.

Congratulations to Third Form pupils Josh, Cara, Ella, Ria, Brian, Zain and Gabriel who won the Novus inter-form competition to identify community issues and suggest solutions.

The successful pupils presented brilliantly on the problems of homelessness and were given the opportunity to nominate a charity that aligned with their chosen topic, they selected SIFA Fireside for our end of term Non Uniform Day.



### Megathlon Charity

This year's Prep School Megathlon Charity event was a resounding success with a record amount raised to support local charities in Slovakia and Ukraine.

In assembly in the final weeks of term, Junior School children presented a cheque for £14,021.59 in support of the campaign by Ardent Hire Solutions, led by Old Silhillian, Jeremy Fish. This will buy and send 100 tonnes of food to help Ukrainian refugees. Our monies will fund the purchase of an incredible seven tonnes of food! We also filled a van with the items that were kindly donated. Mrs Humphreys said: "At a time when the cost of living and inflation is rising, it is very heart-warming to receive all your contributions. Thank you most sincerely for all your support."



### IMHO Annual Conference and Fundraiser

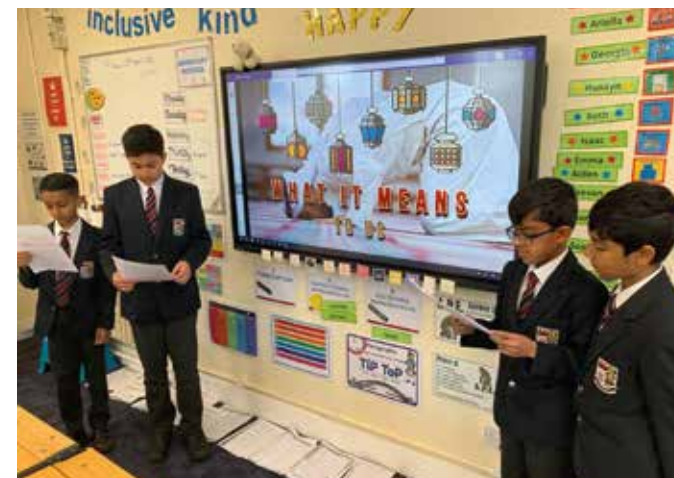
On 26 June 2021, Team Solihull took on a 53KM ultra challenge walk, raising £68,000 for Assist RR UK and IMHO USA, to fund cataract surgeries for Sri Lanka's poorest people. A year later in June 2022, Mr Penney was invited to be Principal Speaker at the IMHO Annual Conference and Fundraiser in Fort Myers, Florida, presenting on Team Solihull's motivations and adventures. The event was a resounding success, with over \$200,000 raised to support the wonderful work IMHO USA continue to do across Sri Lanka.



### Running for Charity

Several pupils have donned their trainers to undertake running events for charity this term.

Upper Fifth pupils Fergus, Sam and Arjun completed the Royal Sutton Fun Run on Sunday 29 May fundraising for Oscar Montgomery Environmental Foundation; Lower Fifth pupil Orrin took part in The Great Birmingham Run and I2 pupil Ziven participated in The Mini Great Birmingham Run in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital and Charity; and Prep School pupils Joseph and Jessie completed the Westminster Mile raising money for the Ruth Strauss Foundation. Well done, all!



### Ramadan

J4RM pupils Riyad, Ismaeel, Husayn and Ryan provided their peers with an insight into Ramadan. The children worked together to create a fascinating factual presentation about the important holy month and the religious holiday Eid.



### LAFF

This academic year we have raised over £2,800 for The Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF). Pupils have been busy making and sewing bags, key rings and pencil cases in our sessions with Mrs Hartland. The children enjoyed a cultural lunch with Chinese, Latin American, New Zealand and Indian foods, to celebrate Solihull's 14 years supporting LAFF.



### International Schools Network

In June, Mr Morgan and Fourth Form pupils met with Brigadier General Abdul Hafeez, Headmaster at Cadet College Warsak, Pakistan. The conversation, arranged by Mr Chillcott, is part of a new school partnership and follows on from a joint online Physics quiz. These will become regular sessions and are linked to our International Schools Network programme.







### Pride

We were so glad to be able to fly the Pride flag again this year to mark and celebrate LGBTQIA+ members of our school community. It is 50 years since the first Pride March and much has progressed yet there is still prejudice. We had a very special assembly where we talked about there being no need to rush – what we should be focusing on is just the need to be kind, keep everyone safe in our community, not discriminate against any minority and remember that in the end we are all human. A mixed group of staff and pupils sang *Seasons of Love* highlighting that it really is the best measure of all.



### Eid

We are so lucky in our school that pupils feel a true sense of the NOVUS principles, being prepared to give some effort, time and thought, come out of their comfort zone and staying grounded in their beliefs and values. One such example is Fatima and Sahl presenting about Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr to a Middle School Assembly, speaking from the heart about their lived experience and joy in their faith and religion. Well done to them for taking the lead in such a confident way.



### Mental Health Awareness Month

WPD is all about mental health and wellbeing, but May is a particular opportunity to zoom in more closely on a particular theme – this year it was Loneliness. Mrs Rooney, Head of WPD, believes that loneliness and isolation are the biggest health and wellbeing risks and vulnerabilities at the moment, made even worse by the recent pandemic. But there is a lot that can be done to combat this. During Mental Health Awareness week WPD lessons focused on a deeper understanding of loneliness, we highlighted ways of removing barriers to connection and we engaged in some great additional activities across the whole school to remind ourselves about the importance of togetherness. Staff on both campuses enjoyed various activities from drawing to dancing – an opportunity to get together.

### Lower Sixth Induction

It was great to speak to aspiring Lower Sixth pupils on their recent induction days to share all things WPD and DEI, highlighting the many opportunities that they will enjoy as part of the curriculum, but also to invite them to sign up for various extending services such as Peer Mentoring, the Equity Group and RSE Co-facilitators, for example. Looking forward to working with them all in September.



### Junior School Equity Group Members

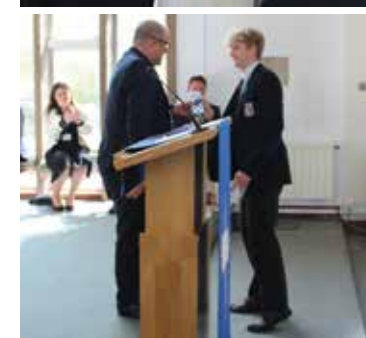
We were delighted to welcome J14 pupil Toby to Senior School as he made an exceptionally mature plea for help from the Equity Group to consider ways of bringing more diversity into the reading material in Junior School. This sparked a new plan for a whole school, House competition from September to Christmas – more about this to come. We were also pleased to hear that Gabriel and Zetta felt confident, safe and able to present their Pride awareness work, again in the spirit of recognising minority groups and not discriminating. All three are to be inducted in the Equity Group and we are looking forward to forging more links with the Prep School in September.



### Disability Awareness

Lower School pupils were privileged to have had the opportunity to listen to Lower Sixth student Rachel speak so passionately and eloquently about the need for authentic inclusion for health conditions and disabilities. Rachel has spoken before about things that affect her and her family, passing on with incredible aplomb the need for society to step up and be better than they sometimes are. So many messages to take away from this and we are grateful for Rachel modelling the best of being front-footed and giving.

*Mrs Rooney*



### Show Racism the Red Card Winner

Congratulations to Shell Form pupil Taneesha who was selected as a winner in the Show Racism the Red Card Competition.

Taneesha's poem was awarded first prize in National Year 7-9 Creative Writing Category and, in May, Taneesha and her family attended the presentation award ceremony at the Emirates Stadium, London.

Show Racism the Red Card Competitions encourage young people from schools and other educational settings to produce creative work with an original anti-racism theme.



### Upper Fifth Celebrations

Marvellous music, a whole host of 'thank yous', wise words, presentations and, finally, a flash mob ... on Wednesday 11 May we held a final assembly in the Bushell Hall for our Upper Fifth pupils.

In addition, as part of Upper Fifth Celebration Day, pupils and parents attended a Chapel Service. A wonderful occasion, sharing reflections, before the year group went off on study leave. Congratulations to the following pupils who were presented with a Novus prize on the day: Flexible: Sean (UVBI), Integrity: Matilda (UVLe), Courtesy: Daniel (UVTn), Front Footed: Alex (UVTn), Giving: Diya (UVBI), Sirius (UVTn).







### Upper Sixth Leavers

What an incredible group of individuals! In May, we hosted a super day of celebrations for our Upper Sixth Leavers ... and, of course, in the last week, we enjoyed two days of amazingly creative and colourful fancy dress costumes! This year's themes 'the first letter of your name' and 'movies/TV shows'.

We look forward to seeing the students back in school for Results Day.



### Congratulations to our Upper Sixth Novus Prize winners:

- Prize for being Front-footed - Arabella. This award is for an individual who takes advantage of every opportunity and has contributed enormously to the life of the school, whether that be academically, musically or in sport.
- Prize for Integrity - Ben. Someone who is driven to do good, make the world a better place, be brave, bold and fight for what is right.
- Prize for Giving - Emma W. Someone who is driven to do charitable work and or someone who is driven to help others
- Prize for Courtesy - Emma G. Someone who is always polite and respectful to others. Kind and caring. Giving of herself and her time to others to benefit the community around her.
- Prize for being Flexible - Cedric. This is probably the more intellectual prize awarded to someone who a) is good at problem solving, seeing links between ideas, innovating and being creative and b) is good at being flexible with others and with situations.
- Prize for being Grounded - Will. This award is for the individual who knows who they are, who is authentic, accountable and emotionally resilient.



### Lower Sixth Enrichment Programme

Our Vehicle Technology and Maintenance course is an exciting addition to the Lower Sixth Enrichment Programme. Students learn about the basics of the internal combustion engine, drive and transmission and braking systems, as well as how to drive efficiently and maintain their cars. Thanks to Graham from Midland Early Bay, a VW maintenance company based in Redditch, who visited the group this term to share his knowledge.



### Midlands CIPFA Sixth Form Games

Lower Sixth students Fynlee, Meg, Niamh, Sarah, Amelia, Will and Aiden recently took part in the Midlands CIPFA Sixth Form Games held at Birmingham University. CIPFA; the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants is looking to promote accountancy in the public sector as a career.

The team played management roles in a fictitious borough council, with the council services facing the problem of budget cuts or politically unpopular increases in council tax. Our Solihull students came top in four of the seven tasks they were set and won the event, with their fully justified proposal to raise council tax and they were grilled by local councillors about their recommendations. The team worked extremely hard in a highly pressurised situation, learning some great skills along the way, and considering issues they had not previously engaged with. Sarah steered the team beautifully through the day's activities, showing great organisation and determination, while Fynlee took on the role as CEO, negotiating with skill and maturity the tricky questions posed by different stakeholder groups. Fynlee's slick and professional performance showed that he has the potential for a future as a political spin doctor!







### Growing Success

The winner of the Easter Half Term radish growing competition was announced this term as pupils returned their red root vegetables to the Science Department for Dr Ryland's important 'weigh in'! Well done to Shell Form pupil George on his success with his winning radish weighing a whopping 56.03g!



### Challenge Chemistry Club

Our Fourth Form Challenge Chemistry Club met for the first time this term and prepared standard solutions of vitamin C extracted from 100g of various fruit and vegetables. What a fabulous group of young Chemists they are!



### Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

In June, a record number of Lower Sixth Chemistry students took on the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower Sixth (C3L6). A highly demanding chemistry test which takes students significantly beyond the A Level syllabus, encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university and stretches their chemistry problem solving skills. The students performed brilliantly and achieved the schools' best results to date with five Gold Awards, nine Silver Awards and four Copper Awards. Congratulations to all involved especially our Gold Award winners Alistair, Anton, Balaarka, Conor and Paige.

*Dr Jennings*



### Science and Engineering Club

Pupils in Science and Engineering Club have had a very good term. They have undertaken a range of different activities including creating paper gliders, designing and testing small model boats as well as making iodine clocks for our final meeting of the term. A highlight was Wednesday 22 June, when 25 members of the club attended the Big Bang Science Fair at the NEC. The pupils enjoyed a virtual reality session, drove remote control cars, built model vehicles, and even got to see the inside of a brand-new truck! A great day was had by all.

*Mr Davies*



### Lower School Celebrations

Before half term, Lower School pupils enjoyed ice lollies on the Headmaster's Lawn to celebrate the end of exams.



### Lower School Diploma

Congratulations to all Fourth Form pupils who recently completed their Lower School Diploma. The process, similar to our Sixth Form Extended Project Qualification, has showcased superb projects across a range of different areas. In June, pupils proudly presented their work to parents, governors and staff, who we welcomed back to the event in our George Hill social area for the first time since 2019.



### Headmaster's Birthday Party

A beach party with ice cream cupcakes, 'out of this world' space themed treats and crazy cactuses with sweet soil ... the Catering team have been brilliantly creative for the summer term Headmaster's birthday celebrations for Third Form pupils.







### Biology Olympiad

All Lower Sixth Biologists competed in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad recently. The international competition saw 12,566 competitors from across over 608 schools worldwide take part in an in depth, challenging competition. Our students did very well indeed with the following success. To gain a Gold Award students had to achieve in the top 5% of all entrants, Silver top 10% and Bronze top 15%.

Gold - Suna  
Silver - Balaarka, Rachel, Jack, Mariella, Francisco  
Bronze - Ryan, Fynlee, Dylan, Jonathon, Tatiana, Anoushka, Rahul, Freya  
Highly Commended - Olivia, Kitty, Celina, Lauren  
Commended - Hana, Emaan, Charlie, Sophie



### Biology Kidney Dissection

Lower Sixth students undertook a practical dissection to look at the gross structure and function of a kidney.



### Hado UK

In June, our Lower Fifth ICT pupils had the opportunity to visit HADO UK in Balsall Common. The children took part in an augmented reality sport session, and were then invited to provide feedback on the experience.



### Oxbridge Network goes from Strength to Strength!

The Oxbridge Network, led by Dr Foster and incorporating another 13 schools was set up seven years ago. It has run a variety of activities to enhance students' experience and readiness for Oxbridge application, including an interview Xchange, tutorial events, lectures and admissions talks. Teachers from all schools participate and share expertise and it an example of team work and co-operation across a large number of schools and a wide range of subjects.

Students from nine schools in the network with 40 students went to Girton College, Cambridge for the day to experience the challenge of Oxbridge workshops and to tour the college and meet admissions tutors. Some students had not visited Cambridge before and the visit spurred them to apply to the University. Others' aspirations were raised!

Other network events this term have included an Oxbridge Network Prize Giving with the University of Cambridge in attendance, which was very successful. 14 excellent essays were judged and read by both Solihull staff and Girton College admission tutors, and prizes of £50 or a book token were awarded. A pleasant evening was had by all. Further opportunities for all students were provided through the Oxbridge Network tutorial sessions on Wednesday 6 July, where teachers and students from the schools across the network 'tutored' individuals in preparation for application to Oxbridge in the Autumn. Further events are planned throughout next year.

*Dr Foster*



### Masterchefs

Having completed the public examinations, Greek pupils' next task was to compete to be crowned Greek Masterchef! Competition was very fierce, with Skye and Florrie taking first prize. Koftas, honey cakes, pancakes, vegetable stacks with olives and some superb biscuits were all prepared, cooked and consumed. One contestant sent in pictures from home of chicken kebabs and Greek salad! After consuming Herodotus' Histories and Homer's Iliad for the best part of 15 months off timetable. Fourth Form pupils also took part in a Roman Masterchef. An enjoyable time was had by all! Well done!

*Dr Foster*



### Gardening Club: from Field to Fork (all in an hour)

Members of our Senior School Gardening Club recently reaped the rewards of their weeding, planting and general great care of the Eco Garden. The group dug up potatoes, garlic and onions, then chopped, cooked and whipped up a storm in the kitchen. Thank you to the staff in the Food and Nutrition Department for their assistance and the use of the facilities. The pupils enjoyed a delicious Spanish omelette. What a wonderful treat; all dug up, cooked and eaten within the hour over a lunch break!

*Mrs Fair*







### Food and Nutrition

Congratulations to Shell Form pupils Ollie, Harry and Sophie, winners of Mrs Massarella's Food and Nutrition Platinum Jubilee Dessert Competition. Ollie and Harry's Summer Trifle recipe and Sophie's Strawberry Shortcake Cheesecake featured on today's celebration lunch menu, with the Catering team making a large version of the desserts for the winners to taste, and individual pots for pupils and staff. Well done also to our runners up, Imogen in Shell Form and Fourth Form pupil Katie. All finalists received an engraved Platinum Jubilee gift.

This term also saw many healthy, nutritious and colourful dishes created in the classroom and our Fourth Form pupils took on the Tunnock's Tea Cake Presentation Challenge!



### Catering Awards

Congratulations to our superb Catering team on winning 'Midlands School Team of the Year' and to Pastry Chef Dylan on his 'Junior Chef of the Year' accolade at the Thomas Franks Ltd annual awards 2022.



### National Foreign Language Translation Bee

Having finished in the top three places in the West Midlands Regional Final of the National Foreign Language Translation Bee 2022, Isabella (French) and Daisy (German) represented Solihull at the National Final which was held at the Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Cambridge on Friday 1 July. Both girls were outstanding and should be very proud of their achievements.

### National Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022

More Foreign Language success! Having finished in the top three places in the West Midlands Regional Final (Spanish) of the National Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022, Third Form pupils Meriam, Ella and Anya represented Solihull at the National Final which was held at the Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Cambridge on Monday 27 June. All three girls performed brilliantly in a very competitive field, and while they did not quite make it to the final four, they can be very proud of their achievement. ¡Enhorabuena!

*Mr Morgan*



### Summer Art Exhibition

The Summer Art Exhibition took place on Wednesday 29 June, and the families and friends of the A Level and GCSE pupils had the opportunity to celebrate their fantastic achievements and see their work on display in the George Hill Building. Visiting artists Francesca Currie, Jordan Eastwood, Vix Brown and Nick Logan presented some of their work on the night and were very impressed with our Solihull work.

*Mrs Trim*







### EYFS Summer Round Up

Nursery's topic for the first part of the summer term was 'Once upon a time'. The children's learning activities were based around five traditional tales and we compared the characters, settings and language used in the different stories. The pupils used their imagination to create some wonderful paintings of trolls from 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' along with 3D models using clay. We also saw some budding engineers building and measuring bridges for the goats to cross. The story of 'The Gingerbread Man' inspired us to make our own and eat them before they had chance to run away! We made so many that we were able to share them with the children in Wraparound!

The topic for the final part of the term was 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We read lots of different stories about bears and found out some facts about them too. Nursery pupils were fascinated to discover that there are so many different types of bear!

Nursery enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Parkridge Centre in Brueton Park where the children took part in a Teddy Bear Adventures session, before settling down for a tasty picnic lunch with their teddy bears. A trip to the park would not be complete without feeding the ducks and our special homemade duck food was much appreciated by our feathered friends!

EYFS Sports Day was a wonderful event with all the children taking part in a variety of races. They showed good sportsmanship but were more interested in the colour of the stickers they received than what place they had come in!

Reception kicked off the summer term with our 'Around the World' topic. Each week the children learnt about different explorers and the continents they visited. The pupils enjoyed dressing up and using their imagination to explore everything from the depths of the African jungles to avoiding the ferocious

polar bears of the Arctic regions. 'Handa's Surprise' was our core text, and the pupils had the opportunity to taste a variety of delicious tropical fruits like the ones Handa had in her basket. The children were then inspired to make up their own versions of the story which featured Ernest Shackleton losing a variety of objects from his sleigh. When visiting Europe, the opportunity to make pizza did not go unmissed, using maths skills to weigh out ingredients and count the toppings. Furthermore, the children explored their creative side to make beautiful African sunset pictures, Frida Kahlo inspired self-portraits and have a go at Mexican weaving too! It was a wonderful whistle stop tour of the world which really got imaginations running!

'Animal Planet' was the focus of the second half of term, exploring the wonders of the animal kingdom. Two vets with a dog and a giant snail visited Alice House to educate pupils about what it takes to care for animals properly and discuss why snails really do make great pets.



During our end of term trip to 'All Things Wild', the children had an amazing adventure and got up close and personal with snakes, armadillos and cockroaches as well as meeting some of the dinosaurs we learnt about during our 'Long, Long Ago' topic! Pupils also made bird hides in Forest School, bird feeders and even had a campfire to make gooey s'mores!

In addition to all the exciting learning around our topics, the term has been littered with highlights including our outdoor street party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Megathalon, Sports Day and the EYFS Summer Concert where pupils performed all the animal songs with gusto! It has been a jam-packed term full of memorable days!

*Mrs Ashton and Mrs Litwinko*



### Superstar Evie!

In May, Reception pupil Evie made professional acting debut at the age of just four years old! Evie was super excited to be play the role of *Lulu* in *Waitress* when the show came to the Birmingham Hippodrome and the Wolverhampton Grand in May and June.



### Explorers Club

Reception pupils have been busy in Explorers Club! Activities this term have included weaving, planting old wellies, making bug hotels, creating bird feeders and crafting and seeding 'crazy monster' recycled bottle flower pots.







### House Spelling Bee!

This term, we held our hotly anticipated Alice House and Junior School House Spelling Bee competitions! Each selected pupil really impressed our judge, Mrs Humphreys, with their super spelling under pressure and unwavering concentration in front of an audience. All participants should be very proud!

*Well done to House winners:*

I1, Jago

I2, Jago

J1, Fetherston, represented by Rishi and Lauren

J2, Windsor, represented by Reyan and Mamoun

J3, Pole, represented by Rhys

J4, Pole, represented by Emma



### Junior School Public Speaking



Our Junior School Public Speaking competition took place this term with pupils researching, developing and presenting some incredibly impressive talks on topics ranging from Pokemon cards and fossils to black holes and mountains.

Well done to all participants and congratulations to winners:

J1 winner Daniel with his presentation on Rugby

J2 winner was Anahita, presenting to her peers about her ambitions including career, travel and personal goals.

J3 winner George speaking about Fair Trade

J4 winner Niamh with her talk entitled 'How we can make a positive difference to the world we live in'

### Primary Spelling Bee

Well done to Prep School pupils Emma, Isla and Ryan who travelled to the University of Cambridge in June to participate in the finals of the Primary Spanish Spelling Bee Competition 2022. A fantastic achievement.



### Eco Council

Prep School Eco Council have ended the year with an exciting and productive summer term. Firstly, we launched our eco bricks project, which encourages pupils to think carefully about single use plastic and the impact it has on the environment. Eco bricks are a way of turning single use plastic into a sustainable building material instead. The whole Prep School community have been eagerly 'eco bricking' at home and we look forward to creating something with the finished bricks next academic year.

Additionally, Eco Council Reps took part in a research project alongside PhD student, Catherine Wilson, to investigate litter in our local area. Pupils picked litter in Malvern Park and recorded their findings on the Planet Patrol app. This enabled them to carry out an investigation centered around Solihull. The pupil's work will be shared at a science conference next year.

Well done, Eco Council, another fantastic term's work!

*Mrs Dickerson*



### J4 Bromsgrove Maths Challenge

On Thursday 16 June, eight J4 pupils took part in the Bromsgrove Maths Challenge Day. Working in teams, the pupils solved a series of very challenging maths questions, having to show a strong level of perseverance and grit! After a full day of maths, the boys' and girls' teams finished 2nd and 3rd overall! A fun and successful day was had by all pupils!

*Miss Smith*



### National Numeracy Day

On Wednesday 18 May, Prep School pupils and staff wore something spotty or stripy to school to celebrate National Numeracy Day. Highlighting shapes which are very important in mathematics, the children enjoyed a day packed full of maths including rapping and a TT Rock Stars challenge! Mrs Bernamont was most impressed.







## Platinum Jubilee Charity Megathlon

On Friday 27 May we saw a sea of red, white and blue on our Saint Martin's campus as pupils and staff enjoyed a day of fundraising fun in the sun! Thanks to all for such enthusiasm and support for our Platinum Jubilee Charity Megathlon and celebration lunch.







### Forest School

Alice House and Junior School pupils have enjoyed many outdoor adventures at Forest School this term! Climbing, den building, bush craft, fires and s'mores!



### Canoe Club

This term, J4 Canoe Club recommenced as after school co-curricular activity led by Miss Lynch and Mrs Mollison.

In the first session at Solihull Canoe Club in Catherine de Barnes, pupils received an introduction to paddling and learnt some skills for kayak racing and, in one of the final clubs, the children multitasked paddling and litter picking! The group were not afraid of getting wet and were great sports!



### SSPA

Fundraising action has been in full flow this term with a fabulous family fun night and 'as new' uniform sales. If you're having a sort out over the summer, The SSPA would welcome your uniform donations. For details of events, please email [prez.sspa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:prez.sspa@hotmail.co.uk)



### Prep School Library

During the summer term, Mrs Pemberton focused on the book *'The Truth About My Unbelievable Summer'* by Davide Cali. Pupils were invited to draw what they could see from the pirate ship porthole, create treasure maps and send a message in a bottle! Following on from our very successful Scholastic Book Fair, we invested our vouchers in developing the diversity of our library collection. This allowed us to celebrate Pride Month in style with lots of new inclusive books for both Infant and Junior School pupils. Our new J4 Reading Buddies have been working hard with their I2 partners to develop their love for Reading for Pleasure. Just before the holidays, Mrs Pemberton set the 'Book Returns Challenge', with all classes tasked with trying their best to get all their reading books back to the library in time for the summer break. Daily updates allowed the classes to see who is winning the race to zero!

Mrs Pemberton



### Bikeability Week

Helmets and hi-vis ... May saw J4 pupils take to two wheels for Bikeability Week at the Prep School.



### Wraparound Care

Display work has been the theme of the summer term. The children in Wraparound Care have been busy redesigning some of the display boards in the Refectory. They were inspired by Sir David Attenborough and his *Power of Plants* and have created a display highlighting the beauty of plants and animals. The children loved making the various creations with the fluffy moles and bead worms being favourites and were very pleased to have it included as part of the advertising for the recent Prep School Open Day Morning.

Reception have been studying the story *Handa's Surprise* with her seven fruits so children from both Alice House and the Junior School joined in the painting of the fruits and the animals to create a fabulous *Handa's Surprise* display in the Refectory. They also had a great time creating portraits of the Queen and making bunting for the Platinum Jubilee. A once in a lifetime opportunity!

Mrs O'Leary







### Infant Art

Creative children in the classroom and their co-curricular clubs.



### J1 Funky Faces Fun!

J1 pupils had great fun creating fabulous 'Funky Faces' recently, repurposing recycled materials and applying their knowledge of facial features to great effect!



### J2 DT - Shadow Puppets

This term in their DT lessons, J2 pupils have very much enjoyed bringing well-known fairy tales to life in the form of a Shadow Puppet performance.

The children researched their characters, sets and props, designed their silhouettes and drafted their scripts, all culminating in a puppet show for their peers.



### J1 Art and Craft Club Summer Activities

In preparation for the summer holiday ahead, the J1 Art and Craft Club attendees have really loved designing their own functional tote bag, using the theme of 'Summer' as inspiration. They used special fabric paints and embellishments and should be very proud of their completed bags.

Mrs Morgan



### J4 Pupils Working in the Style of an Artist

Well done to J4 pupils on their fantastic canvases. The children researched art styles and specific artists, before choosing one painting to recreate in acrylics.

Mrs Morgan



### Welcome to the J3 Sweet Store!

The Prep School Art Room is currently looking like an extension of Willy Wonka's Sweet Factory, due to the fabulous papier mache models made by the J3 pupils. How delicious do they look!







### J2 Performing Arts Club

During the last week of term, pupils in our amazing J2 Performing Arts Club performed Fantastic Mr Fox to J1 and J2. The children did a fantastic job! Special well done to Saba for writing the script!

Mrs Mollinson



### J3 History Trip

In June J3 pupils took a trip to Mary Arden's Farm in Stratford-upon-Avon for a Tudors Alive Workshop as part of their History lessons. The children enjoyed a unique opportunity for learning outside the classroom, spending the day as a Tudor child helping on our working farm. Activities included making wattle and daub, designing sugar subtleties, dipping candles, making lavender bags and dancing to Tudor music.



### EYFS and Infant Performances

In addition to the large concerts for Junior and Senior Schools, both the Infant and the EYFS sections of the Prep school prepared and presented performances of their own in front of parents. As ever, it was great to see the children really willing to give the best they could to each performance as well as showing obvious enjoyment in making music together. We can't wait to hear more next year!

### Reception 'Go Wild'

At the end of term, Reception children embarked on an animal adventure to 'All things Wild' as part of their 'Animal Planet' topic. They were greeted by a whole host of animals from camels to rabbits and insects to beautiful, exotic birds. Reception pupils were even able to enter the goat enclosure where the goats enjoyed the attention and pestered the children for more strokes and scratches behind the ears! After the pupils had explored the animals around the grounds, they were invited to have some close encounters under the watchful observation of a caiman and iguana! The animal handler brought out any array of fascinating species for the children to learn about and to hold including an extremely cute armadillo, a wriggly snake, and a very relaxed cockroach. The children were very brave (the teachers not so much) and most took their turn touching the wonderful creatures. The day continued with a delicious lunch and playtime on the adventure playground. The finale was a magical train ride which took us back to the Jurassic period where the children were able to meet some of the notorious dinosaurs they had learnt about during their 'Long, Long Ago' topic. It was a jam-packed day full of exciting adventures which we all thoroughly enjoyed!

Mrs Litwinko



### Nursery Trip to Brueton Park

On Wednesday 29 June, Nursery children enjoyed a fun-filled trip to the Parkridge Centre in Solihull's Brueton Park for a Teddy Bears Adventure session. Bears were a big part of our Nursery term as the teddies also joined Sports Day races and children learnt about different types.







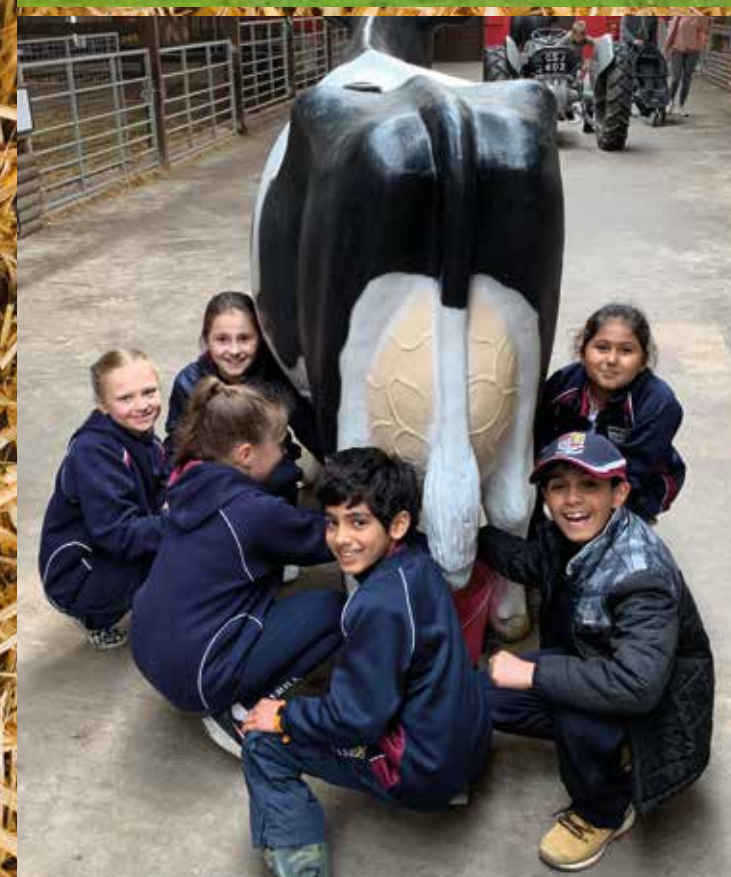
### I1 Kenilworth Castle

On 10 May, I1 pupils enjoyed a brilliant day at Kenilworth Castle learning how to attack and defend a castle and understanding the fascinating history of the building as an Elizabethan palace. Historians in the making!



### I2 Ryton Pools

I2 pupils enjoyed a day trip to Ryton Pools. The children went pond-dipping, built dens, fed the ducks, explored and feasted on a picnic lunch.



### J1 Attwell Farm Park

J1 pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at the farm on Monday 23 May. The children fed animals, had an introduction to unusual reptiles and minibeasts and explored the soft play area.







## J2 Birmingham Thinktank

On Tuesday 28 June, pupils in J2 travelled to Birmingham for a super day exploring Thinktank Science Museum. The children enjoyed exploring all the different artefacts and the outdoor interactive Science Garden was a huge hit, as was the trip to the souvenir gift shop at the end of the day.

Mrs Middleton



## J3 PGL

On Friday 6 May, the J3 pupils waved an excited goodbye to their parents as they embarked on their journey to Boreatton Park, PGL. The weekend was full of team building activities, that tested the J3's cooperation and resilience; from the mighty zip wire to the terrifying trapeze; every activity they participated in was all about having a go, and learning a new skill. Everyone had a great time, especially during the year group raft building, where the competition to construct the best raft was strong! A thoroughly enjoyable weekend for both pupils and staff, full of memories that will stay with the children for years to come.

Mrs Farnan



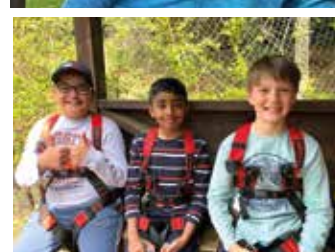




### J4 Hilltop Residential

From Friday 13 - Monday 16 May, J4 pupils and staff travelled to Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Norfolk for their residential. The stay involved a variety of activities including zip wire, tree-top trails, mountain biking, river studies and trips to the beach in the sunshine! All pupils showed super enthusiasm, challenged themselves to complete activities or reach heights that they may not have believed they could do, and most importantly had a fun-filled weekend with their friends, taking away many special memories for life!

Miss Smith



### International Day of Dance

Lower Fifth GCSE Dancers and Lower Sixth A Level Dancers created and taught a series of mini dance sessions to the Infant pupils at the Prep School this term. The classes which took place in the SMARt Centre on our Saint Martin's campus focussed on traditional dances from around the world. Our pupils were excellent leaders, demonstrating the Novus traits 'front footed' and 'giving' throughout the sessions.



### Dance Showcase

On Thursday 28 April we held our annual Dance Showcase, an opportunity for pupils to share their many talents in Dance gained through their curricular lessons and co-curricular clubs. This year, the evening of Senior School performances saw a huge variety of styles as pupils showcased their skills in Hip Hop, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Bharanatayam, Kathakali, Chinese, Contemporary and more. This event was organised predominantly by two of our A Level Dance students and formed part of their Gold Arts Award. We congratulate Keira and Emma who successfully led the show which took place in the Bushell Hall in front of a live audience for the first time since 2018.



### Motionhouse Company - Dance Workshop and Theatre Visit

Pupils studying Dance in the curriculum including were invited to Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 30 April to watch *Nobody* by Motionhouse. *Nobody* was a thrilling performance of contemporary and modern dance with circus acrobatic skills and incorporates the innovative use of technology and set within Dance. The pupils from Fourth Form to Lower Sixth all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were inspired by new and original movement content.

On Thursday 19 May, Dance pupils participated in an all-day workshop with Motionhouse. After warming up, our pupils practiced their technical skills before being taught three pieces of repertoire from the show *Nobody*, and learning a variety of lifts and contact work for their forthcoming Dance exams.

Mrs Rudge

### Commonwealth Games

On Wednesday 1 July, Fourth Form pupil Jessica performed a dance routine and modelled merchandise on the catwalk at the grand opening of the Commonwealth Games Official Megastore in Centenary Square, Birmingham.

This was the first event in the countdown to the Commonwealth Games, and was attended by TV and sporting celebrities, as well as, of course, Official Mascot Perry the Bull. Jessica has previously performed at other large-scale sporting events, appeared as 'AcroCadabra' in the Britain's Got Talent semi-finals and has won six world titles in international competitions.







### Bugsy Malone

Shell Form and Fourth form pupils wowed audiences in the last week of term with their full scale musical performance of Bugsy Malone. 54 pupils were involved onstage acting, singing and dancing, supported by a full band of pupils and staff and a crew of Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth. The show was a sell out for both performances and audiences left tapping their toes, singing along and amazed by the talent and professionalism of the production. The cast had only been rehearsing since Easter and this alongside learning songs, dances and dialogue, combined with quick changes, multi-rolling and splurge was a real challenge! Many of the cast members hadn't performed since long before lockdown and the Production Team were so proud of the way they embraced the show, made the characters their own. Great fun was had by all.

Mrs Stafford







### J3 Workshop and Matinee of Buggy Malone

As part of their Arts Award, Annabel and Amy in Lower Sixth organised a matinee performance of Buggy Malone and invited J3 pupils to come and watch, as well as viewing a short film they had made about Drama in the Senior School and also participate in a Drama, Dance and Singing workshop. J3 were split into groups and all participated in a workshop led by Lower Sixth students, with activities ranging from learning a song from the show, learning the dance routine to *Fat Sam's Grand Slam* and creating a piece of drama about gang characters they created. After the workshop J3 pupils along with children from Olton Junior School watched a matinee performance of Buggy Malone and only just managed to escape being splurged!

Mrs Stafford

### Gold Arts Award

Lower Sixth students have been working towards their Gold Arts Award, running an Arts Event, as part of their Sixth Form ASpire course. This year the events have been really successful and have included organising the Dance Showcase in April, the RADA Showcase in May and then the J3 Workshop and matinee performance of Buggy Malone. The students have worked incredibly hard to organise these large and successful events which pupils from many year groups have been involved in and audiences have enjoyed watching.



### Buggy Malone

As part of Buggy Malone there is a car chase and the Drama Department decided it would be really exciting to film this using the maintenance golf buggies. Therefore, one night after school cast members joined Dr Jukes and the tech team to film a short silent movie car chase. Great fun, and the pupils learnt about film making in the process, including camera angles, continuity and how many takes you have to do until you get it right!! We hope you enjoyed the short film of 'Buggy Malone' just before the interval of Buggy Malone and were able to spot our mystery driver of the buggies!

Mrs Stafford



### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Pupils in Thirds Drama Club have been working on their own adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The 60-strong cast have been split into groups and each group has been directed by a selection of Fourth Form and Lower Fifth pupils. All have worked extremely hard and enjoyed exploring the larger-than-life characters. We really loved sharing their work in progress with parents in the last week of term.



### Young Voices

On a Friday evening in April, J3/J4 Junior Singers took part in one of the national Young Voices concerts. This took place in the Resorts World Arena and brought together thousands of children from primary/prep schools in the Midlands, creating an enormous choir – the sound was exhilarating and the thrill of performing in such a vast arena to a huge audience was very evident. Our singers had rehearsed the music in preceding weeks and came away buzzing from the experience. What a night to remember, and we have already booked in next year's J3/J4 Junior Singers for the 2023 event, so do sign up for the choir next year!



### Junior and Senior Summer Concerts

Both the Junior School and Senior School held Summer Concerts for music ensembles. At each concert in the Bushell Hall there was a huge cast of performers and a 'sell out' audience, and the audiences left the performers in no doubt about how successful each ensemble piece was.

In the Junior School concert we had performances from String Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Samba Band, J1/J2 Singers, J3/J4 Singers, Wind Band, a smaller 'Dragon' string group, entire curriculum singing groups from J3 and J4, as well as solo performances from a small number of J4 pupils.

In the Senior School concert items ranged from Lower School Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, The Twelve and Flute Choir to Big Band, Concert Band and String Orchestra.

In both concerts the usual range of musical style and character abounded, and all performed with precision, sparkle and sensitivity. Huge congratulations to all involved, especially to those pupils for whom it will have been their last ensemble concert before heading off to pastures new.

Mr Kermode







### Soloists' Concerts

Our termly series of concerts to provide pupils the forum to entertain an audience has been as busy as ever. The sets of Informal Concerts in each half of the term have been brimming with lovely performances from pupils of all spectrums along their journey of musical skill, on a wide variety of instruments and of a range of musical styles. Our final Soloists' Concert was for the Senior School Music Award holders. A huge thank you and many congratulations to all who have performed – we hope you enjoyed the experience as much as the audiences did. We look forward to many more such concerts next year.



### Instrumental and Vocal Masterclasses

After two years of having to put on hold our series of instrumental and vocal masterclasses – in which professional musicians come in to lead workshops and comment on interpretation and matters of performance – we have been excited this term to welcome in no fewer than four different musicians. Three different piano masterclasses were held – one for Prep School pupils and two in the Senior School – as well as one violin masterclass. As is typical of pupils here at Solihull, the visiting musicians were impressed not only by the level of performance, but also by the positive spirit in which everyone responded to guidance offered and the genuine interest pupils showed to their fellow performers – bravo to all. We have other such events planned for next year.



### Music Performance Exams

Once again, many pupils have been preparing for exams on their instrument or voice. By far the majority of pupils are returning to the face-to-face exams in which they can really enjoy performing to a person, rather than a camera. The amount of individual practice and motivation required to prepare for these should never be underestimated and our congratulations go to all who have taken exams. This is balanced by our thanks to all the instrumental staff for their encouragement and guidance, as well as the essential role played by Mrs Baumber, our indefatigable Administrator who has managed the juggling act of exam entries, timetables and (in a few cases) recordings. As ever, a significant proportion of pupils achieved either merit or distinction level – bravo!

### Diploma Exam Success

Special congratulations go to Yichen in the Lower Fifth who has recently gained her second diploma level exam. This time round it was for her cello playing, and not only did she pass, but she achieved a distinction. Bravo, Yichen.



### Festival Success

Congratulations go to Gemma in the Upper Fifth for a string of successes in the Leamington Spa Music Festival. She entered multiple categories on both recorder and clarinet and came out with 1st Prizes in all of them. We imagine trophy space at home may be getting rather tight by now!



### Staff Farewells

Mr Alex Woodrow leaves us (for the second time!) at the end of this year. He joined Solihull in 2016 as our Head of Choral Music. After a partial move up to Leeds to be Organist and Director of Music at Leeds Minster in 2018 (from Thursdays to Sundays), he remained with us for the first part of the week as a piano and organ teacher. Unsurprisingly, the musical scene at Leeds is keen to have more of Alex's time and skills and he now moves up there permanently, meaning that he needs to cease his teaching here in Solihull. Thank you, Mr Woodrow, for sharing your musicianship with us for these bonus four years.

Also leaving us is Mrs Helen Peat. Mrs Peat joined us two years ago as the Head of Prep Music in the newly merged school. Starting in a new job, in a new school and during a pandemic is no-one's picture of the best start, but Mrs Peat has engaged with her characteristic energy and compassion and created many opportunities for the children. In addition, she has had to do this rather like a 'weekly boarder' as her family are in Bristol and the potential move up to the West Midlands for them never quite transpired. The children have loved being in Mrs Peat's classes and choirs and they will miss her. We wish her happy days as she now heads back to Bristol.



### 25 Years of Service

Congratulations to Mrs Hattley on 25 years of service teaching singing at Saint Martin's and Solihull. The Headmaster presented a commemorative piece of glass from the world renowned Isle of Wight Studio Glass, hand-blown by master glassmaker Timothy Harris and engraved with the Solihull crest. Thank you, Mrs Hattley, for guiding so many pupils in the development of their singing voice.

*Mr Kermode*







### Duke of Edinburgh's Award

It has been a very busy term ...

At Easter, a group of Lower Sixth Gold DofE students travelled to Snowdonia and four Lower Fifth Silver practice groups went to Worcestershire enduring very weather very cold!

During a heatwave in mid-June, Lower Fifth Silver pupils travelled to Shropshire, with four groups on assessment and two groups on practice.

Late June saw 18 groups of Fourth Form pupils take to mid-Warwickshire for their Bronze Assessment and, at the start of July, two groups of Bronze Fourth Form deferrals also travelled to Warwickshire.

In the summer break, late July, two groups of Lower Fifth pupils will undertake their Silver Assessments in the Peak District, we wish them the very best of luck!

A highlight of the term was our former Solihull pupils from the Class of 2018-20 celebrating their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace. HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex congratulated some of our alumni in person. A fantastic event celebrating a superb effort and achievement.

Huge thanks to all our staff volunteers who make DofE activities possible and well done to all involved!.

Mr Bate



### Snowdonia School

This term Snod School 357, 358, 359, 360 and 361 travelled to Wales for action-packed outdoor education adventures at the David Fricke Mountain Cottage. Activities included kayaking down the Menai Straits and on Padarn Lake, bush craft, rock climbing, zip-wiring, trips to the beach and climbing to the summit of Snowdon.



### Spanish Snowdonia / Spanish Immersion Weekend

From 22 – 24 April, Mr Morgan, Ms Campbell and Mr Fernández Valverde spent a very enjoyable and educational weekend at the David Fricke Mountain Cottage in beautiful North Wales with eight Upper Sixth Spanish students.

Over the weekend, students had a chance to spend some quality time preparing for their A Level oral examination by practising their language skills and experiencing some authentic Spanish culture. Whilst in Snowdonia, we spent a lovely day at the beach on Anglesey and learnt to dance a 'Sevillana'.

One of the highlights of the weekend was certainly the gastronomic aspect of the trip, so many thanks to Mr Fernández Valverde for the amazing Andalusian dishes he served up. A wonderful time was had by all concerned. ¡Fue un fin de semana inolvidable!

Mr Morgan







### Terriers

Thursday's Third Form Terriers lessons have included orienteering, camp site cooking, den building, safe cycling, kayaking and more! Teamwork is key.

## THE MARTYN GARNER BUILDING FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION



### Nettlecombe Geography Field Trip

During the first week of June, our Lower Fifth Geography pupils enjoyed a Field Trip to Nettlecombe. The residential included an introduction to coastal bay processes and a visit to Porlock Bay for field sketching and beach profiles.



### Six Summits Challenge

Well done to Shell Form pupil James who took part in the gruelling Six Summits Challenge. James and four other Scouts from his Sea Scouts Troop pitted against other groups of Scouts and Venture Scouts to walk 36 miles over three days.

The challenge involved navigating six hills on the Shropshire/ Herefordshire border with just a map and a compass, pitching tents and forming makeshift camps.

James' team finished in a very credible third place overall. A great achievement.



### Master Cadet

Over the Easter break, Lower Sixth student Anna was selected by The Ministry of Defence to take part in a six-day Master Cadet Course at Frimley Cadet Training Centre. The training consisted of military obstacle courses, four days sleeping under bashes, overnight sentry positions, numerous section and platoon attacks, and lots of weapon handling. Commenting on Anna's success, her Section Commander said: "Anna put in an incredible amount of effort and has shown she can lead and follow, adapt to changing and challenging situations, and learn and apply new skills quickly. She has pushed herself to achieve a great standard and, as a Master Cadet, has completed the hardest Army Cadet Course successfully, always with good humour and high morale. Anna's achievement is to be highly commended, and she has shown she has great potential in life." Well done, Master Cadet Anna!



### CCF

On the weekend of the 13 -15 May the Cadets from the Shell Form took part in a field training exercise. We arrived at Wretham Camp for lunch and then deployed out onto the training area. The cadets had to construct their shelters which they were going to use for the next 24 hours and were issued with a 24-hour ration pack which provided their evening meal, breakfast and lunch. The Cadets then took part in a series of activities which culminated in them leading a section attack. All had a great time and learnt some very useful skills which they will need for the forthcoming Summer Camp in July.

Mr Leonard







### Nursery and Reception Sports Day

After weeks of preparation and hard work from the Nursery and Reception children we were glad the weather was kind to us so the children could enjoy competing in all their races. The pupils arrived to the Astro turf pitches with the music playing and the anticipation and excitement building.

All Nursery children competed in one sprint race, one novelty fun race and their house relay and Reception pupils competed in one sprint race, two novelty fun races and their House relay. In total 38 races were contested, and all children were rewarded with their positional rosette stickers.

### Infant 1 and Infant 2 Sports Day

The Infant children spent weeks preparing and working hard towards their Sports Day events. All pupils were very excited to see their family and friends ready to wave and cheer them on. On the hottest day of the year so far, the children arrived well prepared in sun hats and carrying their water ready to show everyone what they could do!

Every child competed in one sprint race, two novelty fun races and their House relay with a total of 59 races contested and everyone receiving their positional rosette or 'well done' stickers on the finish line.

Congratulations to all who participated in Alice House Sports Days. The PE Department staff are extremely proud of the children's perseverance and determination to demonstrate their personal best in front of their peers, families and teachers.

Mrs Higginson



### Alice House Results

	FETHERSTON	JAGO	POLE	SHENSTONE	WINDSOR
Nursery	4	2	1	5	3
Reception	5	2	1	4	3
Infant 1	3	2	4	5	1
Infant 2	5	2	3	4	1
Total	17	8	9	18	8
	2nd	4th	3rd	1st	4th



### Junior School Sports Days

Junior School pupils travelled to the Warwick Road campus for three superb Sports Day afternoons. It was wonderful to have parents and friends cheering on from the side lines, and of course, taking part in the hotly contested finale the parents' egg and spoon race!



Pupils were awards points on Sports Day for events they took part in. Those pupils with the most points were awarded our Victor and Victrix Ludorum trophies. Well done to the following pupils:

	Victor	Victrix
J1	Phoebe	Tom
J2	Rosie / Olivia	Hugo
J3	Isla	Caleb
J4	Erin	Toby



### Junior School Results

	FETHERSTON	JAGO	POLE	SHENSTONE	WINDSOR
J1 & J2	156	143	132	144	113
J3	80	149	171	115	111
J4	160	102	183	147	173
Total	396	394	486	406	397
	5th	4th	1st	2nd	3rd





### Solihull Borough Athletics

After a two-year hiatus we returned to the Borough Athletics under a new format. The pupils arrived at the Tudor Grange Athletics Track on Monday 27 June full of excitement. The selected J4 children - 12 boys and 12 girls - would all compete in one throwing event (shot putt or foam javelin), one jumping event (long jump or standing triple jump) and one running event (600m or 75m sprint). Then the four fastest girls and the four fastest boys would contest the 4 x 75m sprint relay.

As the first field events began, the heavens opened, and the boys long jump was a rather soggy affair. The morning saw all our athletes take part in their field events with lots of success.

#### Girls Field Events

Shot Putt 2nd place – Megan  
Shot Putt 3rd place – Lily  
Javelin 2nd place – Erin  
Long Jump 2nd place – Freya

#### Boys Field Events

Shot Putt 1st place – George  
Shot Putt 2nd place – Toby

The afternoon saw the start of the running events. Heats were contested for both the 75m and 600m so the pupils were all determined to finish in their quickest times before the overall results were collated. More medals came Solihull's way.

Boys 600m 3rd place – Jacob  
Girls 600m 3rd place – Emma  
Boys 75m 1st place – Toby  
Girls 75m 2nd place – Erin  
Girls 75m 3rd place – Lucy

The final events of the day were the 4 x 75m sprint relays. The girls made some excellent changes to get the baton around with them finishing 2nd overall.

Well done to Lucy, Margarida, Bethan and Erin.

As the event ended, all 19 schools were invited onto the track to hear the combined overall scores for the day. With a total point's score of 263 Solihull finished in second place so training begins now to go one step further and take the overall Athletics crown next year. Congratulations to all of those involved and good luck with your Athletics in Senior School.

*Mrs Higginson*



### Solihull Borough Rounders Tournament

On Tuesday 14 June, ten J4 pupils attended the Solihull Rounders Tournament held at Lode Heath School. 20 schools had been split into three groups and would play a round robin to determine who would move onto the semi-finals. Solihull started cautiously, but played five matches with fantastic results:

St. Patricks – Won 5 – 1 ½

St. Andrews – Won 6 – 0

Dickens Heath – Won 2 ½ - ½

Shirley Heath – Won 4 ½ - ½

Langley – Won 4 ½ - ½

In the semi-finals, the team met Greswold and although a little nervous they came through to win 2 – ½. Oak Cottage had a draw in their semi-final so while they played an additional five balls each in their semi-final Solihull maintained their focus with some batting practice against the watching parents. This obviously paid off as the triumphant Solihull team convincingly won against Oak Cottage 5 ½ - 1 ½. Winners' medals were received and the team were invited to attend the next stage against other winners and runners up from Coventry and Warwickshire areas.

*Mrs Higginson*



### IAPS Achievement

Following a successful qualification round at BKHS King Henry VIII school, five of our Prep School pupils made it through to the IAPS finals, which were held at the London Aquatics Centre. Not only was it a fantastic achievement to qualify, it was also a wonderful and unique experience for the children swimming in the Olympic swimming pool.

It was a very successful trip, with some excellent results. The J4 boys 4 x 25m Freestyle relay team of Jay, Thomas, Harry and Jacob qualified for the final in 20th and finished 12th in the final, showing just what a great team effort can achieve. And there was more to follow, J3 pupil Caleb finished 5th in the final in the 25m backstroke and J4 pupil Jacob finished 8th in the final of the 50m front crawl, both with PBs. Very well done to them all.

Mr Mayled said he “couldn't have asked for anything more from the pupils”.



### House 5K

Well done to all who participated in our Senior School House 5K on Wednesday 4 May, and congratulations to the winners Alex, Mr Corbett and Bea



### Commonwealth Games

Congratulations to Mrs Sixsmith and Mr Maddy who have been selected as Batonbearers carrying the Queen's Baton for a section of the West Midlands route (Monday 18 July - Thursday 28 July).

Mrs Sixsmith joins The Queen's Baton Relay at Kingsbury Water Park on Thursday 21 July and Mr Maddy will be in Hampton in Arden on Tuesday 26 July.

Batonbearers are inspirational people with an incredible story who:

- Are always willing to take on a challenge and has a unique and inspiring story;
- Have made a meaningful contribution to sport, education, the arts, culture, or charity;
- Are a figure of inspiration that positively challenges others to achieve their best;
- Have taken on a challenge or cause and made a positive impact within their community



Well done also to Mrs Garside, Mr Green and Ms Bovill who are all part of the Commonwealth Collective. Out of 45,000 applications, 25,000 people were interviewed and finally 13,000 selected. Mrs Garside will be at the Table Tennis; Mr Green, Beach Volleyball, and Ms Bovill, Athletics and Marathons. The Commonwealth Collective are described as 'spirited, dedicated and dynamic volunteers.'



### Itchenor National Schools' Championships

It was fantastic to get back down Chichester Harbour after a three-year hiatus, and what a successful return it was! In a southerly force 4-5 (challenging for many of the boats in the fleet but 'perfect' for experienced racers), we got off to a flying start in the first race, with Freddie and Eleanor crossing the line in 3rd and Theo and Will 19th. Theo and Will went from strength to strength, 18th and 8th in the next two races and 17th overall at the half way stage. A black flag and a capsized slowed Freddie and Eleanor down a bit, but they had still done enough to sit 22nd out of 98 at the end of day one.

Day two brought sunshine with the wind and a glorious day of sailing. Theo and Will added a 7th and 13th to their tally to make a top-10 finish overall a real possibility – a spectacular achievement in their first ever National Schools' championships. Things looked promising as they crossed the line 5th in the final race, but unfortunately a black flag meant that they had to settle for 14th overall – still smashing their top-20 target and our best-ever result in this competition!

Freddie and Eleanor showed Solihull spirit in spades on day two. Flexible and front-footed thinking saw them stop in the shallows in race two to fix a broken part of the boat (meaning they had to withdraw from the race), but they were determined not to let the setback slow them down and came straight back to win race three after a thrilling final downwind leg in which they got the better of the so far undefeated team from Weydon School! A 9th in the final race was enough to secure them a top-20 finish overall. What an introduction to spinnakers for Ellie, who learned a huge amount under Freddie's calm and expert guidance.

As always, huge thanks must go to the support team that make all this possible: Jon Smith, Steve Whitmarsh and Jane Sunderland, in particular, for towing, rigging and driving boats and their support on the water; and Sixth Form volunteer Anna for her calm guidance and efficiency as support rib crew.

The sailing club bids goodbye to several stalwarts of the squad this year: we wish captain Ben, Will and Lainey all the very best for the future. We also look forward to welcoming new young sailors in September to continue the Solihull Sailing success story.

*Mrs Francis*







FETHERSTON	JAGO	POLE	SHENSTONE	WINDSOR	EVENT
10	8	17	21	26	VI Boys
29	27	15	17	19	LV Boys
24	16	22	16	20	IV Boys
38	7	16	21	15	Shell Boys
17	13	24	20	23	III Boys
12	11	25	15	9	VI Girls
23	12	7	21	13	LV Girls
9	16	22	19	15	IV Girls
27	7	31	20	25	Shell Girls
37	14	19	18	26	III Girls
5	1	3	4	2	1000m Relay
6	9	3	0	12	Tennis
5	4	2	2	2	Tug of War
79	67	86	94	92	Fun and Games
321	212	292	288	299	
1st	5th	3rd	4th	2nd	





## Sport, Health and Fitness Summer 2022



We have enjoyed another fun term of school clubs, fixtures and tournaments.

The term started with our U13 Hockey Boys playing their National Finals in Nottingham having qualified the previous term. We were a little rusty after not having played for over a month but soon warmed up to compete in some exciting hockey action. Many congratulations to every boy who was part of the squad – finishing 5th in the country is an amazing achievement.

Our 1st XI Cricketers took centre stage as we hosted our first T20 Friday night matches. A DJ blasted out lots of old favourites (and cheesy tunes!), the prosecco tent was very popular, our fantastic catering team prepared a delicious BBQ and an ice cream van kept us cool as the teams produced some spectacular cricket with boundaries galore in matches that both went to the last over. It was great to see so many pupils, parents, staff and governors supporting our team and enjoying the occasion. Next year we are planning two Friday night fixtures for Netball, Girls' Hockey, Rugby, Boys' Hockey and Cricket.

We also hosted a week of Cricket Sixes (a six a side limited overs tournament) with twelve schools playing over the course of each day. Again, it was great to see pupils stop and support our teams at break, lunch and after school – there was a real buzz about the pitch. Our U12 and U14 teams played with great enthusiasm to win their year group competitions. With every pupil in our first three year groups playing cricket this term we have been able to field twenty mixed teams and fourteen girls' teams. Our 1st XI Girls' team was the first to play a hardball fixture on our main square in the schools' history and we regularly fielded four teams in Thirds, Shells and three teams in our Fourths. The quality of cricket has undoubtedly improved as a result of our winter training throughout the



first two terms – the commitment of our girls and boys has been outstanding.

Our Athletics teams have also flourished with some excellent performances on the track and in the field. At the Borough Sports we had three records broken – Mollie running 43.8 seconds in the U14 300m, Cerys throwing the javelin 25.55m and Kelechi in the U14 Boys' 100m in a time of 11.6 seconds. Our girls had great success in the Track and Field Cup with our Junior Girls (Thirds and Shells) qualifying for the Regional A Final and our Inter Girls (Fourth and Lower Fifth) qualifying for the Regional B Final at Pingles Stadium, Nuneaton. Both competed incredibly well against the best schools from eight other counties – our Inter Girls' score of 371 points was just 16 shy of qualifying for the National Finals, there is much to be optimistic about for next season.

The highlight of our Sailing Team's season came at the Itchenor National Schools' Championships with one race win, three top 10 finishes and our best overall results: 14th and 20th.

At the end of the term, we were able to reward six pupils with their Full Colours for their outstanding contribution to Solihull Sport. They have all excelled on the playing fields but, more importantly, they have been fantastic role models – helping at Prep School Sports Days, coaching and mentoring younger pupils, leading sessions on our new pupil Induction Day and training hard to improve their own performances. Congratulations to Niamh, Sarah, Samuel, Ben, Tom and George.

As we end the academic year it has been rewarding to see so many pupils and staff meeting Our Purpose of Sport, Health and Fitness being fun and enjoyable for every single one of our pupils. We hope to have instilled a lifelong love of Sport, Health and Fitness so that our pupils are still physically active at 25, 45 and even 95!

Mr Dossett

## A Message from Reverend Rachel



## WOW! WHAT A WELCOME!



It has been an action packed first term for me as Chaplain. We have had some wonderful moments in Chapel – a visit from Bishop Anne, the Bishop of Aston being a highlight. She joined us for a special service to mark the beginning of my time. Which, was of course, followed by refreshments. Our prayer Vigil for Ukraine was a special service too, and we were able to engage with some interactive prayer stations. Pupils and staff have spotted (and made use of) the prayer spaces that we have on both the Senior School campus (at the back of Chapel) and at the Prep School (in the library) where we have focused on praying for the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine this term. Dozens of blue and yellow ribbons have been tied to prayer trees as symbols of prayer, love and hope.

I have also joined the Learning Support Team at the Senior School, which has enabled me to quickly get to know many of our amazing staff and pupils.

Being part of the wider pastoral team is a very good place to be. In addition, I teach RS to I1 at the Prep School. The enthusiasm of the children has been wonderful and we have really enjoyed exploring 'special books' together. Towards the end of term, the children have been finding out a bit more about what I do as Chaplain which has included some dressing up and role play of a baptism with a doll. They have been a joy to work with. There are some really fantastic actors in I1!

I'm very much looking forward to the next academic year.

*Reverend Rachel*







## Solihull Totes on Tour!

Our Solihull staff took their 'totes on tour' over the holidays, snapping shots of their new branded bag in destinations near and far! From the Commonwealth Games, concerts and the Cornish coast to wild animals, waterfalls and weddings, our Solihull totes have been on many adventures this summer.





**STOP PRESS**

We are delighted to have been shortlisted for an award in the Independent School of the Year for Student Wellbeing and Innovation Award for an Outstanding New Initiative category.

Fingers crossed for the finals in September!



## Summer Term Teams of the Week

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. DofE Gold Team                  | Exceptional teamwork in tough conditions on their DofE Gold Practice Expedition  |
| 2. The School Bench                | A fantastic team effort for 2021-2022  |
| 3. String Ensemble                 | A wonderful, poignant and reflective performance at the Summer Concert   |
| 4. Girls' Senior Cricket Team      | Outstanding team performance in their first senior fixture   |
| 5. Boys' U13 Hockey Team           | Brilliant team performance in the National Finals  |
| 6. Lon Las Cymru Cycle Team        | An incredibly inspiring, charitable achievement cycling from Holyhead to Cardiff   |
| 7. U14A Cricket Team               | Superb team spirit and gracious victory against Kings High School  |
| 8. 1st XI Cricket Team             | Fantastic team performance in their first T20 match  |
| 9. LVI CIPFA Team                  | Excellent team effort and performance in the Midlands Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants Sixth Form Games Event |
| 10. U12 Cricket Team               | Terrific teamwork and performance in the Solihull Sixes Competition  |
| 11. Fetherston "Terra" Team        | Winners of the first House Sustainability Challenge for their recycled clothing initiative                                     |
| 12. Sailing Team                   | Fantastic team effort and performance at the Itchenor Regatta  |
| 13. Cast and Crew of Buggy Malone  | Two incredible performances of drama, dance and music  |
| 14. Girls' Athletics Super 6s Team | Outstanding team performance in the Solihull and Warwickshire School Games   |

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