



Solihull  
School

# The Greyhound

Students from across the year groups dazzled a packed Bushell Hall audience over five consecutive nights with a superb staging of the classic musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. Performances were outstanding, and the audience – well in excess of 2000 attended – was enthralled. Congratulations to all of the cast and crew involved.





## **The Greyhound Interviews...** **Miss Rutherford, Religious Studies**

### **How long have you been teaching?**

Nearly six years.

### **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The beach ball game! Either that or the look on people's faces when I've given them an idea that makes their head explode, like 'Can God create a rock that's too heavy for him to lift?'

### **Why do you like teaching RS?**

Because it's relevant to everything – religion is all over the news, it's all about what makes people tick. Also because I tried teaching Geography once and I was rubbish...

### **Is there a particular area of your subject that you most enjoy teaching?**

I love the GCSE course, there's stuff in there to make you laugh and cry. I'm really looking forward to the new A-Level course as well, where we plan how the world's going to end!

### **Which religious figure would you most like to be stuck in a lift with?**

I think Jesus would probably be best at getting the lift unstuck, but I think the Buddha would do a great job of calming me down.

### **What would you be if you weren't a teacher?**

No idea, although in my time I've wanted to be a professional cricket spectator, a journalist, an F1 driver and a spy...

### **What are your top three TV shows?**

The Big Bang Theory – it taught me all the science I know.

Homeland – it's gripping (plus there's a really interesting religious storyline).

Top Gear – because I like daydreaming about driving fast cars!

## **The Old Silhillians Association**

In previous issues of the *Greyhound*, my predecessor Peter Davies introduced the Old Silhillians Association and Malcolm Lawrie, our communications guru, set out the various channels we use to communicate with our members.

By way of introduction, I am the 2013 President of the OSA. I was at the School between 1966 and 1974 and I was in Fetherstone.

I thought I would use the opportunity of our slot in the *Greyhound* to give you a broad update of what the Association is currently up to.

### **Copt Heath**

Those of you who have used the facilities at Copt Heath, either as part of the school activities or possibly mini-rugby on Sunday morning, will be familiar with it and also feel that perhaps it could do with a bit of an upgrade and facelift. I am pleased to report that shortly before Christmas we obtained planning permission for the Clubhouse and changing rooms to be completely brought up to date.

However, at this stage we have yet to obtain planning permission for the redevelopment of the former stewards' house into a care home which would have been the ideal way to find the funds required for the refurbishment. We are pursuing the necessary planning permission and also entering into discussions with various sporting agencies for grant funding so that this exciting project can commence. That will not be before spring of 2014 at the earliest and in the meantime activities will continue as normal at Copt Heath.

### **OSA Office**

Hopefully by now you are all aware that we have an office in the Leonard Stevens Buildings which is open on Thursdays during term time between 4pm and 5.30pm. We would be delighted to meet any member of staff or pupil and tell them more about us and how we can help. One obvious area is careers advice. From our database we have a fantastic range of careers which Old Silhillians have pursued in the past, and working in partnership with the School's career service, we would be only too happy to answer queries or provide advice about particular career paths.

### **OSA Trust**

This is our charitable arm and was set up specifically to assist in the funding of school places by way of fees scholarships and it also has the ability to provide financial support for other study-based projects.

### **Events**

Once again, we have a full diary of events coming up over the next few months including dinners in both London and at Copt Heath. A very exciting event this year is a reunion of Old Girls at the School which is taking place on Saturday 22 June 2013. Organiser Julia Skan would be delighted to hear from any Old Girls who would be interested in attending. We also have a Summer Ball on Saturday 15 June and I would be delighted to welcome any members of staff or parents who wanted to join us for what will hopefully be a wonderful evening at Copt Heath.







## Development

As an Association, we were delighted to see the appointment of Alison Bond as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the School and we have already started working with her. This can only be for the benefit of both the School and the Association and we wish her all the best for her new appointment.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing all pupils of the School a very successful year and in particular those who are taking major examinations this year. Also, my thanks to the Headmaster for once again allowing us the opportunity to appear in these pages.

Regards

Joe Bates  
President



## Director of Development and Alumni Relations - Alison Bond

Alison was previously Head of External Relations for Warwick Business School and before that Deputy Director of Development and Alumni Relations, having joined the institution in 2005 as Programme Manager for one of its internationally-renowned Masters courses.

A Member of the Institute of Fundraising, Alison has promoted and advanced the Warwick Business School brand to former students, corporate partners and donors through productive relationship building. Alison taught English in Japan and was a translator before joining Warwickshire Local Education Authority as Partnership Co-ordinator in 1993.

After taking on a similar role with the Institute of Education at the University of Warwick, she transferred to Warwick Business School to manage its world-leading MSc course in Financial Mathematics.

Alison was Co-Chair of the Alumni Relations Annual Conference Programme run by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and is Vice Chair of Governors at Myton School in Warwick. She has also been International Chair of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET) Alumni Association.

## Development and Alumni Relations

The Development and Alumni Relations Office was established in January 2013 to help advance the strategic vision and long-term ambitions of the School. The office is responsible for developing external relations and partnerships to enable Solihull to meet its long-term aspirations as a centre of excellence in the region and to strengthen its relationships with former pupils, current and past parents and other supporters of the School. The office works closely with the thriving Old Silhillians Association in managing the alumni relations programme and enhancing the pupil experience at Solihull by encouraging successful alumni to continue to engage with the School.

Highly successful schools like Solihull cannot stand still and the Development and Alumni Relations Office will also be responsible for securing financial gifts to support the School in two key areas:

- By providing more Assisted Places, increasing the number of talented pupils able to study at Solihull irrespective of their background.
- By securing transformational gifts to enable the School to enhance the educational experience of its pupils by providing world-leading facilities and learning opportunities.

To achieve these ambitious aims, Solihull must continue to rely on its community of supporters, reaching out to all those who share the School's vision for the future and encouraging those people to help us reach our goals.

If you would like to hear more about the work of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, or discuss ways in which you can support, please contact Alison Bond, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at [bonda@solsch.org.uk](mailto:bonda@solsch.org.uk).

## Staff Achievements

**Miss Libby Campbell** - Successfully completed the British Horse Society Stage 1, 2 and 3 Examinations plus Preliminary Teaching Test, thereby qualifying as a riding instructor (BHSI) and UKCC Level 2 accredited coach.

**Mr Andrew Jones** - Achieved an A\* in Classical Civilisation GCSE and is soon to embark upon the AS-Level course.

**Mrs Helen Smith** - Completed the UKCC Level 3 in Netball Coaching and has also undertaken a new role of Assistant Netball Talent League Coach for the West Midlands Warriors.

**Mrs Jean Wilde** - Recently directed the play 'Mojo' at Hall Green Little Theatre to great acclaim. 'The acting was of a universally high standard... as was the direction by Jean Wilde, which was well-paced and showed how silence could be just as telling as words'. ([www.behindthearras.com](http://www.behindthearras.com)).





## Oxbridge Success

The School is celebrating an outstanding set of Oxford and Cambridge University offers.

No less than eleven Sixth Formers have won conditional offers to study at Oxbridge colleges, almost doubling last year's success rate and tripling the figure for 2011.

Headed for Oxford are Dan Murphy, Sophie Tillman and Joe Watson who have all been offered places to study Medicine, plus Jack Fowles and Joe Halbert who are both looking forward to reading History.

Oxford offers have also been awarded to Naryan Branch (to read Geography), Mary Montgomery (Psychology and Philosophy), Hannah Smith (Physics) and Rebecca Took (English). Alex Lloyd and Arun Baxter have offers to study Maths and Philosophy respectively at Cambridge University.



## Confirmation

Three of our pupils were recently confirmed by Bishop Andrew Watson at SS Mary and Bartholomew, Hampton in Arden: Sophie Besford, Fleur Street and Rebecca Vidal.

When Christians are confirmed they affirm the promises which their parents and godparents made for them at Baptism. They take on the responsibility for themselves to represent Christ in the world. The chaplaincy community offer them our support and prayers. We are always interested to hear from pupils, parents and staff who would like to explore the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

## Debating

This term has been another very successful one for the Debating Society. In the Middle School, Caroline Camm, Megan Lloyd, Richard Bradley and Olivia Eguiguren-Wray made the finals of the Taylor Trophy, with Caroline receiving special recognition for her speech.

In the Midlands round of the International Competition for Young Debaters, organised by Cambridge University, Megan Lloyd and Zershaaneh Qureshi were the top-ranking pair.

Nick Hooper and Richard Bradley reached the finals of Birmingham University's debating competition, losing out to Eton, and at Nottingham University, Arun Baxter and Joe Halbert reached the semi-final, debating against St Paul's.

The School team has also performed well in the Oxford and Cambridge University debating competitions, with Sanika Karandikar and Katy Hatter representing Central England at the finals of both competitions and Joe Halbert and Arun Baxter reaching the final at Oxford. This has been a very impressive debate season and the committee and debaters should be very proud of their achievements.



## Sixth Form Lectures

This term has seen a number of interesting outside speakers deliver talks to the Sixth Form. Ned Dalby, a specialist in African conflict resolution, spoke to the Lower Sixth about some of the issues affecting the region as well as different attitudes to intervention. Financial education group 'Wizeup' spoke to the Upper and Lower Sixth about issues ranging from student debt, bank accounts, credit cards, budgeting, credit ratings and CVs. Mountaineer, BBC cameraman, and author Matt Dickinson spoke to both year groups about his latest adventures, whilst further talks are planned this term by celebrity criminologist Professor David Wilson on 'Serial Killers' and the ever popular Elevate Education on how to 'Ace Your Exams'.







## AAAS Science Trip to Boston

During February half term, a group of ten Lower Sixth students attended the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference in Boston, MA, accompanied by Mr Anderton and Miss Ford. The focus of the 2013 meeting was 'The Beauty and Benefits of Science', and we braved freezing temperatures and snow to attend a wide range of lectures on areas of cutting edge science, delivered by leading scientists.

Highlights included a tour of MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Centre, where we were allowed to get up close to (and in some cases climb on!) the equipment used in their research. We also met a dancing robot and R2-D2.

As well as attending the conference, we were able to experience the many cultural highlights of Boston. We also did a thorough job of sampling the local cuisine, with some students even taking on the culinary challenge of cooking their own lobster!

Look out for information on the 2014 AAAS trip.



## Drama Workshop

Lower and Upper Sixth Theatre Studies students attended a Drama Workshop on 27 February, run by Splendid Theatre Company. This was followed by a performance of Splendid's interpretation of the medieval play 'Everyman.'



## Artist - John Denaro

John Denaro is a regular Artist-in-Residence at Solihull School. His large scale photorealistic approach using charcoal and pastels has proved extremely popular with the pupils.

The experience is open to the Upper Fifth and Sixth Form year groups and John's background as a pavement artist only helps to reinforce the pupils' appreciation of his work.

The work the pupils produce not only extends their experience but also forms an integral part of their coursework and exam portfolio.







The U14 Boys' hockey team is County Champions, beating Lawrence Sheriff, Bablake, KES (twice), Princethorpe and Bishop Vesey along the way. (1 February)



## World Book Day in the Junior School

This year on World Book Day we had 'Book Factor' in Assembly where Junior School Librarians had 30 seconds to promote their favourite book in front of the judges – Louie Walsh (Mr Penney), Tulisa (Miss Compton), Gary Barlow (Mr Mitchell) and Nicole Scherzinger (Miss Lynch). The children voted which book they thought sounded the best and would borrow from the Library.

Also, all children dressed up as their favourite book character!



## Charity Fundraising in the Junior School

The Junior School were proud to present a cheque for £1,625 to Alicia O'Brien, a representative from Sightsavers, as well as a cheque for £2019 to Lee Newman, spokesperson for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). These amazing totals were raised during last term's Christmas Wishes appeal and October's Charity Week.



## Adam Guillain visits the Junior School

Adam Guillain, author of the 'Bella Ballistica' children's books, enthralled J3 and J4 pupils with his storytelling and creative writing workshop. Pupils learnt different ways to plan and write story plots and worked with Adam to produce some fabulous, imaginative stories.

## History Prize

Congratulations to Annabelle Barker in the Shell Form who won the Historical Fiction Competition. Her story was imaginative, thoughtful and well written. Annabelle wins £20 of WH Smith Vouchers. Well done Annabelle!



Old Sil Richard Gilbert captained his Manchester University team to victory last night on University Challenge. (5 February)





**This weekend, Alex Browse and Sam McCumiskey competed in the Thames Side 1 Canoe Race. In driving rain they managed to complete the 12 miles course from Aldermaston to Reading Canoe Club in 2 hours and 32 minutes gaining a creditable 7th place in their group. (11 February)**



## Junior School Gurdwara Visit

The J2's visited the Gurdwara to find out more about the Sikh faith and community. Dressed in head scarves and hats, the children entered the Gurdwara and a world of new sounds and sights. They learned about how Sikhs worship and reflect, the 'selfless service' every Sikh embraces each and every day, and how these acts of commitment and kindness ensure the community works in harmony.



## Spitfire Memories Send Interest in History Soaring

Boys and girls in the Junior School enjoyed one of their finest hours when an aircraft enthusiast told them about the day he flew a Spitfire.

Andrew Sparrow, a solicitor from Sutton Coldfield, learnt to fly the legendary fighter at Boulton Flight Academy at Goodwood in West Sussex last year.

The pupils were enthralled as he traced the training footsteps of RAF pilots defending their country in the Battle of Britain more than 70 years ago.

## Junior School Easter Concert

On February 27th the Junior School Easter Concert was held in the Bushell Hall. The soloists were drawn from all years of the School and the standard of the performances was outstanding. String Group opened the concert with a Celtic Suite and Wind Band closed the evening with a great performance of Penguin's Promenade.



## 'Paul Horton' Art Exhibition at Castle Galleries, Solihull

On Saturday December 15th 2012, the J4 children held an extra special exhibition of their art work in a professional Solihull gallery. They had spent the Christmas term working on a project linked to the work of renowned local artist, Paul Horton, and had produced some very effective pastel drawings, linked to his work and our own School environment. This project culminated in their fantastic work being exhibited for over a week, in Castle Galleries, Solihull, where the children met, and chatted to the artist himself.



**On Sunday this week, Solihull School CCF RAF section took part in the Annual Air Squadron Trophy at RAF Cosford and came 9th overall. (12 February)**





## History comes to life in the Junior School

Junior School pupils inspired by the discovery of the remains of King Richard III are to carry out an archaeological dig in the School grounds.

They will search for items from Anglo-Saxon times such as skulls, helmets, jewellery and messages on rune stones next month.

The items will be buried by the teachers as part of an exciting new programme of activities that is bringing history to life for all years.

Pupils in J4 have already studied original artwork about the wartime evacuation of children in a video conference on 'Propaganda and the Art of War' with the National Archives.



## French Story Telling in the Junior School

On Wednesday 6th February 2013, the Freshwater Theatre Company visited the Junior School in order to engage with J3 and J4 students of French in order to re-tell the stories of Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk. This interactive French story-telling experience went down very well with the pupils and gave them the opportunity both to use what French they already knew and to pick up useful new words and phrases.



## Jimmy Spices!

Tuesday 5th March saw the annual J4 visit to Jimmy Spices to celebrate their 11+ success.







## Château de la Baudonnière 2013

During February half-term the Third Form once again descended on the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy, France.

30 Third Form pupils and 2 Sixth Formers accompanied by Mrs Black, Mr Baddeley, Mr Thomas and Miss Daly spent five nights staying in a traditional French Château in order to improve their knowledge and understanding of French language and culture. The pupils were required to speak French to each other and to the staff for the WHOLE week! A task they undertook with great enthusiasm with prizes given at the end of the week for the best French speakers.

The programme consisted of a variety of different indoor and outdoor activities, from bread-making and rock-climbing to the dreaded muddy assault course! We also spent a day out visiting a French market in Villedieu, a good chance for the students to practise their French on the locals whilst sampling some local produce, and in the afternoon the world-famous Mont St Michel. The evenings were also jam-packed with fun events: we enjoyed a camp-fire (to the accompaniment of French songs), a treasure hunt, a 'soirée française' (where we donned berets and moustaches and sampled snails) and a talent show.

The week was a great success thanks to the fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm of the pupils, and the hard-work and support of my accompanying staff.

Mrs Black

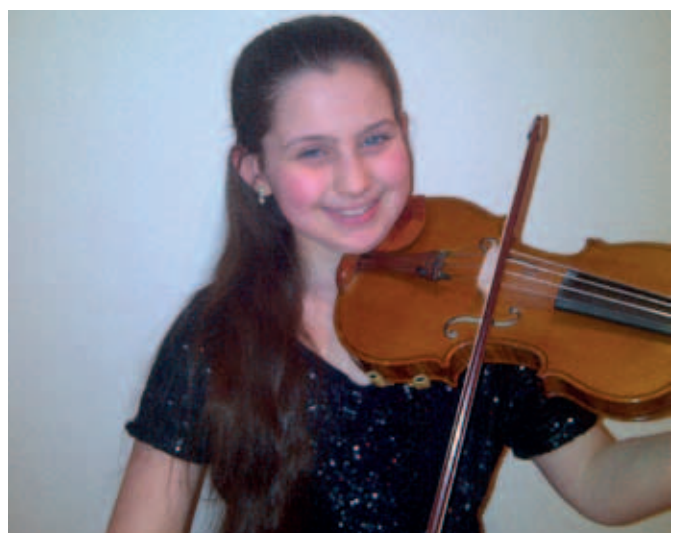


## Violin Virtuoso!

Congratulations to Charlotte Sasse for passing her Grade 8 violin exam with distinction. A very impressive feat, especially considering that Charlotte is still only 13!

## Young Musician Competition

Aviva Sandler in the Third Form entered a national music competition, the Emunah Young Musician of the Year and was runner-up in her class. She was the youngest performer and impressed the judges with her stunning violin playing.





## School Chamber Choir sings Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral

On February 4th the Chamber Choir travelled to London to sing Choral Evensong in this most prestigious of venues. We saw the famous tombs, whispered in the whispering gallery, were awestruck by the giant dome and then sang beautifully to a Quire full of parents, supporters, Old Silhillians and Hungarian tourists. Music included Peter Irving's Responses, the 'Collegium Regale' Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Howells and Lauridsen's sublime 'O nata lux'. With Mr Irving playing the organ and Father Andrew reading the first lesson, a team effort resulted in a glorious occasion for all concerned.



## Boys' Choir is Norway bound

The School is to take centre stage in the worldwide celebrations for the centenary of the great British composer Benjamin Britten.

The Boys' Choir is to sing in Britten's famous War Requiem at the prestigious Bergen International Festival in Norway on June 5.

They will be teaming up with the Bergen Boys' Choir as the only UK school invited to perform the Boys' Choir part of the powerful work for orchestra, soloists and choirs.

The internationally renowned American Andrew Litton will be conducting the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bergen Grieghallen in the first-ever performance of the work at the festival.



## Senior Saxophone Quartet Success!

The quartet comprising Charlotte Beesley, Alanna Wall, Will Hughes and Ben Perrins recently achieved top marks in their ABRSM Ensemble Exa; the first time Solihull School pupils have entered the 18-minute exam for candidates of an exceptionally high standard. Following the foursome's success in winning the Open Instrumental Class at Lichfield Music Festival with Distinction, they were invited to share the stage with 'Britain's Got Talent' star Julian Smith. The quartet gave an outstanding performance at his Valentine's Day show at Solihull Arts Complex on Thursday February 14th, receiving excellent feedback from the audience. It is hoped that they will be given the opportunity to repeat this experience again soon.



## Will Hughes and Ben Perrins Sixth Form Recital

On Thursday March 7th Will Hughes and Ben Perrins gave a very polished recital with guest appearances from Saxophony, Wind Ensemble and Big Band. They provided a very varied programme ranging from Bach to Berlin whilst introducing each item with entertaining anecdotes. Both performers thoroughly enjoyed their recitals and judging by the audience's reaction, a good time was had by all. Refreshments were provided, the proceeds of which were given to Marie Curie.







## Classics

The Classics Department has had a very busy and interesting term. The Shell Form explored Life in Roman Britain at Corinium Museum, Cirencester, and the Fourth Form found out more about how the Romans lived and worshipped at the Roman Baths in Bath. Both GCSE Classical Civilisation sets were visited by Dr Gareth Sears from the University of Birmingham who spoke about the role and place of women and freedmen in Pompeii. The Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation set saw a very exciting and dramatic performance of Trojan Women, while the Upper Sixth explored the Greek Art and Architecture on offer at the British Museum. The Classics Society has also been busy – visiting the University of Birmingham twice – once to hear a lecture on Ancient Sparta and secondly to take part in a Sixth Form Texts and Topics Conference. Now we are looking forward to our trip to Rome and Pompeii during the Easter holidays and a visit to the Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition being held at the British Museum.



## Kilimanjaro Adventure!

During half term, Sophie Tillman and I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa. It was the hardest thing either of us has ever done, requiring up to 15 hours of trekking a day, a climb to the summit starting at midnight through the darkness, and with half of the oxygen concentration at sea level. But it was an amazing experience which we would gladly relive. We have also raised £5500 so far for Diabetes UK, a charity which supports people with diabetes and their families. Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this target!

Ross Edwards



# Easter Term 'Teams of the Week'

## **The Grounds Team**

*Outstanding effort in the face of adversity*

## **U15A XV Rugby**

*Excellent and emphatic display against Bishop Vesey Grammar School*

## **U14A XI Hockey**

*Crowned County Champions*

## **Senior Badminton Team**

*Excellent Victory over Bablake School*

## **Girls Swim Team**

*Winners of "The Warwick 100" Individual Championships*

## **Saxophone Quartet**

*Representing the School so brilliantly at the Solihull Library Theatre*

## **Diabetes UK Expedition Team**

*Successful ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro  
(Ross Edwards & Sophie Tillman)*

## **U13 Girls' Hockey Team**

*County Champions*

## **U14 Rugby Team**

*An Excellent 7s Season*

## **DofE Gold Expedition Team**

*24 Gold Award Recipients*

## **Cast and Crew of Phantom of the Opera**

*5 fabulous nights of drama and music*



## **Olympic Hockey Star Joins School Coaching Team**

Solihull hockey star Sally Walton is to help hundreds of pupils follow in her medal-winning footsteps after joining the School's coaching team.

The winner of a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics will be passing on her knowledge to girls from the Junior School to the Upper Fifth throughout the hockey season. Sally said: 'This is an exciting new challenge for me and I am already impressed by how ambitious the girls are and how willing they are to put advice into practice and match play'.

## **Hockey Success**

The U14 Boys Hockey team have won through to the Midlands Finals Day at Cannock HC on Friday 15th March. There will be two groups of four, with the semis and the final all to be played on the same day. The winner will progress through to the National Finals. To get here we won the Warwickshire Championship and then beat Adams Grammar School 4-1 and Worksop College 6-0.

**Follow Solihull School on twitter: @solsch1560.  
facebook: [www.facebook.com/SolihullSchool](http://www.facebook.com/SolihullSchool)**

Solihull School, Warwick Road, Solihull West Midlands B91 3DJ  
Telephone Numbers: School Office: 0121 705 0958 Admissions Secretary: 0121 705 4273 Bursar: 0121 705 0883  
Fax: 0121 711 4439 Email: [admin@solsch.org.uk](mailto:admin@solsch.org.uk) Web: [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk)