

Summer Term 2014

The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



A M B I T I O N - O P P O R T U N I T Y - C O M M U N I T Y



The **Greyhound** Interviews... **Mr Thomas, PE**

How long have you been teaching?

3 years.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

There are lots of things really. Obviously, I love sport, and it's fantastic doing something I love as a career. Perhaps what I like most on a day-to-day basis is that I have an opportunity to teach and coach a really broad spectrum of pupils, of all abilities, in lots of sports, from the age of 7 right up to 18.

Why do you like teaching PE?

Well that's an easy one. Not being in a classroom all day!

Who's your favourite sports man or woman and why?

It's got to be Jonny Wilkinson. Obviously I love rugby, and he's been such a major figure in the sport but it's more than that. What he has achieved is incredible, and also his dedication to his sport is world-renowned. I'll never forget his final drop-goal in the 2003 World Cup Final. What a legend.

What's your greatest sporting moment, either as a player or a fan?

Definitely going to watch the rematch of Carl Froch vs George Groves live at Wembley a couple of weeks ago. There was such an amazing atmosphere and it was great to be a part of sporting history.

What would you do if you weren't a teacher?

I would pursue fishing. Hence the book!

What's your perfect meal and why?

Anything cooked by my mum!



Old Silhillians' Association Trust

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Peter Thomas, Chairman of the Old Silhillians' Association (OSA) Trust and a former pupil of Solihull School (School House and Shenstone, left 1973).

Whilst the opinion of some of the teaching staff at the time was that I was intellectually challenged, I did persevere and managed to obtain a Masters degree in Business Studies. In those days staff were incredibly direct and I remember with some concern (perhaps even fondness) how my termly report would lead to regular sleepless nights in the School House Dormitory! One comment from an English Master – 'now that Peter's handwriting has improved he appears to know less than we thought he did' – did little for my confidence. Perhaps the unkindest cut of all was the Headmaster's final comment: 'he does his best....I am afraid'. Somehow, probably because I was captain of the first XV, I got through this period in my life and went on to recognise just what a wonderful and privileged start in life I had whilst at Solihull School. I have always had a burning desire to give something back by way of thanks, so to this end I have found myself sitting on the OSA Main Committee for the past 30 years and have been Chairman of the OSA Trust for the past 10.

As a relatively small charity we work extremely hard to get our messages heard, and I would encourage all readers of this article to do as much as they can to spread the good word. If the OSA Trust is to continue supporting the School and former pupils, it must reach out to new audiences, forge new alliances and provide demonstrable benefits.

Our objectives

The twin goals of the OSA Trust are to:

- Financially support non-capital projects.
- Establish a permanent endowment for scholarships and non-capital projects.

With the active support of the Governors, Headmaster, the whole School community and the OSA, the Trust is working for the future wellbeing of the School. In recent years the OSA Trust has been able to provide finance for a number of different projects. Between 2009 and 2012 we funded the full three-year tuition costs for an exceptional former pupil whilst at Drama College in London. Furthermore, in 2012 we spent a large sum developing a website for the OSA/School Archive. Tens of thousands of documents, photographs and film from

the past 150 years have been digitised and are available for all to see on our website and in the Denis Tomlin Archive Room. That year we also provided a substantial donation towards the School's effort to support their colleagues from Wessex School in Concepcion for the victims of the Chilean earthquake disaster. Only last year we were delighted to be able to support school music through a significant donation to the inaugural Former Choristers' Association concert and service in the School Chapel.

Perhaps the most significant and ongoing purpose of the OSA Trust is to provide scholarships, something we have been doing for the past 50 years. Each year we fund scholarships for two or more pupils entering the Sixth Form. Scholarships are awarded to members of the Upper Fifth Form who have made an outstanding contribution to the wider life of the School, both curricular and co-curricular. For example, those pupils who have made a substantial and sustained contribution to sport, music, drama, debating, the Bench and/or outdoor education, as well as maintaining exemplary effort in class. These Scholarships are not means tested and nominations come from the Headmaster for consideration by the Trust Committee.

Should you wish to apply to the OSA Trust for assistance with funding for a special educational project, whether whilst at school or in full-time education during the year immediately after leaving school, then please contact me by email or letter giving details of your proposal.

Email: peter_thomas@btinternet.com

Address:

Mr Peter A Thomas,
Chairman Old Silhillians' Association Trust
The Memorial Clubhouse & Ground
Warwick Road
Copt Heath
Solihull
West Midlands B93 9LW



Jack Crawford

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Former Master of the Junior School, Jack Crawford. Jack was a wonderful teacher, dearly loved by his pupils, and he will be sadly missed. Jack, who also taught History in the Senior School and was a tutor in School House, celebrated his 100th birthday on 11 May.



Development and Alumni Relations

On Friday 9 May, fifty former pupils, staff and former staff attended the Annual London Dinner at the beautiful Pewterers' Hall. A great night was had by all, as memories were shared over a wonderful dinner. Speeches were made by the Headmaster, President of the Old Silhillians Association, Julia Skan, and London Alumni Representative, Phil Pinto. Our thanks go to former pupil and Master of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Mr Michael Johnson, for facilitating the use of the venue and for the excellent hospitality received on the night.

Termly Social

On Tuesday 10 June, a group of former staff and pupils visited School for a trip down Memory Lane, which included a visit to the Archive Room, a tour of the School and a School lunch.



(From top left to bottom left, clockwise) David Westley, Tim Adkin, Barry Chacksfield, Mike Dodgeon, Jean Dodgeon, Arthur Brooker, Gareth Ginns, Harry Rickman, Doris Tomlin, Denis Tomlin.





New Heads of Department

Congratulations to our new Heads of Department whose new roles will take effect from September 2014: Rachel Hadley-Leonard, Marketing Manager; Tim Kermode, Director of Music; Eleanor Hurst, Head of Learning Support; Paul Morgan, Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Donna Trim, Head of Art.

Staff Success

Congratulations to: Sally Walton who has been selected to play for the England Ladies Hockey Team in the 2014 World Cup in The Hague.

Hannah Fair who played for Leicester Ladies in the European Hockey Club Trophy. The team won all three pool games and qualified for the final. They went on to win Gold, beating Russian team, CSP Izmaylovo 2-1. Hannah scored a corner and a penalty, a very welcome contribution to the overall success. Well done!

Daniele Harford who is directing the summer tour of 'My Boy Jack' for The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. The play tours throughout the summer and then plays at The Crescent in September.

Civic Leaders Visit

Civic leaders from across the region were invited by the Mayor of Solihull Cllr Joe Tildesley to join him on a tour of the School on 3 April.

Cllr Tildesley said: 'We had an enthralling time meeting Solihull's staff and pupils and viewing the superb facilities in what I hope will become an annual visit. The head boys and girls were fantastic guides and clearly very proud of their school.'

(Warwickshire's civic leaders with their hosts on their visit to Solihull School: from left to right (back row) Harry Morgan, Deputy Head of School; Cllr Richard Davies, Chairman of Warwick District Council; Cllr Joe Tildesley, Mayor of Solihull; Keith Sach, High Sheriff of Warwickshire; Mark Hopton, Chairman of Solihull School Governors; and Cllr Mark Cargill, Mayor of Alcester. Front row: Cllr Mrs Judith Clarke, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa; Tom Griesbach, Head of School; Mr and Mrs Lloyd; Cllr Felicity Bunker, Mayor of Kenilworth; Lauren Buchan, Head of School; Cllr Chris Mills, Chairman of Stratford-upon-Avon District Council; Cllr Dave Shilton, Chairman of Warwickshire County Council; Charlotte Beesley, Deputy Head of School; and Cllr Bill Richards, Mayor of Coleshill).

New Cricket Covers for the School

Due to the generosity of the Old Silhillians' Cricket Club, the School now has a new set of 1st XI cricket covers. This initiative was driven by Mr Peter Levensger and Mr John Taylor, two former pupils and cricketers who were keen that the legacy of the OSCC would live on at the School. We are incredibly grateful to them both.

Physics success for Isaac

Hot on the heels of his fantastic performance in the British Mathematical Olympiad last term, Isaac Webber has been successful in a prestigious competition for Lower Sixth physicists, the Senior Physics Challenge. This involved a demanding online test of Physics and Maths problems, with success also depending on GCSE results, previous success in national competitions, and a reference from Physics teachers. As a result, Isaac has been invited to a Physics summer school at Cambridge University.

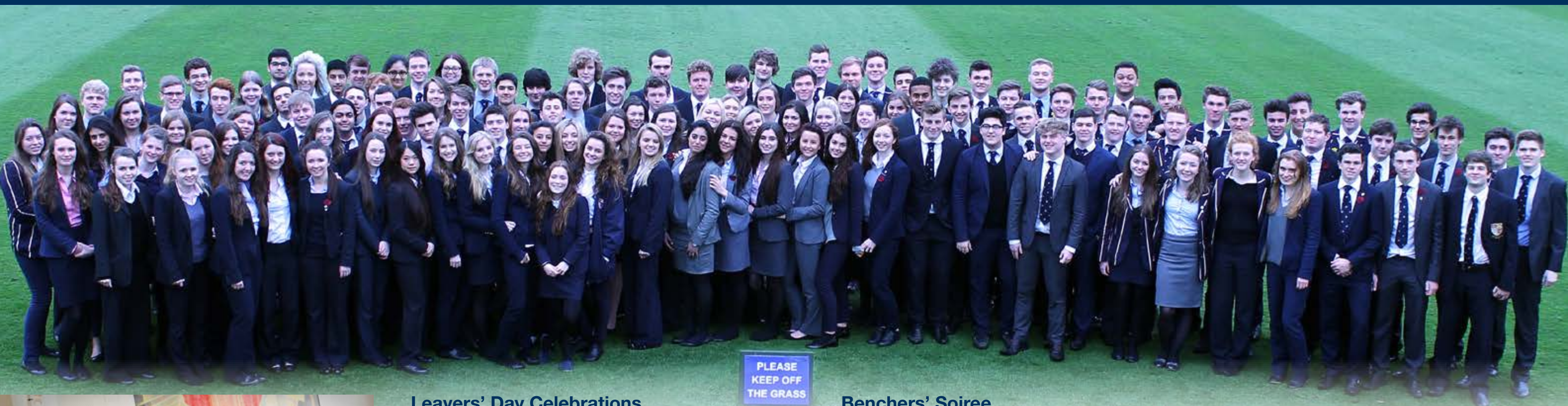
This is the fourth successive year in which a Solihull School student has been among the sixty or so best in the country who have been offered a place on the summer school.



Luke motors his way to victory

Congratulations to Luke Bryant who was recently crowned champion of the GSK-McLaren Pit Stop Challenge. Luke's work on how to improve the reaction times of the McLaren F1 pit crew trumped hundreds of other applications, and he was shortlisted to present his findings at the final, held at GSK's Human Performance Lab. Luke did a fantastic job, and was awarded his trophy by Dame Kelly Holmes. As part of his prize, Luke has been invited to the McLaren Technology Centre for a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the world-leading facilities, and the opportunity to meet some of the most important people in the world of motorsport.





Leavers' Day Celebrations

May 23rd was the last day of school for our Upper Sixth Form and this year's leavers' celebrations were truly memorable. The celebrations kicked off with a formal farewell Chapel Service, which this year contained a little surprise; mid-service, various members of the year group sprang up from the congregation and sang 'One Day More' from Les Miserables. This was greeted with a standing ovation, not to mention a few tears (recordings of the performance can be found on You Tube!). The Chapel Service was followed by a game of 'bubble football' on the playing fields which provided plenty of laughs and thankfully no injuries!

The final day itself was an emotional affair; the Upper Sixth came into School for their final assembly in customary fancy dress, which this year was an '80s theme. The final assembly itself lasted just over two hours and was a testament to the year group's diversity and talent with musical, comedy and film performances. The day ended with a barbeque at the Old Silhillians' Club House where leavers received their yearbooks and hoodies; many a tear was shed as they left farewell messages for one another. All in all, it was a fitting end to a fantastic year group's time at Solihull School.



Benchers' Soiree

This year's Bench enjoying the annual summer soiree in the Alan Lee Pavilion.





Spanish Exchange

The return visit of this year's Spanish Exchange took place in March. During the week our Spanish colleagues spent here, they visited Stratford and Warwick and made their traditional pilgrimage to Bourneville. As in Orihuela, sport played an important part in bringing both nationalities together and by the time they left for Spain, the Colegio Oleza pupils could certainly say that they had had a real taste of everyday life in England. (It rained a lot.)

Once again, our Spanish Exchange was a tremendous success, and we look forward to continuing our fantastic partnership with Colegio Oleza in the future.



Classics Enrichment Day

As 2014 marks the bimillennium of the death of the Emperor Augustus, Mrs Johnson decided that we simply had to mark the occasion! This resulted in the first ever Classics Enrichment Day to be held at Solihull School, which involved not only Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils from Solihull, but also around 70 pupils from other schools. On Thursday 19 June, two Augustan scholars, Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos and Dr Penny Goodman, from the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds respectively, started and ended the day with talks on Augustus – who he was, what he did and what legacy he has left us. The rest of the day was taken up with three different activities – studying the literature of the Augustan period and seeing what different authors had to say about him, examining the famous Prima Porta statue of Augustus and designing our own dedicatory statues to him, and writing obituaries of him, picking out what we thought were his most important achievements. It was an interesting and informative day, and really added to our wider understanding of the Ancient World in the first century BC and the first century AD.



Manchester Hockey Tour 2014

As a reward for a great hockey season Mrs Black and Miss Wilcox took us on a fun-filled and very competitive hockey trip to Manchester! We played our first match against Brooklands Poynton Hockey Club. It was a very close game but we ended up losing 4-2. Later that day we arrived at the hotel and enjoyed using the spa and pool facilities. We then had a great game of bowling! On the Sunday morning we left the hotel and were privileged enough to have a training session with ex-England hockey player John Bell! It was a very useful session and we all learnt lots of new skills. Before our next

match we visited the Trafford Centre to do some well-earned shopping! We then returned to a very tough game at Alderley Edge Hockey Club, one of the top clubs in the country. The whole squad played really well and worked hard throughout the tour.

Thank you so much to Mrs Black and Miss Wilcox for their amazing coaching, sense of humour and willingness to take us all away for the weekend!

Phoebe Harland and Katie Phillips



School strengthens link with Chile

The School has strengthened its links with its sister school in Chile after welcoming two new Gap Year students.

Andres Oelker and Paulina Rosales, who were classmates at The Wessex School in Concepcion, will be helping out in a number of ways during their three months in Solihull.

The Big Debate

Solihull School's first Big Debate, chaired by Michael Buerk, was a fantastic event. Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden, and George Diwakar from our Upper Sixth proposed that we should push the G20 to spend 0.7% of their GDP on the world's poorest people. The motion was ably defended by Adam Hawksbee, President of the University of Sheffield's Debating Society, and Aine Maher from the Lower Sixth. The questions from the floor were incisive and Michael's chairing meant that evasion and waffling were simply not tolerated. The School has one of the largest and most dynamic debating societies in the country and we are delighted to have Michael Buerk, someone who has spent his career challenging governments and the public to consider the world differently, as the patron.





North Wales DofE week

Two Bronze DofE groups (Lower Fifth pupils) and three Upper Fifth Silver groups completed their practice and assessment ventures during a gruelling week at the start of their Easter holidays. Training in the Horseshoe pass area near Llangollen was followed by a very wet two-day practice which ended up further west at Llyn Brenig. A day off at Llandudno for some 'R & R' and to patch up the blisters was followed by their assessed venture, and for once on a DofE trip the weather finally was kind to us! All participants were successful. Well done to all our pupils involved. This really was a tough week!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This term and over the Easter holidays, our intrepid Duke of Edinburgh's Award students have faced expeditions in all weather conditions in North Wales, Derbyshire and Shropshire.



Two-day Derbyshire venture

77 pupils successfully completed a very tough two-day venture through the 'White Peak' area of Derbyshire. Lightning storms as pupils set off from School on the Saturday morning and torrential storms throughout their first day led to a very challenging expedition. The routes demanded some skilful navigation – a lack of concentration by some meant a very long addition to their journey and a late arrival at camp! Well done to all who took part. Several were heard to say that it was the hardest thing they have ever done and with hindsight they can look back and feel a great sense of achievement. They now must complete the Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections of the award to gain their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award. A superb effort from the Lower Fifth form! Thanks to the twenty staff and volunteers who made this and all the other expeditions possible.

Shropshire Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 10-11th May

78 Lower Fifth pupils braved strong winds and heavy showers for a challenging two-day practice expedition to the Long Mynd area of Shropshire. Within half an hour of starting their two-day route all twelve Bronze groups were subjected to driving rain and gale conditions. Steep climbs and composting toilets at the farm all added to the fun! Well done to the pupils involved who were all successful and are now 'looking forward' to their assessment weekend in the Peak District next month.





Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race

Isobel Cawley and Isaac Webber completed the 125-mile DW race with incredible strength both in mind and body over the four days of Easter. They endured a broken rudder on the third day which unfortunately slowed them down by around 20 minutes. As a result, they were even more determined on the final day to make up time! To make it even more gruelling, they set up camp each night and cooked for themselves come rain or shine.

There was great camaraderie and support between the teams that had entered from a number of schools from all over the UK. Issy and Isaac completed the race in a tremendous 23.19 hours and we believe they have broken the School record! Their justgiving page has now raised over £1200 for Marie Curie Cancer Care in Solihull.



Chapel Choirs perform with Gary Barlow

Twice during the Easter holidays the Boys' and Girls' Choirs from our School Chapel were offered the unforgettable experience of singing on stage with Gary Barlow during his British solo tour. Forty boys and girls, from J4-Upper Fifth, performed 'Sing' written by Gary and Lord Lloyd Webber to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with Gary and his band accompanying. The audience was 13,000 strong on each night, making the experience very nerve-wracking indeed. A special congratulations must go to Ellie Ajao and Georgina Dalby who sang the solos, fighting off lots of competition. A special documentary was made by the School in the build-up to these performances, and this can be found on YouTube and the School's website.



Charlotte Beesley and Alanna Wall Recital

On the evening of Thursday May 1st Alanna and Charlotte gave their Sixth Form recital in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. The programme was extremely varied and ranged from Handel through to Lloyd Webber. Alanna's performance of *The Tale of the Oyster* was very amusing and their duet, 'For Good' from *Wicked*, was filled with emotion, hardly leaving a dry eye in the house. Aside from accompanists Pamela Davies and Oliver Walker, they were joined by numerous ensembles directed by Christa Greswold. Their finale was their favourite piece for saxophones, *The Lone Ar-ranger goes sax mad!* It is a fun potpourri of tunes based on the finale of the William Tell Overture. The whole evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the girls were delighted to have raised nearly £300 as a result.



Summer Concert

On Thursday 8th May the Bushell Hall was once again full for the annual Summer Concert with the Mayor of Solihull graciously supporting the many musicians taking part. A varied programme included English music from the Boys' and Girls' Choirs, The Senior Wind Band, The String Ensemble and The Concert Orchestra. The Classical Rockers also saw Junior School guitarists joining their Senior School counterparts in a Snow Patrol number. Amazing solos were provided by Ellie Ajao, Dominic Martens, Maddie Lavery and Libby Thomas, playing the first movement of Mozart's Flute Concerto in G with the Chamber Orchestra. The concert also saw the world premiere of a lively Latin composition by Philip Blenkinsop. After Megan Lloyd and Maxine Perroni-Scharf had opened the second half with an exuberant piano duet, The Big Band brought the official proceedings to a close with two classic jazz numbers. A subsequent emotional farewell was provided to all leavers by The Jazz Singers performing 'You raise me up' followed by Dominic Martens's last public performance in School playing Saint-Saens' iconic 'Swan' - a swansong to all indeed!



Informal Concert at the Marie Curie Hospice

We were invited to hold a short informal concert at the new Marie Curie Hospice in Marsh Lane on the evening of 14 May. The venue was bright and airy with a wall of windows looking out on to the lovely gardens. Juice and wine were served before and after the concert.

Children from J1 up to the Upper Sixth performed a variety of solo vocal, instrumental and ensemble items. All 80 seats in the audience were filled and patients were brought to the back of the room to enjoy the music from their beds.

The concert was a great success. The pupils were a credit to Solihull School and warmly thanked by the hospice management. We have been invited back to give another concert in December!



Last Night of the Solihull Proms

On Sunday 11 May, the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Joe Tildesley presented his Charity concert in aid of the Mayoral Charity Fund in the School's Bushell Hall. Performing were the Solihull Symphony Orchestra, Solihull Choral Society, Solihull Music Services and our own School Chapel Choir.





Girls' Choir BBC Daily Service Broadcast

On Tuesday 17 June the members of the Girls' Choir set off at 6.00am for Didsbury, in south Manchester, to make a radio broadcast for the BBC's Daily Service on Radio 4 LW. The theme of the service was 'Bread of Life' and the choir sang two hymns with some harmonies, *I am the bread of life* and *From heaven you came (The Servant King)*, being joined in the latter by Alex Sasse playing cello. Emma Hadley was chosen to do the reading and then the choir sang their anthem, *A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester* by L. J. White. It was wonderful to be able to listen to the recording afterwards and to hear our performance; the quality of the singing sounded far more mature than the actual ages of the singers, and this was a lovely way to round off the final term for those girls who are in the Fourth Form and will be moving up into the Chamber Choir in September.



Vocal successes at Northfield Festival

In May, fourteen of our singing pupils took part in the Northfield Festival of Music and Speech. Eight of them won first prizes and are to be congratulated on this wonderful achievement:

Eleanor Gooderidge (J4), Isaac Wright (Shell Form), Anna Higgins (Fourth Form), Annabelle Barker (Fourth Form), Joseph Wright (Lower Fifth), Ben Davidson (Lower Sixth), Katie Williams (Lower Sixth) and Chris Bevins (Upper Sixth).



Leamington Music Festival

Congratulations to Ellie Ajao and Charlotte Sasse who competed in the Leamington Music Festival in June and won several classes as follows:

- Ellie Ajao
- 1st place: violin class grade 7/8
 - 2nd place: viola class age 12 and over
 - Winner of the Barbara Thoday Cup for the most promising viola player

Charlotte Sasse

- 1st place: violin class age 15-18
- 1st place: viola class age 12 and over
- 2nd place: string recital class
- Winner of the Lena Wood Trophy for best string player

Additionally, both girls were part of a string quartet which came first in the String Group Class.



PGL Trip to France

On May 16th, J4 took a three-night residential trip to Le Pre Catelan PGL centre in Hardelot, France. The pupils all had an impressive attempt at practising their French skills with a visit to a local market to buy ingredients for their lunch. Visits to a Chocolaterie, Sweet Factory, Creperie and Ice Cream Parlour provided further opportunities for practising the language. The children were rewarded for their excellent attempts with long, sunny evenings on the beach where they played games, threw Frisbees, built sandcastles, and generally buried themselves in sand! A fun and memorable time was had by all!





PGL at Boreatton Park

On the 9th of May, an extremely excited J3 piled into coaches, ecstatic about their weekend away at Boreatton Park, PGL. We had lots of fun having a go at all of the activities, which included canoeing, trapeze, the climbing wall, Jacob's ladder, aero ball and most people's favourite, the giant swing. We were also fortunate to be allowed to have a go on the zip wire for one of our evening activities. All of the J3s became very competitive to win the tidy room competition! Our mums and dads would not believe how tidy we were! I'm pretty certain no one slept at all the first night but on the second night some people slept for a record breaking 9 hours! Sadly our PGL experience did have to end. We went in the coaches and waved goodbye to Boreatton Park singing the 'Crazy Moose', one of the many songs we sang moving between activities. We all made many memories and we will never forget the amazing experiences that we have had!

Isabel Fennell, J3H



Gold Stars in the Junior School

Congratulations to the final batch of Gold Star recipients for the year from the Junior School. Back row (left to right): Eleanor Gooderidge, Archie Brown, Woody Pugh, Ben Michael, Daisy Rowe, Sienna Wilcox, Annabel Dalby, Harvey Blackhurst, Yusuf Skinner, Hassan Janjua

Front row (left to right): Miles Humphrey, Grace Morgan, Suna Ozsoy, Oliver Henwood, Joshua Woodman, Zara Johal, Eva Burrell, Jayvyn Yagnik, Jessica Woodman, Robert Burnett

Loudmouth

A theatre group called Loudmouth visited J4 pupils to put on a performance about growing up. The performance was followed up by a discussion around the emotional and physical changes that they will be experiencing in the coming years. This is a new addition to the transition programme as pupils prepare for starting Senior School.



Trip to the Sealife Centre

The children of J1 visited the Sealife Centre to inspire ideas for their art printing project. After a guided tour and trip to the 4D cinema, pupils observed and sketched their favourite sea creatures. The pupils saw lots of amazing sea life including otters, tropical fish, crabs, sharks and even penguins!



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

On Friday 20 June, the budding J1 actresses performed a memorable modern day performance of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Faultlessly, they memorised their lines and showed some super acting ability. We are looking forward to them appearing in the future J3 Junior School Production.

Junior School pupils take to the Birmingham stage!

During the Easter holidays while most of us were having a well-earned rest, Junior School pupils Courtney Holland and Tegan Gilbert were appearing at Birmingham Hippodrome in the acclaimed production of *Evita*.

Tegan joined the ensemble of children while Courtney took on a solo role alongside the stars Madalena Alberto as Eva Peron and Marti Pellow as Che Guevara. Playing to packed houses for two weeks, Courtney and Tegan gained great experience of working on the professional stage.





Ian Cook's Solihull Crest Masterpiece!

Following a highly successful workshop with the J4 pupils in the Christmas Term, local and world-famous artist Ian Cook was subsequently commissioned to create this amazing image of the School crest and logo, in his own inimitable edgy, street style.

Ian is well known for using radio-controlled cars and other car components combined with acrylic paint, to create his works of art and is especially recognised for his incredible paintings of cars.

J1 Trip to Ash End Children's Farm

On Thursday 12 June, all the J1s visited Ash End Children's Farm as part of their Geography topic. It was a beautiful sunny day and all the children had a super time feeding goats with leaves and a lamb with a bottle of milk, stroking chicks and ducklings, and seeing pigs and piglets and a variety of horses. They were also allowed to choose a fresh egg from 'The Hatchery' to take home for their tea! After lunch they were lucky enough to see a baby owl at the Falconry Centre and visit the shop to buy souvenirs. Most of them, however, would say their favourite part of the trip was having a go on the Giant Pillow in the play area!



Cricket

The 2014 cricket season is proving to be a very successful one. All A-team sides have reached at least the semi-finals of the Warwickshire County Cup with the U15s beating Rugby School in their final and have since progressed through to the regional final. As we are waiting for the semi-finals to be played we are hoping that the U12s, U13s and the 1st XI can all emulate the U15s' success.

The 1st XI have been extremely successful, winning 8 consecutive games and were the leading schools team in the country.

They are currently playing in the School's cricket week, which will sadly be the last week of cricket for all our Upper Sixth players.

There have been many notable performances, but listed below are the key performers:

- Tom Mitchell took 6 wickets for 12 runs against Warwick U15A 15/5/14
- Charlie Cook took 6 wickets for 8 runs against Princethorpe U12A 16/5/14
- Will Rigg 116 Vs Washwood Heath U14A 5/6/14

- Oliver Haley 107 not out Vs Warwickshire Imps 11/6/14
- Will Rigg 119 not out Vs Loughborough Grammar School U14A 14/6/14
- Matt Stansfield took 5 wickets against Bromsgrove U15B 19/6/14
- Fahd Janjua took 5 wickets against Bromsgrove U15A 21/6/15

Athletics

There have been many successes this term. The U16 Boys and U14 Girls teams qualified for the Midlands Regional A Final in the ESAA Track and Field Cup with some very creditable individual performances.

Congratulations must go to Adina Bailey, George Armstrong and Phoebe Harland on being selected to represent West Midlands at the English Schools Championships. We wish them every success.

There have been several school records broken this year: Charlotte Rigg Third Form 1500m, Phoebe Harland Shell Form High Jump, Annabelle Barker Fourth Form 100m, Lydia Roll Lower Fifth 1500m, Charlie Hadley Lower Fifth Triple Jump and Vicki Brewer Lower Fifth Javelin.





Sport Successes

This term we have been able to celebrate a number of individual sporting successes. Many congratulations to the following:

- Abigail Humphreys has been selected for the final phase of the ASA England Talent Program and will represent England at the Portuguese National Championships in July.
- Charlie Hadley was ranked 3rd in the UK in Indoor Triple Jump.
- Ben Priestley competed internationally in France and Slovakia in a foil fencing competition in the U17 Cadet category.
- Aoife Mannion played for Birmingham City Ladies FC in the European Cup semi-final against Tyreso FF of Sweden.
- Charley Gregory became the National U12 Nike Clay Court Tennis Champion.
- Charlie Morgan played for England U16 Lions XV against England Roses.
- Jonathan Allen played for the England Independent Schools Barbarians U18 XV against Zimbabwe U19 XV in Zimbabwe.
- Ben Fowles played for England U16 Saxons against Italy.
- Kieran Joyce played for Ireland Clubs U18 XV against England Clubs U18 XV.
- Mathew Prichard will be representing Britain in the final of the prestigious Genée Dance Challenge in Antwerp, Belgium where he will be judged by Darcey Bussell CBE.

Summer Term Teams of the Week

Chapel Choir Members

An amazing performance with Gary Barlow at the LG Arena

1st XI Cricket Team

Excellent 20/20 victory over King Edward's School, Birmingham

U12 Girls' Rounders Team

Fantastic performance versus Princethorpe College

Benchers 2013/14

An excellent team effort for 2013/2014

Science Communication Team

Winners of the GSK-McLaren Pit Stop Challenge

U15 XI Cricket Team

Crowned Warwickshire Champions after victory over Rugby School

Girls' U12 Rounders Team

Excellent performance and victory over King Henry VIII School, Coventry

U12A XI Cricket Team

Excellent performance and victory over Bromsgrove School

Junior Maths Team

Regional Maths Champions and Top 20 finish in UK National Final

Follow Solihull School on twitter: @solsch1560. facebook: 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 Web: www.solsch.org.uk