

The Greyhound



SOLIHULL

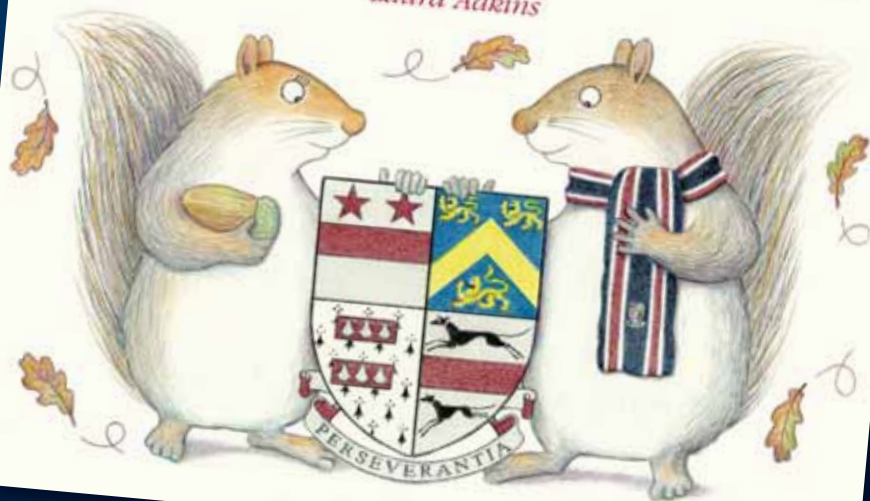


Heads of School

We welcome this year's new Heads of School: Joseph Price and Poppy Eales and their deputies Joseph Lankester and Caroline Camm.

Scuffle Goes to School

Laura Adkins



Scuffle & Twitch!

Scuffle & Twitch, the new Junior School mascots, made a debut appearance in Scuffle Goes to School earlier this term and were affectionately welcomed into the fold by our younger pupils. Between them their endless curiosities give a child a squirrel-like insight into what it's like to be a pupil here for just one day.

Furthermore, not content with being just another pair of book characters, they have gone on to secure lead roles as a happy-go-lucky duo who star in a series of Junior School assemblies spread across the academic year. By introducing their Junior School friends to their custom made Scuffle and Twitch Happy-o-Meter, they are sharing their ideas on how the children might go about building enduring and authentic happiness.



The Greyhound Interviews... **Mr Sandford-Smith,** **Head of the Sixth Form, Psychology**

How long have you been teaching?

Eight and a half years.

Why do you like teaching Psychology?

Because it's all about understanding people; their thoughts, emotions and behaviours and this makes it infinitely applicable to our day-to-day lives. I also like the fact that the students often have their own ideas and explanations which we can then put to the test using the research evidence.

What's the most enjoyable aspect of being Head of the Sixth Form?

There are many great things, but I think getting to know and spend time with the students themselves is definitely the best bit.

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

I would love to say a guitarist but I am not sure anyone would listen to my music!

Who's your favourite band or singer?

A tough question. It's always changing, but at the moment I'd have to say James Brown.

What's your perfect meal and why?

Definitely sashimi – I love the taste and texture of raw fish and you don't feel guilty afterwards because it's so healthy.

Tell us more about the well-being project you are running at School.

Well-being is basically about happiness and doing everything we can to maximise this in ourselves and those around us. There are simple things we can do day-to-day to boost our well-being like showing gratitude for what we have, or doing something kind for someone else. Lots of things affect our well-being such as the quality of our relationships, how engaged we are with our work and hobbies, how we think about and interpret the good and the bad things that happen to us in life, and our ability to find meaning in our existence. Fortunately, some of the skills and knowledge required to live a happy life can be learned and my project is essentially trying to give the whole school community greater exposure to these ideas.

Old Silhillians News

It has been an exciting year for the Old Silhillians Association.

The Old Silhillians Clubhouse at Copt Heath is currently undergoing a substantial facelift and will offer conference and hospitality facilities to rival other venues in the area. By March 2015 the new changing rooms will open offering state-of-the-art facilities and two sports bars. A huge amount of time and hard work have gone into the planning and implementation and we are grateful to Rupert Young, Barry Allen, Peter Davies and Joe Bates for volunteering their time and professional experience to this project.

With auto-enrolment into the Association we are delighted to welcome leavers as new members and we are keen to see them using the facilities at the Clubhouse for sport or social reasons, or both! Earlier this year we made all former pupils who left prior to auto-enrolment Life Members of the Association. We hope this will encourage former pupils to take an active part in the Association, school events and the many activities now on offer.

The appointment of Alison Bond as Director of Development and Alumni Relations, as well as new systems in place at School, mean we have better ways to keep in touch and find Old Silhillians we have lost. This year has been one of collaboration and co-operation and we have streamlined our efforts, particularly with communications, to avoid duplication. Alison is leaving us for a new role but we wish her well and look forward to working with her successor.

For me as the first female OSA President I have had a fantastic year, meeting active members of our Golf Society, the Hockey and Rugby Clubs, the over-60s members and the Past Presidents. I am always struck by how friendly our members are. We truly have an Association to be proud of and, to quote one of our guests, our Association has 'a special something that others do not have'. I hand over the Presidency reluctantly but to a very capable successor, John Loynton. John taught History at the School for 25 years, and has played an active part in the OS Golf Society for many years. I wish him every success in his year as President.

Julia Skan





New Sixth Form Centre Construction

This term has seen the emergence of the new Sixth Form Centre in the area between the Sports Hall, E corridor and the Science building. The project is going well and remains on track to open in September 2015. Over the first months of the project the steel frame, main floors, stairs and lift shaft have been completed and recent weeks have witnessed the start of brickwork to the lower floors. The top roof section will be lowered onto the main frame before the end of this term.

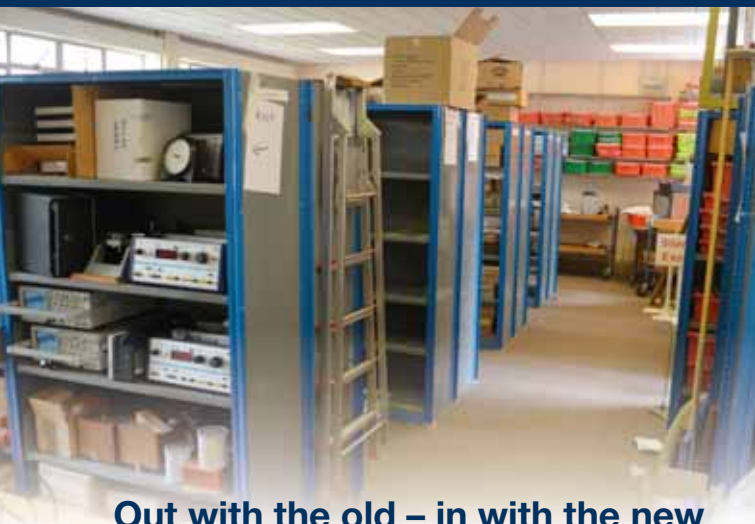
Plans are also well advanced for the internal fit out on all floors. Thanks go to all staff and pupils for working within the restrictions the building site has imposed on the functioning of the School – it will be worth it!



New Sixth Form Centre – Site Visit

On 13 November Upper Sixth Business students listened to a presentation by Philip Wright (Quantity Surveyor) and Ashley Dunn (Project Manager) from Speller Metcalfe, the company building the new Sixth Form Centre. This helped them to apply their theoretical learning about project management to a real business scenario. They learned about project timing, methods used to keep the plan on target and some interesting issues about cash flow management, contractor management and client relations. After the talk, we had a closer look at the construction site with Richard Monk, the site supervisor, and understood how the building is beginning to take shape. Many thanks to Speller Metcalfe for giving up their time to give us a real insight into their work and bring our operations management module to life.

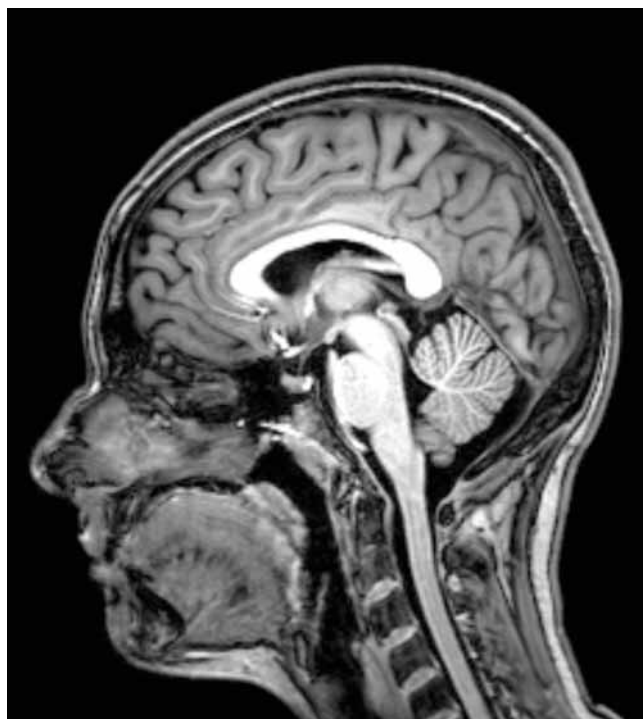




Out with the old – in with the new

During the summer holiday what was the physics preparation room was converted into a new laboratory (now F17), to be used by all three science departments. Some pupils will be familiar with this new laboratory because they are taught in there this year. However, few if any of those pupils will have known it in its former use. To that end three photographs are provided, one as it was before conversion, a second showing it during conversion, and a third in its new state. At the same time, the former physics laboratory (F12), which was a huge room by modern laboratory standards was refurbished to create a smaller (but still large) new laboratory and a new physics preparation room. I hope that many of you will enjoy being taught in these new facilities in the years to come. One of the driving forces behind the conversions is the large number of students, especially at A-Level, studying the sciences. Long may that continue.

Mr Jones, Head of Science



Students help in psychology study

Psychology students have participated in a number of research studies supervised by psychologist Dr Renate Reniers and her team at the University of Birmingham. Research will help develop psychologists' understanding of the development of risk-taking behaviour, resilience and mental health. The image is of Leticia Salmon's brain!



Speeches Evening

This year our Guest of Honour presenting the prizes was Ian Nichol. Ian is an Old Silhillian (a proud member of Shenstone), whose time at the School coincided with the arrival of girls in the Sixth Form. In a varied career Ian worked at a number of business services firms, ending up as a partner specialising in employment tax at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and then ran his own training and coaching business. Latterly, he spent ten years as a Commissioner at the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Birmingham, the body that investigates suspected miscarriages of justice. We were delighted to welcome Ian back to the School and we were all very entertained by his speech.





The Steinway Initiative

We are delighted to announce that Solihull School is soon to take delivery of three Steinway & Sons Grand Pianos as part of the 'All Steinway School Initiative'. The Headmaster and members of the Music Department flew to Hamburg in November to select the pianos and they are scheduled to arrive in Solihull early next year. The Parlor Grand (Model A), Music Room Grand (Model B) and Concert Grand (Model D) pianos will have new homes in the David Turnbull Music School and the Bushell Hall. This is a fabulous opportunity for pupils of all ages and abilities to play on arguably some of the best pianos in the world, and we are very excited about their arrival.



Tree Planting at the School

A2 Geography looks at Conflicts and Challenges as one of its units. Hearing about the proposed new Sainsbury's being built in Dorridge two years ago, Sixth Form Geographers decided to investigate the conflictive issues the new store would bring. This involved three visits over the two years and questionnaires and interviews with the public and Sainsbury's, which enabled the Geographers to understand the various conflictive aspects. A debate was held with speakers from the Dorridge residents and Sainsbury's. We were then approached by the company contracted to build the store to see if we would like to help them carbon offset their construction. This involved planting trees at Solihull School and at the Cottage in Snowdonia. A total of 82 trees are to be planted but the first two were placed on the Sixth Form lawn on Wednesday 19 November.





Henning Wehn

Two German A-Level students – Isaac Webber and James Green – and Frau Cramb attended the Henning Wehn gig in Birmingham Town Hall on 12 November. He is the self-appointed German Ambassador for Humour in the UK and is currently appearing in a number of television programmes on the BBC. He has been living in London for 12 years. He entertains people by comparing British habits to German ones and vice versa. We laughed our way through the evening!



European Day of Languages

On Friday 26 September we celebrated the annual European Day of Languages. As in previous years, pupils had the opportunity to enjoy a menu based on food from Spain, France and Germany and spoke to members of staff in a wide variety of languages. A number of very brave members of staff taught their normal lessons using the medium of a foreign language they speak, and the main event of the day was a series of language workshops offered to all our J3 pupils. They learnt fun plays, songs and conversations in French, German, Spanish, Polish and Welsh.

Thank you very much to all staff and pupils who made European Day of Languages 2014 at Solihull School such a success!



Anglo-French Society of Birmingham's French Speaking Competition for Schools

On Wednesday 19 November we sent nine of our best linguists to Birmingham University to attend the annual speaking competition. Pupils from the Third Form to the Lower Sixth took part, reading out French poetry to a panel of judges. Six of our pupils did well enough to reach the finals, where they performed again for the whole group. Will Davies did a beautiful reading of Recueillement by Baudelaire to achieve 2nd place in the senior category, and Cerys Stansfield and Rais Raja delivered a word perfect duologue of an Ionesco extract to win first place in their category, fighting off strong opposition from the other schools. Thanks to all pupils who participated: Joseph Morgan, Jacques Barker, Benedict Barker, Cerys Stansfield, Rais Raja, Beatrix Huissoon, Arthur Townend, Will Davies and Josh Samuels.





Snowdonia School 291 October 2014

Shell R had a wonderful time in Snowdonia staying at the David Fricke Mountain Cottage during the week before half term. One of the highlights was coasteering off the cliffs of Anglesey when a seal swam past us looking to find out what all the commotion was! A night hike, a camp out, a morning canoeing, games of 'capture the flag', a high ropes course, football on the beach and a successful climb to the top of Mount Snowdon in cold windy conditions were all part of a very busy week. Miss Roberts kept everyone entertained with the Latin derivation of common words whilst Mr Farrington once more excelled with his fried eggs in the kitchen each morning. Thanks go to our senior pupil Izzie Kent who really helped out and a big well done to all the Shell Formers who tackled each activity with such enthusiasm and good humour – you were a real credit to the Lower School!

Mr Bate



Debating

This term has seen one of our best starts to a debating season with teams from the School being finalists in three major competitions. Pupils from all three sections of the Senior School have competed.

At the Warwick University Competition, Harriet Marshall won Best Novice Speaker and two teams were finalists: Caroline Camm & Zershaaneh Qureshi, and Harriet Marshall & Will Davies. At the Birmingham University Competition, Megan Lloyd and Richard Bradley were top of the tab and in the Taylor Trophy Cerys Stansfield and Eloise Burchell were finalists at U16 level. Well done to all!





Sixth Form Biology trips

This term has seen the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Biologists attend two separate extension events. The first was the annual Society of Biology Charter lecture held on 11 November at the University of Birmingham. Professor Jon Frampton gave an evening lecture entitled 'Stem Cell Research and Development'. Professor Frampton is an expert in stem cell biology and its application in medicine; he is on the Steering Committee of the UK National Stem Cell Network and is Professor of Stem Cell Biology, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham. Students heard about the myths and truths behind stem cell development and were inspired to see where stem cell technology could lead in the very near future.

Our second, oversubscribed, event was a 'DNA and genetics' day held at the University of Warwick. 30 students attended the day filled with lectures including 'Antibiotic resistance – what does it mean to you and why should you care?' by Laura Piddock (University of Birmingham), 'Catching the living, naming the dead: DNA in forensic science' by Mark Jobling (University of Leicester), 'Breathing with your brain' by Kevin Moffat (University of Warwick) and 'The secret of cell division' by Sir Tim Hunt (Cancer Research UK). The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the session entitled 'Dissections uncut' by evolutionary biologist Simon Watt, presenter of *Inside Nature's Giants*. Youtube hits on the exploding whale no doubt increased significantly that afternoon!



Institute of Microbiology Summer School

On 21 July, Harry Sharpe and I, along with 24 other A-level students, came to the Biosciences building at the University of Birmingham. We had all been selected from a strong field of applicants to participate in a summer school for a week run by the Institute of Microbiology and Infection. After a busy first day of demonstrations and lectures in the labs we were sent home with a set of swabs and told to collect samples from anywhere around the house (not even the underwear drawer was spared!). We were shocked by the results. Bacteria (mostly harmless) were everywhere, but worse still we tested supposedly 'antimicrobial' cleaning products. Suffice to say, I won't be buying brand X's hand soap in future!

During our time at the IMI we used a range of different scientific techniques, collected a lot of scientific data, learned how these processes work, and all the jargon to go with it, but that wasn't the sole purpose of the week. We left with an understanding of what it took to be a research scientist and five days later a group of 26 strangers left as friends. The course provided invaluable work experience and an insight into the demands of a Biological Sciences degree. I would recommend it to this year's Lower Sixth.

Joseph Hadley

Geography trip to Castleton

Just before half term the Shell Form went on their annual Geography pilgrimage to Castleton. The day saw the pupils marvel at the majestic splendour of the underground limestone caverns, observe firsthand the problems caused by weathering and still find time to test the facilities provided for the tourists in the ice cream shop!





Iceland Adventure!

33 pupils and four members of staff embarked on a 5-night fieldtrip to Iceland during October half-term. Having conquered the north of the island, negotiated the lava tubes, and tackled a glacier walk, time was also found to relax in the hot tubs, chill out in the hot tubs and contemplate the days' activities in the hot tubs!

A successful and enjoyable time was had by all!



Shell and Fourth Form trip to Paris

The first day started with a visit to the Eiffel Tower, followed by shopping along the Champs-Élysées, ascending the Arc de Triomphe, and finally a meal in an authentic French restaurant, accompanied by authentic Parisian rush-hour traffic. The second day included a trip to the Cité des Sciences et Technologie, the Montmartre district, and an evening at the Aquaboulevard indoor water park. Finally, we used the last full day to explore Paris city centre by foot, calling at Notre Dame Cathedral, la Pyramide du Louvre, the museum of the Parisian sewers, the aquarium, and finishing the day by eating in Hard Rock Café. To end with a memorable moment, we boarded a Bateau-Mouche for a night Seine river cruise, departing from the spectacularly illuminated Eiffel Tower.

We returned to Solihull with 30 pupils who had been captivated by the metropolitan 'vibe' of Paris and were enthusiastic to return later on in life. For us, then, '*mission accomplie!*'





Junior School: The Junior School Cross Country team competed in the South Solihull Borough Championships just before half term. They performed exceptionally well with the girls' team coming first overall and the boys' second. (12 November)



History and Politics students in the US of A!

During the October half term, Lower and Upper Sixth History and Politics students set off on a five day trip to Washington DC and New York. This allowed us to have an insight into our AS and A2 Level courses first hand, visiting iconic historical monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the White House, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building to name a few! We also found time to visit the more modern attractions in New York such as Times Square, Hard Rock Cafe and 5th Avenue for a spot of retail therapy! From all of us, we would like to thank all the teachers involved in the trip (Mr Anderton and Ms Harford), and especially Mrs Fair for all her efforts for organising this brilliant visit. We hope that future pupils have the same opportunity to expand their knowledge of the culture that America has to offer. It was truly an incredible experience. Sophie Fowler, Upper Sixth



The Classics Society

As ever, the Christmas term has been a busy one for the Classics Society. On 16 October we visited The University of Birmingham to hear a lecture by Dr Michael Scott (assistant professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick, and TV presenter!) about the ancient city of Delphi and its position as the 'navel' of the ancient world for over 1000 years. There have also been two trips for the Lower Sixth Classicists to see productions. On 22 September, five Classical Civilisation students from the Lower Sixth went with Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts to watch a live screening of *Medea* from the Royal National Theatre, at the Birmingham New Street Odeon Cinema. Then, on 1 October, the AS-Level Classical Civilisation class saw a production of Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone* at Derby Theatre. It was a modern-day version of the text the class are studying, adapted to revolve around a gang war.

The following Scribbling Nibblers will be published in the forthcoming anthology *War of Words*, after entering a Young Writers competition: Aimee Rowland (IIIF), Pawan Bhamra (IIIW) and Libby Shepherd (ShS). Congratulations to all 3! (13 November)





Remembrance 2014

Combined Cadet Force staff and former pupils who have served with the Armed Forces joined all 1030 pupils and staff at the School for the Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony, followed by a Service of Remembrance in the School Chapel. The ceremony included a roll call of the 55 former Solihull pupils who died during World War One. Pupils have taken part in a month-long series of activities to commemorate the centenary of the Great War, including themed lessons across a broad range of subject areas from Science to Classics and Drama.

Pupils from the Third and Shell Forms also created a stunning display of 200 ceramic poppies, inspired by the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' installation at the Tower of London. The poppies carried the names of all the fallen members of the School during the Great War. Members of the Armed Services also joined pupils for a Careers talk and lunch. On Monday 10 November, School Archivist John Loynton gave an informative talk on the School's role in the Great War, followed by a wonderful dinner in the Refectory, attended by 60 current and former CCF staff and alumni.





Work Experience – Asha Abram, Lower Fifth

During the summer I spent a week in John Lewis, learning more about the world of retail. The entire week was extremely beneficial to me; learning facts about the stock and improving my customer service.

I worked on a display in the photo frames department and on food gifts. One of my photo frames display was still on show when I went shopping in John Lewis two weeks later. I was very proud of my achievement!

The partners working in John Lewis were extremely helpful and positive to work with. The environment was welcoming and friendly with everybody knowing each other. By the end of the week I was able to point customers in the right direction as well as help them with items they needed by checking the stock system, and whether it was on the shop floor or not. I am very grateful for being given this opportunity as it has given me a brilliant insight into the retail shop life and what goes on behind the scenes.



Photography Trip to Witley Court

In September the new Lower Sixth Photographers got a taste of location work in the grounds and house of Witley Court in Worcestershire. Students spent the day putting their new found practical skills to the test and came back with some stunning photographs for their coursework unit.

Artist Workshops

John Denaro held full day drawing workshops for the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils in October and November. The Upper Fifth pupils produced complicated still life drawings based on the theme of Vanitas for their GCSE Coursework unit. The Lower Sixth surprised themselves with accomplished full colour self-portraits for their AS Level coursework.





Drama

Lower School Production:

For two nights in the seventh week of the Autumn term, Lower School Drama Club and Lower Fifth GCSE Drama pupils presented *Outbreak*, a collection of poems, songs, speeches and sketches, compiled by Mrs Wilde, to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. This was a super team effort with some excellent readings and singing. The production was well received and audience members found the experience poignant and moving. Dr Jukes provided excellent lighting and projection, Mr Cureton and Mr Dowsett excellent live music. Mrs Wilde directed with the assistance of Miss Crowther and Mr Dowsett.

Senior School Play:

Sixth Formers and Middle School pupils spent the second half of the Autumn term rehearsing Federico Garcia Lorca's tragedy, *Blood Wedding* which they performed for two nights in December. There were several excellent performances including that of Aine Maher as the Bride, Oscar Haynes as Leonardo, David Herriotts as the Bridegroom and Francesca Phillips as the Mother. Pupils were fortunate to have professional flamenco dancer Ana Garcia helping them to hone their dancing skills. Excellent technical and backstage support was provided under the guidance of Dr Jukes. Mrs Thomas led a team of Sixth Formers who created superb makeup designs, and Mrs Wilde directed.



Exciting New Sculptures for the Chapel and Sixth Form Building

The School has commissioned Matthew Sanderson to design and make two ambitious new sculptures for the school grounds. The first is a fantastic new sculpture to sit in front of the Chapel. Raised off the ground and lit from beneath, the sculpture will be a bold visual celebration of the community and aspiration of our pupils and the strong role that music and singing play within the School and the Chapel. The work will stand just over five metres high and three metres wide and has been designed to sit in the centre of the Chapel forecourt which is being refurbished over the summer of 2015.

The Parents' Association are funding a second sculpture, also by Matthew Sanderson, which will sit on the grass outside the new Sixth Form Building. This work is still in the early planning stages and as part of that process Matthew has held two full-day sculpture workshops with the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Artists. During the day pupils listened to a short lecture of how Matthew researches and develops his ideas and then made their own athletic figures and moving puppets using wire and masking tape.





The West Midlands Fire Service Visit J2

On 20 November, J2 were very fortunate to have a fun and informative visit from West Midlands Fire Service. They enjoyed learning about hazards around the home and what to do if they discovered a fire in their own home. They also learnt how to shout 'Fire!' VERY loudly to alert those around them! One of our pupils, Henry Close in J2D, even got dressed up in the very special uniform. After seeing that it only takes three minutes for a bedroom to be set completely alight, hopefully all pupils in J2 now feel confident to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire.

JLR Visit

The J2s were captivated during a fun-filled and enlightening day at Jaguar Land Rover's Solihull production site. The trip was supporting their Geography topic, 'Settlements and Land Use' and included a tour of the production lines where the pupils were left in awe of the robots that are used to carry out very complicated tasks. They appreciated how the site has been an integral part of the Solihull community and still supports thousands of local families. The pupils also thoroughly enjoyed building a Lego car in order to understand the teamwork involved in producing a real Land Rover model.



Junior School Workshops

J3 Pupils visit the Senior School Art Rooms

In November the J3 pupils visited the Senior School art rooms on the top floor of School House. Pupils learnt to draw with wire and took away some very creative wire fish designs to decorate in their art lessons back at the Junior School.

Springfield House Community Special School & Acocks Green Junior School

Ten boys and girls from Springfield House and twenty pupils from Acocks Green Junior School joined our Upper Sixth Artists to make Christmas silk paintings in November. The children were wonderful and took away some really colourful designs to show off to their family and friends. Thanks go to our Upper Sixth students who took such good care of the little ones and also to Karen Perrins for making the fantastic designs.





J4 Trip to France

On 12 September, the J4s departed for their three-night language residential trip to Hardelot, France. A lot of fun was had putting French language skills to the test when ordering fresh food in the local market and ice-creams in the town. Of course, there was time for even more fun and games on the beach in the evenings and we played in the sand until the sun went down. A memorable time was had by all experiencing the French culture and cuisine!



Trip to St Alphege Church

The J1 pupils visited St Alphege Church in the first week of December to find out more about what happened on the night that Jesus was born. The children listened to the story of Christmas and enjoyed travelling on a journey around the church, visiting the shepherds and innkeeper, and finally, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. They sang carols and enjoyed a wonderful, festive afternoon.





Music recitals and Festival successes

This has been another busy term for all our musicians. In addition to the wonderful array of choral and woodwind activities, we have had two Informal Concerts, a Keyboard concert and a Recital given by four Upper Sixth Form students. All these have provided wonderful experiences for pupils to perform solo items in public. For some, these will have been the first outings in public and for others, the end of their musical journey as soloists here at school: Joe Price (trumpet), Phil Blenkinsop (piano & organ), Jon Altham (kit); and James Sutton (bass guitar). All – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache.

Some pupils even find the courage to go out to local music festivals for further performance experience and, of course, feedback from the adjudicators. Special congratulations go to Joseph Wright, Christina Bate and Fleur Street for their vocal successes at the Solihull Music Festival and to Jessica Boake, Joseph Wright and Alex Lavery for their first place awards at the Lichfield Music Festival.

Choral Masterclass and Russian Treasures with Tenebrae

Twice in November the Chamber Choir had the rare opportunity to work with award-winning professional choir, Tenebrae. On 6 November their founder and conductor, Nigel Short, visited the School Chapel to deliver an engaging masterclass which covered aspects of singing technique, musical interpretation and insightful stories about life as a professional singer, including tales from his time as a member of the King's Singers. The following week he returned with 20 singers and performed a sublime programme of music from the Russian Orthodox Church to a packed Chapel. During the second half the Chamber Choir joined Tenebrae on the stage to perform a memorably loud yet deeply moving rendition of Rachmaninov's 'Bogorditsye Dyevo'. We are extremely grateful to a Former Chorister for making these events possible.



Clarinet Workshop

On Monday 17 November a total of 14 students ranging from J4 to the Sixth Form took part in a Clarinet Workshop conducted by Mrs Luan Shaw. Luan is a Diploma examiner for the ABRSM as well as the co-principal clarinet with the Orchestra of the Swan. Everyone enjoyed the occasion which finished with an ensemble performance of the Chattanooga Choo Choo which was performed at the St Cecilia Concert. Everyone agreed that they had benefited from the experience and were looking forward to putting some of Luan's ideas in to their performances.





St Cecilia Concert

Towards the end of term the St Cecilia Concert brought together 165 pupils playing and singing in 13 different ensembles. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres ranging from music by Vaughan Williams, Holst and Vivaldi for orchestral and string groups, through music for film, TV and stage, and on to jazz and popular. These were presented by ensembles including Symphony Orchestra, Advanced and Lower School String Ensembles, Jazz Singers, Madrigal Group, Senior & Intermediate Wind Bands, Big Band, Saxophony, Senior Clarinet Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Guitar Ensembles. Not only were all the performers fabulously committed and effective on stage, they were all tremendous listeners – really supporting each other throughout. Huge congratulations to all concerned.



'Temptation' with Solihull School Chapel Choir and the BBC

At 6am on a dark, frosty November morning the 26 members of the Boys' Choir departed Solihull for St Emmanuel's Church, Didsbury, to broadcast live to 250,000 people across the BBC airwaves on the 'Daily Service' Programme. The theme for this term's broadcast was 'Temptation', and the Boys performed several pieces; 'Lord of the Dance' arranged by Owens, 'Agnus Dei' by Nardone, a version of the Lord's Prayer by Aston and the hymn 'Be thou my guardian and my guide'. The soloists, all with nerves of steel, deserve particular mention: Adam Visram-Cipolletta, Benedict Barker and Jacques Barker. Thank you to Mr Walker for conducting, Mr Kermode for reading a lesson and Mr Irving for playing the organ superbly.





Junior School Sport Report

The boys have had a steady start to both the football and rugby campaigns. The U10 rugby team had a close encounter with King Henry VIII beating them 5-3 whereas the U8 and U11 teams both came away with draws against the same opposition. Good wins in football against the likes of Eversfield and Hallfield have also given the boys a solid platform from which to build. With fixtures coming thick and fast over the next term there is a lot of excitement and optimism in the ranks!

The girls have also started the netball season off well with some excellent victories so far. Notable results have been the U9 team beating Bablake 4-0; the U10 team battling to become plate finalists in our home tournament, narrowly losing 2-1 against St.Martin's; and the U11A and B teams impressively beating Eversfield 13-3 and 9-0. We've also had an encouraging start to girls' hockey this year with the U11s growing in confidence as a team over two challenging tournaments and the U9s playing their first ever hockey fixture against Hallfield.

The great start was capped off by the U11 girls' Cross Country team who placed 1st overall in the Borough Championships. Aimee O'Malley finished 1st, Claudia Reda 2nd and Megan McDonagh 3rd! Congratulations to all.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Over half term, Junior School pupils were busy filling shoeboxes with toys, games, stationery and hygiene items in aid of Operation Christmas Child, a charity that sends out Christmas shoeboxes to children from impoverished backgrounds all over the world. This year, 141 shoeboxes were collected from the Junior School and flown over to Swaziland to children of all ages in time for Christmas. Well done to the Junior School children on another successful campaign.



New Christmas Carol for Solihull

During Evensong on December 7 the Chamber Choir gave the world premiere performance of 'Ave Maria' by leading British composer Will Todd. The piece also featured in this year's Services of Nine Lessons and Carols. Funded by the School's Parents' Association, the hauntingly beautiful Carol is for unaccompanied Choir and sets the well known Marian text. Best known for his choral works, Todd's jazz-inspired Mass in Blue has been performed more than 100 times since its 2003 premiere, and his anthem The Call of Wisdom was featured in the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service. 2002,



Old Silhillians' Dinner

On Friday 28 November Saxophony were delighted to be invited to play at the Old Silhillians' Dinner. They were able to perform for 40 minutes whilst guests enjoyed their pre-dinner drinks. They produced a varied repertoire ranging from Mozart through to Gershwin and included a Christmas flavour to conclude their programme. Miss Greswold would like to thank Caroline Camm, Rebecca Timperley, Jonathon Altham, Abigail Moise and Oscar Haynes for giving up their time. Special thanks must go to Charlotte Beesley who happened to be at the dinner and came especially early to help Saxophony out. The Old Sils made us all very welcome and even provided us with food which is always appreciated!





Girls' Sport

This term has proved to be a hugely successful one for girls' sport. In hockey, we were successful in being crowned county champions in all possible age groups at U14, U16 and U18 level. This has not been achieved before and is reflective of all of the hard work and effort that the girls have put into their training and match play. Similarly in netball, it has been a tremendously positive start to the season. The 1st VII qualified for the regional round of the national tournament which will be played in January. This is another 'first' for girls' sport and we wish them luck in their preparation for what will be a very exciting morning of netball.

U18 Girls' hockey squad

Laura Daglish (c), Sophie Fowler, Lydia Jackson, Bea Cowley, Nikita Basra, Becca Hicks, Lottie Harland, Lydia Roll, Harriet Marshall, Alex Levey, Clara Miles, Katie Craddock, Jess Lawton, Aimee Skidmore.

1st VII netball squad

Lydia Cross (c), Kiante Lightbourne, Adina Bailey, Hannah Shakeshaft, Sophie Shakeshaft, Chloe Houghton, Poppy Eales, Hannah Clarke, Clara Miles



Clay Pigeon Shooting

This term has seen new members join the Clay Pigeon Shooting group, and success in two competitions. Our first competition was the Millfield Invitational Shoot held on 6 November. Our High Gun was James Sutton (captain) who led by example, coming 14th out of 64 competitors. We competed against Sherborne School, Millfield, Cheltenham College, Marlborough, Bredon, King's Taunton and Wellington College. Sixteen teams entered and Solihull came 6th – a very commendable result considering who we were competing against and the difference in experience, facilities and regular individual tuition the other competitors gain at their schools. The group consisted of James Sutton, Angus Young, Luke Sheeran, Jacob Gilbert, Vini Vinod, Lauren Packham, Odile Webber & Lydia Stephens.

On 30 November we competed in the Butler Cup held at Hereford and Worcester shooting ground. Here we competed against schools including Old Swinford Hospital, Warwick School and King's High School. The team shot superbly, coming second overall, with Lauren Packham winning Ladies' High Gun. A super day was finished off with a celebratory meal at Wagamamas!





Rugby 2014-15 Season

So far, Cup rugby this season has seen the U13 reach the last 32 nationally, the U15 XV reach Round 5 and the U18 Round 4. Solihull has recorded block victories against a number of opponents, not least King Edward's Birmingham, Ellesmere, King's Worcester and Northampton School for Boys. The brand of rugby on display is both entertaining and productive. Each age group stands in the top 5 regionally with the U18s being in the top 30 of the National Daily Mail Merit Table. The younger age groups are continuing to develop rapidly and show glimpses of brilliance. A promising work in progress.

Christmas Term Teams of the Week

Bigside Hockey Team

An exceptional series of victories over Queen Mary's Grammar School

U15A XV Rugby Team

Tremendous performance and victory versus King's School, Worcester

U14A XV Rugby Team

Excellent performance and victory versus Royal Grammar School, Worcester

Lower Sixth Form Photographers

Fantastic contribution to the Witley Court Trip

U12 Girls' Hockey Team

Excellent performance and victory versus Princethorpe College

School Ski Team

Superb performance in the Midlands Telford Competition

Clay Pigeon Shooting Team

Excellent performance at the Milfield Competition

Form IIIF

Compassion & generosity

School Challenge Team

Tremendous performance in the Regional round of the Schools' Challenge Competition

CCF Guard of Honour

Excellent performance in the Wreath Laying Ceremony 2014

U13 Chess Team

Fantastic victory against King Edward's School, Birmingham

Anglo-French Society Speaking Team

Excellent performance in the Birmingham University French Speaking Competition

1st VII Netball Squad

Superb performance in qualifying for the West Midlands Championships

Cast and crew of Blood Wedding

Two nights of fantastic drama in the Bushell Hall

Chapel Choir

Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols

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