

Easter Term 2015

The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



This term we welcomed our new Steinway pianos to the School and enjoyed World Book Day. See inside for more information.



The *Greyhound* Interviews... **Mrs Hallworth, Design & Technology**

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for about five years. Before becoming a teacher, I worked in Food Manufacturing in a Product Development role. Whilst working in this role I helped launch the Innocent Veg Pots and many Supermarket ready meals.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the variety of my job. In the morning I may be making profiteroles with my GCSE Food Technology group, the next lesson I could be teaching woodwork to the Third Form, followed by an afternoon of hockey! No two days are the same!

Why do you like teaching Design and Technology?

I enjoy the creativity of the subject. I love the fact that you can start with basic ingredients or materials and create something unique and innovative. I also enjoy seeing pupils become more confident in lessons and watching them make a range of quality products.

What aspect of DT are you most interested in and why?

Food Technology is my subject specialism within DT. I especially enjoy looking at the functional properties of ingredients. I find it fascinating that just by changing one ingredient in a recipe it can alter the whole dish.

What would you do if you were not a teacher?

I would probably still work with food as all my previous jobs have been food related. My dream job would be travelling around the world sampling different cuisines. I would then write a book entitled the World's Best Places to Eat!

Who is your favourite band or singer?

I hate to admit it, but I love Take That. I have seen them in concert several times!!!!

Development and Alumni Relations

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

As some of you may be aware, Alison Bond left Solihull School in February to begin a new job as Director of External Relations at Oxford Brookes University. We would like to thank Alison for all of her hard work over the last two years and wish her good luck in her new role. Susie Jordan, Senior Development Officer at Loughborough University, will be filling the position as of 20 April this year. We look forward to working with Susie in the future. In the interim, Head of Marketing, Rachel Hadley-Leonard is the Acting Director of Development and Alumni Relations.



Assembly in Honour of Denis Tomlin

On Wednesday 4 February the whole School assembly was given over to the Old Silhillians Association, who presented an honorary life membership to Denis Tomlin, a teacher at School from 1952-1988. He was Second Master for twenty of these years and even served two terms as Headmaster in 1983. He was one of the most respected and revered members of staff ever to have worked at Solihull School and even though no present pupils know him, the standing ovation that he received was absolutely amazing, as the Class of 2015 paid tribute to one of Solihull's finest. As a final tribute, Denis Tomlin's name will be inscribed on one of the granite stones that will be accommodated in the new Sixth Form Building.

Forthcoming Events

Old Silhillians Sports Day

On Saturday 21 March, the School will open its doors to all Old Silhillians, former parents and teaching staff and we would love to see you there. A whole host of sporting activities will take place throughout the day, including the annual alumni versus current pupils' sports matches in rugby, netball and hockey. Presentations will be held in the afternoon, with speeches by the Headmaster, our Director of Sport, Steve Thompson, and Paralympic skier Anna Turney. The Old Silhillians would also like to invite everyone to the newly refurbished clubhouse for a drink or two in the evening.

London Dinner

The next Annual London Dinner for former pupils and former staff will take place on Friday 5 June 2015 at the East India Club. Tickets cost £49.50 and include a three course dinner, coffee and mints. If you would like to attend, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office at dev-os@solsch.org.uk.

Further details can be found on the Development and Alumni Relations pages of the website.





Arrival of the new Steinway grand pianos

On Monday 2 February the Bushell Hall was packed for the late-morning event to mark the arrival of three new Steinway grand pianos. Rarely will one see three Steinway grands next to each other, but this event enabled us both to celebrate the depth of piano talent amongst our pupils (a number of whom performed) as well as hear from – in both words and music – our guest visitor, international pianist Peter Donohoe, CBE. The event was rounded off with the world premiere performance of a newly composed piece for three pianos by our very own Head of Academic Music, Mr Simon Phillips. The large audience was attentive, spellbound and amazed in equal measure. Later that afternoon five student pianists were put through their paces by Peter Donohoe in a Piano Masterclass. An extremely memorable day for all.





CCF Weekend

Over the weekend of 6-8 March the CCF Army section conducted an exercise involving some basic skills, culminating in a Platoon Advance to Contact. The cadets undertook 4 training stands in the morning including Fire and Manoeuvre, locating the enemy, patrolling and navigation. They then took part in a section attack before then mounting a Platoon Advance to Contact late in the afternoon. It was then back to camp for some hot food before conducting a night navigation exercise. Luckily no one got lost! It was a very hard day but the cadets certainly learned a lot about themselves and how to work as a team. Many thanks to all the staff who gave up their weekend for the cadets.

Classics

As ever, the Easter term has been a busy one for the Classics Society and Classics trips. There have been trips for the Shell and Fourth Forms to Cirencester and Bath respectively (see separate report on Bath), and two trips for the Lower Sixth Classical Civilization students: a study day on Greek drama at the University of Warwick and a visit to UCL to see a production of Euripides' *The Bacchae*.

We have met with the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association twice; a New Year Lecture on Virgil and Augustus, and a Texts and Topics Conference for Sixth Formers. On the last day of term we have a Classics Society trip to Oxford Playhouse to see a production of *The Odyssey*, and then in the Easter holidays we are off to Turkey!



Latin Trip to Bath

On Tuesday 13 January the Fourth Form Latin classes took an exciting trip to Bath to see the Roman remains. We learnt many fascinating things whilst exploring, like that the temperature of the water in the baths was 46 degrees Celsius and came from a natural hot spring. We also learnt that many Romans and Britons alike visited Bath if they were ill to be healed by the Goddess Minerva Sulis, and they threw things into the Bath as gifts to the goddess so she would make sure their future health was prosperous. Wandering around the museum was extremely interesting and we even got to taste some of the water that was meant to have healing powers. It tasted like metal and most of us hated it!

We had a fascinating Latin lesson where we saw real Roman artefacts up close. We even got to hold some of them and it is amazing to think that they dated back thousands of years. Some examples were roof tiles that would have been used around the bath complex. We were asked to translate a Roman inscribed stone which many of us found challenging. We all thoroughly enjoyed our day in Bath seeing how the Romans lived in Britain nearly 2000 years ago.





Berlin 2014

Very early on Friday 28 November a party of 8 Lower and Upper Sixth Form students and 2 staff departed for a long weekend in Berlin. After an uneventful trip we arrived at the hostel in Kreuzberg. We left one member completing the Maths Challenge whilst the rest of us headed off for lunch. The rest of the day consisted of visits to the Berliner Unterwelten and the DDR Museum followed by our evening meal. Saturday consisted of a guided tour of the city centre, a tour of the Stasi HQ Muesum, a meal in a typical Turkish restaurant and a visit to the Wintergarten Varieté for 'Magical Mystery Show II'. On Sunday we visited the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Jewish Museum and the Musical – 'Hinterm Horizont'. Monday saw us in the Fernsehturm, the Reichstag and taking a walk along the East Side Gallery. We returned to school on Tuesday, tired, but better educated about the history of Berlin.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Pupils have gathered on Monday nights and lunch times since Christmas to prepare for their bronze expeditions next term. Route planning, first aid, camp craft, the country code and emergency procedures have all been on the curriculum. Similarly, over twenty staff attended a two day mountain first aid course in North Wales. A fortnight earlier, they took part in a winter training weekend at Capel Curig.





Château de la Baudonnière 2015

This February saw the School's eleventh visit to the Château in Normandy, France. The format was changed once again to offer the Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms the opportunity to re-live memories from their time in the Third Form or to embark on the adventure for the first time.

As well as the usual exciting activities of aéroballe, climbing, archery and the assault course, the trip was very much focused on GCSE and AS Level French revision. Pupils were only allowed to speak French around the Château and they took lessons each day, culminating in a mock speaking examination at the end of the week. The teachers were very impressed with their work ethic and level of French.

In addition to the on-site activities the Sixth Form enjoyed a visit to a local Organic Farm and Caramel Factory – tasting was of course obligatory! One evening they also interviewed a local bar owner and enjoyed a few games of darts. The group as a whole completed some work in the market town of Villedieu and enjoyed the sights of Mont St Michel in the glorious sunshine.

The trip was a huge success with all of the pupils reporting an improvement in their confidence, fluency and comprehension and of course a lot of fun and laughter was had by all along the way! On their return the group won Team of the Week for their excellent attitude, behaviour, hard work and camaraderie.





Welcome to our Chilean Gap Students!

Hi! My name is Camila Ortiz and I'm 18 years old. I come from Chile, a country in South America; it's really long and thin! Three years ago I came for the first time to Solihull School. The visit lasted only 3 days, but that was enough for me to fall in love with the town and with the school. That is why I decided to come back, but now as a Gap Student.

So far the experience has been great! I have been here only 2 weeks and I am having a wonderful time. The students, teachers and my host family, Michelle, Adina and Ashleigh Bailey are absolutely amazing.

I hope time passes slowly, so I am able to get to know more about this awesome school, country and English culture.

Hi! I'm Martin Grandon, I am the other new GAP student from Chile. I came to England a couple of years ago and had a great time over here, especially in Solihull School. Now I am back again to help in everything that I can, learn more about this amazing culture, get to know new people, participate in sports and anything interesting.

Up to now I am having a great time, getting used to the awful weather and having fun, like being a waiter at the PA Ladies' Supper! I really appreciate how people have made me feel welcome, especially my host family; Emma, Tom, Liz and John Whitfield. They are like my real family and the teachers also make me feel like I am in my own school.

Sixth Formers visit London galleries

The Art and Photography students enjoyed a packed day of gallery visits in February to support their exam project ideas. Staff took over sixty students to Tate Modern, Tate Britain and the Royal Academy to see a vast range of work including the visiting exhibitions 'Conflict-Time-Photography' and 'Rubens and his Legacy'.





Thank you to everyone who took part in our non-uniform day before half term. We raised £1,600 for charity. (27 February)

Midlands German Network Launch Event

Six students from the Fourth, Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms went to the Launch Event of the Midlands German Network at Aston University. Representatives from the German Embassy, the Goethe Institute and UK German Connections were represented. Students listened to presentations on the importance of learning German and the opportunities it provides. We are very proud that Elliot Morter won the 3rd Prize for having asked relevant questions to the panel. Check out their new website at www.midlandsgermannetwork.org.uk and you will find everything that is going on in the world of German in the Midlands!

German Exchange

This year we took 13 pupils from the Lower Fifth on our Exchange Visit to Hofheim near Frankfurt, which has been running now for 16 years. Pupils were accommodated by their German Exchange partners who as always were excellent hosts. The Elisabethenschule took us on a variety of cultural trips such as the Mathematikum (interactive science museum) in Giessen, the Roman Fort of Saalburg and the sensory museum of Schloss Freudenberg near Wiesbaden. We also explored Frankfurt and Wiesbaden. The pupils showed an excellent level of engagement and were keen to refine their German. We look forward to welcoming our next German Exchange partners in October.



Good luck to our Debating teams making their way to Cambridge University for the debating finals this weekend. (27 February)



Red Nose Day Netball!

To support this year's Red Nose Day, the School staged a staff v. students charity netball match. It was great fun and the senior squad took on board the skill and tactical awareness displayed by the staff team. I am sure they will benefit from this in their future matches! The final result was students 19 and staff 18! The students and staff purchased Red Nose Day clothing totalling £85.

Biology Olympiad

The British Biology Olympiad is a national competition organised by the Society of Biology. It challenges and stimulates Sixth Form students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their ability. In offering a wider syllabus than A-Level, it allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised by the award of medals, certificates and other prizes.

The top ten Upper Sixth students (based on individual AS total UMS marks) took part this term and were awarded certificates for their achievements:

Commended: Caroline Gerard

Highly

commended: Amanda Kaur, James Sutton, Joanna O'Sullivan

Bronze: Harry Sharpe

Silver: Matthew Sargent, Olivia Eguiguren-Wray

Gold : Lewis Gordon

The competition is incredibly challenging and all students took part with great poise and determination. Congratulations to them all for their success: our best set of results in the last five years!



Science Live!

On 2 March, 25 Upper Fifth pupils attended the Science Live! 2015 lectures at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham with Mr Farrington and Mrs Wild. The students had the opportunity to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The lectures were fast-moving, exciting, thought-provoking and gave students the chance to raise issues with the scientists.

The clear winner of the favourite lecture of the day was on the topic of time travel by Professor Jim Al-Khalili – 'Can the Doctor really travel in time?' – a fascinating lecture on the possibility of time travel, black holes and wormholes. Staff were most inspired by Professor Lord Winston who lectured on the role of research in fertility treatments and medical science. Other lectures included 'What have the planets ever done for us?' by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (the current BBC presenter for the iconic astronomy programme The Sky at Night), 'How the zebra got its stripes' by Professor Andrea Sella and 'The Big Bang Theory' by Dr Simon Singh. Also during the day the students listened to a GCSE Chief Examiner for Science who offered useful and insightful advice including the importance of the '3P approach': preparation (revision), practise (past papers) and precision (detail in clear answers). A very good day was had by all and our students were a credit to the School at all times.



Careers Convention

This term the School played host to nearly 45 speakers from a variety of industries for its Careers Convention. The George Hill classrooms were full of professionals talking about their job and what it's like to work in their industry. Students and parents found it very inspiring and were able to listen to talks about industries they perhaps had not considered before. There was a lot of positive feedback and we are already looking forward to the next one.





Young Enterprise

The School's YE team 'Evolution' took part in the Solihull area YE Trade Fair held in Touchwood on 14 March. The team, led by Hannah Currie, won the award for Best Product at the event. They manufactured cushions and customised these with printed designs – the judges commented that they were impressed because they had made a product from scratch. Next stop; the Solihull area competition! It is clear they have learnt much from this experience. Their focus on meeting the deadline was impressive given all the other activities the team have been involved with this week.

Debating

This has been the most successful debating season on record with our students breaking to at least Regional Finals at every competition. Successes this term include (but are not limited to), winning the Novice Final at Nottingham, Runners Up at the Regional Final for ESU Mace, representing Central England at the Oxford Finals and ranking in the top twenty teams internationally at the Cambridge Finals. In addition to this we have run the biggest School-wide competition in history with 32 teams debating. Well done to all of our teams!



Shell Form 'Sevillanas' classes

On 23 February, Shell Form pupils who study Spanish had the opportunity to work with local dance choreographer Ana Garcia, who choreographed the dance sequences seen in the Senior School's production of 'Bodas de Sangre' (Blood Wedding) just before Christmas.

Ana has worked with some of the best dancers in Spain and showed pupils how to dance the basic movements and steps of a southern Spanish dance called a 'Sevillana', which as its name suggests, originated in the Andalusian city of Sevilla. The dance teaching was conducted in Spanish, and as a result, not only did the pupils learn about Andalucía's rich cultural heritage, but also had the chance to practise their Spanish with a native speaker.

¡Gracias Ana!





BBC 'Daily Service' Performance

On January 22 the Chamber Choir performed once more on the BBC's longest running radio programme, 'Daily Service', this time not only broadcasting live to 250,000 people but also pre-recording a second show which went out a week later. The themes were 'Belonging to Christ' and 'Remembering Lazarus', and we performed music including Faure's 'In Paradisum' and Wood's 'O thou the central orb' alongside several hymns. Megan Lloyd and Aine Maher read beautifully, and we are grateful to Peter Irving for playing the organ so brilliantly.

Instrumental Concerts

In addition to the wonderful array of choral activities we have had five concerts for instrumentalists: an Informal Concert; a Chamber Music concert; a Strings Masterclass (given by Baroque string player Erin Headley); a Junior School Concert; and a Recital given by two Upper Sixth Form students. All these have provided wonderful experiences for pupils to perform solo and ensemble items in public. For some these will have been the first outings in public. Multi-talented Amy Parry (violin, clarinet & piano) and Muskan Shrivastava (flute, piano & voice) presented music on each of their three instruments and covered music of a wide variety of styles; they were ably assisted in a few pieces by Hannah Shakeshaft (violin) and David Clarke (clarinet). In every concert all performers – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache. The Chamber Concert also demonstrated some impressive skills in performing very varied repertoire for string, wind and brass ensembles, in which each player is the only one on their part – a scary but also wonderfully empowering experience. Huge congratulations to all.





Choral Spectacular

On March 8 the School hosted its first choral concert of this kind, with various groups performing to a packed Chapel. During the first half the various sections of the Chapel Choir performed music including Britten's 'Missa Brevis', Burgon's 'Nunc Dimittis' and Mozart's 'Ave Verum' while the School's close harmony group 'The Twelve' performed Cole Porter's 'Let's do it' and Byrd's 'Ave Verum'. For the second half, the Chamber Choir was joined by 100 other guests and award-winning Orchestra of the Swan for a powerful performance of Mozart's 'Requiem'. A truly spectacular evening.

Chamber Choir visit to St Paul's Cathedral

On February 24 the Chamber Choir made their third visit to sing Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, London. On this occasion we were honoured to rehearse in the famous OBE Chapel which houses the tombs of Sir Christopher Wren, William Blake and composers including Sir Hubert Parry. During the service we marked the beginning of Lent with Purcell's 'Remember not, Lord, our offences' Walmisley's Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D minor and the Psalm 'Out of the deep'. To sing once more in such glorious acoustics was a great privilege and we will return again in 2016.



Old Silhillian leads Drama Workshops

Former pupil George Haynes visited the School earlier this term and ran acting workshops with Drama GCSE pupils and A-Level Theatre Studies students. Whilst at Solihull School, George appeared in several productions including 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Tom Jones', 'My Fair Lady' and 'The Scarlet Pimpernel'. After gaining a degree in Maths at Durham University, George did a post graduate year in Acting at the Drama Studio in London. Since leaving, George has been forging his career as an actor and is currently appearing in a stage adaptation of 'Pride and Prejudice' at the Rosemary Branch Theatre in London. Pupils enjoyed George's workshops and learned new and useful techniques to help them with characterisation.





Les Misérables

At the end of term, students from across the year groups presented this year's School Musical: the uplifting and emotional *Les Misérables*, which played to a full house over five consecutive nights in the Bushell Hall. Under Mrs Fair's excellent direction, the performances from the principal actors were phenomenal as were those from the team of well over 100 students who worked as supporting cast, orchestra and backstage crew. It was a fittingly glorious swansong for Mr Perrins, for whom this was a final School production. Congratulations to all involved!





Junior School Science Week

During British Science Week, the Junior School pupils enjoyed a variety of experiences including a visit from Birmingham ThinkTank who performed an Under Your Skin show to the whole Junior School, followed by a Space Show where pupils were able to explore the solar system within a 12 foot inflated dome. Other groups worked with Sixth Formers and completed more Space activities. On Tuesday, Maggie Lieu from Mars 100 came to talk to the pupils about her potential one way trip to Mars. Running throughout the week was an inventions competition where pupils tried to reach the Dragons' Den final and pitch their ideas to a panel of judges. To complete a successful week, the partial eclipse was timed to perfection on Friday, and the pupils watched a live streaming of the eclipse in the Bushell Hall and some fortunate pupils were able to view it safely though solar glasses.

Junior School Council's trip to the Mayor's Chamber

On 12 March the Junior School Council took a trip to the Mayor of Solihull's Chamber. Upon arriving, we were shown into the parlour where the Mayor told us why the room was called the parlour. She explained that parlour comes from the French word to talk. After the parlour, we went to the Council Chamber, where we had our meeting. As the chair myself, I was lucky enough to get to wear a smaller chain made especially for school councils if they come and visit. When our meeting began the Mayor told us that when she picks someone to speak they have to stand up and say 'thank you Madame Mayor' before they begin to talk. We discussed several important matters, and I'm sure that all Council members thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Jenny Hodge, Chair of Junior School Council





Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies:

On 28 and 29 January, J4 took part in a superb production of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies,' a comic and musical take on the traditional tale of Robin Hood. The play was performed to a packed-out Bushell Hall on both nights and we were lucky enough to be joined by the Mayor on the first night. Freddie Truman starred as the flamboyant Robin Hood and Claudia Reda as a feisty Maid Marion. Yusuf Skinner perfectly played the evil role of Sheriff of Nottingham and Louis Dale excelled in his role as King John. The whole cast worked together and showed such team spirit in putting on two excellent, entertaining and polished performances. Rehearsals took place since September, and certainly paid off! J4 are very proud of the high praise received from their audiences.

Junior School Science Quiz

On Thursday 12 March, 8 pupils from the Junior School took part in an inter-school science quiz at Eversfield Preparatory School. In front of an enthusiastic, engaged audience, pupils worked in small teams to answer challenging questions from all areas and eras of the science world, in addition to putting their practical skills to the test whilst moving jelly cubes with chopsticks and making paper aeroplanes. Although only narrowly missing out on the ultimate victory, all pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and left with an ever increasing amount of scientific knowledge and understanding.

Mathemagician at the Junior School!

On Tuesday 10 March, 'The Mathemagician', Andrew Jeffrey, visited the Junior School and amazed pupils with his humorous and motivating Magic of Maths performance. The show included a variety of magic tricks, and the children thoroughly enjoyed discovering the mathematics behind each of them. It enabled the children to see maths in different light and they left eager to practise the tricks on their friends and family!





J2 Trip to Handsworth Gurdwara

J2 visited the Gurdwara to learn more about the Sikh faith. They listened to a talk which explained how the Gurdwara is used and maintained. The children then had the opportunity to go into the prayer halls and hear the Guru Granth Sahib being read, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

J4 Trip to Tate Liverpool

Following an inspiring Christmas term studying Pop Art in their Art lessons, the J4 pupils travelled north to visit Tate Liverpool. They went to view the 'Transmitting Andy Warhol' Exhibition, where they viewed and sketched original art work by arguably the most famous of all Pop Artists. In addition, they also visited the Walker Gallery where the children compared and contrasted an impressive range of both modern and more traditional art.

Junior School Latin play

A Roman mouse? A cat called Vibrissa and Cerberus, the dog? A Roman soldier, Flavius Cerialis, complete with his centurion's helmet, pugio and scutum? What have all these characters got to do with Solihull Junior School?

After weeks of activities including learning basic Latin, sampling 'Roman' food, making Samian ware pottery and performing Greek myths, Junior School pupils set themselves a task of performing a short Latin play. It is set in Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall. There are birthdays to celebrate, spilt milk to mop up, dancing mice and bored school children. Where two cultures, eras and languages meet and greet, a unique cocktail is produced, shaken but definitely not stirred. Our pupils were able to understand more about what life was like for animals, slaves and Roman citizens in this bleak outpost of the Roman Empire in Britain.





World Book Day

On Thursday 5 March the Junior School took part in World Book Day with their unwavering enthusiasm, as always! Teachers followed a Biblical theme and came dressed two by two, as animals from Noah's Ark. Noah was played brilliantly by Mr Penney [method acting anyone?] and really looked the part.

Librarians took on staff from each year group in 'Mrs Atkins's Big Juicy Book Quiz of the Year', and despite being a closely fought contest, the librarians just pipped staff to the post and became worthy victors, for the first time ever!

Safer Internet Day

The Junior School recently celebrated Safer Internet Day with a special assembly and a slogan competition. The Monitors of the Junior School ICT Suite produced and delivered their assembly to the Junior School, aiming to raise awareness of the dangers of using the Internet for gaming, social networking and downloads. The Monitors also set up and judged an Internet Safety Slogan Competition, whereby pupils in the Junior School were encouraged to design a slogan to remind pupils of the important task of being safe on the Internet. A huge number of entries were received and the winners are to be displayed on Junior School display screens and computers.

Junior School Sports Tour

The first ever girls and boys Junior School Sports Tour took place in February. A trailblazing group of thirty hockey players travelled to Bath to compete against Kingswood School and KES Bath. The standard of hockey was fantastic and our players did themselves proud as all four boys' and girls' teams were undefeated over the course of the weekend. Out of eight games played, six were won and two were drawn – tremendous results! As well as playing hockey, the lucky children enjoyed a variety of other activities including a visit to The Roman Baths, a meal out at Nando's, bowling and an evening of film and pizza! Both children and staff had a great time and a high standard has been set for future tours.





Junior School Sport Report

The end of the Easter term marks the close of another very busy period in the Junior School Sport calendar.

Boys across all age groups have been involved in house competitions, with Jago winning the 'A' league in J3/J4 House Hockey and Shenstone winning the 'B'. In J1/J2, Jago took home the plaudits after an afternoon of fiercely fought Tag Rugby! The U11 boys have had a demanding schedule and this year entered the School's first IAPS hockey tournament posting some very impressive results, notably beating The Yarn School and St Olave's 3-0. Unfortunately they lost out in the quarter finals but gave a very good account of themselves. They topped off this action-packed term by returning home unbeaten from our inaugural tour to Bath. Elsewhere, there have been impressive performances for the boys across all age groups against very strong opposition such as Bromsgrove, Warwick, Foremarke Hall and Bilton Grange.

The girls have had another great term of sport.

In netball, the Junior School girls have achieved eight impressive victories, two draws and four losses against tough opposition. Notable performances include the U11A team beating EHS 11-1 and the U9 netballers beating Hallfield 8-4. The U8 team has shown remarkable improvement this term culminating in a 4-1 victory over Eversfield. Additionally our U11 netballers competed for the first time in the U11 age group at an IAPS regional tournament against 42 other schools. They did not get through to the final rounds but put in a strong performance with 1 win, 4 draws and 2 losses.

Hockey shone this term for the U11 teams in the Junior School with the U11 girls' team returning unbeaten from a tour away in Bath. They also beat a mixed girls and boys side from Eversfield 2-0 and 2-1.

American Professor pays us a visit

We were very fortunate to have Albin J. Cofone, Professor of Sociology and Geography at Suffolk College, Long Island, New York pay us a visit in mid-January to deliver four bespoke seminars to Junior School and Upper Sixth students. All four talks complemented the curriculum studies of the pupils and led to lively discussion and debate. The J2s and J3s very much enjoyed their talks on New York and Death Valley respectively. Professor Cofone then made his way across the campus to meet the Upper Sixth Historians and delivered a fascinating presentation on *Richard Milhous Nixon and the Long Road to China*, followed by an enthralling talk to our Political Scientists entitled *Gridlock Nation*. The depth of his knowledge and expertise were of benefit to all.



Links with our local Primary Schools

On Monday 19 January the Design and Technology Department hosted Acocks Green Primary School for a bread making session. Mrs Hallworth had the group baking some delicious plaited loaves and the smell of them cooking was amazing! All involved had a terrific time and many thanks indeed to everyone who helped out with the session.

On Friday 6 February the Maths Department hosted a Gifted and Talented session with 30 pupils from local primary schools. Some of our own Junior School pupils were also in attendance and the session was run by Mr Bishop and Mr Worrall, who were ably assisted by some Sixth Form Mathematicians. All the pupils involved had a great morning and learnt a great deal.





Old Silhillians Golfing Society

The Old Silhillians Golfing Society (OSGS) is the only Sports Section within the OSA that is exclusively for former pupils of Solihull School, currently with 145 members.

OSGS have 20 events spread throughout the year catering for golfers of all abilities. There are 6 Society competitions and 9 matches played against local Clubs, School Societies and of course, most importantly, the annual fixture against Solihull School, which this year is on Sunday 26 April. OSGS play their home matches at Olton Golf Club.

The Old Sils are founder members of the National Public Schools golfing organisation, named Grafton Morrish, now in its 51st year. The Society represents Solihull School in the Midland Regional competition and has only twice failed to reach the National Finals held in late September at Hunstanton & Brancaster in Norfolk. Solihull School has twice won the trophy, twice won the Solihull Salver, which is presented to the winners of the Plate competition, and on 4 occasions has won the Committee Cup. The team of 6 play scratch foursomes and this year has a handicap of 4 or less. With the talented golfers in the current Sixth Form, we would hope to see some new players in the team in the near future.

Current pupils are eligible to play in the OSA Challenge Cup on Thursday 11 June and pupils partnering a parent are also welcome to play in the Am-Am on Thursday 16 July. More information regarding these fixtures and the Old Silhillians Golfing Society can be found on the OSA website, from Mr Hart, teacher i/c School Golf, or from the Society Secretary John Belcher: john.belcher04@virginmedia.com.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Schools Challenge is an increasingly popular clay pigeon shooting competition with shooters travelling from all over the country. This year TSC was celebrating its tenth anniversary and was open to both Schools and Universities. Two Solihull teams took part on Wednesday 12 March. The Gentlemen's team consisted of James Sutton (C), Angus Young, Luke Sheeran, Jacob Gilbert and Matthew Gransbury. The Ladies' team consisted of Lauren Packham (C), Vini Vinod, Odile Webber, Lydia Stephens and Georgina Brownsword. Both teams shot well with the Ladies' team securing 3rd place. Odile Webber was our own High Gun and being placed 14th out of 32 individually. The Men's team were placed a respectable 15th with James Sutton being placed 79th out of 138 with only 13 clays separating the top 79 places. The day was supported by many different sponsors which made it an exciting day with a great atmosphere. Thank you to James Sutton (who has captained the team this year) and Angus Young who have represented the School team for the last three years.





Solihull Ski Team: ISSC, Les Houches & Aiglon Cup, Villars

On 6 March Helena Newbould, Tom Lawrence, Patrick Kelly and Dan and Ella Giles left for Switzerland to represent the School in two International Ski Competitions.

The weather for the races was dry and sunny which, while presenting a glorious backdrop for spectators, presented the racers with the problem of having icy pistes first thing with slushy snow for the second runs, something never experienced on the 'plastic' at Ackers! A further challenge was the level of competition: school teams that largely train on snow for 6 months of the year and included both British and Swiss national junior squad skiers. All the team members rose to these multiple challenges and performed above expectations, learnt a lot and had enormous fun.

The efforts of the racers saw Solihull finish fifth overall in the Aiglon Cup competition, the highest placed of the UK-based schools. Everyone involved is now looking forward to next year's winter races when Solihull can again pit themselves against some of the best British and International ski race competitors.

Rugby

The Solihull 7's Tournaments have just been completed with 24 schools competing, across U18 to U13. There were sides from as far away as Pontypridd and a total of 1152 pupils played in 280 matches. The Tournaments are now regarded as the premier occasions in the Midlands. The School won the U13 title and also won the Shield at U15 level. The U18 team reached the Cup semi-final. A special mention to both Mr Covill and Dr Jukes for their relentless work rate to make it a great celebration of 7's. The catering and medical care were exemplary as always. Plus, all matches were played on the best surfaces country wide due to the fantastic efforts of Karl and the grounds staff.

Congratulations to Mitchell Reeve for being selected to represent the England Independent Schools' Barbarians U13 XV in a series of forthcoming matches. Further congratulations go to Daniel Gaffney who achieved a trial for the Barbarians.

Easter Term Teams of the Week

U12A Netball Squad

Superb performance & victory (23-3) versus Bablake School

The Upper Fifth Form

Excellent conduct throughout the mock examinations

U13 Girls' Hockey Team

Tremendous performance & victory versus Saint Martin's School

British Biology Olympiad Competition Team

A wonderful all-round performance

Boys' IVth XI Hockey Team

Excellent performance & victory versus Warwick School

French "Château" Team

Wonderful ambassadors for the School!

1st VII Netball Team

Superb performance in the Regional Competition

Golf Team

Excellent performance and victory in the ISGA Plate.

Cast and Crew of Les Misérables

5 fabulous nights of drama and music



SOLIHULL



Personalised Granite Stones

As a striking addition to our new Sixth Form Building, opening in September 2015, we are planning to lay personalised granite stones in the main foyer. Each signature stone will be engraved with details of the person in whose honour it is given. You can choose to have a stone engraved with the name, house and school dates of you, your child, or another family member or friend, to mark their time at Solihull. For any donation of £250.00 or more to the School, we will lay one of these stones.

Donations will go towards the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places, which enables talented pupils to attend Solihull, regardless of

financial capabilities, thus creating a powerful connection between past and future generations.

If you would like to see what these unique pieces will look like, please call in to the main School reception where we will have a sample on display. These stones are selling fast and we now have only a limited number still available to purchase.

Please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office, on **0121 703 2963**, or at **dev-os@solsch.org.uk** for more information and to reserve a stone.

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