

Summer Term 2015

The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



This term we welcomed cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers to the School. He spoke about his illustrious career and about the forthcoming International Schools Tournament in Barbados, where Solihull will again be competing this summer.

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



The **Greyhound** Interviews... Mrs Skan, Careers Advisor

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I went to University, I've done gap years and I worked in business for 20 years. So I think what I enjoy most is sharing the things I've learned with students who are just starting their journey. I get excited about the opportunities they have in front of them.

Did you enjoy your time as a student at Solihull School?

Yes I loved it, and tried to make the most of it. I was in the Musical, played hockey and netball, and learned how to sail. I made some great friends too. It's a great place to go to school.

What did you do before coming to work at Solihull School?

In the 5 years before starting here I worked in recruitment in the automotive industry and spent a year living in Hong Kong which was a really exciting place to be.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I like to keep fit and enter fun races like Race for Life and the Wolf Run. I love to cook and walk my dog, Tilly. I really enjoy being active.

What's your perfect meal?

Prawns with guacamole, steak, and for dessert either strawberries and cream or chocolate mousse. Or both!

Who is your favourite band or singer?

My guilty pleasure is 70s and 80s music! ABBA is my favourite band.

Development and Alumni Relations

Susie Jordan joins the team

Susie Jordan joined Solihull School on 20 April as the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Susie is planning to grow and enhance Solihull's network of alumni, parents, former parents, former staff and friends across the world. Through a wide programme of events and communications, Susie and her team will be striving to keep the network informed about developments at the School, aiming to bring them closer to support the future of the School and its pupils.



Over 60's Lunch

We were delighted to welcome 25 members of the Old Silhillians Over 60's group back to School on 13 May. The group went on tours of the School, which provided them with the opportunity to see how the campus has developed over the last 40 years. The Old Sils all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, reminiscing about the School in their time and admiring the facilities available to our current pupils. Following the tours the guests went on to the Old Sils Clubhouse where they could catch up with old friends over lunch and hear from the Headmaster about the School's plans for the future.





Civic Visit

On 5 May Civic leaders from across the West Midlands and Warwickshire visited Solihull School at the invitation of The Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull Councillor Mrs Kate Wild. Over lunch the Headmaster updated guests on Solihull's three main aims: Ambition, Opportunity and Community, together with his plans for the future development of the School. Following this, the guests were taken on a tour of the School by our Benchers, leading to an informative talk from our Archivist, John Loynton in the Archive Room.

Doris Tomlin

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Doris Tomlin has passed away after being ill for some time. Both Doris and Denis worked at the School for many years and have never ceased to be an important part of the place.

The funeral was held on Tuesday 12 May at Robin Hood Crematorium, with the wake taking place at the Old Silhillians Clubhouse. The service was very well attended and it is clear that Doris will be missed by so many.

Headmaster features on ITV Central News

This term, Headmaster Mr Lloyd featured on ITV's Central News talking about mental health issues among young people.

The television appearance followed a blog post the Head wrote about anxiety, stress and depression among school pupils nationwide. He noted that things such as the fear of failure, modern technology and pupils facing pressures about job security have all combined to lead to a rise in mental health issues among younger people.

In his blog, the Head writes how he hopes increased awareness of the issues, as well as the introduction of programmes such as mindfulness, will help combat the trend.





@solschcharity are pleased to announce the comedy night raised £5700 for Green Lane Nursery.
(29 April)



Duke of Edinburgh venture

This term, 67 pupils completed their bronze venture in the Peak District for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The routes were tough and many pupils had very sore feet afterwards!

Well done to all involved including Saskia Freshwater who celebrated her 15th birthday with a miniature cake at the campsite!



A group from Solihull Action through Advocacy came in to do a performance about stigmas in society #socialjustice. (5 May)



Maddie wins place at Cambridge Summer School

Maddie Browse, in the Lower Sixth, has won a prestigious place at the Cambridge Summer School after completing the Cambridge Senior Physics Challenge. The National Competition sees budding scientists complete a range of difficult Physics and Mathematics questions online.

Maddie has been awarded one of the seventy places at the five day summer school in June. Here she will participate in lectures, practical lab classes and intensive tuition, looking at developing problem-solving and experimental skills, as well as hearing about the admissions process for those wanting to study Physics at University.

She said: 'I'm really happy; the Summer School will give me a great insight into the real world work of physics and university. It will also help me with my future career'. After completing her A-Levels in Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths, Maddie hopes to study either Physics or Computer Science at University.



Car Share Writer Gives Creativity Workshop

Old Silhillian Tim Reid returned to the School to talk about his career as a comedy writer and lead a creativity workshop. The *Car Share* writer spoke to the Lower Fifth about the world of comedy writing and his career path. He also talked about the process of coming up with the concept for the *BBC One* sitcom, which stars comedian Peter Kay. Drama and English pupils then took part in a creativity workshop, where they looked at how to think creatively and how to nurture ideas. Tim said: 'It was wonderful to be back. A lot of happy memories from my time here came flooding back. The pupils were so engaged and had some great ideas. It was great to see them embracing creative thinking'.

Charity Gala

On Sunday 21st June, a West End Extravaganza was hosted by the School. The MAD MAD Gala was organised and staged in order to raise money for the Third Form chosen charity, The Brain Tumour Charity. It was an afternoon of dance, song, and acrobatics! West End star, Ria Jones, was the special guest, who wowed the Bushell Hall audience with songs from the shows. Many thanks to Georgia Jones for promoting the charity, and the many pupils who helped both front of house and backstage.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the School community for taking part in all of our Charity events this year. It is looking like the total raised will be close to £53,000. We will publish the final total on our social media sites.





Upper Sixth Leavers' Celebrations

This year's leavers' celebrations were another emotional affair; it is always a strange time of year for the Upper Sixth with the juxtaposition of exam stress and the excitement of finishing school. This year was no exception with a number of less fortunate pupils sitting English and Geography exams on their final official day of school. As with previous years, the final Chapel service marked the start of the process and this was a truly memorable affair; the highlights being the farewell speeches by the Heads of School and the rendition of 'I'll be there for you' from Friends by the Upper Sixth choral group. The champagne breakfast the following morning proved to



be as popular as ever, although questions were raised from some pupils over false advertising due to the use of Morrison's bucks fizz rather than Moët! As ever the final assembly contained musical performances, comedy videos and photos which drew an equal number of cringes and tears, and the barbeque at Old Silhillians' in the afternoon was a chance to collect hoodies and write farewell messages in yearbooks. I would like to thank the Upper Sixth for the good natured end to their time here and of course the huge contributions they have each made over the years.





Art and Photography Summer Exhibition 2015

This year's Summer Exhibition got off to a fantastic start with our guest of honour Matthew Sanderson, the Mayor Councillor Glenis Slater, and fourteen local junior schools. Parents, pupils and friends enjoyed live music and refreshments while viewing the wonderful new artwork and photography created by this year's A-Level and GCSE pupils.

Also on display were over eight hundred entries from the junior schools' 'Art Postcard' competition. This is a new competition

aimed at all local junior schools, including our own, and the response was fantastic. The winners and runners-up received their prizes from the Mayor on the night.

Matthew Sanderson is currently making two new sculptures for the school grounds and brought along a selection of his smaller pieces for pupils and parents to see. There was also new design work on display from the Design and Technology department and a live demonstration by Mr Worth's digital drawing club pupils.

Budding Engineers Receive UK Recognition Award

Two teams of four from the Lower Sixth successfully completed the Engineering Education Scheme. The Scheme aims to provide opportunities to young people to enhance their skills through industry-led projects and help to connect businesses with talented budding engineers and scientists. Over the last five months they have been working closely with seven engineers from Jaguar Land Rover on two projects. Both teams came up with some brilliant ideas, and presented these to an expert panel of engineers. They also achieved an Industrial Cadet Gold award, as a measure of their hard work and effort throughout the project.





We achieved record results @UKMathsTrust #Maths Challenge with 34 Gold, 66 Silver & 66 Bronze Certificates - best results in recent memory. (21 May)



Solihull pupils to join the RSC's Merchant of Venice

Five talented pupils from the Junior and Senior Schools joined the cast of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), to perform in a production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

The show, at Stratford-upon-Avon's Royal Shakespeare Theatre, saw Freddie Truman, Oscar Huissoon, Courtney Holland, David Hass and Ewan Waddell form part of the play's choir.

Mr Walker said: 'This is the first time Solihull School choir members have been involved in an RSC production and it's an honour for them to have been selected to take part. Each student has a great deal of experience, with David recently in *Les Misérables* and Freddie selected as lead in the Junior School's production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*. I'm confident that they will all excel and look forward to watching them in action'.

Turkey Trip

In April twenty five intrepid Classicists from the Fourth Form to the Lower Sixth set out for an adventure full of Turkish delight! Our guide Bora was a mine of information and brought the amazing sites we saw truly to life. From the excitement of standing in Troy (almost too much for Mrs Johnson) to the beauty of Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, via several amazing Hellenistic theatres, the trip could not have been better! We had a fantastic time and are already looking forward to our next Classical adventure!



Our U10 #rounders team won Gold in a local tournament yesterday! They were undefeated all afternoon! #solschsport. (21 May)



Young Enterprise Success

Hannah Currie won the award for 'Best Managing Director' at the Solihull area Young Enterprise competition. She has ably steered her YE team 'Evolution' to a very successful trading year. Her peers have recognised the challenges she has faced and the difficult conversations she has had to have! Evolution have taken a very professional approach to their tasks and received excellent comments from the judges about the quality and professionalism of their final presentation.

Fourth Form pupils have recently undertaken a short enterprise 'taster' activity as part of the PSHE programme. Ten groups of pupils were given £10 and asked to invest in activities which would help them to turn the £10 into something bigger. The pupils had some great ideas and huge enthusiasm, which could be developed further in the next round of the YE Company programme for 2015/16.



Solihull Master Chef 2015

The theme for the 2015 Master Chef was British Food.

The first round and semi-final required pupils to make products which were typically British and could be served at an afternoon tea. The standard was exceptional. The Final will be held on 29 June and will be judged by a lecturer at the University College Birmingham, Head Chef at Lea Marston Hotel and Mrs Skan.

Chapel Pet Service

The Pet Service has become a highlight in the School Chapel calendar, celebrating the deep reciprocal relationships that humans form with a variety of nonhuman animals. Stories, readings, prayers, hymns and blessings filled with respect, compassion and love honoured the place that animals play in human lives. It was wonderful to welcome so many adorable pets to our service. Well done to all who participated. See you next year!





Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Four Third Form pupils – Freddie Albrighton, Emily Baker, Joseph Morgan and Melissa Yip – were selected to take part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham. Their day involved taking part in two 'challenges' situated in the University's Chemistry laboratories. The first was the Salters' Challenge followed by the University Challenge. This team of excellent Scientists won the former despite most of the other entrants being from the year above. Well done!

Pupils raise over £2000 in Sponsored Read

Pupils have raised £2218.37 for charity in a Sponsored Read. Most of the pupils in the Third Form took part in the challenge, raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity, which is this year's chosen charity for the year group. Over the course of a half term, they had to read as much as they could, asking friends and family to sponsor them either per book or per chapter. Miss Airdrie said: 'I am truly amazed by the amount of money raised by our Third Formers. I am really proud of all the pupils who participated; their money will make a real difference to the work carried out by the Brain Tumour Charity. Well done, everyone!'





Concerts and Recitals

In addition to the wonderful array of choral activities we have enjoyed this term, we have also had five concerts for instrumentalists: the large-scale Summer Concert and Junior School Concert, a concert of Jazz and Light Music, a Vocal Masterclass and concert, a recital given by Ben Davidson and Katie Williams from the Upper Sixth Form, and an Informal Concert (which had to be split into two concerts as so many pupils were keen to perform!). All these have provided wonderful experiences for pupils to perform solo and ensemble items in public. In every concert all performers – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache.

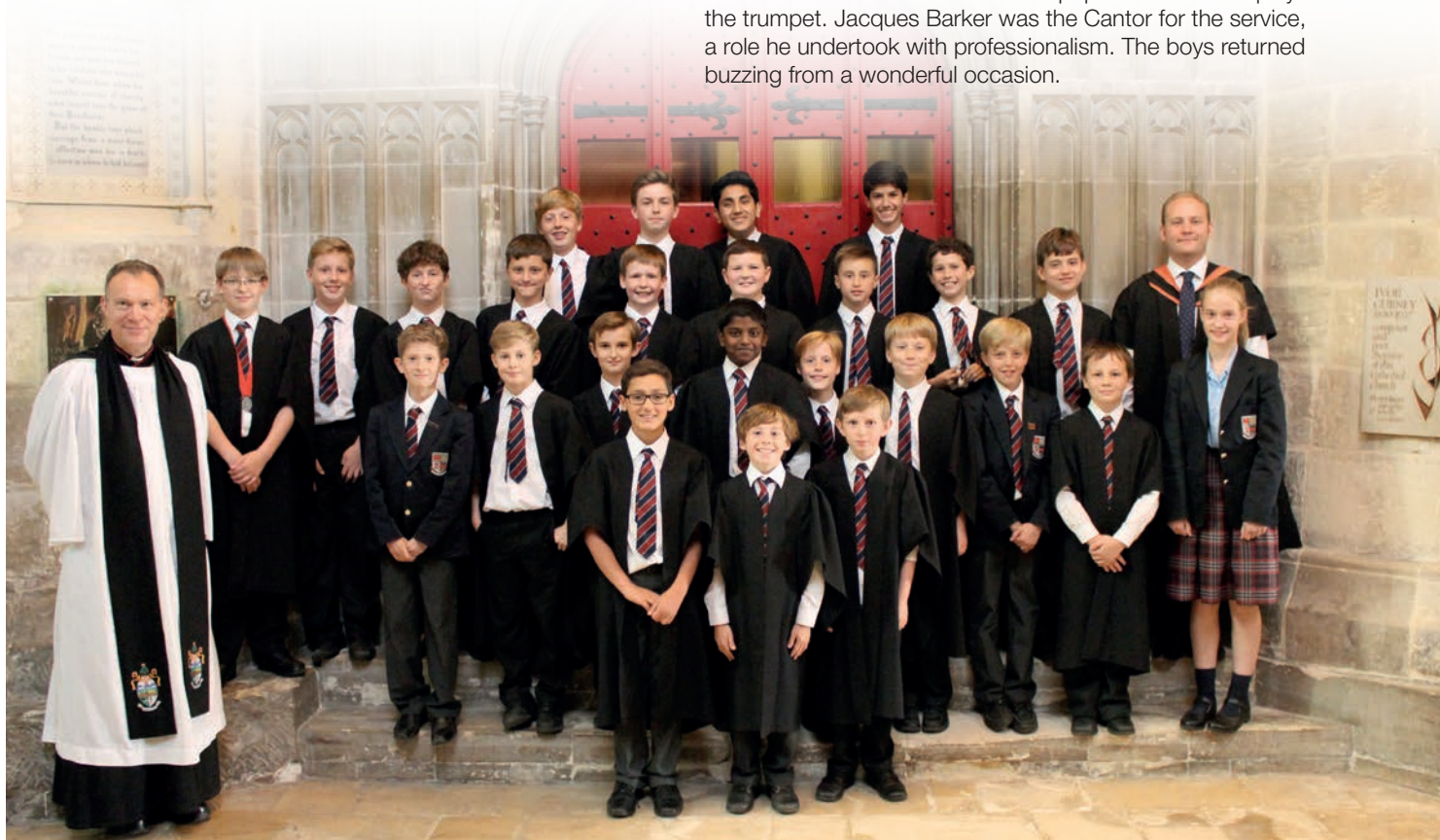


BBC 'Daily Service' Performance

On 16 June the Girls' Choir performed once more on the BBC's 'Daily Service' programme, broadcasting live to 250,000 people across the world as well as pre-recording a second show which went out the next day. The girls, who were privileged to share the role of leading the worship with Bishop Paul Bayes of Liverpool, performed music including Dyson's *Magnificat*, Archer's *A song of creation* and hymns to match the theme of old age. Congratulations to Maddie Browse who played the flute, Georgina Dalby and Aishwarya Jagadeeswaran who sang solos and Katie Phillips who read beautifully.

Boys' Choir visit to Gloucester Cathedral

On June 8, 24 members of the Boys' Choir travelled to Gloucester Cathedral where they were honoured to rehearse and sing Choral Evensong in the most magnificent setting. After a tour of the Gothic architecture, including seeing the tomb of King Edward II, the boys performed music including Symons's *Sing we merrily*, Moore's *Magnificat* and Burgon's *Nunc Dimittis* for which Third Form pupil Bethan Bown played the trumpet. Jacques Barker was the Cantor for the service, a role he undertook with professionalism. The boys returned buzzing from a wonderful occasion.





Thanks to @LoudmouthUK for presenting 'My Mate Fancies You' to our Juniors #solschjuniors.
(5 June)



Austria Ski Trip

On Friday 27 March, 33 pupils from the Third and Shell Forms, accompanied by two Lower Fifth chaperones, left School for St Michael im Lungau in Austria. We arrived at the Hotel in bright sunshine and little sign of snow. Luckily there was enough snow on the mountains to ski on the first day but it felt like summer. However, the next morning we woke up to snow in the village and lots of fresh powder to ski on the mountain. These conditions remained for the rest of the week. The pupils all had a great time and their skiing improved over the week due to the great conditions and excellent instruction from the ski school. The race at the end of the week certainly saw some very fast times. I would like to thank all the staff who helped make the trip such a success: Miss Lynch, Miss Rutherford, Mrs Hadley Leonard and Mr Tovey.



Anyone for cake? The #solschjuniors had a cake sale today to raise money for @HelpforHeroes.
(5 June)



Junior School Council

This term the Junior School Council has had one focus: finding a new Prime Minister. We held a mock TV election to decide on a new leader for the Junior School. Arabella Morral won with her party Innovation. Each candidate was allowed three policies; Arabella's were The Three E's:

- Environment – Swap Shop
- Excitement – Gift Shop
- Education – World-themed Days

The Swap Shop was to stop people throwing away old possessions. You could swap things like books, pencil cases and anything else in good condition. The Gift Shop has been in high demand in the Junior School. World Days would be a chance for different cultures to be explored, with children being able to learn specifically about a certain country and its culture.

Arabella has spent the remainder of the summer term looking into the feasibility of these ideas and attempting to get them running.

Jenny Hodge J4M and Emma Wild J4L

Public Speaking in the Junior School

On Wednesday 17 June six J3 pupils – Daisy Bentley, Pippa Meigh, Joshua Kermode, Jem Perry, Ben Raybould and Sebastian Thompson – were chosen by their peers to perform in the J3 public speaking final in the Bushell Hall. All speakers did remarkably well, providing an entertaining afternoon for their Junior School audience. Ben Raybould was chosen as the worthy winner with his splendid talk on 'If I won the lottery' and Jem Perry was a worthy runner-up with his informative talk on Time Travel.



J3 PGL at Boreatton Park

The J3s once again had an amazing time on their adventure weekend at Boreatton Park in Shropshire. As soon as we arrived we were given buoyancy aids and took to the lake. After some tactical discussions, the J3s were quickly creating their rafts, this year with a teacher on board! After that, the J3s dressed up as robots and attacked each other with the ultimate robot weapon... the water balloon! The rest of the weekend was filled with canoeing, rock climbing, catching the trapeze, aero ball, and two new activities: archery and quad biking.





J1 Geography Trip to Tesco!

The J1s learnt all about how our food comes from a farm to our plates. We were taken into their onsite bakery to learn about baking bread. We then iced some cookies that were specially made for us. After that, we were asked to locate the countries that different types of fruit and vegetables came from which shocked us all! Then we tasted cheese and bread. We had a fantastic time – especially when we shut the teachers in the freezer!



J1 Botanical Gardens Art Trip

On Monday 1 June, the J1s visited Birmingham Botanical Gardens to explore different varieties of plants and flowers, based around their art topic. The pupils identified shapes, patterns and textures of tropical, sub-tropical and arid plants, creating some detailed drawings. All pupils were excited to discover new, exotic plants and an enjoyable day was had by all.





Junior School Scholars

Congratulations to our latest set of Junior School pupils who have been awarded scholarships for the Senior School. Daniel Giles, Tara Warrington, Freddie Truman, Isabel Fennell, Katy Thomas, Zain Rizvi and William Sunderland all received Academic Scholarships. Meanwhile, Oliver Palmer was awarded a Music Scholarship, while Melike Sparrow and Ella Giles received Art Scholarships!

Year 6 Team Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 28 April, two teams of four J4 pupils took part in the Year 6 Team Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School where they competed against five other regional schools. Pupils were required to work in their groups and apply their Maths knowledge to solve challenging problems. They also needed to devise strategies to ensure they gained the maximum number of points in each round by working as pairs, individuals or as a whole team within a time limit. The day was incredibly successful with our teams finishing in first and fourth position overall out of ten participating teams.





J3/J4 Canoe Club

This term saw the start of an exciting new club in the Junior School. Pupils in J3 and J4 have been learning to canoe at Solihull Canoe Club in Catherine de Barnes. The progress made by all pupils in just four weeks has been outstanding and a number of pupils are now taking part in training sessions with the club on Saturday mornings. Soon, they will be involved in competitive racing!

Junior Boys' Hockey Team Win Midland Championships

Congratulations to the Junior School's Boys' Hockey Team who brought home the U11s Midland Hockey Championship Trophy. The tournament saw 13 teams from across the Midlands compete to hold the prestigious title.

Solihull School played six schools before going into the semi-final, after winning 5 of their games. After beating Bilton Grange 1-0 in the semis they went on to play St. Peter's School. The final took place on 24 April and the boys won 2-0 against the Nottinghamshire-based school.





The Croft and KHPS with their excellent fielding skills. Also, our U9 team had a nail-biting match against Eversfield, narrowly losing 15 ½- 15.

Junior School Sport Report

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

The boys topped off a strong term of sport with their success at the Midlands Schools Championships in U11 hockey. Elsewhere there have been excellent wins against Eversfield at U8 and U9 level as well as a nail-biting 1-run win against Bablake for the U11 cricket side.

The girls have also finished their campaign well. After a slow start to the season with summer showers, the Junior School rounders teams have excelled with a fantastic six wins and two draws out of ten fixtures played. The U11 team have recently had two excellent victories against Arnold Lodge School, with a well-deserved 17- 6 ½ victory to end their season. The U10 team have done especially well with a 7 ½ all draw against Hallfield School and then an overall win at a local tournament held at The Croft School. The girls were in fact unbeaten all afternoon, beating strong sides such as





School launches the Solihull Sixes

This term an exciting new cricketing initiative has been set up at the School in the form of 'Six-a-Side' cricket, a new style of the sport, akin to 7s in rugby.

Four competitions – the first of their kind in the Midlands – have been held at School and Solihull triumphed at three age groups (U12, U13, U14) and finished runners up in the fourth (U15). The U12s were captained by Dan Bevan and special mention must go to Ethan Plain who took three wickets in



the final over of the final to secure victory. Fergus Roll led the U13s, who won a dramatic semi-final; Matthew Smith hit two consecutive boundaries off the final two balls of the match to win the game, before going on to win the final. Oliver Nesbitt captained the successful U14 side and Ethan Brookes was the outstanding performer with both bat and ball. The U15s were captained by Will Rigg who was well supported by some promising performances from Tom Serle.

An excellent calibre of schools competed in all four of the tournaments and each event proved to be highly successful and very popular. Many congratulations to all the boys who played.





Further Taekwondo success for Niall

This term Niall McManus sat his Taekwondo 3rd Degree (Dan) black belt examination, which comprised four hours of physical demands followed by a theory test. He was later informed that he had been successful and was presented with his certificate. Many congratulations to Niall!



Tennis Success

Well done to the Junior School's Cameron Holland, who represented the Midlands in the U10s Regional Tennis Championships, winning his 1st game in the age group category above his own.

U15 Rugby Tour to France

In the Easter break the U15 rugby squad travelled to Arcachon with Mr Jackson, Mr Morgan and Mr Phillips for the annual French rugby tour. It turned out to be a great experience for everyone involved. We played two matches: firstly, the clash with Le Buscat ended with a tremendous triumph for the squad. We then travelled to Salles who offered a much more intense and physical game and we unfortunately lost 10-25. It was an incredible week for us all, and we'd like to thank the members of staff for taking time out of their holiday to accompany us.

Tom Serle, Lower Fifth





Athletics Success

In a fantastic term for athletics success, we have 5 West Midlands and 2 Warwickshire County Champions! They are: Charlie Hadley (Long Jump & Triple Jump), Adam Visram Cipolletta (1500m), Sean Mhende (Triple Jump), Matt Deakin (100m hurdles), Phoebe Harland (High Jump), Fraser Blackhurst (High Jump) and Charlotte Rigg (1500m). Well done everyone!

Summer Term Teams of the Week

The Classics Team

Fabulous Camaraderie in Turkey!

2nd XI Cricket Team

An excellent victory versus Warwick School

Benchers 2014-15

A fantastic team effort for 2014-2015

U13 Chess Team

Winners of the Birmingham & District Junior Chess League

U12 Chemistry Team

Winners of the Salters' Challenge

U12 Cricket Team

Winners of the Inaugural U12 Six-a-side Cricketing Competition

U14A Cricket Team

Victorious in the Six-a-Side Cricketing Competition

DofE Bronze Expedition Team

Excellent performance on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

U13 Cricket Team

Winners of the U13 Six-a-side Cricketing Competition

Speller Metcalfe

Successful handover of The Cooper Building

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