

Christmas Term 2016

The Greyhound



SOLIHULL

Heads of School

We welcome this year's new Head of School Lydia Roll, and her deputies Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead.



His Dark Materials: Part Two

This term we were treated to the second part of *His Dark Materials: Part Two*. See inside for more details.



The Greyhound Interviews... **Apollo Mulira, School Governor**

How long have you been a Governor of Solihull School?

I've been a Governor of Solihull School since May 2005. I sit on the Buildings Committee and also the Education Committee where I report on SEND and Gifted & Talented pupils.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

I enjoyed all subjects at school but if anything I preferred Arts subjects such as History and Geography, which might seem strange considering that I went on to study medicine at Cambridge, having obtained a Liberal Arts degree in the United States of America.

What have you enjoyed most about your experiences with the School's international rugby tours?

I toured as Team Doctor with the First XV rugby team on the first international tour to Canada in 2000 and subsequently every two years until 2010. As well as the medical duties, I saw my role as one of acting as an intermediary between the pupils and the teaching staff. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the staff and pupils. It was a privilege to watch the pupils mature and to develop friendships which endure to this day.

You've had a successful career in medicine. What advice would you give Solihull's current aspiring medics?

My advice to them would be to maintain their altruistic instincts in equal measure with maintaining their scientific interests in all matters medical. This is particularly important when attending interviews at medical schools.

I would also advise them to take a special interest in physics because medical schools pay attention to this discipline as it is important in medical practice.

What hobbies and interests do you have?

I am interested in all sports and enjoy watching rugby and cricket. In my professional life I looked after the players at Worcester Rugby and County Cricket clubs as well as being a Jockey Club doctor. I belong to a local gym and especially enjoy the yoga classes.

We are very fortunate to live close to the theatres of Birmingham and Stratford and I enjoy the diverse range of productions that they offer. I belong to a local arts group and enjoy attending the monthly lectures which cover a wide range of subjects. I have always closely followed current affairs and recently in particular the events surrounding 'Brexit' and the American Presidential Election process. I like to read as many daily newspapers as time will allow.

Solihull School Parents' Association (SSPA)

The SSPA was founded in 1939 in order to:

- Engage in activities which support the School and advance the education of its pupils
- Develop more extended relationships between parents, staff and others associated with the School
- Render assistance to the School and its pupils for their general benefit in whatever way the Association deems appropriate, without interfering with the School's discipline or the work of the Headmaster and staff.

Since it was established, the Parents' Association has gone from strength to strength in supporting the School by raising funds for the 'extras' that go over and above the superb facilities the School provides. Events are run each year, and are designed to build a community amongst parents, staff and supporters, have fun and of course raise money.

The SSPA has provided funding for a wide range of school facilities, such as:

- Sporting equipment, scoreboards, trampolines and boats
- Musical instruments including saxophones, pianos and a 50% contribution to purchasing wind and string instruments for the Junior School
- Equipment for use in Terriers, expeditions and co-curricular activities such as cameras, trackers, rucksacks, bikes, fishing rods, telescopes, gardening equipment, binoculars etc
- Help with specific projects such as the Chapel organ, the Bushell Hall recording studio and the sculpture outside the Cooper Building
- Regular expenditure such as on Chapel flowers and prizes for excellence and effort

The SSPA has also supported the School in developing links between parents, the community and others such as local businesses and charities, as well as providing a Careers Fund (now known as the Bursary Fund). It has, at times, taken a very hands-on approach, such as funding and then building

the superstructure over the swimming pool, not to mention cooking for all the events.

Over the last 10 years the SSPA has given just over £200k to the School in grants and has made regular contributions to the Bursary Fund.

We are always looking at new ways of raising funds and thanks to the help of a new parent in the Junior School, we will be launching a Gift Aid Scheme in the New Year. We will send out further details soon and we look forward to your support.

Amit Bagga and Sue Carter
Presidents, Solihull School Parents' Association

School hosts Civic Visit

On 4 October we were delighted to welcome The Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mike Robinson, The Mayoress Mrs Jenny Robinson, and their guests to a lunch and a tour of the School. Afternoon tea was served in our wonderful Archive Room where visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the School's history.





Medics' Society

The Medics' Society is thriving at Solihull School. Since September, twelve speakers have come in to talk to our potential medics, dentists and vets. The talks have proved invaluable, giving the pupils and students a better understanding of what they need to do to become qualified and an idea of the variety of careers available. It also gives them a greater understanding of what the daily life of a consultant, G.P, vet or dentist is actually like. The Upper Sixth applicants have also received interview practice, both for MMIs and panel interviews, and attended an Interview Workshop run by Dr Dent, the Admission Tutor for the University of Keele's Medical School. Many thanks to all the speakers who have given up their time: Dr Chauhan, Dr Taylor, Mr Wolverson, Mrs Karandikar, Dr Brough, Mr Ackroyd, Mr Youssef, Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Huissoon, Ms Crowe, Ms Bosworth and Mr Ellis.



Children in Need

This year's Children in Need fund-raising day was a huge success. The Lower Sixth Charity Committee planned and led a variety of exciting and fun events including: face painting, a treasure hunt for Junior School Pupils, 'Hula Hoop Havoc', and also sold a range of tasty treats. Pupils and staff dressed in bright clothes to add to the celebratory feel of the day. Money was still being counted at the time of going to press, but it looks as though we have raised in excess of £2500. Well done, Solihull!



Speeches Evening 2016

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Speeches this year. Congratulations to all of our prize winners, and thank you once again to Dr Helen Pankhurst for joining us as our guest speaker. Dr Pankhurst is the great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst and granddaughter of Sylvia Pankhurst, leaders in the British suffragette movement. She is CARE International UK's campaign ambassador and she spoke to our prize winners in the Bushell Hall about gender equality and human rights.

Debating

This term Solihull hosted the opening round of the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating Competition. We proposed that the voting age should be reduced to 16, with powerful arguments from both Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead, ably chaired by Eve Colyer. We were delighted to be selected, alongside another team, to compete in the Birmingham Final of the competition. Jessica argued that by lowering the voting age, schools will be incentivised to more substantially include politics in the curriculum, meaning we will end up with a more educated and engaged general public.

Yesterday was the first Lower School Maths Club of the year! Super turn out, challenging problems, and great fun! #SolSchMaths (22 September)

Well done Shenstone for winning the Lower School House Quiz - the first House points on the board! #SolSchHouseComp (23 September)



Remembrance

This year's outdoor Service of Remembrance, as in previous years, was attended by 1,200 pupils, staff and guests in front of the War Memorial, where the CCF paraded and played the Last Post.



House Activities

Pupils from Fetherston, Jago, Pole, Shenstone and Windsor have been busy taking part in a number of House activities this term. Everything from House assemblies, to the One Mile Run, Chess and House Hockey has been going on, and well done to all those involved. The spirit has been great to see and pupils have done themselves proud. The leader board is certainly close, and at the last count Windsor were edging ahead. However, with a few more events to come this term, up-to-date results will be announced in the end-of-term assembly.



Archive Room Visits

This term, groups of Third Form pupils have been given the opportunity to visit and tour our Archive Room. Tours have been led by the School Archivist, Mr Loynton, who has shown the pupils a wide range of school memorabilia, going back many years.

Classics Society

As ever, the Classics Society has been busy in the Christmas term. The Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation students visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and also the Archaeology Museum at the University of Birmingham at the end of term for a study day. The Upper Sixth Latin students attended a study day dedicated to the Roman poet Ovid.



Huge congratulations to Lower Fifth pupil Mark Kimber, who became the 2016 Junior Rotax World Champion this term.



The Upper Sixth started their #ASpire course today. Topics included #leadership #selfesteem and #CV writing. (22 September)

Thank you to all the Heads of Schools who visited us for our training day yesterday! @bablakeschool @NottsHigh @LGSGrammar @warwickschool (23 September)



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Four groups of Upper Sixth Formers pushed themselves to their limit over October half term when they attempted a very challenging four-day Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition which traversed the whole of the Lake District from West to East. Despite various injuries and foul weather during the first three days, all pupils were ultimately successful: a really wonderful achievement of which they can be truly proud. Well done to all.



Third Form at Woodlands

It was only the second school day of the academic year when the whole of the Third Form descended upon Woodlands Camp near Sutton Coldfield for the day. Various outdoor activities helped each of the five new tutor groups to work together and the pupils get to know each other. Despite getting wet and very muddy a good time was had by all.

Duke of Edinburgh Leaders' Training Weekend

School staff and volunteers took part in a training weekend in late November. Snow and ice meant that crampons and ice axes were involved and Dr Atkinson set the standard with his dress code.





Paris 2016

The annual French Department Paris trip was a success again this year! As per our established itinerary, we visited the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Élysées, the French national stadium, the Aquaboulevard indoor water park, and of course, Disneyland. This year also saw the introduction of the Louvre Gallery to the tour, and a dedicated shopping afternoon at *la Grande Arche*. For the pupils, the highlights have to be the spectacular firework display at Disneyland, the impressive Eiffel Tower illuminations, or buying expensive gifts for their parents in the shopping centre! For the staff though, the highlight was probably stepping in as waiters and waitresses, when we had to serve the three-course dinner to all 40 children on the first night, in a restaurant equipped with only *deux serveurs*! What a treat after a 12-hour coach journey! We are already looking forward to our next visit.



Iceland 2016

Over the first six days of the October half-term the Geography Department took 48 pupils to Iceland. The first two days were spent in the north of the country where we were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights. As well as sampling the national recreation on offer in terms of various hot tubs and geothermal pools, we also saw many outstanding features such as the waterfalls at Goðafoss and Gullfoss, as well as geysers and mud pools. The trip wouldn't have been complete without the experience of lava tubing and a glacier ice walk!



Exchange visit to Pinto, Madrid

In October, nineteen Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth students, accompanied by Mrs Roman-Blythe and Head of Spanish Mr Morgan travelled to Pinto in order to complete the first leg of their exchange programme with students from Colegio Mirasur. We had the chance to visit Spain's capital and we also had the chance to discover the enchanting city of Toledo. Our friends from Colegio Mirasur made us feel at home and took care of our students, treating them as members of their own families. We look forward to welcoming them when they come to see us in January 2017.





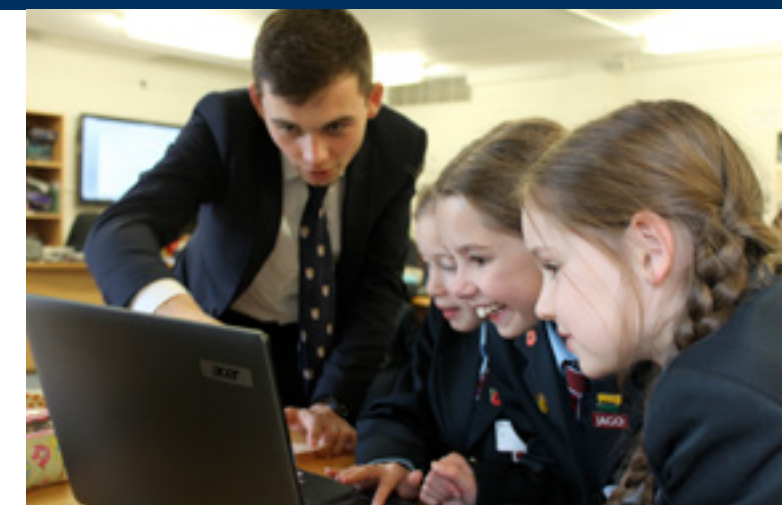
Berlin 2016

Friday 25 November saw the German students head for the biennial visit to Berlin. Our arrival on Friday allowed us to have a guided tour around the Berlin Unterwelten followed by a visit to the DDR Museum, and then our evening meal. On Saturday we had a tour around the city centre, followed by a tour round the Stasi Museum, a meal in a Turkish restaurant and a visit to the Wintergarten Variety Theatre. On Sunday we visited the Check Point Charlie Museum, Jewish Museum and the East Side Gallery (the longest surviving stretch of Berlin Wall). On Monday we went up the Television Tower and had a guided tour around the Reichstag Building. It was a fascinating and enriching trip.



J4 Art Trip to the Royal Academy, London

As part of their Art curriculum this term, the J4 pupils recently visited The Royal Academy London to view the David Hockney exhibition '82 Portraits and a Still Life'. This exhibition showcases Hockney's ability to create the 'Wow factor' with posed figure compositions, by adding unique detail and vibrancy of colour to each portrait. Whilst there, the pupils also had the opportunity to view a new 'Abstract Expressionism' major exhibition, showing large-scale paintings by such artists as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. It was a really inspiring trip and a great time was had by all!



J3 Transition

This term our J3s had a wonderful afternoon in the Senior School learning about IT, Classics and Physics to help ease the transition from primary school to secondary school. They had a great time!

Jaguar Land Rover Trip

J2 pupils enjoyed a unique experience when they spent an informative and fun-filled day at Jaguar Land Rover's production site in Lode Lane, Solihull. The visit supported their Geography topic of 'Settlements and Land Use' and gave them an insight into the importance of Land Rover to Solihull.

The pupils were surprised to hear that Jaguar Land Rover tend to export most of their cars to China and that every car made has already been sold. After visiting where the cars were made, pupils then took part in a 'production challenge' in teams, which involved building Lego cars according to a prototype at speed (the same task that JLR give to apprentices) as well as a memory game, to test their attentiveness. A great start to half term!





The Acorns

September saw the official opening of the 'The Acorns', the Junior School's new Learning and Curriculum Support room. It has been busy in its first term of use, creating a vibrant and supportive environment for many pupils in the Junior School who are keen to fulfil their potential.



National Young Mathematicians Award

This term, four J4 pupils took part in the National Young Mathematicians Award. This was a team event and the pupils were required to work together to solve challenging brain teaser questions. They were marked on their mathematical knowledge, their ability to collaborate as a team and on how well they communicated their ideas. Around 500 schools took part across the UK, with only half of these making it to the semi-final. Hannah Greenwood, Sophie Burtenshaw, William Hodge and Thomas O'Connor were an excellent team and did incredibly well in the competition; they were selected as one of the 12 out of 37 schools from the Birmingham area to go through to the semi-finals.

Journey to the Stable

As part of their Religious Studies topic, J1 visited St Alphege Church, to experience a 'Journey to the Stable.' They met a shepherd, a wise man, the inn keeper's wife and even Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus! The children enjoyed listening to the story of the Nativity from each of the characters and also took part in some craft activities, making their own Christmas bookmark. Pupils and teachers alike had a very enjoyable and festive morning.



Gold Star Awards

After our October half term break, we were delighted to announce this year's first set of Gold Star winners who received their star badges and certificates from Mr Penney. Each teacher explained their reasons for the award, largely focussing on the children's improved efforts and determination. Well done to all!

House Sorting

A few weeks into the new term it was time to 'sort' all new pupils into Houses in true Harry Potter-style. This took place in the Chapel, with many pupils being automatically sorted due to family members already have allegiance with a House. Others were in for a surprise and happily joined their Houses sat in the pews as their names were read out. Here's to another great year of House competitions in the Junior School, with Shenstone looking to successfully defend their title as Inter-House champions from the 2015/16 academic year.





J3 Artist Workshop

This term, the J3 pupils have been fortunate to work with local artist Fiona Payne on a 'Still Life' workshop with a difference. She taught the pupils several key points to a successful composition and then demonstrated the many exciting techniques she uses to achieve a textured outcome.

All their wonderful sketches drawn during the workshop were created using wax, cold coffee, pen and ink, sticks, charcoal and watercolours with a little sprinkling of salt to finish! Suffice to say the pupils were wowed by her fantastic ideas and suitably inspired for their own forthcoming compositions!



Local Junior School Art Workshop

Children from Springfield Primary School enjoyed a Christmas-themed silk painting workshop with our Sixth Form students in the Art Department in December. Pupils created some wonderful pieces of work to take back to the school and show their family and friends.

Art and Photography Trip

In December the A-Level Artists and Photographers spent the day at the University College London Institute of Education attending a day of lectures on the creative process. Students were treated to first-hand descriptions of how the prominent artists Grayson Perry, Fiona Rae, Rosalind Wyatt and the photographer Martin Parr develop their ideas and create their award-winning artwork.



Staff Art Exhibition

In November staff from the Art and Design Departments put on an exhibition of their own work in the George Hill Building. Work included painting, drawing, print-making, illustration, photography, textiles and costume and set design.

The staff exhibiting were Karen Perrins (Senior School Art Technician), Kevin Hunton (Design and Technology Technician), Jan Baker (Junior School Art Technician) and the art teaching staff: Donna Trim, Tracy Bryan, Liam Worth, Ruth Whaley and Rachel Morgan.



Art Workshops

Local artist Fiona Payne ran painting and drawing workshops for the Lower and Upper Sixth Form artists exploring architecture through abstraction. She also worked with the Upper Fifth artists to create mixed media still life drawings. Many of the pupils have gone on to use the new techniques in their coursework projects.





His Dark Materials: Part Two

The Solihull School Drama Department can rarely have attempted anything as ambitious and spectacular as *His Dark Materials: Part Two*, the follow up to last year's Lower and Middle School Play. This year's production was presented as a full School Play with a spectacular set by Mr Hunton and over two hundred sound and light cues orchestrated by Dr Jukes. The extremely talented cast demonstrated excellent focus and drive with nearly nine hours of high level performance over three nights.

The story follows the characters of Lyra and Will, brilliantly played by Olivia Hass and Saul Greenburgh, as they fulfil their destinies and save the world from 'The Authority', despite being hunted by the fervent Brother Jasper, an absolutely menacing Joshua Newby. It is impossible to mention everyone who made a vital contribution to this enormously successful production, not least of all the ensemble actors who provided much of the piece's impressive energy and dynamism, but special mention must also go to Oliver Daniels who was magnetic as Lord Asriel, and Gwynneth Horbury who provided an enormously sensitive and powerful performance as Serafina Pekkala.

Hamlet Lectures

In November, seventeen Upper Sixth English students enjoyed a series of lectures on Hamlet at Leicester Grammar School. The lectures were delivered by a number of Shakespeare scholars based at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford. It was an intellectually stimulating day, enjoyed by all.



Drama Report

Theatre Trips

This term Drama students have been on six Theatre Trips to a diverse selection of professional theatres up and down the country. Highlights included *Father Comes Home From the Wars* at the legendary Royal Court Theatre in London and Frantic Assembly's acclaimed *Things I Know to be True* at Warwick Arts Centre.

Play Acting Club

This term saw the introduction of a Play Acting Club for the Upper Fifth and Sixth Form. Over the course of the term great fun was had as we acted our way through *Earthquakes in London* by Mike Bartlett. The play gave a variety of actors the opportunity to practically explore a unique piece of contemporary drama and develop their skills.

Tommy Rehearsals

Rehearsals began this term for the 2017 musical *Tommy*, an exciting theatrical adaptation of The Who's seminal 1969 concept album. Dance rehearsals are well underway with the dedicated Dance Chorus and members of the Singing Chorus can be heard walking around school singing the many catchy songs. Make sure to catch Tommy when it opens in the Bushell Hall on 22 March.

Theatre Design Team

The Theatre Design Team has continued to develop this term with over twenty pupils regularly attending on Tuesday lunchtimes and learning about designing for the stage. The team spent most of their time working on designing and creating puppets for this term's production of *His Dark Materials: Part Two*, but also helped to design and apply make-up under the stewardship of Mrs Thomas.

The Wardrobe

Over three nights in early November, the Lower School performed *The Wardrobe* by Sam Holcroft in the Drama Studio. This production, however, was slightly different to any other play performed by the school, with the direction of the Lower School pupils purely being led by a group of Sixth Formers (Gwynneth Horbury, Emma Hadley, Elle Miles, Anna Higgins, Megan Perry and Eve Colyer). After weeks of rehearsals and learning their lines, the actors filled the Drama Studio every night.

Lower School Drama Club

Lower School Drama Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes and we have around 30 aspiring actors doing it. Every week the pupils turn up with a fabulous attitude and energy which allows us to do a range of challenging and enjoyable activities including improvisation, thematic scenes and mime. At the end of the session the pupils have the chance to show the others their work and we discuss what was good and what could be improved, giving the audience and the actors a chance to see what makes a good performance. I am helped by Harriet Jones and Ellie Featherstone, who are excellent at maintaining order and encouraging the children.



St Cecilia Concert

Not long after half term, the St Cecilia Concert brought together nearly 125 pupils playing and singing in ten different ensembles. The programme, as usual, featured a wonderful breadth of musical periods, styles and genres ranging from music by Shostakovich (*Jazz Suite*), Warlock (*Capriol Suite*), Piazzolla (*Libertango*) and Handel (*Theme and Variations*) for orchestral and string groups, through music for film (*Shrek*, *The Deer Hunter*) and radio (*Listen with Mother*) for other ensembles, and on to jazz (*Birdland & Blue Skies*) and popular (*Friend like me*). These were presented by Symphony Orchestra, Advanced and Lower School String Ensembles, Senior & Intermediate Wind Bands, Big Band, Saxophony, Senior Clarinets, 'All Flutes' and 'The Twelve' (our Sixth Form close harmony group). Not only were all the performers fabulously committed, effective and wonderfully musical on stage, they were all tremendous listeners – really supporting each other throughout. It is always a privilege to see such joy in all the performances; huge congratulations to all concerned.





Charlotte is a winner!

Congratulations to Charlotte Sasse (and her singing teacher Miss Bovill) for being awarded a prize from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for being the pupil who gained the highest mark right across the country in Grade 7 Singing exams last academic year; a tremendous achievement!

Solihull Sings!

In December 2016, pupils from St Alphege Junior School and St Augustine's Catholic Primary School joined two of our J2 classes in a festive Celebration Concert as part of our 'Solihull Sings!' choral outreach programme. Established by Mr Walker, and now a regular fixture, this initiative has impacted over 1000 children from 14 schools across the borough in recent years. The children, who had rehearsed in their own schools week by week with Mr Woodrow, came together to perform a variety of songs in the Bushell Hall, including an African lullaby, a Gospel medley and an array of Christmas repertoire, singing, often in three-part harmony, with real confidence. As ever, the event was a resounding affirmation of the children's hard work and their delight in singing.

Chapel Choir

The Chamber Choir took to the airwaves in October, travelling to Manchester to sing for BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service' programme. Two hymns and a setting of Psalm 23 by John Rutter were sung with great clarity and focus and it was no mean feat for the choir to sing music that was new to them so early in the term to such an excellent standard. This early success paved the way for a moving account of John Rutter's 'Requiem' on Remembrance Sunday, a challenging work in seven contrasting movements requiring clear navigation of the intense chromatic writing. The Full Choral Foundation (boys, girls and Chamber Choir) excelled at the Advent Carol Service, including music by John Joubert, C V Stanford and Charles Wood, and, as I write, rehearsals are well underway for the services of Nine Lessons and Carols, an annual favourite and the highlight of the Chapel's musical year.

The boys' and girls' choirs continue apace and it has been very good to welcome some new probationer choristers from the Junior School this term. My thanks to all those involved with the choirs, and their families, for their ongoing support and dedication.



GCSE Composition Concert

Not long after returning from the summer holiday we held the inaugural GCSE Composition Concert. One composition from each student was presented using the technology of computer and music notation software. Mr Phillips guided us through each piece, highlighting the main features and strengths. We are used to hearing so many of our pupils perform pieces by other (often established) composers, but it was a special treat to see and hear the creative side of their musicianship. Those who were able to attend were not at all surprised to hear that a very high proportion of the students were awarded an A* grade. Bravo!

Able, Gifted and Talented – Music morning

Under the 'Able, Gifted and Talented' scheme, the Music Department welcomed 29 Year 5 and 6 children from local primary schools. After some rhythm and singing warm-up activities they were joined by a similar number of instrumentalists from our Junior School. The 60 children were split into three groups – strings, wind and guitar. Each group had fun learning two pieces and the morning ended with each group performing to the others. Six of our Lower School music award holders ably assisted and guided the younger musicians; it was a lovely morning of making music for us all.

Music Recitals

Once again, many pupils have taken up the opportunity and challenge of performing solo pieces in our Informal Concerts – all with great aplomb and enjoyment. Do remember that these concerts are open to all pupils, whether they have their instrumental lessons in or out of school.

In addition, our termly Recital given by Music Scholars and Instrumental Award Holders was a real delight; all performances, whatever the repertoire or age of performer, displayed real musicianship, passion and sensitivity. Next term's Recital is the domain of just the Upper Sixth and will be well worth a visit.



Music Festival Successes

As ever, our musicians have been out and about performing in various local music festivals. Singers have been particularly busy at the Lichfield and Chads Moor, Hednesford & District Festivals. The number of our pupils gaining 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed prizes has been particularly impressive this year, so huge congratulations to them all, both for their successes and for their courage in performing in an event where their performances will be critiqued by an adjudicator. Special mentions go to Bella Thomas, Shriya Sharma, Hannah Greenwood, Eleanor Gooderidge, Anna Higgins and Charlotte Sasse for gaining at least one 1st prize each.



Music Masterclasses – clarinet, string & voice

Opportunities for pupils to perform under the scrutiny of professional musicians have been plentiful this term. Luan Shaw (clarinet), Peter Martens (cello) and Roderick Williams (voice) are all wonderful practitioners in their own right and they skilfully guided, encouraged and challenged our instrumentalists and singers in aspects of technique, interpretation and performance skills. It is always great to see how all our pupils respond and interact; they all took away some great advice and realised that learning and performing need not be daunting. Later in the year there will be similar opportunities for our pianists, saxophonists and chamber musicians.



Junior School Boys' Sport Report

The Junior School boys have had an excellent start to the season, playing fixtures in rugby, hockey and football. The U11 boys started strong with a 25-5 rugby victory over King Henry VIII, followed by a 2-0 football win against Hallfield. They have since followed this up with great team performances at the Warwick Invitational Rugby Tournament, winning 3 out of their 4 games. The U11 boys' hockey team played their first game of the season, beating Warwick 4-1.

The U10s have equally had a brilliant start to the season, with football wins against Hallfield (1-0) and Formarke (7-1). In addition to this, the U10 football team were runners-up in the Formarke Hall Tournament. In rugby, the U10s began with a narrow loss against King Henry VIII, however with hard work and commitment to training, they recently beat Eversfield in a 30-20 thriller.

The U9 boys have had a run of difficult fixtures with close losses against Hallfield and Eversfield. They have worked very hard and improved greatly over the course of the term, which was evident in their recent rugby battle against Kind Henry VIII School; a narrow 35-25 defeat. The U8 boys have had two rugby matches so far. They started with a very close 12-11 loss against Eversfield, and then an excellent 12-9 victory over King Henry VIII School.

Junior School Girls' Sport Report

The girls have had a good start to the season with a promising set of results in both hockey and netball. The U11 hockey team have had great matchplay experience playing in their first ever hockey tournament at Bromsgrove School, which was followed the very next week by their second ever hockey tournament at Foremarke Hall. They faced tough opposition from around the Midlands and further afield. Notable wins in midweek hockey matches against Arnold Lodge (amassing 11 goals for and only 1 against in a home and away meeting) and a tight win for the A and B netball teams against local rivals Eversfield have been the standout highlights.

The U10s are progressing very well in netball with wins for both the A and B teams against Eversfield and King Henry's, scoring an impressive 33 goals in these two fixtures. On the hockey pitch, they have achieved success in matches against Hallfield and had closely fought games with Warwick. The U9 A and B netball teams have also been in form, winning four of the six matches played this term, and are proving to be a hardworking group with boundless energy and significant potential.

The U8s enjoyed their first experience of competition with a netball fixture against Eversfield. They have shown much improvement in both hockey and netball, with many girls having never played either sport before and are excited about next term's fixtures.



Netball International

On Sunday 4 December, Solihull students visited the Ricoh Arena in Coventry to watch England v Jamaica in the deciding netball match of the Series. It was very close all the way through, but England narrowly lost 56-61. It was an exciting game and a great experience. We would like to thank Mrs Smith, Mrs Baden, Mrs Meigh, and Miss Lloyd for organising and supervising this wonderful trip.

To our surprise, we were able to watch a bonus match between the Wasps senior squad and the England U21s beforehand. This followed on from a trip in November where we were lucky enough to meet the new Wasps squad. We had an opportunity to ask them questions about their netball experiences, training and future goals. After the Q&A we had the fabulous opportunity to watch them train. This has inspired us and we have definitely worked harder since!

U18 Girls' Hockey - Midlands Zone

Having won the Birmingham and West Midlands County Round in fine style, winning all 4 matches scoring 12 goals and conceding none, spirits were high. We travelled to Rugby to face Malvern, Shrewsbury High and Rugby. We lost 3-0 to Rugby, but overall it was a good start against a strong team who were fielding a couple of junior internationals.

Our second game was against Malvern College and despite having the greater possession we failed to convert our chances and lost 2-0. We managed a win in our final game against Shrewsbury High 2-0. Overall, the team played some terrific hockey working the ball out of defence and into midfield, and on another day we may have converted some more chances.

U15 Girls' Hockey Team

The team has had a really promising season so far and have put together a string of fine wins. They were really pleased to receive Team of the Week after their efforts against Wolverhampton Grammar School, and they have shown a terrific attitude throughout the term. On Monday 28 November the girls played in the County Tournament and whilst results didn't go our way, the girls put in some good performances.



Holland Hockey tour 2016

During the first week of October half term, a party of 32 boys and four members of staff flew to Holland for the first senior boys' hockey tour for eight years. Highlights of the tour included watching a Dutch Premier League Match, a visit to the Escher Museum, a canal trip through Amsterdam and, of course, playing hockey against some good quality Dutch sides. The boys played well with a record of three wins and three losses, with some keenly contested matches. Well done to all the boys, who conducted themselves admirably throughout the week.



Senior Rugby

Thus far in the 2016/17 season we have seen the 1st XV make the semi-final of the National Plate, and the 2nd XV earn 3rd spot in the National Schools' league, with the U13A XV in 14th and the U12A 3rd. There have been convincing block victories against RGS Worcester, Bromsgrove, Ellesmere College, Nottingham HS, Trent College and Adams' GS. This is once again a considerable achievement for a co-educational day school. With King's Macclesfield still to play prior to Christmas, and Sir Thomas Rich's School along with Loughborough GS after, there is still plenty of challenging rugby to be played. I would like to thank all players, grounds staff, medical support, refectory staff and team coaches for their considerable and appreciated support.

Christmas Term Teams of the Week

U13A and B XV Rugby Team

Excellent victories v King's School, Worcester

Theatre Team

Tremendous Summer Holiday commitment

1st XI Cricket Team

Warwickshire County Champions

The 'Chariots' Team

An excellent performance!

Ski Team

A superb performance in the British Schools' Ski Race

CCF Cadet Parachute Team

Successfully completing a solo parachute jump

DofE Gold Expedition Team

Completion of the Gold Award: Lake District Expedition October 2016

Hockey Skills & Drills Team

Excellent Instruction at the Hockey Transition Event

Girls' U15 Hockey Team

Fantastic victory v Wolverhampton Grammar School

Girls' U13A Hockey Team

Congratulations on a series of great wins!

The Wardrobe Sixth Form Directors

Excellent direction of the Lower School Play

Schools' Challenge Team

Tremendous commitment, enthusiasm & performance in the regional rounds of the competition

The LAFF Charity Team

Superb fundraising initiative

The IT Team

Exemplary teamwork

Cast and Crew of His Dark Materials: Part Two

Three nights of fantastic drama in the Bushell Hall

Chapel Choir

Two wonderful services of Nine Lessons and Carols

Follow Solihull School on twitter: @solsch1560. facebook: www.facebook.com/SolihullSchool

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