

Easter Term 2017

The Greyhound

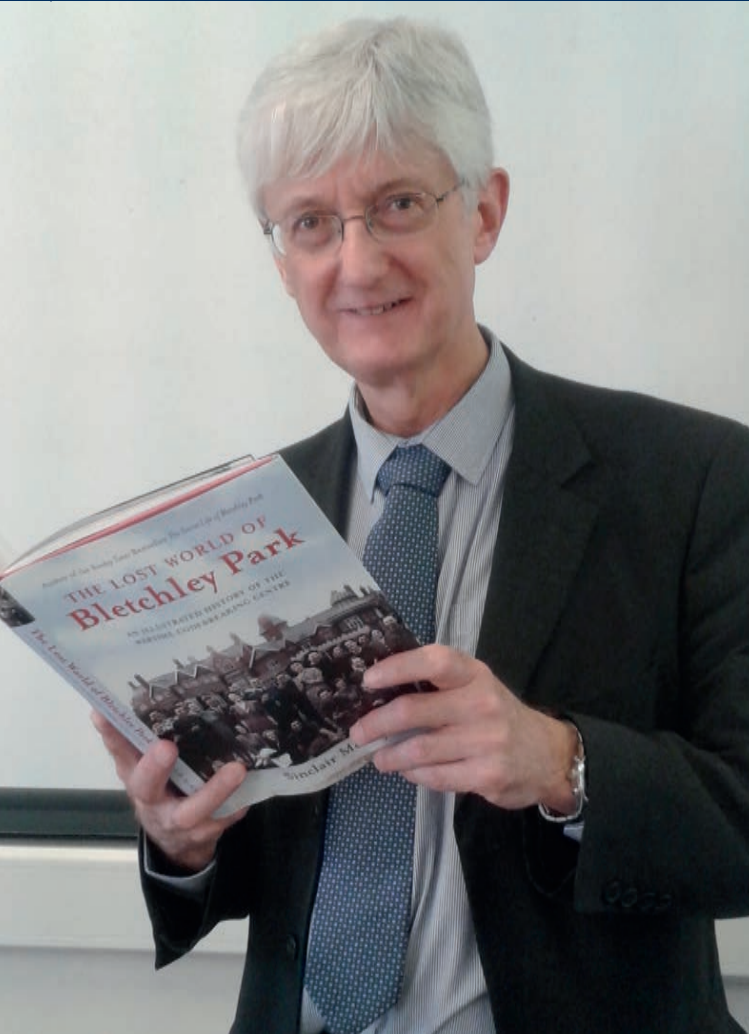


SOLIHULL

This term we welcomed David Walliams to Solihull.
See inside for more information.



We enjoyed the rock
musical *Tommy* this term.



The **Greyhound** Interviews... **Mr Irving, ICT and School Organist**

How long have you been teaching?

Longer than I can remember! Actually it's been over 33 years, 31 more than I had planned!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Apart from the varied challenges and working with a number of extremely talented pupils, the friendship and support offered by my many wonderful colleagues.

What do you like most about teaching Information Technology?

Working with a range of different and exciting technologies as well as seeing pupils develop their computing skills to a level they never thought was possible. It's also those 'light bulb' moments that make teaching the subject really rewarding, especially in areas such as programming, where pupils often struggle to see the logic behind some of the routines.

When did you learn to play the organ, and how did you become involved in playing in the Chapel?

I started learning the organ at Malvern Priory when I was 16, after beginning the piano at the relatively late age of 12. I was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at Solihull in 1983 and faced the responsibility of training the choir and playing the organ whenever the organ students were unable to do so. Since giving up the choir in 2010 I've been playing for most of the Sunday services, which is great as I'm now only responsible for myself!

What is your favourite book and why?

This is a difficult one as I read a range of novels, autobiographies and historical books. I've just completed the Clifton Chronicles and have thoroughly enjoyed books such as *Eagle in the Sky*, *Fair Stood the Wind for France* and *Birdsong*. Perhaps the book I've enjoyed most is *The Secret Life of Bletchley Park* by Sinclair McKay as it not only provides a vivid picture of the place and the brilliant people who worked there during the Second World War but also perfectly captures the conditions and pressures they must have been working under.

What is your favourite kind of music?

Again, this is a difficult one to answer as I listen to a wide range of music. I suppose it depends on what kind of mood I'm in and where I am. In the car it's usually Bryan Adams or Whitney Houston but at home where there's some peace and quiet it'll be something like Rachmaninov's 2nd Symphony or Piano Concerto and Mendelssohn Symphonies. Being an organist, I suppose I would have to opt for organ music, especially that of the great master, J.S. Bach.



Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places

We are extremely grateful to our community of Old Silhillians, parents and friends for their generous philanthropic support. Our community of donors understands the transformative power of a holistic education; its ability to inspire, motivate and unite. Our vision is to transform the lives of future generations to encourage ambition, inspire through opportunities and grow our community.

Thank you to all those who are supporting the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places. Solihull is a registered charity number 1120597. If you would like more information on the Development and Alumni Relations Office or the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places please contact Mrs Jordan at jordans@solich.org.uk



David Walliams comes to Solihull!

Comedian, actor and children's book author David Walliams visited this term after the Junior School pupils named him as their favourite author.

As part of Solihull School's involvement in the Big Read, a Birmingham initiative encouraging literacy through art, the Junior School created a homage to David Walliams's books with their Book Bench entitled Our World of David Walliams. Every member of the Junior School took part in painting the bench before it was displayed in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery over the summer.

To show David their passion for his books, each child in the Junior School wrote the star a letter inviting him to the school and as luck would have it, he said yes!

The children were treated to dramatic readings from *Windy Mindy* and *Gangsta Granny*, and pupils were invited to ask David questions about his writing inspiration and his favourite children's books.





Thanks to #OldSil James Green for talking to our #SolSchGerman students about his placement in Germany and his university course! (14 January)



Official Opening of The Coton Pitch

On Saturday 21 January the Senior Rugby pitch was officially renamed the Coton Pitch in memory of Claude and Dora Coton. Claude and Dora were great supporters of the School and Old Silhillians' Association rugby, and as a result of their generosity we have constructed a new pitch perimeter fence and purchased an electronic scoreboard. It was great to see so many Old Silhillians gathered for this event. Claude and Dora have sadly passed away but are both fondly remembered. Peter Thomas (Shenstone 1966-1973) cut the ribbon and said a few kind words. We came together to watch a fantastic win from Solihull 1st XV against Loughborough GS 1st XV 33-15. Old Silhillians gathered together in the Alan Lee Pavilion for lunch.



Today our #SolSchJS pupils were lucky enough to have a video conference with the National Archives to learn about propaganda in WWII! (16 January)



Debating

The Easter term is always a busy one for debating at Solihull. As well as the training and debates that take place over most lunch times with all year groups, our teams have been competing in a number of national competitions. The team of Gemma Radburn-Todd and Georgina Hart won the Midlands Round of the U16 ICYD Competition and progress to the final in Cambridge later in the year. The School hosted the regional rounds for the two prestigious Oxford Schools and Cambridge Schools Competitions, and after qualifying for the finals in both, the teams consisting of Joseph Gilyead, Eve Colyer, Oliver Rooney and Thomas Williams, competed at the Finals Days. The end of term sees the School's annual participation at the Durham Schools' Debating Competition, the world's largest residential schools' debating competition.



Congratulations to our U13A #SolSchHockey team who took the bronze medal at the Foremarke Tournament on Saturday! (17 January)



The Extended Project Qualification

On Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March, over 100 Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students presented their Extended Project Qualifications to an audience of governors, parents, staff and external visitors. The purpose of the event was for Sixth Form students who have completed the Extended Project to showcase their work and present their main findings, which forms 20% of their final assessment. The event is marketplace-style; each student had their own stand and presented individually about the investigations they have been undertaking. This year we also had representatives from the OCR Examination Board and the University of Southampton in attendance. Miss Roberts, the EPQ Co-ordinator, was delighted with the excellent cohort of EPQ candidates we had once again this academic year. All students involved valued the opportunity to share their research with guests, and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Dr Emma Thompson EPQ Session

On Tuesday 28 February and Wednesday 1 March, Dr Emma Thompson of the University of Southampton came to the School to speak to Extended Project Qualification students in the Sixth Form about writing up their projects. She is responsible for the 'Learn with US' transition programme at Southampton, ensuring that Sixth Form students are fully prepared for academic writing at university level. Students at Solihull are writing 5000 word dissertations or completing an artefact for their EPQ, and as Miss Roberts (EPQ Co-Ordinator) said, 'Dr Thompson's valuable contribution to the session enabled students to think carefully about their formal write-up and research process'.



House Activities

Pupils have been busy in a number of areas competing for their House. Third Form football, chess matches, House hockey and rugby, and Debating competitions have all been happening with great fervour. House Drama involved over 150 pupils, whether that be performing, organising or watching. It was a great success and well done to all involved, and thanks to Mr Hammond for all of his encouragement. There were some terrific performances, and congratulations to Pole who were overall winners.



Our #SolSchDrama students are working so hard preparing for the @RADA_London Shakespeare Awards! (19 January)





Thank you so much to Prof. Al Cofone for doing a series of lectures with our pupils this week - from J2 all the way up to our Sixth Form! (20 January)

Don't forget the Headmaster holds weekly drop-in sessions for both parents and pupils! Our parent sessions are Tuesdays 8:00-8:45am. (22 January)



Rotary Youth Speaks

This term a team of three of our Third Form pupils – Tegan Gilbert, Kitty O'Sullivan and Jem Perry – competed in the Rotary Youth Speaks Intermediate Competition. We were delighted to be selected by the Rotary Club of St Alphege to represent them in the Regional Finals at Bablake School. On the day the trio spoke alongside teams who were two years their senior, delivering a compelling presentation regarding Time Travel.



Careers Convention

A record number of Old Silhillians came to speak to current students and parents at the biannual Careers Convention held in January. A total of 50 companies, 12 universities and 6 gap year adventure companies participated to share their information and inspire students to find out more about possible career paths. A wide variety of companies such as Jaguar Land Rover, Microsoft, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Carillion and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre showed students how to qualify for graduate programmes and apprenticeship schemes and what employers look for in successful candidates. Students were inspired to see former pupils talking about their journey from school to University and beyond.

Linguistics Olympiad: Lower School linguists tackle Basque, Inuit and more!

For the first time, Solihull entered pupils from the Third and Shell Forms for the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Run by University College London, pupils develop their analytical and critical thinking skills to work out sentence structures and written symbols in a number of unknown and different languages. From deciphering symbol writing in Inuit and the origin of Indo-European languages to Tshiluba (an official language of the Democratic Republic of Congo...if you did not know!) to Basque, pupils enjoyed applying the linguistic rules learnt in a modern foreign language to unfamiliar ones.



Budding barristers: Inaugural Bar Mock Trial Competition for Independent Schools

On Saturday 28 January, a team of ten Sixth Form students and five Lower Fifth pupils went to Inner London Crown Court to compete in a series of mock criminal trials in real court rooms in front of serving Crown Court circuit judges. Detailed research and questioning techniques were needed to pick apart the fictitious cases in order to either convict or acquit the defendant. The court room team consisted of Sixth Form students taking the 'Introduction to Law' programme as part of their ASpire studies and included barristers, witnesses, a court clerk and an usher with schools competing against one another, acting either for the prosecution or defence. Some great advocacy was on display with Solihull winning all three cases, as decided by a jurors from other schools. A call from the Bar awaits!

European Youth Parliament

Well done to our pupils who attended the Birmingham round of the European Youth Parliament this term. Our pupils impressed with their proposals regarding dealing with obesity, mental health issues and relations with the Donald Trump administration.



Thank you so much to all the parents who attended our parent seminar last night on Mental Health First Aid! #SolSchWellbeing (20 January)

Earlier this month our #SolSchMaths and #SolSchArt Departments ran a joint trip to @OxUniMaths to see a great lecture on optical illusions! (22 January)





Last week rehearsals started for Beasts and Beauties, the play we will be presenting at @edfringe in the summer! #SolSchDrama (23 January)

The Headmaster asked pupils to come up with positive words for each day of the week to counteract 'Blue Monday' - well done to our winners! (28 January)



Snowdonia School

Our Shell Form have coped superbly with some very cold and challenging conditions in the wilds of Snowdonia as the Snod School season gets under way again. These are pupils from Snod School 312 who are making their way down off Snowdon. Well done to all our Shell Formers for their fortitude and wonderful teamwork to make these weeks a huge success.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Over the second weekend in February a mixture of Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils took part in some Direct Silver Award training. This involved pitching tents in the dark and coping with sub-zero temperatures and a lot of mud! The photo is of the group early on Saturday morning before setting off on day two. Well done to all who attended. Also this term the Fourth Form Bronze candidates have had their classroom-based training in preparation for their expeditions in May and June; this included map and compass work, first aid, stove and tent training, the country code and emergency procedures. A Leaders Training weekend in North Wales also took place in January and was well attended.



Well done to our U10 girls #SolSchHockey A and B teams who played against Eversfield on Monday! The A team won 10-0 and the B team won 9-2. (24 January)

On Monday we'll be celebrating Chinese New Year in our Refectory! (29 January)





Safeside

The Third Form visited Safeside in Birmingham, to learn about staying safe at home and when out and about. They took on the role of safety advisors and walked around Safeside's mock village, advising its 'residents' (students from the Birmingham School of Acting) about how to stay safe in a variety of situations, such as when on the bus, or when visiting the shops. The pupils did a fantastic job of identifying hazards and thinking of ways to avoid them. A great day was had by all!

Theatre Trip

Our A-Level Theatre Studies students visited The Royal Court Theatre this term and watched the first ever public performance of *The Kid Stays in the Picture* by Complicite!



German Exchange 2017

On 3 March, we set off from Birmingham Airport to Frankfurt to spend a week with our exchange partners and their families around the Frankfurt area. We had a mixed programme of activities. Highlights included visiting Frankfurt, spending time in the exchange school, a tour of the ZDF Broadcasting Studios in Mainz and organised activities by our host families. We particularly enjoyed spending time at a nearby water park with both English and German friends. It was interesting to experience the German culture first hand and to sample many German specialities including the multiple types of 'Wurst'! Great fun was had by all and it's worth remembering Mrs. Cramb's motto: 'There is no gain without pain, and you get out what you put in!'



Hampton Court Trip

This term 30 Lower Sixth Historians spent a chilly but productive day at Hampton Court Palace. As well as soaking up the general Tudor atmosphere by admiring and analysing huge paintings and tapestries and exploring the kitchens and gardens, pupils took part in a focused A-Level workshop. This allowed them to use the Palace as a source of evidence and consider the reasons why the once highly influential Cardinal Wolsey fell out of favour with King Henry VIII.



Third Formers take on foreign language Spelling Bee challenge

Across the end of the Christmas term and the Easter term, Third Form pupils have taken part in the national 'Routes into Languages' spelling competition for new students of Spanish. Three winners from each form were selected after hearing how many words from a selection of fifty they could spell correctly in one minute. For these fifteen pupils, another fifty words were assigned for the next round. After some outstandingly quick spelling in Spanish, three pupils will now go forward to the Regional Finals at the end of March, with a place at the National Finals at Cambridge University at stake. ¡Suerte a todos!





Some of our A-Level #SolSchArt & #SolSchPhotog students have entered the Saatchi Gallery School Prize Competition. (3 February)

Thank you to everyone who came along to our #SolSchJS PA Family Fun Night on Friday! We hope you had a fantastic time! (6 February)



Classics Society

The Lower Sixth Classical Civilisation group has been overdosing on Greek Tragedy, spending a day at the University of Warwick attending workshops on a variety of different topics, and visiting the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, to see a production of *Antigone*, one of the four plays they are studying for AS-Level.

The Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation group spent a study day at the British Museum, examining a range of Greek Art and Architecture including the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon, the Achilles fighting Hektor vase by The Berlin Painter and one of the maidens from the Erechtheum on the Athenian Acropolis.

All members of the Classics Society visited the University of Birmingham on several occasions, to hear a talk on the great lawyer and orator Cicero, given by Dr Henriette van der Blom and to attend the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association's annual Texts and Topics Conference, where there was even more on Greek Tragedy and Greek Art, but also talks on Homer, Virgil and Roman Towns. Our final visit to the University was to hear the writer, broadcaster and comedian Natalie Haynes speak about her new book, *The Children of Jocasta*, which is a retelling of the Oedipus story and so was a bit more on (you've guessed it) Greek Tragedy!

Now we are all looking forward to our adventures in Greece in the Easter holidays!



Shell Form trip to Cirencester

This term Shell Form Latin pupils went on an exciting and informative trip to the Roman town of Cirencester. The day was full of activity and pupils learned an incredible amount about the life of a bustling Roman settlement. They visited the Corinium Museum where they discovered Roman artefacts and their uses in everyday life. There was a tour of the town with Mrs Johnson who showed pupils Cirencester's Roman walls and ancient remains, and the highlight was a visit to the Roman amphitheatre!



Latin Trip to Bath

On Wednesday 25 January, the Fourth Form Latinists set out on an educational trip to the Roman Baths in the spa town of Bath, known to the Romans as Aquae Sulis. We first had a classroom session where we studied a number of fascinating artefacts, some of which were used by the Romans.

After lunch we walked around Bath, and noticed the beauty of the city. We then entered the museum and looked around the different exhibitions. After strolling through the interior of the baths, we finally reached The Great Bath where we were all intrigued to find out that it was previously covered by a high vaulted roof. Some of us were brave enough to try some of the Bath water, however most of us were repulsed by the taste. A great time was had by all!



Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association

On Saturday 4 February Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts led a Classics teachers' INSET day at the University of Birmingham. Both Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts are on the BMCA Committee and regularly run teacher training events here. The highlight of events organised this term was the Sixth Form 'Texts and Topics' Conference on Saturday 11 March, which nearly 40 students attended, from Solihull School and the surrounding Midlands area. Mary Davies, an A-Level Classical Civilisation student said of the conference: 'We loved it! It was great to do some learning outside of the classroom environment in a university setting. We particularly enjoyed handling the ancient Greek pots and attending the lecture on Greek tragedy. I'd love to study Classics at University now!' Manushree Malu, who also studies Classics, said it was 'a very engaging and informative programme which was also rather interactive as well'. The day was a great success all round, and both Mrs Johnson and Miss Roberts are already planning the Texts and Topics Conference for next year – watch this space!

National Classics Conference

On Saturday 4 March Solihull School hosted a National Classics Conference. The conference was organised by Miss Roberts, who is a member of the Association for Latin Teaching (ARLT) Committee. On the day itself, Solihull hosted over 50 Classics teachers who were given informative lectures by Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos of the University of Birmingham, and by Professor Alison Cooley of the University of Warwick. OCR Examination Board also attended to provide an overview of the new Classical Civilisation GCSE and A-Level specifications. Miss Roberts hopes to host the national conference once again in 2020, as it was a great success!



Professor Cofone visits Solihull

In January, Professor Albin Cofone stopped off at Solihull on his UK visit to deliver his eagerly-anticipated series of lectures across the School. Professor Cofone is Head of the Scholars College at Suffolk County College – a university on Long Island, New York. His talks concerning US Politics, History and Geography were very well attended and received a hugely positive response from the hundreds of students he worked with. This year his talks covered:

J2 - Weather: The Big Brawl

J3 - North America: New York vs London

J4 - Natural Disasters: The Changing Face of the Earth

Lower Sixth - Politics: Old Hickory's Ghost - the Election of Donald Trump and the New Age of Jackson

Upper Sixth - History: Mr. Khrushchev Comes to Iowa

Japanese Cultural Studies Club

Japanese Cultural Studies Club continues to be an exciting lunch-time club that offers pupils a light-hearted and fun exploration into the popular culture of Japan. From the folding of paper to fancy food, each week students explore a variety of arts, food, technology and traditions from Japan. These activities change seasonally to reflect Japan's close ties to the seasons.

Activities range from: the Japanese tea ceremony, learning the Japanese language, the art of Calligraphy and Origami, to creating a Bento Box (the traditional Japanese lunch box) through to cooking the popular comfort food Ramen. Due to the success and popularity of the club, a trip to Japan and many of its famous landmarks is taking place in the summer term!



We were so happy to host the U12 girls' hockey club tournament this morning as part of our outreach programme! #SolSchHockey (5 February)

Last week our GCSE & A-Level #SolSchDrama students went to the @BirminghamRep to see Love - and were lucky enough to go on a backstage tour! (6 February)





Well done to our pupils who competed in the Youth Speaks Rotary Club Competition on Monday, especially our Third Form team who won! (7 February)



Junior School pupils celebrate scholarships

Our J4 pupils celebrated scholarship success in the Solihull School 11+ Entrance Exam. This was a fantastic achievement which recognises the pupils' hard work in the classroom and their outstanding talents. Six Academic Scholarships, one Sports Scholarship, two Music Awards and one Art Scholarship were awarded this year. We will be following their future progress and success as they join the Scholars' programme. Well done to them and all of our other J4 pupils who have earned their place in the Senior School in such a competitive exam.

J1 Bhangra Dancing Taster

After the half term break, J1 were treated to a morning full of excitement when they embraced the opportunity to have a go at Bhangra dancing. 'IN2CULTURES' began by discussing Indian lifestyle and traditions (which is the current J1 Geography topic) followed by the teaching of a highly energetic Bhangra routine filled with movement, character and very loud drums! All pupils and staff left with new facts about India as well as some unique Bhangra dance moves!



Congratulations to Beatrix Huissoon and Aadarsh Krishianthan who have qualified for the British Fencing Youth Championships! @britishfencing (8 February)



Junior School visit the Mayor

On Tuesday 14 March fifteen members of the Junior School took the short walk across to the Civic Suite, part of Solihull Council House, to meet the current mayor, Mr Mike Robinson. They were treated to squash and biscuits before having their very own meeting in the Council Chambers. The Chairperson, Hannah Greenwood, opened proceedings and debated various topics from the agenda as well as issues raised by council members. They were assisted on the trip by Head of School Lydia Roll, along with her two deputies Jessica Browne and Joseph Gilyead. They all enjoyed the visit and have taken some fantastic tips from the mayor to use in their meetings back in school.

Artistic Challenge Experience

To challenge our more able artists, a new Junior School Art Club has been created this year called the Artistic Challenge Experience (ACE for short). Mrs Baker, our wonderful art technician, encourages the J3 and J4 pupils to extend their current skills and also to try new techniques in drawing and painting.



Well done to all our #SolSchJS pupils in J1 and J2 who competed in the House rugby competition yesterday! #SolSchRugby #SolSchHouseComp (8 February)

Thank you @Team_Splendid for performing Macbeth & hosting a workshop with our drama students! #SolSchDrama #SolSchEnglish (9 February)





Last week our Astronomy Club were lucky enough to observe Venus at twilight!
#SolSchSci (9 February)

Our #SolSchJS bassoonists have been performing a specially devised piece! Thanks to
the PA for funding these fantastic instruments! #SolSchMusic (10 February)



Science Week in the Junior School

British Science week in the Junior School got off to a busy start with the launch of the inventions competition where pupils were asked to design and build a prototype for a toy that they had invented. Eight finalists were chosen to pitch their design in front of a judging panel in our very own Dragons' Den-style assembly and Mack Sadler from J3H was the worthy winner. Later in the week, the J3 pupils took part in a Space Day where the pupils got to experience an inflatable Space Dome and enter inside to study the star constellations. With the help of Sixth Formers, the pupils also enjoyed a carousel of activities and learnt about the different phases of the moon and the positions of the planets by running around the school field. Science week was most enjoyable and definitely highlighted some budding scientists of the future.

J2 Fire Safety

On Friday 27 January Solihull Fire Brigade visited our J2 children to talk about fire safety around the home. The children were extremely inquisitive and asked lots of questions whilst learning the best escapes routes and where to place their smoke detectors in their houses. The children are now more aware of dangers around the home and will be even more prepared in the unlikely event of an emergency.



Junior School Gardening Club

The Junior School Gardening Club, led by Mr Groom, has been busy during the winter, making rustic birdfeeders and decorating rocks and stones for the gardening area. They have had great fun creating, painting and varnishing their environmental masterpieces!



Tommy

During the penultimate week of term, sixty pupils from the Middle School and Sixth Form came together to present a spectacular production of The Who's legendary rock opera Tommy. Over four nights, audiences were treated to a heady mix of dance, drama and classic rock music, all revolving around the remarkable story of the deaf, dumb and blind boy Tommy Walker (a remarkable performance by James Spence). Performed on an ambitious set with dynamic lighting, overseen by Dr Jukes and Richard Bower (OS), pupils created an enormous range of characters to a constant soundtrack of epic riffs and legendary tunes supplied by Mr Kermode's well-oiled band. At the end of the four days, audience and cast alike were left exhausted and exhilarated by sharing the story of the Pinball Wizard.



The Amazing Adventures of Superstan!

At the end of January, the whole of J4 performed their impressive (and rather comical) musical, 'The Amazing Adventures of Superstan!' They were lucky enough to perform the show four times this year, a record number for the Junior School Drama Club, which included special performances for Reynolds Cross School and J4 Grandparents. There was even a post-show afternoon tea! The quality of acting and singing, we believe, was second-to-none and the team spirit and camaraderie wasn't bad either!



A few weeks ago our Upper Fifth visited Science Live in Birmingham to hear from
@DrAliceRoberts! #SolSchSci (9 February)

Our Senior School #SolSchMaths pupils had a great time listening to @TimHarford at
@OxUniMaths on the use of statistics in public discourse! (11 February)





Thank you to Cedric, a great grandfather to 4 #SolSchJS pupils, for talking to J4 about his life during #WWII He will be 95 next month! (12 February)

Congratulations to Maxine Perroni-Scharf who has received a Certificate of Distinction for Round 1 of the @UKMathsTrust British Maths Olympiad! #SolSchMaths (14 February)



Junior School Concert

Junior School pupils from J1 to J4 performed wonderfully in this term's concert. The audience enjoyed a range of performances, including vocal and instrumental solos, from small ensembles and larger groups such as the Orchestra and Junior School Choir. The pupils took to the stage with remarkable confidence and were deservedly proud of their performances. We now look forward eagerly to next term's concert.

Impressive Music Exam Successes

Huge congratulations to all those pupils who took instrumental exams at the very end of last term (December). In addition to their individual successes, the combined set of results was one of the best we have ever had: 30% were distinctions and 80% were either merit or distinction. All that practice must have paid off. Keep up the good work!



Chapel and Choral Music

The Chamber Choir was delighted to return to St Paul's Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong on Monday 27 February, singing music by Ayleward, Harwood, Howells and Bairstow. In our own Chapel, our tradition of Sunday choral worship continues, with the services of Choral Eucharist and Evensong now supplemented by the monastic service of Compline, a lovely service that lends itself to earlier music and combines plainsong and polyphony in a timeless, reflective way. We have enjoyed exploring Gibbons, Purcell and Batten and widening the repertoire of the ensembles. Two public organ recitals have been held this term, featuring the School's wonderful Nicholson organ, given by Mr Alex Woodrow and Mr Peter Irving. They have attracted not only our usual congregations but also members of the wider public. Grateful thanks go to all our choristers in the boys', girls' and chamber choir for their dedication and loyalty to Chapel Music.



Saxophone Day

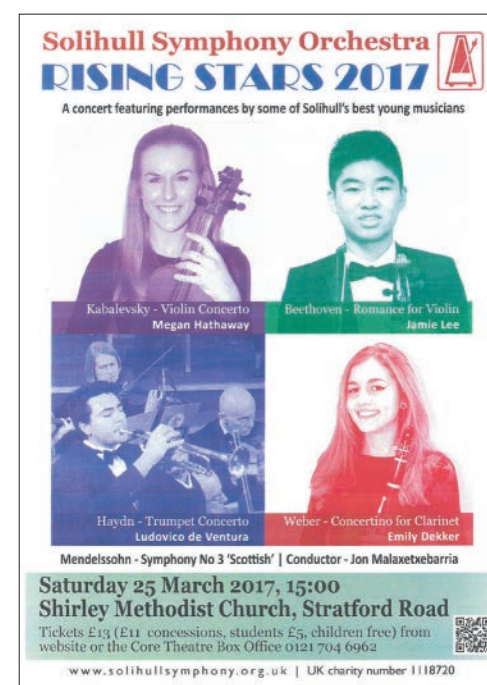
Earlier this term 27 pupils, including those from other schools, joined us for a day of Saxophone Ensemble playing and coaching from Birmingham Conservatoire. All agreed it was an excellent day and we enjoyed the Concert at 2pm where we performed the music that had been rehearsed.

Chamber Music Workshop

On Saturday 11 February our string music scholars, joined by Mrs Hanlie Martens and piano scholars Ziyang He and Oliver Francis, came to School to partake in a 4-hour Chamber Music Workshop given by the internationally-renowned Coull String Quartet.

We were also pleased to welcome a string quartet from the Royal College of Music, two of whom are Old Sils. During the morning they performed a stunning modern work.

After an inspiring performance of some Mendelssohn by the Coull Quartet, our four ensembles rehearsed repertoire to perform at the end of the session. Members of the Coull Quartet coached every group during the morning. For all the pupils involved, the experience of hearing, being coached by and playing alongside professional musicians was invaluable.



Emily Dekker – Rising Stars

Emily Dekker has passed her ATCL Diploma on Clarinet. This Diploma is the equivalent to the standard achieved by someone after the first year of an undergraduate degree. Emily gave an outstanding performance lasting 35 minutes which included music by Schumann, Finzi and Weber. This showcased her technique and outstanding musicianship. As a result of this, Emily has been invited to perform with Solihull Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 25 March as part of their Rising Stars Concert series.



Thanks to Gilbertstone and Chilcote primary schools for joining us for a choir celebration in Chapel last week! #SolSchChapel (14 February)

Well done to everyone who competed in the #SolSchJS House Spelling Bee yesterday - especially the winners, Pole! (16 February)





Well done to our organisers and bakers for the @LAFFCharity tuckshop last week!
They made over £300 #SolSchCharity (20 February)

Well done to James Dunleavy who has been selected to compete in the Inter
Counties Cross Country competition in the U13 group for Warwickshire! (27 February)



Steinway Hall, London

As part of Solihull's affiliation with Steinway Pianos, a selection of our outstanding music students performed in an hour-long concert at Steinway Hall in London this term. They received a masterclass from Steinway artist, Charles Owen, took a tour of the workshop and had the chance to perform a concert in their amazing studio! We welcomed Old Silhillians, former music teachers and parents to this wonderful event.

Soloist Instrumental concerts

Our pupils have many opportunities to perform as soloists, and this term has been no exception. In addition to the Junior School Concert, the two Informal Concerts and the Recital given by five Upper Sixth Form pupils provided wonderful experiences for pupils to perform solo items in public. For some, these will have been the first outings in public; for the Recitalists it has been the other end of their musical journey as soloists here at school. In every concert, all performers – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache.

European Piano Teachers' Association

The European Piano Teachers ' Association selected Solihull School as the venue for this year's first and regional final rounds of their Piano Competition. The standard of the pianists competing in the first round in February was extremely high and Max Dormon, Ziyang He, Oliver Palmer, Kaia Berry and Rose Davenport were all delighted to be invited to the regional finals in their various categories, which take place on 25 March. A huge well done to our pianists!



Junior School Girls' Sport Report

Extremely proud is how each and every J1 and J2 girl felt when representing Solihull School in netball matches against King Henry's School.

Ace performance by the U10A netball team to score with 1 second to go to draw the match 10-10 against a very strong and well-drilled Bablake team.

Striking hat-trick for Lexi Schofield in the U10 boys' football match. Lexi, Maisie Redfern and Amelie Robertson (regulars at girls' football club) were drafted into the boys' D team and not only contributed 3 goals but won their first ever match.

Team spirit was very much on the court for the J1/2 and J3/4 house netball and hockey tournaments, with closely-fought matches all round.

Ever so close but superb wins for the U11A and B hockey teams (3-2 and 2-1) against a strong Eversfield opposition.

Really great numbers at extra-curricular clubs with the welcome addition of boys at gymnastics club and several pupils on for a prize for 100% attendance at cross country club (even in the snow!)

Tour of the sporting variety for J4 girls and boys was a huge success with great play on the netball court and maybe not quite so great singing round the campfire!

Energy of the JS girls is boundless and applied to all sports. Long may it continue into next term and beyond!

Results only tell part of the story, but if it's stats that you like: there have been 42 girls' teams representing Solihull School this term with over 108 goals scored and 50% more wins than losses.

More to come next term with the exciting prospects of rounders, athletics, tennis and some sunshine!



Junior School Boys' Sport Report

Another excellent term for Junior School Sport! The U8 boys have trained hard in rugby, hockey and football. They had their first ever football fixture against Balsall Common, winning comfortably 5-0.

The U9 boys have gone from strength to strength this season, showing great teamwork and resilience. They played A and B rugby against Hallfield, with a 10-7 win and a 6-6 draw. In football, the A-team deservedly beat The Croft 3-0. The U9 boys competed in their first ever hockey festival, beating Ratcliffe 3-0, and losing narrowly to Bilton Grange 1-0. Definitely a strong sporting year group in the making!

The U10s made history this year, with ALL members of J3 competing in the A, B, C & D football teams against Blue Coat School. Not only did everyone in the year group play, but they all won all their matches! The U10 rugby team have recorded yet more victories this term, beating The Royal School, Wolverhampton 9-7, and Balsall Common 7-3. Another strong year group, with a great work ethic and excellent attitude towards training!

The U11 boys have had a great deal of successes this term. In rugby, they were runners up at the Bedford Modern Rugby 7s Tournament and finished second at the Invitational Warwick School Rugby 7s Tournament, winning 5 out of their 7 games, managing to beat the likes of Crackley Hall, The Grange and St Olave's. In hockey, the A-team had a tough start to the term at the IAPS Regional Hockey Tournament, getting knocked out early on. However, they bounced back and managed to come second at the Warwickshire County Cup, beating Warwick, The Crescent and Crackley Hall, gaining them a place at the U11 Regional Championship in April: good luck boys!

Congratulationss to Annabel Dalby who came 3rd at the Warwickshire/Worcestershire
County Cross Country Champs, putting her through to the Nationals! (24 February)

Well done to students who got their @British_Airways Flag Award! This is a vocational
language exam originally created for frontline staff! (1 March)





Well done to all of our dancers who performed last night! Mind Over Matter raised £2000+ for @MindCharity and @Bham_Childrens #SolSchCharity (3 March)

On Saturday one of our @YE_WestMidlands teams (Team 'Think') won the award for Best Product at the Touchwood Trade Fair! Well done team! (7 March)



U13 Girls County Hockey Tournament

The U13 girls finished runners-up in the County 11-a-side Tournament with wins against King Edward's Camp Hill 2-0, King Edward's Five Ways 1-0 and the University of Birmingham 3-0. There was also a draw against St Martin's and a narrow loss to KEHS 1-0. This year is very much a transition for the girls moving from the 7-a-side game to 11-a-side, working on positional play and tactics.

Old Silhillians' Sports Day

On Saturday 18 March the School opened its doors to former pupils, parents and staff for the alumni vs current pupils sports matches. It was an unforgettable day with great results all round - Netball: 17-12 to Old Girls, Hockey: 1-0 to current 1st team, Rugby: 24-0 to Old Boys. After the matches at school we headed down to the Silhillians Sports Club for The Rugby Festival in aid of RFU Injured Players Foundation. It was a busy afternoon of rugby, both on the pitch and on the big screen. We saw a fantastic win from Silhillians RUFC 1st XV vs Rugby Lions 26-21 to secure the Midlands Cup!



Solihull School netball and Wasps partnership

This year, Solihull School netball has formed close links with the Superleague netball team Wasps. Wasps are a newly-formed team and represent the West Midlands in the Superleague, which is made up of the ten best netball teams in the country. As part of this partnership, students have been able to attend netball workshops run by Wasps players and also act as guards of honour at their home matches. The workshops are extremely valuable in providing our students with expert knowledge and advice and also inspiring the girls by allowing them to meet high-level netball players. As guards of honour, they have been able to get up close to the players and be involved in creating an electric atmosphere at Wasps matches. In the future, students will also have the opportunity to attend master classes run by Wasps players.



U15 7s Success

Well done to our U15 rugby 7s squad who, after a weekend of 7s tournaments earlier this term (King's Macclesfield on Saturday and King's Worcester on Sunday), made the final of the Worcester Tournament!



U13 Berkhamsted 7s Tournament

Congratulations to our U13 7s squad who played superbly at the Berkhamsted Tournament this term. The boys won 5 and lost 1. There were wins against Dwr-y-Felin and Wisbech Grammar in the first group stage with a narrow loss to Royal Hospital School 15-10. In the second group games, we had impressive performances with tight wins against Reigate Grammar and Judd School and a comfortable win against Woodbridge.



Our Lower Fifth #SolSchDrama students had a great time at @TheRSC for a workshop about Snow in Midsummer, a play they saw later that day! (4 March)

Huge congratulations to our 1st VII who triumphed at the KES Stratford Sevens tournament yesterday! #SolSchRugby (9March)





Aiglon Cup

On 14 March the Ski Team flew out to Switzerland to compete in the Aiglon Cup. Eight of our skiers took to the slopes for a day of training with some race experts, followed by competitions on the Thursday and Friday. Thursday's race was on the Giant Slalom course, where all racers put in some impressive performances in a somewhat unfamiliar discipline. We had high hopes for Friday's slalom races, as this discipline is the focus for most of the students' training. Ella Giles came 3rd in the U14 ladies', and Tom Lawrence an agonizing 4th in the U18 men's, just missing the podium by about half a second! The team – consisting of Bella James, Dan Giles, Ben Lyth, Fraser Blackhurst, George Daly and John Gallagher – came 6th overall in the Aiglon Cup, which was a huge achievement, beating all other non-international schools in the process.

Easter Term Teams of the Week

Lower & Middle School Debating Teams
Excellent performance in the ICYD Debating Competition

Lower Sixth Drama Student Directors
Superb direction of the Junior School's Drama Workshop

Squash Team
Fantastic victory against King Edward's School

Boys' U13A Hockey Team
Tremendous performance & victory v Trent College

Bar Mock Trial Team
Excellent performance in the Independent Schools' Competition

Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team
Congratulations on a series of great wins!

U15A Netball Team
Excellent performance & victory v Bromsgrove School

LAFF Charity Team
Excellent team effort preparing for charity 'tuck-shop' takeover

Cast & Crew of 'Mind Over Matter'
A fantastic charity dance concert in aid of Mind & Birmingham Children's Hospital Star Appeal

Young Enterprise Team 'Think'
Winners of the 'Best Product Prize' at the Touchwood Trade Fair

Cast and Crew of Tommy
Four fabulous nights of music and drama.

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