

Summer Term 2017

The Greyhound

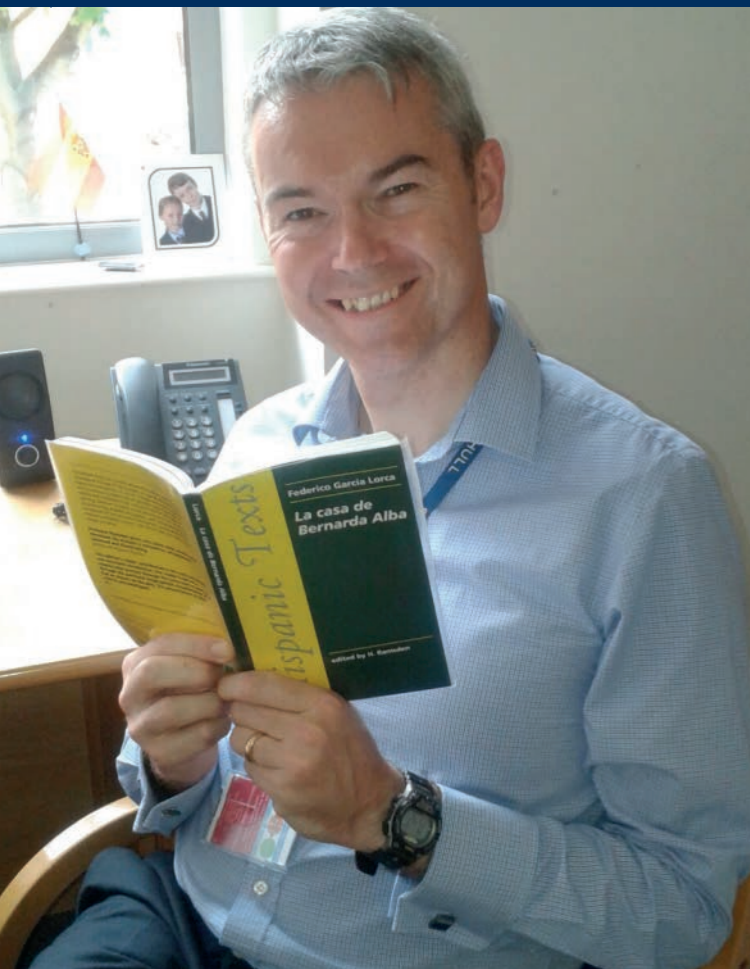


SOLIHULL



This term, Solihull pupils have travelled across the globe, with trips to Sri Lanka, Greece, the USA and beyond.





The **Greyhound** Interviews... Mr P Morgan, Spanish

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 22nd year. After doing my training at UCE Birmingham, I taught Spanish and French for a year at Bishop Challoner RC High School in King's Heath, before going to teach Spanish and German at Trinity School in Leamington Spa, where I stayed for ten years, and where luckily for me, I met my wife! We then moved to Somerset for two years, before moving back to the Midlands when Mr Griffiths, Mr Lloyd's predecessor, gave me a job here.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

There are lots of things I like about it, but the things that stand out are the satisfaction of seeing young people making progress, and maybe nurturing a passion for something you yourself feel passionate about. I also think that working with young people allows you to stay connected in some way to your own youth, despite the fact that your hair might be grey or that your back might hurt on a Friday morning after Games! Also, I work with passionate, funny, intelligent people, and I like the fact that being a teacher is never boring – it can be many things, but it is never boring. Something that I wholeheartedly believe is that teachers do something that is important. I am proud to do this job.

What do you like most about teaching Spanish?

I find languages fascinating, and not just Spanish – Spanish is the foreign language I know best, but teaching a language to others is just an amazing process in general. The process creates a lot of challenges, but a lot of fun as well.

What's your favourite place in Spain?

That is an almost impossible question to answer, because I have fallen in love with so many different places in Spain. My highlights would be Valladolid, where I lived, Seville, which I only visited for the first time last year, Madrid, with its incredible liveliness, and Barcelona, which is endlessly fascinating. However, I also love some less well-known places that hold special memories for me, like Orihuela and Hondarribia, for example.

What is your favourite book and why?

There is a Spanish book I love called *La Catedral del Mar* (*The Cathedral of the Sea*) by a writer called Ildefonso Falcones, which is set against the building of the wonderful church of Santa María del Mar in Barcelona. It is a special place for me, and to read a book that illuminated the time in which it was constructed was fascinating. *The Binman Chronicles* by Neville Southall is a pretty good read as well.

What other hobbies or interests do you have?

People who know me know that thanks to my father, I am chronically obsessed by everything connected to Everton FC. I also love watching lots of other sports and spend as much time as possible with my family, on my bike or walking. The highlights of my non-sporting interests would possibly be the following: an obsession with looking for cheap flights from Birmingham, eating Spanish food, a strange interest in the history and politics of the Balkans, box sets and being near either the sea or some mountains, or preferably both.



Over 60s Tour and Lunch

On 10 May 2017 we were delighted to welcome over 40 members of the Old Silhillians Over 60s group back to the School for a tour. Old Sils from as far afield as America came back to see the recent developments and reflect on changes since their time as school boys. The Old Sils 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 meet up with more old friends over lunch.

Development and Alumni Relations



Official Opening of the Keith Sach Suite

In memory of Keith Sach (Biology Teacher, 1970-1979) and all that he has done for Solihull and Silhillians past and present, we have dedicated the top floor of the Cooper Building to him by naming it the 'Keith Sach Suite'. It was lovely to see so many families and friends come together for this momentous occasion.

In his time at Solihull Keith held a vast array of roles, including Middle Fifth House Tutor of Jago, Warden of the Chapel, Warden of the Swimming Pool, Assistant Careers Master and Director of Biology Field Courses. Keith was particularly fond of the Chapel and choral music and he was a regular member of the congregation long after he left. He left Solihull in 1979 to become RLSS UK Director and Commonwealth Secretary.





The Big Debate

This term saw our third Big Debate chaired by the Debating Society's Patron, Mr Michael Buerk. James Field (an Old Sil and defamation lawyer) together with Oliver Rooney proposed the motion that 'This House would jail owners of media organisations that publish factually misleading information'. Both teams were cross-examined by an engaged and articulate audience. However, on this occasion it was the opposition that clinched it with Simon Neville, an award winning journalist, and Cerys Stansfield convincing the house that the risks to freedom of speech were too great to take this kind of action.



Pet Service

Our Chapel congregation was once again boosted by the presence of some furry friends this term! Pupils were invited to take along their pets or favourite cuddly toys to be blessed during our Sunday service. There was a whole host of pets in attendance with a lizard being the most unusual. Of course canine pets were in the majority, including the Headmaster's dogs George and Boris! Many enjoyed barking through a range of animal-themed hymns! Father Andrew was on top form and the choir sang a special version of 'All things bright and beautiful' as well as 'Bless the Lord'.

Debating Competition

Solihull ran its second annual Debating Competition this year which involved 12 schools from as far as Cardiff. There were 56 students in Year 10 and below competing all day, and high level national debaters came in from across the country to train debaters, judge rounds and give useful feedback. The day was rounded off by Michael Buerk kindly awarding prizes to the winners. A fantastic event which looks set to be an annual feature of the debating calendar.





Our Third Form wig-and-glasses themed disco before Easter, which raised money for the Third and Fourth Form charities, was a huge success. Thanks for coming! (1 May)

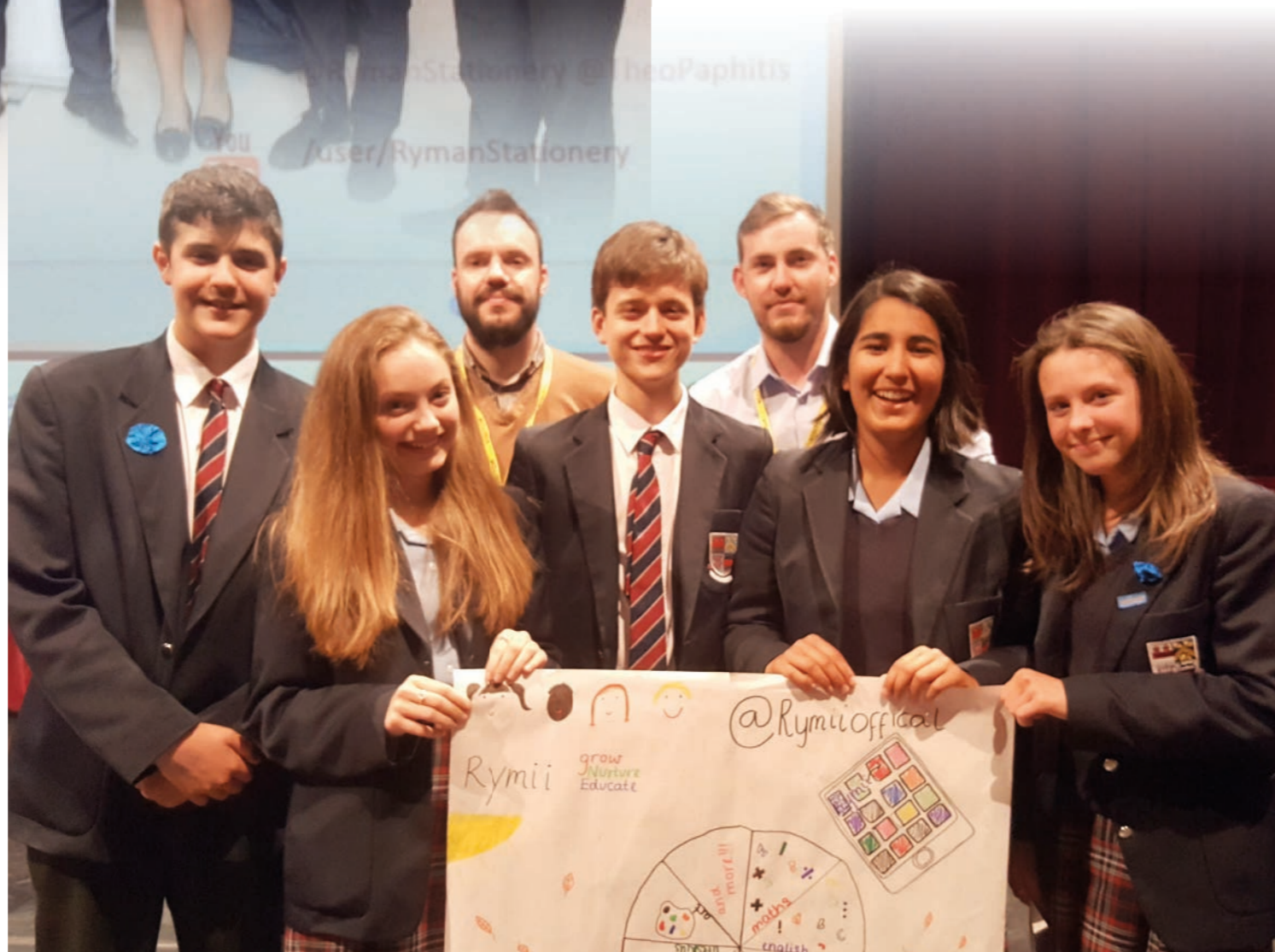
Our #SolSchEngineering Club started this year, and it looks like we've already got a few experts! #engineering #imagineering (3 May)



Solihull Business and Economics students win the Birmingham CIPFA Sixth Form Games

Seven Lower Sixth students – Tom Banks, Jim Bate, Zack Bhalla, James Cusack, Dan Hofton, Lukas Moment and Serena Smith – competed in and won the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) Sixth Form Games, held at the University of Birmingham Business School. It was our first success in four attempts at the annual competition!

The team played senior management roles in a fictitious NHS Trust and had to make budget cuts to meet government spending targets by deciding on the appropriate areas to save money. The game posed a real economics in action challenge; to allocate scarce resources amongst competing uses. The team had to withstand some stern questioning from stakeholder groups who were affected by the spending cuts proposed and react quickly to changing goalposts in a variety of 'bombshells' dropped in throughout the game. The game concluded with a detailed presentation and justification of recommendations to a panel of judges. A super team effort!



Ryman National Enterprise Challenge

In June the entire Fourth Form took part in the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge as part of the PSHE programme.

Seventeen teams were challenged to create an app for Ryman that users would use on a daily basis. Pupils learned the basics of market research, market segmentation and product design and the day culminated in a four-minute pitch to our expert judges from the National Enterprise Challenge, who were ably assisted by Mr Lloyd, Miss Rutherford and Miss Evans.

The team 'Rhmii' (Thomas Simmons, Katie Trevis, Izzy Collins, Kyra Johal, Oscar Huissoon and Miles Humphrey) convinced the panel of the efficacy of their idea, made memorable with a snappy rap advert, and they will now represent the School at the national finals in Telford in July. The app they created was targeted at junior school children, to offer a stationery gift rewards programme (what else – considering the sponsor!) based on the accumulation of skills in Maths, English and Science.



Young Enterprise

This term, YE company 'Aspiration' won a prize for Best Trade stand at the Solihull and Birmingham Regional Final while 'Think' won a prize for the Best Product. Congratulations to all who took part.

All companies have now liquidated their assets and shared out the profits between shareholders. As usual, this has been a process accompanied by a certain amount of conflict, as shareholders reflect on the individual contributions of company members when deciding on profit sharing!



Thank you so much to those who performed in our #SolSchChapel concert on Saturday evening! @solihullchoral @SinfoniaOfBham (3 May)

Congratulations to Eve Colyer who has been longlisted in the University of Oxford @TowerPoetry competition for her poem 'Dido' #SolSchEnglish. (4 May)





Well done to our competitors Georgina Hart and Gemma Radburn-Todd who debated against teams from around the world at the International Competition for Young Debaters. #SolSchDebate (4 May)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Forty Lower Fifth pupils in six separate groups took part in their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition during the first week of the Easter holiday. A convoy of minibuses were seen heading off from the Field of Mars and heading west towards Denbighshire. Here the pupils had an afternoon of expedition training before they began a two-day practice venture which finished at Llyn Brenig. All the groups were then bussed to the Isle of Anglesey where pupils had the luxury of a bunk bed and were treated to a day off and a visit to Llandudno. Having rested and carb-loaded, they were now ready to take on the challenge of a three-day venture!

In the same way that this year group had been the first to do the Bronze Award pilot (in Year 9), these were the first to do their Silver Award in this academic year. The weather was kind but the terrain was challenging and pupils had to contend with all the usual issues that DofE tends to throw up! Pupils camped for one night at the School Cottage and had a second campsite further south. All were successful and did extremely well given their age. One girl finished her route wearing just one boot and one flip-flop, and an embedded nail proved too much to remove.

Well done to all participants and thank you to all our leaders who made this week possible. Bring on the Gold Award in two years' time!



Huge well done to our boys who did so well in the Solihull Secondary Schools for Athletics and Cross Country Awards #SolSchAthletics. (6 May)



Edgbaston Watersports Centre

For Activities Day this year, the entire Shell Form had a whole day of fun in the water at Edgbaston Reservoir in Birmingham. On a gloriously hot June day, pupils had a go at sailing, kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding. It was a wonderful day at this fantastic hidden oasis in the centre of the city!



#SolSchJS visited Handsworth Gurdwara on Thursday, where they were able to contextualise what they learned about #Sikhism in RS this year! (6 May)

Our #SolSchJS visited the school's 'excavation site' last week to apply their knowledge on the Anglo Saxons! #SolSchHistory (8 May)





Fishing Club

The Fishing Club has had a great start to the year with lots of new members joining and lots of fish being caught. With new waters to fish and the summer on its way, the club will no doubt enjoy some more great success and catch plenty more fish.

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has been very busy over the last six months. They have been involved in various activities from stone painting to clearing out the school wildlife and nature pond. The pupils had great fun catching fish and frogs in the thick mud!



Art Scholars Workshop

The Art Scholars had a workshop with the professional artist Edward Waite at the end of the Easter term. They created backdrop paintings of the school buildings and during the workshop Ed showed them how to 'draw' with liquid paint onto their work to add detail and texture. He is represented by the Eaton Gallery in Touchwood.

Amy wins the 'Make Your Mark' NADFAS Competition

Ex-Solihull Art student Amy Mitchell Meades was chosen as the overall winner of the 'Make Your Mark' A-Level art competition 2017. Charlotte Hughes-Martin, glass artist, and Robert Neil, President of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, presented Amy with her trophy at the reception and exhibition of all the finalists' work at the RBSA.



2017 Art Exhibition

June came around very quickly this year and the Solihull School Summer Exhibition 2017 was a great success. This exhibition showcases the pupils' achievement in Art and Photography over the last two academic years and this is the first exhibition of work from the new Linear A-Level courses as well as the GCSE.





Washington Trip

Twenty-one students arrived in Washington in early April to assess the impact of President Trump's first hundred days. Alongside classic tourist trail sites such as the war memorials, the White House, and tours of the US Capitol and Library of Congress, we also found time for a performance at Ford's Theatre and to watch the Washington Wizards lose in the dying seconds of their match against Miami Heat. Staff and students alike behaved impeccably and were a pleasure to tour with.



Easter Ski Trip

Thirty-two pupils and four members of staff enjoyed four seasons of weather in Austria during a successful trip to the Oberlungau region. Our first day saw blue skies and many green fields but luckily there was enough white stuff to ski on. The second day proved to be like mid-summer with temperatures of 20oC at 10.00am half way up the mountain. Luckily, the cloud built up and the temperature dropped and for the last two days in Obertauern we even had fresh snowfall.

The whole group had a great holiday, with many stories to tell of big falls, many claims for who skied the fastest on a particular piste, and lots of chips and frankfurters eaten on the mountain. My thanks to Miss Rutherford, Miss Jones and Mr Jenkinson for making the trip such an enjoyable experience for the pupils and myself.



Classics trip to Greece

On Saturday 1 April, 29 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Johnson, Miss Roberts, Mr Jones and former pupil Izzy Serle, took flight to Athens, the cradle of democracy. There we explored the sanctuary of the Acropolis, the Agora, the Theatre of Dionysus and the Keramikos. Then, driven by the wonderful Stelios, it was off to Delphi, the centre of the world, to seek an oracle. From there, it was hop, skip and a jump to Olympia, to take part in the Ancient Olympics. We then travelled further back in time to the Bronze Age of Homer to explore Mycenae, rich in gold. Our last day was spent, romantically, at the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, before, like Hermes, donning our wings once more to fly home.





#SolSchEnglish ran a competition with our Third Form pupils to create the best model of @The_Globe - we even saw a vanilla sponge Globe! #shakespeare. (17 May)

Well done to our pupils who completed their Bronze @DofECentral expedition last weekend! #DofE #SolSchDofE. (20 May)



Spanish Immersion Programme CEI EL Jarama

In the Easter holidays thirty-three Third Form pupils travelled to Madrid for a week to discover Spanish culture and language through games, songs and real interaction with Spanish students. Each day was a school day for everyone in the beautiful and cosy farm of CEI El Jarama. Pupils discovered the Mediterranean diet, the existence and use of window shutters, the Spanish style of being woken up by Enrique Iglesias and going to bed at 11:30 p.m. All of the pupils agreed that what they are really going to miss is living in an environment which is surrounded by farm animals, the everyday blue skies, the heat, their Siesta time and what's more, the friendliness of the Spanish people. At the end of the week all pupils came back more mature and positive in their attitude to learning, and full of stories to share with friends and family.



Careers in the Junior School

Our Junior School pupils were treated to a special careers morning when a number of parents and Old Silhillians (and a Governor) visited to talk about their career journeys. They told stories, talked about their industries and shed some light on how academic subjects can be used in the real world. Visitors came from the world of law, engineering, IT, marketing, medicine, psychology and wellbeing, accountancy and physiotherapy to name a few. They all agreed that our pupils are very inquisitive and ask very shrewd questions!



J4 Public Speaking

In April, J4 pupils took part in their annual public speaking competition. All pupils prepared a five minute presentation on a topic of their choice and, after presenting to their own classes, six pupils were voted by their peers to present their talk in the Bushell Hall in front of the Junior School. Mr Bate, Head of the Lower School, had the difficult job of judging the competition. The finalists were Fabian Botterill, Isabelle Burns, Thomas O'Connor, Daniel Palmer, Florence Pugh and Luca Yeaman. Well done to Florence who won the competition with her talk on the Titanic.



Election fever in the Junior School!

My name is Ben Wild and while the whole country was busy voting in the General Election, Solihull Junior School were having their own election! Krish Maini, Hannah Greenwood and I were the three candidates running for office and after a close vote, I was elected as the Prime Minister of the Junior School, alongside my Deputy, Thomas O'Connor. My manifesto included the introduction of a Junior School newspaper, improving the learning pads which we use to search for information in lessons, and planting fruit and vegetables in the school garden for all to enjoy eating at lunchtime. Since the election, I have had meetings with Mr Seal, the IT Technician, and the school gardener, Mr Groom. We have discussed my policies and the learning pads' functionality has already been enhanced. We have all appreciated using them again. I am also working with Hannah to implement one of her ideas, which is to hold a bedding plant sale for charity. I am really looking forward to my time in office and seeing what we can achieve.



Well done to our #SolSchJS pupils who have made the Chess Gigafinals! 40,000 children entered the competition and 3 of ours are in the last 1000! (17 May)

Thank you to all of the local primary school children who joined us for our Gifted and Talented Maths event today #SolSchMaths. (23 May)





Thank you so much to the pupils from Holy Souls School in Acocks Green for joining us for an afternoon of making, baking and melodies! (25 May)



Bromsgrove Year 6 Team Maths Challenge

In June, three teams of four J4 pupils took part in the Year Six Team Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School, competing against eighteen teams from other schools in the region. The day involved several rounds of solving challenging maths problems and all three teams did very well. Matthew Ashby, Henry Close, Thomas McArthur and Daniel Palmer finished 9th overall, Sophie Burtenshaw, Maisie Le Van, Joshua Litwinko and Luca Yeaman finished in fifth place and Hannah Greenwood, William Hodge, Amber Huckfield and Thomas O'Connor won first place. This is the fourth consecutive win for Solihull Junior School.

J1 Oxford Trip

On Thursday 15 June, J1 travelled to Oxford to visit both the Story Museum and the Natural History Museum. The pupils were taken on an exciting tour of the Story Museum in the morning and took part in different activities relating to their current English book The Magic Finger. Linking to Art and Science in the afternoon, the children located different skeletons, fossils and minerals in the impressive National History Museum and created some accurate drawings of these. All children and staff had a fun-filled, action-packed day linking to different curriculum areas!



Science of Sound

J3 pupils went to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday 21 June for a Science of Sound show. The pupils were amazed by the splendid Symphony Hall and learnt how sound travels effectively around the hall and can be changed by alteration to the room. They enjoyed listening to and singing along to a variety of pieces played on the organ and learnt that the organ has 6000 pipes! It was fascinating to learn how the smallest of vibrations can be detected by your ear and converted into messages to your brain. All pupils really enjoyed taking part in this event and will be able to relay what they have learnt in their Sound topic in Science.



Last year #SolSchJS raised £10,500+ to help build classrooms in Sri Lanka. The first few bricks of a new classroom have just been laid! (29 May)



J1 eating healthily!

With curriculum links to both Geography and Science, all of J1 visited Tesco Extra in Solihull to go on a 'Healthy Eating' trail. The session involved exploring new fruit and vegetables, analysing food labels to identify sugar amounts, a behind-the-scenes tour of Tesco and a cereal making workshop! All the children had great fun and left with lots of interesting facts and advice about healthy eating.

Junior Canoe Club

Canoe Club has been a big hit this term! We were very lucky to have some wonderful and experienced instructors at Solihull Canoe Club in Catherine-de-Barnes, who taught us all the important paddling skills, with a view to getting involved in kayak racing soon. The instructors are also pretty strong, pulling us out of the canal when we fall in! Over the four sessions, we used two-man kayaks, known as a Hody, and began to try out Lightning racing kayaks too. On our last session we had the experience of a 200m time trial. This really put us to the test! Thankfully we had more experienced and very helpful Senior School pupils on hand to help us go faster, work on our technique and manage the boats in and out of the water.



Junior School Art Workshop

As part of their summer project, whilst studying the work of Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, the J2s were very fortunate to take part in a specialist Batik workshop by artist Andrew Wynne. Andrew specialises in textiles and each J2 class worked collaboratively throughout the day on a design based around the abstract, colourful designs that they have been studying in their art lessons. All the pupils had a wonderful day, learning a lot about how Batik works and were also wowed by the techniques that Andrew showed them. In addition, 3 beautiful large-scale art works were created in the process!



Well done to Samuel Stich who is 1 of 4 boys representing Warwickshire in the U10 Boys' @BritishTennis Aegon County Cup this weekend. (27 May)

Our #SolSchSki team were in Gloucester yesterday for the @esskiainfo training day! They worked on their fitness and gate work. (5 June)





This week our academic scholars took part in a politics event about the general election, discussing topics such as the 16 y-o vote! (7 June)

Thanks to our volunteers who talked to #SolSchJS about their careers. Our pupils met lawyers, engineers, doctors, accountants vets and more. (12 June)



J3 at PGL Boreatton Park

The J3s had a jam-packed, fun-filled weekend of activities including canoeing, raft building, archery, completing an assault course and braving the giant swing and trapeze! Everyone had a fantastic time and really threw themselves into all of the challenges they faced.



Decathlon Day

Once again, Decathlon Day was a very successful fundraiser for the amazing charities that we supported. All the children from J1-J4 took part in raising money for four charities: J1 nominated Target Ovarian Cancer; J2 nominated Anthony Nolan Trust; J3 nominated Cancer Research UK and J4 nominated Prostate Cancer UK. As you may have guessed the theme this year was Cancer charities and all four charities were selected because pupils had a family member who had suffered from the cancer in question. On the day, we participated in a range of activities: shooting baskets, wellie wanging, space hopper relay, target throwing, skipping relay, three legged relay, dribbling footballs, tennis ball balancing, obstacle course, javelin and shuttle relay. Once we had all the fun, we calculated the scores and J4M, J3H, J2W and J1S were the winning forms in each year but every class did an amazing job. At time of writing our total had already surpassed £4000. We hope that everyone enjoyed all the great activities and thank you to everyone who donated!

Solihull Junior School Council



J4 Residential to Hilltop

On 19 May, J4 went on a four-day residential trip to Hilltop Outdoor Education Centre in Sheringham, Norfolk. The main focus was to study coastal erosion first hand as part of their geography unit on Coasts. They looked at slumps, coastal defences and the devastating effects erosion can have on people's lives. As well as this, they participated in a variety of outdoor activities such as mountain biking, zip wire, tree top trail and rock pooling! It was a fabulous weekend and a wonderful way for the children to end their time in the Junior School.

Junior School Sport Report

It's been another action-packed term of sport at Solihull Junior School with all boys and girls training hard in their summer sports: cricket, rounders, tennis and athletics. Three boys and three girls from each year group from J1-J4 competed at the Hallfield Athletics Competition. Out of 8 schools, our results were as follows:

J1/J2 boys came 1st place overall.
J1/J2 girls came 1st place overall.
J3/J4 boys came 1st place overall.
J3/J4 girls came 2nd place overall.

With Borough Sports, Sports Day and several cricket fixtures just around the corner, I would like to say good luck to all players and competitors. They deserve to do well with all the hard work and training they have put in this term.



Our Third Formers have just started their annual Sponsored Read! They are raising money for @heartofengland Solihull Children's Ward #SolSchEnglish. (8 June)

Our best #SolSchJS mathematicians went to Bromsgrove last week to compete against 20 other teams. We came 1st, 5th and 9th! (12 June)





Summer Concert

This year's Summer Concert was subtitled 'A Night at the Movies'. As you would imagine, much of the repertoire had connection with film, stage and TV. Favourites included: *Harry Potter*, *The Dam Busters*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Schindler's List*; *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Gladiator*, *How to Train your Dragon*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Wicked* and *The Lion King*. To accompany the music, Dr Jukes worked his technical magic and projected sections of the films on the big screen. In the second half we were treated to a selection of jazz items from Big Band, Blue Shift, Flute Choir, solo singers, The Twelve and two other *cappella* vocal ensembles. The inspiration for the whole event was Miss Greswold and we used the concert to express our thanks and say a fond farewell to her as she heads off at the end of term for a well-deserved retirement after a forty-four year connection with the school. We shall miss you enormously, Miss G.



Solihull Sings!

Our primary-age choral outreach programme involved visitors from four different primary schools drawn from around the borough, combining with our J2s in song this year, and, counting all five schools, included nearly 250 children. Mr Woodrow has led weekly sessions in each of the schools, with the ten-week programme culminating in two splendid celebratory concerts in the Bushell Hall. It is always so uplifting to see all the children united in song and deriving so much pleasure from making music together and I should like to thank in particular this year's J2 for being such fantastic hosts to our visitors from other schools.

Diploma & Grade 8 Distinctions in the same week!

Huge congratulations to Charlotte Sasse who, in the same week, achieved a distinction in both her Diploma on the Viola and her Grade 8 Singing. What a fantastic and incredible achievement!



Leavers' Service

Parry's 'I was glad' was the electric choral opener to the Leavers' Service. Anthems by Morten Lauridsen and John Rutter contributed to a service that was deeply moving and a fitting opportunity to thank our Upper Sixth choristers for their wonderful commitment to chapel music over many years as well as to wish them all the best for the future.



Choral Concert

The Chamber Choir was delighted to join forces with Solihull Choral Society and instrumentalists from the Sinfonia of Birmingham in a performance of John Rutter's 'Requiem' in the School Chapel on Saturday 29 April. Our choristers tackled this extended and often complex work superbly well and achieved such an impressive range of choral colour. Charlotte Sasse was the exceptional soprano soloist in the beautiful 'Pie Jesu'.



Soloist Concerts

As well as the concerts for large ensembles, the usual array of concerts for individuals to gain the experience of performing as soloists has continued. Highlights include the second Music Scholars' Recital of the year as well as Informal Concerts and individuals performing at both the Junior and Lower School Prize Giving ceremonies. In every concert all performers – young and old, beginner and experienced – acquitted themselves with confidence, musicality and panache. Bravo!

20 fingers at the keyboard!

For many, being a pianist can be a rather solitary experience. However, Mrs Martens (Head of Keyboard) and Mr Woodrow (Head of Choral Music) displayed what fun you can have making music with another fellow pianist in the form of piano duets. They entertained a packed Recital Room on a very sunny Sunday early evening with a wonderful range of music. The final piece had a guest third performer in the form of the Headmaster, who had never played the piano, let alone in public, before. He certainly took the 'Opportunity' and lived up to the 'Ambition' in front of the 'Community'!





Huge congratulations to our A, B and U13 chess teams who were all runners up in the Birmingham & District Junior Chess League. (15 June)

Another successful day at the #solihullsixes. Solihull U14 beat Warwick in the final. Well played to both teams. (15 June)



Festival Success

Once again, a number of our pupils have gained successes in music festivals outside school. This term, congratulations are due to Ellie Ajao for being placed 1st in two categories and 3rd in another category at the Northfield Festival of Music and Speech.

Soaring the high notes on the BBC air-waves

On Wednesday 28 June the Boys' and Girls' Choirs travelled to Manchester to sing live on BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service' broadcast. Like the young professionals that they are, they rose to the demands of singing under the pressure of live radio, knowing that some 250,000 people were probably listening. They sang two hymns and a lovely setting of the Nunc Dimittis text. A huge thank you to Mr Woodrow for conducting, and to Mr Irving for so quickly adapting to the church's organ.

U15 France Rugby Tour

Our Easter Tour to south-west France was tremendous. The boys truly represented their School and country with honour, both on and off the pitch. After an opening defeat versus Bordeaux-Bègles, the boys bounced back with a thrilling 9-try victory over Le Bouscat, with Fintan Bristow scoring four tries. By the time we got to our fourth match, the demands were too great, so I'd like to sign off on a real high and finish with our third tour match, against US Salles.

What a game! And what a second half fight-back! This is one of the finest Solihull U15 rugby matches I've ever witnessed. That we lost (by one try) actually didn't seem to matter in the face of such bravery, tenacity, skill and heroism. On behalf of Mr Morgan, Mr Phillips and myself Mr Jackson, we were all so proud of you guys that night.



Sri Lankan Cricket Tour

Easter saw the inaugural U13 and U14 cricket tour to Sri Lanka. Thirty-six boys across the two year groups departed London Heathrow en-route to Colombo. The hospitality, hotels and cricket was absolutely outstanding with fifteen matches played and two practice days. Every boy played five games of cricket, with the highlight of the tour being the opportunity of playing at P'Sara International Cricket Ground in Colombo. From a cultural experience the boys enjoyed a city tour of Colombo, visiting the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and a tea factory. A very enjoyable time was had by all.



Huge well done to our U13 girls rounders team who were runners up in the Solihull Borough Tournament this week. #SolSchSport. (17 June)

Our Lower Sixth geographers visited Slapton Sands over the weekend to analyse issues relating to urban regeneration in the town! #SolSchGeo. (19 June)



Sailing Team

The Sailing team has enjoyed a fabulous term with overall good weather. Those sailors that joined at the beginning of the year have grown in confidence and can now helm as well as crew. The younger and more experienced sailors are preparing to race at the Itchenor Schools Regatta at the end of the Summer Term and more details of this will be found in the Shenstonian. They will be competing against very strong competition with the schools from the south coast but they are sure to have a great time and significantly build on their existing skills.

Athletics

The following pupils are West Midlands Champions: Adam Visram Cipolletta (U15 1500m); Krystian Shine (U14 100m), Harvey Blackhurst (Long Jump U14) and Erin Troop (U14 High Jump).

The Junior Boys (U14) reached the Midlands A Final in the Track and Field Cup on the back of some excellent performances. The boys qualified in second place out of all the schools in the Midlands. The Third Form boys' team won the South Solihull Super 6s Competition and are competing in the Regional Finals on 6 July.



Summer Term Teams of the Week

Benchers 2016-17

A fantastic team effort for 2016-2017

Middle School Debating Team

Regional Winners of the International Competition for Young Debaters

Cross Country Team

Excellent performance in winning the Albutt Borough Championship Finals

Young Enterprise Team 'Think'

Winners of the 'Best Trade Stand Prize' in the YE Birmingham Area Finals

The Chess Team

Runners-up in the Birmingham & District Chess League

U13A Cricket Team

Excellent victory against Trent College in the National Cup

Cast and Crew of 'The Last Resort'

Two nights of fabulous drama

Business and Economics Team

Winners of the CIPFA Games

Third Form Spelling Bee Team

Excellent performance in National Competition

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