

Easter Term 2022

# The Greyhound



SOLIHULL



*Fame*, this year's Senior School Musical, and the cast of this year's J4 Musical production *Peter Pan*.

A M B I T I O N - O P P O R T U N I T Y - C O M M U N I T Y





### New Chair of Governors

Damian Kelly joined Solihull as Chair of Governors in January 2022, taking over from Mark Hopton, who stood down after more than 16 years on the Board, including 11 as Chairman.

Damian, an Old Silhillian, has been a Governor for 10 years and was Vice Chairman throughout 2021. He is a partner at Lodders LLP, specialising in employment law, and has extensive experience of a wide variety of HR and other commercial matters.

Like his predecessor, Damian is dedicated to ensuring the successful development of the school and is committed to excellence in educational provision, including both the classroom curriculum and also via the many co-curricular opportunities available to pupils of all ages. He also champions the promotion of wellbeing for both staff and pupils, together with diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the school community.

*Mark Hopton and Damian Kelly (right) are pictured at the opening of The Mark Hopton Building on our Warwick Road campus.*





### How long have you worked in education?

17 years.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety - I am never bored! No two days are ever the same and - even after 17 years - young people still surprise and delight me every day! There is nothing better than witnessing an 'aha' moment, when pupils work out the solution to a challenging problem that they've been working on for a while or understand something that they have seen in the news. Solihull pupils have such a remarkable range of talents and interests; it is exhilarating to work with them on their journey through the school. I am also very lucky to work with an incredible team of colleagues who support and challenge me, and make me laugh, every day.

### What does your role as Head of Academic Enrichment entail?

Academic Enrichment is one of the 'Big 6', so I work alongside the Head of Community Relations, Music, Outdoor Education, Performing Arts and Sport, Health and Fitness. I co-ordinate the enormous range of Academic co-curricular clubs, societies and activities that make up our Academic Enrichment programme. I also have the privilege of working with our amazing Academic Scholars, challenging them to step out of their comfort zones, and encouraging them to broaden and deepen their thinking.

There is also an on-curriculum aspect to the role. I run the Sixth Form ASpire (Advance Skills) programme, in which students prepare for post-school life by developing public speaking, leadership, project management and independent study skills. They can choose to develop foundational skills for particular career paths, for example in Financial Services, Engineering, Medicine, Computing and the Arts; there are also opportunities to broaden knowledge into new areas such as British Sign Language or, most recently, how to maintain a car.

Lately, I have been working on an exciting project to introduce similar programmes lower down the school. We launched the Middle School Diploma two years ago, and our first cohort are just about to submit their HPQ projects for assessment. This year, pupils in the Third Form have been following our new Novus Foundation Diploma course, to embed these skills for life right from the very beginning of their school career.

### If you didn't work in education, what career would you most want and why?

When I was younger, I hoped to join the Royal Navy. I wanted to be the first female captain of a warship. I think I have 'missed the boat' on that opportunity now, but I would still like to work at sea. I'd particularly like to work for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency or the RNLI, because I have seen first-hand how crucial they are to saving lives and helping people in difficulties at sea.

### What do you like doing outside of school?

Sailing! Before I became a teacher, I worked on traditional square-rigged tall ships sailing all over the world. I don't get to do that quite so much now, but I still have a dinghy that I sail at my local sailing club, and I like yachting during school holidays. My family also owns an original Dunkirk Little Ship, so I enjoy the challenge of restoring her to her former glory.



## The Greyhound Interviews ... Mrs Francis Head of Academic Enrichment

Since lockdown, I've also taken up a few new hobbies. I can now play a range of different sea shanties on my concertina (though you probably won't see me on stage any time soon!), and my golf is improving too.

### What's your favourite book and song of all time?

That's a tough question! I love to read, and there are so many great books to choose from. However, I think I'd have to choose one that had a big impact on me when I was younger: *Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome. It tells the story of a group of adventurous young people who head off in their sailing dinghies to explore unknown lands, meet new people and overcome a range of challenges. I read it soon after I first learned to sail, and it played a big part in giving me the courage and ambition to join my first Tall Ships Race, in which I had to overcome extreme shyness to join a crew of 47 other people that I had never met before (and quickly work together to avert a potential crisis when a part of the ship broke!).

My favourite song of all time would have to be *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley and the Wailers. I listen to it when things get tough, and it always reminds me that 'Everything's Gonna Be Alright'. It also makes me think of sailing in the Caribbean – most definitely my happy place!

### What would you take to a desert island?

My family and friends ... and my boat!







## *The Greyhound Interviews ...* Lower Sixth student **Hana**

### **When did you join Solihull?**

In Third Form in 2016.

### **What A Levels are you studying?**

Biology, Chemistry, Politics and have recently completed an EPQ, whereby I illustrated and produced a children's book about Covid-19.

### **What would you like to do next?**

A degree in Biomedicine to work as a scientist later on.

### **Which co-curricular activities do you enjoy?**

Since coming back after the pandemic I was determined to try things I haven't before. I recently took part in our musical 'Fame' in the dance chorus, and attended our annual Big Debate as a timer, sitting next to Old Silhillian Micheal Buerk.

### **Tell us something else about yourself ...**

I have a love of tennis; I used to play, led tennis camps for younger children and have also met Judy Murray.



## *The Greyhound Interviews ...* Lower Sixth student **Will**

### **When did you join Solihull?**

I've been at the school since J1, joining in 2012. I remember being in Mrs Steele's class and absolutely loving it. I've been all through the school and I made friends in J1 who I'm still friends with now.

### **What A Levels are you studying?**

I'm studying Politics, English and History. I have always loved History and English, and Politics was a great opportunity to try a new subject. I'm really enjoying it.

### **What would you like to do next?**

After Sixth Form, I'm hoping to pursue a career in journalism. I'd like to travel the world and make a genuine impact on society, bringing real stories to the public.

### **Which co-curricular activities do you enjoy?**

I've played bass and guitar for around two years at Solihull. The Music Department staff are such an incredible group, and it is really impressive how much they manage to achieve, from the technical and dress rehearsals through to producing outstanding plays, musicals and concerts.

### **Tell us something else about yourself ....**

Through Games sessions, I recently started playing padel tennis. It is a Southern European sport that mixes squash and tennis. It's something I'd never even consider playing until I tried it at school. I am also producing the *CULT* magazine as a part of my EPQ project, and I'm hoping it continues as an arts and culture publication once I have left school. The magazine allows creative pupils to present their work to a larger audience, and I've been really pleased with the first two issues.







### Prep School Head Boy and Head Girl

The Prep School Head Boy and Head Girl for the Easter term were Harry and Erin.

Harry started at Solihull in J1, and his favourite subject is Science because it helps him understand the world. Harry loves Chess co-curricular club as it is challenging and the game improves puzzle-solving skills, outside of school he plays tennis and rugby.

Erin has been at Solihull since J2, and the subject she enjoys most is Games because she likes physical activity and working as a team. As part of her role as Head Girl, Erin has enjoyed listening to other pupils, and trying to progress any suggestions for changes at the Prep School.

When asked about school lunches, both pupils shared the same favourite, lasagne, with Erin commenting...“100% the lasagne because I feel like I could just eat it and eat it and eat it!”

In January, Harry and Erin checked in on the progress of the Saint Martin's campus development project and were excited to learn that the Prep School parking and playing fields are on track for completion as planned.



### Gold Star Awards

Congratulations to the winners of our Easter term Junior School Gold Star Awards.



### Prep School Monitors

Monitors for the first half of the Easter term were Mrs Haley's J4SM, and for the second half of the term it was Mrs Morgan's J4RM Form.







## EYFS Easter Term

Nursery and Reception started the year with the topic 'Wings, Wheels and Sails', and enjoyed finding out about different types of transport. The Alice House role-play areas were turned into aeroplanes and the children enjoyed very quick 'first-class flights' to lots of exotic locations! A particular highlight was buckling up and going for a ride of the minibus around Solihull with Mrs Litwinko at the wheel.

Nursery's topic for the second part of the term was 'Mighty Minibeasts' – the children had fun learning facts about minibeasts and were fascinated by the idea that ladybirds smell through their feet! All enjoyed some classic stories including Eric Carle's popular titles *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Busy Spider*.

In Forest School, pupils have created 'Fairy Fires', rescued *Winnie the Pooh* from a tree and tried to climb through an enormous cobweb without ringing the bells.

In March, we celebrated World Book Day, with pupils coming to school dressed up as their favourite characters. The book sale was a great success and the children enjoyed browsing and buying. Nursery made 'Gruffalo' crumble – a tasty snack!

Reception's topic was 'Long, Long Ago' and the pupils were curious to find some very large footprints making a trail to their classroom on the first day back after half term. The children learned about different types of dinosaurs, became palaeontologists to look for dinosaur bones, and even investigated the contents of dinosaur faeces – yes, you read that right! Did you know a Stegosaurus ate stones to help digest its food?

Our activities for British Science Week were a huge hit in Reception! The pupils were fascinated watching caterpillars grow into butterflies and chicks hatch from eggs. They exploded volcanoes, made rainbows and planted seeds and bulbs in the outdoor classroom.

And finally, following World Oral Health Day, an important discussion and demonstration about how to keep teeth healthy and strong.

A wonderful Easter term!





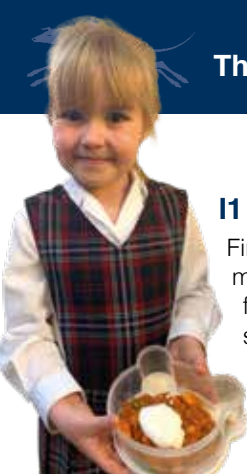


### Wow! Award Winners

Well done to all of our Alice House pupils who received certificates to recognise their efforts and achievements. Here are just some of the recipients of our Wow! Award this term.







## I1 Co-curricular Fun!

Fine Motor Skills, Baking, Craft and Construction and more ... it's been an exciting and busy Easter term for pupils in I1 co-curricular clubs. Dinosaur jigsaws, sweet potato and lentil curry, jam tarts, pancakes, ladybird biscuits, paper lanterns for Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day cards and decorations were just some of the fun activities enjoyed by the boys and girls at lunch time and after school.



## I1 Geography Field Work

On Wednesday 19 January, I1 pupils followed a route on a simple map to Solihull town centre. The children had to look for clues to see if they could spot where 'Travelling Ted' had been. It was a lot of fun, and the I1 pupils were so great at spotting everything; the boys and girls saw many interesting things! The teachers were impressed by the impeccable behaviour of the pupils, and 'Ted' was impressed too!

## 'Dots' with I2

During their weekly mindfulness session 'Dots,' I2 learned to be more mindful whenever they step outside. The pupils began with a 'mindless' walk then, after a discussion about their senses and slowing down, the children took the time to enjoy a more mindful walk in the sunshine.







### Irish Dancing

Congratulations to I2 pupil Bonnie who excelled during her Irish Dancing Feis in Doncaster in January. Bonnie performed four lights dances - reel, hop jig, slip jig and light jig - at the Nadine Martin Championships, placing first in all in the U8 category! A wonderful achievement. Bonnie also took to the Malvern Hall stage on St Patrick's Day with Third Form pupil Robyn to demonstrate their Irish Dancing skills to their peers.



### I2 Craft Club

Pottery, painting and pipe cleaner plants, superb creations in one of the I2 Craft Club sessions with Miss Hicks and Mrs Garside.



### I2 Forest School

All our Prep School pupils enjoy their Forest School sessions – a highlight of the term for I2 children was making 'fairy fires'!



### I2 Craft Club

In a Shrove Tuesday session of I2 Craft Club, pupils created craft pancakes before making and tasting the real things!







## 12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge

Pupils across the Preparatory School were invited to read their way through some challenges that were based around the 12 Days of Christmas. Pupils sent in photographs of them enjoying books in dens or dressed up in their swimming gear to document their participation. Four winners were chosen, with each pupil receiving a book token as a 'well done' for completing the challenge.



## J1 Gardening Club

This term, pupils in J1 Gardening Club delighted Mr Poole and Miss Winn with their work tidying, planting bulbs and making impressive progress in creating a recycled plastic bottle greenhouse. The children also invited all Prep School pupils to submit a design for the J1 Gardening Club Schools Wheelbarrow Competition, part of a BBC initiative. Well done to our overall winner Claudie in J3.



## Rock and Soils in J1 Science

In Science, J1 pupils have been studying 'Rocks and Soils' and the children have enjoyed rock walks, exploring the Saint Martin's campus, investigating, experimenting, observing and researching. The boys and girls were keen to replace their finds and made sure they didn't disturb wildlife during the process. Little Eco Warriors!







## Library Activities

The library has been busier than ever since the start of the new year. It is wonderful to see so many children enjoying the books and activities. Book Tasting, which we hosted as part of our World Book Day celebrations, was a huge success. Children from across the school attended the 'Book Tasting Café', where they sampled new genres and titles from our ever-expanding range of fantastic library books. The Scholastic Book Fair was brilliant, raising over £2,000 to purchase new books. Each class has since taken great delight in choosing two class titles, which will be donated to the library for the whole school to enjoy! The Reading for Pleasure Journals are the latest addition for our older Junior School pupils, and there have been some fantastic creative and individual entries!

Our Prep School Librarians interviewed new author Amara Sharif - a self-published author who is trying to address the lack of diversity in our children's picture books. The pupils were inspired by her story, and some hope to follow in her footsteps one day as published authors! Our J4 Reading Buddies are enjoying working with our younger children to share their love for reading through our weekly sessions. The mobile library has also proved very popular with our I1 and I2 pupils when it visits their playground each week - proving that reading can be fun anywhere!

*Mrs Pemberton*

## Interviewing an Author

On Thursday 10 February some of our Prep School Librarians met with Amara Sharif, an author who published her book 'Inaya and Nia go to the Zoo!' during lockdown. Amara was inspired to write the book when she discovered that only 5% of children's books in the UK have Black, Asian or ethnic minority main characters. Anoushka, Bethan, Gabriel, Anya, William, Zahraa and Zain created and directed questions.

"We were very interested to discover that Amara had published her book entirely independently and that this was available to anyone, free of charge on Amazon! We found out that Amara had not given up when other publishing companies had turned her away and that with perseverance, she had managed to get her book to print - she was equally as excited that we had hold of copies of our books for the library. We all agreed that books should reflect the diversity of our communities and our schools and Amara was very grateful to hear all the fantastic ideas we had for her for her future books and stories. She hopes to write further books for older children, so watch this space! The books are available to borrow from the library now. We hope to speak to Amara again soon and see how she gets on with her new titles."







## J1 History Workshop

On Tuesday 1 February, our J1 pupils took part in a truly fantastic interactive History workshop. 'Portals to the Past' brought the Stone Age (and more!) to life on our Saint Martin's campus, with our pupils travelling back millions of years to the Stone Age.

The children enjoyed being early hunter gatherers; studying artefacts; creating Stone Age art; building model versions of Stonehenge; and learning about the development of bronze and iron. A full, fun day of History!







### J1 Bhangra Workshop

Musical artist Sohan Kailey hosted a wonderful Bhangra workshop for J1 pupils this term. To complement and enhance their 'India' topic in Geography, the children learnt all about Indian traditions and culture. The pupils also showcased their dance moves and choreographing skills in a Bhangra showcase. Great work J1!



### J2 Science

In Science lessons, our J2 pupils used sieves in various sizes to sort mixtures with particles of different dimensions. Lots of messy fun!



### Safer Internet Day

To mark Safer Internet Day, J1 pupils created 'chatterboxes'. Children chose subjects and topics for the interactive question game, with each answer highlighting online safety and giving examples of how children should respond.



### STEM Club

J1 have really enjoyed STEM Club this term. They loved mixing multi-coloured slime, and one of the pupils' favourite activities was making playdough – the children couldn't believe how quickly it became a smooth mixture.



### Eco Council

Junior School pupils in Eco Council have begun litter picking in the playground at breaktime. Mrs Dickerson has been very impressed with the children's passion and enthusiasm to make our environment a better place! Well done, Eco Council!







## Alice in Wonderland

J3 Drama Club participants have been brilliant in 'Alice in Wonderland.' With the help of Mr Jackson and Mrs Morby, the pupils acted their socks off and really got into their characters. The children were not only ace actors, they were also super stage directors, creative costume makers and designers, and larger-than-life lighting directors. I1 and J3 really enjoyed watching them in Malvern Hall on the last day of term, while I2, J1, J2 and J4 watched the event live-streamed to their classrooms saying 'it was awesome' and 'I can't wait to be in J3!'

Thank you to all involved.

Mrs Rich and the Drama Team



## J2 Performing Arts Club

Pupils in J2 Performing Arts Club have been working on fables this term. The children have written their own versions, created scripts and thought of props and costumes. They then showcased their pieces to J1 and J2 before the end of term. The children are a very committed group, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow on the stage.

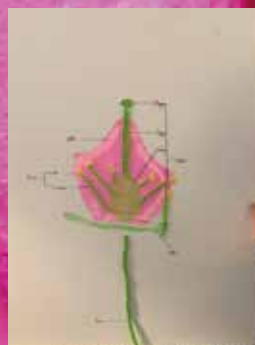
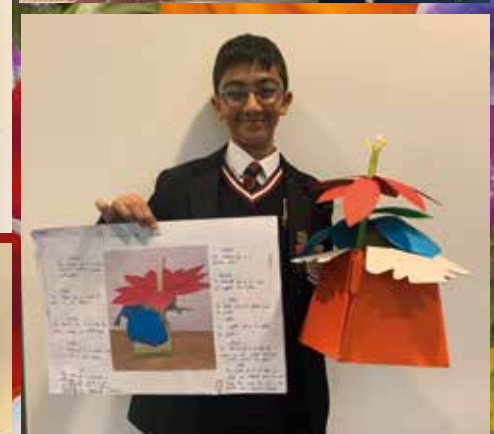






### J3 Plant Project

Well done to our J3 pupils who really excelled in their 'plant project' this term. The children completed the structures at home – and displayed some impressive understanding, knowledge and skills in this Science prep task.







### Fruitful Lessons!

In J3 Science lessons, pupils dissected and sketched fruit. Children in Mrs Farnan's class spent one session looking at seeds inside tomatoes, apples, oranges, cucumber and pears, discussing their findings and drawing the foods.

### J3 Art

In Art, J3 pupils have been creating impressive papier mache biscuits, doughnuts, cakes, lollipops ... we can't wait to see their completed sweet treats!







### J3 Team Maths Challenge

Eight J3 mathematicians took part in a Maths Challenge at Bromsgrove School on Thursday 24 March. The day involved working as a team of four to solve maths questions and puzzles. 14 teams from the across the region took part, and our two Solihull Prep School teams finished in first and second place! A fantastic achievement.



### J4 Geography

In Geography lessons this term, J4 pupils have been learning about Natural Disasters. The children researched volcanic activity and subsequent tsunamis in the Tongan archipelago in January 2022, and then created news reports about what happened. When presenting, the J4 pupils demonstrated great knowledge as well as empathy with those involved in the disaster.



### J4 Chess Club

J4 Chess is one of our most popular co-curricular activities at the Prep School, with many pupils enjoying the strategic challenge of the game.



### Spelling Bees!

This term, our J3 and J4 pupils entered the annual 'Routes into Languages Spanish Primary Bee', a competition where children translate as many individual words as they can from English to Spanish in one minute. Well done to all Prep School participants, and congratulations to top scorers Taran, Isla, Ryan, Margarida and Emma, who now go on to represent Solihull at a regional level. ¡Enhorabuena a todos!







## J4 Anderson Shelters

The Easter term is Anderson Shelter time for our J4 pupils! Once again, the children wowed with their outstanding and imaginative creations.



## J4 WWII History

On Wednesday 16 February, J4 pupils visited our Warwick Road campus for English and History lessons, learning about WWII. In Music sessions, Mr Rice led singing in the Chapel and discussed Dame Vera Lynn, whose performances were popular in the Second World War.



## Professor Al Cofone

In January, Professor Al Cofone again made his way from Long Island, New York to deliver his much-loved series of lectures to Prep School and Senior School pupils. Sharing his inimitable style of delivery and conspicuous expertise, he augmented the Geography topics of our Junior School pupils with bespoke lectures on:

J1 Comparison: *America and Great Britain; Different but Alike*

J2 Weather: *The Big Brawl; Death Valley and Tornado Alley*

J3 North America: *Comparison of New York and London*

J4 Natural Disasters

Professor Cofone also shared his fascinating historical and political insight when addressing out Sixth Form students on talks entitled *Mr Khrushchev Comes to Iowa* and *An English Garden; American Political Discourse in the Age of Trump and Biden*.

We look forward to his return as our Principal Guest of Honour for Junior School Prize Giving in late June.







### The Crocolion Code

An update on The Crocolion Code. During lockdown, Junior School teacher Mr Grove wrote a children's story book and, with the help of Prep School colleagues Mr Johnson as illustrator and Mr Stafford providing voices, The Crocolion Code has now been published, with a potential audiobook to follow. The trio are delighted to see their efforts in print and have decided to donate all book sale profits to Birmingham Children's Hospital and Charity. The heart-warming tale of friendship is available to purchase from [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk)



### 2econd Chance Charity

Thanks to all the families who donated unwanted computers and laptops to our 2econd Chance initiative this term. 2econd Chance is a not-for-profit recycling organisation that takes computers and uses them to provide IT training to people with Special Educations Needs and Disabilities.



### BEBRAS Computing Challenge

All pupils in I2 to J4 took part in the University of Oxford BEBRAS Computing Challenge, which focuses on computational and logical thinking and aims to get children all over the world excited about computing and coding. There was certainly a buzz around classrooms when the results were announced, and it was revealed that so many of our hard working pupils in each year group achieved 'Merit' and 'Distinction' awards. Most excitingly, nine of our J4 pupils achieved a 'Gold Award,' which means they came in the top 10% nationally and were eligible for the OUCC - Oxford University Computing Challenge - in February. This challenge was certainly a step up from BEBRAS, but a huge well done to Dylan, Max, Alice, Leon, Freya, Sophia, Zetta and Jude who did so well, and congratulations to Michael who was awarded 'Best in School'.



### J1 Fossils

In Science, towards the end of term, J1 pupils were learning about the process of fossilisation – and the children enjoyed a practical task of baking their own fossils, which they 'buried' in biscuit crumb. Before excavation (and eating!), the children had to take their sediment surprises home and explain to their families how a fossil is formed! The pupils loved this session – especially working with our fabulous catering team and seeing 'behind the scenes' in the Refectory kitchen!







## Fairtrade Trail

We were delighted to be asked to participate in the Solihull Council Fairtrade Trail to promote sustainability and Fairtrade. Before half term, Prep School pupils created two wonderful globes to represent the world we want to live in, with everyone living and working together as one. Constructed entirely from recycled materials, children made a miniature wooden figure of themselves, contributed painted handprints and wrote slogans to highlight our shared vision for the future. Thank you to our fantastic Eco Council, Art Monitors and all the Prep School pupils and staff who helped to bring our ideas to life. The trail ran for two weeks in Solihull town centre, with our creations on display in Metro Bank and Solihull Children's Library.



## J2 Lego and Coding Club

During one session of Lego and Coding Club this term, J2 pupils were set the challenge of designing, building and coding robots that might help with a given profession. The children developed ideas that would help all sorts of careers ranging from ice cream van drivers to doctors!



## Debating Club

On Thursday 10 March, members of Mr Grove's J4 Debating Club visited the Warwick Road campus to watch a Fourth Form debate. The older pupils engaged in a passionate discussion on the subject of 'whether to keep time limits on exams', and the Prep School children returned to the Saint Martin's campus full of ideas and tips for their next debate.







### House Singing

Pupils in the Prep School thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with a group of talented Sixth Form students for a week of House Singing! There was a real 'buzz of excitement' in the air as the Houses were able to engage in singing together after a two year gap.

This year the theme was *Disney* and all Houses gave rousing performances, replete with solos, small group singing, harmony and 'choreographed moves!' We enjoyed a variety of songs from *Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *High School Musical*, *Toy Story* and *The Greatest Showman*. All pupils performed to a high standard, and 2022 proved to be a hotly contested competition! Well done to everyone, and special mention go to Fetherston, who were crowned the champions singing *You've Got a Friend in Me*, and to Shenstone who were the runners up.



### Chapel Pets' Service

On Sunday 19 March we hosted our annual Chapel Pets' Service – a fun family evening full of furry friends and cute cuddlies!







## World Book Day

On Thursday 3 March we celebrated World Book Day on our Saint Martin's campus. Pupils submitted some super entries for our Prep School 'Story in a Box' World Book Day competition, and we saw an outstanding array of colourful costumes!



CELEBRATING

WORLD BOOK DAY











## Coventry Cathedral Visit

As part of their History unit on the World Wars, on Monday 21 March, J4 experienced a trip to Coventry Cathedral. As well as hearing about the effect of the Blitz on the Cathedral and Coventry as a city, the pupils learned about life during World War II, and how the message of peace and reconciliation is as important today as it was then.







### Celebrating Women in Science

On Friday 11 February we marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science by celebrating some of our Solihull scientists, and Prep School Head of Science, Mrs Middleton, explained why she chose Science: "Ever since I was young, I was always the child who asked, why? Some people would call it nosey, other people would say I was inquisitive. Either way, at 18 I found myself in a lecture theatre at Birmingham University, studying Manufacturing Engineering and Business Management in a predominantly male environment. I was most fascinated by nano-engineering and the CAD and CAM work. The course made me realise how Science dominates everything we do. It made me even more inquisitive."

"Today, as Head of Science at the Prep School, with Miss Smith, I enjoy helping the young children develop a love of learning and Science enquiry. Whether this be from seeing their faces when we watch real chicks hatch, or when we test water resistance in investigations. It is a hugely rewarding job and I am very grateful for the career path I ventured upon."



### Science Week

To mark British Science Week, we hosted our first in person 3-11 Science Week, and our Prep School pupils and staff had such a blast! A highlight – an explosive Science Show in the SMArt Centre for our Alice House and Junior School children.

Other activities throughout the week included a full day of Science for J3 pupils, with Sixth Form students visiting the Saint Martin's campus to share their knowledge of the planets in the solar system. A huge space dome, seating 40 pupils at a time, was a real hit too!

At the start of the week, 10 fertilised chicken eggs arrived and the whole Prep School community were glued to the live webcam, awaiting the first hatchling and then watching them thrive. 10 healthy chicks grew, and many children handled our feathered friends before they went to their new home.

Well done to our Prep School pupils for their outstanding inventions for the British Science Week competition. So many great contributions! Thank you to Dr Ryland, Mr Grove and Mr Poole for participating in the very tough judging session, and to Mrs Middleton and Miss Smith for coordinating this year's activities.







## J4 Drama

This term pirates, mermaids, lost boys and fairies all featured in our J4 production of Peter Pan. With a sprinkle of fairy dust, Peter and the Darling children left for Neverland and a host of adventures, including battling against Captain Hook, his sidekick Mr Smee and a host of pirates. The J4 pupils brought together months of rehearsals in their evening productions of Peter Pan, where they impressed audiences with both their acting and singing skills. Their teamwork, commitment and enthusiasm all contributed to a brilliant J4 performance.







## SSPA Disco

Dancing, face paints, glowsticks, bubbles, glitter tattoos and snacks! Friday 18 March was 'disco day' at the Prep School.







### Show Racism the Red Card

During the second half of the Easter term, we were delighted to connect with the incredible organisation, Show Racism the Red Card where our entire Sixth Form committed to undertaking their online learning, becoming advocates against racism. This was no mean feat and required dedication, a flexible mindset and some in depth discussions. The impact has been immense with pupils reporting back with comments like "It helped me have a much clearer perspective about the extent of racism and has made me take time to try to walk in the shoes of someone who has experienced this", and "I understand more about the subtleties of racism in language and I now feel more confident to have conversations about this important subject in a respectful way".



### Guardian Shield

We have also been thrilled to connect through our Guardian Shield work in the ASpire programme with an organisation devoted to raising awareness and further understanding about dementia. So many of our community are affected by the associated conditions, either living with or caring for people with the effects. Kissing it Better is a charity created in 2009 with the aim, through imaginative healthcare programmes and expert training, of bringing younger and older people together to foster better understanding and to end the isolation that many can feel. The Guardian Shield programme is a modular learning programme where participants gain adult qualifications in things that fundamentally help keep people safe. From MHFA, to physical First Aid and also to become Dementia Friends and KIB Ambassadors, nine of the team were delighted to work through important sessions with Jill Fraser, the KIB CEO herself in what will be the first of many more connections with this wonderful team.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

In a cross-departmental initiative, the RS and Wellbeing and Personal Development Departments led the way marking Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 on Thursday 27 January. The theme this year was 'One Day' – to take a moment in history and moment in the present to remember what happened, the lives lost and the devastating effects of these tragedies, and to find some reflection in the hope that we can learn lessons for our now and the future. There is still a long way to go as recent events tell us, but what shone through in our small service at Anne Frank's Tree, next to Heinz Geiringer's memorial bench is the hope that young people have for a world of peace. The ceremony included readings from our Sixth Form Anne Frank Ambassadors, a moment of reflection, and prayers led by Father Andrew. This was followed by the Headmaster, members of the School Leadership Team, the Prep School Head Boy and Head Girl and our J4 Mentors laying traditional visitation stones around the tree. The reflection stones with the word 'believe' marked on them, signified the school's commitment to never forgetting what has been before and our ongoing efforts for care and peace wherever we can.







### Lunar New Year

The Equity Group, our 70+ strong group of pupils from across the Senior School, were delighted to be part of celebrating Lunar Year in February.

Marking the Year of the Tiger, pupils paid a small donation for the chance to wear something red with all monies going to The Big Cat Sanctuary in Kent.

Thank you to our Prep School pupils for joining the initiative, and to Miss Zhou for leading our Senior School Lunar New Year themed Mandarin Club which included paper cutting and crafts.



### Equity News

In other news, it has been the biggest thrill for the Equity Group to see the first issue of their magazine, Equity News, being published and distributed around the school community. The first edition focused on Asian issues, with some insightful contributions from our members about diversity, equity and inclusion. Pupils, staff and the wider school community were able to read important articles and reports, guidance

and information about language and much more.

A PDF copy is available to anyone interested in reading (email [equity@solsch.org.uk](mailto:equity@solsch.org.uk)) and work is already underway for our second edition scheduled for the summer term.



### Alumni Connections

Reaching out through the years, it was a privilege and honour to connect with one of our alumni, Mr Sean Winnett, who had seen through publications such as The Greyhound and Shenstonian some of the work that the Equity Group had been involved in, not least the Equity Flag Crossing. He wanted to find out more and so members of the group had a meeting (through that old favourite *Microsoft Teams!*) where he spoke about how life was very different in the 80s and 90s, providing some great guidance and encouragement to the Equity Group members and affording them the opportunity to tell him about how the school is different in 2022. It was also a treat for Mr Morgan to meet one of his old pupils after such a long time, and Sean was delighted too! More about these kinds of connections to follow but this proved to be an important foundation for a wider forthcoming initiative.



### Inclusivity Charter

During Anti-Bullying Week 2019, pupils voiced their wish for a cohesive statement on all matters of diversity, equity and inclusion, a piece of work our whole Solihull Community could support. Fast forward to September 2021, and our 'Inclusivity Charter' was shared with all Senior School pupils, staff and governors. Taking themes from our pioneering Wellbeing and Personal Development curriculum framework of 'Five Steps', the Inclusivity Charter aims to be a proactive guide to the school's stance on all matters DEI. Thanks to our Lower School Council for raising the theme and collaborating with the Equity Group on this important matter.







## International Women's Day

On International Women's Day on Tuesday 8 March, we celebrated the achievements of women, including some of our Solihull female leaders, who also shared details of women who inspire them.

Mrs Humphreys named Michelle Obama as her inspirational woman: "I read her autobiography, having always admired her, and to hear her story of how she used education to help her achieve qualifications that enabled her to make a difference to people's lives, rather than using them for her own financial gain is inspiring. How she used her position as First Lady to help others and promote good things is also very humbling."

Our Head of Middle School, Miss Evans, is inspired by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern. "An inspirational female leader, who combines her passion for politics and change with her maternity and identity as a mother."

Mrs Speirs chose Maya Angelou ... "An amazing woman, and an absolute trailblazer. As an English teacher, her poem 'Still I rise' is a favourite of mine, as is this quote: "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.'"



An inspirational woman who broke the bias in particular for our Head of Wellbeing and Personal Development and Anti-discrimination Lead, Mrs Rooney ... "It would have to be Baroness Hale, the first female President of the UK's Supreme Court, appointed back in 2017 until her retirement in 2020. A trailblazer in the legal system and someone who cares deeply about equity and inclusion"

In our Senior School assembly on Wednesday 9 March, Mrs Speirs, Mrs Robinson, a group of Sixth Form students and members of the Equity Group talked about breaking the bias. Pupils and staff have now been asked to reflect on the roles of women in particular fields, and how we as a community can continue to strive for a diverse, equitable and inclusive future.



## Random Acts of Kindness

Random acts of Kindness were shared across our whole school community on Thursday 17 February.



## Menopause Coffee Break!

Cupcakes for the Menopause coffee break. We are delighted to be having the conversation about this important issue. Menopause affects everyone, and staff on both campuses have been meeting to support and share ideas. The subject will also feature in our Wellbeing and Personal Development lessons for pupils.







### Stand out from the Flock

On Friday 14 February, Mr Gledhill delivered a Senior School sectional assembly on 'Penelope the Pink Pigeon', a unique bird spotted in Solihull at the start of the year.

The thought-provoking theme questioned: How do we as humans treat different newcomers to the flock? What do we do to celebrate and include diversity in a positive way and avoid prejudice? Do we hide our real feathers at times to not be seen as different?



### The Masked Teacher

Our popular Lower School competition 'The Masked Teacher' returned this term, with ten staff covering up and providing cryptic clues for form groups to decipher.

Congratulations to IV Cooper who correctly guessed all ten answers. The winning pupils received a selection of chocolate treats from Mr Gledhill in Lower School assembly.



### Time to Read

In January Lower School pupils and staff were encouraged to 'Drop Everything and Read'. The session, which took place during Form Time, launched our drive for love of reading (and aiding literacy), and was supported by members of our School Leadership Team, who also took a moment to turn a few pages of their chosen book.



### Staff Art Club

This term, our Art Department has been running a lunchtime Staff Glass Club, an opportunity to design and make a piece of fused glass. The popular sessions, using our new kiln, are led by Ms Perrins and have produced some fantastic colourful creations.

Ms Perrins also shares her knowledge of glass cutting, layering and melting with groups of Art scholars and in individual lessons with pupils.







### LAFF Sweet Sale and Non-Uniform Day

We celebrated Friendship Day on Monday 14 February, with Senior School pupils invited to a 'sweet sale' in the George Hill Building at break, an opportunity to purchase a treat for a friend - or themselves - and fundraise for LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future). We also held a Non-Uniform Day to support the charity which works with partner organisations in Peru to help disadvantaged children and young people build a better future.



### Crisis Donations

Thank you for your pre-Christmas donations to Crisis ... through your generosity, the organisation was able to provide a festive meal, food parcels and gifts to its associated charities, supporting many of those in need.



### SIFA Fireside

Kitty in Lower Sixth has been thanked again by SIFA Fireside for taking the initiative to donate any items from our recent Ukraine collection that were not on the prescribed list. Lots of food, household and toiletry items were able to be immediately passed on to a charity who can make good use of them. SIFA Fireside supports clients in their recovery from the effects of homelessness.



### Support for Ukrainian Exchange Students

Lower Fifth pupil Alexander brought to Mrs Patel's attention an exchange group of Ukrainian students who came to the UK in January and are now unable to return home due to the humanitarian crisis. The students are living in Birmingham, and are reliant on food bank vouchers, so some of the members of LVWn collected items of food to donate to the group.







## Humanitarian Crisis

On Monday 7 March, we began collecting items to support those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine – and the response from our Solihull Community was incredible! In the following days, staff and pupils came together to sort, organise, package and list the huge quality of much need items collected before transporting over 300 boxes from the George Hill social area to the Level as Solihull was the final pick up point for the lorry on Thursday 17 March.

Joanna Fletcher, CEO YogoJo Foundation, the charity that provided an umbrella for logistics and formalities to make the initiative happen, said: "I am so grateful for Solihull's engagement, effort and generosity, and for joining the rest of the community to make this important campaign a magnificent success. We've seen so much fantastic teamwork and compassion, and amazing contributions from children, adults, schools, sports clubs and companies. A big thank you also to the transport company and drivers."

The huge vehicle left the Level to travel to a Red Cross Branch in Poland, and from there the donations will be taken straight to the Red Cross in Lviv, Ukraine, to aid people who are fleeing the war.

In addition, we set up a JustGiving page for donations, and our end of term Non-Uniform Day supported the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal.







### Algal Alginate

Our Upper Sixth Biologists were recently tasked with producing algal alginate balls and colorimetry to determine the compensation point of *Scenedesmus quadricauda*. Mrs Parker explains: "Respiration produces CO<sub>2</sub> and photosynthesis uses CO<sub>2</sub>. When the two processes are in balance there is no net production of CO<sub>2</sub> this is called compensation point."



### Headmaster's Birthday Party

A 'wild' time was had at the Headmaster's Birthday Party for our Third Form pupils born in January and February with superb safari themed cupcakes, and in March, children enjoyed 'hat cakes' to mark Brain Tumour Research's 'Wear a Hat Day'.



### Biology Olympiad

All Upper Sixth Biologists participated in the Biology Olympiad this term. The international competition saw over 10,000 students from across over 700 schools worldwide take part in the in depth, challenging event. Our students were very successful with three achieving Gold Awards, four Silver, five Bronze and all others Highly Commended or Commended.





### Chemistry Olympiad

In January, having just completed their mock exams, six Upper Sixth students attempted the annual Chemistry Olympiad. Questions covered a range of topical subjects including Covid-19 lateral flow tests and storage of vaccines, as well as some more obscure areas such as 'tying molecules' to make the smallest Chinese decorative knots. The paper was described by the Royal Society of Chemistry as 'even more challenging than usual' and so our students did especially well to achieve four Gold and two Silver Awards. Congratulations to Dan, Isabel, Will and Emma (Gold) and Zainab and Oliver (Silver).



### Physics Extension

There's been a lot of success going on in Physics Extension sessions this year.

Our Upper Sixth students have seen more success in the Physics Challenge. All received certificates, with two securing Bronze II Awards, one Bronze I Award and a Silver Award. Furthermore, Oliver is the first student in recent memory to move onto Round 2 of British Physics Olympiad by obtaining a Top Gold Award. This is a serious achievement, and students are expected to tackle university level Physics in a short amount of time. In Round 2, Oliver sat a gruelling three-hour paper that tested his determination and resilience, not merely knowledge of physics. Topics and technical skills involved looking at the Physics of Formula 1 cars, Nuclear Fusion in the Sun and the Physics of Cloud Formations. Oliver obtained a Silver Award in Round 2, narrowly missing out on being selected for an Oxford training camp over Easter.

The Lower Sixth students have been working towards the Online Senior Challenge which is two x 30 minutes of intense multiple-choice questions, which extends the A Level course. It tests the speed at which students can solve problems, as well as their lateral thinking skills. Again, all students earned an award with five Bronze Awards, four Silver Awards and three Gold Awards.

Our Upper Fifth pupils also sat an online challenge in February - a similar format of 20 MCQs in each 30 minute assessment. More was asked about general physics knowledge outside the constraints of the GCSE course, with pupils tackling questions on the history of Physics such as James Watt's improvements to the steam engine, the James Webb telescope, the auction of Einstein's letter which contained  $E=mc^2$  and the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2021. Again, we had great success with two Bronze Awards, five Silver Awards and one Gold Award. We're now looking to tackle the written paper, and in our last session we have been exploring the physics behind the first direct evidence for black holes. Extension sessions are running for the Upper Fifth from the 21 March until May.

*Mr Eden*



### Enrichment Crest Project

Members of the Lower Sixth are currently completing a Science Association CREST Engineering Project as part of their ASpire Enrichment programme. There are two groups, one producing a facial recognition system and the second making and customising a remote-controlled car. During the Easter term they have completed most of the practical work, the students will finish the project next term.







## International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Friday 11 February marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science, recognising the contribution of females in Science and encouraging them to continue their endeavours.

Here Chemistry Teacher Dr Jennings shares a bit about her scientific -self!

*Why were you drawn to Science?*

I was always interested in all of the sciences but mostly Chemistry and Physics. I loved the reactions - especially anything with fire or a colour change!

*Where did you study and what did you enjoy?*

I picked Chemistry at university and went to Oxford. The course is four years and the last one is research, that was what really interested me, the research! It is very exciting making new materials and studying things not studied before, and pushing scientific boundaries. I went on to undertake a DPhil at Oxford, run jointly with Rutherford Appleton Labs. I gained so many practical skills - learning how to drive a crane, designing and making apparatus from glass (including glass blowing) and using cutting edge software.

*What do you like about your role now?*

Today, as a Chemistry teacher, I love to share my passion for Science and Chemistry with a new generation. It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm, enjoyment and keen interest from our pupils.



## Radish Reproduction

In Third Form Science, one of the topics this term was 'growing and plant reproduction'.

Pupils in Dr Ryland's lesson planted seeds for a 'who can grow the biggest radish competition'. The children are now tasked with taking care of the plants over the Easter break, before the big weigh in at the start of the summer term.



## Computer Science

Well done to Solihull's first ever Upper Sixth Computer Scientists who have worked hard to design, code and test their very own computer program as part of their NEA. Students have completed a variety of programs from maze games and a tutorial booking system to a litter picking route website. The supporting documentation produced by the students demonstrated their software development methodology. Above are two snap shots of the final programs.



## ESU Mace Debating

Congratulations to Upper Sixth students Alex and Freddie and Lower Sixth student Jem who won their round of the ESU Mace Debating competition online on 19 January.

The team, who proposed the motion 'This House Would Ban Gambling', progressed to, and went on to win the regional finals with their opposition to nationalising energy companies. On Monday 28 March the team visited Dartmouth House, home of the English Speaking Union as one of 12 semi-finalists in this year's Mace competition. Thanks to Ms Harford-Fox, Miss Evans and Miss Thacker for their coaching, support and encouragement.







### Youthspeaks Debating Competition

On Monday 14 February a Senior team and two Intermediate teams participated in Youthspeaks Rotary Debating Competition. The Lower Fifth team of Anna, Afonso and Ashmit went through to the next round as did the Fourth Form team of Isabella, Fatima and Jenna. These two teams went on to debate in the Regional Final in Warwick on Saturday 19 March.



### Youthspeaks District Final

On Saturday 19 March at the Warwick Methodist Church, Solihull had an Intermediate and a Senior Team in the district final of the Rotary's Youthspeaks Debating Competition. The Intermediate Team of Jenna, Isabella and Fatima performed their debate superbly and were judged the overall winners of the competition. Their debate explored 'whether self-defence classes should be made compulsory in schools' which they presented with skill, humour and great teamwork.

The Senior Team of Anna, Afonso and Ashmit also performed very well especially considering they are Lower Fifth pupils competing with Lower Sixth students from other schools. Their topic considered 'whether rugby should be banned in schools'.



### European Youth Parliament

On Tuesday 15 February, a team from Solihull took part in the European Youth Parliament Debating Competition in Warwick. Upper Sixth student Safiya spoke about 'protection for migrants'; Jennifer presented on 'waste water in the fashion industry' and Jem discussed 'opposing the vaccine'.



### Oxford Finals Day

Upper Fifth pupils Hannah and Sophie won the regional round of Oxford, competing against around 100 other youngsters, and the girls went on to represent the school at Oxford Finals Day at the Oxford Union on Saturday 12 March. Having only ever debated online before, the pupils were fantastic, going toe-to-toe with some of the top teams in the country and constantly listening, learning and honing their considerable analytical skills. Go Debate!

### Nottingham University Schools Debate Competition

On Saturday 5 February, Dr Hart and Mr Anderton took seven pupils to the Nottingham University Schools Debate Competition, where they competed against 40 teams from across the country. Well done to Lower Sixth students Anesu, Jennifer, Kitty, Piers, Rahul and Jem and Fourth Form pupil Zain on great debates, and congratulations to Jem and Jennifer who broke to the Grand Final, where they debated on the topic of whether the UK Government should ban games containing 'loot boxes' to U18s. An impressive performance saw Jem and Jennifer win the final debate - and the whole competition!







### Oxbridge Success!

This year has been a very successful year for our Oxbridge hopefuls. After much hard work, nine students were able to secure places at Oxford and Cambridge and we would like to congratulate them on their achievements. They are:

Cambridge: Oliver, Maths - Corpus Christi; Gabrielle, Maths - Homerton; Oxford: Tara, Modern Languages - St Catherine's; Dan, Biology - Balliol; Emma, BioMedical Sciences - Pembroke; Izzy, Chemistry - St Peter's; Katy, BioMedical Sciences - Lincoln; Patrick, Law - St John's; Lydia, Spanish - St Catherine's

Immense thanks also go to the Oxbridge team who, under the leadership of Dr Foster, have worked tirelessly to support and challenge students in difficult Covid-19 circumstances. They have demonstrated huge resilience and commitment.



### Philosophy and Ethics

The Philosophy and Ethics Groups have been actively engaged in deep discussions this year meeting regularly and having success in national competitions. In January, a group of students in the Lower Sixth took part in the regional round of the University of St Andrews Ethics Cup Debate. Our students won the 2022 University of Kent Regional and now advance to the finals at St Andrews.

On Friday 4 February, our Philosothon team of pupils from the Fourth Form to Upper Sixth went to KEHS to participate in the first West Midlands Philosothon competition. The team went on to win with Upper Fifth pupil Freya being named 'Best Speaker in the Year'. The team went on to the National Finals at Stowe School in March, where they enjoyed a brilliant day and left buzzing with ideas about freedom and the nature of truth!



### Big Debate

On Thursday 17 March, we welcomed Old Silhillian and President of the Debating Society, Michael Buerk back to Solihull to Chair our annual Big Debate. Stephen Cole and Freddie were up against Ms Harford-Fox and Alex, energetically speaking for and against the proposition of 'has 'wokeness' gone too far?' While the proposition won the overall majority of votes, the opposition managed to move more people's position, so in some ways, both teams won! Well done all, a great evening of passionate live debate.



### Language Passport

In February, a small group of multilingual pupils met with Dr Luiselli and Mr Morgan to take part in a Languages Passport activity. Those who attended today speak seven different languages between them, including Slovakian and Chinese, with three pupils fluent in four languages!







### Extended Project Qualification

We have had a wonderful cohort of EPQ students this year who used their intellectual curiosity and flexible thinking to carry out their unique research projects. Students take ownership of their projects from start to finish and have regular meetings with their EPQ supervisor who acts as a guide along the way. Some of the dissertation topics this year include vaccine hesitancy, post traumatic growth, and Greek mythology. We also had some really impressive artefacts including an arts and culture magazine, a sustainably made guitar and an illustrated children's book that explains the Covid-19 pandemic. The two presentation events were buzzing with enthusiasm, as the students showcased their projects.

### The Solihull Diploma – Higher Project Qualification

This year sees the first group of Upper Fifth pupils complete the Solihull Diploma. Fresh from success in their LAMDA Public Speaking Award that they completed in the Lower Fifth Form, the group embarked on the challenge of an HPQ. During the course of the programme each pupil has developed research, project management and essay writing skills. The process culminated in a presentation event attended by parents, staff, governors and pupils. Projects ranged from a human following robot to an investigation into the paranormal.



### Sixth Form Spanish

On Monday 31 January, Sixth Form Spanish students visited Warwick Arts Centre to see Pedro Almodóvar's latest film 'Madres Paralelas'. A rare treat and lots of learning too. ¡Qué magnífico!



### Spanish Support

This term, Sixth Form student Piers has been joining Miss Noon at the Prep School for J3 Language and Culture Club and I1 Spanish lessons. The I1 pupils have been learning colours and animals, and whilst the children worked on cards in the classroom, Piers had a chat with Sophie and Martina.







## International Curriculum and Connecting Classrooms

Last year, we put forward a series of events and projects to the British Council. The aim was to show collaboration across the curriculum with partner schools abroad, whether established partners from previous visits and exchanges, or partners new to Solihull from India and Nepal. Inevitably, the plans had to be adapted due to Covid-19 but if anything colleagues proved even more imaginative in their response.

Highlights included a competition to design a sustainable city using recycled materials only, a piece of persuasive writing on equality issues (won by our Lower Sixth student Kaitlin, and performed in an internal assembly), shared Food Technology lessons with India, international story telling with Mr Grove, a live link up between Prep School and Nepal in an assembly about Road Safety, a shared lesson between Mr Chilcott's Third Form Science class and pupils from Kathmandu about the best energy mix for our countries, not to mention The Kindness Cure creative writing competition for the adults in each school community for which Mrs Speirs and Mr Morgan were given first and second place respectively.

Our crowning glory was a successful application for a Connecting Classrooms grant. We shared funding with India and Nepal about sustainable food production and the project involved Geography, Food Technology and Science. Pupils in Fourth Form made food diaries in Food Technology, evaluated them for nutritional content and environmental impact and learnt about the concept of food miles in Geography. They shared a sustainable recipe with classes in each partner school and evaluated what we could learn from each other. They then undertook scientific analysis of their sustainable bread and butter pudding in Science lessons to establish the exact composition of their meals before sharing the results with partners. Mrs Massarella was due work on a version of the project with Prep School but it was postponed due to the pre-Christmas Covid-19 restrictions. This, alongside the shared celebration breakfast, should take place in the summer term.

This term we have been planning a shared project with our Indian partners and Key Stage 1 looking at the flora and fauna in and around our respective campuses. The pupils are producing videos as I write ready to share before the Easter break. Next term we'll be performing traditional dances on International Day of Dance.

It is a great pleasure to see all parts of the school community getting involved and sharing the fun. Hopefully, the pupils have found that the collaboration has enriched their curriculum. My thanks again to all colleagues who have bought into the international dimension.

*Mr Delaney*



## Language Bees

On Friday 4 March Fourth Form and Lower Fifth pupils entered the UK Linguistics Olympiad for the first time. Each achieved either Silver or Bronze Awards. Well done on a superb linguistic achievement!

Our Third Form pupils competed in the Regional Final of the Spanish Bee and are currently awaiting results. Well done and good luck to Ella, Meriam and Anya.

Our Fourth Form pupils participated in German and French Translation Bees and made it to the regional final: Olivia and Daisy for German, Isabella and Shivani for French.



## Marginal Gains

This Easter term issue of Marginal Gains covered an analysis of events in Ukraine, a discussion of democracy in the UK and an assessment of Biden's first year as president.







### Classics Trip to Cirencester

In February, members of the Shell Form attended a Classics trip to Cirencester Amphitheatre, one of the largest Roman sites in Britain.



### Latinists Visit Bath

On Wednesday 2 February, Fourth Form Latinists enjoyed a fantastic day trip to Bath – the sun shone, and the world of Roman Britain was explored! The pupils studied artefacts including tombstones and personal items, and visited the site of the Roman Baths.



### GCSE Greek

Greek GCSE is now into its 7th year, and numerous talented pupils have secured top grade Classical Greek GCSEs under the tutelage of Dr Foster off timetable. There are two thriving GCSE classes at present, one sitting GCSE this year taught by Dr Foster and one next year taught by Mrs Johnson. A new crop will begin GCSE Greek during the second half of the summer term, and letters of invitation to the off timetable classes will be issued early next term.

Classical Greek is both fun and a challenge but ask anyone who has studied it, and they will tell you that the learning curve is steep but the reward is huge! We all have an immense amount of enjoyment from it and the Greek actually enhances our Latin grammar knowledge and enriches our English. No dancing or broken plates as such but lots of laughter, chocolate, challenge and pleasure!



### Placement at Ernst & Young

Congratulations to Upper Sixth student James who, after a rigorous and competitive application process, has secured a place on Ernst & Young's prestigious Degree Apprenticeship Programme.







### Food and Nutrition

Fantastic practical work, planning, preparation and technical skills have been demonstrated in Food and Nutrition lessons this term. Pupils have presented a variety of tasty plates including healthy fish goujons, wedges and homemade mayonnaise; a Ukrainian dish - sweet sochniki; and hot cross buns.



### Science and Engineering Club

The Lower School Science and Engineering Club meets every Friday lunchtime and the pupils have experiences some great experiments this term. Two of the most popular activities were making larva lamps and also a liquid rainbow. Members of the club have also looked at static electricity, used a Van-der-Graaf generator and undertaken a bridge building competition.

*Mr Davies and Mrs Trainor*

### House Pancake Race

Well done to Windsor, winners of the House Pancake Race! Enjoy this selection of House team pictures, action shots and some of Mrs Fair's CCF helpers enjoying their tasty rewards!







### Poet Laureates

Our two Poet Laureates, Amber and Charlotte, each wrote a poem focussing on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The pupils recited their pieces during Senior School Assembly. Amber has also created the following Easter poem.

### Overlooked Miracles

As fragile as the silence on an open road, it rises  
 From its placid slumber, its  
 Wings still damp, its eyes clasped shut,  
 To grow into a delicate beauty; a beauty to rival the sun  
 Above. Then: flash. Click. A beauty snatched.  
 Hundreds, thousands of times, copied,  
 Published, purchased. The unparalleled  
 Miracle of its birth  
 Neglected, buried amongst a limitless ocean of  
 Bonnets, baskets, bouquets. Neglected,  
 Overlooked amongst a sea of synthetic wares. If  
 Only it was the sole neglected truth. If only.

Beyond its fragile body, like a spider's  
 Web, exquisite, intricate, delicate, remain the fragments -  
 like smashed  
 And scattered seashells - of its sanctuary, once a giver of  
 life - now  
 Neglected. Except, not quite. Not  
 Before it too can be avariciously  
 Exploited. Money. Trade.

Its unattainably smooth shell replicated, imitated in  
 The richest chocolate. Its unparalleled offer of refuge, an  
 abode,  
 Existence indeed,  
 Neglected. Another overlooked miracle in a  
 Sea of synthetic wares. If  
 Only it was the sole neglected truth. If only.

And yet.

Is there not another overlooked miracle in a  
 Sea of synthetic wares? Easter's true miracle?  
 A miracle to rival all others?

*Amber, Upper Fifth*



### Harry Potter Book Night!

Brilliant displays and fun activities took place in the Senior School Kent Library for Harry Potter Book Night!



### Gardening Club

Gardening Club has been back in action this term preparing the raised beds, planting out early potatoes, garlic and onions. The weather has been fabulous so far, so here is to a good growing season ahead!







### Soloist Instrumental Concerts

Our pupils have many opportunities to perform as soloists, and this term has been no exception. Two sets of Informal Concerts (one in each half of term) at both the Prep and Senior School have provided wonderful experiences for pupils to perform solo items in public. These concerts have become so popular (180 individual pieces played!) that we now often have to split both the Prep and Senior Concerts into two events! Well done to all who stepped up to perform.



### Chamber Music Concert

Chamber Music holds a very important place in any pupil's musical experience. In effect it provides a step up from the demands of large-ensemble performing in that each member of a chamber music group is alone on their particular part. Initially this can be a little scary but, with extended experience, it can become wonderfully exhilarating. This year's Chamber Music Concert – with representatives from most instrumental and vocal families – proved, once again, that our pupils are really enjoying this form of making music, and all rose to the challenge with confidence and musicianship. Bravo!

### Farewells

We say farewell this term to three instrumental teachers who depart for pastures new – Mr Alex Woodrow and Mrs Susan Irving (piano) and Mr James Woodrow (violin). To all three, a huge thank you for all they have given to their pupils and to the musical life of the school, and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

### Competition Success

Every Saturday, Upper Fifth pupil Katy travels down to London to attend the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music. Earlier this term she gained second place in their annual woodwind competition, pipped to first place by a pupil from the Purcell School – one of the specialist music schools. Congratulations, Katy.



### Music Exam Successes

After the move to recorded exams during lockdown, it has been wonderful for pupils to be able to perform live to a visiting examiner. Huge congratulations to all those who took instrumental exams both at the very end of last term (December) and in the final few weeks of this term. Not only were the combined set of results of the usual high standard overall, showing concentrated preparation, but all six grade 8 candidates (ranging from J3 to Upper Sixth) achieved Distinctions. Keep up the good work!

### Steinway & Sons

In March, Upper Sixth student Ziying enjoyed a masterclass with Steinway Artist Charles Owen Steinway & Sons in London. What a wonderful opportunity.



### Piano Diploma Exams

Special congratulations go to Vincent in the Upper Sixth for successfully being awarded the FTCL Piano Diploma – equivalent to a postgraduate course recital at a conservatoire or university! We now wish good luck to fellow Upper Sixth student Ziying who takes her FTCL exam next term, having presented her recital programme in a wonderful evening concert in the final week of this term.

### Work Experience at Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Several pupils applied for work experience at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre this year. These positions are highly contested and we are delighted that Jackson in Upper Fifth and Dillon in Fourth Form were successful and will be spending time at the Rep in the summer. We look forward to hearing all about it!







### 'Last Night of the Proms'

On the penultimate Saturday of term, a packed Bushell Hall was suitably festooned with bunting for a fabulous concert of sparkling orchestral music. This event was a joint education project with the Sinfonia of Birmingham – one of Birmingham's finest semi-professional orchestras. 16 pupils sat alongside Sinfonia players performing repertoire such as *Brahms' Academic Festival Overture*, *Prokofiev's Montagues and Capulets* (think 'The Apprentice' theme tune), *Holst's Jupiter*, *Handel's Zadok the Priest* and *Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory*. In addition, Upper Sixth students Ziying and Vincent each played a movement of a piano concerto with the orchestra (by *Grieg* and *Chopin*, respectively) – both were astonishingly well performed, balancing technical prowess with lyrical musical lines, and justifiably were given standing ovations. The whole event was a real triumph, and enjoyed by audience and performers in equal measure.



### Play Commission

On 7 and 8 March, playwright Mark Wheeler and composer Paul Ibbott visited Solihull to interview members of the school community for a piece of theatre commissioned by the Drama Department. Six pupils from Lower Fifth to Lower Sixth met with Mark and Paul to develop questions and participate in the interview sessions. Mrs Stafford, Head of Drama said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils. We are so excited to be working with Mark and Paul on a piece, especially for Solihull, and look forward to sharing over the next year."



### House Drama

House Drama has been closely contested in Third Form, Shell Form and Fourth Form this year.

Third Form pupils devised pieces of drama highlighting the theme of discrimination and each House worked with a member of Fourth Form or Lower Fifth to help support and direct them. The standard was incredibly high with some fantastic pieces produced. Fetherston won, with Jago and Pole joint runners up.

Shell Form and Fourth Form produced works to highlight the theme of perseverance and there was a wide range of highly entertaining, creative and thought-provoking pieces. At the time of writing Shell Form hadn't finished, however, the Fourth Form performances were brilliant, and the outcome was very close, as the judges found it extremely difficult to decide. In the end Jago won, with Pole very close runners up.

Congratulations to all involved.

### RADA and Trinity Acting Lessons

RADA and Trinity acting lessons continue to be very popular with 59 pupils sitting and passing their exams in September. As well as working towards another set of exams next term, there will be an evening event to showcase pupil's performances in the summer term.







# Fame



## Fame

After being so close to performing *Little Shop of Horrors* last year and *Twelfth Night* the year before we started *Fame* with so much excitement and enthusiasm, which grew exponentially throughout the rehearsal process. Most of us have fond memories of *Fame*, whether it is the original 1980 film, the subsequent TV series, the stage musical or the more recent 2009 film. The musical has a toe tapping score, high energy numbers, numerous speaking roles, large chorus involvement, a range of dance styles and a serious message underneath ... beyond that it is really good fun – there really is something for everyone!

The cast, crew and band were delighted to perform four sell-out performances of the production just before February half term. It was wonderful to be back on stage in the Bushell Hall with a packed house. The cast learned so many new skills, particularly 'table'ography (dancing with and on the lunchroom tables on wheels) and rose to every challenge we posed them, approaching rehearsals with enthusiasm and professionalism. We were so proud of the way they persevered, worked so hard and had so much fun along the way.

As always, the production was a real team effort. A huge thank you to all involved, in whatever capacity and to the school community for being so supportive and helping us to ensure that with a lot of 'hard work', we were able to 'make magic' and the audience left the theatre 'dancin on the sidewalk', and 'flying high'!

Mrs Stafford







### Terriers

Another wonderful term of Outdoor Education with our Third Form Terriers!



### Snowdonia School

Monday 21 March finally saw the much-anticipated return of Snowdonia School after an enforced two-year absence. A trailblazing group of six staff and Shell Form pupils embarked upon a fun filled week basing themselves at the school Mountain Cottage and Coetmoor Mill. Canoeing, Coasteering, a zip wire, a visit to the national Slate Museum, rounders on the beach, plus a walk up to the summit of Snowdon were all bathed in perfect weather!

The week also offered the opportunity to say farewell to Father Andrew upon the completion of his 22nd Snowdonia School. Many thanks also to Messers Bate and Fakatou, and Mrs Hallworth, Mrs Ridout and Mrs Brown.

The children were excellent and the rest of the Shell Form pupils certainly have something to look forward to!

*Mr Covill*







## CCF

On Friday 18 March Solihull CCF Cadets and pupils from Tile Cross Academy performed in a Celebration Parade together for the first time, marking the partnership of our two schools. The afternoon event, which took place in the sunshine on the Level, also included a Guard of Honour, Rifle Drill and our reformed Corps of Drums. The Brigade Colonel of Cadets attended as the Reviewing officer and was accompanied by the Headmasters and Chair of Governors from both schools. In September, we were able to welcome the Cadets from Tile Cross Academy into our Contingent and they are now badged as Solihull School CCF.



## Lower Sixth Geography Field Trip - Slapton Leys

On Monday 21 March, 29 intrepid Lower Sixth Geographers embarked upon a fieldtrip to help prepare them for their NEA. A wide-ranging week of activities in a fantastic location shrouded in wonderful weather made it an excursion to savour. Each day was based around an investigation. The week started with the water cycle, followed by a historical and cultural day in Plymouth, time looking at coastal process, an afternoon in a wood rounded off with a camp fire on the beach on the last evening. A fantastic week away with a group of students who, at all times, were excellent company!

*Mr Covill*







## Sport, Health and Fitness

It has been another fun and enjoyable term in the Sport, Health and Fitness Department. Once again almost every pupil from J1 to Fourth Form has represented the school in a fixture. On Friday afternoons we have often had every Third Form pupil playing boys' hockey or girls' netball, likewise with our Shell Form on Thursdays. I have really enjoyed our Prep School Swimming Galas – matches against other schools or House events have been very exciting and well supported by parents.

In Health and Fitness, our Functional Movement programme across both schools is continuing to help pupils develop their core skills. We have had a focus on sleep this term, with various posters around the school encouraging pupils to develop an understanding of their sleep patterns. We also started a Mental Skills Project in January which is open to all pupils on Monday lunchtimes. We have looked the concept of Identity - developing an awareness of who you are and what you value, to understand the level of intensity required for you to perform at your best. We also investigated the concept of Fear, how your *Chimp* can hijack your thoughts if you allow it to and the role that courage plays in decision making. It sometimes takes courage to ask a question, to demand the ball in a pressure situation or to live up to your values when those around you are not.

Our netballers have had a fantastic season playing over 250 fixtures across our Prep School and Senior School. Mrs Farnell and Mrs Higginson continue to do great work in our Prep School, producing a steady conveyor belt of players with a wide range of skills. One of the highlights of the season was our U14 and U19 teams reaching the National Finals at Oundle School. Our U14s played superbly to win the Midlands Regional round and continued their rich vein of form at the Nationals to finish in fifth place, their only defeats were to the two finalists. Our U19s qualification at their Midlands Finals was even more exciting after they lost their first game of the day to Wrekin College. Their warrior spirit shone through as they won the rest of their games including a one goal victory against reigning national champions, Bromsgrove to qualify for the Nationals. In a hugely competitive group we drew two games, won two by a single goal and lost another two by a single goal to finish in ninth place overall.

Our boys' hockey teams followed the lead of our girls the previous term with some outstanding performances. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI led the way with some eye-catching play; we are encouraged with their excellent progress and are hoping to be competing in England Hockey's Tier One competition next season. Our U15s played some excellent attacking hockey scoring 75 goals in twenty matches. Our U14s reached the Midlands Final without conceding a goal before cruelly missing out to Repton School in a sudden death penalty shootout. Our U13s managed to go one step further, winning their Midlands Finals, to progress to the National Finals in May – they also reached the quarter finals of the Independent Schools' Cup losing out to eventual winners Taunton School by a single goal. Our U12 teams have also made great progress – the future of Solihull Hockey looks very healthy!



The Sevens season concluded in the last week of term with a brilliant display from our U12s at The King's School, Worcester tournament. The previous week our 1<sup>st</sup> VII has qualified for the second day at the Rosslyn Park National Sevens after winning a tough group and an elimination round on day one. The highlight of our U16s season was a great run at the Warwick Sevens beating Kirkham, Dulwich College and Millfield before being knocked out by the hosts scoring a try with the last play of the game.

Mr Eden and Mr Dean have really pushed our Squash programme this term, the introduction of professional coach Ali Jafari has also helped. Our Senior Girls qualified for the National Plate Finals at Nottingham after our U14 boys reached the Final of the Plate Competition the previous day. Ali in Third Form has been selected to represent England in the Home Nations tournament later this year.

Our Sailors enjoyed their first outing of the year at National Schools Sailing Association two-boat team racing competition on Draycote Water and our Skiers impressed with some fantastic performances at the British Championships in Llandudno. Ella finished in a very impressive second place overall in the girls' competition, James and Dan finished in 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively from a field of almost 70 skiers.

*Mr Dossett*







## Rugby Report

Once again this has been a hectic few weeks! The post Christmas period saw the remaining fifteen aside block games take place against Sir Thomas Rich's School, Loughborough Grammar School and the King's School Macclesfield with all matches showcasing the talent within each team. The finale of the fifteen a-side season was the inaugural Covill King Edward VI Foundation Challenge Cup which will be an annual challenge between the 1st XV and a Barbarian side from the King Edward's Foundation. This took place under floodlights at Bourneville and in an exciting game which was won 49-17, enabling the school captain, Louis, to be awarded the cup by Mr Covill.

The second half of term was, as ever, dominated by the 7 a-side game which tests, and improves all areas of a player's game. The U12's campaign saw them take in tournaments at KES Birmingham, Monmouth – where they won the Bowl – and Bishop Vesey's, before completing their season at King's Worcester tournaments, saving the best until last and remaining undefeated!

The U13 team, marshalled by Mr Gledhill, attended tournaments progressing well at the annual Warwick, Solihull and the East Midland, before taking part in the National Rosslyn Park tournament. A lot of boys had the opportunity to represent Solihull and highlight the improvements in their game throughout the season.

The U14s, galvanised by Mr Everling, took huge strides. At Warwick they took their tentative steps, excelled at Old Swinford, runners up at the East Midland and reached the quarter finals at a very competitive Solihull tournament, before a well deserved trip to the National Sevens competition.

The U15s, organised by Mr Leaney competed at the Warwick, Solihull and King's School Macclesfield tournaments reaching the semi-final of the Plate - having overcome injury and illness throughout – before completing their season at King's Worcester, and in the process winning the Bowl trophy.

The U16s, led by Mr Gallagher, impressed by reaching the semi-finals at Warwick and sharing the honours at a Bromsgrove triangular tournament before heading down to the National Sevens.

The 1st XV, under the guise of Messers Thompson and Hifle, have enjoyed a good season. They reached the semi-finals of the plate competition at KES Stratford's tournament, before winning the East Midland and losing in the Plate Final at Solihull. They were losing finalists in the Bowl at King's Worcester, saving their best rugby for the National Sevens competition at Rosslyn Park where they won their group and the elimination game enabling them to progress into the second day, just failing to reach the quarter final stages.

On an individual level, congratulations also to Jack K who represented Worcester Warriors in the U18 League.

A huge thank you to all players for their dedication and commitment to Rugby throughout the past two terms and of course all the staff involved.

*Mr Covill*







### U12 Netball

The girls have had a great season with 54 girls regularly attending Netball Club after school. Teams A-H have had matches this year and every girl in the year group has competed this season. The U12s won the Solihull Borough tournament and got through to the semi-final in the Sisters In Sport competition. We are very much looking forward to improving this year groups skills and talents in Shell Form. Well done on a fantastic season!



### U13 Netball

Every girl in the year group has competed in a match this season, the U13s won the Solihull Borough tournament and reached the quarter finals of the Sisters In Sport competition. The pupils have improved their tactics and strategies and we are really looking forward to seeing these girls develop in their U14 age group where they have the opportunity to progress through to the County and Regional rounds!



### U14 Netball

There is a lot of talent in this year group and the girls have had a fantastic season. There has been so much that these players have been working towards, coming first in the Borough, County and Regional rounds, and then getting prepared for the National Competition which took place on Saturday 12 March at Oundle School. The competition was ridiculously strong, the girls won the first two matches, but lost to the winners of the tournament in their third game. They narrowly missed out on getting into the semi-finals and overall were placed 5th in the country. A fantastic achievement. One of the girls' highlights of this season was having a training session with Beth Cobden, our current England and Loughborough Lightning WD, a real treat!



### U15 Netball

This age group have also been busy having played 26 matches this season. They reached the quarter final of the Sisters In Sport Competition held at Cheadle Hulme School in Manchester where they played with such grit, determination and flair. Cheadle Hulme went on to win the competition. The girls also entered a new tournament against East Midlands schools such as Oundle and Uppingham, Repton and lost in the semi-final to Bromsgrove who were the overall winners. We are looking forward to this squad being our new U16 age group next season.

*Mrs Baden*







### Seniors Netball

An amazing season for this group, we will be very sad to say farewell to some of our fantastic talent. The Seniors have won every game they have played for the school this season. They made it through the Borough and County rounds and then on to Regionals, where they had an amazing match against Bromsgrove to reach the National Finals Competition. They had a tough section and challenged every team gaining wins, draws and some losses. The points were tight and eventually came 9th in the country. This particular age group have reached National Finals at every age group possible U14, U16 and U19, a huge achievement which we are extremely proud of. We wish all the Upper Sixth students who have been on this amazing journey together our best, as they embark on a new netball journey with different teams at University and beyond!

Well done from all of us!!!!

Mrs Baden



### J4 Netball

Well done to our J4 pupils who were crowned winners and runners up in the Solihull Borough Netball Skills competition on 15 February.

Mrs Farnell said: "The girls were outstanding and showed excellent team work and composure under pressure."



### Red Nose Day Netball

Solihull staff lined up against the Upper Sixth for the annual Red Nose Day netball match in March. The staff started strong taking the first intercept and converting it to goal and winning the first quarter. At the break, the students regained their focus and determination and dominated the rest of the game. It was lovely to have a full viewing balcony cheering on good play from both teams.



### Ski-ing Success

On Sunday 27 March, we entered six teams into the Birmingham and Midlands Schools Ski Race - and Solihull were crowned overall champions!

Our skiers included pupils from J2, J4, Third Form and Shell Form, with Josh, Hugo, Ethan, Veer and Amelie all skiing in teams one age group beyond their years.

In the team competition we achieved four podium results:

Our girls' U12 team took first place;

Our boys' U14A team took first place;

Our girls' U14A team took second place;

Our girls' U14B team took third place.

Delphine, Josh, Veer, Arjan and Archie also received individual medals as, with Archie taking overall first place in the boys' U14 category.

Well done to all our skiers, an outstanding achievement.







### Girls' Hockey

Congratulations to the U13 Girls' Hockey team who became County Champions and reached the semi-finals of the Midlands Tournament, and to our U12 Girls who were runners up in the County Tournament, and reached the semi-finals of the Midlands Tournament.

Our U15 Girls were semi-finalists in the County Tournament, losing narrowly on flicks. They played some superb hockey throughout the tournament!

*Mrs Sixsmith*



### Bath Hockey Festival 2022



### Boys' Hockey

It has been a successful term for all age groups at Solihull. More boys than ever have played Hockey for the school this term, with us regularly fielding 'C' teams in the U15 and U14 age groups. For the U12 and U13 age groups, we have extended down to 'F' teams. The seniors have fielded four teams.

Our U13A were crowned Midlands Hockey Champions and will play in the National Finals on Friday 6 May. The U14A team narrowly missed out, losing on penalties in the Midlands Final to Repton School.

*Mr Mayer*



### Cross Country

Congratulations to Shell Form pupil Ollie on his Cross Country success, competing in the West Midlands Schools Championships and the Midlands and Warwickshire County Championships. Ollie finished 9th in the West Midlands Schools Championships, 16th in the Midlands event and achieved 3rd place in the Warwickshire County Championships. Ollie went on to represent Warwickshire in the inter-counties team meet in Loughborough in March.








## Prep School House Swimming Galas

March is House Swimming Gala month, and all the children from Reception to J4 have all been practising really hard to taking part in their House events. All the children have performed outstandingly and we couldn't be prouder of them for displaying such great effort and enthusiasm. This year we were able to welcome parents to the Saint Martin's campus to watch the Infant and Junior Galas, and we had a wonderful turnout with some very loud cheering and fervent support from everyone.

All the pupils competed for House points and the results from the galas are as follows:

	 FETHERSTON	JAGO	POLE	SHENSTONE	WINDSOR
Reception	4	1	2	5	3
Infant 1	6	8	9	5	2
Infant 2	8	4	6	4	8
J1	134	133	69	68	145
J2	115	120	135	99	77
J3	91	128	135	117	97
J4	179	133	159	155	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>509</b>
	1st	2nd	3rd	5th	4th

Every year the fastest four girls and boys in each stroke compete for the Victor and Victrix Ludorum trophies, from these races the overall fastest swimmer in each year is awarded.

We are pleased to announce the trophy winners this year are pictured right.



J1 Holly and Tom



J2 Charlie and Amira



J3 Caleb and Ellie



J4 Margarida and Jacob



## Farewell Friends!

Our Chapel was filled to capacity on the last Sunday of term as Father Andrew and Peter Irving said goodbye to Solihull. Father Andrew, better known to the community as 'Daddy Andy', has been the school Chaplain and a member of the Religious Studies Department for over a quarter of a century. Peter Irving joined the school in 1984 as Organist and Choir Master, and even though he retired in 2010, he continued to play for all chapel services. It was a touching tribute to both men that the large congregation was made up of so many former staff, pupils and their parents, all wishing to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the school community, and to wish them well for the future. Peter and his wife Susan, another loyal member of the chapel family, have moved to the south coast while Father Andrew is heading for his own parish in South Wales. Both will be much missed.







# A Farewell Message from Father Andrew

For the past 25 years I have served as Chaplain to Solihull School together with a congregation who use the chapel as their parish church. We have offered a variety of Sunday worship to accommodate the needs and backgrounds of our community ranging from Choral Evensong to circus services with Roly the priest clown; Sung Mass to the infamous pet services for the blessing of our beloved animals.

I have been supported by an ecumenical team who have sustained the work of the chaplaincy through practical help and prayer. Through various initiatives we have discovered what it means to be a missionary church presenting a vision of how we have felt God calling us to be an inclusive community of hospitality. We have developed the use of music, symbol, art, movement, space, colour and the use of the senses enjoying a considerable impact upon worship and mission. Over the years I have received a number of chaplaincy assistants, ordinands and musicians who have generously shared their own particular expertise.

A significant aspect of my work has been with the Solihull team of Anglican churches where, as an assistant priest I have been fully integrated into the mission, worship, organisation and pastoral care of the parish. It has been a particular delight and enormous privilege to celebrate the liturgies and preach regularly at St Alphege Church. Both in school and in the parish I have prepared and celebrated services for the community including memorial services for staff, parents and pupils; leavers liturgies; weddings; marriage blessings and a host of Prep School services.

I have taken a number of school/parish pilgrimages including our annual visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk; Santiago de Compostella; Rome; Assisi; Venice; Verona; The Holy Land and the Passion Play at Oberammergau. All these expeditions have provided opportunity for fun, fraternity and spiritual growth.

Sixth Form students have joined me on visits to Kenya where we experienced the Christian church ministering in areas of deprivation celebrating the faith with vibrancy and joy. We have also received African Bishops who have enhanced the life of our chaplaincy. My own connections with the Ghanaian church, where I spent time teaching prior to ordination, have sustained my own life and ministry.

I have demonstrated my musical skills at the organ console from time to time and led worship at Birmingham Cathedral. During my time in Solihull I have relished joining our chapel choirs singing Cathedral evensong at St Paul's, Lichfield, St Albans, Worcester, Gloucester, and Windsor Chapel.

Throughout my time here people have been prepared for the Sacraments; invited to participate in Alpha courses; and played a part in the open 'Going for Growth' missionary programme.

Pastoral ministry in the school and parish have included counselling, bereavement care, hospital and home visits and general support for those facing difficulties in life. Community Service with Sixth Form students has enhanced our relationship as a school with the wider population of Solihull and enabled the elderly to attend services at Christmas and Harvest.

Whilst here I have worked diligently in preaching, enabling the faith to become real and accessible. Through my own visits to Iona and the Church of St Gregory, San Francisco we have incorporated aspects of their participative, affirming and inclusive ministry into our own liturgical and pastoral life. Together we have inspired others to participate fully in the Eucharist where everyone has been welcome, without exception, to receive



the Sacrament opening the door for people to experience God's love often for the first time.

Through the seasons of Easter and Christmas we have celebrated our stories of liberation; calling out familiar and unexpected saints, proclaiming again and again that Christ is born, Christ is Alive and Christ is risen indeed!

Year after year we have opened our hearts and minds to those of other world faiths and of none celebrating the manifold gifts, backgrounds and experiences which upbuild the school community. I have been delighted to serve in the school Wellbeing and Personal Development Department and their initiatives in celebrating Black History Month and the LGBTQIA+ community. As I look back to the inception of my ministry here I recognise just how far we have travelled in these areas, for which I thank God.

I am grateful for the opportunity to teach in the Religious Studies Department, and wish to express my appreciation for supportive colleagues here and throughout the school.

One of my lasting memories of Solihull will be Snowdonia School 355 where we enjoyed the usual round of outdoor adventures bathed in sunshine alongside fantastic hardworking colleagues and brilliant pupils. The enthusiastic singing of 'Bread of Heaven' by colleagues and pupils as I descended the zip wire over the precipice of a slate quarry, will forever be in my heart!

Before taking up parish ministry in Cardiff, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the privilege of serving as Chaplain here at Solihull. I extend my love and prayers to everyone here. Cheers for allowing me to be... 'Daddy Andy'!

With every good wish and blessing

*Father Andrew Hutchinson*





## Long Service Awards



*Congratulations to Mrs Parker and Mrs Pimlott on 25 years service. The Headmaster presented the long-serving members of staff with a commemorative piece of glass from the world renowned Isle of Wight Studio Glass, hand-blown by master glassmaker Timothy Harris and engraved with the Solihull crest.*

## Easter Term

1. Ethics Cup Team

2. 1st XV Rugby Team

3. U14 Netball Squad

4. U19 Netball Squad

5. Cast & Crew of  
FAME the Musical

6. Sixth Form Helpers

7. Philosothon Team

8. Ski Team

9. Senior Boys' and Girls'  
Hockey Teams

10. U12 Boys' Rugby 7s Team

## Teams of the Week

For being supportive of each other in winning the Regional Round Competition

Excellent teamwork & performance in their victory against Loughborough Grammar School

Admirable teamwork and determination qualifying as first place winners in the Regional Finals

For demonstrating admirable team cohesion and sportsmanship at the Regional Finals

Four fantastic nights of drama, dance and music

Excellent teamwork supporting the Prep School House Singing Competition

Superb team effort in qualifying for the National Finals

Brilliant team performance in the Midlands Schools' Ski Race Competition

Excellent performance and teamwork at the Bath Hockey Festival

Amazing team performance in the Worcester 7s Tournament

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Solihull School, Warwick Road, Solihull B91 3DJ  
School Office: 0121 705 0958 Admissions Registrar: 0121 705 4273 Bursar: 0121 705 0883  
Solihull Preparatory School, Brueton Avenue, Solihull B91 3EN | Preparatory School 0121 705 1265  
[admin@solsch.org.uk](mailto:admin@solsch.org.uk) | [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk)