



# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write we are nearing the end of another busy term and what a term it has been! The sun finally came out and once the fields had dried out we were able to let the students have a good run around and it has been great seeing them enjoying themselves at break and lunch times. When the weather did turn for the better we were able to arrange the whole school photo, which, like the Olympics, is an event that happens every four years. The photographers were very complimentary about the conduct and cooperation of the students in what is a huge logistical operation.

Exam season went very well and although there was the usual jangling of nerves, most students looked excited, relieved, happy even when they came out of each exam. We know that they have worked hard to prepare properly for their exams so they don't need any luck, but we wished them the best of luck anyway and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results days.

You will be aware that we are currently in the middle of an extensive kitchen refurbishment and we thank you for your forbearance with the cold-only food service that is currently in place. We look forward to an even better food service in September as there will be more serving hatches and more tills which should get the queues through quicker. The new equipment will be much more efficient and we look forward to enjoying lower ecological impact and lower energy bills.

It's that time of year when we say a sad farewell and huge thank you to our staff leavers: Mrs Bourne, Mrs Jermine, Mr Li and Mr Breakwell. There will be full valettes in the Chronicle to mark our acknowledgement and thanks for their service, but I feel it is right to say here and now that their impact has been deep and wide within our community and we will miss them.

At the same time, we look forward to welcoming our new staff who will be joining us in September. Mrs Watkin joins us as Head of Sixth Form and teacher of Psychology. Mr Lee and Mrs Marchese-Fry will be joining the Mathematics department, Mr Horton joins the RS department, and Mr Wells joins the Computing department. We welcome them with much excitement into our family.

We are also looking forward to meeting the new Year 7 students and our new Year 12 students in our induction events this July. It can be both exciting and daunting joining a new school (even if you

are moving from Year 11 to Year 12 in the same school) and every year we work really hard to facilitate new friendships and build a welcoming community.

Meanwhile in school we continue to provide a breath-taking array of enrichment. We have had academic competitions, house competitions, sports fixtures, large-scale trips, fantastic music & drama and many more lunchtime and after-school Clubs & Societies.

On the academic enrichment front we've had Geography Field Trips, National Chess tournaments, debating competitions, Cadbury World trips, the Junior Maths Challenge, Kangaroo & Olympiad, author visits (Simon Green & Catherine Johnson), the Battlefields Trip, the student Health & Safety Conference, an RS trip to Bhaktidevanta Manor, the Junior Schools National Quiz Finals, the Biology Big Quiz, Ecton Mines visit, a visit to Brasenose College in Oxford, the Big Bang Exhibition, the IRIS Physics Conference, a series of talks on Mental Health & Wellbeing, the Next Generation Awards, and the Careers Detective event.

We've also had the MCC Cricket match, the Berlin Trip, the Summer Soiree, Harry Potter Studio Tours, House Cricket, the Senior Concert, the Cambridge Choir Tour, and lots more Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

This is the last year that the Conway Outdoor Activities Trip will host Year 8 and Year 10 as we have now caught up with and made reparations for the disruption caused by the Pandemic. It has been a huge operation to host twice as many students as normal, masterminded by Mr Watkins, ably supported by a huge staff team. Next year we revert to Year 8 only and I'm already looking forward to going back!

We have also delivered several primary school taster sessions aimed at reaching out to local primaries and supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This important work ensures that our school plays its part in promoting social mobility and is a clear statement that we are open to all able students from all back grounds.

And there is more: we are still looking forward to the French and German Homestay visits, the Summer Adventure trip, the Meducators Workshop, our Presentation Events and Sports Day!

My thanks to all of the amazing staff who have given huge amounts of time and energy to organise and support these events. Our staff are a wonderful, giving, selfless group of people who go above and beyond to support the students, and it is an honour and privilege to work alongside them.

The Student Council and student Eco Committee ran a very successful Earth Week where they ran a series of events designed to promote awareness of ecological issues whilst raising money for charity. The students chose to support the Birmingham and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Disasters Emergency Committee (continuing our support for Turkey and Syria) and they raised £1586. Events included Camp Hill's Got Talent, Green Day, Eco Dragon's Den and Would I Lie to You. My favourite bit was Mr Caves' story of when he successfully threw a Frisbee across the Grand Canyon, which turned out to be true!

I can't finish this report without mentioning the Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society, or CHAOS as it is very appropriately known. This show is brilliantly written and directed by Mssrs Dowling and Caves and, from the look of the rehearsals, promises to be a spectacle of amusement and delight. There is singing, dancing, and even some acting and so I must implore you to buy your tickets before they sell out! Well done to the plethora of students and staff involved in all of the rehearsals, stage management, music, costumes, props, set design, sound and lighting.

I wanted to thank the attendees at our recent Parents Focus Group meetings where we focused on topics such as pastoral care, communication, behaviour policy and homework. Your feedback is helping us to formulate our policy and practices, and it also helps us to strengthen and protect all of the good things we are already doing. Your latest feedback on homework has got us thinking about how we can promote the intrinsic value of homework more to the students, and also how we might smooth the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 more effectively.

When we invited parents to take part in these meetings the response was overwhelming, so apologies to those who have still not been invited – we are working through the list of volunteers and you will get a chance to join us in one of our future meetings.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday with all the peace and happiness you deserve. I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to being with you again at the start of the Autumn Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen  
Headmaster  
July 2023

### **English**

It is always hard to know how to start these articles in an original way...we've been busy...a lot has happened...our time has been full...

So please pick the opening that you feel is most appropriate, as all of the above are true.

However, into the nitty gritty...

Over the course of the year, we have introduced a new reading scheme for Year 7. During this time they have read a diverse range of books recommended by our amazing Librarian Ms Garvey - more about her later...

These books have included: 'Sawbones' by Catherine Johnson, 'A Kind of Spark' by Ellie McNicholl and 'They Called Us Enemy' by George Takei (of Star Trek fame). All of these books have been interesting and thought provoking and we have very much enjoyed reading them alongside our students.

In addition, Ms Garvey has organised an author visit from Catherine Johnson, author of 'Sawbones' for all Year 7 and she will be visiting Camp Hill Girls too. We think it will be amazing for our students to meet an author of a book that they have been reading and it will hopefully inspire them to read more of her books.

Mr Wilkins has also done a fantastic job of running the Senior Debating Society again this year.

We have been involved in the ESU Mace national debating competition this year, sending two teams to debate across two rounds. The teams were: Tom Colleran, Rasan Wasfe and Mohammad Sikandar.

The teams opposed the motion 'This house would ban the sale and consumption of meat' and were successful in getting the school into the second round.

Then, in the second round, Joe Sullivan, Sampanna Raut and Sushant Shyam opposed the motion 'This house would use proportional representation in UK national elections'. They were narrowly beaten in this round for a spot in the regional quarter final, but they all did really well.

And while on the topic of speaking...the Public Speaking Competition took place at the end of the Easter term and featured a range of speeches from different year groups. As always, these speeches were interesting and the eventual winner for the Junior Section was Macca Ros-Nalugon 9B, who gave a speech on: Are single gendered schools bad for mental health?

While the senior section was won by Zahi Ihsan 10K: Should the government be doing more to tackle sexual assault claims?

Joanne Parmar

## Languages

Back in April 2023, we were lucky enough to get a visit from Helmut Schmitz, Professor of German at the University of Warwick's School of Modern Languages and Cultures. Seeing as he published a monograph on Representations of National Socialism in post-1990 German fiction, there aren't many people available with a more expert knowledge on the historical and social context of the book we are studying for A-level German, so we knew that he would be able to tell us virtually anything we wanted to know as well as things we did not even know that we didn't know. During our lesson, he gave us an in-depth talk regarding all the ways in which 'Der Vorleser' could be connected to post-war German society, and its place in historical German literature.

There were three key aspects that Mr Schmitz explored through his presentation: German literature through the 70s and 80s; historical backdrop at the time the novel took place, and Hanna & Michael's (who are the main characters) relationship. 1970s Germany- both East and West- was a time of great reflection and thought. This was due to the gradual decline of the parent generation- the ones who were alive and made decisions during the time of the Nazi regime. Autobiographies were published by the children of these people in order to process and work through identity issues: what am I when my parents were Nazis? These are called "Vaterromane" and represent the unspoken words that were not said between parent and child. The second topic was contemporary issues, particularly the student movements and power at the time. After the Second World War, the gap between generations grew more and more stark and divisive. The students were antiauthoritarian, actively politically-left aligned, and were keen to dispel the older generation who were in positions of power, some of whom were Nazi sympathisers. They were called the Ghosts of the Third Reich. This led to the demonisation of the youth in the media, which further inflamed the generation divide. This culminated in protests with slogans such as "Unter den Talaren. Muff von Tausend Jahren", or "Under the gowns. Muff of a thousand years." The flashpoint was on 2nd June 1967 where clashes between students and police led to the fatal shooting of Benno Ohnesorg. The final topic that was explored was the complex relationship between Hanna and Michael, if one can even call it a relationship. It is structured more as a power play rather than a fulfilling relationship. However, what was particularly interesting were the comparisons between the

relationship with Hanna and Michael, and Hitler and the public. Both Hitler and Hanna are portrayed as people with absolute power while Michael and the public are victims of the authority figure. This interpretation naturally has a lot of ethical and moral issues to consider.

At the end, there was an opportunity for us to ask questions or comment on the content of the lecture. At first, we all stared at each other in awkward silence as no one was willing to be the first one to raise their hand. However, Lily was the brave soul who broke the ice with her first question, and from there, we transitioned into an intriguing discussion and debate about the various themes in "Der Vorleser". Some of the themes we discussed included abuse, trauma, and the 'Second Guilt'. There was also an interesting point raised about how problematic and controversial it is that Schlink's book could be interpreted as trying to equate the trauma of the 'Second Generation' Germans as 'victims' to the very real and tangible victims of the Holocaust: the Jewish people; the Sinti, Roma, and other ethnic minorities; handicapped people, and the LGBTQ+ community. We concluded that there are many loose threads in 'Der Vorleser' that are never tied up neatly, and Bernhard Schlink attempts to cover too many themes for which there are no short and easy explanations. This is known as overdetermination, where there is excessive ambiguity.

To conclude, we had a very educational visit, with some people writing up to 5 sides of A4 worth of notes, as well as getting a plethora of external reading we could do. We broached some very thought-provoking and interesting topics, and are now all much more confident with our understanding of 'Der Vorleser' as an integral part of German literary history, and as a method of understanding the past, as opposed to just as a simple novel. We'd like to give a big thank you to Professor Schmitz, and to Frau Wells for organising it!

Ismail Rahman, Sree Somayajula, Lily Gamblin

## Geography

### Cadbury World

The 28th of April was truly a fine day. The sun was shining, the birds were singing and 150 sweaty Year 9s were waiting to board the coach to visit one of the ancient seven wonders of the world. They were going to visit one of the most iconic landmarks that any Birmingham resident has to have... Cadbury World.

It is a state of the art establishment conceived in the early 90s that sent shockwaves throughout the land, making the industrial process of making the world's chocolate a joyous family trip to go on whilst meticulously detailing every little aspect of this glorious modus operandi. And whilst doing all of that, it also manages to house one of the greatest cars of all time. Now, this place isn't to be taken lightly. Cadbury World houses a plethora of intel on the backstory behind the man, the myth, the legend John Cadbury.

We began our pilgrimage, entering the first exhibit as we received several complementary chocolate bars that turned out to be my only food for the rest of the day because I left my lunch at home. Worth it, though. In this exhibit, we learned about the ancient origins of this mystical product, and how it was first sourced and used by the Mayans in Mesoamerica as a medicine and concocted into a ritual drink sent down from Quetzalcoatl. We then ventured forwards in time, seeing how chocolate made its way to Britain and eventually to John Cadbury's corner shop in the heart of Birmingham. Then, the Year 9s were enlightened upon the secrets of the chocolate process, and how chocolate is

turned from bean pods plucked off of Ghanaian trees to smooth silky delicacies that cream in our mouths. This takes place in an exciting presentation with shaking seats and steam pouring on us, causing the less ergonomically stable of us to descend to the floor.

We then got some hands-on experience in the factory department, as we wrote our names and made drawings in gooey melted chocolate. We then got given some more chocolate, this time a cup of flavours of our own choosing. Me personally, I chose a cup full of dark chocolate, caramel, and Oreos. We then watched as a man demonstrated how chocolate enters the moulds and takes its shapes. It was incredibly enticing; all the students stationed there were in a chokehold at this display of choco wizardry. Some even tried to get greedy and snatch the chocolate.

After this was a terrifying horror experience that very few will forget - the car ride around "Cadbury Village". It is a slow, but traumatising experience with heavy psychedelic elements where we were driven around a track that showed us the horrors of an Orwellian society where even the living beings are made of chocolate. There were these small cannibalistic Chocolate Beans residing in a chocolate world with chocolate families and chocolate-based landscapes. All in all, it was a very strange experience.

Just before lunch, we went shopping in the ultra-budget Cadbury World shop, where everything from foot-long chocolate bars to tiny little packets of buttons was being sold at remarkable prices - I remember seeing my peers walk out of the shop with boxes and crates bought for less than a tenner. Some did it for the chocolate, others did it for the hustle. At lunch, we all collected together and recounted our experiences throughout the day and what wonders we saw. I sat on a bench beside my friends, eating those half melted chocolate bars I had stored in my backpack. Whilst I would've preferred to eat an actual lunch, it was better than eating some random Tesco sandwich for 4 pounds, and it filled me up real good.

Then we entered the other strange experience of the tour - the 4D cinema. Lining up in our 3D glasses, we didn't know what we were to find, but the designs on the wall told us the horror beans from earlier were back. As we got into our seats, we watched as some 2001 animation produced in Windows PowerPoint was played in front of us, depicting the beans from earlier as they went on a series of roller coasters and rides, as we felt the vibrations and movement of the chairs.

We concluded our tour with an educational talk on trans-national corporations and the rise of globalisation, finishing off the Globalisation topic we studied in Geography this year. It was interesting to learn about the different flavours of Cadbury chocolate across the world designed for markets with different palates, and seeing the effects of the Mondelēz acquisition first-hand was fascinating. It was a focused way for it all to conclude, restoring us to the reasons why we came here in the first place.

Overall, the trip was fun, albeit we sincerely hope that the recent acquisition by Merlin Entertainments will improve some of the displays by the time the current Year 8s get there - some of them are very old and traumatising!

A huge thank you to the Geography Department and all members of staff who organised and assisted the trip.

Writers: Ihsan Mohit and Afnan Muhammad

## Water Aid

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, Year 9 welcomed Glynn Trow, a volunteer speaker from Water Aid. This was as part of their geographical studies into global poverty and development. We started the talk with startling facts, for example did you know that 771 million people don't have access to clean water close to home? Mr Trow explained how this can lead to 800 child deaths a day.

We considered the serious impacts of lack of clean water and sanitation on millions of people around the world, as well as the inextricable link to climate change pressures. This was naturally a time to develop empathy and consideration for those less fortunate than ourselves. However, it was also a time to pause and think about the word "empower". Water Aid's focus is on empowering those in developing and emerging economies, particularly women and children, to develop sustainable water conservation and provision initiatives.

This poem helps to summarise the talk:

### **Hope Spring Eternal**

*In the past when the rains stopped  
The world put its hand to its mouth in shock.  
Young and old sought new homes  
New pastures told of new seeds sown.  
And built upon and tilled the land  
And willed life from skilled hands  
Roots search deep, crops grow high  
Shoots dare greet the bittersweet sky.  
The changing climate pressures earth  
With scant regard for human worth  
Once more the long walk and bodies immerse  
In unclean water unfit for thirst.  
Let us rise to the challenge, let us stand tall  
If a future is for one, it must be for all  
Let the aged flourish and water nourish birth  
And hope spring eternal and sing from the earth.*

**Lemn Sissay**

We would like to thank both Mr Trow and Water Aid for their hard work and as a Camp Hill community, we will continue to support them in their campaigns for water equity and futurity.



DGM

### **Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip – Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire**

On the 4th of May, year 10 geographers including myself embarked upon a highly enjoyable and enriching field trip to the stunning Carding Mill valley of Shropshire. Needless to say, everyone had a wonderful time observing the majestic upper course of the mighty River Severn, the longest river the UK has to offer, and the beautiful landscapes which accompanied.

The exciting day began with a morning bus ride first to the Atcham bridge in Shropshire before stopping at Carding Mill valley to truly experience river geology in its rawest form. Despite the ride being around two hours long we were all filled with burning anticipation for the magnificent scenery awaiting us, on which we would be making insightful observations on the characteristics of rivers in their upper course and resulting surrounding geology.

Before long, we had made it to our first stop, the Atcham Bridge, overlooking the elegant meanders of the middle course of the River Severn. The weather was brilliant for some quick observations from atop the bridge, and I amongst my other peers rapidly noted the presence of point bars on the inside of the river meanders, blanketed in miniscule pebbles and sediment called alluvium which are crucial supplies of minerals and nutrients to the surrounding farmland covering the distance, and of course steep river cliffs on the outside of the river meander, carved out by the erosive fast moving current

of the river. Geography is much better when you can physically observe it rather than just on a classroom PowerPoint! Mr. Butcher showed us a photo of the extent of the 2007 River Severn floods on the particular area surrounding Atcham bridge, and the water level was almost submerging the bridge!

Following our short taster session of river features observation on the Atcham bridge, we finally arrived at the beautiful Carding Mill valley. We disembarked the bus and donned our wellies in preparation for some exciting field work in the relentless currents of the River Severn itself! After a refreshing lunch on the lush green river bank we set off on an intrepid trek up the winding interlocking spurs carved out by the river, speckled with grazing sheep, to site one, perched relatively high between two hills. Here, we began collecting data including width, current velocity, gradient, smoothness of bed load and river depth of the River Severn in its upper course to test if our lessons were really true to real life! We found the river to be shallowest, narrowest and the current to be slowest at site one, due to this being nearest towards the river source thus having less energy to sustain a faster current to erode a deeper bed and wider banks. The width, depth and current velocity generally increased as we moved further downstream and decreased altitude from site one to site five, our final data collection site on the upper course of the River Severn. The bed load also became smoother as we moved from site one to site five as a result of increased abrasive erosion due to the river current increasing velocity the further you went downstream. The walk down between sites was often accompanied by a precarious slalom of painstaking navigation between jagged rocks and narrow ridges, on which I traversed especially clumsily! Luckily I was compensated with a refreshing ice lolly at the shop on my way down as a well-deserved reward for the unforgiving terrain I had braved!

All in all, the Carding Mill Valley trip was a wonderfully entertaining experience where I got to experience the lessons I had been taught in their truest form while spending a smashing time with my friends, as well as being amidst some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen on a school trip! In spite of this, all of the excitement and activities understandably exhausted me, and I had a much needed nap on the bus for the journey back to school!

Mohamed Eltair (Y10)

### **Geography Y12 Fieldwork**

#### **Criccieth:**

Following a 4 hour drive filled with questionable music choices on two cramped minibuses, we arrived in Criccieth, where we were entertained with sea walls and groynes. After measuring beach gradients and pebble roundness, we got back onto our minibuses for further driving. Eventually we got to the Conway centre, where we were met with a not-so well received dinner.

#### **Llandudno:**

On the second day of fieldwork, we visited Llandudno, a beautiful town on the North of Wales, in order to complete some human geography. In our groups, we interviewed the general public on their takeaway habits, including frequency and what kind of takeaways they preferred to order. Some of us were met with enthusiasm from the majority elderly population, whilst others faced rejection after rejection. We then had some free time to enjoy what the town had to offer, such as the breath-taking pier or the Welsh KFC. Many opted for a local fish and chips before subsequently being followed and attacked by hungry seagulls, leaving certain geographers traumatised.

### **Great Orme:**

After completing fieldwork and exploring what Llandudno had to offer, we turned our attention to the Great Orme, which is the exclamation point on the headland that the town sits on, offering fantastic views of Anglesey and beyond into the Irish Sea. It also offers dramatic views scaling these cliffs up to the peak in itself was memorable, involving breath-taking scenery, wrong turns, hairpin bends and (if you were in Mr Butcher's van) stalling.

If admiring the views wasn't enough, another attraction on the Great Orme were the open mines. Here you could find many loose cliffs, primarily made of limestone, that were formed around 330 million years ago. By smashing and bashing them open we were able to spot many amazing features hidden within them, from shells to fossils to other interesting formations, where joints between different rock types were impressively clear to see.

### **Day 3 - Malltraeth & Aberffraw**

Unfortunately, the time came to say goodbye to the Conway Centre, however there was still more to see. Firstly, the salt marshes at Malltraeth, which was a good opportunity to gaze out at masses of greenery swaying hypnotically in the breeze, to venture as far as possible into the marsh, or to try your hand at identifying the different species of plants that were growing.

Next were the sand dunes of Aberffraw, where we used a transect and intervals of 200 metres to observe several different conditions that we expected to change as we trekked further from the sea. Using quadrats, we calculated the vegetation cover, whilst sand cores were also used to extract a sample of the soil covering a depth of up to a metre deep, from which we could later analyse variables such as colour, moisture content and pH. We also drew field sketches at each interval, which together with photos, would help our analysis to understand the landscape. Furthermore, plant diversity was another consideration of what we expected to change, in which we used a combination of plant ID sheets and apps to identify different species, which could go towards analysis of where pioneer species were in correlation to where the sea was, among other things. Of course, fieldwork wasn't the only focus, as the wild nature of the dunes and the movement of sand by the enduring wind made for a beautiful landscape, and a great way to end a great trip.

### **'The other bus...'**

The minibus ride with Mr Brear was certainly entertaining. With the spontaneous conversations about crypto and stocks between Mr Brear and Hayder and the amalgamation of different music genres locked in stalemate coming from Hamish's speaker and the main minibus speaker. It is not so often you hear country and house played at the same time. At our first stop at the service station in Shrewsbury we were met with an old fashioned American style diner, which of course is an example of Americanisation. This did get a few of us excited so we went off to explore this rare sight. As we got there we noticed a menu on the window and were taken aback by the extortionist prices, or maybe the price of UK Fried Chicken has clouded our perspectives. The trip to this American diner unfortunately triggered Matthew's 'I must tell a story related to this situation' response and we had to listen to him tell us about the time his mum went to America and ordered a salad. We then regrouped with the others by the minibuses where we played some one bounce where immense skill was displayed. It was almost as if we were on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro. After this we got back on the buses to resume our journey to Criccieth

By Julius Cakaj, Suleman Abdulgader & Chude NDozi(Y12)



## Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

5 Groups from Year 9 set off on Friday the 26th of May for our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. For most of us, this was the first time we had ever experienced something like this. After multiple months of preparation and planning we arrived at school to set off on our expedition that what we had all been eagerly looking forward to. We drove off from school down to Barnt Green station, our start point, ready to battle the Lickey and Waseley Hills - for our first day.

We got our bags sorted and embarked on our walk to our first checkpoint - The 'Duck-Pond Cafe'. The first few hundred metres were straight uphill, and we were already tired, but knew we had to persevere with things like this for a long time to come. The next 30 minutes or so went well, until we took a wrong turn, and another, and another - and we ended up at a road, lost as usual. Luckily we found a church, got back on track, passed a different checkpoint, and took a footpath towards the correct one.

After a quick water break, we were on the move again, this time the path was a continuous one - The 'North Worcestershire Path' - which we would use and come across many times. Sooner than later, we crossed a bridge, and had arrived at our 2nd Checkpoint after the A38. To get to the 3rd, we continued along The North Worcestershire Path, through the Waseley Hills until we got to the Visitor Centre, the 3rd checkpoint, to eat lunch and to start our journey to get back.

We started our journey again, this time through small nettle barriered paths, until we reached another group, confused as to whether to go through a farm or not - turns out it was a public footpath continuation, and we chose correctly to go through it, until reaching the 4th Checkpoint, a farm Cafe.

Now we had to trek through a woodland, and head towards one of the most popular spots in these hills - Beacon Hill Toposcope. After venturing uphill for a while, and walking up a road we got there. Then it was a case of walking down the opposite direction, to reach the Lickey Hills visitor centre, and straight back South to the start - Barnt Green station, arriving at about 6:45.

We then got back to school, put up our tents, cooked dinner, shuffled our bags, and went to sleep, at around 10:30 pm.

The next day started early. We had to get up at 6:30 am, pack up the tents, cook breakfast, fully pack our rucksacks, and get ready for the second day to leave by 9.

After having done so, we were on to move to the Clent Hills, for a much more tumultuous day.

We started by climbing Walton Hill, until we reached the summit, then joined the North Worcestershire Path (again!) to go to another Hill in the area - Calcot Hill. According to Mr Brear - we were the only group to navigate perfectly to the area, but were still beaten by a group, who finished 2 hours before everyone on the previous day!

We then had to make our way back to the summit of Walton Hill, using a different route, this took a long time, through hills, small nettle covered paths, but we did it eventually, being the 2nd last in the end..

After this is where things took a turn for the worse. The next checkpoint was a simple 25 minute walk away, but we only got there 2.5 hours later... After walking in circles ascending and descending the hill through lots of trees, we found someone who led us to the car park, which to our horror was the start location! However, at least knowing where we were, we could start making progress. But unfortunately, at least an hour behind the other groups

Unfortunately, we decided to skip going to CP3, and head directly to the top of Clent Hill - to the 4 Stones Summit, a bad idea, since we needed to go back to the 3rd checkpoint, and with some teacher assistance, we finally made it, extremely late, to refill our bottles, eat and get ready to move on.

Heading back up the hill was relatively simple, and we followed a straight path to get to the 5th checkpoint. A quick toilet break and we were ready to take the relatively simple but long journey to the Nimmings Wood Car Park, at the easy access site to Clent Hill. Heading straight through a woodland, and then joining, you guessed it - The North Worcestershire Path, which took us straight down there.

The final stretch had us use the Easy Access path to get back up, and back down Clent, the way we had come a few hours earlier, behind every other group. Luckily, we had caught up, having almost perfect navigation for the past 2 hours. We descended the hill, and took the short walk down the road to the Walton Hill Car Park - the final checkpoint - the end!

2 Gruelling days but still fun and lots of skills learnt.

Sathya Vaidyanathan 9c

## **Battlefields Trip 2023**

### **Despatches from the Western Front Day 1**

It takes a braver man to cross the Channel these days. With the fear of bank holiday hold-ups and interminable queues, our departure just after midnight allowed us to be one step ahead of the misery as we ventured to reach Dover by daybreak to catch the early ferry, where, among the football tours, stood our shining examples of youth on a quest to understand parts of a foreign field that would be forever England.

Our first visit was to Brandhoek on the Ypres Salient in Flanders, Belgium to gain an understanding of the siting, the arrangement and the ornamentation of First World War Cemeteries; illustrated by the story of Noel Chavasse, the only soldier to have been awarded the Victoria Cross twice during the conflict. His story of bravery in tending to the maimed and wounded and making the ultimate sacrifice along with his batman Rudd, is one of the highest heroism from a larger than life ex-Olympian. Speaking of ex-Demigods, Mr Bulloch (formerly of Camp Hill) brought the stories to life and teased out reflection and conversation among the students.

The second visit to the much larger cemetery of Lijssenthoek which had the group split in two to experience the impact of medical change brought about by the urgency of the growing casualty lists alongside the varied tales of those who are interred next to this former military hospital. From blood transfusions to x-rays to plastic surgery to the treatment of psychological distress, the medical practitioners were among the great heroes of medicine and the Remy Siding Casualty



Clearing Station was where much of this innovation was able to take place and be refined for the future benefit of all mankind.



A welcome return to the Hoge Crater museum and cemetery meant moving from the relative calm of the western side of Ypres where the wounded could be treated to the eastern side where the close fighting between German and British units was at its fiercest, the marked difference of a cemetery half-full of unknown soldiers consolidated from all over the salient. The museum benefitted from a new mezzanine floor which commanded a fascinating view over the cemetery and it fascinated the students with its range of weapons, dioramas and contemporary first world war souvenirs (from cigarette lighters fashioned from bullets to statues of the Virgin Mary ensconced in a shell casing). The replica trenches gave an insight into the constricted nature of soldierly life under constant danger of shells, gas and raiding parties. We were also grateful to have a rest and lunch in the glorious Flemish sunshine.

Our final visit on Flanders Fields was to Essex Farm, another cemetery which was linked to medical treatment, this time an advanced dressing station. It was where John McCrae wrote his famous poem in May 1915 which popularised the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, we also paid tribute to Valentine Strudwick, a 15-year old volunteer who died in 1916 and is the youngest recorded British casualty on the western front.

Finally, beleaguered legs asked for the respite of the hotel, some hearty hot food and the chance to have a rest, a game of spirited football. A fulsome day, an unforgettable experience and readiness for rising at first light to visit the battlefield of the Somme.

The Battlefields Team

## **Despatches from the Western Front Day 2**

Christopher Clark's magisterial account of the origins of the First World War, *Sleepwalkers*, described how the statesmen of Europe blundered and miscalculated their way in turning a dispute in the Balkans into a general war. Today took us from the somnambulists to the Somme, where one of the principal architects of descent into war, saw all of his worst fears realised. In the rolling hills of Picardy, Raymond Asquith, eldest son of the British Prime Minister of the day, Herbert Asquith lies buried. In the beautiful surroundings of Guillemont Road Cemetery, graced by birdsong, we started our second day. For Asquith Senior, he was out of office, a broken man within months of the

tragedy. Status in society was no insulation to suffering and loss. For Raymond, his inscription reads: Small time, but in that small most greatly lived this star of England (Henry V).

A short journey then led us to the southern point of British involvement on the Somme at Montauban. Here a marked success led to the detachment of Liverpool and Manchester Pals advancing on the village and achieving their first day objectives. We ventured into the village to see how the landscape opened out into a horseshoe of woods which would lead to a futile effort over the coming months to drive home the advantage. This may have countered the general trend, the rest of the day reinforced the stereotype of futility and loss.



Dr Page rendered a moving account of the Devonshires, their regiment decimated on the first day of the Somme at Mansell Copse. Their trench became their final resting place. From there to Lochnagar Crater, an impressive example of the power of mines, twenty tonnes of Ammonal which created the largest crater on the Somme. Following a trip to Super-U to pick up provisions for the visit to the north of the Albert-Bapaume Road, we went to the small hamlet of Beaumont Hamel, on the face of it an easier task than Montaban to claim on July 1. Following months of bitter fighting, it was final taken in November at the end of the Somme campaign. We visited the sunken road and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders monument where we set up the trestles for a picnic, while the students also visited the recently restored Hawthorne Ridge Crater, the site of another mine made famous by the filming of the Battle of the Somme. Onwards then to Newfoundland Park, a Canadian monument to the people and communities of Britain's smallest dominion, more than any other it suffered loss as a result of actions taken on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, the Caribou monument has over 800 names of Newfoundlanders dead with no known grave.



Not that Mr Hill was able to notice this as he was able to befriend a beautiful black Labrador whose owners were not able to take "Presley" into the sacred ground. In the spirit of sacrifice, Mr Hill embarked on a little less conversation and a little more (dog-sitting) action while its owners were able to visit. More like Newfoundland Park...



Our final visit was to Ulster Tower on the Thiepval Ridge, the best ice-cream and coffee rest stop on the Somme, a site of monumental significance for the Royal Irish Regiment, located next to the Schwaben Redoubt and the fortified village of Thiepval, where initial Irish successes were thwarted by the failure to make progress on the flanks and bring reinforcements. From a distance, we admired the Thiepval Memorial with over 70,000 names of the missing, yet another solemn reminder of the scale of sacrifice which was made in the futile pursuit of making the breakthrough.

An eventful evening of food, football and good company has rounded off a busy day. And so to bed...

The Battlefields Team

### **Dispatches from the Western Front Day 3**

Back to Wipers, as the British Expeditionary Force named the town of Ieper/Ypres in the small corner of Belgium which remained in Allied hands. After another highly satisfying breakfast (one which opened up many questions like “why are the French so keen to have chocolate in museli” to “...is it appropriate to have a doughnut before 10.00am?”) we hit the A1 North and crossed into Belgium and onto the Messines Ridge to follow in the footsteps of a certain Adolf Hitler. He had signed up to fight for the Bavarian Volunteers who were stationed in Bayernwald where we were able to visit a reconstructed trench network, concrete dugouts and mineshafts which were distinctly dank.



From the woods to the site of one of the most destructive mine explosions on the Western Front, in what is now the Pool of Peace at Spanbroekmolen (roughly translated as Tight Breeches Windmill). In an effort to make a breakthrough in 1917, the British sought to shore up the southern flank of the Ypres Salient on the Messines Ridge, a battle excellently retold by Mr Bulloch, prior to making the ‘big push’ further north. Part of the operation was carried out by sappers who set up mines with thousands of pounds of high explosives, most (repeat most) of which went off. This site of reflection

also provided us with the opportunity to park up the bus, get the trestle table out and enjoy our picnic lunch (in spite of some interesting conversation with the local farmer).



Post-prandial perambulations took us into the heart of Ypres where our students were able to do some souvenir shopping around the old heart of the city in the shadow of the historic Cloth Hall. We were most impressed as all came back on time from their wander and lots had bags with Belgian chocolates in them – maybe some of it may manage to reach home! We walked back to collect the coach outside the Menin Gate – a reflection to the fallen currently under restoration – where Dr Page was able to provide moving renditions of his laments on the bagpipes.

Onwards to the northern sector and the Battle of Passchendaele, the stereotype of mud, blood and toil. Firstly to Langemark German Cemetery, another place with associations to Hitler, who, as well as serving in the sector in 1914, visited the site on his triumphal tour to Paris in 1940. A small cemetery under the cover of the mythically significant oak trees, it casts a different aura to the other sites visited, over 10,000 buried in multiple graves and a further 40,000 in the Kameraden Grab (the Comrades Grave) where thousands taken from other cemeteries were buried in a mass grave no larger than a tennis court. The sculpture of four soldiers looking over the mass grave adds to the sombre mood.

At Vancouver Corner, a Canadian memorial, which stands tall among the flatlands of Flanders, Mr Bulloch postulated on the use of chemical warfare and how it developed from 1915 onwards, and then onto the final culmination of the futility of war. Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest of all the Commonwealth War Graves across the world, twelve thousand graves, nine thousand of them unidentified. In the beautiful sunshine, the white Portland stone looked stunning on the wall of the



fallen without a known grave, 30,000 to add to the 50,000 plus on the Menin Gate, just from this small sector of the Western Front.



After capturing the commanding view from the raised plinth on which the sword of sacrifice stood, it was time to head back, though not before helping one of our pupils to find the inscription for their great grandfather. With a prompt return to the hotel and dinner, during which the sword of Damocles which had been hanging over Mr Rudd was lifted by virtue of Everton's victory which kept them in the Premier League, we could enjoy the evening sun and have a competitive game of football, which should hopefully make all sleep soundly prior to departure tomorrow and our long journey back to Birmingham.

The Battlefields Team

## Dispatches from the Western Front Day 4

Bank holidays in France are always something of a mystery, like back home, Whitsun is a national holiday, the one when it is said the Parisians rush to the Channel resorts if there is even the hint of sun. The French, it seems, are also keen to experience 'le patrimoine' where they hit the cultural and historic highlights of their region. It also seems to be when shops are randomly shut or decide that opening times are for the feint hearted. In spite of my failure to either get the pizzas I suggested from the boulangerie or the picnic top-ups from Intermarché at the time it was meant to open, we were not too troubled in beating the rush to the Battlefields hotspots of Day 4.



A race to Arras between Mr Crutchley's car and an 18-tonne luxury coach (with added USB ports) was unsurprisingly won by the coach. Here we visited the deeply impressive Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery and Memorial to the missing; beautiful architecture and the atmosphere of an English Garden, Mr Hill led the talk on the Battle of Arras in 1917 which included some of the most significant strategic advances of the war on the Western Front, though at great cost. The memorial to the missing added another 30,000 names to those we paid our respects to on the Somme and the Ypres Salient, Mr Rudd talked about Walter Tull, professional footballer and first black officer of a regular British army company, his war record and its near extinguishment from the historical records by a conservative establishment, Mr Bulloch talked of three Camp Hill ex-students buried here and a Camp Hill airman whose name appears on the memorial to the flying aces of the war from the RFC, RNAS and RAF. The cemetery throws up lots of surprises, an unidentified Russian, Indian soldiers and a USAF airman killed in the Second World War. To add to the wonder there were two other visitors in the time we were there, an infinite improvement on previous visits, it must be the Bank Holiday vibe. Trust me, this place is an undiscovered gem.

From Arras we moved north to visit the high ground which was so vital for dominating the surrounding landscape. First to Notre-Dame de Lorette, the largest French military cemetery in World, over 40,000 are buried here, some 10,000 in individual graves and many of the unknown in seven ossuaries, one beneath a lantern which shines as a beacon across the local region of Artois. Of note was the section for Islamic soldiers of the French imperial armies, all buried together in the same section and in rows enabling the headstones to face Mecca. On the high ground alongside the cemetery is the recent memorial of the Anneau or Ring upon which the names of all soldiers,



regardless of country and rank, are named in alphabetical order on panels making up the circle, just shy of 300,000 of them. As it was bank holiday the locals were out in numbers... on a parkrun.

The next great ridge of high ground was the famous Vimy Ridge, held by the Germans and commanding a view of the occupied Douai Basin, one of the most industrialised regions in France, the coal mines leaving huge spoil heaps that make the landscape seem dotted with volcanoes. Here we picknicked in full bank holiday fashion, setting an example to the locals of how to make the most of the weather, before heading to the Canadian monument which dominates the landscape in its blinding white stone under azure skies and upon a verdant sward. Back to the Visitor Centre, placed further back to where the 1917 front lines were, here a Canadian guide showed us the tunnels and trenches which enabled four Canadian divisions to achieve outstanding success in pushing the Germans off the ridge.



Our penultimate stop took us to Le Trou, a most beautiful, and deserted, moated cemetery outside Fromelles where we learnt about the failed Australian campaign here of July 1916. Enough time for biscuits, water top-up and an air on the bagpipes from Dr Page. Then to Neuve Chapelle, the Portuguese Cemetery where all of the 2,000 nationals who fought on the western front are buried, it was here we came across a most spectacular thing, some locals who were visiting the great history on their doorstep on a bank holiday, we engaged in pleasant conversation and I was humbled to hear from one of them that I speak French “comme une vache espagnole” – like a Spanish cow – which I am sure is the highest accolade. Onward to the Indian Memorial next door, built in Mughal style, yet still evoking the sense of calm of British and Imperial War Cemeteries and Monuments with its bright white stone and manicured lawns and flowerbeds. It was students turn to impress with their understanding of the Indian army, the religious inscriptions and imagery representing those who fought and died from Sikh, Hindu and Muslim heritage.

We then bade farewell to Mr Bulloch and Mr and Mrs Crutchley and wish to thank them for their support and help in making this trip special, and to offer our gratitude to Alistair Bulloch in particular for the knowledge and wisdom, acquired over the decades, about the sites we have visited and their pertinence to Camp Hill as a community; a labour of love, but one from which we have all benefited, as so many have over the previous years.



France has something of a reputation for fine dining, however, the fullest place we visited all day was McDonald's in Bethune, must be a bank holiday treat or something...

Signing off we wish to thank the students for making this an enjoyable, eventful and educational experience. Carry your learning with you and be proud to display it.

The Battlefields Team

## Biology

### The Biology Big Quiz

What is a Poikilotherm? Well, you probably wouldn't care - not unless you were in the Big Biology quiz this June. Every year, this prestigious, 'non-competitive' and 'fun' event takes place at Birmingham University, where youthful Year 10 students fight a gruelling, strenuous mental battle in order to maintain our predator position on the food chain of honour. It's true! Last year, Camp Hill's team managed to win the competition - and this year, the pressure was on.

The day began in a welcoming atmosphere under the clock tower as one by one, each school passed us and entered the Great Hall. It should be mentioned that we met Mr Syed - a former Biology teacher at Camp Hill and currently teaching at KES Stratford - so of course, we had to show them who was on top... And soon, it had begun. After exhausting our brain power on a non-competitive wordsearch, Round 1 commenced. But before starting, we were given a special ability. The ability to use a Joker. The power of the Joker is such that it can double the points earned from a singular round. If you used your Joker and scored 9/10 - no you didn't, you got 18!



Round 1 - Genes and DNA. This round involved simple and hard questions - spanning from GCSE and A-Level Biology facts and knowledge. For the A team, this was a generally more relaxing round, as we had studied the topics to great detail.

Round 2 - Organisms & Adaptations. This round involved questions on different plants and animals, their adaptations and key terms that may be associated with them.

Round 3 - Global Climate and Bioenergetics. This round involved questions about the world around us and reasons for climate change and its effect on plants and biodiversity in general.

Then, there was a small interlude for our lunch, as well as a spot lecture on Microbiology and the focus of bacteria. This started with a brief history on the discovery of microbiology by Leeuwenhoek in 1674 and stemmed to the importance of bacteria to form life and the development of pathogens.

Round 4 - Molecules of Life (Biochemistry). This round was focused on the molecules that govern life as we know it such as the fundamental elements of Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sulphur. Questions also included different important structures of proteins such as the structure of haemoglobin. In general, it could be said that this was one of the most interesting rounds!

Round 5 - The Specialist Round - Biology in the News. Every year, one round is known as the "Specialist Round" in which a specific topic or part of Biology is chosen. This year, it was Biology in the News. Now, I don't know about you, but I know absolutely nothing about this topic. "Where in

the World did a rainbow sea slug wash up on the shore?" - Cornwall, of course! Nevertheless, the B team managed to do quite well, scoring above average in this round. (All luck if you ask me...)

Round 6 - Microbiology. It must be said that Alexander Hopkins of team A made distinct contributions to this round, recognising the structure of Ebola and the infamous Cordyceps fungus.



Overall, the day was brilliant, extremely competitive and opened the world of Biology to us. Our A team drew 3rd place, but did not achieve the podium - as one school team can only achieve 1 podium. Unfortunately, we did not protect our title of winning champions, but achieved 2nd place by our C team - a great achievement especially as there were 46 teams!

To those who participate in future years, we advise you to use common sense, and don't overcomplicate things (like the A team did). Ultimately, we would like to say thanks to the Biology Department for allowing us to intellectually flourish, and especially Mrs Cameron for organising the trip. Top work from everyone who took part - their names are below.

A	B	C [2nd]
Jingxi Bai	Shubham Kumar	Bawan Ahmed
Ishan Gautam	Dawud Irfan	Pranav Mullapudi
Taheen Islam	Zack Lai	Umair Malik
Alexander Hopkins	Adwaya Gupta	Hosam Ali



By Alexander Hopkins and Ishan Gautam, 10K

### **Birds of prey visit by The Falconry Centre, Hagley**

Owls are one of the most interesting birds of prey in the world, and they occupy all inhabited continents. Only four owls natively occupy the British Isles; the Barn, Tawny, Long Eared, and Short Eared Owl. Year Seven, and some Year Eight students were lucky enough to experience owls up close, thanks to Fiona, an amazing bird handler from The Falconry Centre in Hagley. It is important to note that five birds of prey also visited, not just owls, and all of these will be talked about in greater detail in just a moment.

We were first introduced to Frodo, an amazing African White Faced Owl who brightened everyone's day. Joseph commented "Frodo was my favourite because he was so adorable". His huge orange

eyes and his face feathers (which looked a lot like a moustache) made him the favourite for many people.

Next, we met Oscar, a Barn Owl who really was a striking sight. Adhvaith said "Its feathers were amazing when he was in the air". Oscar's white face and golden plumage made him, in my opinion at least, a close second to Frodo.

The third bird of prey we were visited by was a Common Kestrel. These birds are the only birds of prey that have the ability to hover, thanks to their abnormally large tail. "I wish it hovered, but I was still excited," said Henry.

After that, we met the Harris Hawk. These are not native to Western Europe, and are instead from the Americas. The hawk also pooped. Oscar (in my class - not the Barn Owl) stated that "It was great, especially when it pooped on the floor".

Finally, a massive Siberian Eagle Owl visited us. He was far larger than all of the other owls. He also flew around the hall, which was great. Tejasv said "I think it was enjoying flying, and it landed just behind someone!"

Once again, a massive thank you to Fiona from the Falconry Centre, as well as the five birds of prey that visited us. Everyone really enjoyed the morning we spent with the birds.

Report written by Daniel O'Keeffe, 7K

The first owl shown to us was an African White Faced Owl named Frodo. He was a Northern species, native to Sub-Saharan Africa. Like many owls, when Frodo is faced with an enemy, he flares his wings to make him appear larger. His cute face made him many people's favourite, including me. He also has a concealing posture, in which he squeezes and thins his body in order to look like a tree branch. In the wild, he eats invertebrates, such as scorpions, insects, and occasionally smaller owls and mammals. They live up to 30 years in captivity.

The second owl shown was a Barn Owl named Oscar. Barn Owls are the most widespread owl species in the world, despite not living in some major countries, such as Russia, China, and most of Canada. Despite appearing quite large, Oscar, like many owls, is mostly just feathers. His bright feathers and circular face, as well as his well-known species, immediately made him a favourite in the crowd. There are an estimated 2200 Barn Owls just like Oscar in Great Britain, with a further 250000 in Europe. They easily catch their prey, which in the wild consists of rats, mice, and voles thanks to their great vision and silent flight. They live around 20 years in captivity, and around 4 years in the wild, although many die young.

The next bird we met was the Common Kestrel. Despite what you might guess from its name, the Common Kestrel is actually a very interesting and unique bird, as they are the only bird of prey with the ability to hover, thanks to its huge tail. Unfortunately, the Kestrel didn't hover for us, despite how much many of us wanted to see it. They do however use this ability to hunt prey such as voles and shrews. Despite being larger than Frodo, Kestrels, such as the one shown to us, actually weigh less. There are around 31,000 pairs of Kestrels in the UK, despite sadly taking a massive hit in the 1970's due to loss of habitat, dropping to just 4 in the wild in 1974. Kestrels live for around 3-4 years in the Wild, and around 15 years in captivity.

The next bird which gave everyone a little shock was a majestic Siberian Owl. This bird was SUPER excited to get out and had an average lifespan of 10-20 years, and an average wingspan of 6ft 2inch!

That's taller than former pro basketball player Jerry West! However, the only things these birds dunked on were lemmings which are the key part of their diet.

The Harris Hawk lives for up to 25 years and is found in the Americas. When even just the word 'Hawk' was said I could see everyone just take one step back, but luckily Fiona the amazing helper notified us that there was nothing to worry about.

Report written by Yunus Ali, 7K



### **Schools Challenge**

With a new online knockout format, it was a real pleasure to return to competing in the Schools Challenge this year. With both entrants in the Senior and Junior branches of the competition we had high hopes of progress through the competition. The competition is similar to University Challenge (where you may have spotted CHB alumnus Michael Fleetwood Walker leading the way for UCL) with starters and bonuses allowing teams to accrue points. Our senior squad of Jobe Simpson, Caleb Wilton, Ayaan Tahir and Sathya Vaidyanathan were able to make pleasing progress in defeating Bede's School in Sussex followed by a resolute victory over local rivals Shrewsbury. Our comeuppance came in the following round where our squad were narrowly defeated by Hampton School in West London rueing the missed chances to get on the buzzer first.

The juniors were able to go even further with their ventures and, having defeated Oxford High School in their first round, and then enjoying a bye, it then took many weeks and two aborted fixtures before we narrowly defeated Hilden Grange School in Tonbridge, Kent to proceed. This quiz format was reliant on both teams hearing the questions at the same time and this was made difficult by the various firewalls and bandwidth issues of the varied schools involved, as a result a hybrid format was employed where teams would take it in turns to answer starter questions. This then resulted in our junior squad of Esa Butt, Nikhil Gilliam, Kezi Kalette, Umar Qureshi, Ahnaf Rahman and Yusuf Sultan-Qurayshi to be invited to the national finals.

We travelled down to London on 19 June by train and made the walk from Euston Station through Regents Park to Primrose Hill where we could admire our venue among the £25 million townhouses and villas (a one bedroom flat would set you back over £600,000 in these locales). The Hall School was the location for the event and we were drawn against City of London School's B team (Daniel Radcliffe/Harry Potter was an old student). In our quarter final we played exceptionally well - in a tiny room which could hardly fit in our reserves and assembled parents and teachers, I guess class sizes were a bit smaller in this sort of establishment – with five minutes to go, we had edged into the lead however, City of London cast their magic, got a few lucky breaks with the bonus questions and we were left to regret the missed opportunities. We then had to dust ourselves off, take a deep breath and enter the 'Plate competition' for the runners up in the quarters, only to come up against City of London A team.... Now this team were not only *head and shoulders* above us in the fixture but they were also sprinkled with celebrity parenting which I cannot *strictly* divulge. So two fixtures and two defeats but a wonderful experience for the students involved and a day where they did themselves and CHB credit. Well done to the Perse School in Cambridge who emerged as the winners on the day. Many thanks to Ms Mackenzie for accompanying us with the trip and to all involved in making this adventure happen.





### **Art and Humanities trip to Berlin – April 2023**

At the end of the Spring term the Art, RS, History and German took 29 students from year 11 and 12 to Berlin for 5 days. We had an absolutely brilliant time soaking up the culture of this fascinating city visiting many historical and religious sites of interest, along with gallery and museum visits. We thoroughly enjoyed Ms Freemans walking tour guide of some of the memorials within the city, along with Mr Rudd's historical facts regarding check point Charlie. The students had the opportunity to visit the Stasi prison, The Jewish Museum, East Side Gallery and the beautiful Neue Synagogue to name a few places on our adventures!





The students were absolutely fantastic and they were a real pleasure to be with on the trip!

### **Year 8 Annual trip to the Warner Brothers Studio Tour April 2023**

We spent two days taking our year 8 classes to the Warner Brother Studio Tour where they were immersed in the magic involved in making the films we have seen on the big screen or at home on our tvs. They also got to go behind the scenes and experienced a lesson from the WB learning team on set design, as well as getting to see actual props up close that were used in the films. The amount of creative careers that are involved in making a movie is always surprising to some of our students but they could see the value of a range of skills that are utilised within such a big industry. We really look forward to taking our year 7's next year!



### **Hoarding for Pineapple Road Station**

Many of you will have noticed the hoarding (large boards) that have gone up down Cartland Road to screen the works that are happening on the new station. Please take the time to stop and have a look at some of the artwork that is on the hoarding, which has been created by students from both Camp Hill Boys and Camp Hill Girls School!

**Art work:**

This term our students have been busy making some beautiful work, in particular we have been doing a lot of clay sculpture with year 7 and 9. Here is just a small sample of what they have been up to:



Year 7: Sweet Treats inspired by the work of Claes Oldenburg

Year 9 Coral inspired by Courtney Mattison



## CHAOS 2023



A phrase that has worked its way into my vernacular is, “that’s so Camp Hill”. It has come to represent the sorts of things that seem to exemplify the spirit and the ethos of the school – particularly the quirky or the unusual. So a musical play put on jointly between staff and students, with a home-grown script and songs would seem to fit the bill for being described in such a way. Add into the mix a host of silly accents, morris dancing, audience participation and a headmaster dressed as Elvis, and we can be certain that this was “so Camp Hill”.

But what was it? Well, it was the latest instalment of CHAOS (Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society) and their performance of Grimthorpe Abandoned, wherein we saw the pupils and teachers of Fortuna Boys’ Grammar School embarking on a trip from t’North to Moseley Bog to take part in a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The staff of Fortuna Boys’ are led (rather ineptly) by Headmaster, Spike Mouseworth – named in honour of Mike Southworth who created the first CHAOS productions in the late 1960s. Mouseworth’s Deputy, Heath Pippis, is named after Keith Phipps who starred in numerous CHAOS productions.

Unfortunately, but predictably, for Mouseworth and Pippis, the whole enterprise is a shambles and they end up having to stage one of Heath Pippis’ musicals. This time it was a tribute to The Lord of the Rings where we saw Fomo Bagpipes having to destroy his uncle’s ring at the insistence of Grandad the Wizard in order to ensure that it did not fall into the hands of the Princess of Darkness, Sarowoman.

And, by the way, this whole enterprise – writing the script, composing the music, writing lyrics, ~~auditioning~~ asking people if they want to be in it, casting, rehearsing, producing, directing, costuming, setting – was all achieved in less than three weeks. That’s also “so Camp Hill”. They said we couldn’t do it... They didn’t really. *They* don’t exist. But I imagine it’s what rational thinking, sane and sensible pragmatists would’ve said had they chosen to comment three weeks ago. But we would have proved *them* wrong because the show was a great success.

Cast and crew enjoyed three evening performances and we think that the audience had a nice time too. Some of the audience even contributed, with former colleague Chris Jones, former Headmaster Mike Roden, and two current governors Asif Afridi and Martin Crutchley taking to the stage to show

us their dance moves. Perhaps the highlight in terms of audience participation was seeing Mr Rossiter's dad improvise an amorous gruffalo – don't ask, you had to be there.

There are too many people to thank individually here – they are mostly all thanked in the programme anyway – but I would like to reaffirm my thanks to Tom Dowling for his exceptional writing and musical talents (and his performance of Gollum) and to Emma Lamb who came back from CHG to help with production and direction and was indispensable in actually making the show happen. She can sing a bit too!

I am also delighted that we managed to combine old staff and new and introduce CHAOS to another generation of Camp Hill. We even managed to persuade Nathan Hill out of acting retirement for a demonstration of theatrical prowess and dramatic intensity that was only surpassed by the trolley; arguably the real star of the show.

We look forward to 2025 and doing it all again.

AJC



## Music

The Summer Term in Music has been both busy and immensely fulfilling. It has been a great time to honour some of the traditions of the department as well as start some new ones.

### House Music

Congratulations to all who took part in House Music. We were fortunate enough to welcome back Mr Palmer to judge. Praise must go to all pupils who performed. There were some very impressive performances - particularly from those performing in the Senior Solo category: George Hill (piano), Sushant Shyam, Caleb Wilton (piano) and Rundong Yu (violin).

Beaufort came in fourth place, followed by Tudor and Howard in joint second place. Congratulations to Seymour who were the victors for 2023.

### Senior Concert

The Senior Concert took place on Tuesday 2 May and was our penultimate joint event with the girls' school this year. This was an opportunity to say a musical goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 musicians. The concert featured performances by CHB Choir, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Jazz Band and the Lower String Ensemble. A particular highlight was the pupil-directed ensembles: the Swing Band did a wonderful job of *Tank!* and another group performed Elton John's *Yellow Brick Road*. It would not be a Senior Concert without an item from the Year 13 leavers, who, for this year, entertained us with a kazoo chorus!



*Concert Orchestra performing at the Senior Concert*

### Summer Soiree

Our final joint concert with the girls' school, the Summer Soiree, took place on Tuesday 13 June. This concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band, Oboe Ensemble, String Orchestra, Tabla Ensemble and Training Wind Band. A particular 'well done' goes to **Xu Wang** (piano) who performed a solo item.

### Evensong at Christ's College, Cambridge

Camp Hill Boys' Choir was fortunate enough to be able to sing evensong in Christ's College, Cambridge on Wednesday 5 July. The service included Tallis' *If Ye Love Me* and Weelkes' *Short Service*. In addition to singing evensong, the choir was given talks by both the chaplain and the Admissions Tutor at Christ's, who talked through choral scholarships alongside standard admission to the college (and university more generally). Pupils stayed in Cambridge overnight and had the opportunity to look round Cambridge colleges the following day.



*CHB Choir after singing Evensong in Christ's College, Cambridge*

### **Pupil Achievements**

Congratulations to the following pupils who successfully attained graded music examinations:

<b>Mateusz Grzesik</b>	7C	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
<b>Shawn Sen</b>	7H	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 3	
<b>Zubair Ahmed</b>	8E	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	Merit
<b>Lucas Evans</b>	8E	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	Distinction
<b>Arish Hassan</b>	8H	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 3	
<b>Mithun Kesavan</b>	8K	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	Merit
<b>Musthafa Ahmed</b>	9C	Rock School	Bass Guitar	Grade 5	Merit
<b>Adnan Lohawala</b>	9C	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 4	Merit
<b>Ryheem Miah</b>	9E	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 1	Distinction
<b>Sathya Vaidyanathan</b>	9C	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 4	

<b>Aiden Arul</b>	10E	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 5	
<b>Aman Koiri</b>	10E	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 5	
<b>Aakshat Kumar</b>	10C	TCL	Guitar	Grade 3	Distinction
<b>Pramath Murthy</b>	10H	ABRSM	Flute	ABRSM	Merit

Congratulations also to pupils who have entered and passed music examinations outside of school: **Nicolas Hotzel Escardo** (Grade 4 piano - merit), **Sampanna Raut** (Grade 8 piano - distinction) and **Macca Ros-Nalugon** (Grade 6 violin - merit). Particular congratulations must go to **Alex Hand** who achieved his ABRSM diploma in piano.

Well done to students involved in musical performances outside school: **Ben Atkin** (violin) and **Vivek Gohel** (tabla) performed in Symphony Hall.

Please do remember to let me know if your child has musical achievements outside of school, so that we can celebrate them.

Well done to all pupils for their contributions this term - I look forward to another music-filled year starting in September! Finally, thank you to all in the community for your support throughout my first year here.

Josh Watters  
Head of Music

### House Reports

#### Tudor Summer House Report 2023

The final term of the academic year has brought great success to Tudor House in our final bid to win the House Championship.

At the beginning of the term, we still had a lot to do to catch up with the other three houses after having a tough first term. We had pulled it back to within punching distance of the other Houses and this was our time to kick on. Winning House Tennis got us off to a good start and the rest of the competitions we have done well in which stands us in good stead going into sports day and athletics standards. Prasanna Sivakumar deserves a special mention for leading this in both performance and organisation of the team, winning all his games and helping the younger years select their squads.

House Music stands out as a highlight for me personally as we didn't have a lot of time to prepare once we had sorted our team. The likes of Sam Nouhov, Yuehao Zhang, Rafael Kenny, Aditya Krishna and more stepped up and managed to perform to such a high level that we finished in second place which is fantastic considering our preparation time.

There are various other students in Tudor House I believe need a special mention as they have contributed significantly to Tudor's efforts this year and without them, our points tally would look considerably worse (if that could happen!). Starting in Year 7, Fadi Bouhouia, Mateusz Grzesik, Jacob Hanratty, Aditya Manu, Preston Umanah and Yunus Mullisi stand out as fantastic role models for Year 7's across the year. They have all put themselves forward for pretty much every single House Event,

offered to help organise, sourced team sheets and performed excellently. Could we be looking at a future House Captain here???

Year 8 also has plenty of quality students who seem to want to do anything for the success of Tudor, whether it is a sport they love, or one that just needs more players and they see it as a duty to help! The likes of Ayaan Bhanji, Zak Khalid, Josh King, Daniel Lo, Yusuf Mussa, Basheir Said and Ibrahim Uddin are a few of plenty I could mention.



Year 9's and 10's have been a source of both success and entertainment this year in the House events. Year 9 kicked us off by winning House Football straight away and since then, the two year groups have won plenty more. This goes down to the likes of; Zidan Akhtar, Abdul-Rahman Ammad, Karlo Heydary, Parth Trehan, Matthew Dainty, Zahi Ihsan, Hairth Kadir, Harshith Salanke and Sushruth Thammineni.

Year 11's and Year 12's are extremely strong in these Year Groups and in the new academic year, when they are the most Senior members of the House, I will be looking to these people to push Tudor to victory! Rahul Chauhan, Rishi Chauhan, Edward Cheung, Samar Khan, Malachi Powell, Krishna Nair, Hassan Soonsara, Tom Dainty, Tommy Fakeye, Jack Hogan, Ali Jawad Ibrahim, Emile Lone-Ebrahim and Prasanna Sivakumar. Maybe even Muhammad Sikander as well!

Finally, a massive thank you to the Year 13's in Tudor House that have been excellent in my first Year of House Master. Josh Berrow (House Captain) especially has stepped up and performed in so many events and organised the majority of senior events. Big shoes to fill for the next House Captain! Alongside him, thank you to Taran Dhaliwal, Sinclair Maginley, Se Mouthaan Ward, Bohan Qiu (Vice House Captain), Ajay Shingardia and everyone else who has contributed to Tudor over the years.



Whatever happens this term and this year, my first year as Head of Tudor House has been a delight and I am looking forward to plenty more successful years in the position.

Looking forward to next year and beyond, more roles have been created for Seniors as well as Juniors, which we are hoping encourages more Tudor members to become heavily invested in the Houses' success!

### **Beaufort Summer House Report 2023**

This year has been one of huge change for Beaufort with a new head of house and changes in organisation with 'google classroom' and 'house survey' now popular parlance. I have been really grateful for the patience everyone has shown as I have got the grips with the new role and for the all the staff who have helped co-ordinate house assemblies. In particular, thank you for Wisteria Chatterjee (L1) for always helping take down and put up the partition walls before and after house assemblies. Also, special thanks goes to Nikil Gilliam (8K), who has been a life saver on the many occasions when I have faced 'technical issues' (technology based incompetence) prior to having to deliver a house assembly. Including instances in which 'Sir, you just have to turn the board on'. Thank you for your patience!

Back to the race for the house championship. Following on from the success of the Swimming Gala, it has been a hectic final term with lots of house events coming thick and fast.

As ever, I have been really impressed by the numbers of students who have put themselves forward to represent the house. A shout out to the following students who have participated in six or more house events this academic year.

- Xai Sandu (7K)
- Zac Johngir (7E)
- Ryaan Vikal (7C)
- Ollie Smoldon (8C)
- Jermaine Tulloch (8C)
- Muhammad Aktar (10C)
- Dawud Irfan (10C)
- Ahmed Shabana (10C)
- Vidyut Tutika (10E)
- Chude Ndozi (L3)

With regard to house events, we have uncharacteristically struggled this term. Despite results not going away, I have been really pleased that students have used the house system as a means of trying something new and having an excellent time in the process. With sports day on the horizon (at the time of writing), I am sure we can turn things around!

The Year 13s have been wonderful role models for others in the house. Special thanks goes to Sam Ankrah, Milan Ram and Amar Sangha who have led the house with pride. Well done! Congratulations goes to the new, soon to be, Year 13 House Captains: Harley Hau as House Captain and Arthur Breakwell and Eesa Nadeem as vice-captains. I was really impressed by all their applications and commitment to making Beaufort House event better. In particular, I was really pleased with Harley's suggestion of inter-house competition in order to increase participation. Now it is over to Harley to make his vision a reality!

Finally, it has been a privilege to be Head of Beaufort: the house system is such a fantastic feature of school life and I have greatly enjoyed it. It is amazing how many ex-students remember their time in Beaufort fondly and formed lasting friendships through participating in house events. I know that Miss Marston will be excellent in the new role. She is incredibly organised, passionate about her subject and a fantastic speaker. Knowing Miss Marston, I am certain that house assemblies will not be a geography free zone. Expect plenty of turtle facts and, as ever, go Beaufort!

TAB

### **Seymour Summer House Report 2023**

After romping to victory in the house festival and securing a significant lead over the other houses in the autumn term, many questioned whether Seymour had the nerve to convert this success into our first house championship in over 10 years. Some wondered whether we had the bottle to hold off the force of Howard or the might of Beaufort - no one was worried about Tudor. We languished through the spring term, dropping points to all houses and offering up easy ammunition to the naysayers. But the summer soon came and, with it, our fortunes turned once more. A glut of strong performances in the summer events has tightened our grip on the house championship.

So, how did we turn it around? Who saved the sinking ship Seymour? Many have attributed our resurgent success to the newly appointed house captain, Amogh Shetty, who led the senior cricket team to victory earlier on this term. His efforts were supported by Haaziq Wani and Ishan Gautam who (controversially for some) kitted out for both the intermediate and senior cricket teams and helped secure first place in both age groups (I'm not sure that Mr Hill has forgiven me for this yet, but how was I to know that he was so keen to protect his year 13 students from our formidable year 10 cohort?). The efforts of the older students meant that just one win in the junior competition was enough to earn first place overall.

Our success in the cricket was matched in house music, where our junior offering saw Arthur Hill accompany Ben Law, who triumphantly tooted his way through Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune, whilst Garloon Ho performed Willem Ten Have's Allegro Brilliant brilliantly. In the senior section, Julian Hau accompanied Clement Franklin, who tooted another trumpet tune tremendously, this time it was David German's Festive Trumpet Tune. Finally, George Hill played the challenging Prelude in B Minor by Rachmaninoff to shore up first place.

The only other summer competition was house tennis, in which we struggled to pick up any points. Only the excellent leadership of Zack Lai in year 10 and strong organisational skills of Saif Babar in year 9 saved us the embarrassment of last place, which was reserved for Beaufort. It was a shame that we couldn't beat Howard into second, as this would have secured first place for us in the overall championship. However, we knew that Tudor, who were runaway victors in this event, couldn't be beaten, as their head of house, Mr Rees, is also in charge of KS3 racket sports. I'm not sure who's entrusted with responsibility for KS4 and KS5 racket sports, but I hope to solicit their advice before next year's competition.

So we sit pretty at the top of the house championship and only a major catastrophe on sports day could see the shield slip from our fingers now. However, our standards results have left us just above Tudor in third place, well adrift of Beaufort and Howard, so it remains to be seen whether it will be a golden summer for Seymour.

TBD

### **Howard Summer House Report 2023**

The term started with a renewed hope that we might be in a position to hold on to our Championship crown. Summer is always an odd term as much of the time is given over to the examination season, trips and visits and the House Assemblies are few and far between. Still we had the challenges of pushing back against Seymour's first term mastery, Beaufort's perennial threat and Tudor's hidden agenda to take over the world. As it turned out, Howard proved to be the most consistent performers over the course past few months.

Our musical performers were able to impress with a strong joint second performance, all soloists and ensembles showed strong talent and character to perform competitively. In cricket we were off to the very worst of starts with our seniors losing all three of their fixtures. However, the inters were able to win two out of three and the juniors won all three of their rubbers. This brought us yet another second place. In tennis, we were again in with a shout of victory, but could not capitalise on the victory in Year 8 and second places in the seniors and Year 7, Tudor showing the greater match-winning consistency. Overall then, second...

So, it came down to Sports Day, the signature event on the House calendar, twice postponed hence it was a relief when it finally dawned on us without it chucking down. Standards had shown a strong level of potential across the age groups, however, the number of gaps in the Year 9 and 10 cohorts made squad selection more challenging for this crucial Day in the Life of Howard House, there were more holes in the data than in Blackburn, Lancashire. Performances started well and we were able to return some impressive results from the throwing events in the morning, mention must go to Raees Latif as winner of the Victor Ludorum for Year 9. As the afternoon progressed, we became more assured of achieving the second place which the augurs would have us in. Thanks to all who took part throughout the day, again taken in the spirit of competitive rivalry and respect expected. We seem to have ended the year with more seconds than Bruce Bogtrotter.

As always at this time of year, I wish all the best to the departing members of the House, theirs was something of a silver generation, albeit to have won two House Championships in their time is impressive by our historic standards. I wish to express disappointment that there was little fanfare and send off for the departees as three quarters of them failed to make it into the final House assembly for reasons that only they can explain. Still, life moves on and we welcome Ethan Tumbos as our new House Captain after a very tight vote from amongst the Year 12 and Howard staff cohort. Maybe next year will be different... on second thoughts, maybe more of the same... Let's see what blue skies the future brings.

GNH