



# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of a busy Spring Term. There have been many exciting events and competitions happening and we'll explore these in more detail in a minute, but I don't think that I can write this message without mention of snow and strike action.

Regarding both challenges, I want to say a big thank you for your patience and understanding. The snow came thick and fast on that Thursday morning, exceeding initial forecasts and we quickly learnt that it is not possible to rely on the roads being suitably treated any more than we can rely on weather forecasting. My headteacher colleagues across the South of the City were all caught out by this and many schools had to close at the last minute leading to difficulties in journeys home for many. We certainly listened to your feedback and made sure that we were not caught out by a similar pattern on Friday. It is always difficult to get the balance right in these situations, and I'm sorry that so many of you faced such disruption that day.

Regarding the recent education strike action, I'm also sorry that we have faced further disruption to our school day, and again I thank you for your patience and understanding. As headteachers we are caught in the middle of a dichotomy. On the one hand we must do everything we can to support the delivery of high quality education for our students, but on the other hand we absolutely respect the right of employees to take a stand for the long term future of education. I know that many of my colleagues in school have been truly conflicted by this seemingly impossible choice, and the real sadness about this whole situation is that it might have been avoided if sensible negotiations with the government had been allowed to take place earlier. I remain optimistic that the situation can be resolved quickly and fairly because we all want to be able to get back to the important business of inspiring young minds.

On top of all of this we had strike disruption to our public transport system. As I write, the bus drivers have called off their industrial action and we are all greatly relieved to be getting back to some sort of normal. I know that many students have suffered longer and more complicated journeys to school and back, and I wanted to commend the fortitude of our families in the face of such adversity.

My thanks and respect to the students, parents and staff who have shown great resilience and optimism throughout these challenges. Yes, it has been frustrating at times, but we all continue to work hard to minimise the disruption faced.

You will remember from my last report that the new Development Office has recently been established and already several alumni events have taken place. If you are in touch with any former students of the school please direct them to our website alumni pages here: <https://www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Alumni&pid=50> for a selection of latest events, future events, and newsletters.

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 a Maths Problem Solving competition, Imperial War Museum trip, Geology Museum trip, Next Generation Awards competition, Business Languages Day, Chemistry Olympiad, Maths Challenges and Feasts, Cambridge Chemistry Race, Lessons from Auschwitz trip, Physics Big Quiz, Philosothon competition, Physics Olympiad, Chris Bradford author visit, Central Mosque and St Martins church visits, Royal Society Book prize competition, WMCTC Chemistry Quiz (which we won!), Chess tournaments, House Quizzes and Public Speaking competitions.

We even had our first Ski Trip since the pandemic which was enjoyed by students and staff, and already we are planning next year's trip.

We also look forward to the Berlin Trip, the German Homestay visits, Harry Potter Studio Tours, Falconry displays, Cadbury World trips, the Senior Concert, Geography Field Trips and more Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

Our Careers support team have been extraordinarily busy too, with careers interviews for Year 11 and Year 12, UCAS information evening for Y12 and their parents, Higher Education Day, Lecture visits to the University of Birmingham, Model United Nations Day, Cambridge Masterclasses, and our Post-18 Day.

Sport continues to flourish in all domains. The matches at Camp Hill Rugby Club, the annual battle against KES, and the Foundation XV against Solihull were spectacles of a highly successful rugby season. We have also enjoyed the Rosslyn Park Sevens tournament and school fixtures across all year groups. The annual swimming gala was a great success too, enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike.

The highlight of the sporting term has to be the Junior and Senior Rugby & Hockey Tours. The feedback from teachers, parents and the opposition staff was delightful – the boys clearly worked hard and played hard and were outstanding ambassadors for the school. It was an emotional final hurrah for the Year 13 students after an exceptional 7-year career at CHB – we will miss them!

The music and drama departments have been busier than ever. The annual trip to Symphony Hall was another great success. We had the Tea Time Concert which was well supported by you the families. Many students have recently taken their ABRSM instrumental or singing examinations. And the Senior Production of One Man Two Guvnors was a triumph – the audience loved every moment and the cast were clearly relishing the opportunity to entertain. 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. This was a huge project and my congratulations and thanks to Mr Dowling for masterminding it.

Parents Evenings continue with our hybrid mix of face-to-face and online meetings. Your feedback has been almost literally split down the middle. We know that many of you prefer the personalised nature of face-to-face meetings but an equal number of you prefer the convenience and efficiency of online meetings. We continue to work hard to listen to your feedback and achieve a satisfactory balance between the two approaches.

On the subject of feedback, I wanted to thank the attendees at our recent Parents Focus Group meetings where we focused on pastoral care, communication and behaviour policy. 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. 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.

The Association of Friends of the School (AFS) ran a highly successful Quiz Night and it was great to see families, staff and friends battling with the questions set by our very own quizmaster Mr Hill. The winning team were, I'm told, impressive, but it's not just about winning, it's very much about taking part! Please watch out for future events, and do consider offering your time to volunteer to help run some of these events. The AFS have been working hard on building community and raising money for the school. Recently they have generously supported funding for cameras for Photography Club, support for Y13 Prom tickets, Music folders, and a replacement for our tired old cricket score board. Finally, please be reminded of the excellent work going on with our Pre-Loved Uniform sales – see here for more information:

<https://www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Pre%2DLoved+Uniform&pid=148>

I'll finish by sharing the news that planning permission for our new All Weather sports pitch has finally been granted and we are now working on the delivery phase of the project. We are hopeful that the tendering process will enable the school to secure a contractor who offers excellent value for money whilst building a pitch of the highest quality. This facility will not only provide for hockey matches to be played at home, but will save us money as we no longer need to hire other local pitches, and generate letting income as we open our doors to local hockey clubs. It will also allow evening training sessions for all sports to be extended as it will benefit from lighting systems, and it will provide additional recreational space for students at break and lunch. It's an exciting project and a welcome addition to the school's facilities.

Not since the pandemic struck has the school been so active and reclaimed so much of that community coherence that we were so used to. Bravo to the students and staff for this gargantuan fight back! And thank you to the parents and families who have supported us all the way!

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 Summer Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen  
Headmaster  
March 2023

## Lapworth Museum Visit – Y7 Rewards Trip

As I first entered the University and walked towards the entrance, my initial thoughts were that this museum wasn't like the others as it looked quite small so I assumed it would be boring and that there would be very little artifacts inside. This thought however changed as soon as I walked into the building. I was first greeted with a huge dinosaur skeleton that towered over us. I was blown away with the detail in each artifact as well as how many were present in the room. As I completed the activities and observed through the museum, it was very factual, super interesting and even the staff were very welcoming. After we explored the museum, we walked around the campus, enjoyed some hot drinks and then headed back to school. My personal favourite was the great rock wall as it contained different type of rocks, some I didn't even know existed. It was really fascinating to see all the different type of rocks displayed in such a way. I would definitely go again.

By Aidhan Butt

When we arrived at the Lapworth Museum, we were handed out activity sheets. They contained 19 questions that we were supposed to answer. Clues to the answers could be found by searching for information available in the museum. Once all of us had completed the questions, we explored the museum for a while before going to the nearby café (Costa); all of us got a drink! Personally, I didn't have a favourite part. I liked EVERY part of the trip as the entire experience was generally very enjoyable.

By Joshua Moey

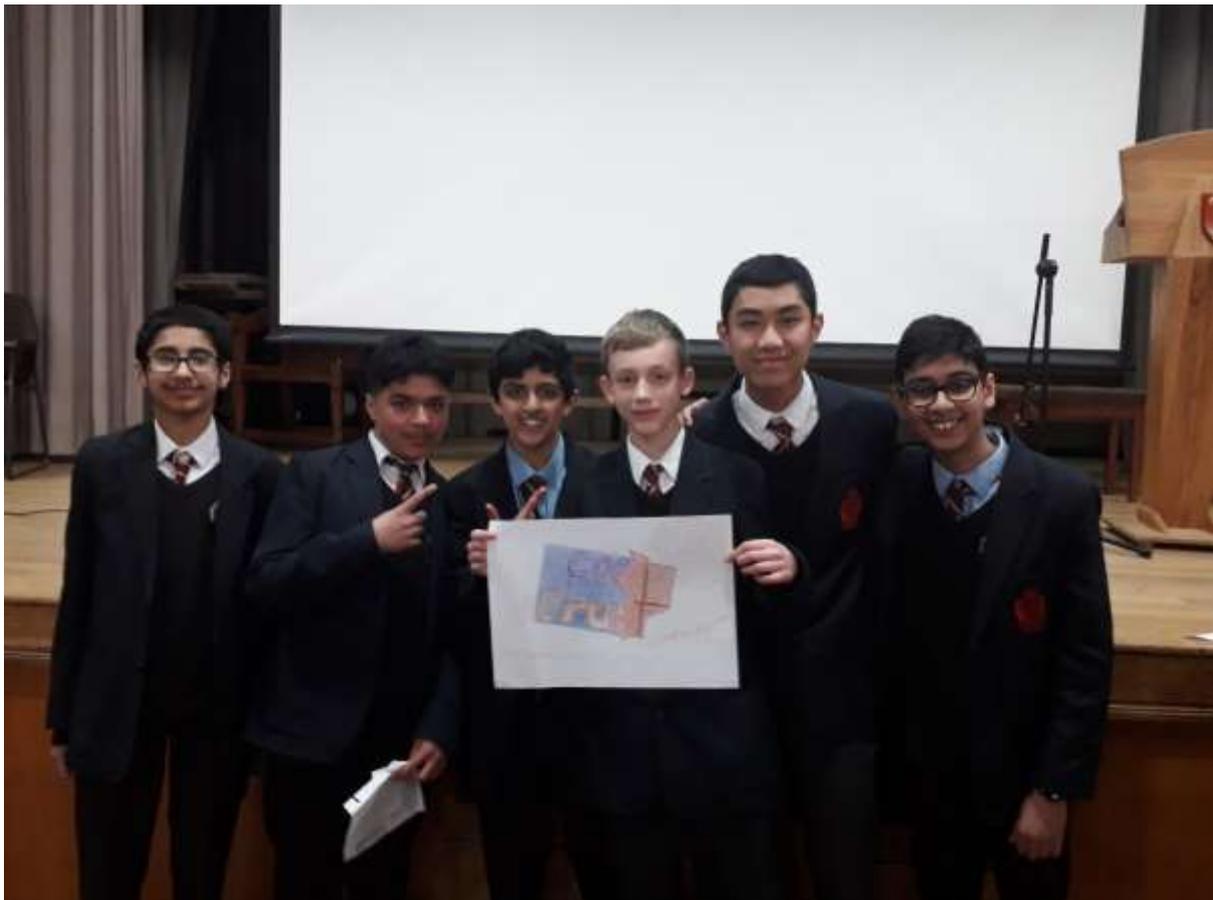




## MFL

### Year 9 Business Language Day

Year 9 Business Language Day was a spectacular and enjoyable day for all of the year group due to the great presentations and talks. At the start of the day, we had extremely funny talks from older students talking about the languages in school and how learning languages can be a special and essential skill needed for university applications and going abroad. Afterwards we had talks from the language assistants, who talked about where languages took them and the use of languages in different countries. Also, they mentioned the essential use of languages due to the severe unreliability of Google Translate! Next, we went to the rooms of our selected language's teacher and discussed our project to launch a new, healthy cereal bar on to the French market. As a group we had to make an advertisement, a poster, a rap and a logo. We also wrote a script for the presentation. We had great help from Mrs Balkham and Justine, the French FLA, in terms of the French. In the afternoon, it was time to show our product to Mrs Balkham and the class and we proceeded to the next round in the hall due to a solid performance from all of our team. We had extremely tough competition but there could only be one winner. Coco Crunch! As a whole, Business Language Day was a very enjoyable day for all with very good activities. This day was not only fantastic, but full of learning and advice. To conclude, I would like to thank all the MFL teachers for organising this event and making it so enjoyable and memorable.



Saif Babar 9K

## A Letter from our Visiting German Teachers

Dear all,

We are Mara-Hélène Müller and Lena Pasemann. We are two German guest teachers currently working on our undergraduate degrees. Mara studies English and History with teacher training at the University of Koblenz, Lena studies German and Economics with teacher training at the University of Magdeburg.

Partnered with the University of Birmingham and the IGES (Institute for German and European Studies), we are at Camp Hill as part of the project *Teaching German in a Transcultural World*. Within this project, a few German university students undertaking teacher training were given the opportunity for a four-week School Placement in the West Midlands. Thus, we were assigned Camp Hill School for Boys.

Our tasks at Camp Hill included not only the observation of lessons but also German pronunciation practice with Year 7-12 students, as well as teacher assistance. Especially the pronunciation practice was beneficial for the students, teachers and us alike. To us it was particularly valuable because we are both aspiring language teachers and here, we get to experience what it is like to teach pupils a foreign language, namely German.

We are very impressed, however, with the fluency and accuracy we have encountered with most students. Most of the time, the errors we have had to correct were minor.

The most striking differences that we noticed about the school systems in the UK and Germany were first and foremost the school uniforms, obviously. To add to that, students at Camp Hill can choose between a much wider range of courses than we are used to. Also, at this school a much more advanced level of proficiency is expected from both the teachers and the students. Furthermore, students at Camp Hill are very respectful and disciplined. However, we also noticed that the English school system can be quite expensive, whereas education is freely accessible in Germany. It is very nice to see though that Camp Hill students get to be part of this school due to their intelligence rather than their financial stability.

We particularly enjoyed the conversation with the Camp Hill boys, the opportunity to talk about Germany and the differences between England and Germany, especially in regard to the different school systems. The warm-hearted welcome from the staff surprised us and we will forever remember this team as a competent, caring, and professional one.

We are glad and grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of something this big and influential. It is with great humility that we hope to have made an impact on the students in the same way they have on us. After this School Placement, particularly in our future careers as teachers in Germany, we will look back fondly on the memories we have shared not only with the staff but also with the students at Camp Hill School. Thank you for having us, it was an honour.

Mara-Hélène Müller and Lena Pasemann.

### Ski trip 2023

This February, 40 boys from Year 9 to Year 12 took a greatly anticipated seven-day trip to the esteemed ski resort of St Anton am Arlberg, in the Tyrol region of Austria. It was an exhilarating experience, giving everyone a chance to discover, or improve, their skiing prowess.

We stayed in a fantastic, family-run hotel that provided comfortable dormitories (more so for the Year 12s!), a game room (which was well-used throughout the week), and our dinner for most of the nights.

The skiing itself was an adventure for all of us. There were slopes for skiers of all abilities, and even a 'Funslope' (I believe that this is a misnomer, as I did not have 'fun' falling over multiple times on the ski jumps – the others, however, enjoyed it considerably). We explored the full breadth of the massive resort, skiing for dozens of kilometres per day, and even went on an exciting 'ski safari' on one of our sessions. As the trip went on, everybody's skiing skills dramatically improved, thanks to our wonderful instructors. The fun went by almost without incident, as only a handful of people (myself included) got lost.

Every evening, we enjoyed activities such as quizzes (where we witnessed rampant cheating by the teachers), swimming and bowling (with a side of bouldering). We even had a pizza night at a local restaurant – and although most people would agree that the hotel food was... very edible, we were all very grateful.

Finally, I am obliged to give a mention to the trip anthem 'Always look on the bright side of life', which accompanied every one of our coach journeys, bringing a smile to our faces every time.

A huge thank you to all of the teachers who accompanied us on the trip – Mr Bruten, Dr Lavery, Mrs Mitchell, Dr Page and Mr Brear, for helping to make this experience as enjoyable as possible.

Arnav Aphale (Year 11)





## Biology

### Year 13 Biology event – CSI Blood Pool workshop

Just last week, I attended an exciting and educational workshop covering a variety of topics related to crime scene investigation, such as crime scene photo analysis, suspects' motives and alibis, ABO blood typing and DNA electrophoresis, case conclusions and an expert witness courtroom quiz.

We started by recalling information from a crime scene photo, which tested our attention to detail. Through this exercise, we were able to recognise the importance of even the smallest and seemingly insignificant details in an investigation.

The simulated ABO blood typing activity provided a hands-on experience, allowing me to understand the principles of blood typing and its importance in criminal investigations. The DNA electrophoresis practical showcased how multiple samples can be used to analyse DNA differences, which is an important step in solving criminal cases.

To wrap up, we were put to the ultimate test of providing a compelling testimony - the most crucial aspect of any criminal investigation. For a moment, I was Sherlock Holmes when I used the subtle details from the evidence of DNA and blood from the crime scene, along with the police statements to decipher suspects' potential motives and alibis, to successfully deduce who was the culprit.

Forensic science events are phenomenal, inspiring future scientists and promoting knowledge in this exciting field!

SHAFEIN HASHMI, U3



## History

### Visit to Imperial War Museum on 12 January

On a dark morning in January, 60 Year 9 students embarked on an eagerly anticipated visit to the Imperial War Museum. The main focus of the visit was to learn more about the Holocaust from the recently reopened exhibition which the Imperial War Museum has had for the last couple of decades. The exhibit has taken advantage of recent scholarly research and reflections in the wider field of Holocaust studies to provide a more inclusive and reflective exhibition, looking at the experiences of individuals caught up in the horrors of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, in which the focus on the steps towards the 'Final Solution' are made more pertinent. Using iPads as guides, our students were able to find out about this topic extensively in order to support their later learning in class.

Beyond this central focus for the visit, groups also had the chance to explore the galleries looking at the First and Second World Wars which also provide a focus for much of the work done in Year 9 and into GCSE studies. The focus on global conflict has been a recent focus in the improvement of these exhibits and the artefacts, interactions and stories really bring to life the scale of these events and the impact they had across all parts of the World. We were also able to visit the Ashcroft Gallery of Victoria Cross heroes, those who served (and often died) for valour in the British and Empire forces from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century to the modern day. The sheer range of backgrounds and experiences of the service personnel commemorated was intriguing. Arduous journeys to and from London could have taken their toll on the morale of the students but all managed the long day successfully and were able to return to Birmingham very much more enlightened and informed.







## RE

### **Philosothon**

What does Gyges' rings, Mary's room and a drowning child have in common? Not a lot. Unless you were one of the students who participated in the Philosothon at KES. At the Philosothon, students from Y9-Y13s discussed and debated pre-assigned stimulus material in front of a series of expert Philosopher judges and facilitators from the University of Birmingham (and Mr Breakwell who was roped in at the last minute). Although KES were crowned champions and go through to the next round, all of our students were praised on the maturity in which they discussed difficult, and often controversial, philosophical issues.

Well done to all the students who participated Zayn Alderwish, Naadir Qazi, Abhi Lakkineni, Pruthvi Shrikaanth, Yousif Elashry, Sushant Shyam, Ishan Gautam, Mohamad Eltair, Usman Simjee, Ayaan Tahir, Sampana Raut. You certainly did the school proud and am sure we will win next year!

Mr Breakwell

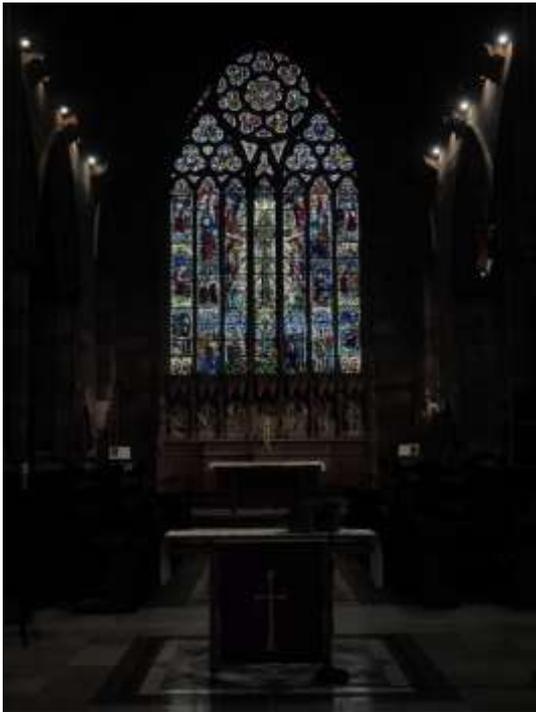
### **Year 8 trip to Birmingham Central Mosque and St Martin's Church**

To facilitate their learning in RS about Islam, all of Year 8 spent the day at Birmingham Central Mosque and St Martin's Church. At Birmingham Central Mosque, students were given a tour of the

mosque and they learnt about the history of the mosque and how it has changed to reflect the needs of the community. Likewise, at St Martin's Church the students were given a guided tour by Jeremy, the priest at the church. Here he explained the complex history of the church and its deep rooted connections with the city of Birmingham and even Camp Hill!

The students were a pleasure all day and showed that they are keen learners through asking insightful questions both on the trip and in their subsequent RS lessons.

Mr Breakwell





## Music

Spring Term in the Music Department has continued to be lively!

### Year 7 at Symphony Hall

It was a real pleasure to be able to take the whole of Year 7 to Symphony Hall, Birmingham to listen to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. As a city, we are so fortunate to have one of the best orchestras and concert halls in the world right on our doorstep. For many students this was the first time they had listened to a live orchestra and I hope it helped them put their current *Bach to Berio* unit into context. For some, I also hope it may have ignited a musical flame within them. The programme was varied including music from Brahms to the score to *Avengers: Engame*.



*Our view at Symphony Hall*

### Teatime Concert

The Teatime Concert took place on Tuesday 14 March and was our third joint event with the girls' school this year. This concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Senior Guitar Quartet, String Orchestra, String Quartet, Tabla Ensemble and Training Wind Band. A particular 'well done' goes to those who performed solo items: **Aditya Krishna** (10H) and **Clement Franklin** (11K).

### Solo Performances

We have been fortunate enough to have some exceptionally strong assembly performances this term by **Babar Zaffar** (10E), **Terrence Sutton** (9K), **Alex Hand** (U6), **Yuehao Zhang** (8C), **George Hill** (U3), **Josh King** (8K) and **Xu Wang** (8H). Well done to all performers.

## Pupil Achievements

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

<b>Benjamin Atkin</b>	7B	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 3	
<b>Isaac Williams</b>	7K	ABRSM	Cornet	Grade 2	Merit
<b>Christopher Moore</b>	8H	ABRSM	Clarinet	Grade 4	Merit
<b>Basheir Said</b>	8H	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 1	Merit
<b>Yusuf Sultan-Qurayshi</b>	8K	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 5	
<b>Lemuel Adjei</b>	9B	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 3	Merit
<b>Levi Dandy</b>	9C	TCL	Classical guitar	Grade 3	Merit
<b>Benjamin Law</b>	9C	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 6	
<b>Hemakesh Muddha</b>	9E	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 5	
<b>Zane Shah</b>	9H	TCL	Guitar	Grade 4	
<b>Jingxi Bai</b>	10H	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 5	
<b>William Lin</b>	10M	TCL	Violin	Grade 5	Merit
<b>Arnav Aphale</b>	11J	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 4	
<b>Edward Cheung</b>	11M	TCL	French horn	Grade 2	
<b>Zayan Khan</b>	11M	TCL	Singing	Grade 6	
<b>Sampanna Raut</b>	11M	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 7	Merit
<b>Kumayl Vanat</b>	11S	TCL	Singing	Grade 6	
<b>Wisteria Chatterjee</b>	L1	TCL	Violin	Grade 6	Distinction
<b>Sam Nouhov</b>	L2	TCL	Jazz saxophone	Grade 6	Distinction

Congratulations also to pupils who have entered and passed music examinations outside of school: **Rahul Chauhan** (Grade 6 piano), **Rishi Chauhan** (Grade 6 piano - merit), **Vivek Gohel** (Grade 5 Dhol - merit), **Kenny Lau** (Grade 6 piano - distinction), **Sushant Shyam** (Grade 8 piano - merit) and **Joel Skaria** (Grade 8 piano - distinction).

If your child has an achievement which is not mentioned above, please do let me know: we are always pleased to hear of pupil successes.

Finally, a particular 'well done' must go to **Caleb Wilton** and **Sampanna Raut** both of whom have been accepted as Apprentices on the ORA Singers Young Composers Programme. This is a rare opportunity for which they had to fight off tough competition.

## **Summer Term**

There is a busy Summer Term ahead which contains among other things: House Music (Tuesday 25 April), the Senior Concert (Tuesday 2 May) and the Summer Soiree (Tuesday 13 June). I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout a busy and music-filled term. Well done to all musicians for your contributions this term!

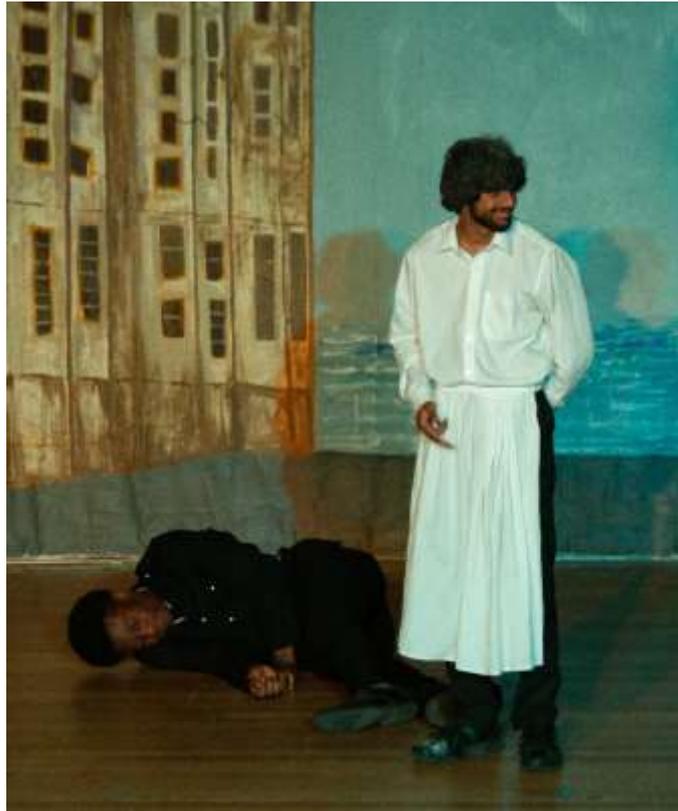
Josh Watters  
Head of Music

## **The Senior Production - One Man, Two Guvnors**

We were delighted to welcome parents, pupils and friends of the school to this year's senior production of 'One Man, Two Guvnors', Richard Bean's 2011 adaptation of the Italian Commedia dell'arte classic, 'The Servant of Two Masters', for a two night run on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Hijinks abound in this fast-paced, slapstick farce as impersonations, mistaken identities and crossed wires cause chaos before everything is happily resolved and the play's protagonist arrogantly asserts, "sometimes, being a liar works". This is one of many unscrupulous quips that resonated with the Camp Hill crowd, who revelled in the play's raucous and raffish wit. Similarly, the cast took to the script instantly and enjoyed improvising around their scenes in accordance with the theatrical tradition of the play. Toma Hoffman delighted as the beleaguered Francis Henshall, while Matthew Holland and Caleb Wilton conjured belly laughs from the audience as the foppish Alan Dangle and twittish Stanley Stubbers respectively. Jibraan Rashid delivered an extremely assured performance as Charlie Clench, the East End hard man with a sensitive soul, and Tommy Fakeye brought Lloyd Boateng to life with an energetic and highly entertaining performance. Tom Colleran and Hasan Syed formed an amusing double act as Gareth the chef and his eighty-seven-year-old waiter Alfie, whom Hasan played with perfect comic precision. Ivan Brosnan, who played the pompous lawyer, Harry Dangle, brought a touch of class to proceedings, with a fastidious demeanour that channelled Suchet's Poirot. Tom Pitfield opened the show with aplomb, performing Little Richard's 'Rip it Up', and continued to delight and amuse in supporting roles throughout the performance, whilst Sam Ankrah gave a confident turn as Brighton's sole police officer, who struggled to bring order to the chaos that surrounded him. Credit must also be given to the tech team and back stage crew, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the stage was perfectly set up for the performers, as well as the live band, ably led by Wolfie Spyrou-Kirby, with Harvey Collett on guitar and Bohan Qui on bass. A roaring success, the show was a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of all involved!

TBD





## Sport

### Senior Rugby

The 2022- 2023 senior rugby season has been a blast! An early nail-biting 22-21 win over KES set the team on their way for the season. This result was post a 55-21 Victory over KE Aston. Sam Ankrah scoring a staggering 5 tries in a unbelievable display of natural ability . Probably some sort of school record for a school game but I have no evidence to state this for a fact but let's just say it is. The performance of the season came against Princethorpe 14 points to 5, without our talismanic captain Toby Taylor. This game was impressive for a number of reasons, we entered their half twice all game and completed approximately 500 tackles. Achusiogu, Nirantharakumar scored! No other side I've been involved in at Camp Hill would have won that game with the defensive efforts that were needed.

Moving on, we then crashed out of the Natwest Vase to Hereford Cathedral School. It was a creditable 17-0 loss to a good side. Wins against Camp Hill RFC, KE Aston and Queen Marys- Sam Ankrah scored Jack Hogan, Sam Ankrah and Humza Rana received man of the match awards in this period. I also note that the diminutive Taran Dhaliwal, head prefect, scored three conversions.

Shrewsbury School 13- Camp Hill 15 was a very satisfying hard fought victory. Tommy Fakeye was outstanding ad received man of the match and Sam Ankrah score 2.

Then loses came, first KE Five Ways, then Adams Grammar, the KES, then Alcester Grammar School but we did finish with a compressive 41-0 victory over Queen Marys in a very entertaining game.

So here we are the end of a very memorable season. 40 players have represented the first XV this year, an incredible effort but also making it impossible to mention everyone within

this newsletter article. I would like to thank each and every one of you for a very memorable season. A special note to the Year 13 players in the squad. The Year 12s in the squad, you have big boots to fill but I have full faith in you for the season ahead.



### **Senior Rugby Tour**

48 sixth form students headed to Barcelona for the first ever European senior rugby tour. What followed was trip that will live long in the memory. It was also an unbeaten tour with wins for both the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in two very contrasting games and venues for rugby! The 1<sup>st</sup> XV overcame CR L'hospitalet, winning 31-5. Try scores: Nguinessy, Ankrah(2), Fakeye, Kenworthy. Jobe Simpson slotted four conversions and picked up the man of the match award. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV took on CR Carboners Terrassa in the most spectacular of settings for a game of rugby. Tries from Sivakumar, McGhee, Rahman and man of the match Chude Ndozi (4)! Thank you to both rugby clubs for hosting us. It wasn't all just rugby, the squad enjoyed visiting La Sagrada Familia, a lengthy sightseeing tour of Barcelona, a stadium tour of the Camp Nou and a La Liga contest between Espanyol and Celta Vigo sandwiched in the middle. Many hours were also spent playing footie, volleyball and rugby on the beach. A fitting finale to a cracking season. The students throughoughly enjoyed the trip and I'd like thank parents for supporting this venture.





## Year 10 Rugby

A tough old season for our Year 10 rugby season in terms of results. However, what a great bunch of students they are to work with. Numbers were low at the start of the season, very low! But come the end of the season the squad was increasing week in week out, with over 30 students representing the school team. Win, lose or draw, the squad would train, play hard and enjoy themselves. Matthew Dainty has been a standout leader and had captained the side tremendously throughout. Kaaraj Chandock has ably assisted him, quietly going about his business helping make sure players turn out on a Saturday. The highlight in the regular season came against Bablake. 48-0 winners! Tries came from Kosina, Kippax, Adeniran, Close, Martin-Tan, Kadir, Jimenez (2). Luke Dolan struck 4 conversions with his impressive left boot. This victory was outdone however by a superb winning come back on tour against Cockermouth school. A try in the dying seconds came from Louis Martin- Tan to send the Camp Hill Boys into wild celebrations. Kippax, Kadir and Akhtar also got their names on the scoresheet. This victory was a reflection of the sheer effort, commitment and courage you have shown towards the cause from the start of the season. I hope all of you continue playing rugby next year when you enter the senior rugby set up! Thank you for a very enjoyable and rewarding season.

TJB



## Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 team had a quieter spring programme after a number of fixtures were called off due to adverse weather conditions. Nevertheless, they continued their winning ways, starting with a thrilling match against Haberdashers' Adams School. After a long coach journey over to Newport, the team took some time to wake up into the game and found themselves 20 – 5 down at half time. An inspiring talk from captain Basheir Said ignited a resurgent team spirit, two quick tries in the second half brought the deficit to within 5 and looked to turn the tide of the game. After levelling the match at 20 – 20, a heroic comeback was on the cards. However, some sloppy defending and missed tackles allowed Adams to restore their lead at 25 – 20. When all hope seemed lost, Zain Shah broke free on the left wing, deftly side-stepping his opposite man before darting around three more defenders to finish an excellent solo try. Zain had clutched a draw from the jaws of defeat and the crowd looked on, anticipating the final whistle. Much to their surprise, the referee played an additional minute, giving Adams the opportunity to push into the Camp Hill 22, before shipping a forward pass that would have resulted in a deciding try. Scrum down, Camp Hill ball. The referee announced that this would be the final play of the game. Spotting a poorly covered blind side, Barachel Ankrah shifted himself so that he stood behind the scrum and, as the ball popped out, he charged forward to collect the ball from scrum-half Rafe and attack the narrow channel. He then proceeded to run the length of the pitch, beating off any Adams defender who dared to come near him and planted the ball down to secure a last minute victory. The game finished 30 - 25 to Camp Hill and the team's plucky performance will be remembered as the pinnacle of an excellent season.

Their second and final 13-a-side match came against Camp Hill RFC, a fixture that had resulted in a well contested draw earlier in the season. Unfortunately for Camp Hill RFC, several of their experienced players were unavailable and the school team walked in a number of unanswered tries. It was an opportunity for the team to utilise their handling skills and play some expansive, stylish rugby.

The team also took part in a 7s tournament at KES Stratford and showed a mature approach to their game with smart support play and excellent decision making that saw them triumph in three of their four games, only losing out to a strong Queen Mary's side.

The team has come on leaps and bounds this year, with forwards Mushaf Mir, Jiale Chen, Alex Innocenti and Seb Robotham developing into formidable defensive players with an eye for a quick break and excellent handling skills, whilst Rafe Sullivan, Ollie Smolden, Basheir Said and Tom Walker have worked on their ability to slice open the opposition's defence through organised back play. Ahmed Mahfoudhi, Esa Butt and Barachel Ankrah have continued to thrive as hard running, hard hitting utility players that could slot into the team in any position. Honourable mentions must go to Zain Shah, Yasin Elashry and Ibrahim Uddin, who have emerged as dangerous, try scoring wingers that have been crucial to the team's success this year. Miqdad Atta-Ur-Rasul, Joshua King, Manav Sethurahman and Lucas Evans provided excellent support in a number of positions throughout the season and will form a significant part of the team next year when they play 15-a-side fixtures for the first time.

Mrs Jermine & Mr Dowling

## House Events

The house programme so far this calendar year has been hectic! Over 100 matches have taken place across various sports, quizzes and, chess competitions. The participation levels matched with some healthy competition has allowed for hours of excellent events to take place.

House chess was first up in the New Year. Tudor took the outright victory, fighting off tough competition from Howard. Tudor earned bragging rights in the newly added house handball and volleyball championships. These two events were superb. Fabulous skill on show but also allowing students of all abilities to take part. House Hockey was up next. Although Howard were strong favourites with club players galore, it was in fact Seymour who ran out winners against all odds. Mr O'Malley's legacy continues in the pool, with Beaufort dominating the swimming gala for another Year. Before the Easter break, house quiz, house rugby 7's and house table tennis will come to their completion which could add important points to the Championship going into the summer term. The summer term will see Music, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics take place. As it stands Seymour are the front runners, with Beaufort then Tudor then Howard hot on their heels.



### **Howard House Report Spring 2023**

It has been quite a term with so many activities it has often been hard to draw breath and consider the magnitude of events taking place.

With a lack of House Assemblies at critical times it has been akin to herding cats to ensure that we could get the right squads together for all events. Nevertheless, there have been robust performances from a number of different areas. A strong commendation to the senior chess squad for an impressive domination of their field which helped us to second overall, behind the House of (checks notes) the Master of Chess.... Second places in handball and quiz have been pleasing and we were unlucky in volleyball and hockey not to have had our full complement of top flight practitioners. Some excellent swims in standards and the gala (especially among the intermediates and seniors) was cruelly negated by a couple of disqualifications during the relays which cost us a championship place. However, there has been much to enjoy this term and still table tennis and the final outcomes of the rugby (via the Sevens) to be accounted for. We can look forward to the summer term from a position of mid-table comfort with a hope of picking up a few more trophies along the way.

GNH

### **Beaufort House Report Spring 2023**

This term has been another successful one for Beaufort. I have been continually impressed by the number of students that have participated in house events and especially those who have taken the initiative to captain and co-ordinate teams. I am also greatly encouraged by the number of students, from across different year groups, who have given a new sport or event a go (by choice and only occasionally through a little cajoling)

The house events have been coming thick and fast with house chess, quiz, handball, volleyball, hockey, table tennis and Rugby 7s. Special mention goes to Arish Hassan who successfully captained the Beaufort team to victory in House Volleyball (I won't mention the other results). Also, a special thanks to Dawud Irfan who has been instrumental in organising both the Hockey and Chess teams. However, a little more shooting practice is needed if we are de-throne Seymour as reigning intermediate Hockey champions.

The highlight of this term has been the Swimming Gala with our dominance continuing for yet another year. Every race was fiercely competitive and Beaufort certainly did shine, in no small part due to some stand out performances. I am sure that Zac Johngir versus Jacob Hanratty will continue to be an intense sporting rivalry for many years to come. Yusuf Abdullah and Yasin Elashry were a perfect double act securing valuable points for Beaufort. And I have never seen Anthony Botros as miffed as when William Lin narrowly claimed first place in the breast stroke! The seniors must be absolutely sick of my desperate pleas posted to the Beaufort google classroom, and despite my stresses, the seniors put out a swimming team: and what a team! Thank you Ishan Tewari for being both incredibly organised and a plunge expert. My appreciation also goes to Faizan Shah (for being a very dependable reserve), Yousif Elastray, Dylan Datta and Arthur Breakwell for all stepping up last minute. All of your efforts were invaluable!

Junior quiz did not disappoint. Beaufort were the only house to have three teams plus two German exchange students. Despite capital cities not being any of the teams' forte, Beaufort were crowned winners. Well done!

As ever, thank you to Mr Burgess, Mr Norton and Mr Rees for all their work in organising the sheer number of house events that are on offer. I know it must take an inordinate amount of time and effort to arrange and re-arrange depending on snow days and strikes.

Mr Breakwell

### **Seymour House Report Spring 2023**

After a dominant start to the house championship in the autumn term, it looked as if Seymour would cruise to their first overall victory in over ten years and bring the championship back to the most decorated house in the school's history. However, the spring programme has presented significant challenges for Seymour and we have struggled to pick up points in a number of events. Wooden spoons in the house quiz, volleyball and swimming created opportunities for the other houses to close the gap on first place, whilst a third place finish in chess, despite Daniel Chen's best efforts, did nothing to stop the Seymour rot. However, a strong performance in hockey, with key individual contributions from Ajay Dhaliwal, Harvey Murray, Haaziq Wani and Ishan Gautam, in the seniors and intermediates, stole victory from an ever encroaching Beaufort and resurgent Tudor, and might have done just enough to keep them at bay until after the holidays. Despite a downturn in fortunes, with music and cricket, events we typically score highly in, still to contend in the summer term, there is a strong sense of optimism in the Seymour camp. Thank you to everyone who turned out for Seymour this term, hopefully we can secure our position at the top of the house championship with another dominant display in the summer.

TBD

### **Tudor House Report Spring 2023**

This term for Tudor has been excellent!! After a disappointing final result in the House Festival and the House Championship standings before Christmas, we have had a miraculous turnaround. Since returning from Christmas we have taken part in House Chess, Handball, Volleyball, Rugby 7's, Hockey, The Quiz and The Swim Gala. House Chess brought the most success with a victory across all age groups! We have had age group victories in almost all of the sports mentioned above and this means we are in a much healthier position than previously! Josh Berrow is continuing to lead Tudor forward in more than his own sport of Basketball and with the buy-in of everyone in Tudor helping him along the way, there is no reason why we can't go on to greatness! Well done to everyone that has contributed to the success this half term and hopefully that effort will turn into reward by the end of the year!

Mr. Rees.