Dear Parents/Guardians,

I can hardly believe that my third year as Headmaster is rapidly drawing to a close. The time has passed by so quickly. I think it has because of the tremendous number and range of events that goes on at Camp Hill Boys above and beyond the formal curriculum. This is an extremely busy and, I believe, a happy community, who get on well together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on your behalf, the teaching and support staff. They have continued to provide what is, for such a small school, a dazzling array of opportunities for the boys to develop their interests and skills beyond the confines of the classroom.

On 1 August the school will, along with the other four grammar schools of the King Edward’s Foundation, finally achieve converter academy status. The five schools, their governing bodies and the staff of the King Edward’s Foundation Office have spent a great deal of time leading and managing the transition from voluntary aided to the new ‘independent state schools’ status. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and your sons who took part in the consultation process over the last twelve months.

As expected, the impact of the national financial deficit has begun to have a real impact on the school’s budget. Whilst the budget income from 11-16 was slightly higher than the previous year, this has been more than wiped out by a 2.3% cut in Sixth Form funding and the impact of 4% plus inflation. At the annual meeting of the Grammar School Heads Association meeting on 22 June, the Minister of State for Schools, offered some reassurance about the future of specialist school funding. However, this has not yet been confirmed formally. So, while the picture for next year is a little better than expected, the school’s decision to narrow the curriculum (by removing AS/A Level PE and lower/middle school Spanish teaching) and make cuts where possible to the staffing complement, has been vindicated. The additional income from academy status will be crucial if we are to maintain the breadth of the curricular and extra-curricular provision at the school for the future. All schools with Sixth Forms face the prospect of further significant reductions in income as the government’s plans to reduce the level of their funding per student (to those of Further Education Colleges by 2014) begins to be realised.

This year has seen the introduction of new GCSE specifications in a number of subjects. These have involved the implementation of a new ‘controlled assessment’ coursework system. On the recommendation of the relevant Heads of Department, the three sciences, English and Modern Foreign Languages (French and German) have gained the approval of the Governing Body to start new iGCSE specifications in September 2011. We believe these courses have significant advantages. The reduction and, in some cases, removal of coursework, will permit much more time for teaching and learning. The content of these courses is also viewed as a better preparation for A Level by many schools who have already taken this step. The Minister for Education, Mr Gove, announced recently that modular assessment methods in all GCSEs will cease from September 2012. Camp Hill Boys has decided to pre-empt this move for the benefit of our students.

I am pleased to announce that, following my interviews with Year 11 over the last three years, the
school will endeavour (whilst keeping a MFL at GCSE compulsory) to allow students in Year 9 to choose which MFL (French or German or both) they wish to study at GCSE. We cannot, however, guarantee all students will get their choices, but we will do our best.

At the end of the last financial year a number of projects were undertaken (using the surplus which had arisen from the savings made in staffing and in other areas of the budget) to improve school accommodation and facilities. These were:

- The guest toilet has been refurbished and re-decorated;
- The Careers Room has been refurbished - the bench at the back has been removed, windows have been replaced with double glazing units, the shelves have been enclosed with cupboard doors;
- The Exam Officer's Room has had double glazing units fitted, and security improved (new door locks and locks for filing cabinets which store examination papers);
- In the Hall, the new computing, multimedia and sound/lighting control system was completed - this project was adapted to respond to several recommendations from the Health and Safety report from 2010;
- The main ‘common room’ downstairs in the Sixth Form block has had a new floor fitted, has been re-decorated and new lighting units installed, the pool table and table football re-furbished and a second table football purchased (it is intended to replace some furniture next year);
- On 21 May the installation of the new electricity supply to the site was finally completed. This will allow full use of the new food teaching facility to occur.

During the summer holiday a number of rooms and facilities will be refurbished as part of our annual maintenance programme (e.g. re-decoration, repair and replacement of blinds). A larger project is to be the renovation of the (original 1956) hardwood floor in the lobby, hall and on the stage. The cricket nets will also be replaced as we seek to provide high quality facilities for our students.

Every year, the process of selection of the senior student leadership team (Head and Deputy Head Boys) seems to become even more difficult, due to the large number of outstanding candidates. This year, from twenty applications (which followed their election to the Prefect position from votes by their contemporaries and staff), ten were selected for interview. After twenty-minute interviews and, taking into account a wide range of information from other staff, we have been delighted to announce that, for the academic year 2011-12, the Head Boy will be Ankit Bhatt. His Deputies will be Tom Dowling, Ross Mackie, George Mather and Karndeep Uppal. I would like to congratulate them and thank all of the students who applied for these coveted and important positions. I am also delighted to announce that Peter Liu will be the new Head of the School Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing ‘officials’ (John Eraifej, Lewis Blackwood, Keshav Gupta, Robert Smith) for their impressive contribution to the leadership and management of the school in the last year.

It is unlikely, as a school rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted, that we will experience a full inspection in the years ahead. The governing body have accepted my recommendation that the school should review its performance every three years (this is in addition to the annual review of school improvement objectives). In addition to the year groups who I interview each year (Years 8, 11 and 13), we intend to survey all of the students, over the course of the next term, in order to ascertain their views about their school. The responses provided recently by Years 8 and 9 have highlighted a number of issues which we will respond to. The outcome of this review and our recommendations for the strategic development of the school for the forthcoming years will be presented in a document to the Governing Body in February 2012. If you, as parents, have any concerns that you feel the school should know about, or indeed have any views about how the school has changed over the last three years or so, please do not hesitate to get in touch by letter or e-mail as soon as possible, but no later than the end of September.
The Lower School Presentation event was established last year. Our aim was to recognise and reward an increased number of students for their academic attainment, progress and/or contribution to school life. In order to develop further our knowledge of the interests and activity of the boys outside the classroom and the school, this year we have been developing a new extra-curricular recording and reporting system. In due course, this will allow the boys to use the Moodle software (our VLE - virtual learning environment) to enter their information online. It will provide a much more detailed picture for the school of their all-round community involvement and individual achievements. We hope to send these extra-curricular reports home at the start of next term for boys in Years 7 to 10. When the boys enter the school in Year 7, I encourage them to ‘behave well, work hard and contribute to their community’ (both inside the school and beyond). I’m confident that the new academic and extra-curricular tracking system will provide your son’s teachers and his form tutor in particular, with the information required to support fully their assessment of the breadth of his performance year to year.

The boys have continued to amaze us with their successes beyond the examination hall. Since my last newsletter, these have included:

- Wai-Ming Yap has awarded the Midlands Young Achiever Prize for 2011. This was awarded by the Birmingham Chinese Society in Partnership with Birmingham City Council following his nomination for his academic achievements, community contributions to the Chinese community and Cancer Research work, as well as for being the only young UK person to have his article published in the China Expo 2010 in Shanghai. The award was presented by the Lord Mayor, Austin Ward.

- Congratulations to George Mather in Year 12 who has been awarded second prize of £250 in the Peterhouse (Cambridge), Kelvin Science Prize for 2011. George wrote an excellent essay examining whether scientific ideas have exerted a force on our civilization as great as the more tangible applications of scientific research.

**MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD AND KANGEROO**

Following the Intermediate Maths Challenge, 47 boys qualified for the European Kangaroo (sat by students across Europe) with an impressive 13 more qualifying for the harder Olympiad papers. The results of these ‘follow-up’ papers were, as ever, excellent.

**European Kangaroo** - 16 of the 47 boys sitting the Kangaroo gained Certificates of Merit. This achievement places them in the top 25% of entrants, representing a considerable achievement. The **Olympiad** is aimed at the best 1000 or so students in the country and qualifying is a significant achievement. One pupil earned a certificate of participation, and seven were awarded certificates of merit (indicating excellent answers to at least one question). Certificates of Distinction are awarded to the top 250 candidates - 5 were awarded to Camp Hill students this year. Tom Else and Robert Walters earned a Certificate of distinction with Robert also receiving a medal that places him in the top 100. Sam England & Giles Moss received Certificates of Distinction, a medal and a book prize, placing them in the top 50 participants nationally. In actual fact they finished 10th and 40th respectively; quite incredible!

Max Cheung also achieved a certificate of distinction, a medal, a book prize and an invite to the UKMT summer school. Max was one of 4 students nationally to score full marks on this very challenging paper; this is a truly OUTSTANDING achievement.

**CHAFTA 2011**

This is the first year of the awards and the total number of entries was not as high as hoped. Let’s
hope for more next year. In total there were 18 entries with videos on a wide range of topics. A notable entry from Year 9 was a futuristic fantasy called ‘The Assassination of Barack Obama’ by Niall Belone, Tom Baker, Arun Chowdhury and Joe Khalique-Brown. This film featured all too realistic special effects.

Also worthy of mention, because of the outstandingly high quality of camera work and production techniques, was an entry with no title, by Joseph Nickson of the Upper Sixth.

The winners in the **CAMP HILL ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION AWARDS 2011**:

**Key Stage 3**

For their film titled ‘Leonardo da Vinci’s inventions’ the Key Stage 3 award went to Andrew Snushall-Smith, Oliver Millington, Fraser Doshi-Keeble and Thomas Wemyss.

**Key Stage 4**

For their film titled ‘Pool Tricks’, the Key Stage 4 award went to Matthew Hoskin, Jacob Heywood and Tom Perkins.

**Sixth Form**

Entries in this category were of a high quality and therefore there are two awards. Firstly a ‘Highly Commended’ award for their film called ‘The Great Patriotic War’ went to George Zeng and Jared Dunn. The winner of the Sixth Form award for his film entitled simply ‘John Eraifej’ went to Gary Zhang.

- **RSC CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD YIELDS RECORD MEDAL HAUL**

In March thirty pupils in Year 13 sat the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad Round 1. The questions ranged from the merely difficult ones requiring exceptional subject knowledge, through to the totally bizarre and baffling ones. The school has gained an excellent set of results with twenty one pupils gaining a medal, which represents a school record. The students achieved five gold medals, twelve silver medals and four bronze medals. Special congratulations go to Staszek Welsh who was invited to Cambridge to sit round two after a phenomenal score of 51/55 placed him in the top twenty students in the country.

- **CAMP HILL REGAIN WEST MIDLANDS CHEMISTRY QUIZ 2011**

After a first round bye and then victory over Camp Hill Girls, the team travelled to KE High School for Girls in search of the trophy which has eluded us for the last couple of years. The team of Sanjay Nath, Tom Perkins, Fraser West and Andrew Hawkin began strongly, dispatching the hosts in the quarter finals. They followed this up with victory over KE Stratford in a tight contest with the tie finally being settled by Fraser’s encyclopaedic knowledge of the elements beginning with the letter A. The final was a repeat of last year’s event against Wolverhampton Girls’ School. After a yo-yo battle, covering a diverse range of subjects from electrolysis to famous Chemists, Camp Hill were three points up with a round to go. The final round on bonding proved to be a bridge too far for either side with both teams managing a meagre three out of eight. However, this was enough to give us victory, with 61 points to their 58 points. For the seventh occasion in nine years the shield resides at Camp Hill. Victory also means that the school will represent the West Midlands in next year’s Royal Society of Chemistry “Top of the Bench” competition.

- **ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to Nick Wilson who finished 7th in the Intermediate Hurdles at the English Schools Finals in Gateshead this month. He ran 2nd in the first qualifying round in 13.56 seconds and was
then placed 3rd in his semi-final in a time of 13.53. In the final, he clocked 14.01. Nick has been a fine ambassador for Camp Hill and the West Midlands, and we offer him our congratulations.

- **CRICKET**

On 4 July, the 1st XI Cricket team played the MCC at Kings Heath CC. The Marylebone Cricket Club are an adult team made up of strong 1st and 2nd class players. This year proved a triumph for the school as we gained a notable victory over the MCC for only the third time in 30 years. The MCC were bowled out for just 119, Chris Curtis taking 5 wickets for 23 runs in a fine spell of bowling. Asim Shoaib then proved his undoubted class by scoring 69 not out to lead us to an 8 wicket success. Many congratulations to the side.

The U14 cricket squad are through to the final of the Willis Trophy, the Birmingham Schools Cup. They will play Bishop Vesey on Tuesday 19 July. Unbeaten this summer, we wish the boys all the very best in their quest for silverware which would cap a splendid season.

- **CBI SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

In September last year, twelve Year 12 students were given a task to identify ways in which Gateley – one of the city’s leading law firms - could become a more sustainable and environmentally conscious company (and find ways to save money). Certificates were presented to:

Navdeep Bhamra, Tim Bunker, Abdul Khan, Andrew Soltan, Kash Chundoo, Bassit Malik, Robert Rossiter and Alex Wood.

The overall winning group were - Ben Dovey, Pranav Gupta, Alex McCormick and Hassam Uldin. I would like to thank Mr Cliff and his company Gateley and Mr Hill (in his role as the school’s Applied Learning coordinator), who provided in-school support.

- **OCR BURSARY AWARDS FOR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**

I am delighted to report that, following on from the success of Aled Walker and Nathan Brown in 2010, Andrew Jeskins and Jack Wishart have been awarded OCR bursaries (subject to examination results). These are only awarded to between 5-8 students from the West Midlands each year. The bursaries pay the tuition fees for the lifetime of their undergraduate studies. Well worth having!

Well done to Andrew and Jack.

- **MUSIC**

Many congratulations to the following who have recently passed ‘grades’ of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music or Trinity Guildhall School of Music.

| Name        | Instrument | Grade | Grade
|-------------|------------|-------|-------
| Joseph      | Malt       | Guitar| 1     | Merit |
| Fazal       | Shah       | Violin| 3     | Merit |
| Ashvin      | Thomas     | Violin| 3     | Merit |
| Andrew      | Hawkinn    | Oboe  | 5     |       |
| Gethin      | Bradnam    | Bassoon| 5   |       |
| Thomas      | Wood       | Flute | 5     |       |
| Jonathan    | Frere      | French horn| 5 | Merit |
| Dominik     | Brundler   | Clarinet| 6  |       |
| Edward      | Lawrence   | French horn| 6  | Merit |
| Ross        | Mackie     | Jazz Clarinet| 6 | Merit |
| Callum      | Bennett    | Piano | 7     |       |
| Andrew      | Pearson    | Piano | 8     | Merit |
| Andrew      | Jeskins    | Clarinet| 8  | Distinction |

- **NATIONAL BIOLOGY CHALLENGE**
The Biology Department would like to congratulate Year 10 for their participation and success in the National Biology Challenge. This is a competition held by the Institute of Biology and is open to all Year 9 and 10 students across the country.

All of the year group were entered for the challenge. They sat the 2 papers in March. Of the 91 students entered, 73 achieved some level of success with 7 commended; 18 highly commended; 10 bronze; 22 silver and 17 gold awards. This was a great success (and most importantly we beat Camp Hill Girls!). Congratulations to all.

Gold awards went to:


I am delighted to report that the four members of staff who have had long absences since Christmas (Mr Jones, Mr Nash, Mrs Morris and Mrs Williams) have all now returned to work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of staff who, typically for Camp Hill Boys, have taken on extra-teaching groups or responsibilities.

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to six members of staff:

- Mr Adam Learner has undertaken a successful one year ICT technician placement from the University of Wolverhampton.
- Mr Adam Speake has accepted an offer of a full-time post teaching Physical Education at Wheelers Lane Technology College. Adam has coached senior football and has made a significant contribution as our school sports co-ordinator. He has been involved in leading a number of activities, most notably our Sports Leadership Programme, where boys work with pupils from local primary schools.
- Miss Helen Pollard has been appointed to teach Geography at Swanshurst School. She has recently achieved qualified teacher status on the King Edward Consortium Graduate Training Programme based here at Camp Hill Boys.
- Ms Rachel Gowreesunker is leaving to take up a position at Kings Norton Boys’ School (where she trained on a PGCE course). Rachel is a very talented teacher. I would like both to thank and congratulate her for the excellent quality of her work in the classroom and as a Form Tutor, over the course of 7 years service at Camp Hill Boys. Rachel has also made a marked impact on the new teachers at Camp Hill Boys through her role delivering advice and guidance on classroom and behaviour management as part of the school’s induction programme. We wish Rachel a happy and successful time at Kings Norton Boys’ School.
- Mr David McCormack will retire at the end of this term, after 18 years dedicated service to the school in general and the Design Technology Department in particular. In his time at Camp Hill Boys, David has also taught Mathematics. He is a hard working professional who established excellent relationships with his students and form members. They recognise his commitment to them as individuals and appreciate he really cares for their welfare. We wish him, and his wife Julia, a long and happy retirement.
- Mr Philip Warren will retire at the end of this term. Philip was appointed, in September 1983, to teach History and some Religious Education (which did not feature as prominently on the school curriculum at that time). He was promoted to the new position of Head of Religious Studies in September 1983. In his 28 years at Camp Hill Boys, Philip has made a significant contribution through his teaching, commitment to developing the position of his subject and as a dedicated Form Tutor, to the education and welfare of hundreds of boys. We wish him a long and happy
Mr Mike Russell will retire at the end of this term. Mike has served the school with distinction since 1985 when he was appointed to be Head of Modern Foreign Languages. He was promoted in September 1992 to the post of Deputy Head (Pastoral). As part of his responsibilities, Mike also held the position of Head of Sixth Form until September 2003. He ran the UCAS process from 1992 until 2007. Mike used his expertise to tremendous effect in supporting applications to Oxbridge and for Medical/Dental Schools. He stood down as Deputy Head in June 2007 to take up a part-time role teaching French, PSE, General Studies and Critical Thinking. Mike has played a key role in the development of this school over the last twenty six years. He has organised and taken part in many trips and visits both within, and beyond the realms of the Modern Foreign Languages Department (including setting up the Year 7 St Malo trip which has run for over twenty years !). His passion for badminton has been satisfied in recent years when, following the completion of the new sports hall, he has coached and supported our school teams into local, regional and even national finals ! I am delighted that he has accepted my offer to continue to be involved on Wednesday afternoon games next year. Having worked closely with Mike in the senior leadership team at Camp Hill Boys, his impact on the success of the school and on the future lives of hundreds of students through his fantastic pastoral support of their university applications, should not be underestimated. He has been a tremendous asset to the school and we wish him and his wife Jill a long and happy retirement.

I hope that your sons have had an enjoyable year. We look forward, with anticipation, to the publication of the GCSE, AS and A Level results this summer. King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys remains a very popular, thriving and successful school. I wish all members of our community a really enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

M Roden
Headmaster

P.S. As with every end of term letter please enjoy reading the e-letter and if you have any comments, questions, criticisms or suggestions about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to write, e-mail, telephone, or indeed, come in to school to discuss these with me.
Battlefields Trip

On 26th May 2011 at one in the morning, 38 boys and five teachers left Camp Hill with a long journey in store. After the ferry to Calais there was still a long way to go until our first stop: the Hooge Crater. Having been up for over twelve hours, it seemed like the evening, so we sleepily walked around the graveyard and visited the museum, which gave us a good introduction to the tour. Eventually we retired to the Parc Hotel to get some food and have a long night’s sleep.

After making up some lost sleep we visited the Vimy Ridge and walked around the preserved trenches, which went some way to showing what life in the trenches was like. Later in the day we visited the huge Canadian National Memorial and a large preserved battlefield at Newfoundland Park.

On the third day we visited the Somme again and visited the battlefield at Montauban, which saw one of the few successes for the British on the 1st July. We then visited High Wood, where the Birmingham Pals fought and were bloodily defeated. After visiting the South African National Memorial at Delville Wood we went to the Thiepval Memorial to the dead of the Somme.

On the Sunday we visited some restored German trenches and dugouts at Bayernwald and visited another mine crater. We also visited another cemetery, but this time it was a huge German cemetery which had a completely different atmosphere to the British country garden cemeteries. Finally we visited the Sanctuary Wood Museum which not only had some restored trenches, but also had some tunnels, which were a key feature of trench warfare. The museum also had lots of 3D pictures which gave a sense of realism to photos of life in the trenches and in the First World War.

On the final day, before getting to Calais, we headed to Fromelles, where we visited another graveyard, which was built after an unknown mass grave was discovered. This was our final stop in sunny France before we left for the long journey back to rainy Camp Hill.

The battlefields tour was a great trip. It gave us lots of information for next year’s Controlled Assessment, it helped us really understand the First World War and the sheer number of people who lost their lives: not just British, but Canadian, Australian, Irish and Indian as well, and obviously it was great spending time with mates. Thanks must go to all the teachers that went: Mrs James, Mr Phipps, Mr May (who took hundreds if not thousands of poppy and grave photos), and most of all Mr Bulloch and Mr Southworth, without whom none of this would have been possible. Even though they have been doing this for years, they put in hours and hours of preparation and revision to give us such good information and insight to go with the places and things that we visited.

AJB

Careers /Applied Learning & Specialisms

Once again we are grateful to a wide range of parents and businesses for their help and support in careers/Applied learning activities. Year 8 students had the opportunity to take part in the
Media day organised by Mrs Parmar with the support of parents and others from the media industry. They were divided into groups supported by facilitators and had to produce a front page of a newspaper, a radio broadcast, and a TV broadcast. The final presentations, although a little pushed for time and troubled with technical issues, were excellent. Year 9 were particularly busy with the new forensics day, an excellent enterprise day which gave the boys the opportunity to consider what is involved in setting up and running a business focused around the issue of electronic waste recycling and their limestone inquiry. Look out for some of them next year trying to put their new found knowledge of electronic recycling into practice. These days worked well and feedback from pupils has been very positive.

The year 11 work experience conference started off our work experience programme again this year. Work experience took place with a wide variety of new companies helping out and reports have been very positive. Parents of year 10 students should note that it is crucial that changes are not made to placements at the last minute. When changes are made in this way then pupils undertake placements without insurance or health and safety checks and this is at the parents own risk. Further details will be provided next term. Our work experience exchange programme with our partner school in Frankfurt also continues to be a great success and is of huge benefit to the students involved.

The lower sixth took part in their “Graduate Challenge” held jointly with the girls from next door. 30 representatives from business and industry acted as mentors for the day and worked with mixed groups of around 10 students.

Next term the Mock Interviews taking place for year 13 on 12th & 13th October. If you help with these please put the dates into your diary. Work experience next year will begin on with the work experience conference on 25 June and conclude with year 12 induction on 6 July 2012.

All of these varied activities would not be possible without the support that we get from local businesses and the great parental support that the school is fortunate to enjoy. If any of you would like to be involved then do not hesitate to contact Mr Law.

The government initiative on specialisms in schools is drawing to a close but at Camp Hill we fully intend to continue with many of the new initiatives that specialisms have allowed us to introduce. Many of the above events were originally introduced as a result of the specialist school programme. This term has seen us hosting the largest number of Junior School classes to date. They have come for a range of lessons in science providing opportunities for experiments that would not have been possible in their own schools. We are grateful to all staff who gave their time to allow these to hap-
Perhaps the most exciting event, however, has been the birth of our first three chickens. The allotment club and natural history club got together to incubate a number of eggs sourced locally. As the day for hatching drew near students set up a live webcam with streaming to the internet so that staff and students could watch the births live. Since then students from all year groups, cleaners, caretakers, lunch time supervisors and teachers from across the school have been seen regularly visiting the growing chicks.

TJL

Frankfurt

Camp Hill Boys School enjoys a thriving partnership with the Schule am Ried in Frankfurt. One of the features of this partnership is the pupil exchange where families from our school host pupils from our partner school in Germany and we then reciprocate with a visit to Frankfurt later in the year. This year 25 German pupils visited us from 12 to 17 May and we shall make the return visit to Frankfurt in October.

The German pupils’ experiences were summarised in this unedited report compiled by four pupils (pictured) from the Schule am Ried: Janik Esser, Lisa Kraushaar, Deborah Steinle and Johanna Behr.

“We arrived at the airport in Birmingham on 12th May. Everybody was totally nervous, because we haven’t seen our guest families before. We went to the Camp Hill Scholl and met our partners for the first time. That was very strange because nobody wanted to talk. But we realised very fast that our partners and their families were very nice.

“We did many great things, like visiting Stratford, going shopping at the Bullring Center and visiting the science museum. And nobody could imagine that P.E. can be so funny. The most negative thing on the trip was the weather. It was very cold and windy but if the weather would be better, everybody would want to stay here for a longer time.

“When the English partners come to Frankfurt we will show them the most impressive sights, visiting some museums or watching a football match at Eintracht Frankfurt. And maybe we are going to make a welcome party!”

RAS

Maths Matters

The summer has seen no ‘let up’ in individual, team and higher level challenges and the boys have continued to excel.

From last term’s Intermediate Maths Challenge we had an impressive 47 qualifiers for the European Kangaroo, sat by two million pupils across Europe. Of these, special congratulations to Oscar Bocking, Fraser Griffith, Aatif Syed, Aran Chowdhury, Joe Cullen (all year 9), Terence Wu, Scott Malwah, David Chalmers, Jason Pereira, Ben Griffin, Thomas Perkins, Ben Palmer, Hok Chiu, Narinder Phull and Zak Ahmed for their certificates of merit, placing them in the top 500.

An amazing 13 students made it into the harder Olympiad and, once again, acquitted themselves very well. As with the Kangaroo, the students qualify based on their result in the IMC, with the top 500 students nationally being invited. Amir Ahmed, Sam Childs, Hamza Javed, Toby Saunders, Fateh
Singh, Robert Smith and Fraser West all gained merit certificates. Robert Walters received a certificate of Distinction and a medal, placing him in the top 100 participants nationally. Incredible! Sam England and Giles Moss also achieved a certificates of distinction, a medal and a book prize, placing them in the top 50 nationally: In actual fact they finished 10th and 40th respectively; incredible! Max Cheung built on his considerable success last year to post an incredible score of 100%. He also received a certificate of distinction, a medal and a book prize and has the honour of being asked to attend the UKMT summer school in July; truly OUTSTANDING.

After the ‘fun’ of exam week Giles Moss, Sam England, Muhammed Khan & Jonathan Saad travelled to the Royal Horticultural Halls, London for the National Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge.

Having got over the excitement of seeing Giles’ father on posters at Euston station, advertising the University of Birmingham we made it to the venue in good time and spirit.

We took our place in the hall and surveyed the 95 other teams that had qualified; it was going to be VERY competitive! The day began with a separate poster competition. The boys brought some resources with them but also added to the design on the day. They were given some very challenging questions on the Golden Ratio as part of the poster and produced an excellent final display that attracted much interest from the judges.

The main event contained four rounds; A group circus round where they work as a team of 4 on 8 individual problems/tasks, the mini relay where they work in two pairs, the cross number where they again work in pairs and the final relay where they, yet again, work in pairs.

The questions on the day were very challenging, especially as the times allocated to answer them were cut this year. The boys performed well throughout but made a few errors in each round that meant they were not challenging for top spot this year. A strong finish to a very long and grueling day found the boys finishing 23rd out of 96; a superb effort!

The following day found the school competing in yet another competition; this time the South Birmingham event that is aimed at year 9 students. We made the long and difficult journey to the Girls’ school and the boys (Aatif Syed, Peter Watson, Oscar Bocking, Gaspard Bulso, Richard English & Oliver Paulin) settled down to defend the shield won by us last year.

The competition proved challenging, with the Camp Hill boys and girls staying neck and neck through the first two rounds. A faultless third round saw the boys take a 6 point lead into the final relay round. I could see the events unfolding as the 45 minute round progressed; first the girls closed the gap to just 2 points and then the boys eased away again to maintain the six point lead they had at the start of the relay.

Congratulations to the talented team that defended the title so ably!

Back at school, the other students in years 7 and 8 were not to be deprived of their opportunity to succeed; 185 boys sat the Junior Maths Challenge this year and produced some impressive results, gaining 54 Gold certificates, 70 Silver and 34 Bronze. Jonathan Saad produced the top score, an impressive and qualified for the follow up Junior Maths Olympiad, aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country. He gained a certificate of distinction for some excellent solutions and might have done even better had he not crossed out the right answer to one of the questions!
Following our successful departmental Ofsted in March we had the honour of being chosen as a case study that will be presented on the Ofsted website. Mr Robert Barbour, HMI, returned in the penultimate week of term to gather additional paperwork and photographs that will appear in the study, which focuses on our provision for talented young mathematicians. This is an incredible honour for the department, whose committed and talented staff deserve the praise, and the school.

Finally, well done to all the boys that have pushed their mathematical understanding to the limit. I hope that you will all enjoy your summer break and return in the ‘new year’ refreshed and ready for another round of Challenges, Olympiads and Team competitions.

PAB

Music

This has been another busy term for school musicians, and the very short first half of term made it hard to fit everything in. The Senior Concert is the last joint musical event for our Year 13 pupils, and an opportunity for us to say ‘goodbye’ and ‘thank you’ for their contribution to school music. Many excellent small ensembles performed, and there were notable contributions from the Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs. Our most senior large ensembles performed too: Concert Band played a number of lively arrangements, and Concert Orchestra will be performed favourites - Nimrod by Elgar, and Sleeping Beauty Waltz by Tchaikowsky. The now obligatory ‘leavers’ item’ was a duet from Cabaret to be sung by the Heads of Music. Swing Band, conducted by Rupert Cole in Year 13 who has a place to read music at Oxford next year, finished the evening with a lively selection of jazz standards.

On Monday, 9th May, we added into our calendar a brief concert to support Ross Mackie’s trip to Africa this summer. Ross will be travelling to Uganda to a village just outside Kampala. There he will be working with 15 other people his age in a school for over a week. He will be helping to teach English, Art, PE and other subjects, as well as helping the people with any work they need doing. The
concert featured Clarinet Ensemble, which Ross plays in, as well as our excellent Guitar Ensemble, and some of our fine pianists, including Robert Smith and Andy Mei who leave us this year. The pianists concluded the concert with a piece for eight hands on two pianos! Mr and Mrs Mackie kindly supplied refreshments, and brought in tables so that the Hall had a very informal feel about it. I am delighted to report that this event raised over £250.

Before the examination period, we had one more musical event, the concert arranged by the pupils called Revolutions. This was a most varied and enjoyable concert with music and dance in a wide variety of styles. I was particularly pleased to see Bands playing at all levels, from Year 13 (Perrin) to new Year 7 groups. The event raised a good amount for Charity.

This year over fifty of our pupils took part in the excellent City of Birmingham Orchestras, Bands and Ensembles. Many moved up to more senior groups recently, and others auditioned for the first time. I was delighted to hear of many successes. One such is the success of Joe Lawrence and Richard England (Year 9) and Harry Atkinson and Billy Chapman (Year 7) all of whom play the double bass, and all who now have a place in Birmingham Schools Concert Orchestra.

Once again we have had some excellent results in the Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall ‘grade’ examinations. At the beginning of term:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Fazal Shah</td>
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<td>Dominik Brundler</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
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<td>Edward Lawrence</td>
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<td>Ross Mackie</td>
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<td>Callum Bennett</td>
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<td>Andrew Pearson</td>
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<td>Andrew Jeskins</td>
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At the end of term we were very pleased that in the Trinity Guildhall examinations not only did all pupils pass, but all gained either a ‘merit’ or ‘distinction’:

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<td>Sujaan Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannan Currah</td>
<td>Tenor Horn</td>
<td>7 Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Maclean</td>
<td>Jazz Saxophone</td>
<td>7 Distinction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is heartening to see academic music thriving in the school as well. At Key Stage Three very good levels have again been gained by many of the pupils, and two boys in Year 9, Andrew Elliott and
Connor Burns, achieved ‘exceptional performance’. At GCSE we have good numbers, and some very good pupils promising fine results. In Year 13 we have two exceptional musicians who have contributed a vast amount to school music, and now go on to study music at a high level in different ways: Rupert Cole has gained a place at Oxford to read Music, and Robert Smith an Organ Scholarship to Oxford whilst studying History.

The Music Department continues to maintain and improve its facilities all the time, and this year we have acquired new instruments which will benefit our ensembles. We have gained a Tuba, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet and Eb Clarinet.

Each year we have a PGCE student from Birmingham City University with us, and this term the pupils gained much from the teaching of Michael McLeish. I am pleased to report that he has gained a teaching job and starts in September. We thank him for all his work at Camp Hill and wish him every success in the future.

The last joint concert of the term is the Summer Soirée, which this year fell on July 4th. There were some contributions which celebrated this important date, such as Liberty Bell March by Sousa played with good ensemble by the Clarinet Ensemble, and the theme from The American Civil War played by the Wind Band. Training Band and Training Strings demonstrated what good progress they have made over the year performing a selection of well known tunes. This was an important event for the Flute Choir as it was their last performance under the baton of Mrs Julie Schroeder, who retires this year after 30 year of service teaching at the Camp Hill Schools. This was a most enjoyable concert, and we were pleased that it was well supported by parents.

The last event of the term with music was the Lower School Presentation Evening. There were some particularly accomplished performances to enhance the evening: First, our four Double Bass players playing The Elephant. Next an intricate unaccompanied piece of Bach played by Matija Novovic. Next, nimble Baroque playing by Fazal Shah on the recorder. Then, finally, Connor Burns playing a flamboyant version of Czardas by Monti.

May I thank all school musicians for their efforts this term, and wish them a well deserved rest over the summer.

SFP
**St David’s Outdoor Pursuits 2011**

Another very successful climbing trip to our regular and well trodden venue. The boys were excellent this year and enjoyed some ideal weather for the event, spoiled only by the rain when we were breaking camp on the last morning. You can’t have it all.

We were also honoured by the brief but eventful visit of the Headmaster who threw himself, literally, into all the activities and who gave some much needed funding to provide some essential equipment which the boys were able to use effectively. Many thanks for that. Additionally, thanks must go the Messrs Downing, Cookson, Bruten and Hardy, without whom it would be impossible to run this trip. But, as usual, the stars were the boys themselves who were exceptionally keen and talented and who, we hope, will return over the years to extend their experience and enjoyment. Well done to you all.

**House Reports**

**Beaufort**

This has been another very successful year for Beaufort House with a number of significant records broken:

The sports day took place on a cool Wednesday afternoon in the penultimate week of term. Strong team performances by the seniors and once again the intermediates, combined with the valuable points gained by the juniors plus the points from the standards contributed by all house members, helped secure a well earned victory. The seniors (Year 12), inspirationally led by Athletics captain John Lutwyche, dominated their age group with a 20 point gap win over closest rivals, Tudor. John put in an exceptional performance, winning all three of his events, breaking the school record in the 100m and 200m sprints and winning the Victor Ludorum in his age group. Another Beaufort Victor Ludorum winner was Kyle Reed in Year 10 who shared the honour with Tom Murphy of Tudor. Kyle also won all three of his events and this feat together with the performances put in by his team mates helped Beaufort to a win in Year 10. The Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams came respectively third, third and second in their age groups with notable performances by Aaron Sandhu, Wesley Blackhurst, Talvin Rai, Edward Connolly, Arran Kingston, Lewis Evans and Justin Fleming. Beaufort thus became sports day champions accumulating a grand total of 1157 points.

And so Beaufort House, for the fifth consecutive year (a record), has once again won the house championship with a total of 77 points. This is a record points haul (beating the previous record by one point!) and was achieved by winning 8 of the 13 points-scoring events (a record in itself in the modern era) These events were cross-country, basketball, swimming, chess, quiz, rugby, hockey and the athletics. This is a highly commendable performance and the boys are to be congratulated for their achievements, the organisational skills of the team captains, and everyone’s enthusiasm and willingness to participate. As we say goodbye to the Year 13 boys, wish them well for the future and thank them for their contributions throughout their time at Camp Hill Boys, special mention should be made of Jacob Hanvey and Rajan Bhambra for ably leading the house as House Captain and Vice House Captain respectively and also of Sean Miller who has been awarded the Vivian Bird Trophy for his contribution to house sports over the years.

In September the race for the house championship starts anew and the competition is expected to be tougher next year. However, under the stewardship of new House Captain, John Lutwyche and Vice-Captain, Lawrence Welch, I am certain the boys will rise to the challenge. I wish all the boys an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and trust that they will return refreshed and eager for the
new campaign in September.

**Howard**

It has been our custom in recent years to confirm the content of the July newsletter to a brief summary of the year in question and to avoid over-elaboration of statistics and unnecessary details. I see no reason to change this practice. A full outline of the year can be found in the 2010-2011 edition of “The Chronicle” to be published in November 2011.

Briefly then, a rather better year with many encouraging facets. A strong and talented junior section give us an optimistic outlook for the future. Well done to them. The intermediates have also proven that they have the depth and quality to succeed; provided that they remain well organized and motivated. Once again the senior section have shown they that they can perform and do well and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 13 cohort, ably led by House Captain Josh Tibbetts, who quietly yet effectively led the House to a stronger position than hitherto. At the time of writing it is not possible to give an accurate, final position in the Championship competition but I feel certain that we have made some significant progress over the year as a whole.

We hand over the challenge to Luke Pritchard-Cairns and his team for 2011-2012 and wish them every success, perhaps, even possibly, the Championship itself for next year! Thank you all for your commitment and endeavour.

**PTC**

**Seymour**

**Cricket**

Overall finished second behind a strong Howard line up throughout all the years

**Tennis**

After senior tennis Seymour in lead - Tony Song and Kameran Ali

After best player from Year 7 and Year 8 not available pair of Thomas Wood and Ed Saunders worked hard to come second after Tudor

Intermediate pairing of Ben Miller and DOB came through in second place also again beaten by Tudor and their star player Charlie ‘my brother, whom I am better than at tennis, who is in Seymour but for some reason I was allocated to Tudor’ Song. I’m not bitter!

These results left us convincingly in second place just behind Tudor. Can we give them a round of applause.

Then comes Sports Day. After the standards we were in second place with a scaled down total of 563 points just 19 behind Beaufort. But what happened next?

Video!

Year 7s stormed to victory and year 9s comfortably took second place with Cameron Steel and Jordan McDonagh taking the Victor Ludorums in these year groups.
Event winners from Seymour included:

Year 7 - Cameron steel 100m, 200m and triple jump
        Jonny Hart shot
        The relay team

Year 8 - Thomas Escardo came second in the javelin

Year 9 - Jordan McDonagh 100m, 200m and Triple Jump
        David Yate 400m and long jump (second in Shot)
        The relay team

Year 10 - Lewis Hedges 400m

Year 12 - Josh O’Donnell 400m and 800m
          Oliver Dawkins 1500m
          Aaron Hsu shot

But overall a big thank you to all that took part as all points count to the final points score.

On the day Seymour finished in third place. But after the success in the standards where all years 7-10 did their bit we managed to secure the second place.

The men in Gold have been consistent this term but has it been enough to move up a place this year. We’ll find out tomorrow in the last assembly.

Although the results have not gone our way it has been an enjoyable year seeing so many of you compete for the house. I’ve enjoyed it thoroughly and look forward to next year to take on the lesser ¾ of the house system lead by Jag, Asim and an extremely strong 6th form. Have a well deserved rest and prepare yourself for the battles in the next 12 months.

Tudor

The last newsletter left Tudor having repeatedly and somewhat depressingly come second. However, this report went out of date almost as soon as it was written, as we ended the Spring Term on a high, winning the Table Tennis with Beaufort (who had up until this point won seven of the nine events) being pushed into last place. This event had appeared quite close, with the age sections all being won by different houses; however, by virtue of not coming last in any section, we achieved a quite solid margin of victory.

We came into the new term with a determination to follow up on this success, the strength of which was immediately demonstrated by us coming last in the Cricket. We made a recovery in the Tennis, which we won comfortably; this left only one event, and it was a biggie – the Athletics.

In the Standards, the results were fairly close and, although we were in last place, there was still a great deal to play for. On Wednesday 13th July, the school gathered on the banks of the Rugby pitch to watch an epic event that a monkey could have realized didn’t matter as Beaufort had already won so many events as to be unbeatable. The only question now was who would come second, a contest in which we held a large but not quite unassailable advantage. For Tudor, the highlights of the afternoon were Year Nine, in which we edged past Seymour and thrashed Howard and Beaufort to claim victory, and the exploits of Tom Murphy, who set a new record for the Year 10 Javelin and jointly won the Year 10 Victor Ludorum. Aside from these, we came second in years 8 and 12. Year 7 gave themselves good prospects for improvement in future years.

In individual events, there were many reasons to celebrate, some of which were for Tudor. In Year 7, we were sadly unable to achieve better than 2nd in the High Jump, with Thomas Hason-Doggrell coming 3rd. On their way to 2nd, Year 8 won the Discus (congratulations to Nayamal Ali and Krishan
Chauhan) and missed out on a joint first in the 200m by half a point. The year 9s won their year largely through weight of good results rather than endless victories, but still achieved first place in the 100m, High Jump and Discus, the Discus with Daniel George and Abdul Saboor taking both of the top two places and shared honours in the 1500m. Year 10 won the 800m courtesy of Tom Murphy and Charlie Song, the Shot Put courtesy of Ed Lawrence and Andrew Hyde, and came second in the javelin by half a point. Year 12 had four 1sts, the most notable of which was the High Jump in which Howard Chew and Jonathan Davies achieved 1st and 2nd places respectively.

Of course, all of this is waffle. The fact is, we came last in both Sports Day and Athletics Standards, but thanks to Beaufort winning and Howard coming 3rd we scraped 2nd place overall in the Championship, which given our effort and success in events other than Athletics was probably a fair result. Congratulations to Beaufort (along with a request that Mr. Surr stop gloating in our German lessons), commiserations to Seymour and Howard, and thanks to all who have contributed to Tudor’s performance this year, in particular to Mr. Nash who, in managing house, kept both hands on the wheel until he broke one in a skiing accident. Finally, thanks to Mr. Duncan for his vast contribution to organising the tournament and Mr. Garrod and Mr. Jack for running house assemblies in Mr. Nash’s absence.

Andrew Pearson L3

As House Master I would like to thank all members of Tudor for their efforts this year, it has been a rather strange year in more ways than one. The boys have shown a tremendous team spirit and have worked well under trying circumstances, but their enthusiasm and efforts have shown that Tudor members can pull together in problem times.

I would also like to go on record in thanking Mr Duncan, Mr Garrod and Mr Jack for their support and help whilst I was off sick.

Congratulations must also go to Garen Khiara for securing the Vivian Bird award in recognition of his contribution to the house while at school and the appointment of Ben Smith as the new House Captain. We must now look forward to September and try to hit the ground running with the new championship.

AJN
CRICKET SUMMARY

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1ST XI Cricket

A truncated term as is now the norm for senior cricket. If the exam season was more condensed then we could play a greater number of matches, but at present it is difficult getting a side out from mid-May to late June.

Last year saw the 1st XI gain much success on the field of play and restore some lost dignity to the senior game. With a number of players returning for a second season I hoped for a more fruitful sea-
son than has been the case. The term got off to a losing start against Solihull VI Form, Bablake and Birmingham Metropolitan College. Asim Shoaib’s innings of 113 not out against Bablake was a fine achievement but it is a measure of the young man that it was tarnished for him by the fact the game was lost.

The exams came, lingered and eventually went and the side celebrated with a 34 run defeat of Aston. Against Fiveways though, our batting frailties were again exposed as we succumbed to a 30 run loss when victory was surely the simpler option. Asim was at least getting runs but no one individual was taking regular wickets. However, the best was yet to come...

The annual match against the MCC came at the start of July and we were grateful to hold the game at Kings Heath CC. The MCC won the toss for the 25th year in succession and for the 25th time elected to bat first. They were looking fine at 88-3 approaching lunch before a devastating spell from Chris Curtis saw them go in 90-6. There were some rather surprised expressions in their dressing room and the break did them no good as Chris wrapped up the innings at 119 all out with his fifth wicket leaving him with the season’s best 5/23 from 11.1 overs, four of them maidens. Chris then promptly picked up his bat and opened the innings with Asim and hit 28 before earning a deserved rest. Asim went on to score 69 not out with support from Harris Hussain and Amar Rajgor to secure an outstanding 8 wicket win. This is only the third time the school has defeated the MCC (not many sides do) and the team deserve much praise for their attitude, commitment and skill on the day.

There is one game left for the team as we go to press, against the might of the Camp Hill Common Room, a challenge which proved beyond the boys last year. What odds this time around? My thanks to the squad for their efforts this summer. Asim, Chris, Alex Weir, Milan Vashi, Aman Sahota, Sukhvir Lyall and Naman Javed have all made regular appearances. Rory Luscombe, Umar Ahmed and Osama Hamid from Year 11 also played their part in their first senior year. Osama was probably the best bowler over the whole season with his quick left arm deliveries.

Kieran Patel (captain) is the only regular leaving us, so with essentially the whole team returning in 2012 surely a better season beckons...

MWD

2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI have played three matches this season. Unfortunately, the team lost all three, but can take comfort from two close games.

The first of those close games was against Solihull 6th Form College, who beat us comfortably last year. On this occasion, we batted first and made 127 for 9 off our 25 overs. Oliver Palmer was top scorer with 26 (including a 6); captain Jaipal Gahir, with 12, was the only other batsman to reach double figures. It has to be said that our score was helped considerably by Solihull’s great difficulties at wicket-keeper; as well as the 17 leg byes (some of which should not have happened), we much appreciated the gift of 17 byes.
We bowled and fielded well. Solihull made steady progress but also lost wickets steadily. After twenty overs they had scored 97 runs and lost four wickets. Could they pick up the run rate for the final dash, without losing important wickets? Sadly, the answer was yes. They entered the last over needing only one run. The first ball was a wicket; the second was a dot ball; but the third was a boundary, and we had lost with just three balls to go. Sohail Nazir was the pick of the bowlers; his first three-over spell was wicket-maiden, wicket-maiden, maiden; he finished with 2 for 5 off 5.

Our second match was also close. This time it was against Bablake, who batted first and scored 155 for 7 from their 20 overs. Sadly, it was our turn to contribute a torrent of extras, with twelve of them coming from wides. Once again Sohail bowled well to return figures of 2 for 26 from his 4 overs against the top order, but Awais Sheikh contributed well with 2 for 18 in his 4 overs.

Our batsmen responded to the challenge of nearly eight an over superbly. Jaipal played steadily for 20 runs, but the stars were Lawrence Welch and Naman Javed. Lawrence was the foundation for the innings, and his 48 not out showed control and aggression. Naman arrived at the crease in the eleventh over, when a considerable spurt in the run rate was needed. He set about the bowling with vigour, scoring 41 runs off just 26 balls, before finally being caught. Despite Lawrence and Naman's best efforts we finished just five runs short of the Bablake total.

We struggled in our match against Aston. In particular, they had a very strong bowling attack and they fielded well, so we only scored 55 runs from our 20 overs. Lawrence Welch was again our most successful batsman, with 20 runs, but even he just could not raise the pace. We would always struggle to defend such a low total, but without Sohail Nazir it would be even more difficult. In the event, our fielding was not particularly tight, either. We do not know how strong their batting line-up was, because we only saw two of them; it took their openers just nine overs to overhaul our total. Adam Khan was our most successful bowler, conceding just three runs from his two overs.

As well as those already mentioned, one other player should be named: Saad Anwar kept wicket reliably and confidently all season, conceding just 5 byes in the three matches and taking the only catch on offer.

U15 XI Cricket

This year's cricket for the year 10s has been patchy due to adverse weather conditions. Two games were abandoned part way through and one reduced over game finished minutes before the heavens opened. However this did not dampen the efforts of the team throughout the season. After the first match was abandoned against KE Fiveways an under prepared Camp Hill were drawn against a very strong Bishop Vesey's team in the first round of the cup. Camp Hill batted first and slowly scored 96 for 6 wickets. In reply BV secured the win with 4 overs to spare, with Andrew Plimmer taking 2 wickets.

Camp Hill next game had a thrilling end. KE Stratford were bowled out for 104, with Charanjit Kalsi, Arjun Nagra and Daniel O'Brien taking 3 wickets each. In reply Camp Hill scored 106 for 5 hitting the winning runs on the last ball of the innings, Kalsi top scoring with 68.

Would this win spur on the team against KE Aston? Aston were bowled out for 106 (Kalsi 3 wickets, Adil Ahmed, Plimmer 2 each). Camp Hill started their innings and were comfortably ahead of the run rate when rain abandoned play. Kalsi and Captain Jalees Hamid were on 28 and 24 respectively at that point.
To ensure the Under 15 team had a decent amount of cricket Mr Duncan managed to rearrange the fixture against KE Fiveways. Camp Hill batted first and set a big target of 149 (Kalsi 74 and Adil Ahmed 34). In reply Fiveways took the victory with overs to spare.

The final game saw a strong Bablake team keep Camp Hill down to only 88 runs. In response Bablake powered through to win with 5 overs spare.

Although the season for the year 10s did not go to plan, the team have worked hard at training and when playing and deserved more than they managed to achieve. I hope that many of this committed squad will go on to play senior cricket over the next three years as their inclusion could be vital to the school’s success.

TJW

U14 XI Cricket

The rather bizarre weather this term has had a significant effect of the fixtures for the cricket this season; sunny weekdays have often been followed by wet and miserable Saturday mornings. In fact, two matches were abandoned after getting started and, even more frustratingly, we were in winning positions in both when the decision was made!

The first ‘proper’ game was away at KE Stratford. They batted first and some excellent bowling and fielding restricted them to just 84 runs. M. Chaudhry took 2 for 21 off 4 overs and David Yate grabbed 2 for 12 runs off 2 overs. Our reply was relatively comfortable and we passed their score, to record our first win, in the 17th over. Mustafa top scored with 42.

Cup matches against Moseley and Holte followed. Moseley batted first and reached 99 in their 20 overs, with their bagging 46 runs. Mustafa played this game with a broken thumb and would bat only if required so we altered the batting order considerably. Some early wickets fell but Ahsan Khan produced an excellent 30 and was supported well for 10 overs. When he departed we were still 30 runs short of the total and had lost 8 wickets. Jesimhan Diwakar was then joined by Mustafa and they pushed excellent one’s and two’s to see us home with two overs to spare.

We batted first against Holte and David top scored (29 runs) in a strong batting display. Holte, however, fancied their chances to knock off the 99 runs to win. The opening spell from Mustafa and Jesimhan was superb and we had virtually won the game in the first 6 overs. Nimreth Phull then cleaned things up with a spell of 4 for 16 runs off 4 overs. The fielding was outstanding in this match and really showed how the team has developed this year.

A comfortable win against KE Aston followed. Mustafa took 3 for 15 runs in his spell as Aston posted a target of 102. Mustafa top scored with 30 but Kaif Qayum was the star of our innings as he crashed a rapid 24 not out to seal victory inside 16 overs.

The semi final against Five Ways followed and it proved to be one way traffic. We dismissed them for only 52 with Nimreth again grabbing four wickets. Our reply was always comfortable and we passed their total in 11 overs.

U14 Cricket: Willis Cup Final

After their victories over Moseley, Holte and Five Ways, the U14’s found themselves in their first Birmingham schools cricket final. Their opponents were Bishop Vesey, a team that they have not beaten in their Camp Hill careers.
The 25 over match took place at the Britannic ground in Kings Heath. Captain David Yate won the toss and we’d already decided we’d ask them to bat, as the pitch looked wet and uninviting. Their opening pair batted cautiously as they searched for the pace and bounce of the pitch but they never really looked in trouble early on. The first six overs yielded only 21 runs and we were coping well with the alarming slope on the outfield but as the batting pair found their eye we started to drop the occasional ball a little short and their scoring started to accelerate. The openers both passed fifty with some accomplished stroke play and we were on the back foot. After the drinks break the scoring rate slowed as they found it more difficult to get the ball away and a bowling change produced three quick wickets; David deflected his own delivery on to the stumps to run out the non-striker and then next ball the other opener lofted the ball to Nimreth Phull for an easy catch (if there is such a thing when the batsman is on 64!). The new batsman then pushed his second delivery into a gap and thought he’d hit a boundary. However, Ahsan Khan picked it up and threw to the bowler who could see that the batsman was well short of two runs at the other end; a great throw down the wicket saw the keeper take the bails off we had the third wicket in 4 deliveries. They took a few overs to recover from this but 17 runs off the final over got them to an impressive 164.

Throughout this undefeated season the U14’s have shown that they could match the required run rate and our reply started promisingly. We were happily on target after the first 7 or 8 overs but the loss of opener David Yate and number 3, ‘Jay’ Diwakar, pushed us on the back foot. At the other end, Mustafa Choudhary was struggling to time the ball as we have seen this year, due mainly to some excellent bowling by Vesey. We fell behind the run rate and knew that we had to try and hit ourselves back into the game. Unfortunately, the bowling did not falter and our remaining wickets fell at regular intervals to leave us all out, and well short of the required total, after 19 overs.

David Yate was the pick of the bowlers, with 1 for 10 runs off 3 overs, while Mustafa top scored with 36.

It was a pity to end the season with the only loss but it has been a superb year for the U14 team and they can look forward with confidence to the Docker Shield next year! David has captained extremely well (thank you!) and Mustafa has backed him up superbly. The squad is a strong one and they have the potential to do very well again next year. I have really enjoyed coaching watching and enjoying their company; well done boys!

PAB

U13 XI Cricket

The season’s tone was set at the outset as we travelled to Five Ways on a Saturday morning to play a 20 over game. After just seven of them had been bowled the rain forced an abandonment. This was to happen again and again on Saturday mornings, the only exception being against Stratford. Dawood Ahmed and Parvesh Konda took 3 wickets apiece here to limit Stratford to 117-9. Alex Lane then hit 47, Ed Saunders 22 to see us to 118-6 to win by 4 wickets.

The Aston game was also rain affected, but it was clear that Camp Hill were in a winning position when the finish came a little early. Dominic Paver scored 50 not out in our 108-7, Aston were then reduced to 83-9 with Azeem Hanjra returning figures of 4/11.
The next match saw us return to Five Ways on a drizzly Thursday afternoon, the game doubling as our Dennis Amiss cup tie. Parvesh batted sensibly for 24 but no-one was able to stay with him and we only totalled 95-8 from our 20 overs. Five Ways were not troubled greatly in achieving the target to defeat us by 7 wickets. Bablake then defeated us by 8 wickets in the final game. Ed top scored with 27 but had little support in our 73 all out.

So a short season but the boys have worked hard throughout. Training has been both enjoyable and fruitful, we must hope the weather allows for many more games next summer. My thanks to Mr Tranter for his coaching expertise, to Ed Saunders for captaining the side and to the parents who have supported and been soaked on most occasions!

MWD

U12 XI Cricket

The Year 7 team have shown some promise this term and we must hope they can develop into a fine side in future years. There appears to be good batting in the squad, it is the bowling and fielding departments which need most improvement. In limited over cricket you need to take regular wickets and field tightly in order to keep the runs down in the opposition’s total.

Five Ways were beaten in the first game by 7 wickets, Henry Houlden taking 2/9, Aaron Drinkall scoring 31 not out and Nishant Chaudhari 23 in our 110-3. A 10 run success came the following day against Stratford where Aqueel Zulfiqar hit 22 of our 111-7 and Aaditya Thakral (or was it Ravindranath?) took 2/18.

Aston then beat us twice, one a cup match and we only took one wicket in the two games combined. This brought home the need to improve bowling next summer. Andreas Kavalieros scored 21 in one of these games, Aqueel 31 and Arran Kingston 24* and 30* but they and others must develop the self-discipline to remain at the crease for longer in order for a bigger total to be posted.

Dan Western has captained the team and they have been well supported by a good group of parents. My thanks to you all and of course to Mr Tranter for taking much of the coaching responsibility.

MWD

Tennis

The school tennis teams have competed in the Aegon Leagues with mixed success.

As with other sports in Birmingham, the number of schools entering these leagues has been on the wane. This year there were only two other schools who entered division one. We defeated Kings Norton Boys at both U15 and U13, but lost to King Edward’s at both ages which meant our foundation neighbours won the league stages.

Charlie Song and Ben Miller have been stalwarts of the junior teams for four years and deserve much praise. Charlie has played to a very high standard and been a fine ambassador for both school and county. We hope both boys continue to play and develop as senior players.

At U13 there is a new star rising in the shape of Alex Hughes in Year 7. Alex was elevated to the number one slot in the team and is a promising talent. Alex Lane, Alex Tassa and Dominic Paver also featured in the side.
The most successful of our teams were the U15 B team who won all four of their matches to win division two. Fateh Singh, Kieran Bakhtiari, Daniel O’Brien and Adersh Saravanaa have all played in the team and contributed to its success.

The future is quite bright for Camp Hill and we must endeavour to ensure they have opportunities to play more often, whilst at the same time encouraging all players to join local clubs and make the most of facilities such as those at Billesley Tennis Centre during the winter.

Well done to all boys who played for the school this term.

MWD

Athletics

The weather this year has been excellent for athletics. Each match went through without a hitch and all teams achieved considerable success.

The annual Foundation match against KES and Aston, (sadly 5 Ways were unable to compete in this event this year) was the opening competition of the season. Despite not being at full strength, the year 11 team had a superb competition. Nick Wilson opened the day with a highly polished demonstration of hurdling. He devastated the field winning by a clear 2 seconds. Nathan Quadri powered to victory in the 100m sprint and James Giblin pipped Ben Evans for first place in the 1500m. Howard Jones and Elliot Black enjoyed a spirited contest at 800m coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. Although the Sixth Form team is a combined year 12 and 13 team, for year 13, this was to be their final contest. It was particularly pleasing to see all those who have competed over the years, pull on their vests and give of their best, one more time. Notable performances were wins by Josh Distin in the hurdles, Robert George in the 800m and John Lutwyche winning very comfortably in 100m, although he was pushed closely by Alex May before placing first in the 200m. After losing to Ian Firth in Sports Day last year, Danish Mirza resolved to achieve revenge in their final High Jump battle. Needless to say it was a close competition, but thorough preparation at his club paid off. At 1.65m it looked like Ian’s day yet Danish cleared the height at his 3rd attempt and went on to win by jumping 1.80m. The overall results were Aston 163 points, KES 186 points and Camp Hill 199. This is the first time, for over 20 years (and quite possibly a lot longer) that the boys have won this competition.

The English Schools’ Track and Field Cup is a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in 2 events and scores points for each performance. These points are added together for the whole team. The Intermediate team won their age group but sadly didn’t score quite enough points to reach the Regional A Final. Best individual scores came from Kyle Reed 42 points, Jalees Hamid 34, Daniel Miller 33, Tom Murphy 33, and Lewis Hedges 30. In the same competition, the Junior team managed
a pleasing second place, with highest scores from Satnam Ajimal 30 points, William Houlden 28 and Dominic Paver 27. The Intermediates progressed to the Midland B Final and in a competitive match, came third beating a number of powerful schools such as King Henry VIII, Daventry William Parker School and Aston Manor.

Many competitions involved Solihull School and this year we were invited to one before half term, but only for years 8 and 10. Both teams performed extremely well, especially year 8, as it was difficult to select, with confidence, the strongest team. Wesley Blackhurst and Satnam Ajimal placed first in their events with second places going to Alex Tassa, Amman Bhamra and Wesley, this time in the 800m. Year 10, who were the most successful team this year, won their age group with Kyle Reed having a faultless afternoon winning all 4 of his events! The combined point totals were KES 195, RGS Worcester 239, Solihull and CHB both equal on 269 points.

On the Thursday after half term, we held the annual Camp Hill Athletics match. This is an exceptional event where all of the different events are officiated, very efficiently, by Camp Hill staff. Although the match may seem to be slightly in favour of Camp Hill, we have always struggled with the fierce competition. It was a daunting affair for year 7, being their first outing, but they rose to the challenge. Cameron Steel and Edward Connolly came first with Lewis Evans and the relay team achieving second positions. Overall the team came an impressive second. Year 8, again, competed well with Wesley winning the 800m and William Houlden, the javelin. The team finished in 4th place. Year 9 however were thirsty for competition and completely dominated their age group. Jordan McDonagh, David Yate, Oliver Paulin and Ahsan Khan won their events and the team placed a comfortable first. Year 10 continued their run of success with wins from Lewis Hedges, Archie Atack, Charlie Song and Daniel Miller which helped them achieve their 3rd win this season. Overall totals were Oldswinford 3rd with 286.5 points, Aston 2nd with 298.5 and CHB 1st with 312.5.

The Junior Foundation match, following last year’s format, is now split into two; years 9 and 10 followed by years 7 and 8. In the first half of the competition, both years 9 and 10 were outstanding. Kyle notched another perfect performance with Tom Murphy winning 3 events. Remarkably, Jordan McDonagh, David Yates, Jacob Bruten, Oliver Paulin Sam England, Ahsan Khan and Aaron Sandhu all came first in their year 9 events.

In the second half of the match year 8 were up against the odds as 3 of the regular athletes had prior commitments. Despite this, others rallied to produce a very creditable result in placing second. Year 7 came third but congratulations go to Justin Fleming for winning the discus and also to Vasil Pirozek, Billy Chapman, Arran Kingston, in addition to others already mentioned, for achieving personal bests. Special mention must go to Ishmael Silvestro who after running 400m, took a breath then immediately did the 1500m and came 3rd. Mr Caves suggested the 400m was a good warm up for 1500m! Adding the totals for both these competitions, the final results for the Junior Foundation Match were Aston 3rd 392.5, KES 2nd 479.5 and CHB 1st with 497 points.

At our final visit to the Norman Green Stadium, a late change by the host school resulted in a competition for years 7, 8 and 10. Yet again the year 8 squad were under pressure as cricket matches depleted the team, but they managed to pull out the stops to finish second in their age group. Combining the totals for all teams, it was another superb result; Arden 303, Solihull 318, RGS Worcester 348 and Camp Hill 357.

A few outstanding athletes were selected for the South Birmingham Team in the West Midland County Championships. Kyle Reed, Jordan McDonagh, Oliver Paulin and Sam England performed especially well. Umar Ahmed and Tom Murphy came 1st and 3rd respectively in javelin and Nick Wilson ran a commanding 100m hurdles to finish first (he also made the final of the 100m). These outstanding achievements by Nick, Umar and Tom qualified them to represent the county and Nick went on to compete
in the English Schools’ National Track and Field Championships. Considerable praise must go to Nick for qualifying for the final and placing 7th nationally. In a separate year 8 West Midland Championship, Wesley Blackhurst and Alex Tassa qualified to represent South Birmingham in a friendly match as a precursor of next year’s high profile event. They responded very well and gained excellent high quality experience.

The highlight of the season, however, has been the enthusiasm shown by the boys. From the first match, when the senior teams entered not only B teams for the relays but also C teams, the fervour has spread through the younger years. The competitive rivalry and fun demonstrated by the boys, even brought a smile to Mr Caves.

Final congratulations, however, must go to all athletes who volunteered to fill in events at the last minute. Without their courage, there would not be the overall success exhibited here. Yet again, I would like to encourage any potential athletes to look towards joining local clubs, where they can receive expert coaching together with quality competition; ask John Lutwyche, Nick Wilson or Kyle Reed.

GH