



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you as the days are getting longer and brighter, and we have even been able to enjoy a smattering of good weather. Spring time is an optimistic time for many and often seen as a time for growth. Certainly the students have been busying themselves in both their academic endeavours and their extra-curricular exploits and there is much to celebrate.

This term we have squeezed in mock exams, university applications, sports tours, drama and musical productions and concerts, careers events, academic trips, a ski trip, a languages homestay, more Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and a multitude of competitions. The response from students and staff has been impressive – our students have got stuck in and fully understand the principle of the more you put in, the more you get out, and the staff have given up hours, days and weeks of their time to support these amazing events. We have won (or nearly won) a multitude of competitions both at team and individual level and I believe that the minibuses have never been busier as we transport students to various local and national competitions.

I am truly grateful to be a member of this wonderful family and to be witnessing all of the richness of the daily lived experience that this brings.

Our Careers support team have been extraordinarily busy, with careers interviews for Year 11 and Year 12, UCAS information evening for Y12 and their parents, Higher Education Day, Lecture visits to Universities, mock interviews, and university masterclasses.

Sport continues to flourish in all domains. The matches at Camp Hill Rugby Club, the Junior and Senior Rugby, Football & Hockey tours, and the Foundation XV against Solihull were spectacles of a highly successful season (despite travel complications courtesy of Heathrow power failures). We look forward to the annual swimming gala coming soon.

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.

The Junior production of Bridge Apart was a triumph of human resilience and spirit – despite the Nora Virus' attempt to disrupt the final night, the show did go on! My congratulations to staff and students for your adaptability and determination – the audience were unable to discern who the understudies actually were!

As I write I am looking forward to the Senior Production of Les Miserables – the rehearsal schedule is relentless but I am treated to a selection of excellent tunes every evening and I am sure that the audience will love every moment. 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 is a huge project and my congratulations and thanks to Mr Dowling and Mr Watters for masterminding it. My thanks also to Mr Michael for facilitating some serious upgrades to the lighting and sound systems which I hope will be obvious for all to see and hear.

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 communication, electronic systems, homework, health & safety, security, parents' charter and behaviour policy. The most recent topic is curriculum and it is fascinating and extraordinarily helpful to hear your views on this important part of school life. 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 another 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. My thanks to the AFS team and particularly Mrs Crutchley who was at the centre of another highly successful and well-organised event. 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 The Chronicle, tents and other equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, support for Y13 Prom tickets and AV equipment. The replacements for our tired old cricket score board and the new rugby score board are still looking wonderful. 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>

Work on our new building, The Camp Hill Community Hub, is progressing well. We have submitted our application for planning permission to Birmingham City Council and we are already making good progress with the tendering process that will identify the best contractor for the build. We continue to look for financial support to raise enough money for the All Weather Pitch project to follow on as soon as possible after the CHCH build. Please let everyone know about these important projects and do consider whether you can join us in providing financial support by clicking on this [link](#).

Recently we enjoyed a period of profound spiritual significance, celebrating Ramadan, Lent, and Purim - three observances marked by reflection, fasting, generosity, and community. We extend our best wishes to all colleagues and students who were observing these special times. While each of these observances is unique, they share common values: reflection, spiritual growth, self-discipline, and acts of kindness towards others. They remind us of the importance of community support, whether through breaking fasts together, collective prayer, acts of charity, or standing in solidarity with those in need.

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
April 2025

'A Day in the Life: Blood Cancer Research' university masterclass

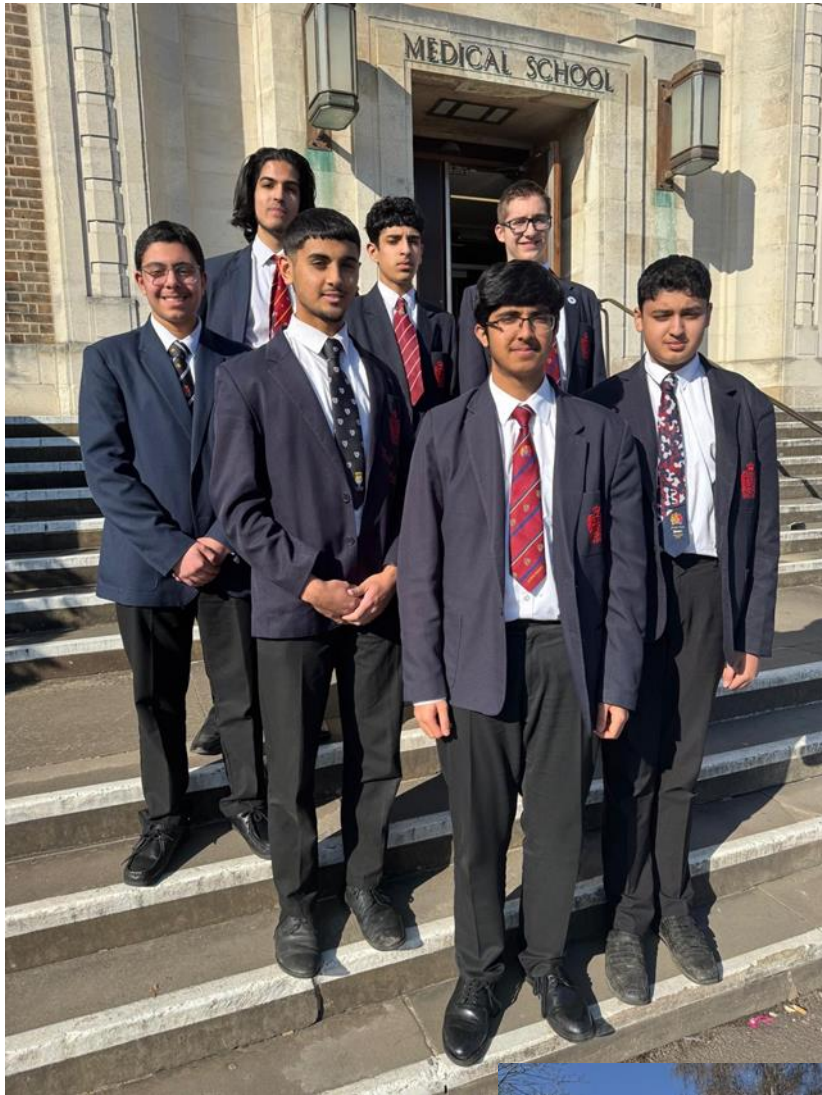
On the 26th of March, accompanied by Mrs Cameron, a group of enthusiastic Y11 biologists attended the masterclass on blood cancer that took place at The University of Birmingham. Having departed during lunch time, we found ourselves in front of the Med School by 1pm and we also managed to meet two former Camp Hill Students which was a lovely surprise. After a short refreshment of our GCSE/A-Level knowledge of blood and the immune system, as well as some more in depth explanation of the components of blood, the class started off with an introduction to the diagnosis and research of blood cancer by Rachel Colton, the Senior Research Technician at the Clinical Immunology Service and our rather astute presenter. We learned about the different types of blood cancer, such as AML and ALL and how they affected the different components of the blood. The workshop was interactive, allowing students to take part and try to diagnose whether a patient had blood cancer or not, using a method called flow cytometry.

After the more practical part of the talk, Rachel went on to inform us of the day-to-day work she did for her employer: AstraZeneca. She told us about the processes which she went through every day such as testing blood samples from the hospital to diagnose or discover the type of cancer that the patient was suffering from. She also went on to introduce us to the complex processes of designing ways in which to determine what cancer a person had; it was definitely an intriguing topic for all those aiming to do research post eighteen.

Following a short break, in which the boys mischievously decided to take themselves on a self-guided tour of UoB's Med School, a Q & A took place between the students from the attending schools and the BioMed research uni students. This aimed to give some insight into the types of things the uni students did as part of their undergraduate research, how their exams worked, and also any advice they had for A-Levels! In particular, the 2nd year Medical Student stole the show and gave the most advice to a hall, half-full of aspiring medical students, whilst the other BioMed Students also gave important and incredible tokens of knowledge that were definitely worth keeping.

All in all, the trip proved an excellent experience and inspired us in the pursuit of the Biomedical and Medical Field. Massive thanks go to Mrs Cameron who was able to make this whole visit possible and to Mr Michael who sacrificed his time to chauffeur us to Medical School in the new minibus.

Ibrahim Omerbegović & Ayaan Tahir, Year 11



'Defenders of the body: An introduction to immunology' university masterclass

During the two hour masterclass, Dr Duggal gave us a fascinating and eye opening insight into the often underappreciated brilliance of our immune systems. We explored the endless battle our white blood cells wage against pesky pathogens, the reasons behind why they may sometimes falter, and the unexpected diversity of just how many cells make up both the innate and adaptive immune responses.

To engage us and bolster our learning further, we did a little exercise in which we decided what blood tests we should give to a boy who was suffering with several conditions, such as deficiency in wound healing, the appearance of mysterious bruises, and a high fever that which he had been suffering ever since coming home from a holiday. Thanks to the knowledge given unto us from the professor, we knew that doing a general blood test was obviously the best option to go for first, and could quite accurately proscribe the causes of most of his symptoms, such as a deficiency in the macrophages being the primary cause of his prolonged wound healing.

Despite comprising only 1% of our blood, white blood cells are nothing short of extraordinary. From engulfing pathogens, helping wounds healing, or even clearing out dead cells, their roles are more vital and varied then many may even begin to believe. We think that it would be safe to say that without these warriors in white, our lives would be pretty dark.

Thank you for reading, as well as a massive thank you to Mrs Cameron for organising this wonderful masterclass!

Written by Jameel Cross, Ayaan Ali, and Danyaal Bader, Year 11



Biology Olympiad 2025

In an impressive display of scientific skill, 46 top students from our school recently entered the British Biology Olympiad, a national contest designed to challenge and stimulate biology students from all over the country. The students were presented with topics and ideas which they are not familiar with, allowing them to compete fairly with their problem-solving skills and understanding of core principles. This year, our school represented itself in this prestigious academic arena with 3 Year 13 and 43 Year 12 competitors!

In the first round, two 45-minute papers challenged competitors to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their biological knowledge. While the vast majority of students navigated the first paper well, drawing upon their A-level knowledge, the second paper raised the bar considerably, with just three questions that explored the complex theoretical concepts of animal intelligence and self-awareness with statistical testing approaches. Despite this, many students found salvation in the final question of the second paper, which examined the Linnaean classification system—a topic only recently covered in school lessons.

Regardless of the academically difficult nature of the questions, one enthusiastic participant, A. Shabana, remarked, "Overall, it was an enjoyable experience, challenging my understanding of new topics and applying it to questions presented in a real-life perspective," and "A particularly memorable question explored how increasing lengths of 50 CAG codon repeats correlated with higher rates of Huntington's disease in younger generations. How these repeats can be detrimental to neurological development definitely stuck with me even after the Olympiad, boosting my curiosity around the topic."

With 10 Bronze awards, 8 Silver awards, and 6 Gold awards secured, the results speak for themselves about what Camp Hill students are capable of. And even more impressively, four exceptional Camp Hill students — Arnav Aphale, Aman Koiri, Jingxi Bai, Sushruth Thamineni — made it through to the second round, putting them in the running for British team selection.

However, the second round was a whole different story. Participants were provided with a 2016 research paper on "Extensive Proliferation of VSMCs" ahead of time to understand and implement into the questions. However, we couldn't just study for this exam, but we had to grasp essential principles and apply them to research papers, even from the 1900s. It wasn't simply understanding the concepts and outcomes but understanding the fine details of how the research worked: this intense hour-long examination even required students to conduct three computer-generated non-clinical tests on mice.

Because of these challenges, participants found this experience intellectually stimulating. The competition has opened many windows to academic research papers and research techniques employed in the wider scientific community, and offered many glimpses into potential future careers. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Miss Toogood who has committed significant time to enrich our biological experience beyond the classroom, Camp Hill students have had the opportunity to achieve such excellent results and set high standards for the next cohort of students. Whilst reminiscing on their achievements, many say they hope succeeding competitors will continue to carry this torch next year. Although, for now, they can take pride in not just having competed in this prestigious competition, but also of having excelled in it.

Jingxi Bai L3

Poetry Live

Well it really does feel like spring has sprung, as I look out of the window and survey the blue sky... However, back in January it was far colder as seventy Year 11 students headed to Symphony Hall in Birmingham to attend GCSE Poetry Live.

This annual event provides an opportunity for Year 10 and 11 students to meet and hear from the poets that they study at GCSE.

This year they saw Owen Sheers, John Agard and Carol Ann Duffy amongst others. And also heard from a GCSE examiner, who gave a real insight into how to tackle the unseen poetry element of the examination.

This was a really useful event and the students were exceptionally well behaved. We are hoping to run the same trip next year as we feel it is beneficial.

A new addition

The Department has been lucky enough to welcome a second placement trainee into the Department this term. Ms Harpin has already proved to be an asset and we are sure that she will prove to be an excellent English teacher.

World Book Day

World Book Day took place on the 6th of March and as always Ms Garvey was amazing. As a school we had World Book Day assemblies. Ms Garvey organised an escape room. Students spent the day searching high and low for pairs of literary characters - even Sixth Formers! And Chris Bradford came into school to demonstrate his amazing martial arts skills.

World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day this year is on the 21st of March and at the time of writing this - we are all very excited. Mrs Robertson has been working hard with a group of Year 7s who will deliver a poetry themed series of assemblies. In addition, we are, as a Department, running a Poetry Competition - with the theme of people, places and cultures. We will publish some of the winning poems in the next newsletter.

The Public Speaking Competition

Year 7 to 10 are currently taking part in the Public Speaking competition. This is an annual competition during which students in Key Stage 3 are asked to produce a speech which is a maximum of five minutes and students in Key Stage 4 have seven minutes. The competition is always intense and the quality of speeches this year has been extremely high. The final will take place in the last week of term and we will announce the winners in the next newsletter.

The English Department

Year 7 Trip to Lapworth Museum

On the Thursday 6th December, winners and runner ups of the fantastic volcano model project made their way over to Lapworth Museum.

As we had gotten our lunch at breaktime, we went over to room 2 at the start of lunch. After a long time waiting for people to arrive, we went over to the minivan which Mr. Butcher drove to the museum.

After a long, terrifying drive, we walked the rest of the way to Lapworth Museum (about a 10-minute walk). This interesting place is located in the UoB Campus, Edgbaston. Once we walked through the giant gates of the campus, we spotted right away the Costa that we were supposed to go to later in the day. We eventually reached the doors of Lapworth Museum where Mr. Butcher told us all the rules.

When we entered, we were greeted by Anna, our guide who gave us worksheets to do while we explored. The museum itself is a captivating repository of geological wonders. Numerous dinosaur skeletons, including a remarkably large Tyrannosaurus Rex, were awe-inspiring. A vast array of fossils, such as ammonites and trilobites, were meticulously displayed, offering a glimpse into the distant past.

A particularly engaging segment of the visit involved learning about plate tectonics. Anna eloquently explained the concept of Earth's crust being composed of constantly shifting plates. To further solidify our understanding, we were tasked with constructing models of various plate boundaries using foam sheets.

The final activity involved creating a comprehensive timeline of Earth's history. This involved meticulously marking significant events, from the formation of the sun to the emergence of humans. The exercise effectively illustrated the immense span of geological time and the remarkable evolution of our planet.

The Lapworth Museum provided a valuable learning experience. It expanded my knowledge of Earth's history and fostered an appreciation for the geological processes that have shaped our world. I would highly recommend a visit to the museum to anyone with an interest in geology and paleontology.

Unfortunately, the worst part of this trip was when we couldn't go to Costa because we didn't have enough time. However, this spectacular experience paid off the price.

I had a lot of fun with my friends and also learnt a lot. I am looking forward to more geography trips in the future.

Haider Ali (Y7)



GCHQ Languages Event

This year's spring term brought with it the GCHQ Languages Event. This event on 29th January was one that many Camp Hill Students awaited with anticipation. 26 Students undertaking either French or German GCSE were handpicked from across year 10 and given the opportunity to attend this exclusive event. We were given the opportunity to listen to speakers with a variety of roles across the government, each of which had successfully implemented languages into their careers.

The first speaker, Stephan, works for GCHQ intercepting language and information. As he speaks many languages such as Polish, French, Latin and more, he provided quite a captivating perspective on how learning languages helped him in his career. Our second speaker, Chris, works as a diplomat in Korea and has had a passion for languages since he went to China where he took a course on mandarin. Currently he travels across the globe speaking languages such as French, Chinese and Korean to help others. Finally, we have Monica, a border force officer at Heathrow airport, she speaks a variety of languages from Polish to Italian, and is able to help those in need. Furthermore, she helps save millions of lives by preventing incidents such as human trafficking and smuggling of goods to even terrorist attacks.

Through Stephan's story, we learnt about GCHQ's intense language training programs, in his case, one specifically dedicated towards Persian. In Chris' story however, we observed how his love of languages, and interest in the culture of China, aided him in his travels internationally, serving as crucial skills throughout his many adventures. Finally, Monica reflected on her time working as a Border force officer, displaying how she was able to make an impact through language learning, such as communicating with immigrants unable to speak English. Overall, the GCHQ Languages event was extremely fascinating, educating us on the true significance of the impacts of languages in your daily lives.

- By Zak B, Joud B and Rachit S



2025 Business Language Day

Two weeks prior to this event, we had all been asked one very important question. German or French? The language you picked directly affected which language you would talk and present in for this special event. For example, if you chose German you would make your presentation in German and the same for French.

It was now the actual day, and the only thing we were really looking forward to was missing our normal lessons. However, as the day progressed, this feeling changed for the better, as in the end we came to the agreement that this was the most fun thing we had participated in this year.

The event started at 09:15 in the hall with all of year 9 seated with the excitement of taking part. Our ears were filled with vast amounts of information about the positives when it comes to learning foreign languages. The words and facts composed by our lovely language assistants, Anna and Claudia. Even with English not being their first language, they spoke and presented as if they had no barriers when it came to other languages. An energetic buzz circled the hall as the presentation came to an end.

We were then told to go as promptly as we could to the rooms that we had been assigned for the event. When all were seated, we were told that we were launching a new cereal product onto the French or German market. We decided to produce a new cereal bar. For our new product we had to produce a poster and a jingle. When presenting our new product, we had to provide facts about the product and why people should buy it. Time was short and so we got on task with it. For the first 20 minutes, we brainstormed ideas on what flavour we could go for. We wanted to be special and not go for a common flavour such as chocolate or vanilla. We didn't have many ideas, but when nearly all hope was lost, Sami came up with the idea of making an éclair flavour cereal bar and that's the exact moment where all hope was ignited!

We got to work, composing the soft and harsh sounds of the French language. Its elegant words danced in the air as we practised and perfected it, bit by bit. After all, it is known to be the language of love.

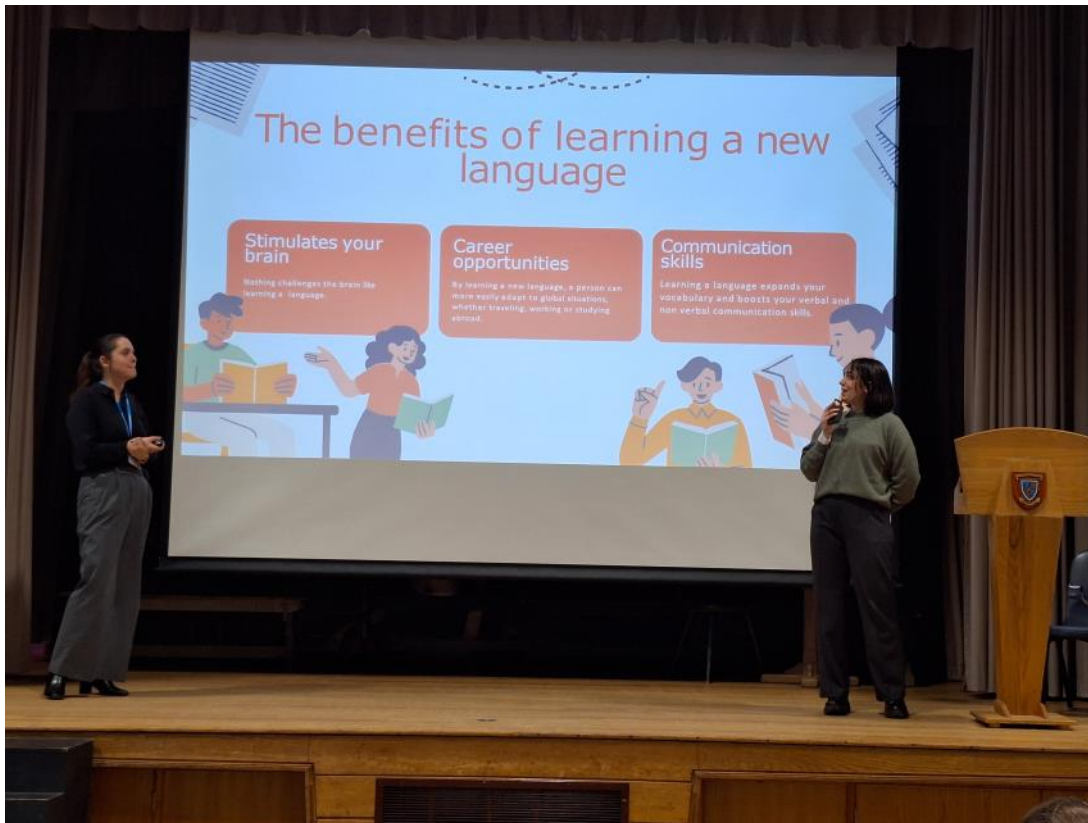
Finally, it was done. Jingle ready, words memorised and enthusiasm ready to unleash itself. As time went on, each group performed and then came our group. We had finished. We had all put 110% into this and were quite confident but deep down, we were all nervous. The time had come to perform our work to our classmates. We were elated to win this round! Grinning from ear to ear, we came to the realisation that we weren't actually the final winners, yet. We still had one final round to go, where we competed against four other groups, some speaking German, some speaking French. This was the real thing, with over 150 people watching as we performed our masterpiece.

With the teachers leaving the best group till last, it was our turn. All the other groups had really shocked us on the effort and quality of their projects. But we had one small advantage: Eesa's little performance. The five of us did our part and did the best job we could. Then came the finale: Eesa Latif with the jingle. He performed his heart out with passion and enthusiasm. The crowd erupted in applause and our names were chanted, as we returned to our seats.

The teachers took the next five minutes to pick a winner. Those five minutes felt like an eternity. The nerves filled our hearts as Mrs Wells silenced the crowd. She announced that the quality and effort had been amazing. In the end it had come down to two groups which had been hotly debated. The final decision was however that our group had won! It was us. We had won the whole thing. A day none of us will ever forget.

So what did we learn from this day? Languages are really fun, and any effort into broadening your knowledge of languages could help you quite a bit. We had a really great day!

By Sami Osman, Abbas Rizvi, Aariz Ahmed, Mohammed-Kumayl Lakha, Eesa Latif and Adhvaith Subramanian.



MFL at Birmingham University

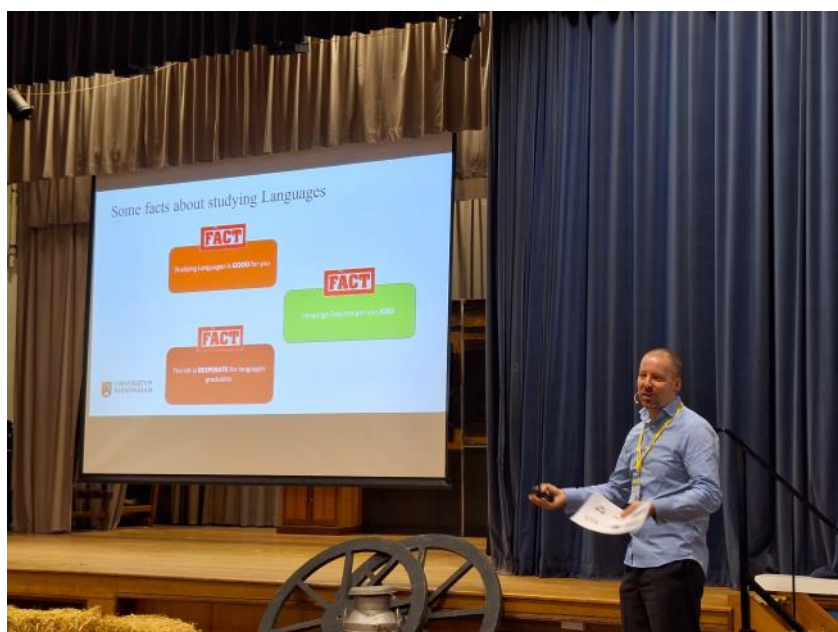
Nikhil Gilliam

On Wednesday 26th February, Dr Edward Boothroyd visited the school to give a talk to the students in Year 10 about studying Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Birmingham. The aim of the talk was to encourage students to pursue languages at A level and beyond.

The talk began with Dr Boothroyd talking about the languages taught at the University of Birmingham, which include more traditional languages, such as French, German and Spanish, as well as some more modern languages like Russian, Mandarin and Korean. But at the University of Birmingham, he continued, there are two language departments. The MFL department deals with students looking to major in a language and is the one described above. The 'Languages for All' department offers a greater range of languages for students looking to continue with a language from school without majoring in it, or those who are looking to pick up a new language. After all, learning a language is good for your brain and can help you get ahead of the competition for jobs. Not to mention the fact that the UK is desperate for language graduates.

The talk then moved onto probably the best part about studying a language at university – the year abroad. There are many options for your year abroad, for example studying at one of the University of Birmingham's partner universities, not all of which are in the native country. People studying French can go to Canada and people studying Spanish can go to Argentina or Chile. Another option is getting a teaching placement in a school in your target language country. Alternatively, a common option chosen by students doing a combined degree is getting a work placement in a company specialising in the other half of your degree. Dr Boothroyd then showed us some pictures of some students on their year abroad and it looked like so much fun!

Overall, the talk was a wonderful insight into why languages are important and how languages are taught at the University of Birmingham. It definitely inspired many students to consider taking their languages further. I would like to thank Dr Boothroyd for giving up his time for us, and Mrs Wells for coordinating the event.



SPRING ART NEWS

This term has seen some exciting creativity within the Art department and I include a selection of work from our key stage 3 students to showcase some of their final pieces that they have worked hard on!

Congratulations to Seb in year 12, who got through to the regional finals of 'Articulation' at The Herbert Gallery, Coventry. Seb delivered an excellent speech on David Choe's Facebook mural, for which he received excellent feedback from the adjudicators for his original delivery of narrating over a video that he had edited and put together, providing an insight into the controversial side of Art and the world of David Choe.

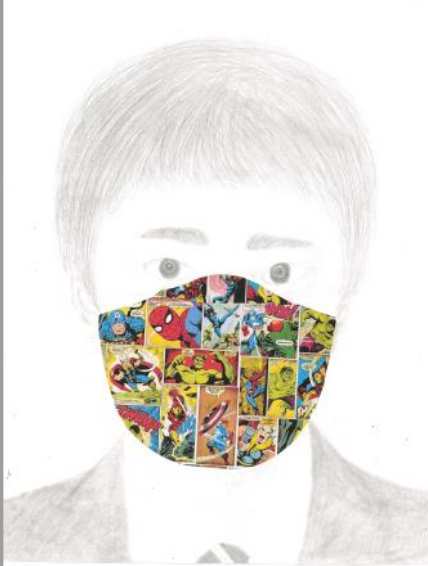


We have also seen some fabulous work from our Year 12 art students, Mustafa, Haris and Seb, who along with some of the students from Camp Hill Girls, helped paint the amazing set back drop for the recent Les Miserable production. I'm sure anyone who came to watch it will agree how incredibly talented all of our students are who were involved, whether it was set design, acting, playing in the orchestra or supporting back stage; what an amazing show!

Year 7 Work Inspired by British artist Patrick Heron, exploring colour theory and abstract art



Year 8 Self-portraits inspired by the work of Sandra Chevrier, who explores identity with her vibrant paintings that include masks made up of comic book pages and characters. Our students used pencil, crayon, collage and pen.



Year 9 Cultural Identity responses to Barbara Walker and Bisa Butler, exploring who we are and celebrating our individual backgrounds.



Music

A Bridge Apart

Although there is a separate article for this, congratulations to all involved in this wonderful production. It has been a pleasure having recent alumni Archie Holding, Jonah Kippax and Caleb Wilton work with Key Stage 3 to write, rehearse and direct their own musical. It was an astounding achievement of which all should be extremely proud. Well done to all involved!

Teatime Concert

The Teatime Concert took place on Tuesday 11 March and was our third joint event with the girls' school this year. We were treated to fantastic performances by the Cello Ensemble, Electric Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Junior String Quartet, Junior Guitar Ensemble, Oboe Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Senior Guitar Ensemble, String Orchestra and Training Wind Band. Well done also to



Les Misérables

Year 7 at Symphony Hall

Although there is a separate article on our production of Les Misérables, it would be hard to talk about music-making in the department without mentioning this production. An enormous amount of rehearsal goes into putting on a musical and it has been a pleasure to have worked with all the cast, band, tech team and everyone involved. Everyone involved in the production should be immensely proud of their achievement. The standard of musicianship was astonishing.



Band from the KS3 production, 'A Bridge Apart'

Solo Performances

We are fortunate that we have enough musicians in the school to have regular solo performances in our assemblies. This term we have been treated to some wonderful piano solos from Oskar Pineau (Y8), Xu Wang (Y10), Athan Job (Y7), Joshua Rowlands (Y7), Alexander Cammiss (Y11), Daniel Tran (Y7), Darren Ng (Y12) and Thomas Badenhorst (Y8). We also had an impressive cello solo by Michael Harris-Oates (Y7), a violin duet by Garloon Ho and Macca Ros-Nalugon (Y11), and violin solos by Joel Skaria (Y13) and Garloon Ho

Student Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who successfully attained graded music examinations this term:



Krrish Mehta sings 'Bring him home' from

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|-------|----------------|---------|-------------|
| Tristan Bishop-Park | 8 | TCL | French horn | Grade 4 | Merit |
| Prabhav Emani | 8 | ABRSM | Flute | Grade 2 | Merit |
| Aiden La | 8 | TCL | | | Merit |
| Mukund Sreekantha | 8 | TCL | Guitar | Initial | Distinction |
| SupreethSudhakar | 8 | ABRSM | Singing | Grade 4 | |
| Fred Belcher | 9 | ABRSM | Clarinet | Grade 3 | |
| Henry Bloomer | 9 | ABRSM | Trumpet | Grade 4 | Merit |
| Jacob Hanratty | 9 | TCL | Clarinet | Grade 4 | Merit |
| Aditya Manu | 9 | TCL | Trombone | Grade 2 | |
| Isaac Williams | 9 | ABRSM | Cornet | Grade 4 | Merit |
| Ian Lam | 10 | TCL | Euphonium | Grade 5 | Merit |
| Yuehao Zhang | 10 | TCL | Trombone | Grade 3 | Distinction |
| Harshith Salanke | 12 | TCL | Clarinet | Grade 7 | Merit |
| Elliot Fernandes | 13 | TCL | Jazz saxophone | Grade 7 | Merit |

An a final 'well done' to **Joel Skaria** who has been awarded a choral scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge.

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

Next Term

We look forward to events in the Summer Term. Please note the following dates for your diaries:

- Tuesday 6 May (19:00) - **Senior Concert** (CHB Choir, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra and chamber groups)
- Tuesday 17 June (19:00) - **Summer Soiree** (Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band, String Orchestra, Training Wind Band and chamber groups)

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout an extremely busy term.

Josh Watters
Head of Music

RS

The Philosothon

On Friday 28th February, ten students from across Year 9 to the Sixth Form travelled to King Edward VI High School for Girls to participate in the annual Philosothon. The aim of a Philosothon is to promote philosophical investigation by having students engage in 'communities of inquiry.' This approach discourages combative debate and promotes meaningful discussion coupled with attentive listening.

This year the students were provided with stimuli that asked them to consider the ethics of organ transplants, the competing goods of aesthetics and environmental ethics, and whether it is acceptable to take advantage of university policies regarding essay extensions. The boys from Camp Hill proved themselves to be insightful and considerate. They also demonstrated a high standard of philosophical analysis and spoke with confidence to students from other schools in the local area.

While the Philosothon is not strictly a point scoring event, visiting judges from multiple universities were present to assess who provided significant contributions and who was able to successfully facilitate the discussions. Unfortunately, the boys were unable to repeat last year's victory but were excellent ambassadors for their school nonetheless.

Camp Hill Boys representatives at the West Midlands Philosothon:

Year 9: Areeb Alam and Lucas Ribeiro

Year 10: Joud Boujamaa and Mahdi Hussein

Year 11: Hrish Narayanan

Year 12: Ishan Gautam, Alex Schielke, and Faraz Jalilvand

Year 13: Emil Dinkov and Ayaan Mehmood

RS

University of Birmingham – Theology and Religion taster afternoon

A group of Year 10 and 12 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of Birmingham for a Theology taster session. It was packed with thought-provoking discussions, interactive learning, and insights into university life.

The session began with a fascinating lecture on the 'Bible and Decolonisation', where we explored how historical interpretations of the Bible have been shaped by colonial contexts and how modern scholars are working to rethink these perspectives. It was an eye-opening discussion that encouraged us to consider the impact of history on religious texts and their interpretations.

Next, we took part in an interactive game about the 'Mind-Body Problem', a classic debate in philosophy and theology. This activity challenged us to think about the relationship between the physical body and the mind or soul. The game sparked engaging conversations and helped us see how abstract philosophical questions relate to everyday life.

The day ended with a Q&A session about university life, where lecturers shared their experiences of studying Philosophy, Theology, Religion and Ethics at Birmingham. They gave us valuable insights into lectures, seminars, student societies, and the overall university experience. It was a great chance to ask questions and imagine what life might be like as a university student.

Overall, the visit was an inspiring experience, giving us a taste of what it's like to study PTRE at a higher level. It challenged our thinking, deepened our understanding, and left us excited about future possibilities in higher education!



WaterAid External Speaker

On Wednesday 12th March, we had a talk from an external volunteer from WaterAid. He talked to us about the mission of WaterAid and how they work with communities worldwide to provide clean water and sanitation to those in need.

In the talk, the volunteer told us that every 23 seconds, a person dies from dirty water. They also demonstrated the different ways they provided access to clean water and how they educate communities at WaterAid. People have to walk long distances just to receive access to dirty water that is not even drinkable, this takes up precious time of children and adults, whilst instead they could be educated, or tending their crops to earn money.

We had recently been learning about WaterAid and the work that it does in our Geography lessons - focusing on the development projects that it contributes towards and how it can positively impact communities around the world. We had been learning about what sort of organisation WaterAid is and how it is funded. We had also been looking at how its work can change the lives of millions of people. It was really fascinating to hear from someone who was passionate about the charity and its mission.

Overall, it was a really interesting experience and a great way to see first-hand the realities of what we had been learning in our Geography lessons. It was also great to be able to ask questions to someone who was really interested in this topic and knew a lot about the impacts that they have.

Written by Judeson Kochakkadan and Benjamin Wrangles



Active Travel Ambassadors Campaign Junction

Local Schools Present their Campaign at the Midlands Art Centre

This year's Winter Term brought with it the exciting opportunity to participate within the ATA programme. This was an arduous challenge requiring us to come up with a large-scale campaign in order to promote active travel, and yet with the collaboration of the members of the Eco Committee, all was in order before the tightly met deadline. Until finally, a group of nervous students awaited their judgement, as they pitched their ideas to representatives from the bustling streets of Birmingham, working across several areas, such as Modeshift, Bikeability, Transport for West Midlands, and the Council, in the hopes of receiving a handsome reward of £200, with the best of the best receiving an extra £50 in order to launch their campaigns. The aim of our campaign this year was to ease congestion while incentivising a more environmentally friendly and sustainable Camp Hill student community.

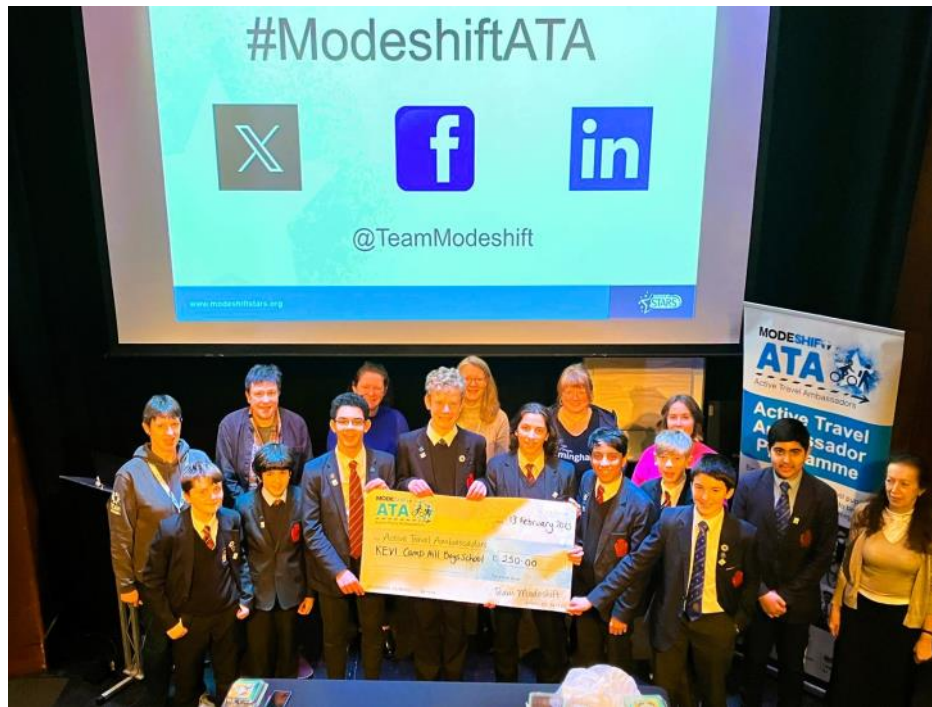
On Thursday 13th February, 9 students led by Ms Crummay left the school gates on a journey to the MAC at 9am, aiming to use public transport as a form of proving our commitment. However, ironically, the sustainable travel we aimed to promote almost failed us due to the tardy nature of Birmingham buses. We arrived at 10am in the foyer, where we were registered and led through Cannon Hill Park on a guided walk. We learnt about the benefits of trees and even some incredibly interesting history about the rural split of Warwickshire. After our hour long journey around the park and into the past, we were greeted by an assortment of energising refreshments.

Once we arrived at the theatre, we discovered that our school would be presenting first. Slightly nervous and apprehensive, we walked down to the stage and began our presentation. We started with an explanation of the issue, which you all know our school and the surrounding area face - traffic. Last year we introduced a 'Walk to School' campaign in which we encouraged and incentivised people walking longer distances to school. Despite making a very large difference to the levels of traffic around our school, we knew that we could do better. So this year, we devised a new campaign, in which students can register their walking even if they live close to the school. All students who register will be entered into a raffle system, in which the winner will receive a voucher as their prize. Students who walk longer distances will receive a greater chance of a win. Due to popular demand, a cycling category was also added, increasing the number of students taking part, as well as experiencing the benefits of active travel. Finally, we added a creative category, in which participants may enter an image, poem or other creative work that they have taken on their journey to school, reflecting their trip. After delivering our presentation, we were faced with a grilling from the judges, asking us question after question about our campaign. Then we eagerly awaited the result.

Once all the presentations were wrapped up, we were left to our own devices as the judges left the room for a brief consultation as to how to allocate the money. During our lunch, we received a generous amount of sweet treats to share amongst us and were granted free tickets to the Waste Age Exhibition. This was an inspiring collection of art, highlighting the impacts of waste and the many ways they can be recycled and implemented into our daily lives.

We arrived back in the Hexagon Theatre eagerly awaiting the result. Would we be the school picked as the best out of the group, with the most interesting and unique campaign? We sat down in our seats, and after a brief word from Jenny Royal from ModeShift, we were called down to the stage, we had not only secured our £200 but also the extra £50 for presenting the best campaign! We were absolutely thrilled that our campaign would be able to run even smoother thanks to the extra funding! A huge thank you to Ms Crummay and ModeShift for helping organise this, as well as the other members of the Eco Committee for their collaboration in making this campaign possible.

By Zakaria Bora and Joud Boujamaa



Tree Planting

Last month the school had 420 trees delivered from the Woodland Trust, the species selected, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, rowan, silver birch and oak will provide habitat for wildlife, and a wonderful show of blossom and berries throughout the year. The Eco Committee have been handed the responsibility of organising planting. Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes have been designated open house planting days, with additional end of term, class planting sessions, helping to quicken the pace. The bank next to the railings along Cartland Road is quickly filling up and the plan is to move on to planting along the pathways. It's a new experience for many of the students and a great opportunity to learn new skills. Feedback from students and local residents has been hugely appreciative, they're looking forward to seeing them grow. Students who took part in the planting are amazed at their predicted height, by the time they leave. Hopefully, they will be looking very grand by the time their own children arrive.



A Bridge Apart

In the first week of this half term, a group of Y7-Y9 students took part in the 'ridiculous' original musical, A Bridge Apart, written by former students Jonah Kippax, Archie Holding and Caleb Wilton. A crazy story about village rivalry, a wandering traveller, and turnips!

From unsuccessful bottle smashes to questionable pink t-shirts, weekend rehearsals to post show meet-ups, this really was such an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

After the triumph of the first show, there were high hopes and anticipation for the final one. However, these expectations were dashed at an emergency meeting in break time on the day of the show. After the realisation that around 10 of the cast were off school due to illness (norovirus or food poisoning, we will never know) we thought all hope was lost. But, in true theatre fashion 'the show must go on'. Several people had to step in for those who were off, including main roles, having to learn lines, songs and dances in a matter of hours. In the end, though stressful, it was great to have so much support from the audience and, for the circumstances, the show ran (relatively) smoothly.

It was great to be part of such a fun process, and we all thank Jonah, Caleb and Archie for writing and directing such an amazing show, as well as Mr Dowling and Miss Toogood for their support. This show wouldn't have been possible 'if it wasn't for them' and we hope we won't have to wait too long for the next production!

Noah Chilvers 9C



Les Mis!

This year's senior musical, *Les Misérables*, was a thoroughly enjoyable production brought to life by an exceptional cast and crew from across both schools. It was a real privilege to see our pupils take on such iconic roles and deliver performances that were every bit as powerful and moving as the story itself.

It's impossible to name every individual who contributed to the show's success, but huge thanks must go to the incredible team of staff who gave their time and talent to bring the world of Les Mis to life. From the beautiful set created by the Art department to the DT team's handcrafted props and furniture, every element of the show was considered and carefully crafted by a range of talented staff and students. This enthusiasm and attention to detail was matched during each performance by the actors on the stage, the band in the pit and those working tirelessly behind the scenes on the tech desk and in the wings.

I would like to give special mention to all of the year 13 students who took part in their final (and for some, first) Camp Hill production. Krrish Mehta, Joel Skaria and Tom Pitfield delivered outstanding performances in the principal roles of Jean Valjean, Javert and Enjolras, alongside Owen Lau in various supporting roles. Hun Kang and Manav Kumar provided, once again, a seamless tech experience for the cast and the audience, whilst Rhys Jamieson and Peter Tomlinson excelled in the band for the final time. We were also lucky to work with the talents of Theresa Zygmunt and Nikitha Pillai from Camp Hill Girls, who both contributed an enormous amount to the show. We wish them all the best in their next chapters and hope that drama continues to play some role, big or small, in their futures.

Watch this space for CHAOS 3.0 in the summer term...

Mr Dowling'









SPORT

1st XV Rugby

The 1st XV started the Year 2025 with an agonising 24-22 loss to Bablake school on a cold Wednesday afternoon. Adjei, Soonsara, Jamieson, Okello each got their names on the team sheet. Lemual Adjei picked up the man of the match award for a superb display. Queen Marys were up next on the 4g at Walsall RFC. 14-12 down with no time on the clock, up steps Lemual Adjei to run the length of the pitch to score the try of the season and to win in for the men in maroon and blue! 19-14 to CHB, Christy Baiju scoring the other try. A trip to Alcester Grammar school was next on the cards. A scintillating start from CHB saw us race into a 28-0 lead inside the first 15 minutes, with tries from Powell, Brosnan, Ahmed, Soonsara. What followed was a catastrophic collapse which saw the 1st XV lose in the last play of the game 34-28. If, buts and maybes but it's been a rollercoaster ride of a season. Out of the 14 games played, 11 came down to one score in it! This team never, ever gives up and/or struggles to cement a lead! The end of season tour took us to Lisbon this year! A truly wonderful experience for all involved. Be sure to read the senior tour report for an entertaining read! My sincere thanks to all involved in the 1st XV this year. It's been my most enjoyable season to coach for a long time. The students dedication and commitment to the cause has been remarkable. Captain Senan Brosnan deserves immense credit for his superb work on and off the pitch- one of the best!

TJB



2nd XV Rugby

2025 has not been a year to remember for the 2nd XV in terms of results with three narrow losses out of three. On another day we could have taken victory against Queen Mary's and KES in what were both very close encounters. Abid, Malik, Osolase, Jimenez, Latif, Dolan, Shah, Nair, Latif all got their names on the score sheet. Malik and Martin Tan were ever reliable with the boot. The season was rounded off in a compelling fixture against St Julians RFC, Lisbon. The game was in the balance, then entered our Year 13s! Not the biggest bunch but brave! However, not brave enough on the day, finishing with a 38-19 loss. My thanks to all those involved in the 2nd XV this year. Captain Muawiyah Abdi deserves immense credit for his superb work on and off the pitch. The future's looking bright for the senior rugby squad!



U15 Rugby

We started off the season with a huge win against North Bromsgrove in the cup, a team with numerous academy players. Despite this, the lads powered through with a near try of the season for Basheir Said and Ollie Smoldon's composed kicking from the tee resulted in us getting to the next round. We were unfortunate in our round 2 game against Solihull, through illness and an absolute mudbath of a pitch but on the positive side Aarib Mahmood scored his first ever try for the school.

Next up, the Greater Birmingham Tournament, where Mushaf Mir had to take the armband. Overall, we came third after beating teams like Aston and Fairfax. The highlight of GBT was Barachel's long awaited return after injuring his hand with a saw. The next 4 games were absolute domination - 4 games 4 wins, against Abraham Darby, King Henry VIII, Haberdashers Adams and Queen Marys. There was a lot of action here, such as, Ameer Hussain dislocating the opposite flanker's knee against Abraham Darby, but consistent performances by the likes of Mushaf Mir, Jiale Chen, Alex Innocenti, Ameer Hussain, Zain Shah, Miqdad Atta-Ur-Rasul, Yasin Elashry, Ollie Smoldon and Basheir Said really fueled these wins.

Our last game of 2024 was against Bishop Veseys, a very powerful team. We were up by 10 points at HT, but tired minds led to tired legs and a few defensive mistakes meant we were losing 21-26 with 5 minutes to go and after a big kick chase we had a scrum on their 22. Within a blink of an eye, the scrum collapsed and our star flanker Jiale Chen suffered under the weight of the scrum. Fortunately, he was fine and played the next game against Solihull, which ended in another loss.

Our last ever home Saturday game as a team was against Bablake. We absolutely grafted for over an hour but in the end we came up short 17-31, which leads me onto Junior Tour.

We began the tour with an emphatic win over Cockermouth School, against a mixed team of U16's and U15's. The sheer effort put into that game proved why so many of the team gained well deserved junior colours for rugby. Ultimately, we ended the season in a 5-13 loss to Carlisle RFC; it just wasn't our day. Majority of the team were fasting and the absence of Ollie Smoldon at scrum half was very noticeable. Nonetheless, everyone put everything on the line right up until that final whistle, which summed the team's mentality of never stopping throughout the whole season.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff for their help throughout the season. Thank you Mr Burgess for laying down our foundations, Mr Morissy for picking us up after Christmas, Mr Southgate for coaching every game and training session, Mr Dowling for dropping the boys off to various games and running training sessions and both Mr Deery and Mr Brown for the various help in and around this year.

U13 Rugby

As the final whistle blows on another unforgettable season, I want to take a moment to say a massive thank you to the U13 rugby team for their incredible effort, passion, and commitment throughout the year. From the very first training session to the last match of the season, you've shown what it truly means to be part of a team.

We saw players pushing themselves, supporting each other, and rising to every challenge, whether it was a tough opponent or a muddy ground. Your dedication to improving week after week hasn't gone unnoticed, and the progress you've made as individuals and as a team has been inspiring.

To the parents and supporters: thank you for your constant encouragement from the sidelines, U13s Take pride in everything you've achieved and once again well done. Congratulations to both Julian and Harry Clemow being top try scorers .

U12 Rugby

After Christmas the under 12 rugby had much more fortune with their results. They secured their first win of the season against Bablake scoring 10 tries in a 50-25 win! A well deserved result. Despite not scoring William Fuller gained Motm for his carrying of the ball over the gain line. The rest of the season followed suit only losing narrowly to Five ways and KES but managing to beat Aston in a thrilling game. But the best and final performance of the season was a draw of 1 try a piece but this was the best rugby of the season by a long way. The boys have come a long way since the start of the school year and I'm looking forward to seeing how they progress through their time at school. A big thank you to Abe Arthur for captaining the side.



Football 1st XI

1st XI Football have had some fantastic results since Christmas, to go with some equally impressive performances, and easy on the eye, really well worked team goals. The upturn in form has been remarkable, from only winning one out of five matches played in the autumn, the lads went on a run of four wins on the bounce, with three of those victories coming in convincing 5-2 wins over King Edward VI Five Ways, Alcester Grammar and King Edwards School, the other an impressive 3-1 victory over The Kings School Worcester. Karlo Heydary has been a talisman for the side over this run, notching 6 goals over the last four games to give him a tally of 11 for the season to date. However, there have been a number of notable performances and significant contributions from other members of the team during this run too. The midfield pairing of Vinay Bora and Felix Iliff have been a huge factor in the success of the teams recent performances with both regularly receiving the man of the match award. The pace and trickery of both wingers Reuben Howard and Adam Bashir have helped both the teams creativity and a share of the goals, while the transformation of captain Krishna Nair from midfielder to left back has been made seamless by his string of solid performances whilst playing out of position. The final game of the season unfortunately didn't end on the high it deserved, after battling out a 3-3 draw with local rivals King Edwards Five Ways, which included year 13's Malachi Powell and Jai Varaich scoring on their final game for the school, as well as Karlo Heydary's 12th of the season, there was a shared air of frustration at not being awarded at least one of three blatant penalty calls waived away by the referee. Nevertheless, an unbeaten final six games has propelled the boys into being the best sports team at camp hill for the academic year 2024/2025, an accolade to be admired.



Football 2nd XI

The Football 2nd XI have had a much similar upturn in results as the 1st XI. Only three fixtures took place for the 2nd XI before Christmas, although all three performances were impressive, all three matches ended in narrow defeats. However, three more games have taken place since the New Year, and finally those impressive performances started to pay dividends as the 2nd XI finished the season with three victories, including back to back clean sheets in both their penultimate and final matches of the season. The run started with a thumping of King Edwards School, Malachi Powell fired in a hattrick along with a brace from Etik Gadiya, and goals from Muhazim Ahmed, Abdul Rahman Ammad, and Wakil Rahman completed the 8-2 victory. The next game against The Kings School Worcester however was not as one sided, with the lads forced to battle out for a tight 1-0 win courtesy of captain Ayaan Pervaiz's first half wonder strike. A much stronger KES side was fielded for a rematch for the final game of the season, a spirited performance completed a hattrick of victories in 2025 with Camp Hill once again proving victorious with a 3-0 win over their opponents. Back to back clean sheets were made possible through the immense defensive performances of Ben Hodgetts at the heart of the back three. Scorers included another brace from Etik Gadiya and a first goal of the season for Francis Luke in his final appearance for Camp Hill.

Football U14

U14 Football at Camp Hill included the boys being involved in the inaugural Trevor Francis Schools Cup, a regional tournament run by Birmingham City Football Club, with the final being played on their first team pitch at St Andrews. 48 teams entered from Telford to Nuneaton, with each team receiving branded Nike shirts along with two match balls to use during the tournament, courtesy of sponsor the University of Birmingham. 32 teams competed in the first round with Camp Hill one of the 16 to receive a bye to the second round. Eventually our second round game took place after we were drawn against George Dixon Academy, who had won their first round game 7-1, and competed in the Aston Cup Final only the week before. Led by captain Rishi Mohay, the lads battled hard in the first half and were really unlucky to find themselves 1-0 down at half time. After a motivational team talk and a slight change of formation for the second half, early on 1-0 quickly became 2-0 and then 3-0, with Camp Hill rightly feeling aggrieved as two clear offside decisions were missed by the man in the middle. Nevertheless, Camp Hill continued to fight in what was a one sided second half with all the football being played by the away side. Eventually, good play and chances resulted in goals as Daniyal Watton fired in our first from the edge of the area, before a Camp Hill player was tripped in the box, with the referee again deciding to turn a blind eye. A minute from time, Karim Berair jinked his way in and out of three George Dixon defenders before firing a rasping shot with his weaker right foot into the top corner of the goal. Unfortunately, this is how it ended with the referee choosing to blow his whistle for full time shortly after play was restarted, with the game ending in a narrow 3-2 defeat.

Football U12

Only one fixture managed to take place in 2025 for U12s Football. The boys took the short trip to Wheelers Lane for a friendly fixture which was played in good spirits. Wheelers fielded their strongest side which included a number of academy players. Despite the difference in quality on paper the boys can be extremely proud of their performance which included taking an early lead courtesy of a break away finish from Rayyan Al-Saedy. Shortly after Muhammad Abdullah denied one of Wheeler's star men from the penalty spot, diving brilliantly to his right, parrying the ball wide of goal following the strike from 12 yards. A string of spectacular saves from Abdullah resulted in the score staying at 1-0 before the half time whistle. In the second half though, Wheeler's class showed with the home side eventually running out 3-1 winners. Abdullah's inspired performance landed him with the man of the match award. Thanks to Savio Kodra for captaining the side.

U15 Basketball

The U15 basketball team have had a very successful season winning 5/6 games. 2025 saw CHB beat Bartley Green, St Georges, Aston Manor Academy and KE Five Ways. The squad is small but the talent is vast. Yusuf Abdullah, Basheir Said, Muhammad Saad Shoukat, Aarib Mahmood, Tom Walker have ably assisted our talismanic captain Barachel Ankrah who has been instrumental in most, if not all our victories. We are yet to hear if we have made it to finals day but fingers crossed we do, as it's the least the students deserve!



U13 Basketball

The U13s have had a really good year representing the school at basketball. Before Christmas, they had 2 friendly fixtures, both of which were close games but the boys did well to pull through, beating St George's and Bishop Challoner respectively. The league kicked into force post-Christmas with some difficult fixtures against Bartley Green and Queensbridge. Both ended in close losses (8-12) against Bartley Green and 13-12 against Queensbridge who scored pretty much on the final buzzer. The boys bounced back with victories against Windsor Academy and finished with a resounding victory against Bishop Challoner. Over the fixtures we have had 12 players representing the school. Daniyal Watton (**Capt**), Elyasa Ahmed, Sarfaraz Khan, Abhijoy Dutta, Ibrahim Ali, Kassim Alias, Ishaan Aggarwal, Aarav Samra, Ben Leigh, Zaviyar Aslam, Raghuvamshi Ankam, Satvik Manyam. They have been led excellently by the top scorer Daniyal Watton who has played in every game this season. Well done to all those involved.

Indoor Cricket U15

Just one game of the league season this term for the U15s. This was a resounding 168 win victory against Turves Green to make it 4 wins out of 4! CHB won the toss and batted first. Captain Mushaf Mir led the way with a sensational 71 not out (retiring twice in the innings). Omar Slatter chipped in with 24. Some late big hitting from Ollie Smoldon and Aduyan Khan (43 & 39 respectively) helped CHB score an impressive 200/3 inside 10 overs. In reply CHB were in full control from the outset. Captain Mir made full use of all his players, allowing them all a chance to bowl. The pick of the bunch was Adiyhan Khan who took a hat trick from his first three deliveries. Turves Green ended 32 all out inside 6 overs. The U15s have now qualified for the area finals day at Edgbaston on the 21st May. Good luck to the team!

TJB



U13 Indoor Cricket

The U13's have been superb in their 3 league fixtures for the indoor cricket league. They have been bowling extremely well and their fielding has backed up their outstanding bowling. The fixture against Moseley School gave the boys their toughest fixture. Bowling was again excellent with the boys bowling out Moseley for 66. We then had a touch of the wobbles with 3 runouts in quick succession but a knock of 35* by Salah Usmaan saw the boys home with one wicket to spare. The other 2 fixtures were very comfortable victories over Kings Heath boys and Bishop Challoner. Aariz Irfan was the pick of the bowlers in those 2 games with combined figures of 5 wickets for 6 runs. We wish the boys good luck on the finals day in May.

Racket sports

Badminton has been well-attended throughout the year and continues to be one of the most attended extracurricular activities at the school. Thank you to all of those who attended. In terms of fixtures The seniors represented themselves on two occasions the first versus Bromsgrove School away where unfortunately they lost to some very talented players. The second game was a home game against King Edward School. This game was much tighter but I still unfortunately lost 4-3. The under 16s played in the National Schools championship at the district level and unfortunately came fifth which meant they didn't qualify for the next round. The under 14 took part in the same championship and came fourth which meant they didn't progress in the next round.

Rugby Sevens

The rugby Sevens season is very short but extremely tough given the pitches are starting to harden up and the number of games in a short period of time that the boys are expected to play. The Senior VII played some outstanding rugby at the Shrewsbury festival and beat the favourites Wrekin College during their pool games. Unfortunately they were soundly beaten by Shrewsbury and St Joseph's which meant they were battling it out for fifth and sixth position. They came up against arch rivals Aston and put in their most clinical performance scoring over 40 points to put Aston to the sword. The junior teams (Year 8 & 9) took part in Queen Mary's Walsall's 7s festival but found the majority of other teams too quick and powerful and have some work to put in for future competitions.

Junior Hockey

Hockey has been well represented at Camp Hill this year we've had all ranges from teams from Year 8 all the way up to Seniors representing the school the results have been mixed highlighted by the under 14s beating Old Swinford Hospital. The Year 8s despite it being their first ever hockey game managed to score a few goals against Queen Mary's Grammar School. The under 15's and 14 hockey teams went on tour to Carlisle coming up against some quality players and in free games were unfortunate not to win any. I would like to thank all the students involved with hockey at Camp Hill and hope to see you next year for many more fixtures and hopefully we will be on the right side of results.



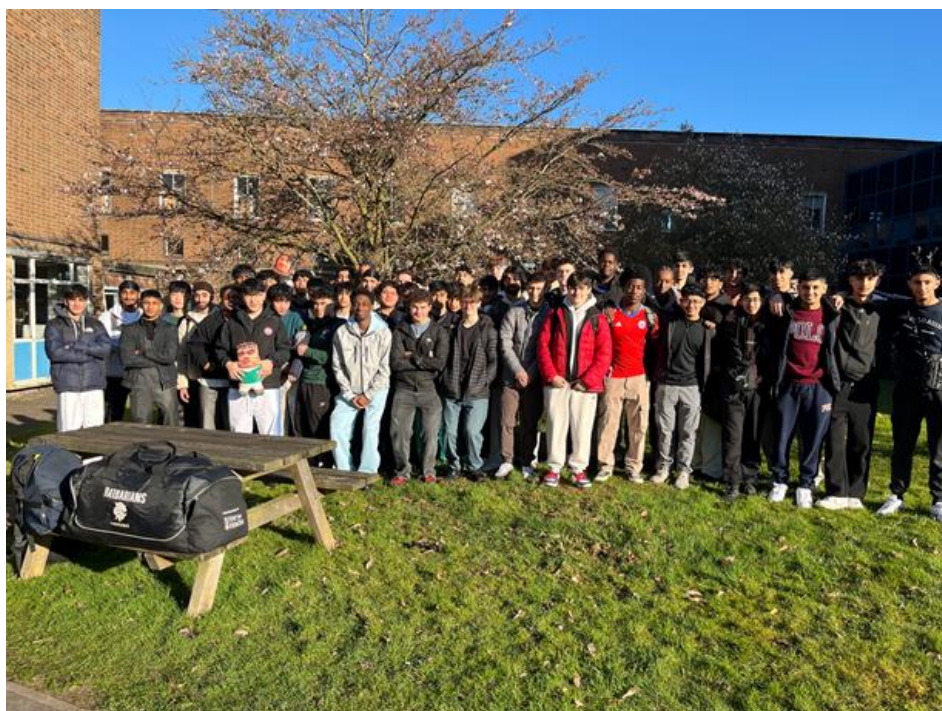
Staff sport vs Year 13

One a piece with two to play! Staff winners in touch rugby, student winners in basketball. Football, Volleyball and cricket to go. May the best team win!



Tour 2025

Our trip started at 7:45 when we all eagerly gathered under the sun, ready to embark on our journey of a lifetime. "Lisbon are not ready for us!" we proclaimed, and they were not.



After a seamless journey to Heathrow Airport, a big up to Rayen Khan Ahmed for behaving outstandingly, despite making it clear how terrified he is of flying and airports in general. Following a staggered arrival due to storms in Lisbon, we were met with rain but that could not dampen our spirit! We promptly arrived at St Julian's ready to play our first game. Our first XV were unlucky to lose in a game where the score-line didn't reflect the effort of the boys.



Unfortunately, many of our STAR players were injured with Captain Fantastic Senan Brosnan breaking his knee, Vice-Captain extraordinaire Musa Ahmed snapping his ankle and Mekaeel Pervez showing great athleticism, bravery and enthusiasm with his backward rolls on the pitch.



Despite being drenched by the torrential downpour under the floodlights, the lads were unwaveringly eager to run it back, but our grown-ups said we HAD to go back to the hotel (ARGGGGGGH).



We made it to the hotel for 11pm. The morning dawned, and despite a slight mix up as to what floor breakfast was on (thank you Daniel), we got dressed and ready to attend the waterpark. We couldn't wait! I decided to wear my skinny jeans because I wanted to be streamlined for the later zip-lining, which was even better than we could've imagined (for everyone but Karl ;)). The waterpark was a blast despite the cold water and wet weather; even Miss Cave got involved! Following a delayed return to the hotel, the gang got suited and booted ready for the evening endeavours, a formal dinner in the presence of the general public and the informal awards ceremony.



A special mention must be given to Rishi Chauhan, who was commended for his contributions to the Second XV bench. Absolute Legend! The evening concluded with a cake on the floor and an informal Olympic relay event, which left us all exhausted and ready to hit the sack!!

Saturday came, where we were able to explore Lisbon to our heart's content (if we could fit it into 3 hours!!). The city was beautiful, with plenty to see and do. E-Scooters were brandished, although unfortunately Rayen Khan Ahmed fell off his scooter, and grazed his arms on the floor, which he required a cold compress for. After roaming Lisbon, we geared up for what would be our last rugby match in Camp Hill colours, marking the end of 7 years.



With that in mind, we were all certain we would make it a game of the ages, and the First XV did not disappoint. An electrifying game with thrills, skills and some heavy tackles culminated in a win .



However, due to the nature of the opposition, it was deemed inappropriate for the Second XV to play, or for the teams to stay for hospitality, so after an emotional speech by Skipper Senan, we headed back to the hotel to retool. Massive ups to the tour company for subsidising our £885 dinner bill at the local restaurant and a special mention to Daniel Oluyeye, who ordered two starters, a main, a dessert and two drinks! How greedy!!!!



Day four started with surfing, which we all enjoyed (despite our limited success!!).





Following a scramble to get showered (thank you Ms Freeman for giving us 5 minutes to get ready), we all got onto the coach for the final time. Despite our best efforts to arrive early, we still managed to nearly miss our flight, with a large majority of us having to run to the gate, including one Mr Brown. A seamless flight back to the UK followed and after a 2-hour coach journey back to school, our tour had finally ended. Massive shout outs to all the teachers who let this be possible, thanks to Ms Freeman, Mr Burgess, Mr Brown, Miss Cave and Mr Renault.

Rayen Khan-Ahmed

Beaufort House Report

As Head of Beaufort House, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on an eventful half-term. While we may not have topped the leadership board this time, coming third in Chess, fourth in Handball, and joint third in Table Tennis, I couldn't be prouder of our achievements and the spirit that has been displayed by each and every one of our students.

One of the most notable highlights was our fantastic performance in the Basketball competition. The energy at our matches was electric, and it was evident when I popped to the Sports Hall that the Senior team was giving it their all. Despite a setback earlier in the game with Dan Tahir leaving us to join Tudor House (and scoring some incredible goals along the way!), he made his return to Beaufort, and together we dominated the court, clinching a win and bagging an impressive 38 points. It was a truly inspiring display of teamwork, and our victory was a testament to the heart and passion of Beaufort House.

Beyond the competitions, we've also seen some positive changes and memorable moments. We have made the move to holding our assemblies in the Dining Hall, with a few in the Sports Hall as well. These new spaces have brought a fresh energy to our gatherings and have allowed us to reflect on various important topics...despite some sound issues.

One assembly that stood out was led by Owen, one of our House Captains, who gave an inspiring talk on leadership. Drawing inspiration from Emma Watson's powerful words, "If not me, who? If not now, when?", Owen encouraged everyone in Beaufort to take initiative, step up, and embrace the leadership opportunities that surround us each day. It was a truly motivational moment, and it reminded us all of the power of leadership and responsibility within our House.

We also had some thought-provoking assemblies, such as the one we held on Valentine's Day, which touched on the importance of love and commitment, with a bit of a shoutout to my grandparents Barbara and Ken. Our assembly on Mental Health was another important event, emphasising the need to look out for each other and foster an environment of support and understanding. We also explored the fascinating topic of Storm Names, linking it to the strength and resilience of people in the face of adversity. Maybe we'll be seeing a Storm Beaufort next year...!

One of the most special moments of this half-term for me, was when we held a joint virtual assembly with Tudor, Howard, and Seymour Houses to celebrate International Women's Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of women across the world, and we specifically honoured the Tudor women who share the same names. This collaboration fostered a sense of unity between the Houses and allowed us to reflect on the importance of gender equality and empowerment.

Although the leadership board may not reflect all our hard work, what truly matters is the energy, enthusiasm, and sense of belonging that Beaufort House continues to foster. We are a House that prides itself on supporting one another, working together, and striving to do our best, both in competition and in our everyday actions. Remember to be more like Pumba and Timon! I look forward to seeing how we continue to grow and thrive as we head into the Summer term.

Keep up the great work, Beaufort! I am incredibly proud of all of you. Have a lovely Easter Break.

Miss Marston
Head of Beaufort House



Seymour House Report

Seymour have continued to rip up the rule book when it comes to house events this term, paying no heed to performances in previous years and undeterred by outmoded form guides. With the exception of house swimming, where we once again proved ourselves to be the armband house (despite the best efforts of the year 7 victor ludorum Joshua Rowlands, who, impressively, won three individual events for the house), we turned the tables on last year's results and put to bed the rumours that Seymour don't have the nerve to hold onto the precious lead that we had eked out for ourselves in the winter term. The championship has become a two horse race between Seymour, with the air and grace of the Lloyd's stallion, and Tudor, who give the impression of a Shetland pony giving it their best shot. Both houses are being fired up by their respective heads, with each event, seemingly, going down to the final kick, throw or strike. A single point separates us at the time of writing, and, as the championship goes down to the wire, we are both keen to avoid missing out of the coveted prize, ruefully thinking we shoulda, woulda, Rudda. Special mention must go to Bawan Ahmed for his performance in house table tennis, Amogh Prasad for holding his nerve in house chess, Matthew Ransbotyn, house captain, for leading the seniors to victory in house handball, Haaziq, Ishan, Hashim and Yusuf, for dominating house hockey and the whole house for their general levels of commitment and enthusiasm for house events this year. We have already made our mark on the house championship and, for those in the know, we have left an impression on the house shield – I hope it is a lasting one. Mr T Dowling

Tudor House Report

Tudor continues to thunder onwards in the House Championship in the Spring Term.

Frequently we have had such a good turn out for events we have struggled to get playing time for everyone, such has been the commitment to the Green Machine this year!

At the time of writing Tudor has regained the lead in the House Championship following another strong showing in swimming. Finishing in second behind an extremely strong Beaufort team, reigniting memories of its swimming glory days.

The positions and the points make the difference though and with Tudor finishing 2nd and Seymour last we snatched the lead rightfully back.

There were a number of extremely strong performances, despite some issues hearing the starting whistle. We were led once again brilliantly by our House Captain Shrikannan, but there were also brilliant performances from Samuel Cheung and Ethan Bennett. As well as Jacob Hanratty who outshone students a year above him. The Intermediates also won the relay, after drafting in Julian Lo who swam above his age group. A shout out should also go to William Fuller, who owing to an accounting error (I do not know the difference between 6 and 7) we had too many swimmers in year 7. He volunteered to stand aside, showing true commitment to the team! True to the attitude William has demonstrated all year, well done! Despite singling people out it was truly a team effort!

We also had strong performances in a number of events, coming 2nd in Chess, 2nd in Volleyball and 2nd in Handball. Another stand out performance was in the year 9 volleyball, where they won all 3 of their matches to dominate the competition. Sami Osman's serve devastating the competition, but once again the whole team deserves the victory.

Notable mention also go to the stand ins for chess, due to illness we were down players and yet in came Abu-Bakr Ismail, who not only took part, he won most of his matches.

We round off the term with Rugby 7s with the Year 7s storming to victory!

We have also had some changes this term, making a move from the main hall to the Triple Classroom. Which has not always been a smooth transition, but we have made it work.

We have also have also had some memorable assemblies a standout being

The joint virtual assembly with Beaufort, Howard, and Seymour Houses to celebrate International Women's Day. With the inspiration and leadership from Miss Marston

We used the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of women across the world, and we specifically honoured the Tudor women who share the same names. This collaboration was a brilliant chance to show a united message across the houses and although we are divided in the competition we are joined in our shared values.

A final, well done to everyone that has represented Tudor so far this year and will continue to do so over the coming year. Our recent success is down to you! Once again the Green Machine thunders on! And hopefully to victory!

Mr A Rudd



Howard House Report

What a long and exciting term of events for the House competition. It does not only seem like yesterday that we started the ball rolling in January with an assembly based on the magical properties of the number 2025 and then we went into the clutches of competition with Chess offering a means to show off in an area of traditional strength, however, only the seniors came out on top and we were limited to fourth place – thanks to Year 13s Karan Kukreja and Joel Skaria for their persistent and powerful performances over the many years in the chequered square (but not as good as 45 x 45). A joint third in the table tennis and fourth place in the music competition should not detract from some excellent individual and ensemble performances.

In the team sports of Handball, Volleyball and Hockey, Howard were always able to show competitiveness and it was delightful to see an overall win in the Handball competition with our teams proving strongest in years 7, 8 and 9 which made up for some senior challenges.... Year 7s also won in volleyball but it was a mixed bag in other year groups. The Senior Hockey players made up for this with a strong second place. Rugby looks promising with at least a second place on the cards providing good performances in 7s from the more ancient year groups.

Well done also to the students in years 7 to 10 for coming out on top in swimming standards which gave us a narrow lead going into the swimming gala. Our elite swimmers were competitive but could not quite sustain our lead and we finished a creditable third. Stand out performance came from the Year 8 relay squad and Eisa Randeree who won 'the Plunge' and could dive the furthest of any competitor – Bravo!

With an action-packed summer term coming up, we look forward to remaining competitive and hoping to acquire enough points to make the follow-on from a Championship year more than just a damp squib.

GNH