



# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

**Autumn 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the current academic year. I would like to wish a warm welcome to our new staff and students and their parents. Camp Hill Boys is often described as a family and whilst joining a new family can sometimes be a nervous and uncertain experience I really hope that you are all experiencing the warm welcome that we are known for.

Alongside our new Year 7 and Year 12 students we welcome our new Deputy Headteacher Mr Michael (Maths), Mrs Bicknell (English), Ms Pike (Geography), Ms Bunce (Maths), Mr Brown (PE), Mr Deery (PE and cover) and Mr Lakkineni (Y14 student intern).

We are also very grateful to Mr Jackson for providing PE teaching whilst we awaited the arrival after half term of our new 2<sup>nd</sup> in PE, Mr Morrissy. More recently we welcome our new receptionist, Mrs Baerentzen, and our new Music administrator, Caleb Wilton. It is a pleasure to work alongside such a dedicated staff team and we look forward as our new staff settle into their new family.

The school continues to thrive and we remain as busy as ever, with Christmas Concerts and Carol Services, joint school productions (The Importance of Being Earnest was a triumph), our recent Prize Giving ceremony and our fabulous Charity Week, which was planned and run entirely by our students.

I want to wish our Year 13 students the best of luck with their university and apprenticeship applications, and with their forthcoming mock examinations. I remain optimistic that the Year 11 students have done themselves justice in the recent GCSE mock exams. Whilst we hope that all have done well we know that life can present various challenges and we continue to provide support where it is needed. I hope that our parents are not too stressed with all these mock exams going on!

The school community continues to enjoy a huge array of sporting, musical and drama opportunities. Already we are planning our Senior production of Les Miserables, and the House competition calendar is now in full swing. The wonderful array of competitions and trips, both academic and cultural, continues at full pace. I cannot list them all but rest assured that Olympiads, Chess competitions, Quizzes, University Lectures, Debating, Mock interviews, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Languages homestays, and more continue apace.

We recently welcomed parents of Y7, Y10 and Y12 in to school for updates on the next phase of their children's school journey and I am grateful for all the support you give us in encouraging your children to engage with the full offering at Camp Hill Boys. I am also grateful for the parents who attended our recent Parent Focus Group on the subject of safeguarding, and your response to the recent Online Safety parents event has been extraordinary.

In our Prize Giving ceremony, I spoke about the importance of being a discerning consumer of data and information, particularly when searching online or engaging with the potentially pernicious and addictive social media algorithms, and I am grateful for all parents who reinforce these messages. We are not saying that all online activity is unhelpful or dangerous, but we are clear that we need to work together to promote the safer use of the internet for young people.

Whilst I am here, I want to give a thank you message for all those who have supported the Association of Friends of the School (AFS) and their efforts to engage with the parent body, to support school events, and to raise funds to support the students' development. You are a generous and positive group who really go beyond the call of duty and I thank you for all you do. In particular, can I remind all parents to make donations to the pre-loved uniform campaign when your child out-grows their uniform or PE kit.

This summer the school took further steps to achieve our sustainability mission by installing solar panels on our flat roof spaces and we are anticipating reductions in our ecological footprint as well as energy cost savings. We also secured a grant to install charging points for electric vehicles thus promoting more sustainable travel for our staff and visitors. We have also completed the installation of the new outdoor food serving facility, lovingly christened by the students as "The Shack" although I have heard other phrases apparently involving the name Bowen and Burgers.

Our Development Office has been organising more old boy tours and reunions, more recently welcoming the class of 2014 and from 1982! We are really keen to welcome all of our alumni to visit the school and I find it very rewarding showing our former students around their Alma Mater. Please encourage the older students to sign up for the alumni newsletter before they leave the school next summer as we love to keep in touch. Please also spread the news that we will be hosting our first Alumni Dinner for some years on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

I have regular meetings with our project management team for the new Camp Hill Community Hub and I am pleased to report that good progress has been made. You will remember that this new building will be situated on the bank next to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby pitch and it will provide much needed classrooms, toilets, changing rooms and dining space. Below I have included an artist's impression of what it might look like and I commend the design's homage to the industrial heritage of Birmingham. We are very excited, and we remain hopeful that, if all goes to plan, we might be able to start using the new building in September of 2026.



Our fundraising target of £4.5m in order to complete both the building and a new all-weather pitch is now tantalisingly within reach. Recent very generous gifts from alumni and parents mean that we have now achieved a total of £3.7m. It is heart-warming to see how much our current families and former students value the experience that Camp Hill Boys offers and every gift, no matter how small, counts! Please spread the word about our fundraising campaign, and even if you don't feel that you can support us with a monetary donation, please let others know about this fantastic and much needed project.

It has been a busy term, and it remains for me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas Holiday. I hope you all manage to enjoy some peace and happiness and some quality family time, and that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to another exciting term in January.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen

Headmaster

December 2024

### **European Day of Languages 2024**

This year's language day - or three days even - has been a resounding success! The event started with a Cake Bake Off on Tuesday, with cakes ranging from all kinds of cultures and backgrounds, from a Polish poppy seed cake, to a Jamaican fruit tart, to an Indian Delicacy. There were an incredible 50 entries. The judges were astounded by the quality, variety and enthusiasm of participants and had a really tough time deciding on a winner. Continuing onto Wednesday, the students were treated to a European Food Tasting session during the lunch hour, allowing students to experience dishes and tastes from all over Europe, including Mr Renault's exquisite French Cheeses and the German department's large selection of different cold meats. Once again, there was a brilliant turnout and everything was polished off. We finished off the week with a humorous assembly, starring Mr Bowen's comedic attempt at learning an African language completely oriented around clicking noises. The whole assembly hall reverberated with laughter and sounds like popcorn and crickets as they tried to speak the language themselves. All in all, this year's language day (or three!) was a massive triumph, and I am looking forward to seeing what will be in store for this event next year!

Mateusz Grzesik 9C







### German Homestay

At 3:55am on the (early) morning of the 25th September 2024, a group of excited Year 9 students gathered at the Lufthansa check-in desks within Birmingham Airport. They were preparing to board LH959 to Frankfurt, ready to meet the very same exchange partners that visited them at home back in March of 2024. I, Omer Arshad, was one of them.

When we first arrived at Frankfurt Airport, there was a journey ahead of us to reach the suburb of Bergen-Enkheim, where we would meet our partners at their school, the Schule am Ried. To get there, we first embarked on the S-Bahn from the Airport to Konstablerwache, then headed on the U-Bahn to Enkheim, a railway line and station we would grow very familiar with throughout the week. From there, we walked to the school, were picked up by our partners and sat at home for the remainder of the day, unpacking our belongings and settling into our residences for the next week. However, a limited number of us were gifted with some laser tag for the evening.

On the second day of the homestay, we headed to the city centre of Frankfurt using the U-Bahn from Enkheim, and travelled to the top of the Helaba Tower, also known as Main Tower. From there, we were permitted to gaze at a picturesque view over Frankfurt. We could spot the main Hauptbahnhof (railway station) and even Frankfurt Airport, though it was difficult to see due to its distance from the city centre. After our gazing had concluded, we took a group photo and headed 55 floors back down to the ground. After a short walk to our meeting place, we were given 1 hour of free time within the city, but we didn't venture far within that time. We made our way to the MyZeil shopping centre, and rode the longest unsupported indoor escalator in Europe. On the top floor of the shopping centre, we found one of the cheapest ice creams in Frankfurt, only €2,50 for 2 scoops, an absolute bargain compared to the insane €7,60 being charged for Spaghettieis (spaghetti ice cream) at the shop in Bergen. The cheaper ice cream also unarguably tasted better.

Once our time at the city centre had ended, we went to Frankfurt zoo. However the rain was not kind to us there. We were so soaked that we could barely enjoy the place. However, despite the disruption to our trip, we did see many unique animals, including a lion and his wife, capybaras, various reptiles, penguins, zebras and a tiger!

After the zoo, we made our way back to the Schule am Ried and our partners took us back to our homes.

At home, we accustomed ourselves to the German way of living. We ate LOTS of bread. Germans love their Brot and their Brötchen. However, when we weren't eating bread, we were entertained by our partners. Me and Julius, my partner, found a collective passion for UNO, which we played very competitively. I beat him a few times, and he beat me a few times. He also taught me how to play Fortnite, a game he was obsessed with, yet a game I will probably never play again.

School starts much earlier than it does in England, and I found myself having to wake up consistently at around 6:45 am - very early!

Omer Arshad

## German Homestay

Going to a foreign country is no easy task, for both students and teachers alike, but at 03:55 in the morning at the airport? That's when you start to feel *sorry* for the students (and teachers), but we appreciated the extra couple of hours in Germany, just as our exchanges enjoyed missing the day of school. I was greeted by my German exchange, Amelie, and tons of German chocolate and sweets. When we got there, sleep deprived and all, we went home for the first day, appreciating those extra hours. The German houses were much different from British ones, from Brotschneider (bread cutting machine) to windows that seemed to fall on you! The first day went amazingly, catching up with fellow exchange students, and playing highly competitive games of exploding kittens (just me), and enjoying the rest overall.

Then came the first day of activities, but myself and my partner were overcome by a setback never seen before, hyper-efficiency, yes that's right! Our bus arrived 10 minutes early and we missed it! After a few messages and phone calls though, we made it to Enkheim station just in time for the train to the zoo, which was amazing, with animals from all over the world, and a haven for, not just the animals, but us as humans, with birds free-roaming, and even a petting area! I can't miss out though the amazing Main Tower building, putting us on plane level with Frankfurt airport as well as being able to see the whole city. That is if the wind doesn't knock off your glasses!

On the Friday, we went to the Dialogmuseum, which was a museum for the blind. When I heard of this, I thought it was your everyday museum, but no. This museum made you blind (not really), it was pitch black and all you had was a blind stick, and your other senses. The museum taught you to use all of your senses, and also teaching you real situations like crossing the road or getting on a train. It was an amazing experience. Free time in the city centre was interesting, with many people going to Der M (McDonald's) while others (like myself) were caught going to a bakery by Dr Loghin, who bought everyone some authentic German bread.

On the weekend, people did many things, some people bumped into one another in cake shops. Most people, if not everyone, had some bread if they hadn't already, but my partner and I, along with a few others, made the trip out of Frankfurt to go to the Felsenmeer. Now if I was going to explain this in a few words, it was essentially a couple of rocks on a hill that you climbed, but that didn't stop us having a game of tag on the way up. The rain set in on the way down, which could have caused the game of tag to turn into a game of survival! We certainly didn't miss the British weather, as it was present in Germany half the time.

The trip was an amazing experience, and the advice I give to current year 7s or (maybe) year 8s, you should definitely go on this trip. It gives you an insight into the depth of German culture, but also gives you a friend for life. I will be back in Germany soon, eagerly waiting for the same experience.

Xai Sandhu





## Ritangle Challenge 2024

Over the last couple of months, a group of dedicated mathematicians competed in a mathematics competition called Ritangle (pronounced 'right angle' or 'wry tangle'), run by MEI. The competition consisted of 3 stages, with Stage 1 being released slowly over the two months.

Stage 1 began by releasing one question every week for 3 weeks, which left us hungry for more questions, which is when it changed to 3 questions a week for the remaining 6 weeks. This gave us 20 questions, each of which had an enthralling mathematical twist or challenge, and were incredibly fun to solve. These questions involved number theory, geometry and calculus.

*"Nothing compares to the thrill of hiding your phone under the table in form to do ritangle questions" ~ Shubham Kumar about solving stage 1 questions.*

Many participants engaged in an informal competition to solve the questions first, which created (un)healthy competition, driving each other to mathematical success. They were solved incredibly quickly, with members - notably Shubham Kumar, Adwaya Gupta and Zack Lai solving them in the morning - with intention to prevent Alex Hopkins from answering a single question in Ritangle.

On the final Friday, Stage 2 and 3 were released. This gave us 8 questions all at once, at 4pm. Initially, when we tried to log in and submit our answers, the website was down. Some lucky individuals had the questions saved on their screens, and kept working, but others were left in utter despair. Luckily this cleared up in 5 minutes, and we all took this break to munch on Domino's pizza, courtesy of the best maths teacher; we love you Mr Dowling! We proceeded to rush through these questions, solving all 8 in three-quarters of an hour, through epic teamwork and Desmos.

Stage 3 was password protected, and required a four digit code, obtained by solving all of stages 1 and 2, and then solving 4 crossnumber puzzles, which each provided us with the location of a city in the USA. The first letter of each would give us the code.

This was the first point of despair. The four crossnumbers each had their own team, and Team Q and S solved theirs pretty much immediately. Due to some organizational awfulness, team P consisted of only one person, and hence it did not get solved at all. Team R, consisting of Kumayl, Raphael and Alex, managed to only solve to find the longitude of the city, but with aid from Google Maps, Arnav and Raph managed to pinpoint Louisville.

With 3 of the crossnumbers being solved, and by sheer ingenuity Raphael managed to spot that the final letter was N - from the word RiTaNgLe - yielding the code RTNL.

Stage 3 involved solving three much larger crossnumber puzzles, each with its own mathematical focus. The first crossnumber was Number soup, which involved an in-depth knowledge of sequences many of us had never heard of before, such as lucky, happy, harshad, lucas and cullen numbers. The team focusing on this was Alex, Raph, Adwaya, and Kumayl. We had to print large lists of numbers and compare digits repeatedly, finding possibilities and brute forcing combinations until they yielded an issue. Unfortunately, we made assumptions and had to reprove certain possibilities, spending countless hours in a circular pattern. We managed to deduce half the grid and find 2 approaches to solving the rest of the grid in certain combinations by using the symmetry of the grid's clues. Eventually, Alex managed to find the final solution by disproving an earlier assumption and finding possibilities of the final clue.

Triangles, the second crossnumber, was focussed around triangles, triangular numbers, and primitive pythagorean triples. This was worked on by Taheen, Umair, Arnav and Shubham on the day. Umair found a numerical solution to the problem, which passed our "checks", but Shubham Kumar *to crack the puzzle by using insane logical reasoning and assumptions which lead them to complete everything. Astonishingly, this was the first puzzle the team solved, followed by Triangles, and then Number Soup.*

Overall, we managed to complete the entire competition, and await a judgement in our placements nationally. Fortunately, the questions were easier than last year, so we could all work on them feasibly. Gratitude must be stated for our Year 13 members, who are in the midst of University admission preparations.

~ The Ritangle Team 2024/25

The Ritangle Team 2024/25:

Shubham Kumar

Adwaya Gupta

Zack Lai

Raphael Mahgerefteh

Alex Hopkins

Jingxi Bai

Kenny Lau

Kumayl Vanat

Umair Malik

Taheen Islam

Dinesh Balu

Arnav Aphale

David Bai

Owen Lau

### English Department – Autumn 2024

This term always flies and this year is no exception. It seems hard to believe, as I write this, that it is almost December and we have experienced our first snow of the year.

As a Department, we have focused on encouraging students' reading and writing skills this term and we launched the Year 7 and 8 Diverse Reading Challenge for the first time. This was launched by Mrs Parmar during an assembly and encouraged students to take full advantage of the Library's inspiration book collection and to read a wide variety of texts from a range of authors from different backgrounds and countries. We are, for example, working hard to encourage the boys to read authors of colour such as Maria Liu, author of: 'War Cross', Taran Matharu, author of the Summoner series amongst others.

In addition, as always Year 7 and 8 students took part in Readathon. This is an annual charity event and raises money for the charity: 'Read for Good' who provide books for young people who are in hospital, as well as giving back twenty percent of the proceeds to our own school library.

Furthermore, the Department believes in encouraging students' writing skills, with Dr Donnelly continuing to run a creative writing club for all called: 'Scribblers'. And this term, Mrs Robertson ran a Spooky Story Competition, as she details below:

As the leaves changed colour, the nights drew in and the boys at Camp Hill felt the first chill in the autumnal air, our year 7 and 8 students honoured the season by writing their own spooky stories.

Submissions were of a very high quality and the judges had a hard time narrowing these down into the ten short listed students. These selected students came together to read their stories aloud to an audience in the hall just before half term.

The event was a great opportunity to showcase the writing talent of our KS3 students. Their stories were enhanced thanks to the mastery of our sixth form tech team who transformed the setting by adding light and sound effects to the event.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a story and to Mr Ogglesby, Dr Donnelly, Ms Garvey, Ms Mitchell-Barnes and Ms Robertson for judging the entries.



*Mr Ogglesby reading a spooky story.*



## English Cont'd

Next term, we are running a trip for Year 11 students to Birmingham's Symphony Hall, where they will attend a Poetry Live Event run by the Examination Board AQA. We are particularly excited as this will feature many of the writers that they are currently studying for their English Literature examination in the summer.

And, it will of course, be time for our annual Public Speaking Competition, where all students from Year 7 through to Year 10 give a speech on a topic of their choice, with a select few going through to the Final at the end of the Easter Term.

JLP

## Out of School Achievements

We are very proud of two of our Year 7 students (Johan and Samuel) who performed in at the Birmingham Hippodrome with Birmingham Royal Ballet in October. The performance (called 'Luna') is a contemporary ballet which celebrates

Birmingham's trailblazing women and explores powerful themes of women's roles, education, and empowerment.



Out of School Achievements cont'd:

Well done to Eesa (who is also in Year 7) who won two silver medals representing England in the World Championship kickboxing tournament this Autumn.





## Music

The Autumn Term has given us lots of opportunities to celebrate everything going on musically in school: both in terms of the excellent standard of our most able musicians and the great sense of community in the department. As always, the latter half of the term takes a more festive tone.

### Chamber Concert

Our first joint event of the year with the girls' school was the Chamber Concert which took place on Tuesday 12 November. The concert featured performances by the Jazz Ensemble, Oboe Ensemble, Senior Guitar Quartet, String Orchestra, Training Wind Band and Wind Quintet. Particular congratulations to **Garloon Ho** (violin), **Will King** (cello) and **Joel Foo** (piano) who performed solo items. Garloon played J. S. Bach's 'Gavotte en Rondeau' from *Violin Partita No. 3 in E major*, Will played *Danse Rustique* by William Henry Squire and Joel played Chopin's *Fantaisie Impromptu*.

### House Music

This year's House Music competition took place on Thursday 21 November. As usual, we welcomed back Mr Palmer (former Head of Music) as judge.

In the Junior Category, Beaufort's entry saw **Satvik Manyam** (piano) submit a solo entry, and **Xu Wang** (piano) and **Arish Hassan** (flute) perform the ensemble item. In the Senior Category, **Zane Shah** (electric guitar) performed the solo entry, and **Akbar Butt** (piano) and **Hemakesh Muddha** (flute) submitted the ensemble item.

Howard's entry saw **Judeson Kochakkadan** (voice) submit the solo entry for the Junior Category;

**Joel Skaria** (piano) play the solo item for the Senior Category; and **David Bai** (piano), **Vrishank Battu** (flute), and **Alex Hopkins** (violin) perform the ensemble item for the Senior Category.

**Oskar Pineau** (piano) performed the solo entry for the Junior Category for Seymour and **Ben Atkin** (violin) played the ensemble item. In the Senior Category **Amen Tomas** (voice) sang the solo item, and **Clement Franklin** and **Garloon Ho** (violins) submitted the ensemble item.

For Tudor's entry, **Josh King** (piano) performed Gershwin's *Prelude No. 1* in the Junior Category; **Ian Lam** (euphonium) and **Yuehao Zhang** (piano) performed the ensemble item for the Junior Category; **Sushant Shyam** (piano) played Fauré's *Sicilienne* for the solo item in the Senior Category; and **Hassan Soonsara** and **Malachi Powell** submitted an ensemble item for the Senior Category.

An addition to this year's competition, was the introduction of the Open Category. This was a new category where performances were marked on participation and entertainment value. This saw excellent efforts throughout, but with especially impressive levels of involvement from Beaufort and Seymour. Particular mention must go to Mrs Balkham's solo in Seymour's performance of 'What's Up?' by 4 Non Blondes.

Although it was wonderful to see so many students participating, there had to be a winner: Howard finished in 4th place with **Seymour** clinching a narrow victory over Tudor and Beaufort — who were in 2nd and 3rd place respectively — to win the overall competition.



*House Music: Junior Category performers*



## Carols at QEH

We were delighted to be able to continue our connection with Queen Elizabeth Hospital by singing carols there on Tuesday 3 December at the beginning of the festive season. As always, the choir sang with true dedication and vigour, and were a real credit to us all. We were also very grateful to Mr Palmer for his support in accompanying us. All funds raised went to the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity.



*CHB Choir at Queen Elizabeth Hospital*

## Prize Giving

The Prize Giving ceremony featured excellent performances by some of our most outstanding musicians: **Joel Skaria** (bass) gave a performance of Schubert's 'An die Musik' while **Josh King** revived his performance of Gershwin's *Prelude No 1*. In a slight change to proceedings, the ceremony included a processional fanfare performed by **Clement Franklin**, **Finn Garside** and **Seb Sutton** (trumpets), alongside **Joel Skaria** and **Sushant Shyam** (violins), **Thomas Pitfield** (viola) and Mr Thompson (double bass). As always, the ceremony concluded with a hearty rendition of the school song.

## Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral

Selected members of CHB Choir were fortunate to have the opportunity to sing with Birmingham Cathedral Choir. **Sunil Chand**, **Owen Lau**, **Amen Tomas** and **Kumayl Vanat** all sang alongside the Lay Clerks to get a flavour of the day-to-day realities of lay clerking and choral scholarship in cathedrals and university colleges. The service included Tallis' *Preces and Responses* and Ernest Walker's *I will lift up mine eyes*. The students did an admirable job of coping with the fast pace of a typical rehearsal schedule. We hope these sorts of opportunities will enable students to feel confident to apply for these sorts of opportunities when they arise in life beyond Camp Hill Boys.



*Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral*



*Intermediate Orchestra performing at the Christmas Concert*

## Christmas Concert

More recently, Monday 9 December marked the annual Christmas Concert in conjunction with the girls' school. We were treated to performances by the Intermediate Orchestra, Electric Guitar Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, CHB Choir, String Quartet, SATB Choir, Saxophone Ensemble, Concert Band, Intermediate Wind Band, Lower String Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Quintet and Swing Band. The programme culminated in a performance by the Concert Orchestra, in which, after having had a performance of two movements from *The Nutcracker*, we were fortunate enough to have our annual visit from Father Christmas during *Sleigh Ride*!

## Carol Service

The school's annual Carol Service took place at All Saints Church, Kings Heath on Wednesday 18 December. CHB Choir took on a programme of carols and Christmas favourites, including William Mathias' *Sir Christèmas* and Peter Cornelius' *The three kings*. We had some excellent solos from **Sunil Chand**, **Mateusz Grzesik**, **Josh King**, **Will King**, **Oskar Pineau**, **Thomas Pitfield**, **Joel Skaria**, **Amen Tomas**, and **Kumayl Vanat**. The choir was accompanied by Mr Palmer on the organ together with a brass ensemble joining in for the congregational carols. We were also fortunate to have Mr Hay perform the flute solo for *Sans Day carol*.



*CHB Choir after the Carol Service*

After the service, alongside refreshments, we were treated to some festive background music played by **Alex Hopkins** (violin), **Rhys Jamieson** (cello), **Sushant Shyam** (violin), **Joel Skaria** (violin) and **Thomas Pitfield** (viola).

## Solo Performances

We are lucky to be in a school where we have enough high-calibre musicians to give regular solo performances in our assemblies. This term we have been treated to piano solos from **Joel Skaria** (Y13), **Yuehao Zhang** (Y10), **Akbar Butt** (Y11), **Alex Derrig** (Y8), **Josh King** (Y10), **Joel Foo** (Y7), **Arthur Hill** (Y11), **Ayaan Mehmood** (Y13), **Rupert Bowler** (Y11), **Alexander Cammiss** (Y11), **Kevin Cao** (Y9), **Sushant Shyam** (Y13) and **Will King** (Y8). We also enjoyed violin solos by **Garloon Ho** (Y11) and **Macca Ros-Nalugon** (Y11), a guitar solo by **Paul Harris-Oates** (Y8) and a vocal solo from **Amen Tomas** (Y12). Credit must also go to **Clement Franklin** (Y13) and **Ben Law** (Y11) who both did a fantastic job of the Last Post on the trumpet for our Remembrance Assembly.



## Student Achievements

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

<b>Athan Job</b>	7	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 2	Distinction
<b>Paul Harris-Oates</b>	8	TCL	Guitar	Grade 4	Merit
<b>Will King</b>	8	ABRSM	Cello	Grade 6	Distinction
<b>Muhammad Suhaib</b>	8	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 1	
<b>Rahul Sinha</b>	9	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
<b>Nicolas Hotzel Escardo</b>	10	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 5	Merit
<b>Gus Tremlett</b>	10	TCL	Singing	Grade 5	Merit
<b>Daniel Okpla</b>	11	TCL	Guitar	Grade 3	Merit
<b>Aiden Arul</b>	L	TCL	Singing	Grade 6	
<b>Amen Tomas</b>	L	ABRSM	Clarinet	Grade 5	Merit

A further 'well done' to: **Mauj Dosanjh** who was awarded first prize at the Birmingham Music Festival in the Grade 4/5 music category; **Joshua Rowlands** who participated in the National Concert Band Festival in Warwick with the Junior Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Wind Orchestra and earned a Platinum award; and **Vivek Gohel** performed in the Royal Albert Hall as part of a tabla ensemble.

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

We look forward to a similarly busy Spring Term. Please note the following dates for your diaries:

- Sunday 26 January (13:30 rehearsal | 15:30 performance) - **Orchestral Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral** (Concert Orchestra)
- Wednesday 12 February (during the school day) - **Y7 visit to Symphony Hall** (all of Year 7)
- Wednesday 5 March (19:00) - **Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Parents Evening**
- Tuesday 11 March (17:00) - **Teatime Concert** (Training Wind Band, String Orchestra and chamber groups)
- Wednesday 19 March (during the school day) - **GCSE Ensemble Performance** (all Y11 music students)
- Wednesday 2 April, Thursday 3 April and Friday 4 April (19:00) - **Les Misérables**

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout a busy and music-filled term. On behalf of the Music Department, we wish you all a restful holiday filled with music for the season!

**Josh Watters**    *Head of Music*



### D of E Expedition

After six weeks of diligent preparations for the expedition: creating meal plans, plotting a route card, and learning key survival skills, the group set off on October 18th, to the scenic location of the Clent Hills. Filled with optimism and positivity, the team spirit was high - untempered by the dreary autumnal mist that clung to the sky. After depositing our phones and a last-minute pep talk by Mr Dowling and Miss Toogood, we made good progress - steadily making our way through the route with Ayaan's skillful orienteering, supplemented by the help of some sociable trekkers. Making our way to St Leonard's Church, we enjoyed the well-tended architecture whilst having lunch and a much needed break. Moving on, we continued our hike to the final destination for the day, the Boundless Outdoors Campsite, where we set up our tents and relaxed the toll on our bodies caused by 300 metres of elevation and six hours of walking.

Tragically, our luck turned for the worse overnight, with a torrential downfall leaving our tents drenched and battered. Despite this, the team powered through, swiftly making porridge for breakfast and packing up our equipment - readying ourselves for another laborious but rewarding trek through the countryside. Juxtaposing the dreadful night time weather, the sky cleared up, and by midday we were gifted with a remarkable outlook of the city from the Beacon Hill Toposcope (an imposing 975 ft above sea level). After savouring the view, we continued through the Lickey Hills, walking for another hour to reach our spot for lunch, where we had pitta bread and nutella outside the Duck Pond Café.

For the final stretch, we journeyed between a series of farmland tracts, travelled past the Bit-tell Reservoir and waded through a waterlogged field, to get to the Peacock Inn where we were mercifully collected by our teachers - putting a well-deserved and welcome end to the expedition, where we concluded by reflecting on the difficult yet worthwhile experience, understanding the values of determination, preparation and above all teamwork under a new light.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Mr Dowling and Miss Toogood for their meticulous organisation and encouragement throughout the expedition, providing much appreciated guidance and inspiration when we needed it.

Umair Malik L2

## Sports Newsletter December 2024

### 1st XV Rugby- Tom Burgess

A roller coaster season so far for the 1st XV. The results summary is played 8, won 4 and lost 4. However, this doesn't tell half the story. New captain Senan Brosnan rallied the troops and had the boys back in for pre-season in June! The hot summer seasons made sure the team was ready for the first match against fierce rivals, KE Five Ways. This encounter did not disappoint - end to end in glorious sunshine. Matthew Ransbotyn scored early on to edge Camp Hill in front. A try of the season contender by Year 11 debutant Lemual Adjei followed, beating at least six defenders to score from half way out. Then the game went down to the wire! KE Five Ways bounce back to edge in front 14-12. With only time for a kick off left, Daniel Kippax somehow regained possession for Camp Hill, then what felt like an age of pressure followed only for Luke Dolan to dive over in the corner to take the win for Camp Hill in the last play of the game, 19-14! A similar pattern has emerged throughout the season so far, this team doesn't make it easy for themselves! After two disappointing results against Newcastle and Shrewsbury, the team bounced back in style. This time a thrilling contest against local rivals KE Aston. Rhys Jamieson scored to equal the scores 7-7 with only 10 minutes remaining. Camp Hill took the fight to Aston and were rewarded with a penalty with only two minutes remaining. Up steps fly half Luke Dolan for the kick of his school careers. 25 metres, wide out left- not an easy kick by any means. The ball felt like it was in the air for an age, only for the linesman's flags to go up, sparking wild celebrations amongst the Camp Hill XV and supporters on the sideline. Two more losses unfortunately followed vs Hereford Cathedral School and Adams GS. Next up, Bishop Vesey - again an absolute nail bitter. Karl Rodrigo, James Fung and Musa Ahmed scored tries, keeping Camp Hill in the game. Once again, in the dying moments of the game, the team pulled it out the bag. Karl Rodrigo dived over from 30 cm to secure victory in the last play of the game. You guessed it.. Wild celebrations ensued. The penultimate game pre Christmas was at home against Alcester Grammar School. 17-0 down in the first 10 minutes, it was not looking good. Man of the match Matthew Ransbotyn had a few wise words to say to the team which seemed to kick them into life! 22-19 down with no time left on the clock Christy Baiju made a break, offloaded to Ransbotyn, who ran half the pitch to take victory for Camp Hill! On Wednesday the 18th December both the 1st XV & 2nd XV make the long trip to Hereford Sixth Form to finish the calendar year. This team has hearts of lions and fight until the very end and absolute joy to coach!

Mr Burgess



**2nd XV Rugby-** The second team has had mixed results this year. The first game against KES proved to be a tough game losing 49-5. The same was said against Queen Mary's with another loss. However the team showed massive improvement beating rivals Aston a staggering 76-5 with the referee calling the game early. This result inspired the team and carried through into the next fixture against Haberdasher Adams where they won narrowly at their place 24-17. Despite a number of injuries the boys showed grit and are really standing up ready to be selected to play in the 1st team. The seconds faced the challenge of Haberdashers' Adams' first team and put in a fantastic performance. Despite their determination and skill, the team fell short by just two tries in a closely contested match. A week later we played Bishop Vesey's year 11 side and showed our class by taking the determination and skills we learnt from the previous week against a stronger outfit and put it into practice by outplaying them winning 46-0. I would like to make a very special mention to the lads who have made their first team debuts this year due to the hard work they put in during second team performances: Isam Ahmed, Muteeurrahmaan Shah and Captain Muawiyah Abdi. Just to finish off, I would like to mention what a pleasure it has been to work with such a hardworking and determined bunch of lads who when they are together have an unmathing team bond that would be hard to break down for any team.

Top Point Scorer so far - Raees Latif

Mr Deery





## U15 Rugby

The U15 rugby team have enjoyed a stellar start to the season with 5 wins out of 7 games, amassing 228 points. A small but very talented squad have worked tirelessly so far this season and have improved no end! Seb Robotham has led from the front outstanding leadership on and off the field. He's also contributed an impressive 68 points at the time of writing. Victories this season have come against Adams Grammar School, Queen Marys, King Henry VIII, Haberdashers Telford and North Bromsgrove High School (full details can be found on SOCS). Close defeats came against Solihull and an enthralling encounter against Bishop Vesey. The U15 also came a very respectable 3rd place in the annual Greater Birmingham Competition. Try scores so far this season have come from all over the field and various playing positions: Seb (11), Tom Walker (5), Mushaf Mir (4), Alex Innocenti & Bashir Said (3), Zain Shah, Yasin Elashry, Aarib Mahmood, Jafar Rashid, Ameer Hussain, and Esa Butt. Ollie Smoldon has also kicked beautifully this season, contributing 29 points for the team. As important as the try scorers are, it's also very important to note the value of the other players on the team. The following have contributed hugely to the team without getting their name on the scoresheet thus far: Jiale Chen, Ahnaf Rahman, Ahmed Mahfoudhi, Ibrahim Uddin, Ismael Khan, Miqdad Atta-Ur-Rasul, Muhyadiin Salad, Muhammad Saad Shoukat, Yusuf Abdullah, Joshua King, Sami Saddique. We also await the highly anticipated return from long term injury of Daniel Lo and Barachel Ankrah who have been sorely missed thus far this season. In the 10 years I've worked at CHB, this is the hardest and most competitive team I've had the pleasure of coaching. If they keep up the hard work it could be a season to remember!

TJB

## Under 14 Rugby Report

The Under-14 rugby team has shown tremendous growth and resilience so far this season. In our 9 games, we've won 3, including a memorable comeback against Haberdashers Adam's School, where the team were trailing 17-0 at halftime, but dug deep to turn it around and finish with a 21-17 win thanks to tries from Muhammad Alderwish, Karim Berair and Rahul Sinha. That comeback stands out as the highlight of the season so far and acts as an example of what the team can achieve when they apply consistent pressure without giving up the ball due to silly errors.

Another significant win came against our rivals, Aston, in a closely fought 10-7 encounter. It was a match that demanded discipline, focus, and hard work from everyone, and the team responded in kind. Kingsley Moss delivered a man of the match performance and scored both of our tries with two individually brilliant efforts.

Some key individual performances bear highlighting. Rahul Sinha has been outstanding in attack, leading the team as our top try scorer. Alongside him, Omar Slatter has consistently delivered conversions alongside his three tries, making him our top points scorer. His composure under pressure has kept the scoreboard ticking and proved to be crucial in the dramatic win against Haberdashers.

Two players who have earned recognition for their exceptional performances throughout the term are Taijuan Sonko and Kingsley Moss, both of whom earned spots in the team of the term. Taijuan has been a standout in attack and defence after transitioning to scrum half partway through the season. Kingsley, has also provided crucial contributions in both attack and defence – he is equally comfortable breaking tackles as he is making them.

Karim, our captain, continues to inspire the team with his dogged resolve. His leadership has been a driving force behind the team's spirit, and he has led by example, both in terms of performance and attitude. The team's work ethic has been exceptional, and several players have earned their first caps for the A team, including Yunus Ali, Sufyaan Azad, Hishaam Padia, Zak Ditta, Yusuf Ali, Muhammed Abdi, Jibraan Rashid and Ibrahim Razaq. They have all gained confidence with every game, stepping up to the challenge and adding a new dimension to the squad.

Our defence has improved steadily, but there's always room for growth, particularly in terms of team communication and organization. The team has shown great character, and with continued focus on improving both attack shape and defensive structure, we have the potential to finish the season strongly.

TBD

### **U13- Alex Deery**

We have had good but bad year we have progressed in our target and we have improved on our tackling and passing on Tuesday training we trained on our tackling as at the start of the season we run away from the big guys and we are now tackling with confidence we have learnt to lift our heads up and keep trying as captain I have seen a dramatic improvement in our team.

Sarfaraz Khan

The Year 8 rugby team began their season with a string of tough losses, struggling to find their rhythm and cohesion on the field. Despite their rough start, the players showed remarkable determination, committing to intense tackling practice and training sessions which also focused on improving their teamwork and skills. Week by week, their efforts have started to pay off, with tighter defence, greater teamwork, and gradually narrowing score lines against stronger opponents. The breakthrough finally came when they secured their first hard-fought victory vs Bishop Vesey's grammar school, a testament to their resilience, hard work and growth as a team. This win not only boosted their confidence but also proved that hard work and perseverance truly does pay off when you put the work in. Mr Deery



## U12 Rugby-

The squad has had a difficult start to the year. Despite only a couple of players having seen a rugby ball before they have done incredibly well. The season started against Camp Hill rugby club where the team managed to score 3 tries even though it was their first game ever! Through Saturday fixtures they haven't had much luck either playing against good sides but Camp Hill always holding their own. To the date of writing this the A team still hasn't won a game but showed great determination and commitment to keep coming back and wanting to improve. The potential is there for this team to be a great squad. There have also been a few B C and D fixtures where across the board there has been a mixture of results. To be able to select 4 teams from players who are attending training sessions is a credit to the Year 7s for coming along and giving it a go. I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has attended a session this year! In the final fixtures of 2024 the under 12s went to the greater Birmingham tournament. Despite the terrible weather and stodgy pitches we still managed to play 6 games of rugby. Unfortunately not winning any but were leading Aston until the last minute of the game where they scored 2 tries. Overall this was a fantastic experience for the boys and look forward to placing higher next year! There will be rugby fixtures on the other side of Christmas where this exciting team will look to register their first win! Special thank you to Abe for Captaining the A side through all of the performances. Another thank you goes to those players who have scored a try or more this side of christmas: William Fuller, Evin Watowita, Yaseen Miah, Finn Chauhan, Esa Ahmed and Muhammad Abdullah. Esa and Abdi have excelled in this team both making the school team of the term for their outstanding games on and off the ball! Other mentions in the under 12 games who have come on leaps and bounds are: Ayman Younas, Kieran Seto, Umar Syairani, Zain Kassim, Shaan Hussain, Amar Rama, Rayyan Al-Saedy, Ibraheem Ghazali, Sam Kalimuthu, Arshan Naeem, Johan Beech, Abdur-Rahmaan Ibn Hanid, Mo Bedward-Holland, Owais Sharif, Uraib Kiyani, Aayan Arfan. As for the next steps - let's win some matches as we can only get better from here. AGB





## Team of the Term

CHB Rugby Team of the Term – Sept- Dec 2024							Points Scores:						
Pos	Name	MP	Tries	Cons	Pens	Points	PPG						
1	Sebastian Robotham (Under 15)	9	11	5	1	68	7.56						
2	Omar Slatter (Under 14)	13	3	12	1	42	3.23						
3	Ollie Smoldon (Under 15)	10	1	17	0	39	3.90						
4	Muhammad Abdullah (Under 12)	10	7	0	0	35	3.50						
5	Esa Ahmed (Under 12)	10	6	0	0	30	3.00						
6	Abdur-Rahmaan Ibn Hanid (Under 12)	5	6	0	0	30	6.00						
7	Abdul Hadi (Under 18)	5	1	10	0	25	5.00						
8	Raees Latif (Under 18)	5	5	0	0	25	5.00						
9	Tom Walker (Under 15)	11	5	0	0	25	2.27						
10	Mohammed Hussain (Under 12)	3	5	0	0	25	8.33						

## 1st XI Football

It has been a promising start to the season for the 1st XI football team. They have really bought into the possession based game we are trying to develop and it has been a pleasure to see some of the quality football that the team is now capable of playing. They are comfortable on the ball, making better supporting runs and work hard for each other when out of possession. The only thing that has let us down so far is our finishing, squandering chance after chance in most of the games we have played (which in part can be blamed on the fact that we use rugby posts as our goals in training...)

Despite dominating the game and being in a winning position against Shrewsbury until the last ten minutes, we came to rue our missed chances losing 2-1. Similarly, a 6-2 defeat against OSH belies the fact we should easily have been 4-0 up at half time. Bitterly disappointing, especially when we had scored probably the best team goal I had seen in years, to get us back to 2-1, before defensive lapses cost us dearly. The pinnacle of the season so far came at Handsworth, winning 9-2, in what again was the best team performance I had seen in years, though the recent 4-4 scoreline in the return fixture suggests that greater consistency is needed overall.

Ultimately, if the players can keep themselves fit, injury free and train hard, whilst hopefully working on their finishing, we can look forward to next term with confidence.

NJH

## 2nd XI Football

The 2nd XI have had a really unlucky season to date. Over the three games we have played so far, we have won three of the six halves of football, yet resulted on the wrong end of the scoreline by full time in all three. This is testament to three promising performances that I am sure will produce a win in the near future.

Our first fixture came as a surprise, expecting to only field a 1st XI against Shrewsbury School, to find they had two teams ready to compete. Perhaps the surprise adjustment was the cause of a mostly one sided first half where we found ourselves 3-0 down at half time. Another reason could have been the makeshift starting XI, only being able to start eight 2nd team players and needing an injured first team rugby player, and two players kindly lended by Shrewsbury to complete the XI. A rallying half time team talk saw an improved performance in the second half with 2 goals scored by rugby player turned target striker Malachi Powell, and an OG resulting in a full time score of 5-3 to the home side. Malachi's 2 goals resulted in him being awarded the MOM award (a piece of Mr Burgess' birthday cake). A special mention also to Ayaan Pervaiz who achieved a hat trick of assists with each set piece on the money to get us back in the game.

Our second and third fixture was a double header against Old Swinford Hospital. A dominant performance in the first half should have seen us 1-0 up at the break after Abdi raced clear one on one only to be tripped by an opposing defender just inside the area, however, the ref deemed the foul to be just outside and the resulting free kick hit the wall. A stalemate was expected at half time, before 2 quick fire goals had us behind at the break. First, the OSH left winger drove into the box and squeezed a shot in at the near post, followed by a second just before the half time whistle, when instantly from kick off, OSH won the ball back in midfield and fired a second into the bottom corner from 25 yards. Spirits remained high at half time, and that showed in the second half performance, with Adam Maflahi's finish after a mix up in the OSH backline came too late to salvage a result from the game. Ayaan Pervaiz made his debut as captain, and a solid performance at the back by Ben Hodggets resulted in him being awarded the MOM.

Our third and final fixture of the term completed a double header against OSH. Ayaan led the team out as captain again, and an alternative set up in tactics and formation moving from the 4-2-3-1 to 3-4-3 paid dividends at half time, as we were 2-1 ahead thanks to a brace from Adam Bashir. We went one nil up after Adam rounded the goalkeeper and slipped the ball into the empty net. Quickly after we had taken the lead OSH equalised with a good finish beating the goalkeeper. Just before half time we regained the lead when we were awarded a penalty which Adam confidently stuck away. The second half result was disappointing as key mistakes were punished and fatigue set in towards the end as OSH were clinical. The final score ended in a harsh 5-2 defeat. Despite the disappointing result the lads remained upbeat and we are all confident that our first win is only around the corner. Adam Bashir's 2 goals meant that he received the MOM award, with a special mention to Jai Thakur who pulled off a string of impressive saves in the first half.

Mr Jackson



### U15 Basketball- Tom

The U15 basketball team kicked off their season with a superb game against Lordswood. After a tense opening 3 quarters, Camp Hill pulled away to win 38-28. Yusuf Abdullah, Basheir Said, Muhammad Saad Shoukat, Aarib Mahmood, Yousuf Hussain all played their part in ensuring victory. Captain Barachel Ankrah, was simply unstoppable scoring the majority of our points. Aston Manor, Bartley Green, Queensbridge, St Georges and Kings Norton Boys all await in the new year.

TJB



### U13 Indoor Cricket- Liam

The u13 indoor cricket team have started their league campaign in a very strong manner. They started against Kings Heath School with a resounding victory. There was a hatrick of wickets for Aariz Irfan in the first over of the contest. This put Kings Heath on the back foot from the start. Further wickets for Aarav Samra, and two wickets for Raghuvamshi Ankam finished off the Kings Heath batting order. Camp Hills batsman then all got in on the scoring. Camp Hill's top scorers were Sativik Manyam and Ibrahim Hussain. Kings Heath 37ao and Camp Hill 37-1.

There second fixture against Moseley was a tighter affair. Moseley won the toss and elected to bat, but once again a good bowling and fielding effort restricted Moseley to 65ao. Wickets for Sulayman Hussain, Aadam Deen and Raghuvamshi Ankam along with 3 runouts saw the end to Moseley's innings. In response Camp Hill seemed determined to keep Moseley in the fixture. Three runouts for Camp Hill nearly saw them lose the fixture but a determined 31\* from Salah Usmaan allowed the boys to stumble across the finish line. Overall, though a positive start from the team.





### U15 Indoor Cricket- Tom

The U15 cricket team entered the Warwickshire indoor cricket tournament with the aim to lift the trophy at finals day at Edgbaston in Spring 2025. So far, so good. In a league of 5 teams, we've won three out of three, one more win will secure our place in finals day. First up was a very satisfying 50 run victory over University of Birmingham School. Mushaf Mir 27\* and Zain Shah 17 set up the victory with an opening stand of 60. Adyan Khan was the standout performer with the ball, taking 3 wickets with high quality leg spin. Leg spin has caused all sorts of problems for opposition teams which have helped the team beat Dame Elizabeth and Kings Heath Secondary School comfortably. Yousuf Hussain, Ayaan Chaudry and Adyan Khan have spun the ball square and taken numerous wickets along the way! Zain Shah, Hashim Wani & Rahul Sinha have bowled with pace and accuracy in all three games.

Ollie Smoldon has kept wicket with great skill and Mushaf Mir had demonstrated his quality throughout, retiring in all three games. Mushaf is not only a fabulous individual player but he also allows the rest of the team to flourish in a really supportive environment. Further congratulations should be given to Mushaf who has recently been selected for the U15 Warwickshire age group. Next up for the side is a home fixture against Turves Green on Thursday 12th December. Whatever the result, it's highly likely that the U15 indoor cricket team will be featuring at Edgbaston for finals day.



### Howard House Report Autumn 2024

“Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this son of Rudd...”. I am not one to disparage the very fine members of Howard House but it seems like House competition has been given a power up by the resurgence of the Green Machine in 2024. It is somewhat disappointing that the only trophy raised by Howard this year was the House Championship Shield for the last academic year at Prizegiving. This could be considered a victory hangover to the point where I would not be surprised if Mike Tyson’s tiger shows up at some point. Nevertheless, it has been an eventful term with a spirited 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the football and some admirable performances in Music, Cross Country, Rugby and Basketball. Some of the most impressive aspects of the term have come in the oblique House Points winning competitions where strong contributions in the Historical Association Great Debate, English Spooky Stories, Volcanoes and Christmas Card Designs have all garnered prizes and plaudits. Howard has also had the triple classroom treatment for Thursday assemblies, a cosy set-up (to say the least) but one which our cerulean students have adapted to with aplomb – such a versatile bunch! Mr Hill has enlivened such occasions with assemblies ranging from vampires to conkers to equal pay to Nintendo – the spring term certainly needs a switch!

GNH

### Seymour House Report

The mighty Seymour quickly brushed off last year’s disappointing house championship result and began this campaign with renewed resolve to reclaim the top spot, starting with an excellent showing in house football. Strong performances across all of the year groups secured first place overall and bragging rights over the other houses. A special shout out must go to Tom Walker in year 10 whose form matched that of Jhon Duran, scoring in every game he started, which was all three. Led by our unfailingly devoted captain Matthew and his vices Zinedine, Rhys ‘The Razor’ Jamieson, Leo and Ayaan, Seymour marched into the Camp Hill Mile, where students across all year groups deployed the tactic of ‘woofing’ to gain a psychological advantage over their opponents. Matthew took the spirit of the dog too literally and bounded off course, adding an additional kilometre or two to his route, which gave Tudor the chance to sneak in just ahead of us - we finished in a respectable second place. So on to house music, where the dulcet tones of Mrs Balkham (who may or may not be a Non-Blonde) inspired an all singing, all dancing line up of Seymour’s finest musicians to collectively ask (and sing) ‘What’s Up?’ in the open entry category. The enthusiasm (if not the musicality) was commended by the judges and did just enough to get us into first place after a respectable showing in the solo and ensemble sections. A revived Tudor house appear to be our main title rivals this year, but a lack of managerial experience has been cited by pundits as a strong reason for favouring Seymour’s chances as we move into the Spring and Summer terms. I would like to thank all pupils who have represented the house so far this year, each of whom have shown great enthusiasm for the house competition and a genuine desire to win the championship. Some have accused Seymour of not playing fairly in previous years, an accusation which I staunchly contest. After hearing rumours of disgruntled rivals, I must make this point clear: Seymour have never cheated in a house competition, but we won’t hesitate to use that tactic again if it is deemed necessary.

TBD

## Tudor House—Autumn Term 2024

Tudor has come flying out of the blocks this year, determined to make a real tilt for the title.

Clearly desperate to right the perceived wrongs of the past and create a new dynasty in green.

The Green Machine rejuvenation has continued with Tudor showing an ever increasing confidence, grit and determination to take the championship. Tudor continues to build on the strong foundation left by Mr Rees last year. A new found belief in Tudor has emerged and has resulted it us being highly competitive across the board.

With strong leadership from the House Captain Shrikannan Selvaganapathy, and the Vice Captains Samar Khan, Krishna Nair Karl, Rodrigo, and Hassan Soonsara; as well as a crackling enthusiasm from our new year 7s we go into the next term just 4 points of the lead and with a 12 point cushion over 3rd place Howard.

We improved in our performance in House Football and took our customary victory in the Camp Hill Mile. As well As second place finish in House Music.

The performance in House Music perfectly reflected the spirited attitude of Tudor House. A second place finish was secured due to a lead created by the skill and talent of our Junior Performers, Josh King, Ian Lam and Yuehao Zhang, and followed up by commitment of the seniors, with Malachi Powell and Hassan Soonsarra stepping in last minute to secure us a crucial 10 points. As well as a cringe worthy but crucial performance in the open competition from students and staff alike.

This momentum continued with a 1st and 2nd place finish in the Senior Quiz. As well as strong performances in Basketball.

We have also introduced our celebration assemblies to congratulate all those who make a significant contribution to the House each half term. With awards for collecting house points as well as those who it is felt made the greatest contribution in each of the year groups. As well as an award for outstanding contribution. It was hard to decide for many of the awards, but in the end the year group awards went to Evin Watowita, Will King, Jacob Hanratty, Basheir Said and Malachi Powell and the overall award went to Josh Kanth.

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!

The Green Machine thunders on! And hopefully to victory!





## Beaufort Autumn Term 2024 Newsletter

Beaufort began this academic year by welcoming our fabulous new House Captain and Deputy House Captains! Christy, Yousif, JJ and Owen have already made waves in terms of getting jobs done, motivating and inspiring students and ensuring we have full teams for all events. I couldn't do my job without them, so a huge thank you and welcome to them! A huge thank you also goes to Mr Burgess and all the PE/Games department for their relentless efforts in running all of the sporting house events; I am sure you will agree that we are so lucky to have such a varied programme on offer here at Camp Hill Boys. At the time of writing this article, we may not be 1<sup>st</sup> in terms of the leadership board, but I know that we've had the most fun and given it our all! We've smashed it in Rugby and Basketball, ending in 1<sup>st</sup> position for these events. So, here's the rundown of Beaufort's 2024 Autumn term!

Our assemblies are now in the library and we've had some incredible contributions from students. This is not an easy task – commanding a room with 250 teenage boys and holding their attention with super important messages is a huge achievement. A big well done to Christy for his inspiring assembly on participation in events, Yousif for encouraging us all to relax with purpose, Senan for reminding us about the importance of our House Colour (red!) and Sarfaraz for educating us about Dyslexia.

A highlight of the Autumn term was the Camp Hill Mile, where despite one or two students seeming to take “detours” and finish at just above a snail's pace (no names mentioned), we applauded Muwaiyah (Year 11) for his excellent result and finish time of 19.09 minutes, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the whole school!!

When it came to Rugby, I enjoyed popping along to see some of the matches and despite a valiant effort from Y9, this was the only year group where we didn't come first! Y9 may have ended up in 4th position but I was very proud of you all, especially at the start when we were scrambling to make the numbers! Brilliant leadership from Yunus and excellent efforts from all, including Tejasv in the scrum and even Biny who managed to get sent off in the first 2 minutes. Seniors then smashed their fixtures the next day.







Next up came Football, and here's a brilliant commentary from Zane Shah (Y11):

*Unfortunately, Seymour won (DUE TO GOAL DIFFERENCE). Beaufort came back from 2 nil deficit to draw 2 - 2 with Seymour - we were so close to winning as well. Our star player was definitely Ali (Our captain in Y13); he consistently put in world class performances, playing with nonchalance, grit and style. I'd say our main motivators were me and Tom Mullen (L7). Ben Hodgetts and Yasir Qanyare also played consistently well throughout the games, and when he played, Vinay Bora was a delight to watch. At the end of the day, it is what it is. We played hard, and well. The only negative that came from this is that Mr Dowling's ego has become more inflated than tyres on an SUV, now that Seymour have won all the House Football competitions in all the age brackets.*

November and December saw Basketball take place. Years 7, 8 and 10 have all come first so far. Whoop whoop – special shout out to Barachel our star player! A big commendation to Montini in Y8 as well, who promoted Beaufort team spirit by ensuring everyone got to have a go on the court. We still have Y9 and Seniors to come at the time of writing!

It's important to remember that it is not just sporting events where Beaufort are thriving.

We've had the Senior Quiz (thank you to our teams for their efforts and coming 3<sup>rd</sup>!) and one of my personal highlights - the House Music competition, brilliantly organised by Mr Watters our Head of Music. A special mention to Satvik, Xu, Arish, Akbar, Hemakesh and Zane for their Solo and Ensemble performances as well as everyone who took part in the Open Category performance of We Will Rock You at lunchtime! Mr Oggelsby and Hemakesh in Y11 started off the performance with their astounding singing skills and then everyone joined in, from Samuel and Esa in Y7 (our wonderful drummer) to Pramath and Zane in Y11 (our startling electric guitarist) to Prefects and staff such as Ms Freeman, Mr Horton, Mr O'Malley, Mr Davies and co. with ties around our heads. Well done everyone, it was so much fun and I think everyone was left in fits of giggles (apart from Dr Taylor who, to quote, said "Freddie Mercury would be turning in his grave").

Well done to our Year 7s who all got involved with the volcano competition ran by the Geography Department and a special shoutout to Ari, Abdullah and Amar from Beaufort who ended up getting prizes. Your entries were so so *lava-ble* - you *rock*!

Miss Robertson also paved the way with a new English writing House Competition, spooky stories! A huge well done to Mr Oggelsby for his spine-chilling story which he read aloud with sound effects and particular congratulations to our very own Lenny Evans for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the competition. You should be so proud.

Finally - last but by no means least, Mrs Smith organised a Christmas card competition, with a special commendation for Benjamin Wrangles and his beautiful design! Well done Ben!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for all of your hard work, for giving it your all in house events and for being so patient during assemblies in the library (particularly those of you who end up standing). Here's to bringing it home next year. We were so close last year, leading the scoreboard right until Sports Day.

Please take time over the Christmas holidays to relax with purpose and do things you enjoy. Maybe even listen to some classical music...!

Happy New Year to all of the Beaufort family: staff, students and your loved ones J

Miss Marston x