



Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Mike Roden BSc NPQH

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2010–11 Chronicle. The pupils at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys have enjoyed another year during the course of which, they have, as usual, been successful in a range of local and national competitions. These are recorded in detail on the School Website / Pupil Achievements tab but here are some highlights.

Alan Egan (now in the Upper Sixth) was awarded the 'Duke of York Prize for the Creative use of Electronics' at the Big Bang Science Fair in London by Professor Brian Cox. At the start of this term we received news that a Lower Sixth student had been awarded an 'Awkright Scholarship' for outstanding achievement in Design Technology. Many congratulations to Ajay Dhunna. Congratulations to George Mather in Year 12 who has been awarded second prize in the Peterhouse College (Cambridge), Kelvin Science Prize for 2011. George wrote an excellent essay examining whether scientific ideas have exerted a force on our civilization fully as great as the more tangible applications of scientific research.

In June, Wai-Ming Yap was awarded (by the Birmingham Chinese Society in Partnership with Birmingham City Council) the Midlands Young Achiever Winner for 2011 category following his nomination for his academic achievements, community contributions to the Chinese community and Cancer Research work as well as for being the only young UK person to have his article published in the China Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

Students at Camp Hill have, once again,

excelled in the Royal Society of Chemistry 2011 Olympiad event by winning five gold, twelve silver and four bronze awards. Staszek Welsh achieved a score which placed him in the top twenty students in the country. Michael Liu won a gold award in the British Physics Olympiad. In the Biology Challenge, Camp Hill students in Years 9 and 10 also excelled winning seventeen gold, twenty two silver and ten bronze awards.

Our mathematicians also continue to shine. Following the Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad competition distinctions (these are for the top 250 candidates) were awarded to five Camp Hill students this year. Tom Else and Robert Walters earned distinctions with Robert also receiving a medal that places him in the top 100. Sam England and Giles Moss finished 10th and 40th respectively. Max Cheung was one of 4 students nationally to score full marks on this very challenging paper. This is a truly outstanding achievement and he was invited to the UKMT summer school.

Our sportsmen have continued to take full advantage of the opportunities available. The junior Rugby and Hockey tourists enjoyed their tour to Carlisle and the senior players to the north-east of England. Nick Wilson finished 7th in the Intermediate Hurdles at the English Schools Finals in Gateshead. The 1st XI cricket team played the MCC at Kings Heath CC. This year proved a triumph for the school as we gained a notable victory for only the third time in 30 years. The MCC were bowled out for just 119, Chris Curtis taking 5 wickets for 23 runs in a fine spell of bowling. Asim Shoaib scored 69 not out to lead us to an 8 wicket success. The U14 cricket squad were runners-up in the Willis Trophy, the Birmingham Schools Cup.

There has been the usual impressive range of events provided by our large number of talented musicians. Robert Smith won an organ scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford. In drama, we have seen three excellent productions – the junior production of 'Canterbury Tales', the Sixth Form pantomime 'Robin Hood' and his Musical Merry Men' and this year's senior production of 'Cabaret'.

I would like to express my thanks, on behalf of the boys, to all the staff involved in delivering our extracurricular programme of activities. The list of curricular and extra-curricular trips continues to grow and grow.

All five Grammar Schools of the King Edward Foundation converted to academy status on 1 August 2011. I would like to thank all of the support staff at the Foundation Office and, especially, here at Camp Hill, for the tremendous work they did to ensure the administration process ran smoothly. Our new status has led to an increase in funding and independence from the Local Authority.

In March, Mr Robert Barbour (HMI) visited the school to undertake an Ofsted Subject Survey Inspection of Mathematics. This was, compared to the three previous whole school inspections, a much more rigorous programme. Every member of the department was observed teaching. Interviews took place with me, the Head and Second in Department, and with two groups of pupils. Schemes of work, assessment and department self-evaluation documentation were also scrutinised. I am delighted to report that the department was graded outstanding in all categories. In September, a case study was posted on the Ofsted Website. It is entitled '*Engaging able mathematics students: King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys*'. Many congratulations to the staff and students involved.

The Governors have given their approval to allow the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English and Modern Foreign Language Departments (French and German) to deliver what were known as iGCSE courses from September 2011. This request had been made in response to the concerns expressed throughout the course of this academic year at the impact of the new GCSE specifications, especially the impact of the 'controlled assessment' on the quality of teaching and learning time. Their assessment methods (which use only terminal examinations) reflect the intention of the Secretary of State to end modular style assessment with effect from September 2013.

From September 2011, all pupils will be able to choose either or both French and German for GCSE. This means the end of setting in French. A Modern Foreign Language will however, remain compulsory for all students at GCSE.

The academic year drew to a close with another very impressive set of examination results. 81.7% of all GCSE's were at A*/A grades and a staggering 53.5% were at A* grade. Two students (Talaj Cheema and Robert McDonald)

Editorial

achieved 11 straight A* grades, four (Osama Hamid, Faheem Malik, Adnan Mohammad and Sanjay Nath) achieved 10 straight A* grades, five (Kameran Ali, Sam Archer, Ajinkya Bhalerao, Benson Cheng and Kuran Rati) achieved 10 A*'s and one A grade. 43 out of a year group of 102 achieved straight A*/A grades. 87.3% of students in the year group achieved at least 5A*/A grades. 90 pupils achieved at least 5A*/A grades (87 in 2010 and 84 in 2009). These results meant that the school was prominent, once again, by being ranked tenth place for %A* and eighteenth for %A*/A for state schools (published by *The Times* newspaper).

It was a record-breaking year with 32.1% of A Levels (excluding General Studies) being passed at A* grade and 90.6% A*/B. The figure of 71.8% was close to the existing school record (set in 2008). 56 pupils achieved at least one A* grade. 13 pupils achieved three A* grades, two achieved 4A* grades, seven achieved 4A* grades and an A grade and one student, Serge Wicker an astonishing 5 A* grades. The percentage A* result placed the school fifth in the national league tables for state schools (published by *The Times* newspaper) and for this criteria this was the best result for any King Edward Foundation School. 15 students (equalling the school record set last year) are just about to start courses at either Oxford or Cambridge.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to Rachel Gowreesunker and three long standing members of staff, Philip Warren, David McCormack and Mike Russell. Our Graduate Trainee Programme Student, Helen Pollard, successfully completed her course and has been appointed to teach Geography at Swanshurst School. Their contributions to the life of the school are recognised later in the magazine.

I would like to finish by thanking Bex Lockyer for her endeavours in producing what will, I'm sure, be another impressive chronicle of school life at Camp Hill Boys for 2010–11.

■ **Mike Roden**, Headmaster

Greetings, and a warm invitation to join in 'Chronicled celebration' of another packed year at Camp Hill Boys. Each year it becomes harder to find the superlatives to praise the pupils for the range and standard of their achievements. From engineering to exchange trips, from Anglesey to Austria, from Cabaret to cricket, from samba to swimming, the 'out of the classroom' experiences of the boys of Camp Hill continue to be record-breaking and to take this outstanding school to greater heights.

It is the moments captured here that give both pupils and staff memories that are carried through the years of their later lives, and to which, in highs and lows of the future, they will return. There is testimony to this found in the Old Boys network and activities, celebrated on the latter pages, as well as in the number of recent past students who return each year to support concerts, plays, matches, and to run events and activities. They talk of a lasting closeness, and a debt, to Camp Hill: reading through these pages, it is not hard to see why.

The Headmaster has outlined many of the individual achievements and details of the highlights of the year including academic achievements, so it is my privilege to hand you over to the boys and staff, as they share their own enthusiasms and adventures.

In a year that has seen governmental change upon governmental change, and indeed a major move for the school as it prepared for Academy status, it is clear that one thing does not change: the life of a Camp Hill boy remains vibrant, challenging, and quite exceptional.

Acknowledgements

Thanks once again from all at Camp Hill to the inestimable Bob Weaver, of Byte & Type Ltd, whose dedication and commitment to bringing you excellence in published form has resulted in another superb Chronicle.

■ **Bex Lockyer**, Editor

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Leavers

Philip Warren 1983–2011



The end of the Summer term saw the departure, after 28 years in the school, of Philip Warren. After reading Theology at Leeds with a PGCE at St Matthias's College in Bristol, he began his teaching career in St Albans, but, keen to return to the Midlands, moved to Malvern Hall School in Solihull. Not long after he got there, Malvern Hall became a casualty of cut backs; it had become surplus to requirements and all the staff had to find new jobs. Phil was, in fact, advised to return to

University and retrain; happily he ignored the advice and came to Camp Hill as Head of Religious Studies.

Phil was actually employed to teach both RS and History equally. When he arrived there was no 'A' level teaching in RS at all, with only small numbers studying RS at 'O' level. As a conscientious and effective member of the History department he taught 'O' level for a number of years before concentrating on his own department, which, by now, had grown in importance. Up to that point the RS department was regarded as rather peripheral to the School curriculum, and its academic standing at Camp Hill was low. The subject was not taught at all at sixth form level and only a handful of students took 'O' Level. It was to Phil's abiding achievement that he transformed RS into a mainstream academic subject, with a thriving 'A' level course; this was, in fact, at first taught jointly with the Girls' School. Boys have since gone on to achieve considerable academic success: last year, for instance, two boys went to University to read Theology, one to Oxford the other to Nottingham.

The sense of purpose Phil provided for his department was clearly demonstrated at open days; boys would appear at the staff room door clutching a variety of models showing the worship of a wide range of religions. Clearly the RS department provided a broad and wide experience of world religions; his displays were second to none. Legendary for his inability to

cope with IT, he nonetheless persevered and within a decade had lost his fear of switching a computer on! Phil was also a strong supporter of School trips, arranging visits for his department but also remaining a stalwart of many a History trip.

Phil was also a most accomplished Form Tutor. At his best when dealing with junior forms, in his own gentle good natured way he instilled a sense of discipline and purpose into his charges. The boys were certainly very fond of him as shown by the plethora of gifts and leaving parties provided by his classes in July.

Few boys would have realised that Phil was a most accomplished ballroom dancer. He has recently started having lessons again in old time dancing – and recently gained his gold medal. He hopes to long continue with this. Various Directors have had to call on Phil to help with the choreography in shows such as Guys and Dolls.

In his retirement, Phil hopes to travel and also wants to join a rambling group, as well as continuing to enjoy opera and the University of the Third Age. However, he is most looking forward to acting as a guide in Lichfield Cathedral. We will miss Phil's gentle humour and sometimes waspish wit in the staff room. We wish Phil a long and happy retirement; who knows, one day we might yet see him on Strictly Come Dancing!

■ A.J. / M.R.S.

Michael Russell 1985–2011



Not many people realise that Mike Russell and Mike Roden are identical twins. But then there is a lot more to Mike than meets the eye. A keen runner – even now always ready to have a go at mini marathons and fun runs, a talented rugby player, and a passionate geographer. Who else could, or would, keep 700 young people captive with a detailed dissertation on soil. The frantic and delirious applause when morning assembly at last ended... Whoops, switch it off. Wrong Mike! Easily done. There are uncanny resemblances: same initials, same first name, both Camp Hill Deputy Heads in their time – and what a double

act that was! But let's start at the beginning.

Son of a steel worker, Michael Russell was born ten minutes after Alan sometime last millennium, grew up in that area of Sheffield which supports the city's other football team and attended the local grammar school. No options systems in those days: after the first year doing French, the top third did Russian, the good linguists then being 'rewarded' a second time with fast-track Latin, all of which Mike continued to 'A' Level, plus British Constitution 'for a bit of fun!' So young Russell passed on to St John's College, Oxford to study French and Russian. A year out in Arras in the Pas de Calais was very formative as he began to appreciate the benefits of a residential period abroad. Following a year's teacher training at Reading, he obtained a post at Watford Boys' Grammar where he remained for eight happy years. It is difficult to leave a good school. After interview for the Head of Modern Languages post at Camp Hill, the decision as to whether he would or should leave Watford was not taken lightly. After carefully listing the positives and trying to list the negatives of a possible move, his enthusiastic response that evening to the phone call offer: 'Will you take the job?' of headmaster Charles Martin was 'I can't think of any reason why not!' But he never regretted the decision. Especially as being a relatively small school, Camp Hill

cultivates that spirit of community and strong sense of identity which Mike so values.

In his time at Camp Hill, the teaching of French changed dramatically. When he arrived, audiovisual was in its infancy. Pupils used a text book which today would seem hilariously dated. It had very little of France in it. It was essentially a grammar book. In fact, Mike arrived in a period of full transition, with the new GCSE and a new 'A' Level each requiring the planning of a new course. Grammar is still important, but with the multi-sensory, technology enhanced style of the internet era pupils also gain a genuine feel for the wider French culture. And generations of pupils have been able to practise their reading, listening and speaking for real on the Year 7 St Malo residential visit which Mike initiated. On the 25th anniversary of this annual event, Mike was honoured by the mayor of St Malo with a civic reception in the Town Hall.

During the holidays of 1991, Mike's enduring interest in Russia was nearly the death of him. He found himself with his camera in the centre of that Moscow confrontation when the world also stood still and watched. Hard-line communists had detained President Gorbachev. Troops were ordered to storm and take Moscow. Tense! Imminent bloodbath. Tanks under the trees. Soldiers on the streets. Mike advised to put camera away. A machine

gun at his stomach. Camera put away. It made sense! Amazingly there was no blood bath. Yeltsin faced down the communist tanks – in person, climbing onto an ‘enemy’ tank turret. In six tumultuous days, seventy-four years of communist domination, and the Soviet Union itself started to unravel, and Mike returned to Camp Hill. Pupils enjoyed his subsequent assembly.

Having led the Modern Foreign Languages department with distinction from 1985 to 1992, Mike was promoted to the post of Deputy Head (Pastoral), where he not only organised all the minutiae of the annual Entrance Test and Prize Giving, but successively and successfully ‘trained up’ two fellow Deputy Heads as future leaders at Camp Hill: Mervyn Brooker and Mike Roden. As part of his responsibilities, Mike also held the position of Head of Sixth Form until September 2003. He ran the UCAS process from 1992 until 2007 and used his expertise to tremendous effect in supporting all our students’ applications, especially those for the ultra competitive courses at Oxbridge and the Medical/Dental Schools. In a period of continuous change, he was meticulous in his research. How would the arrival of the new AS-A2s, Advanced GNVQs, Key Skills, Advanced Extension (World Class) Tests, the International Baccalaureate, and the changing of the UCAS Tariff affect our students’ prospects of a good university place? Mike speedily put together a document distilling latest advice from personal contacts with Oxford, Cambridge, Leeds, Newcastle and Aston. No effort was too much to facilitate our pupils’ success. And his concern has not ceased. Even recently, notices after assembly have announced: “Mr Russell has Rickets..., or Gastroenteritis anti-bodies..., or N.H.S. Reform... handouts for potential medics”.

He stood down as Deputy Head in June 2007 to take up a part-time role teaching French, PSE, General Studies and Critical

Thinking. His passion for badminton has been satisfied in recent years when, following the completion of the new sports hall, he has coached and supported our school teams into local, regional and even national finals! And for those seniors whose fantasy dream has been to beat Mr Russell at badminton, there is still hope, as he has accepted the Head’s offer to continue to be involved on Wednesday afternoon games.

Mike has many interests, and has used so many of them to benefit others. Successions of prefects during morning registration have had their minds awakened to the perfect precision and elegant beauty of the cryptic crossword clue. Successions of participants during varied performances have had their ‘moment’ recorded for posterity. It is never easy judging the finish of the 100 metres sprint, eight bodies hurtling towards the finishing line, separated by just fractions of a second. Picture it at the Norman Green Stadium. Members of staff like Mike Southworth and Keith Phipps, renowned for their many years of experience, standing frozen, stop-watches in hand, panamas on top, faces distorted in concentration, staring across the finishing line, and at that crucial nothing-will-deflect-my-attention moment, there is Mike Russell with his telephoto lens capturing the memory for posterity, the school Chronicle and the plasma display screen in the Foyer. He has an eye for that intimate photo, be it our esteemed leader struggling to discover the intricacies of the video play back facility on his new iPhone, or Mark Duncan biting the bullet as he struggles to remove a dud cartridge from the starting gun. Memories, so many colourful memories, of plays, concerts, musicals, sports days and trips, have for years been captured, celebrated and chronicled through Mike’s professional photos.

Now that Mike is semi-retired, people are

already queuing up to swallow up what free time he might have. Over many years, he has been such a regular visitor to the vinyl record section of the Oxfam Shop in Moseley that they have now made him a permanent fixture, cataloguing all their stock and using his knowledgeable expertise to raise more money by displaying the most desirable items on eBay. Mike’s wife Jill is very much into music, involved with three ensembles and two orchestras, including the Sinfonia of Birmingham. Mike having attended so many concerts has now been co-opted as their Concert Manager, arranging concert venues and overseeing photographic publicity. When Birmingham Sinfonia wish to take their annual European trip to Holland or Tuscany or the Mosel region, someone has to go out there, inspect the venues, climate and culture, and sample the cuisine. Unlucky Mike! Having to travel to so many sunny spots, we hope you do not get too browned off! Trips to the Arctic, photographing the Northern Lights or again getting too close to 800 lb polar bears, should be a useful antidote, as should chilling at home, sharing with guests your wine collection and classic French cuisine.

With his quietly spoken, self-effacing manner Mike is always the perfect gentleman. His enthusiasm, knowledge, articulate good humour and above all concern for individuals made him a popular teacher and respected colleague. He has played a key role in the development of this school over the last twenty six years. As part of the senior leadership team, his impact on the success of Camp Hill Boys and on the future lives of hundreds of students through his fantastic pastoral support of university applications should not be underestimated. He has been a tremendous asset to the school and in what we trust will be a long and happy retirement, we wish him and Jill all the best.

■ P.R.J.



David McCormack 1993–2011

On the 21st of July the Department and School said a fond farewell to David McCormack. For a number of years David had been considering retirement, but the decision was finally made for him by the Election results and Government policy; get out while there was still a viable pension scheme to be accessed.

David joined Camp Hill at a time of major changes. The appointment of a new Head of Department, appointment of two new members of staff, design becoming a compulsory subject up to and including GCSE, a new build program; whilst it only seems like yesterday, it was, in fact, 18 years ago. This length of service at most schools would normally qualify for a long service award, but by Camp Hill standards David was still one of the new boys. Teaching

was not his original calling; before undertaking his teacher training at Loughborough University, he had a number of jobs, including working as an engineer, developing electric motors for heavy industry. Some of his more unusual employments including a brief spell working in an asylum for the insane – bringing a whole new meaning to the Camp Hill motto... ‘*You don’t have to be mad to work here, but it helps!*’ He also served time as a Chef, a fact that he tried very hard to hide when the department discussed who was to take responsibility for delivering cookery to the lower school. I have David’s assurance that that prospect had nothing to do with his handing in of his notice the next day.

As a member of the Design Department, David’s contribution to the development of schemes of work was second to none; in particular he has left a legacy of Key Stage Three modular booklets that will be used for years to

come. He taught pupils across all Key Stages and I am sure there will be many a past A Level and GCSE student who will thank David for his tuition, whilst supporting their design coursework. In particular, he was very good at assisting pupils to develop creative and imaginative solutions to design tasks. More recently, he used his knowledge and insight into Information Technology to incorporate computer aided design into all areas of pupils' work, even if this did often result in his cursing of the Department laptops and of the sometimes frustrating slowness of the old school server.

Not only was David an excellent teacher of design, he also made a valuable contribution to the welfare of students. Many a Form Tutor would do well to follow the example that he set in his understated care of members of his

Form. It was a mark of the regard in which he was held by students that so many contributed towards his leaving present.

The Department and pupils will not be the only ones to miss David. Only those who have witnessed his 'ascerbic' contributions to morning briefing or staff meetings, to which he so much looked forward, will appreciate why he answered to the moniker 'grumpy', a tag which he worked hard at cultivating. Those who knew Dave well were aware that this was a façade, behind which he hid a cheerful wit and kindly disposition.

David was not a 'theoretical' teacher of Design but a practising engineer, who announced during his interview that amongst his talents, he was building a micro light aircraft. For years the staff have been looking

forward to watch him undertake the maiden flight of the 'Phoenix'. It was therefore with much disappointment that we received the news that the plane had been sold. As a precursor to retirement, he had invested in a narrow boat. True to his roots the craft was only a shell with an engine. Five years were spent fitting the boat out ready for the retirement cruise. Just two days after retirement, David and his wife Julia set off on a three month 'voyage' around the inland waterways of the Midlands and the Fens. All at Camp Hill wish Dave and Julia a long and happy future. However, *'every cloud has a silver lining'* ... at least we know of someone that the Department can call upon for specialist cover.

■ **K.D.**

Rachel Gowreesunker 2004–2011

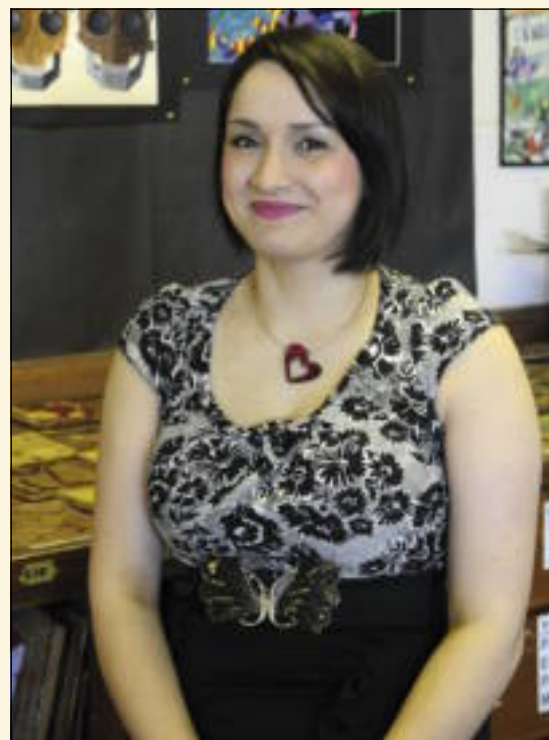
Rachel arrived at King Edward VI Camp Hill School Boys in September 2004, after qualifying from Birmingham University. Her appointment was initially part-time yet such was her enthusiasm for the job that it soon became apparent that we would need her services to increase over the next few years until, of course, she accepted a full-time post within the Art Department in 2008. Her arrival also coincided with a greater demand for Art at both GCSE and A level and Rachel was able to use her undoubted skills at Sixth Form level where the boys enjoyed her relaxed yet demanding style.

Rachel also took charge of organising many of the trips and visits that the department runs on a yearly basis. Visits to London and Oxford as well as local galleries and museums were always, it seemed, being organised. At this point I have to mention the Paris trip which is now a well established event. From Rachel's arrival in 2004 she was very much involved in the development of the trip and her help and

support over the years has been very much appreciated. Dare I say that our annual visit to a certain restaurant in St Pauls and our more frequent visits to a local bar for evening espressos (very much needed after pounding the corridors of the Louvre or Musée d'Orsay for hours on end!) were mutually beneficial? Rachel was the perfect companion on such occasions and neither I nor the many boys who also benefited from her company will forget those 'special moments'.

Rachel contributed a vast amount to the department over the seven years she worked here. I am sure that our loss is Kings Norton Boys' gain. We wish Rachel every success in her new appointment and hope that she continues to prosper in her career.

■ **P.T.C.**



Helen Pollard 2010–2011

Helen Pollard came to us from working as an intern in New York after gaining her degree from Manchester University. During the year in New York she also managed to study for Cambridge University International award in International Business Practice.

Helen met all of the KEC teacher training challenges with an unflappable calm, and transformed from a student trainee to an accomplished, well organised, dedicated, newly qualified teacher by term two.

Helen had to meet more challenges than

most. In addition to all the usual classroom observations she was also chosen as one of two in her year to be visited by external moderators for the KEC scheme. Why was she chosen? Modest as ever, Helen thought it was because she was not doing well. Well it was obvious to me why she was chosen. She was chosen because she was one of the best in the year – in my opinion she was clearly **the** best in her year.

It has been a particularly difficult year to find jobs for newly trained teachers. The TES was bare. However, Helen calmly navigated her way through this and she was successful in

her first application. Helen begins her new job at Swanshurst School for Girls – just down the road. We wish her all the best for the future.

■ **K.P.**

School Activities

Engineering in Education Scheme

Every year, around October, Mr Nash stands in assembly and gives an inspirational notice about the Engineering in Education Scheme. Whilst a highlight of the school calendar (and twice as reliable!), until now I was under the impression that EES stood for Extra Extreme Sports and was not tempted to apply until I discovered the truth. The Engineering in Education Scheme is a prestigious, yearly programme in which students from across the UK are selected to work with real-world engineering companies on real-world engineering problems with real-world engineering consequences.

A harrowing and difficult real-world interview process narrowed down the applicants to two teams of four highly enthusiastic students. The scheme is intended to introduce participants to the world of engineering in enterprise, and so encourage capable students to take up the profession. We are proud to announce that Karndeepp Uppal is now definitely applying for Economics, and Alex Owen, Earth Sciences*.

The two teams were paired with two Aerospace companies, with which the school has previously worked with great success. The first was partnered with Aero Engine Controls and led by Karndeepp 'K-Meister' Uppal, whilst the other worked with Eaton Aerospace and led by Tom 'Tom' Mitchell-Hewitt. Under the experienced guidance of Mr Nash, both teams ate their lunch, made understanding noises and nodded sincerely whilst important sheets were handed out and consent forms were signed, until finally they met their mentor engineers and realised quite the amount of work which had to be done over the next few weeks. The teams had to solve two very challenging prob-

lems involving welding, o-rings, and lasers, the kind of thing which I hope inspires future students to undertake the scheme and horrifies whoever has to write the risk assessment.

The teams worked unsteadily throughout the term on the problem, and in true academic style, most of it was left until a week before the residential began, at which point it was already beginning to feel like Christmas and a festive spirit was in the air. Our engineers distributed long-awaited presents such as deadlines and the occasional warning remark. Mr Nash began to seem suspiciously jolly at the prospect of escaping the school for three days of intense engineering endeavour, whilst the teams busied themselves preparing for their stay at Birmingham University. Alan Egan spent much of this time assembling his toolkit, which took twice as long as the residential to pack and I am reliably informed occupied most of the space available on his hotel bed. Of course, Alan has not slept since 2006 and hence this was not a problem. George Mather and Karndeepp fought over who had the right to the top bunk.

The trip to the residential was a frosty one, partly because of Ross' terrible puns but also due to the freezing weather which had descended over Birmingham. Over the next three days the teams put in unprecedented levels of effort and the pairing of Will Moss and Wai-Ming Yap broke unprecedented numbers of lathe tools. Our thanks go to Abbie Romano of Camp Hill Girls for speaking to the scary lathe man about redoing a component for the fifth time that morning. The Eaton team meanwhile entrenched themselves under the engineering building and set about building a device to measure weld dimensions very carefully, *very*

carefully. The AEC team also decided to forgo the coach service and run across campus to where food was being served, which was an intense surprise for George and his cross country standard average.

After three days' effort, the boys left the university a little nostalgic, but more importantly armed with nearly-complete products. The next two months involved not only the standard mix of exams but a concerted report-writing effort, in which each team valiantly made their products sound fantastic despite them having exciting-sounding names such as 'Bleed Valve Actuator O-Ring Insertion Tool'. The presentations were met with great acclaim from the judges, and despite Mr Nash having been injured on the ski trip earlier in the year, he fought his way in to see his two teams receive the accolades they deserved, as did Mr Roden, although he was disappointed to learn that EES did not stand for the Executive on European Soils. The two teams finished first and second respectively in their group, which is an incredible achievement and thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr Nash, who works stupendously every year to organise and facilitate the scheme, and to whom both teams are immensely grateful. We would also like to thank Mr Downing, our engineer mentors, Mr Turner, and of course everyone who organises the Engineering in Education Scheme. Good luck to next year's competitors!

**(I should also mention that the EES encouraged two participants to apply for Engineering and three for Physics before the Design Department hunts me down).*

■ **George Mather, L7**

■ **Alex Owen, L7**



Aero Engine Control EES Team



Eaton EES Team

Schools Aerospace Challenge 2011

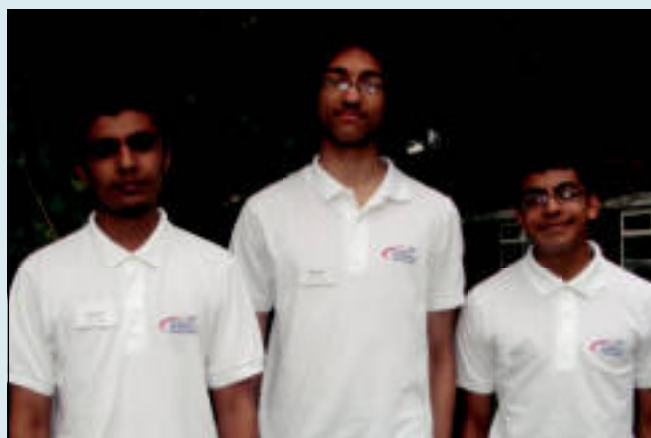
See: www.aerospacechallenge.org

Camp Hill took up the annual, web based, Team Design Exercise once again, and, just like the advert, Faheem Malik, Dwayne Spiteri and Jason Pereira did indeed join the Schools Aerospace Challenge to spend 5 days in August at Cranfield University.

The 2011 challenge focused on the potential gains to future aircraft designs in payload, range, safety and fuel consumption that might be offered by the adoption of Blended Wing Body technology.

Working from scratch as a group of a dozen or so sixth formers, embarking upon the steep learning curve of the original challenge specification, our students discovered the groundbreaking Junkers G38 of 1929 and the pioneering but overlooked contribution in the 1940s of the American engineer Vincent Burnelli. We progressed through the various revolutionary Flying Wings to the B2 Spirit stealth bomber and the current Boeing/NASA project X48.

"The finals at Cranfield were incredibly enjoyable. The lectures were insightful; the people were delightful; the organisers sprightly and the helicopters frightful. We flew planes, talked the radio jargon; engaged in Ultimate Frisbee; played good poker; posed with a Hawk; undertook dramatic



aerial manoeuvres; learnt how to survive a plane accident ... and if I carry on this will be way too long...! —Oh, and the food wasn't bad either." Dwayne

"Jason, Dwayne and I had an excellent time during our 5-day stay at Cranfield University; we were given a variety of unique opportunities, which we thoroughly enjoyed. One of the highlights of the residential was, without a doubt, being given full control of both a helicopter and a small plane. However, the joys of flying did not manage to rival the experience my team mates and I shared on the first day – being told all meals would be free. That was a truly exhilarating moment which will forever tinge the remainder of that week in a golden light." Faheem

"The man in charge is a former test pilot so you get to learn an awful lot about planes. I got to fly a helicopter and that was difficult because it is so easy to over compensate on the controls. It was hard! ... And you get your own apartment and lots of food." Jason

Faheem, Dwayne and Jason then took the ideas even further, and their inspired efforts were rewarded by a place at the Cranfield University Summer School.

Schools Aerospace Challenge 2012 is open to students who will be aged 16–18 at the time of the Cranfield Summer School.

■ C.J.

Young Engineers Competition —The Big Bang Fair

On the 9th of March 2011, I set off on the long trip down to London, to take part in the national finals of the Young Engineer for Britain competition at the EXCEL centre. I was there to exhibit a project that originally started as my entry for my DT Systems and Control GCSE, which I have further developed in my free time - away from the constraints imposed by the course. The competition, however, was only a small



part of a larger event: 'The Big Bang'. Over the course of three days, hundreds of students of all ages presented their projects not only to a panel of judges, but also to vast hordes of primary school children and the general public. Alongside them were some of the top names in engineering such as Shell, BAE Systems and Intel. The idea behind the event was simple: to get primary school children, and the general public, interested in engineering.



It's safe to say the event was an experience I'll never forget; I've made some firm friends, met some amazing people, and I also managed to win the 'Duke of York Prize for the Creative Use of Technology', netting me a beautiful trophy and an iPad. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff from the DT Department, especially Mr Nash, for helping me with the project, and I thoroughly recommend that if you're interested in engineering, you should visit the Big Bang Fair in March 2012; this time at the NEC.

■ Alan Egan, L6



Media Day 2010

The third annual Media Day for year 8 was held on Friday 15th July 2011. Organised by Mrs Parmar, it has become a regular fixture in the school year introducing Year 8 students to the concepts of the various forms of Media including Television and Newspapers.

A range of guests were invited from the Media including Jim Lee, a continuity announcer from Radio 4; David Maclean, a Managing Director of a Publishing Company; Kester Demmar, a television producer for BBC East Midlands, and Sameena Ali-Khan, a news presenter for Central News.

We met promptly in the Hall at 9.00 for a brief introduction and then headed to our allocated workshops. Each workshop was assigned different things; for example, the Television workshop had to put together a news bulletin, whereas the newspaper workshops had to compile the front page of a newspaper. David Maclean and his colleague David Barnes took the Designing a Brand group and taught them



how to create and format their own websites promoting products such as games, phones, applications and software. Kester Demmar and Sameena Ali-Khan managed the Television group along with Mrs Lockyer, aiding them in producing a News Broadcast. Mr Pitt supervised the fourth workshop; 'Blogging', assisting the group in producing a splendid Blog about the Media Day itself. Mrs Parmar and Mrs Jackson ran the Newspaper group, as Ross Crawford, news editor of the Solihull Times, was unable to attend. The final group were supervised by Radio presenter Jim Lee and an enthusiastic Mr Rogers.

In our workshops we tackled the daunting task of producing our own form of Media, be it a news bulletin, blog, advertisement or broadcast. In my workshop (Radio) each member was given a role, for example: editor, presenter, musician or reporters. Thereafter, storylines were assigned to the reporters – who were in groups of three – while the two able musicians, Matija Novovic and Ashvin Thomas, endeavoured to produce a jingle for the broadcast. We all embarked on the chase for our stories which included the Sports Day highlights, rumours



about the exorbitant cricket nets, Mr Warren's retirement and even a spontaneous protest about the Vietnam War staged by GCSE History students! Eventually, we gathered all of the stories, under pressure from our tenacious editor, Dhanyal Ali-Khan Demmar, and prepared the links for our presenter, Sean Lewis. After lunch, everyone returned to the workshops to recommence the work and transfer the data to the laptops, summarise it and compile everything to complete the final product that some helpful year 10's gladly agreed to do.

Subsequently, everyone congregated in the Hall for the interesting Q&A session involv-





ing some pretty 'sensible' questions and then we took part in a plenary session where everyone presented their work to the audience. With some aid from the IT-helpers, everyone's work was seen; but not all were complete. Our Radio broadcast was somewhat of a disaster with the 'dependable' year 10's editing out the whole of Mr Warren's interview leaving only the jingle to play for some three minutes! Following the presentation, certificates were awarded to four members of each group who made notable contributions throughout the day in various fields. The day culminated with thanks to all the guests who sacrificed their time to help and teach us and to all the members of staff

involved, especially Mrs Parmar, who made this day truly remarkable. It was undoubtedly a splendid experience.

■ **Muhammed Ubaid Khan, 8J**



Lower School Presentation Evening

On the evening of Monday 18th July the school hosted its second Lower School Presentation Evening. This saw awards being made to significant numbers of boys from years seven, eight and nine for their achievements over the course of the year. The scope of the Presentation Evening is much broader than the autumn term's Prize Giving and, as well as recognising those boys

who have achieved outstanding academic success, the aim of the night is to reward progress and contribution.

Individual subject awards were made for both attainment and progress, and contributions to music, drama, school and house sport and serving the wider school community were also rewarded. In addition, entertainment was provided by several of our most talented lower school musicians and we heard reports about the year seven trip to St. Malo, the year eight trip to North Wales and the year nine rugby

and hockey tour to Cumbria as well as Aatif Syed's winning speech from the public speaking competition.

All in all, the evening celebrated Camp Hill Boys doing what they do best – contributing in their own way towards the on-going success of the school. Our thanks must go to Mr Smith, Mr Murray and Mr Phipps: school governors who kindly agreed to award the winners' certificates.

■ **A.C.**

Debating

It seems that in the last year that debating within the school has gone from strength to strength, not least due to the watchful and guiding hand of Alex May. A student run group, the debating society discusses issues on a wide range of current and often controversial topics.

Whether it be on the recent London Riots, NHS Reforms or any of the other topics covered, the teams speak assertively and confidently on topics that may be complex or specialist, with a maturity and enthusiasm that continually surprises, while building skills that many find useful, such as public speaking and forming a clear and sensible argument. These skills are especially useful for those who may have to take interviews, or plan on going into an area in which public speaking is often a necessity, such as politics.

From its inception as a small gathering of seniors every Friday to separate groups for Juniors, Intermediates and a mixed boys and girls group for the Seniors, and organised competitions against other schools, Debating has grown larger than anyone might have expected, or even hoped for. We have seen a team come second overall in the Birmingham University debating challenge, and the school play host to the ESU Mace competition, and with this year already seeing teams from across the year groups entering the Birmingham University

competition, and three teams vying for the place the school has at the ESU Mace competition, it seems safe to say that we will be active and successful for some time to come.

■ **Thomas Williams, L7**



Domestic Trips

Conway, North Wales

At 9.00 am on 24th May 2011, 93 rowdy year 8 boys were preparing themselves for the coach ride to the very sunny Conway Centre in Wales. When we arrived at school, the weather was fantastic – grey cloud everywhere. A great start! After a chat about room arrangements and how we should and should not behave, we were dismissed to our two coaches. We took our seats and suddenly the noise level rose intensely with chants and much talking. We set off to sunny Wales.



Whilst bombing down the motorway, rain splattering against the windows, the emergency exit lid on the roof came flying off. This confusing incident not only caused us to stop, but also caused a brief moment of quiet. After much stress from many teachers and 'almost' injuries, we carried on.

After a few hours of chanting, chatting and card games, we stopped off at a small Welsh village to have our lunch. Although greeted by the biting cold, I think everyone was looking forward to lunch. After eating, looking around

and telling everyone from the other coach about how the 'roof on our coach came flying off', we hit the road again and managed to capture some wonderful pictures of the Welsh countryside – waterfalls, hills and sheep. When we arrived at the Conway Centre, we were surprised to find out that whilst on the coach the weather had improved greatly.

Upon arrival we were counted and shown around the grounds. We were then dismissed to our rooms and got settled in, changed and ready for evening activities. This, due to windy conditions on the Menai Strait, meant that instead of kayaking or canoeing, we would be doing raft building.

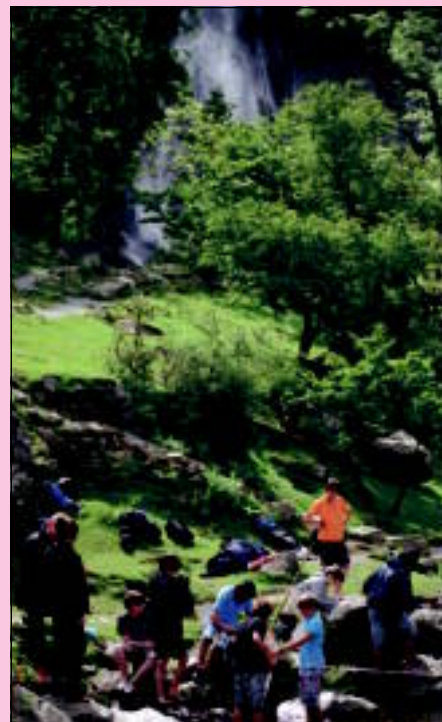
After having built our own rafts from big logs, skipping ropes and a few barrels, we raced along an obstacle course in a small area of the Menai Strait (unaffected by the wind). Each team was timed on how long it took them to complete the course, dismantle their raft and put all the parts back in their original places. Having finished this activity with time left, the instructor allowed us to go into the water; however there was one condition. He had to push us in. Those silly enough to agree to this lined up along the ramp leading into the water. After being pushed backwards into the freezing water once, we came back for more and this time, we were allowed to swim across the small part of water. I must note my great respect for Mr Duncan as he was the only teacher brave enough to do this.

After evening activities, it was off to bed and lights out.

The following day had fantastic trips to Aber Falls' wonderful scenery and Caernarfon



Castle which is steeped in rich history. After what seemed to be an endless walk from where the coach stopped, we found the stunning landscape of Aber Falls. Whilst in admiration and not paying attention, the teachers seized this opportunity to weave in school work. Using sheets and plastic buckets, we



were able to calculate the pollution levels of the river for biology and using some measuring tape, a ruler and an orange, calculated the velocity of the river. After having lunch, we entered Caernarfon Castle and were told of how the old castle was the investiture site of The Prince of Wales. This paled in comparison to the stories of epic war victories at the castle.

After a great day, we returned to the centre for some fun evening activities. These included football, obstacle courses, a film and a quiz, some of which were only possible due to the weather not being particularly British. The quiz was won comfortably by the amazing 'Team Sputnik' (Sulamaan Rahim, William Maclean, Joe Malt and Thomas Meehan) who received some edible prizes.

The next day was filled with excitement, action and getting soaked. There was rock climbing, sailing, kayaking and many other activities, all of which were much enjoyed. Having had a great day of activities at the centre, lots to eat and a chance to relax, it was once again time for evening activities: an improved obstacle course, card games, films and again the quiz. This night, the weather felt a little



bit more like British weather and so the quiz attracted a much larger audience. This contest had a broader range of questions and different rounds so was slightly more closely contested. However, it was still won comfortably by the amazing 'Team Sputnik' with the great addition of Fazal Shah. After claims that the teams were

unfair were dismissed, 'Team Sputnik' received their edible prizes once again.

Waking up on our last day, I know everyone was sad that we had to leave but after a great morning activity and a nice lunch we were all happy. We left the Conway Centre and set off back home. The effects of this week clearly

showed due to the amount of people sleeping on the coach ride home. I would like to give massive thanks to all of the teachers who gave up their time to accompany 93 rowdy year 8 boys to sunny Wales.

■ **Sulamaan Rahim, 8J**

Kenilworth Castle

Year 7 Visit, June 2011

The Year 7 whistle-stop tour of the Middle Ages started with the School History Scene theatre production and ended with the ability to discover one of the Midlands most majestic and historic ruins – Kenilworth: scene of sieges, invasions and banquets – and that was just the gift shop at lunchtime.



On a blisteringly hot day, we arrived ready to explore. The day was divided into three sections – a tour of the outside of the castle



to discover how to attack and defend such a castle, a tour inside the curtain wall to understand how the inhabitant of the castle would live and, finally, a blissfully cool classroom in which the student could look at medieval artefacts, handle swords and armour and make use of a model to show how Kenilworth developed over time to be the fine array of crumbling stones it is today.

Students were able to make notes and record their insights as the day progressed, though the highlight for some seemed to be the acquisition of mini trebuchets or wooden swords in the aforementioned siege of the



gift shop. It was an honour to have Mr Warren accompanying the History department on his final school trip before retirement, an ever-ready volunteer to help us out in these times of need. Upon returning to school, the students were able to apply their knowledge in a variety of creative ways. Mr Hill's classes produced some outstanding display work (on exhibition in the department) and Mrs Turner's group took the artistic option of fashioning their own castles and siege weapons out of lego, lollipop sticks and whatever else they could get their hands on.

■ **G.N.H.**



Day visit to London

A-level Geography Fieldwork – Urban Regeneration

A week before the start of the summer holidays, around twenty boys of the school's AS geography set travelled to London for a field trip. The aim was to see for ourselves the redevelopment projects along the Thames in preparation for the 'World Cities' chapter of the A-level course.

After a two hour train journey to London Marylebone and then a short hectic ride on the Underground, we reached the iconic Tower Bridge, our first destination. Standing on the bridge, we saw redeveloped Victorian wharves and warehouses which are now luxury apartments and restaurants. Afterwards, we walked through St. Katharine's Docks which was part of the historic Port of London.

Travelling on the Docklands Light Rail,



we arrived at Canary Wharf, one of the main financial centres of London. It was incredible to think that the modern skyscrapers we saw were built on derelict warehouses, part of the old West India Docks.

After lunch it was time for the most anticipated leg of the trip – the visit to the 2012 Olympic site. Built on a previously derelict area of wasteland in the valley of the River Lea, the site was built with the notion of a sustainable Olympics, in order to leave a legacy for the local population. By far the most impressive

structure was the Olympic stadium itself, taking up the majority of the area and stunning us with its impressive design. It was hard to believe that the eyes of the world would be on that stadium in just over a year. We also witnessed the construction of the athletes' village and the 'Orbit' tower, the snaking steel structure that stands next to the stadium.

■ **George Zeng, L3**

■ **John Lutwyche, L3**

Cold War Museum

Year 10 Visit, January 2011

On a stark January morning, where better to send the associated legions of Year 10 historians than to the Cold War Museum? The morning mist and fog of war combined as we ventured towards RAF Cosford to experience Britain's only permanent exhibit dedicated to the history of the Soviet-American rivalry between 1945 and 1991.

The museum combined with our studies of the period and brought to life many of the experiences and technologies which defined this era. The tour started with meeting an RAF veteran who had flown in British nuclear bomber crews in the 1950s and 1960s. There followed the opportunity to explore the Cold War exhibit, the focus of which was the military technology of mass destruction and impending apocalypse. From RAF Vulcan Bombers to 'Yellow Sun' thermonuclear weapons, from bomb disposal robots to US attack helicopters, we were shown awesome examples of human capacity to wage aggressive war and provide deterrence to others. The exhibits were interspersed with interactive 'hotspots' where students could develop their knowledge of key areas of Cold War rivalry: the Arms Race, Berlin, the Space Race, Cuba and Vietnam all featured heavily and enabled us to absorb vital information, clipboards at the ready.

The base at RAF Cosford was also home to fascinating exhibits from other parts of aviation history including a detailed exploration of German V-weapons of the Second World War. Students were able to learn more about the science of flight through interactive exhibits which tested their ability as pilots and navigators, as well as getting thrown around on the



'Black Hawk simulator'.

As always the students were a credit to the school and able to ask the knowledgeable and insightful museum staff pertinent questions to help them with their studies. We look forward to making the same venture in years to come.

■ **G.N.H.**



St David's Outdoor Pursuits 2011

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



We were also honoured by the brief but eventful visit of the Headmaster who threw himself, literally, into all the activities and who gave some much needed funding to provide some essential equipment which the boys were able to use effectively. Many thanks for that, Mr Roden! Additionally, thanks must go to the Messrs Downing, Cookson, Bruten and Hardy, without whom it would be impossible to run this trip.

But, as usual, the stars were the boys themselves who were exceptionally keen and talented and who, we hope, will return over the years to extend their experience and enjoyment. Well done to you all.

■ P.T.C.



Foreign Trips

Polish School Exchange 2011

Our fourth exchange with II Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Swidnica has been a great success. The 2011 programme involved nine students and two staff from each of the schools. We were in Swidnica in March, and our Polish partners came here at the end of September. The visits work around the Ryanair service schedules from East Midlands airport to Wroclaw, which gives a Wednesday to Monday stay for both schools. Students stay with each other's families.

As a cultural exchange, this opportunity is open to our Lower Sixth and the first year of II L.O., a selective, sixth form, co-ed. grammar school in Swidnica, Lower Silesia, in South West Poland. We go to Poland during their British American Days, when II L.O. is partly off timetable for two days of activities that celebrate the English language through drama, cultural quizzes, and the ever popular karaoke competition where we can contribute as native speakers and judges. Allowing for the language festivities, and also that most of the students are girls, our students do still get the full, but very different, Polish sixth form experience. This year we spent Saturday sightseeing and shopping in the city of Wroclaw, with an indoor water park in the afternoon, and Sunday on excursions with the host families. There is a lot to see locally; students of history, geography and economics can follow the thread of influences from Prussia and Germany to communist and now EU free market Poland. With a school exchange, it is really the people more than places that make the difference.

Coming to Camp Hill, the Polish students are always keen to speak English and take



an enthusiastic part in lessons and, for some bizarre reason, they are particularly fond of Chemistry practicals. I also suspect that our assemblies are a bit of a 'Harry Potter' novelty for them; but their own on stage presentation was very well received by the whole school. The Saturday is spent with a train trip sightseeing in London, and Sunday is a time for the host families, which generally involves a big get together at someone's house. For most of the Poles it is a first visit to the UK:

"Look!... Double Decker Bus!"

Certainly for the last two exchanges, the evening and weekend social calendars now seem to be sorted out well in advance, at both ends, by Facebook. The two groups had already introduced themselves by the time they met. Getting 19 people into the same restaurant without a reservation was, however, still a major problem.

This is the one Sixth Form trip open to all, with the only requirements being a supportive host family, an

open mind with a certain willingness to do something different, and perhaps some talent for singing, acting and having a good time.

"This exchange with your school gave us an opportunity to improve our language skills. We were surprised that everyone wants to talk with us and get to know our culture."

Joanna & Magdalena

"It was an amazing time. Your school is completely different to ours. I was in London and Stratford and they are really beautiful cities." Agate

"Chemistry is brilliant in your school... the experiments were really interesting" Kamila

"A brilliant and cheap way to gain cultural and life experiences and build a lasting relationship with a foreign student..." Dwayne

"This really is the best trip and I would recommend it to anyone!" Miles

"You should advertise it more!" Jordan (I do try! C.J.)

A big thank you to the host families and supportive staff of both schools for making this possible, and in particular to Mr and Mrs Rogers and our colleagues in Poland, Ms Iwona Juzwa and Mr Jacek Iwancz.

My particular congratulations to Mr Iwancz upon his appointment as the new Headmaster of II L.O. Swidnica, from September 2011.

We now have to plan for Poland 2012.

■ C.J.



Czech Republic Youth Camp – Kořen

22–31 July 2009

On the afternoon of Friday the 22 of July, a band of 44 Year 8–10s boarded a coach that was headed for almost a solid day of travel. Mr May stepped onto the same coach, with a band of teachers that had (apparently) consented to condemn themselves to spending the next 9 days with nearly 50 hormonally ravaged secondary school students. A few DVDs, a few stops and a few borders later, this humble company stepped onto Czech soil, somewhat unaware that they were in for the time of their lives.

The first evening there was set aside for the introduction and exploration of the fairly isolated camp. This brought some upturned noses at the state of, for example, the not-so-private showers. However, for those who weren't used to executive, five-star accommodation, the camp proved to be a fantastic establishment, with students making themselves at home in the cosy wooden chalets. Soon, the camp was alive with the shrieks of those who hadn't expected the outdoor pool to be so cold, and the rumbling stomachs of those whose stomachs longed for mum's cooking.

The first half of Sunday – the group's first full day at the camp – was devoted to sports, socializing, and a huge trek across the rolling Czech countryside. After a morning filled with the students' table tennis matches, and the teachers' card games, the group ventured into the serene Czech forests. Though some found the excursion somewhat physically taxing, it provided a chance for the city folk to experience nature, and left many wishing that someone had actually fallen into that stream. The visit to Mariánské Lázně that followed was the first taste of European architecture for many, and it did not disappoint. The huge, colourful buildings were a fantastic change to Britain's comparatively dull streets. Not to forget the main attraction of the town; the 'Singing Fountain', providing a spectacle of sorts, though

some grumbled about 'expecting more' etc.

Four days into the trip, the camp saw a full day expedition to Karlovy Vary, but not before the coach was stopped and checked by Czech and German police on the motorway – evidently hunting for several suspicious-looking adults harbouring fifty young fugitives. Mr May managed to blag/scare his way past this blockade though, and the trip continued. After entering the town, though, the true reason for the presence of two somewhat aging members of staff visiting was made apparent. The geyser in the town was said to hold 'fountain-of-youth' like properties, though it is safe to say, as I'm sure Mr Duncan will testify, that the warm water is nothing special after all. Rounding off



this day, however, was the dreaded singing competition, giving rise to some well thought out, and hilarious performances, and many objections concerning the judges' scoring. The winner was an emotionally empowered cover of 'Hallelujah', and thankfully not the Year 10s' 'JLS' performance that left the audience... well... lost for words!

Tuesday was Sports Day. For the morning, Czech vs. UK teams for football were organized, accompanied by friendly table tennis and volleyball matches, and the games began. The visitors managed to snatch victory on penalties, much to the joy of the English spectators. Miss Lynn also demonstrated her prowess at table tennis, batting away many of those



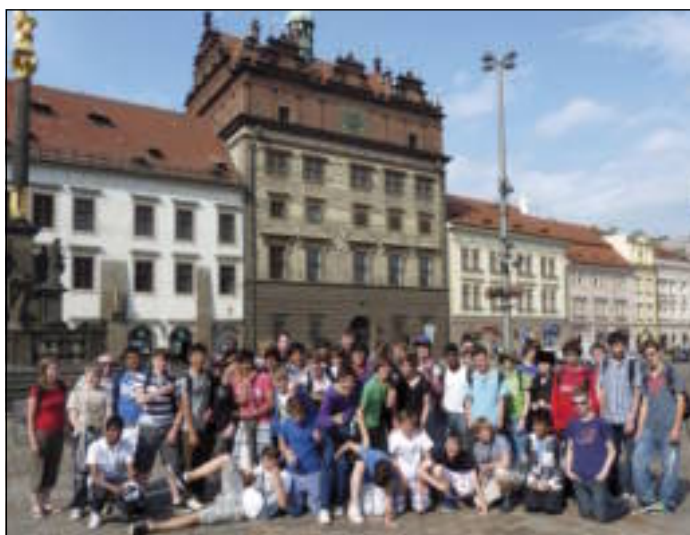
who dared challenge her. This was not all, it seemed, as Mr May had planned a trip to a Sports Centre in Tachov, where students experienced the thrill of archery, the exhilaration of rifle shooting, and the rush of... mini-golf and ten-pin bowling! After meandering about



the centre, dabbling in, and enjoying each of the sports, it was, too soon, time to leave. For some though, it was not soon enough, as the evening promised a disco, and a chance to meet the Czech locals, in particular, the girls... However, to the devastating disappointment of the boys – none turned up. This wouldn't stop some though, who were determined to have a good time, and danced nonetheless.

Prague, the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic, was swarmed by these visitors on the sixth day of their trip. After exploring the city's mind-blowing buildings, the children had some free time to pester locals, explore the shopping centre, and of course, take the nearest McDonalds by force. After all this, the teachers had another surprise in store – the astronomical clock. Though the clockwork marvel was a little underwhelming, the students had enjoyed their visit, and the hand-banging skel-eton. After some evening free-time, the group enjoyed a warm barbecue by the fireside at the camp, accompanied by songs and embarrassing stories.

Seven days into the trip, and the company





of school children and teachers ventured to the unpronounceable town of Plzen (I'm assured that it is 'pull-zen-ya'), to enjoy not only the structural beauty, but its extensive zoo. Mr Holland made it well known that he loved the bear the best because of its obvious 'awesomeness', amongst other things. When the ooh-ing and aah-ing at animals came to an end, the students were let loose upon the town, exploring the shops and the huge church at the centre of the town square. A brave few dared brave the several hundred shaky steps to the top of the church tower. The ensuing evening saw the students back at the Tachov Sports Centre – this time to slide their way onto the ice rink. Though packed with children slipping around and falling down, the centre also saw Avinash Patel somehow managing to skate over his own hands! Quick action on the part of the teachers saw him swiftly taken to hospital and treated successfully.

The last full day on Czech soil for the Birmingham bunch started off with a trip to Domazlice, a town from which the teachers had promised bargains and rip-offs. Some merely wandered the streets, or explored the buildings, where others haggled over 'leather' jackets and 'Rolex' watches to their hearts' content. There was another disco that evening, which, to the joy of many of the boys, the Czechs, including girls, did attend. Eventually, though, the music came to a stop.

The morning before departure saw many goodbyes and thank-yous, but all too soon it was time to go. Cradling good memories and new friends, the students braced themselves for a cramped few hours of food, sleep, and Bill and Ted, and with a wave goodbye, began the long journey home. The journey saw Mr Duncan hunting for his beloved Pringles, and a teary goodbye to the best coach drivers this side of the universe; Sam and Steve. Sincere thanks go to Mr Duncan, Miss Lynn, Mr Holland, Mr May Jr. and of course, Mr May, for organizing what was truly, surely, without a doubt the trip of a lifetime.

■ Aatif Syed, 9J



The rather disturbing news, just 10 days before departure, that that our coach company had gone into administration, did not auger well for our trip. However, a most unlikely triumph was snatched from the gaping maw of defeat.

This was all achieved with the help of some inside information on the financial state of the beleaguered coach company, some incredibly swift action taken by Mrs Cosimetti to stop a very large cheque and a fair slice of good fortune. Fortunately, Johnsons Coaches stepped in at incredibly short notice and provided us with two outstanding drivers, Steve Lyons and Sam Blatherwick.

As Aatif's article suggests, the trip was indeed a great success; one of the best, if not the best, I can remember. I would also like to thank Mr Duncan, Mr Holland, Miss Lynn and Mr George May for their tireless efforts throughout a very demanding week.



Thanks are also due to the School Administration Staff including Mrs Cosimetti, Mrs Williams, Mrs Crutchley and Mrs Moran who all made a significant contribution to the successful organisation of the trip. However, the biggest thank-you of all must go to the boys themselves, who threw themselves with great gusto into all the activities arranged for them and did it all with great good humour.

■ P.F.M.



Trip to Boulogne

Years 7 and 8

12:00 midnight and travelling to school. Why would anyone be doing that? Well, on the 8th of July, students from years 7 and 8 were preparing to depart on a journey to Boulogne, France. With us came the whole of the Modern Foreign Languages Department and many other members of staff, and on our two buses we set off into the morning.

After a loud, exciting start to our journey, many of us quickly fell asleep. Soon we were at the Channel Tunnel and, following a short train journey, we were in France. When we arrived in Boulogne, we were greeted with a lovely French breakfast. After licking our fingers clean we were back on the coaches, one group travelling to a bakery, the other to a chocolate factory. When the first half arrived at the bakery we were welcomed by the smell of fresh bread as we were lead behind the shop front to the bakery itself. After an interesting talk we were



each given free croissants and pains au chocolat, hot from the oven, which we ate contentedly.

The second half of the Boulogne visitors went to the chocolate factory called Chococats de Beussent. It was definitely a mouth-watering experience and the drifting aroma of chocolate filled the air as we walked into the factory. We witnessed somebody make some fresh chocolate and we even got to try some luscious samples.

After our visits to the bakery and chocolate factory we headed back to Boulogne. There we

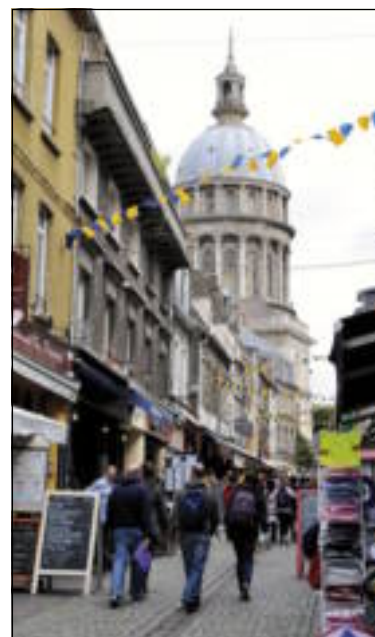
were split into groups and given a quiz about Boulogne to complete. But soon the time was up and once again we were on the motorway headed for home at the end of our exciting day trip to France, with our memories of people being left on the bus, and eating hot chilli sweets.

■ **Joseph Meehan, 8S**

■ **Sachin Chowdary, 8J**

■ **Aaron Drinkall, 8J**

■ **George Downing, 8S**



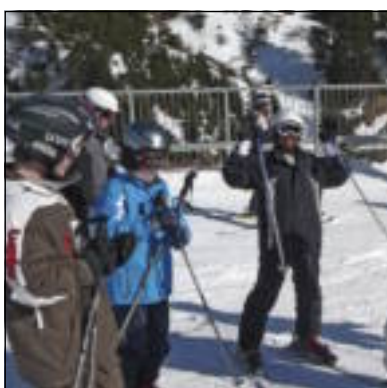
Ski Trip 2011

St Anton, Austria

Despite one or two minor mishaps, this was a very enjoyable and successful trip to the Austrian Tyrol. With a larger than normal group of 60 boys it is easy to imagine any number of things going wrong but due to the experience of the staff in charge and, more importantly, to the boys themselves, there was very little cause for concern.

Our thanks to Messrs Bulloch, Bruten, Cookson, Downing, Dinham, Hardy and Nash for their excellent help and expert advice during the week. We sincerely hope that the boys had a memorable experience and that many of them return to the 'piste' in years to come.

■ P.T.C.



St Malo 2011

St Malo: a small town in northern France, which had become a traditional holiday venue for the fifty or so travellers from south Birmingham. In May 2011, the last ever party of year-sevens along with four teachers, Mr Smith, Mr Tucker, Mr Renault and Mr Russell visited the town.

On a cold Thursday morning; we bid our parents farewell as we boarded the coach for a long, tiring journey through the lower half of England down to the docks in Dover, with the white cliffs climbing high up to the sky above. The coach boarded the ferry around the time of the end of first period bell, with school children enjoying the novelty of a games arcade on a boat, and staff enjoying twenty minutes of peace away from the racket at the other end



of the boat. After a rather quick ferry journey, it was another tiring drive further south until we finally arrived in St Malo where everyone met their families and left for their temporary homes for the next few days.

An early rise the next day saw us lugging ourselves onto the bus to visit the spectacular Mont Saint-Michel. Teachers again found time to relax, at one of the caf  s, while the boys charged around – all with an uncanny obsession with the flick knives and wolverine claws on sale. After that, a half-hour wait for five of us to remember where the meeting point was, and someone to retrieve his bag from a shop. But no worries, we still had plenty of time at the beach, which is what everybody wanted. After a relaxing time in the pleasant heat, it was time to return home to a day with our host families.

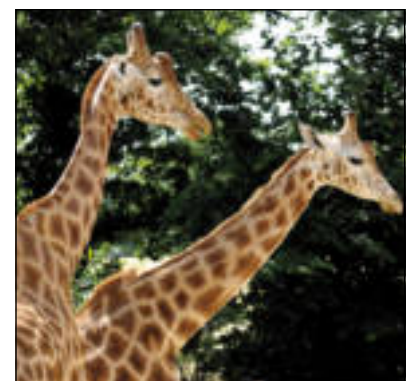
After the third day with the host families, the groups were once again reunited with each other as they prepared for a trip to the zoo and the cemetery in what would be the final day of activity for everyone. First, we travelled to the zoo where we saw lots of strange animals ranging from guinea pigs to something that looked

like a blue chicken. One of the most entertaining areas was the lemur enclosure, where you were only a thin rope away from being able to stroke them. After we left the zoo, the St James' cemetery trip was cancelled, as the only place the staff and pupils wanted to go, was the beach. Following the beach trip, we had a final night with our host families, before another long journey back home in the morning.

I would like to thank all the staff who have made this trip possible for so many years and wish good luck to the new year sevens on their trip to Paris.

■ **Rayhaan Langley, 8J**





The Battlefields Tour 2011

On Thursday 26th May, at around 1 am, a group of bleary-eyed boys and some over-excited teachers congregated in the school car park, awaiting a coach that would act as our transport for the next five days. After a long journey, we would arrive in Northern France, on the border with Belgium which was to be the scene of our Battlefields tour.

Following our arrival in France and a brief stop at a small British cemetery, despite the fact that many of us had not slept in more than 48 hours, we embarked upon our first excursion to the Hoge Crater and Museum near Ypres which introduced to us very quickly the harsh realities of the First World War and the scars it left on its battlefields. The scale of the mine crater was unbelievable, as was the size of the cemetery which accompanied it. The museum introduced us to some of the equipment and stories of the war. That was to mark the end of the day and we travelled to our small but comfortable hotel in Carvin, near Lille.

The next two days were mostly spent exploring the battlefields of the Somme: the magnificent Canadian National Memorial complete with weeping women standing on Vimy Ridge, the Lochnagar mine crater, one of the most spectacular sites on the Western Front, and Newfoundland Park where all but 68 of the 780-strong Newfoundland Regiment were killed or wounded on the first day of the Somme.

We also visited Montauban, the site of a British success on the first day of the Somme, High Wood, where the Birmingham Pals were introduced to the horrors of war and the vast and stunning South African Memorial at Delville Wood. We completed our tour of the Somme at the imposing Thiepval Memorial to the Dead of the Somme, a solemn reminder of all those who died as a result of the war who were never laid to rest.

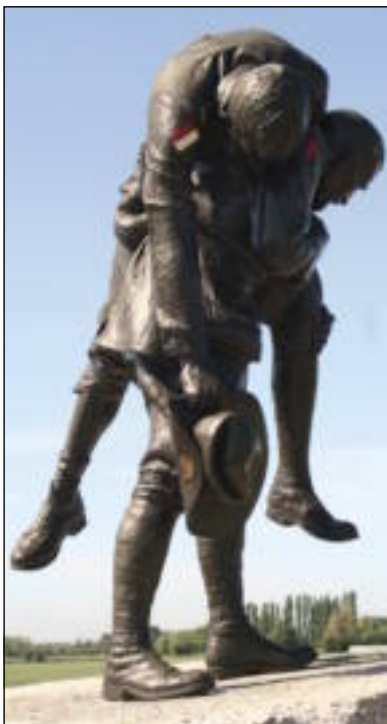
On the penultimate day of our Battlefields tour we saw the Bayernwald, near Kemmel, near where Adolf Hitler is thought to have fought, and the spectacular 'Pool of Peace' otherwise known as the Spanbroekmolen Crater. We also visited another two extremely contrasting cemeteries: the Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is the biggest British cemetery and the more sombre German Cemetery at Langemark which included a mass grave containing the remains of 24,917 German soldiers.

The final day saw us leave the Park Hotel in Carvin and begin our journey back to Birmingham. We made only one brief stop at Fromelles, the site of the newest Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Cemetery, built in 2008/09 following the discovery of a previously unknown German-dug mass grave



containing the bodies of 154 British and Australian troops killed attempting to attack the German front line at Fromelles.

The Battlefields trip was not only enjoyable and interesting, it was instrumental in demonstrating to us, without the use of a text book, the horrors of the First World War and how they must have affected



soldiers, physically and mentally, and allowing us to see for ourselves the scars etched deep within the landscapes on which it was fought.

Thanks must go to Mr Phipps, Mr May and Mrs James, who although not history teachers, gave up their free time to come along



and make the trip possible and also to Messrs Southworth and Bulloch who arranged and led the trip and shared with us their expertise throughout the tour and who will continue to do so in the coming years.

■ **Philip McCahill, 10Y**





Maths Matters

To follow up the incredible achievements of 2010 would be difficult to say the least but with students of the calibre we meet at Camp Hill, there would be no 'resting' on laurels! The autumn term roared to life with busy open meetings and mentoring sessions (thank you Mr Jack) on Algebra, Number Theory, Proof, Combinatorics and Geometry; topics that the students might meet in the British Maths Olympiad (BMO). He even found time to include some of our budding year 9 mathematicians in one of the sessions!

Senior

In early November, by way of a welcome back from half term, AS level mathematicians and invited 'others', from years 10, 11 and 13, took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge. This is always a tough paper, testing the skills of students of all abilities. Once again the boys demonstrated considerable ability by securing 35 Bronze, 35 Silver and 24 Gold certificates. Ten boys qualified for the follow up British Maths Olympiad, a challenge aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country; Max Cheung, of year 10, performed amazingly on his first attempt at this level of challenge and qualified as best in school (quite brilliant!). Jack Attack, Andrew Jeskins, James Jordan, Tony Song, Chris Carter, Tim Westwood, Karndeep Uppal, Marvin Mui and Sam Childs (year 11) were the other automatic qualifiers.



BMO1 Qualifiers

The results of BMO1 saw Staszek Welsh gain a Bronze medal and certificate of Distinction for his superb solutions to some very hard problems. A Bronze medal means Staszek was placed in the top 100 students nationally and qualified him for the follow up BMO2, which serves as part of the selection process for the UK International Maths Olympiad team: To reach this stage is an outstanding achievement.



Olympiad Qualifiers

Intermediate

February gives the boys from Years 9 to 11 a chance to test their mettle on the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A good paper produced some superb performances, with the boys from year 10 showing that there is much to encourage us in the near future. Collectively they produced an impressive 84 Gold certificates, 96 Silvers and 55 Bronze; well done to Robert Smith (year 10) for his 'Best in school' award. An incredible 13 boys qualified for the IMOK, a two hour paper for the top 1000 in the UK. 48 others qualifying for the European Kangaroo, a 25 question multiple choice paper sat by students throughout Europe.

In the Kangaroo, 16 boys earned merit certificates that placed them in the top 500, while in the Olympiad Robert Walters received a certificate of Distinction and a medal, placing him in the top 100 participants nationally. Incredible!

Also in the Olympiad, Sam England and Giles Moss gained certificates

of Distinction, a medal and a book prize, placing them in the top 50 nationally: in actual fact they finished 10th and 40th respectively: a remarkable achievement!

Max Cheung built on his considerable success last year to post an incredible score of 100%. He also received a certificate of Distinction, a medal and a book prize and has the honour of being asked to attend the UKMT summer school in July; truly *outstanding*.

Junior

The students in years 7 and 8 were not to be deprived of their opportunity to succeed; 185 boys sat the Junior Maths Challenge this year and produced some impressive results, gain-

ing 54 Gold certificates, 70 Silver and 34 Bronze. Jonathan Saad produced the top score and qualified for the follow up Junior Maths Olympiad where he gained a certificate of Distinction for some excellent solutions. He might have done even better had he not crossed out the right answer to one of the questions!

Team Challenges

Senior

The blossoming popularity of these competitions means that we can now provide a 'team' event for most age groups. We have also taken on the local organisation of the two competitions run by the UKMT, giving us the chance to assist an organisation that has helped develop our students' problem solving skills enormously.

First up were the seniors; Tim Shao, Staszek Welsh, James Wallis and Marvin Mui were attempting to qualify for the national final once again. They lined up against 19 other Midlands schools to answer problems over the usual time limited rounds. An amazing 139 out of 140 in the first two rounds placed us joint first heading into the crucial final relay.

The first of four relays produced identical scores among the top competitors but we failed to complete the second and fell behind KES. The third produced full marks for KES and us, with the other top competitors dropping back slightly. In the final relay we outscored KES, but would it be by enough marks? Unfortunately it was not and we ended two points behind the heat winners, in second place. The team only lost 12 marks throughout the whole competition and it's hard to be disappointed with that level of accuracy; even better luck next year!

Year 10

Towards the end of the spring term we sent a team of year 10 students to an inaugural team competition organised by the University of Wolverhampton. The Camp Hill Boys' team of Fateh Singh, Robert Walters, Robert Smith and Max Cheung were one of 7 schools, 4 of them selective, to enter this regional event.

Intermediate scores were not announced, so our measurement of progress was by asking others what their scores were in each round.



Junior Team with Final Poster at National Final

We believe we were in the top three places throughout the competition; we believe that by the start of the last round we had never been in the lead; and we know that we were not leading at the start of the final round, which was the relay.

However, the boys stormed the relay, with 31 points from a possible 40, to take us into the lead when it mattered most! Congratulations to the boys on their 'hard fought' success and hopefully the experience will prepare them for future opportunities in the senior team.

Year 9

Late in the summer term another team competition found six year 9 students competing in the South Birmingham event. We made the long and difficult journey to the Girls' school and the boys (Aatif Syed, Peter Watson, Oscar Bocking, Gaspard Bulso, Richard English & Oliver Paulin) settled down to defend the shield won by us last year. The competition proved challenging, with the Camp Hill boys and girls staying neck and neck through the first two rounds. A faultless third round saw the boys take a 6 point lead into the final relay round. I could see the events unfolding as the 45 minute round progressed; first the girls closed the gap to just 2 points and then the boys eased away again to maintain the six point lead they had at the start of the relay. Phew! Congratulations to the talented team that defended the title so ably and once again demonstrated the depth of talent at all levels!

Junior

We hosted one of the Regional heats of this year's Team Maths Challenge here at school. The team of four (Giles Moss, Sam

England, Muhammed Khan and Jonathan Saad) was selected from Challenge results and the ability demonstrated in class-work and exams. The competition had the usual four rounds (Group Round, Number Cross, Mini Relay, Relay) and they were superb throughout, heading the leaderboard all day and qualifying for the National Final in the process.

As we hosted the event we were also able to enter a 'B' team. We took the opportunity to give some younger students the experience and so entered a team comprising one year 8 and three year 7's (Nathan McClelland, Adam Titchen, Youcef Barigou & Paul Gardner). They really enjoyed the day and actually came first in the Mini Relay round! Their overall performance placed them second, behind our A team, a great achievement!

Four Travel to London

After the 'fun' of exam week Giles, Sam, Muhammed and Jonathan travelled to the Royal Horticultural Halls, London to take their place in the National Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge.

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

We took our place in the hall and surveyed the 95 other teams that had qualified; it was going to be VERY competitive!

The day began with a separate poster competition. The boys brought some resources with them but also added to the design on the day. They were given some very challenging questions on the Golden Ratio as part of the poster and produced an excellent final display that attracted much interest from the judges.

The main event contained four rounds; A Group Circus round where they work as a team of 4 on 8 individual problems/tasks, the Mini Relay where they work in two pairs, the Cross Number where they again work in pairs and the final where they, yet again, work in pairs.

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

So another year ends! The boys have once again relished the opportunities provided and they never cease to impress us with their significant ability at all levels. Behind the scenes the team of teaching staff are constantly striving to develop the students' skills and I would like to round off this summary by thanking them for their considerable hard work and dedication; without their love of this beautiful subject we would not see such amazing feats from the students!

■ P.A.B.



Kangaroo Qualifiers

Music

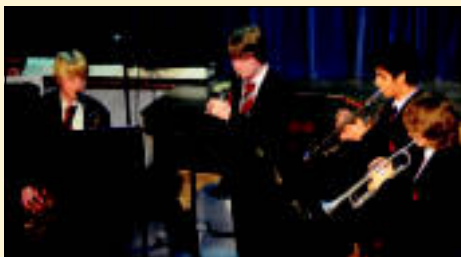
Chamber Concert

November 2010

In November we held our Chamber Concert which is the first big joint concert of the year. We feature the Training Orchestra and Training Band at this event, and for the Year 7 pupils in these groups, and their parents, this will have been their first Camp Hill Concert.

The Training Ensembles did very well, particularly as they had so little time to prepare. There were some excellent performances from ensembles directed by our instrumental teachers which included a vast dramatic ensemble of cellos and double basses, Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Choir, Oboes, Guitar and Tabla Ensembles. We also heard some fine performances by groups run by the pupils themselves, such as two songs from the rock band Acoustic Reveries (Chris Sherwood, David Warren & Kieran Darcy).

■ S.F.P.



Christmas Concert

December 2010

The Christmas Concert is a seasonal feast of music provided by our most able musicians. The senior and intermediate orchestras and bands perform, and there are often contributions by chamber groups as well, such as Flute Choir and Clarinet Ensemble.

The Swing Band is always a popular sec-

tion, and was this year ably conducted by Rupert Cole (Year 13). Each school also has a number of vocal items sung by their choir, and there were some excellent atmospheric contributions. The concert traditionally ends with Leroy Anderson's famous Sleigh Ride, and, as usual, we were delighted that Santa dropped in to see us during the performance and give out sweets some of the children present.

■ S.F.P.





Teatime Concert

March 2011

Just two years ago we had the idea of presenting a concert featuring our most Junior pupils in the Spring term at the early time of 5.30 pm. This proved popular, and so we have been very pleased to continue it.

We began with Training Strings, ably directed by Mrs Anne Hagyard. Considering that these players are not very experienced in orchestral playing, they did extremely well, and the audience appreciated their efforts. Training Band under the baton of Mr John

Meadows also did very well, showing great discipline and variety of dynamics. There were a number of smaller groups too who played well, which included a CHB String Quartet and our Guitar Ensemble made up of Terrence Wu, Luka Novovic, Max Cheung and Archie Attack.

■ S.F.P.



Junior Poetry and Music

March 2011

Now an annual fixture, the 'Junior Poetry and Music Workshop and Evening' were once again organised for this term and the workshop was held before half-term.

With a theme of 'mystery' we decided to perform two well known television themes with our own Year 7 pupils and Wheeler's Lane Primary School pupils: *Scooby Doo* and *The Addams Family*.

These went down very well at the concerts, accompanied by our Year 7 band, made up of

Joseph Meehan (Clarinet), George Downing (Alto Saxophone), Themiya Siriwardhana & Ashar Aslam (Guitar), Edward Connolly (Keyboard), Billy Chapman (Double Bass) and Tom Keast (Drum Kit). There were some other very good performances from Azeem Handra (Piano), Lior Saad (Guitar), Arya Damavandy (Keyboard), Fazal Shah (Recorder), Navid Rahimi Larki (Piano), Ravi Bange (Piano) and Jonty Hart (Oboe).

■ S.F.P.



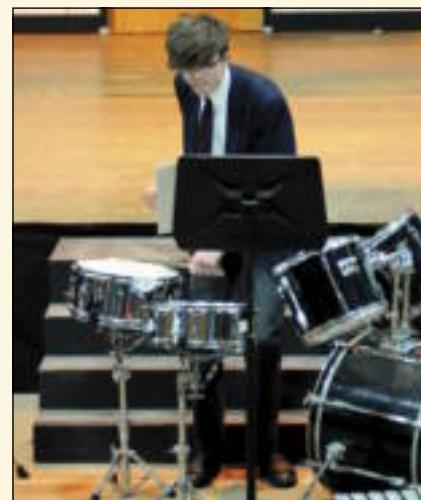
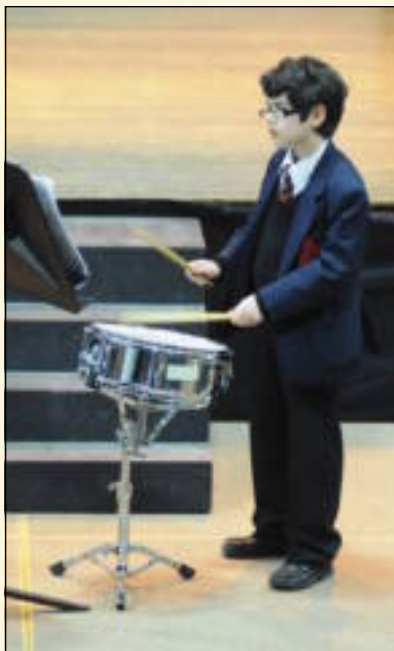
Samba!

April 2011

We were delighted to welcome back an old boy of the school to take a Samba workshop day with concert in the evening. Ross Garrod studied A level and percussion at school, and went on to gain a place at the Royal Northern College of Music. Here he studied percussion and is now a Professional freelance musician.

He demonstrated his skills to an enthralled assembly early in the day. During the morning pupils from two local Junior Schools joined our own percussionists in workshops to investigate the Samba style. In the afternoon they worked to build up a piece which could be presented later. At 7 pm we held a concert which featured Ross and his colleague playing marimba, xylophone and drums, plus our own pupils playing their percussion pieces, and then the prepared Samba piece was the grand finale. It was a very loud but exciting evening!

■ S.F.P.



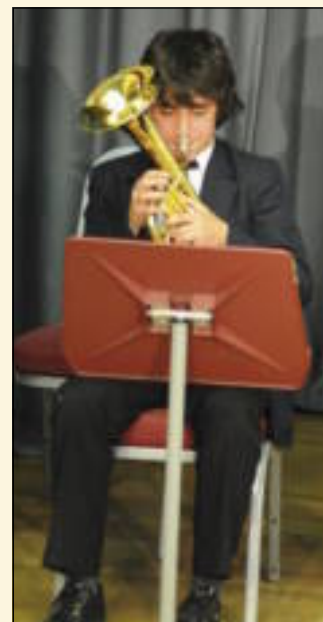
Senior Concert

May 2011

The Senior Concert is a significant event for our Year 13 pupils, as it is the last event of their Camp Hill careers. This year there was some particularly good selections, from the stirring sounds of Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Tchaikowsky's *Sleeping Beauty Waltz*, to *Not While I'm Around* (Sweeney Todd) and *The Rhythm of Life*, sung by the School Choir.

The Swing Band also performed extremely well, for the last time under the directorship of Rupert Cole (Year 13). A feature of this concert is the 'leavers item', something that the Year 13s have dreamed up to perform, and for the Heads of Music to perform! This year the Year 13s sang a lively selection of songs concluding in the School Song, and Mr Palmer and Miss Hawthorne were asked to sing a duet from the musical *Cabaret* which many knew from the recent Camp Hill Boys' production!

■ S.F.P.





Charity Concert

May 2011

On Monday, 9th May, we added into our calendar a brief concert to support Ross Mackie's trip to Africa this summer. Ross will be travelling to Uganda to a village just outside Kampala. There he will be working with 15 other people his age in a school for over a week. He will be helping to teach English, Art, PE and other subjects, as well as helping the people with any work they need doing.

The concert featured Clarinet Ensemble, which Ross plays in, as well as our excellent

Guitar Ensemble, and some of our fine pianists, including Robert Smith and Andy Mei who leave us this year. The pianists concluded the concert with a piece for eight hands on two pianos! Mr and Mrs Mackie kindly supplied refreshments, and brought in tables so that the Hall had a very informal feel about it. I am delighted to report that this event raised over £250.

■ S.F.P.



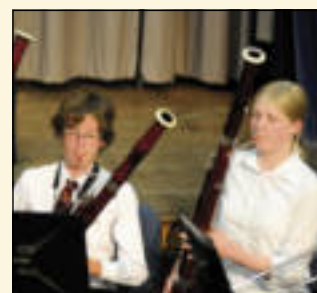
Summer Soirée

July 2011

The Summer Soirée is held at the end of the summer term and features our Intermediate and Junior musicians. It is to their credit that they manage to continue to rehearse in what is such a busy term with examinations and sporting events.

This evening was packed with interesting items. As well as Intermediate Orchestra, Wind Band, Training Strings and Training Band, we had some excellent smaller groups, including CHB Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Choir, CHB Guitar Ensemble and CHB Tabla Ensemble. There were some excellent performances, and we were delighted to see what fine progress our younger pupils are making.

■ S.F.P.



Cabaret

Our big project in the second half of the Spring Term was the musical Cabaret. A feast of music, dancing and acting set against a background of the rise to power of the Nazis, this is a powerful piece of musical drama. After weeks of preparation, in the last week we had to knit the piece together, and slowly it did come together. There was some really good singing from Tom

Dowling (Tenor) and Alex Wood (Baritone) plus the girls from CHG.

The band worked incredibly hard to support the singers, and give the piece the right character, and did a wonderful job. They were: Jacob Werrin (flute/piccolo), Ben Palmer (clarinet), Andrew Jeskins (clarinet), Olivia Ashton (alto saxophone), Edward Maclean (tenor saxophone), Peter Brookes (trumpet), Oliver

Palmer (trumpet), Ella Jackson (french horn), Elinor Chambers (trombone), Andy Mei (violin), Matija Novovic (violin), Manish Sabharwal (viola), Lucy Barnes (cello), Alex Pattison (double bass), David Warren (guitar), Robert Smith (piano/keyboard) and Rupert Cole (drum kit).

■ S.F.P.

[Cabaret photographs are in the Drama section, pages 40 – 43]

Drama

The Canterbury Tales

June of 2010 saw the beginning of another revival of the Junior Drama Production. Mrs Lockyer, after her success with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' the previous year, began auditioning the young and eager year 7 and 8 boys and girls who all wanted to take part. A new team of sixth form directors added to the anticipation. This year's play was a take on Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' – giving a modern day feel to a 14th century classic.

The play was meant to consist of five different tales, however there were so many great auditions that a new tale had to be recreated so that more people could showcase their talent. The multiple lead roles went to the year 8's, however the year 7's were not forgotten, and now that all roles had been cast, rehearsals could then begin.

This retelling begins with Geoffrey Chaucer in a comatose state, and a group of alchemists trying to bring him to full life again. In an attempt to do so, the alchemists tell his tales, hoping the familiarity will rouse him from his stupor. Our take on the play centred around a box, from which characters sprang mysteriously (accessed from under the stage!) and took their props. In this version each different tale is woven together by the alchemists who act sometimes as narrators, and characters in their own right. After each tale it appears that Chaucer is becoming more and more alive until at the end he awakes to witness a crowd cheering in his honour (and the best finale dance ever choreographed!)

Several run-throughs and some frantic line-learning later and it was suddenly November – we were coming closer and closer to the opening



night. There had been setbacks due to illness and injuries but everyone was adamant to succeed. The last week saw the final rehearsals, but with props still missing, and 'the box' still not in place, things were looking bleak. However it seemed that everything slipped into place at the last minute, and after an inevitably shaky Primary School Matinee, the three main shows were upon us.

Everyone was anxious to do their best, and when it came to it, they did. The three shows went by practically without a hitch (*if by 'practically without a hitch' you mean a bottle was accidentally broken and Mrs Lockyer having to sneak on and clean it up with a dustpan and brush*).

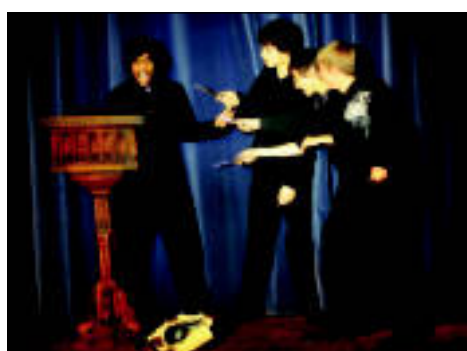
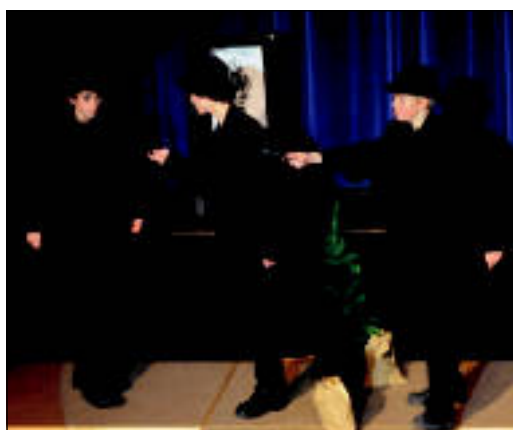
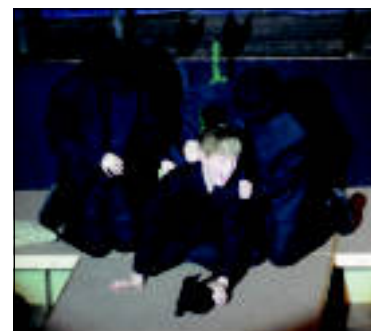
The play went down a treat, and everyone who took part couldn't help but feel proud of themselves and everyone around them, knowing that this play will be remembered for a long time to come.

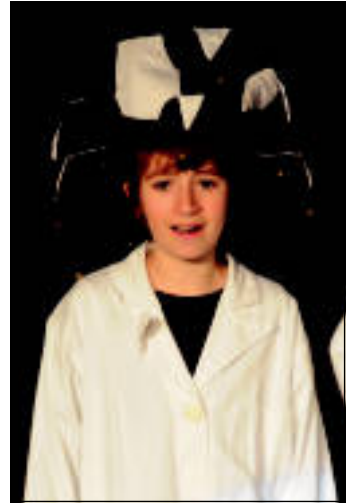


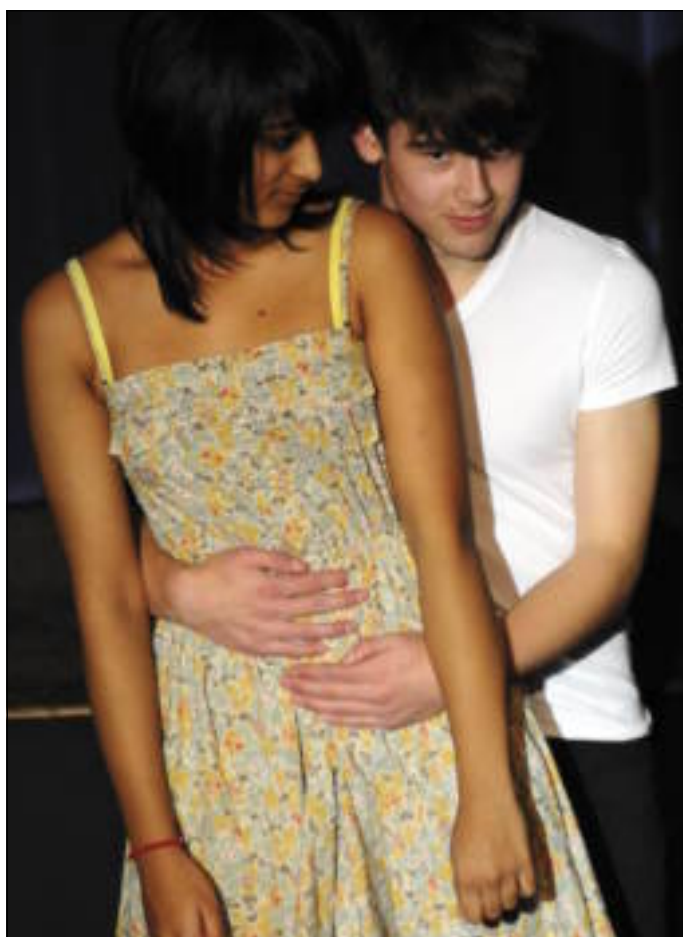
The cast would like to thank Mr Downing and Mr Carmen for making the box and creating the sets. Kieran Ahern, Tom Dowling, Cameron Whitehead, with Loughlan O'Doherty and Ankit Bhatt, for helping direct us and having the ideas that made the play that bit better. For all their help with the show we give our thanks to Mr Southworth and Mrs James, to Charlie Stopes-Robinson and Charley Fellows-Campbell for making the treacherous journey from the girls school to help out and teach us how to dance, and to old boy David Harvey for helping write a new tale. Finally the cast would like to give a massive thank you to Mrs Lockyer for giving us the chance in the first place, for putting up with all of us, and making it a play to remember.

■ **Jordan McDonagh, 9S**









Pantomime

The inaugural Sixth Form Pantomime began life in the summer of 2010 in the minds of directors Ankit Bhatt and Tom Dowling who decided that, after 127 years, it was time to really put the 'camp' into Camp Hill and so they set about the arduous task of finding a suitable script for a top notch panto...

After a quick Google search and a couple of emails a script was obtained; the 'leading lights' of the Camp Hill stage were to perform *'Robin Hood and His Musical Merry Men'*. Half of the gags in the script were quickly thrown out in favour of contributions from the cast during rehearsals and much of the other 50% had been gradually warped and subverted come opening night. The finished product, therefore, was very much a labour of love for the entire team behind it and something we were all genuinely proud of when it gained such a great reception.

Cross-dressing was, of course, mandatory, as with any good pantomime, and this was supplied in droves by Verity Pitt as the titular 'Robin Hood' as well as Alex McCormick and Kieran Ahern as devilishly handsome Dames. With the word 'musical' in the title it was inevitable that some unexpected numbers would find their way into the show, none more so than *'Men in Tights'*, an original rap featuring Alex 'Will Smith' Weir and the Merry Men: David Williams, Patrick Murray, Jacob Genders and, the *'Eminem of Edgbaston'*, Miles Szabo.

We were all brought closer by this production, in particular Ben Dovey and Hassan Mohammed who really immersed themselves in the 'Will They? Won't They?' saga of footmen Malcolm and Mostyn. Their dance debut to Dirty Dancing's *'Time of My Life'* was a particular delight. There was a strong presence from the Girl's School with Jenni O'Kane and Annie Randall playing love interests to Verity's



'Robin' and Patrick's 'Ringo' respectively, along with Gemma Kay, Fatima Shah, Charlie Stopes-Robinson, Charley Fellows-Campbell, Molly Amson-Knight, Charlie Smalley and Jo Paul.

Ian Firth burst blood vessels as the villainous 'Prinz John Bznitches' and the two Oliver's (Dawkins and Palmer) drew laughs as his 'put-upon' Butler and Sheriff, respectively. Tom Dowling played himself with a teddy bear and a lisp as unlikely rap prospect and nephew to the Prince, Tarquin Twinklebottom. The first Act was finished with a disturbingly comfortable rendition of *'Barbie Girl'* by Tom alongside his onstage mother Kieran as 'Dame Twinklebottom'. The ensemble was ably completed by Ben Harvey, Ross Mackie and Alex 'Dearly Beloved' Wood.

A big thank you to all who came to watch on both nights, especially those who laughed

hardest at some of the more bizarre in jokes that the cast saw fit to insert on a whim. Thank you also to the technical crew and the stage crew, who were asked to go beyond the call of duty and don Gorilla and Spiderman suits for what was snappily termed 'the Most Expensive Joke in the Show'. Finally, thank you to Messrs Southworth, Carmen and Downing and Mrs James without whom this production, like all at Camp Hill, would not have been possible.

Personally, the Pantomime was one of the most enjoyable productions I have been involved in at Camp Hill, a sentiment I am sure is shared by many others involved in its creation, and I hope it is an idea which is revived again after the success of 'Robin Hood'.

■ Kieran Ahern, L5





This year's senior production of Cabaret certainly had heads turning around Camp Hill; scantily clad dancers, a cross-dressing MC and Kieran Ahern's cameo appearance as both a gorilla and the German brute Brunhilde (no hint of typecasting), were all taken in the stride of Mr Southworth, as he lead the charge towards another hugely enjoyable musical.

However, this year, the veteran director could not have been without choreographer Verity Pitt, whose youthful exuberance guided the 'cabaret girls' to a tight, polished and very well received performance; her input was fundamental to the show and was quoted as being, *'the best choreographing for a musical at Camp Hill ever'*.

Jake Genders' performance as the MC can be described as no less than inspiring; his execution of the character was amusing, enthralling and ultimately chilling. The ditzzy 'Sally Bowles' was portrayed excellently by Olivia Deane thanks to her wonderful singing voice and versatility. The comic relationship between the ancient Herr Schultz and Fraulein Schneider was played by the 'fruity' Alex Wood – ever keen to present his prized pineapple – and Emily Presswood; after the Nazi revolution in the second act, the deterioration of their relationship and characters was beautifully and poignantly executed, particularly Emily's confidence and precision with challenging vocals and Herr Schultz's isolation at the play's close.

Ian Firth, the man who was born to play villains, stepped up to the mark yet again with an awesome performance of Ernst Ludwig, who tricked everyone into thinking he was a lovely man who just wanted to improve his English skills, but was really a Nazi; classic Ian. He was



helped along the way by Alice Seville, who played the frisky Fraulein Kost.

Once again, the band was outstanding and as always full of life and energy due to the fantastic leadership of MD Mr Palmer. Cabaret also saw the metamorphosis of an acting great – Ankit Bhatt (once the acclaimed 'Indian Boy') progressed to new heights as the 'Indian Man' (both waiter and taxi driver) in a stellar performance.

Despite the plethora of acting experience amongst the cast and directing staff, Cabaret was not without its problems. Thomas Dowling, who played Clifford Bradshaw, the prudent American, broke his leg whilst playing rugby only a couple of months before the show was

to be performed. Thankfully, due to tremendous support from the cast and in particular Mr Southworth, he recovered just in time for the show. Mrs James cared for all the boys' mishaps in the absence of their mothers, and her fundamental contribution to the play was, as always, greatly appreciated. Mr Carman, once again, created a wonderful, authentic set, which broke on the last night, and gave the backstage crew something to do for a change.

■ **Thomas Dowling, L ART**









Poetry Competition

In Extremis (On the Edge)

Such a little time ago hope carried me forward, though a stranger to this world of blue-black slabs
Picturesque and inviting was my day's goal
But now the wind, moaning through crevices cuts through my aching head,
And the blinding ray from the silvery tarn blinds my senses.

No more the anticipation of setting out; behind me the adrenaline filled ambition,
Nausea hath crept upon me and banished all those earlier companions
Leaving only a bleak mantra to the rhythms of my heartbeat: "look on, not down; look on, not down!"

Stumbling, tripping, hands and mind loosing grip,
Dying does not haunt me but sweating palms and beating chest fill me with a sense of being
already dead to my life of ease and normality,
Relief recedes before me – the longed for peak hides itself inside a misty cloak to taunt me
A cold heat bites into my consciousness and the air
swirling blustery, all is stirred within my fevered brain and I am not myself

Scrambling through mist,
Sheer to my left and right,
There was a thrill, there was awe,
But jagged nerves on jagged edges
have left only a blankness of sense,
Darkening it seems – how long can I go on?

I did not see a cloud move imperceptively to let a calmer light in
I did not see my footfall change,
In a moment
I had walked the rope and crossed the bridge to firmer footing,
The sounds of isolation are behind me,
I am here
rejoicing in a minor key, I sense the voices of a despairing moment
But know that I will come again.

■ **Peter Brookes, L5**



The two illustrations on this spread were specially created for the Chronicle by
Jared Dunn (L7) to illustrate two of the poems: Déjà vu and Down the Void



Déjà vu

Again and again,
Déjà vu

Waking up solemnly, staring at the same ceiling,
Feeling the same feelings, expecting
Another unwanted day.

Flicking the radio switch hopefully,
'What's on today?'
Enthusiastically he listens,
the same,
news, weather, nothing of relevance
to an insignificant being.

An ant, scuttles past, slowly,
almost leisurely,
its fate – unknown,
a reaction to a challenge unseen,
something to overcome,
something different
in its meagre, better life.

Standing unknowingly in the kitchen
in the same position,
practised over the many years
of the same routine.

And he sees it again and again, through the days,
the cornflakes box, the sugar jar, and the
never ending stream of water from the tap.
He prepares the same breakfast,
which by now
are all tasteless, meaningless to a needy, tired body.

And as shadows dance free through the window,
a portal to a freer world,
to the impending dawn,
the light changes as the sun comes up,
he waits, while
thoughts prance like careless horses
within poppy fields,
free, alive, fearsome desires,
that leave him on the edge,
his heart full of energy salivates on
his desires, surviving on dreams.

And he sees them, again and again,
before the newspaper slips through,
the hole in the door,
the snap of the flap,
a simple sound,
that enjoys his loathing,
like a devil,
door to the outside world,
the dreams, still cling,
but the mind snaps back to reality,
viciously,
silently snapping, almost suspicious eyeing
the will to dream of distant land and lives,
and live them,
the desired dreams and
the desired needs.

And again and again,
he is disappointed, a pathetic attempt to escape
because it's all, never ending
Déjà vu.

■ **Jawaad Farooq, 11X**



Untitled

What do you dream of?

Do you dream of:

Halcyon heavens & phosphorescent sunsets above you
Dante's infernal inferno below you (bit of purgatory in between)
Lucid musings of far away lands and long lost lovers
Lurid nightmares of unseen evils & forgotten faces
Faces seldom seen
Faces been and gone

Do you dream of:

Seedy little men in their stained anoraks peer their seedy little eyes
At the crowds of days, months and years as they pass us by
With their archaic gait and dusty fedoras (who knew metaphors wore hats?)
Sure to make a scene, peered upon by seedy little souls
The said seedy spectres with their shady pretence of savoir-faire
Seemed right at home under their neon existence
Sitting swathed in its ethereal glow

Do you dream of:

Parisian bourgeois and a glass of wine on the terrace just across the road
And autumnal avenues leading to better futures
Gaping crevasses descending to endless abysses (very deep)
Myriad memories shadow said city's walls
Driven forward in their incessant goosetep towards reality
By the snarling silver trumpets and the crashing drum rolls of torment

Do you dream of:

Pretentious, precocious, little pragmatists
With overtly proud predispositions
Who put pen to paper and pile up poems
Practically praying for praise (please)
No.
I didn't think you did

Do you dream of:

Scarlet lips and flaxen hair
Emerald eyes and face so fair
Seraph's touch and serpent's glare
Secret pseudonyms (very debonair)
Glistening diamonds!? (Plus cher)
Glimmering imperfections
Seen as facets,
Worldly assets
On what is more than a dream

Pulled apart at the seams (it seems)

By a myriad of surreal, incongruent dreams
But to be quite honest,
I wouldn't worry
It's only a dream

■ **Radu Thomas, 10W**



The Exploration of Life

Introduced to a small, empty room
I remain in my clouded corner
Reluctant to discover my own path
I consider what is around me

Many a night I spend on my own
My vision is clouded, my hearing blunt
Yet, on my own I cannot cope
I am restless about my destiny

I know not what I will find ahead
My fingers gently graze the floor
Smooth and polished it seems to me
And I notice something peculiar

Emotions have started to rush through my body
Automatically, my hand clamps to it
But I still don't know what this is
And soon I realize what I have found

The priceless treasure is my mother's hand
I hold it like a warm jacket
We go on, through this obscure room
Leading to my ultimate destiny

Every knock, turn and deviation
Begins to structure my personal journey
The floor becomes rough, I glance off nails
These pains fade as I endure the others

My mother leaves me; I'm on my own
I find new friends and we lead each other
But they shortly leave, on their explorations
And alone I remain, through times of trouble

I need more guidance; I've lost my way
Where to find it, I cannot comprehend
Yet, somebody is struggling besides me
We hold hands, moving towards our fates

I have gained control of my senses
My vision is clear, my hearing sharp
I see a brilliant illumination
As if the Sun has come before me

Together we move now
She sticks with me better than a shadow
We stand, walking towards our success
And we run, knowing that we have prevailed

But I fall, twirling and striking the ground
I roll down an uneven slope
I'm hurt, cut and bleeding all over
And all I see is a silent scream

I've closed my eyes, my mind is resting
Helpless and tired, I've given up
I know I have won, my partner has made it
What will become of me, I do not know

Once again I'm back in that corner
Reluctant to search for my own path
I'm back in that empty room
I'll stay on this journey forever

■ **Jaskaran Rajput, 10X**



Down the Void

I stir from the numbness of dreamless sleep,
And gaze down on the shell that is my body.
I sprawl in a lake of scarlet liquid.
Ringed on all fronts by mangled corpses.
Death, take me.

Black dots of suffering encroach my eyes,
And my body can give no more.
The Sun shines down from the stillness of space,
But no longer do I perceive its warmth.
Death, release me.

I reminisce on the ordeal of my life,
And why I lie here, twisted and torn.
I think of the countless masses that I have butchered;
My slot in hell is sealed.
Death, forgive me.

As the hour darkens, my restlessness grows,
And my soul yearns to be set free.
I take up my gun, which ended so many others,
And place its icy tip to my skull.
Death, consume me.

■ **Stefan Butler, 8M**



Sonnet

The most amazing place I have been to,
Is Lantic Bay Beach down South in Cornwall,
So quiet it feels like it is only you,
Your voice echoes off the cliffs, vast and tall,
The sea drifts slowly with evening tide,
The red setting sun melts into the green,
You completely forget the world outside,
There you feel like you are a king or queen,
As the rolling sea goes to black for night,
And the blue sky turns into jet black coal,
And stars appear through the cloak of twilight,
Piercing through the clouds as darkness takes hold,
As the tide advances with all its might,
Next morning from the sea the sun will be drawn,
As the sea retreats for the breaking dawn.

■ **Ishmael Silvestro, 7J**



Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

As ever, we went into the season as a small and not particularly physical side, with the hope that our mobility around the park and our superior fitness, as a result of Mr Caves' relentless pre-season triangle runs, would reap rewards. We began the season with the annual tough first outing at Old Swinford whose superior quality and strength saw us soundly beaten. However despite the setback we showed a strong determination up front and looked dangerous when the ball was passed to the wings, which would epitomise many of our performances throughout the season. The next two matches saw us playing the type of rugby that suited the team: open rugby with good support play, and consequently we had two consecutive wins against Wolverhampton Grammar and Friary School.

Unfortunately, this run came to an end with a demoralising 52-0 loss against a Bablake side that we made look better than they were. We took our time getting out of the blocks and consequently we found ourselves two tries down in the first 10 minutes. This frustrating pattern of early, cheap tries seemed to feature in our next 3 matches with another 3 losses being recorded with the most devastating being at Kenilworth as we lost by 3 points with the last kick of game in a somewhat controversial fashion.

We recognise however that there were positives that can be taken from those matches and the commitment of the whole squad was unquestionable with high attendances in training, positive attitudes and a never-say-die character. However confidence would be our main barrier to success throughout the season. Our next outing was to Trinity Road for a match against KE Aston which often provided a thrilling contest and once again spectators were not disappointed in a tightly contested affair. The match started slowly with both sides clearly nervous with so much at stake. However, it soon settled into a gripping, forward

dominated battle which we edged and saw us in the lead with 5 minutes to go. However a dubious penalty try conceded saw us losing late on in the game. Morale was low – was this another controversial defeat? However, with a rallying cry from the skipper Dominic Fitzgerald the galvanised team gave Nathan Quadri a sight of the white line and a heroic finish saw him win the game in the dying seconds. This was arguably the most satisfying win of season, this victory meant a lot to the team.

The second half of the season saw us improve considerably in terms of performance however this was not reflected in our results with losses to Solihull School and Adams Grammar in which we saw ourselves on the wrong side of 50 points. However we bounced back later in the season with another win against Wolverhampton in which our defence looked organised, something we lacked in previously matches. This provided us with momentum into our next match against Wigton RFC, a familiar Cumbrian touring side, which was played at Billesley Common on the Moseley RFC 1st team pitch on a Friday night. This was a fantastic occasion, the atmosphere was tremendous with a sizeable crowd of very vocal supporters and there was a fine rugby display to go with it. Fuelled by the roar of the school song from the stand of supporters we ran in two tries to one and won a memorable game 15-5.

The win against Wigton was followed by a strong win against a Camp Hill RFC with a few familiar faces from last season putting us in good stead for tour. This year's senior tour saw us return to the North East. We entered our first match of the tour not sure what to expect against a school suspiciously named Cramlington Learning Village. Despite our pre-match anxiety we put in a strong performance and came out winners in a 39-5 which saw Dominic Fitzgerald run over the line for 3 tries. Unfortunately our final two matches of the season finished in defeat, especially the final game which saw a team consisting of all year 13s (apart from David Williams) against Ponteland. However despite this setback the year 13s signed off in style after the game and after 7 years of rugby service with a lap of honour around the pitch.



Particular mentions have to go to several players. The ever present Nathan Hehir was a rock in the front row and Garen Khaira stepped up from his role as 2nd team Captain last year with consistently solid performances. The towering figure of Ben Dow dominated the line out and made his presence felt around the park while Pavan Harnal performed superbly commanding the back line throughout the season. The strong direct running of Jordan Clarke and ruthless defence in the centres also deserves a mention. Special mentions also go to two year

11s Jack Lea, with some eye-raising performances in the front row and to Nathan Quadri, with his blistering pace and knack for finishing which saw him finish top try scorer with 7 tries, an impressive turnout especially for a year 11. Vice-Captain Jacob Hanvey also had an impressive season with a tally of 4 tries. The Captain, Dominic Fitzgerald was a true leader from the front throughout the season, and his full-blooded performances throughout the season were a true inspiration to the rest of the team. Many thanks to all those who supported

from the touchline, Mr Caves and Mr Carman for their work with the team throughout the season with particular thanks in organising another successful tour. Also many thanks to the year 13s who have left us and for your service to Camp Hill rugby over the years. We hope for more memorable moments next season and look forward to touring to Ireland at the end of the season.

[Team picture below left on previous page]

■ **Lawrence Welch, L3**

2nd XV Rugby

The School 2nd VX had a hugely enjoyable season, filled with pride, passion and power. The team's bonding and morale was instantly noticeable in the first game of the season, where the boys held on to a memorable 27–23 victory over Old Swinford.

The spirits were high in the second team camp, and this followed throughout the season as we picked up further iconic wins against KE Aston, Bishop Vesey's and Bablake. Although we narrowly lost out to Solihull, KES and Adam's Grammar, in close encounters which could have gone either way, the boys were undaunted as we moved forward to a heroic tour. In the absence of injured Captain and talisman Tom Dowling we romped to two enormous wins, scoring 156 points in total, and conceding none. Special mention must go to Alex Weir, player of the season, who enjoyed a pivotal role at scrum half, giving the team a



new dynamic which cut through opponents. Luke Pritchard-Cairns totted up an awe-inspiring 52 points on his personal tally on tour, a feat which capped off an impressive season at stand-off. Unfortunately we had to bid farewell to five senior players – Ian 'Quiff' Firth, Jamie

'Big Hit' Blakeman, Veer 'The' Mann, Patrick 'The Heart' Murray, and Alex 'The Weapon' May, who inspired a younger generation of Camp Hill rugby players with leadership, mettle and pride.

■ **Thomas Dowling, LART**

U15 Rugby

As the Year 10 rugby season beckoned, the sudden realisation, that this was our last junior season together hit us. From boys to men, we had to make the step-up to this increasingly tense and challenging type of rugby. Many new faces graced the team, as over 28 players played at least one match in the season, that proved to be very memorable.

The season started well, with the brushing aside of Fairfax, being our first game. Old flames still shined, as Tom Murphy capped the start of what would be a fine season, with a brace of tries and debutant Andrew Hyde kicking 3 well placed conversions. The following week proved to come as a real test, with Old Swinford Hospital School testing us to our limits. This was valiantly met by the whole squad, and we were unlucky to not get as many points as we did, as we showed grit and determination in abundance. The following week, we picked ourselves up for the first round of the Daily Mail Cup, against Prince Henry's. This was previewed to be a tough match, against tough opposition, however the lads all stepped up to the mark, to prove themselves and to prove to Mr Duncan, that we had recovered from the previous week. 43–0 was the ending score, with tries from David Watson, Tom Murphy, Lewis Hedges,

Gulliver Bates, a debut try for Fabian Evans and a brace from the ever improving Shuranjeet Takhar. As our season progressed, the team chemistry increased profoundly, as wins against Coundon Court, KE Aston, and bitter rivals King Edward's School, were gained, and our confidence was high as we eagerly anticipated the school rugby tour to Cumbria, later in the year.

Before we knew it, tour was upon us, and a whitewash of wins was set to follow. Gulliver Bates kicked 18 points during the tour, in which we beat Cockermouth School (34–10), Ullswater School (29–7) and Wigton Rugby Club (46–0).

Tom Murphy, David Watson, Ben Connolly, Idris Mohammed, Lewis Hedges and Fraser West all put in outstanding performances throughout not only the tour, but the season as a whole. It was rounded off with a resounding 75–7 success against CHRFC. Not actually as one-sided as that sounds as the club played with spirit (and five of our own players!) but everything we tried turned to gold and 7 points! A great way to close the year. Well done to the whole squad for a great season and we look forward to seeing how we all make the move to senior rugby in 2011–12.

■ **Asif Javed, 10Y**



U14 Rugby

Coming off the back of a fine display at U13 level, we were starting 2010 with high hopes of achieving a large percentage of wins. This seemed certainly possible and we were optimistic after an immense start against Fairfax, yet harder challenges were to come. After losing some fitness over the summer break, we were certainly not at our best as, soon after, we succumbed to a narrow defeat to a well-trained Old Swinford side. However, the side bounced back magnificently and with 7 wins out of a possible 9 in the first half of the term, we were definitely performing at a high level.

During this period we entered the Greater Birmingham Cup, where we won our group comfortably before reaching the final against KES, to whom we had lost 59-0 in the earlier encounter during this season. We arrived at half-time holding our own with a 3-0 lead, yet lost it just at the end with two break away tries, leaving us 12-3 runners up. Nevertheless, we still took credit from a fine performance, leaving us looking forward to the coming matches in the second half of the season.

Our optimism was well placed. We started with three straight wins before losing to a very physical Bishop Vesey side. After scoring more tries, it was our inability to claim the two extra points that lead to an aggravating 21-20 defeat. However, this run still lead to the final – and probably for the large majority, the most rewarding – event of the season: the Junior Rugby and Hockey Tour. After piling 20 boisterous ‘young



men’ on the minibuses, we headed for the beautiful scenery and accommodation of the Crown and Mitre Hotel in Carlisle, in the North-West of England. Lapping up the entertainment and occasion, this trip gave the team a chance to enjoy each other’s company and an attempt at formal fine dining. However, we also travelled all that way to play rugby, winning all three of our matches and learning an extreme version of the offside rule from Mr Carmen in the process!

It also gave the team a chance to congratulate others for their contribution to the success throughout the year. This meant handing out awards, based on a secret ballot from all the players, of who they thought performed to a high standard in every game they played. The highlights of the awards were:

- Best Back – Matthew Lord
- Best Forward – Andrew Elliot
- Most Improved Player – Ross Kang

Throughout the season we played some

impressive flowing rugby, with the backs and the forwards both performing impeccably. The chemistry of the team – although at some points ‘strained’ – was clearly portrayed as the belief and commitment came out in every match. This was shown as we were also awarded the try of the tour award, a neat passage of play from our 22 to the try line with roughly 13 players involved showing the effectiveness of the offload.

I would like to thank Mr Surr, on behalf of the whole squad, for all of his work throughout the year and to all the players for their commitment to the team. I think the fact we were awarded ‘Team of the Year’ shows how impressive the standard of play and the attitude of the players has been. With a finished record of 13 wins and 3 losses, scoring 468 points and conceding 215, it has been a pleasure to captain such a great side.

■ **Giles Moss, 95**

U13 Rugby

The autumn term saw the start of a new season for the U13s as we aimed to improve upon our first season in Camp Hill rugby. Throughout the season the boys played with commitment and enthusiasm despite suffering more losses than victories.

Though being a fairly inexperienced side, with few club players, we had a very strong set of forwards; Dom Paver’s towering frame helped secure a lot of lineout ball that could then be shipped out to the backs to try to exploit some of our pace. Jacob Corr led from the front with his aggressive style of play in the No. 8 position. We also have some strong runners in the backs complimented nicely by handling skills that helped produce many tries over the course of the season.

We started the new season well with a comprehensive win over Fairfax in the opening match. Unfortunately, we then suffered a run of unsuccessful matches with only two victories coming from the first seven games (though in some cases we were unfortunate to be the losing side). We then headed to Lawrence Sheriff with several ‘regulars’ absent due to an untimely England match, nonetheless we started very well with an early try. We were then unfortunate



to go into half-time two points down after their winger had the pace to break our line. The forwards started the second half well, producing several unbroken phases of play before Kingsley Bates and Jacob Corr crossed the line for the team’s tries. Unfortunately they also matched our tries to draw the match, though not a win it demonstrated the team’s determination.

The Spring Term brought slightly more success before being rounded off nicely with a comfortable 22-0 victory against Camp Hill Rugby Club. Wesley Blackhurst scored his fifth try of the

year; he went on to perform well in an otherwise disappointing Greater Birmingham Cup in which we failed to perform to our full potential. However, Alex Tassa and Arun Sohan-Pall also performed excellently at Second Row and Centre respectively.

I’d like to thank our band of supporting parents who, whatever the weather, supported the team. Also thanks should go to Mr Caves and Mr Jones for dedicated their time to coaching us through the season.

■ **William Houlden, 85**

U12 XV Rugby

It was a good season overall for the Year 7 A-team rugby squad. We began well, winning the first three games; superb tackling ability was shown by Thomas Haddon and Aaron Drinkall. Also, Ahmed Ayed began to show some great ripping and rucking strategy as the season progressed, winning the ball for us on many occasions.

The first game of the season was against Bablake: the whole squad travelled there with high expectations of getting off to a great start. Skilful running by Cameron Steel and great kicking by Ed Connolly, accompanied by an overall superb team effort, secured the side a victory in our first game of rugby for Camp Hill.

The side continued to progress as the season went on, we beat KES, King Edward's Five Ways and Old Swinford Hospital, which was



a fantastic achievement. There were many impressive performances by all of the squad members throughout the season, including in the Greater Birmingham Tournament, in which we ended up finishing in second place. With a record of 10 games played, 5 won and 5 lost,

160 points for and 156 points against, the team can be proud that we performed extremely well throughout the season. We hope that our success will carry through to next year.

■ Arran Kingston, 7J

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

There were high expectations placed upon this year's 1st XI, due to the performances from the previous season. However, the season proved to be a difficult one, with the team struggling to string consistent performances together.

The first match of the season saw a young and inexperienced side (including five debutants) take on a strong and well drilled Solihull VI Form side. The close encounter from the previous year was not to be repeated, with Solihull cantering to 195-6 from their allotted 30 overs. Skipper Kieran Patel bowled superbly at the death to finish with figures with of 2-0-8-3. Despite the score, the boys were ready and raring to chase down the total. However, the less said about the following events the better, as Camp Hill were skittled out for only 51. The phrase 'things can only get better' echoed around the dressing room.

Bablake were the next opponents and it proved to be a much tighter affair. The Coventry outfit amassed 166 from their 20 overs, which seemed an extremely competitive total on a slow deck. This proved to be the case with the Camp Hill top order slipping behind the rate with 110 required off the last 10 overs. However, a flurry of boundaries got the chase back on track, but Camp Hill still required 24 from the last over. Unfortunately, Camp Hill could only manage 17, which resulted in a loss by 6 runs. Asim Shoaib top scored with 113*, but sadly it was not enough to see the team home.

Camp Hill were once again drawn against Birmingham Met in the first round of the cup, who proved to be a much more experienced side. In a one-sided game, Camp Hill could only muster 115 all out, with Captain Patel leading the way with 25. However, the opposition proved too strong, com-



fortably chasing down the target with two overs to spare for the loss of four wickets. Umar Ahmed bowled valiantly to finish with figures of 6-0-40-3.

Still without a win, Camp Hill marched on and played host to Aston in a 25 over game. Asim Shoaib top scored with 62, and was ably supported by a quick-fire 20 from Ahmad Saqib, in a total of 168-8. This proved too much for Aston, as Camp Hill ran out 34 run victors with Osama Hamid and Asim taking two wickets apiece.

Carrying on the battle of the Foundation Schools, Camp Hill travelled to Five Ways in search of a second win. Alas, this was not to be the case due to a lack of discipline with bat and ball. Five Ways reached a respectable 140-4 from their overs, which in the context of the game very gettable. Yet, with only two people managing double figures, Camp Hill threw away a certain victory. Asim (56) and Kieran (15) were the main scorers.

The final competitive match of the season saw the Camp Hill side, with the help of a few old boys, take on the MCC in the annual fixture. Rest assured the MCC side did not know what was going to hit them, when they 'won' the toss and elected to bat. A magnificent spell of swing bowling from Chris Curtis mopped aside the MCC line

up, who in all honesty didn't have a clue against the late movement that was being extracted. Chris finished with figures of 11.4-3-23-5, and he was well supported by old boy Marlon Wijendra 11-3-27-3. Camp Hill chased the total down with ease, winning by two wickets. Asim top scored with 69* with Chris capping off a fine performance with 28. The performance was well deserved as, even though the season had not gone to plan, the lads stuck at the task all season long. All that was left was the highly entertaining annual staff fixture.

The 1st XI opted to bat and amassed a huge 225-3 from 35 overs. Alex Weir recorded his first-ever century, as he bludgeoned the ageing staff attack to all parts of the ground. Alex took special liking to a certain K. Downing, whose solitary over went for 17. The staff were never in the hunt, but managed to salvage a draw due to a solid 68 from Mr Azam. Osama Hamid was the pick of the bowlers with 11-2-26-3.

Special mention must go to Kieran Patel for leading the side admirably, with the support of senior players in year 12. Thanks must also go to Mr Duncan for his work with the squad this year.

■ Asim Shoaib, L2

2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI Cricket Team started a new season with high hopes with many new and talented players. Under the captaincy of Jaipal Gahir, the team had to bond quickly and face their first opposition of the season, Solihull VI Form College.

After a controversial coin toss, Solihull put Camp Hill into bat with Oliver Palmer top scoring with 26 runs, and Camp Hill acquiring an overall score of 127-9. Sohail Nazir then opened the bowling and managed to get Solihull's opening batsman out leg before, off the second ball of the innings. Camp Hill got off to a good start, and managed to bowl a consist-

ent innings with top figures from Sohail Nazir of 2/5. However, an impressive innings of 74 from one of Solihull's batsman brought them back into the game and Camp Hill lost in the last over by 4 wickets.

Having lost ever so narrowly, Camp Hill were determined to secure their first victory of the season against Bablake. Having lost the toss, Bablake batted first. Nazir opened the bowling strongly, and bowled the non-facing opening batsman on his first ball. Wickets then followed after a shaky start by Ahmad Saqib, and strong bowling from Awais Sheikh. Camp Hill were then left to chase a strong figure of 155. Taking responsibility, Gahir opened the batting with quick knock of 20 giving Camp

Hill the start they required. This was followed by Lawrence Welch hitting a confident 48 on his debut, and Naman Javed bringing up the total late in the order with 41 off 26 balls. However, yet again Camp Hill fell short with a score of 150-4.

The Aston match was a T20 affair but we never really got to grips with the format, posting just 55-6, Lawrence making 20 of them. Aston played the conditions well and won by 10 wickets. Although the 2nd XI had a disappointing season, they played with their heads held high and have a lot of potential for the summer next year.

■ **Jaipal Gahir, L2**

U15 Cricket

Our performances did not mirror our ability which we have illustrated in the past, with the typical weather disrupting the flow of games. This was shown in our first match, which was cancelled with only 12 overs being played against Five Ways.

The cup game versus Bishop Veseys came quickly and the lack of training sessions and matches was evident. Losing the toss, we were put into bat, attaining a below par score of 96-6, Charanjit batted nicely to score 38 and Jalees 17. Our bowling wasn't up to the standard we knew we could achieve; consequently the opposition knocked off the runs in 15.3 overs.

The second match was against KE Stratford, having won all the encounters against them before; we didn't see them as a big threat. We fielded first and restricted them to 104 from the 25 overs allocated with excellent bowling from Charanjit, Arjan and Daniel, who all took 3 wickets. After a slow start, scoring just 6 runs from 6 overs with the loss of 2 wickets, we picked up the pace, with a partnership of 68 runs in 10 overs from Jalees (15) and Charanjit who hit a timely 68 runs. Following the break up of the partnership, we were back in a tight position. With two new batsmen at the crease (Gully Bates and Hamza Azam) we needed 4 runs of 4 balls. It was tense, with everyone watching intently, it came to the final ball in which Gully kept his cool and found the gap in the field to award us a stunning victory.

Our next game versus KE Aston in overcast conditions saw us fielding first again. They reached 106 all out, Charanjit taking 3 wickets with 2 wickets each from Adil and Andrew, a great catch was taken from Gully. Despite the early wickets, Jalees and Charanjit batted well and were not out on 24 and 28 respectively with a healthy partnership building. With a win looking conclusive (68-2 of 11 overs), a slight drizzle prompted Aston to abandon the match.

The next fixture was the rescheduled match against KE Five Ways. Having won the toss, we chose to bat on an unusually sunny day. The openers didn't disappoint with an extraordi-



nary opening partnership of 100 runs by Charanjit and Adil, Charanjit once again top scoring this season with an outstanding 74, greatly supported by Adil who scored 34. We posted 149-5 from our 20 allotted overs. Relaxed going out to field, knowing there wasn't a glimmer of hope that they could win was our flaw. Having kept them in check for a third of the game, a disastrous over with 18 extras got them going. Despite taking some wickets our bowling was a shambles, apart from the exemplary performance of Charanjit with figures of 4-13-3 and an economy rate of 3.25. They knocked the runs down with 2 overs to spare.

Our last match of the season was against a tough Bablake side who boasted some county and national players. Batting first, we were restricted to 88, Charanjit once again proving his dexterity scored 51* with Andrew (15) supporting him. In the end we lost by 6 wickets.

Charanjit top scored in every game we played, with his highest total being 74, he also achieved the best bowling figures of 3-10. I would like to thank all the team for supporting me and especially Andrew, Arjan, Narinder, Charanjit and Gully for playing every match along with myself. On behalf of our team, I

would like to thank Mr Watkins for coaching us, and also Mr Carman and Mr Duncan for umpiring the games we played.

■ **Jalees Hamid, 10Y**

U14 Cricket

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

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

Cup matches against Moseley and Holte followed. Moseley batted first and reached 99

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

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

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

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

Willis Cup Final

After their successful campaign, the U14's found themselves in their first Birmingham Schools Cricket Final. Their opponents were Bishop Vesey, a team that they had not beaten in their Camp Hill careers.

The 25-over match took place at the Britanic ground in Kings Heath. Captain David Yate won the toss and we'd already decided we'd ask them to bat, as the pitch looked wet and uninviting. Their opening pair bat-



ted cautiously as they searched for the pace and bounce of the pitch but they never really looked in trouble early on. The first six overs yielded only 21 runs and we were coping well with the alarming slope on the outfield but as the batting pair found their eye we started to drop the occasional ball a little short and their scoring started to accelerate. The openers both passed fifty with some accomplished stroke play and we were on the back foot. After the drinks break the scoring rate slowed as they found it more difficult to get the ball away and a bowling change produced three quick wickets; David deflected his own delivery on to the stumps to run out the none striker and then next ball the other opener lofted the ball to Nimreth Phull for an easy catch (if there is such a thing when the batsman is on 64!). The new batsman then pushed his second delivery into a gap and thought he'd hit a boundary. However, Ahsan Khan picked it up and threw to the bowler who could see that the batsman was well short of two runs at the other end; a great throw down the wicket saw the keeper take the bails off and we had the third wicket in 4 deliveries. They took a few overs to recover from this but 17 runs off the final over got them to an impressive 164.

Throughout this undefeated season the U14's have shown that they could match the

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

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

It was a pity to end the season with the only loss but one loss should not detract from superb year for the U14 team; they must look forward with confidence to the Docker Shield next year! David captained extremely well with Mustafa and the remaining squad members backing him up superbly. The squad is a strong one and they have the potential to do very well again next year. I have really enjoyed coaching watching and enjoying their company; well done, boys!

■ **David Yate**, 9M

■ **P.B.**

U13 Cricket

The Under 13 cricket season got off to a rather wet start, with the first game at Five Ways being abandoned after just 7 overs due to rain. We were glad to win the first full game though. KE Stratford struggled to put runs on the board and only managed 117 for 9 wickets off their 25 overs. We batted well and managed to knock off the runs in 15.3 overs. Alex Lane was the pick of the batsmen scoring 47 while Dawood Ahmed bowled well and finished with 3-13 off 5 overs.

Next, in a match affected heavily by rain, we were able to keep the KE Aston run rate down and managed to defeat them in an early finishing game. Dominic Paver batted well and finished with 50 not out. Azeem Hanjra bowled very well to gain figures of 4-11.

Two wins and we had also progressed to



the next round of the Cup due to the opposition not turning up, another game came up against the formidable KE Five Ways. We batted

first and made agonisingly slow progress, with the captain (myself) walking on to the pitch at number 3, and shortly walking back off again,

after getting out first ball. Over the last 3 overs, Dawood Ahmed and Satnam Ajimal scored 22 runs together to bring the score up to 95 for 8 wickets. Unfortunately, the lack of runs showed, and Five Ways got over the mark in just 14.2 overs for the loss of only 3 wickets. This was a disappointing end to the Cup this year.

The next match, against Bablake marked the end to the season. We were hoping to

finish the season with a win. We got off to a reasonably good start, scoring 19 off the first 4 overs. Once the captain fell for 27, the run rate slowed. We ended up being bowled out for 73 off 24.5 overs. This surely wouldn't be enough runs, and it wasn't. The visitors got the target in just 14.4 overs and only lost 2 wickets. This was a sad end to our season.

The pick of the batsmen this year were

Dominic Paver and Alex Lane while Ed Saunders put in a few runs here and there. The pick of the bowlers were Dawood Ahmed, Satnam Ajimal and Azeem Hanjra, with a few others bowling well on occasion. After winning only two of the five matches, the team have lots to take in and know what to work on in order to perform better next year.

■ **Ed Saunders, 85**

U12 Cricket

This was the first year that we had played cricket together, however lots of us had played rugby with each other so we had a good team spirit. Aqueel Zulfiqar also helped bring the team together with his loud cheering and shouting. No one could understand it but it was encouraging! We played 4 games, with another one being abandoned due to rain.

Our first game was at Five Ways and I had heard rumours of a Y7 at Five Ways who was 6ft 2 inches! We started well with a great catch from Aaron Drinkall. Henry Houlden's 2/9 helped us keep their runs down. Two excellent pieces of fielding from Aqueel led to two run outs. Adam Ahmed of Five Ways batted well for an unbeaten 41. The first two balls of the last over were hit for 6. The bowler of this extremely expensive over was Dan Western. Five Ways' score wasn't going to be easy to chase. Our hopes were darkened when we lost Dan Western early for 7. However a good partnership from Aqueel Zulfiqar and Nishant Chaudhari brought our hopes up. Five Ways bowled well and got two deserved wickets of Nishant, 23 and Aqueel, 12. Aaron Drinkall played very well reaching 31* with help from Andreas, 11* to seal the win in 16 overs.

Stratford was next and batting first this time a good performance from Nishant and Aqueel gave us a solid base, but when both were dismissed Andreas took up the challenge and battled for a respectable 18. Our bowling



needed to be up to scratch and a great start with two early wickets gave us hope. However their No. 3 and 4, who put on a 70 run partnership, gave us a scare. Our bowlers held out with 2 wickets from Adi Thakral securing the win.

Next was our first cup game against Aston. The captain Dan Western lost the toss and we were put into bat. The first 4 batsmen put on 13 all together and we were desperately in need of a man miracle. It wasn't to be however. Andreas (21) and Asher (24*) put up a fight at the end. Our bowling reflected on our opening batting with no real chances and the batsmen escaped our clutches score our total score in 17 overs for the loss of 1 wicket. Out of the cup in one game really demolished our team morale. Well we did have our chance to get back at Aston in a friendly. Again we were put into

bat and an awful start with Nishant platinum duck and Henry duck didn't help. Aqueel and Aaron Kingston batted excellently for a 72 run partnership with another two ducks coming later in the innings. Our bowling was very poor with their opener reaching 50 and his partner achieving 46. They batted and bowled a lot better than us and deserved the win.

The last game against Bablake was abandoned after Camp Hill struggling with the conditions battled through all their overs. The overs that Camp Hill bowled were good with a maiden from Cameron Walker and also Henry Houlden. Overall the team played well and deserved what was achieved. Thanks go to Mr Duncan and Mr Tranter for helping all season with training.

■ **Dan Western, 75**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

Under the reigns of new Captain, Aamil Ghani, the 1st XI started the campaign against a strong Bablake team where the rustiness that occurred due to the summer break was evident. In between the shimmers of class that we showed they managed to score 4 goals leading to a defeat for Camp Hill.

We were then faced with the daunting task of facing the KES 2nd XI which contained many '1st team'ers. This was always going to be tough game but we never lost heart and we were duly rewarded when Tim Shao scored. Despite this we lost 6-1 meaning a 0-2 start for the lads.



After another loss at the hands of King Henry's, we headed to KES once again but this time to actually play their 3rd XI. This led to a buoyant spirit from the boys and it showed on the pitch with goals from Gus Sidhu, Pritesh Chohan and Tim Shao. This meant we had won our first match of the season which would hopefully see us to greater things in the future.

Solihull 6th Form were our next opponents and unfortunately showed us that having an England Development Player really helps your chances and helped them to a 5-1 victory with a consolation goal from Jaipal Gahir.

A 9-0 defeat to Newcastle was a character building experience which we took to our match against Wolverhampton Grammar. An injury to goalkeeper Rajan Bhambra saw the introduction of Milan Vashi as the new goal-

keeper. A harsh introduction to hockey goal-keeping as another England Development player ran the game leading to a 6-3 loss but with Bilal Azam scoring 2 goals, positives were definitely taken from that game.

A 0-0 draw against Queen Mary's was reliant on some excellent goalkeeping by Milan and in turn some positive play led to chances being created. Positives were taken to our next game which we were unlucky not to get a victory from. Goals from Bilal Azam and Andy Newman saw us attain a 2-2 draw.

We were also unlucky not to get a victory against KE Stourbridge where we drew 2-2 again but with 2 goals from Andy Newman this time. Old Swinford were a team which we thought we could compete ably with and we certainly did that. An 8-0 victory ensued with 4

goals from Jack Attack, 3 from Andy and 1 from the midfield rock that is Aman Sahota.

An injury to the superstar stand-in keeper coincided with the return of Rajan Bhambra and a match against Bishop Vesey. A 7-0 defeat dampened the spirits slightly of the boys and a narrow defeat to Solihull 2nd XI 4-3 showed promise with goals from Bilal, Tim and Jack.

Unfortunately we ended the season as we started it, with 3 defeats. Losses at Queen Mary's, King Henry's and RGS Worcester were a harsh end to an indifferent season. Special mention must go out to the Upper 6th leaving us and also leading goal scorer Andy Newman with 7 goals in 16 games. Hopefully next year will bring more favourable results.

■ **Milan Vashi, L4**

2nd XI Hockey

The 2nd XI team started the season with plenty of ups and downs, but has shown performances of real quality and teamwork in several fixtures. It began with two tough matches at Bablake and Solihull, fielding a side which was learning to play together for the first time.

From there on, the team began to gel, and produced two brilliant showings at King Henry VIII and KES winning 3-1 and 5-2 respectively, with special credit going to Tony Song who scored a hat-trick against KES.

Over the next two weeks losing centre-back Ben Harvey to interviews gave David Mason a chance to play in the main defensive role. Despite David giving two Man-of-the-Match displays the team couldn't find the attacking options and incurred a couple of losses.

A final game at Queen Mary's allowed Tony to overtake Bharath Varadharajan as top goal scorer but didn't provide the final winning result for the term.

After Christmas, an away fixture at KE Aston was the kind of tough test the team needed to get the spring term underway; and a wake-up call duly arrived, as we found ourselves two goals down inside ten minutes. From there the team rallied, and Pritesh Chohan's terrific finish



pulled one back, topping off his brilliant contribution. With a minute to go Gary Zs also found the net to give a well deserved draw.

A test at Bishop Vesey's followed, one of the best sides in the county. An impressive defensive display, especially by Ben Harvey, held Vesey's to only 3 goals. A win at Solihull was followed by 3-0 defeat at home to King

Henry's. Special credit must go to all of the new year 11 players this year, and to Tony whose five goals give him the 'golden-stick' award. I thoroughly enjoyed captaining the 2nd XI this year, and wish the team all the success in the future.

■ **Ben Harvey, U6**

U15 Hockey

Although our last year together as a team before joining the senior section of the school can hardly be called terrific, it was a definite improvement on the season before, capped off with a brilliant tour of Carlisle ... more on that later. This year has seen us come together as a team and play some great hockey, particularly attacking, whilst also seeing some versatility, as a number of year 9's joined the squad for the junior tour.

Looking back, some games more than others spring to mind. Our game against KE Aston

for example, played in the shadow of Villa Park, is certainly a contender for our game of the season, despite the 1-1 draw. The first half saw Aston dominating, with their star player running the game from central midfield. But some stirring words at half time, some of which were from Mr Willis, saw us come back from the 1-0 deposit and equalise with a great team goal. With two minutes to go, Charanjit Kalsi gets the ball at top of the 'D', and strikes a beautiful forward drive (a cricketer at heart) into the bottom corner. The only problem is, only half the ball goes into that bottom corner, as, at the

point of contact, the hockey ball splits in half, leaving players on all sides baffled. Although we tried to claim a 1.5-1 victory, the Aston coach shouted us down (correctly, I might add) and the score finished a draw.

Some individuals (besides Charanjit, although he was top scorer) must now get a mention. Jalees Hamid, Year 9 Captain, was outstanding in each game he played, dribbling through even the most experienced of defences (including Mr Willis in training), whilst Josh Lee and Hannan Currah, who shared the Captaincy, ran the defensive line well, even

though the goals we conceded (in the region of 30 from 6 games) seem to contradict me. Narinder Phull was a great outlet on the wing, and his pace was crucial to many of the goals we scored, whilst Zak Asif played consistently throughout the year, in the varied positions required of him.

And now our eyes must turn to the most successful school tour of recent history, as all the teams recorded straight wins in the three games each of them played. The hockey team started with a tightly fought 3-1 victory, where we played well, but improvements needed to be made all over the park. Our second game was our best game of the last two years, and this was reflected in the scoreline. The 5-0 victory over William Howard school was a great attacking display, although the man of the match was actually our goalkeeper, Dilan Parmar, who pulled off some saves by the tips of his toes, keeping the clean sheet at some crucial moments in the game. Rounded off by an eventually easy 3-1 victory, which saw our defence tested to the limit, the tour was an immense success, and our thanks must go to Mr Hardy, who took the team in Mr Willis's absence. Our top scorer on tour was again

Charanjit Kalsi, although man of the tour must go to Dilan Parmar, for some truly outstanding saves and kicks.

Finally, to finish our involvement in junior hockey, some thanks are in order. Mr Watkins, our coach in Year 9, and also the senior coach to those who have carried on, deserves credit for the team he put together, whilst Mr Hardy, who has filled in for both Mr Willis and Mr Watkins at various points, as well as leading the tour, must also be thanked. Mr Smith was also coach for a memorable win over Old Swinford in Year 9, and so thanks are in order for driving us there and supervising. However, the man who deserves most thanks, as he has had to put up with us for a year, and try to teach us hockey at the same time, is Mr Willis, and all of us are extremely grateful to him, if not for the hockey, then at least for making Monday afternoons (never good times) an enjoyable experience. So thank you to every-



one who has played for the team, everyone who has coached and driven the team around, and I hope that next year's team can maintain that unbeaten record on tour — no pressure lads!

■ **Josh Lee, 10X**

U14 Hockey

Our first season of Hockey at Camp Hill was an interesting one. For many of the team it was the first time they had played the sport. We had a large squad of 17 players, and the luxury of two great goalkeepers. Shortly after term began, we encountered Old Swinford in our first match of the season. An impressive team performance saw us win 4-2 with a hat trick from Jacob Smith and one from Gethin Bradnam.

With a strong first match we went to play Solihull feeling like we knew what we were doing. However we were soon (after a few seconds) proved wrong as they scored. They went on to score five more goals, but there would have been far more if we hadn't had the brave goalkeeping of Dilan Palmer on our side.

We went on to play KES and Solihull again a few weeks later, but lost 8-0 in both fixtures due to the fact that they had been playing since year seven (two years longer than us) and have great AstroTurf facilities at their school. However these scores are not a fair representation of what went on. There were some great performances from defenders Aatif Syed and Hanan Hashami, stopping numerous attempts at goal.

After these heavy defeats we were again up against Old Swinford, who had worked out what went wrong on our previous meeting and improved upon it. Despite falling behind after 15 minutes, goals followed from Jacob Smith, Nimreth Phull, Philip Massoud, and Oliver Moore. The final score was 4-1 with a great performance by the team.



Our final fixture was against Aston. We played well in the first half but failed to convert any of our chances. After some wise words of advice in the half-time team talk, we managed to run out 4-0 winners, our only clean sheet of the season. Well played Matthew Else. The scorers were again all different players, Jacob Smith, Nimreth Phull, Oliver Moore and Gethin Bradnam, showing how well we worked as a team.

Four players, Jacob, Nim, Ollie and Aatif had the fantastic opportunity to travel to Carlisle with the under 15 squad on the hockey tour. It was a great experience playing new teams, and winning every match. Playing with players a year older than us was a challenge

but one that we lived up to and enjoyed. We can't wait to go with the rest of our team next season.

After a great first season we had a friendly match against the under 15's. It was a fun match although we lost 3-1 (Hanan Hashami scoring our goal.) Notable mentions go to Oliver Whitfield and Amir Ahmed for being the most improved players. Also we would like to thank Mr Watkins for coaching us and taking us to all of our matches. We look forward to next season, and our new coach Mr Willis.

■ **Jacob Smith, 9M**

Athletics

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

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

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

such as King Henry VIII, Daventry William Parker School and Aston Manor.

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

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

The Junior Foundation match, following last year's format, is now split into two; years 9 and 10 followed by years 7 and 8. In the first half of the competition, both years 9 and 10 were outstanding. Kyle notched another perfect performance with Tom Murphy winning 3 events. Remarkably, Jordan McDonagh, David

Yates, Jacob Bruten, Oliver Paulin Sam England, Ahsan Khan and Aaron Sandhu all came first in their year 9 events.

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

In our final visit to the Norman Green Stadium, a late change by the host school resulted in a competition for years 7, 8 and 10. Yet again the year 8 squad were under pressure as cricket matches depleted the team, but they managed to pull out the stops to finish second in their age group. Combining the totals for all teams, it was another superb result; Arden 303, Solihull 318, RGS Worcester 348 and Camp Hill 357. A few outstanding athletes were selected for the South Birmingham Team in the West Midland County Championships. Kyle Reed, Jordan McDonagh, Oliver Paulin and Sam England performed especially well. Umar Ahmed and Tom Murphy came 1st and 3rd respectively in javelin and Nick Wilson ran a commanding 100m hurdles to finish first (he also made the final of the 100m). These outstanding achievements by Nick, Umar and Tom qualified them to represent the county and Nick went on to compete in the English Schools' National Track and Field Championships. Considerable praise must go to Nick for qualifying for the final and placing 7th nationally. In a separate year 8 West Midland Championship, Wesley Blackhurst and Alex Tassa represented South Birmingham in a friendly match as a precursor of next year's high profile event.

The highlight of the season, however, has been the enthusiasm shown by the boys.



From the first match, when the senior teams entered not only B teams for the relays but also C teams, the fervour has spread through the younger years. The competitive rivalry and fun, even brought a smile to Mr Caves' face!

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

■ **John Lutwyche, L3**

UK School Games

The UK School Games is another big team event, held over four days as an Olympic-style competition. In the athletics section, the teams were Birmingham, London, Bristol, Manchester, Gateshead, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Nick was selected for Team Birmingham, competing in the 100m Hurdles and the

4x100m relay. The relay team ran an excellent 42.66s to win the gold medal, and record one of the fastest times ever at the Games. In the hurdles, Nick achieved the bronze medal – an achievement which made up for the disappointment at English Schools.

Rowan May is a new student to the 6th Form and an athlete who has achieved superb national success and many records in the pole vault. These include first place in the UK AAA U20 outdoor championships; the UK U17 indoor record of 4.91m and the gold medal in the UK School Games with a championship record.

English Schools Championships

Nick Wilson [pictured right] qualified for this year's English Schools Track and Field National Championships held at the Gateshead International Stadium. In the heats of the 100m hurdles he finished 2nd and 5th respectively, to go through to the next rounds. He placed third in the semi-final, and although he hoped to be in with a chance of the medals, he was obstructed in the



final and placed 7th. Later in the 4 x 100 m relay final, he narrowly missed out on another medal when the team placed fourth.

■ **G.H.**

Badminton

Partnership Round

The challenge was to qualify for the City Finals next February by defeating the south Birmingham sides. We entered an A team made up of year 11 players: Faheem Malik, Kameran Ali, Osama Hamid and Danny Szucs.

The rising popularity of badminton allowed us to enter a B team made up of year 10 players: Jalees Hamid, Devjeet Bhomra, Saif Ahmed, Perrie Chew and Varun Deshpande. The teams were placed in each of two groups. The B team started out against Kings Norton. The opening two singles matches were shared but Camp Hill then won all three of the doubles matches to win 4-1 overall. Against Bishop Challoner there were no slip-ups and the side stormed to a convincing 5-0 victory. This meant they had won the group and would play the winners of the A league for the right to progress next year.

The A team first played King's Norton. Faheem Malik at number 1 seed, took time to find his form. This proved stressful as the matches had been shortened. However, Faheem kept his nerve, rallied and came back to win 11-8. This result relaxed the rest of the team who went on to win the remaining four matches.

The next opponents, Baverstock, were young and inexperienced. Camp Hill overpowered

them with ease. The deciding fixture in this group was played last, against Bishop Challoner. By now, Camp Hill were in their stride. In the face of vocal opposition support - which happily put their own players off - Camp Hill swept the opponents aside to win comfortably 5-0.

The two group winners played in the final - Camp Hill A against Camp Hill B. The year's difference in age, strength and experience clearly showed and the A team won 4-1. It was a splendid achievement to provide both teams in the final. The B team's day will come next year.

■ **M.R.**

City Finals

Camp Hill's teams reached the city finals in both KS3 and KS4 competitions. The seniors opened the competition with two comfortable wins over Broadway and Castle Vale. Saltley were also overpowered 4-1.

In the group matches it was Great Barr who put up the most resistance as their first two seeds were very strong and won both the singles matches. However their strength did not extend to the third and fourth seeds and by exploiting these weaknesses Camp Hill

was able to win all three doubles matches to emerge victors by 3 matches to 2.

This result put them in the Final against a daunting Five Ways team, of whom three out of four were county players. Once again it was clear that we could expect little from the singles matches as the opponents were so strong. This proved to be an accurate assessment. However, there was a chance that we could again salvage matches in the doubles. Our third and fourth pair did indeed win a superb victory. However, with a county player at number 3, there were simply no weak links to exploit in the remaining doubles. Five Ways won deservedly 4-1.

The Key Stage 3 team opened the group stages rather shakily against Holte school. Nimreth, at 14-10 up, snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. However, the team went on to take a two match to one lead. Holte then responded with a doubles victory and the match was squared. All depended on the last game and Camp Hill promptly fell behind. However, they staged a valiant come back and won a close game 15-12 to secure the match.

Now they had found their form, they grew in confidence and swept Castle Vale aside



5-0. The match against Great Barr was won by default as the opponents had an incomplete team. This allowed the team to rest – but also to become cold as they had a long wait to see who would be their opponents in the final.

Once again, this proved to be Five Ways. Nimreth, playing better and better as the matches went on, led the charge. He reduced his opponent to a state of quivering exhaustion and won comfortably 21-6. Five Ways then dispelled all complacency by winning the first doubles. At second seed, Parvesh played his best match and won 21-17. We were leading 2-1. Was this to be a reverse of the seniors? Would we win the singles and lose the doubles? No. Camp Hill played with accuracy and consistency to win both of the remaining doubles. They had won the final 4 matches to 1.

■ M.R.

Regional Finals

The opening group match was played against Droitwich Spa High, a dauntingly tall year 9 team when compared to Camp Hill. However Nimreth at first seed was not intimidated and managed to win the opening singles 21-13 without even noticing that his opponent was left-handed!

It looked like Droitwich were slow starting and Camp Hill seized the initiative to close out the match 4-1. The next group opponents were Trentham. While smaller in stature they had more skill in depth. Defensive drop shots that had won points in the first match were anticipated by the Trentham players. They cleared more deeply and beat us to the smash. Camp Hill lost this 1-4. Overall we came a creditable



second in the group, a result that entitled us to play Thomas Telford in the Bronze medal play off. Their county standard number one overcame Nimreth's determined resistance to take the first game.

The second game, a doubles match, was a curious affair. Both teams seemed allergic to the back third of the court. As they both played almost exclusively drop and push shots, the result was inevitably close. Camp Hill lost 20-21 in a nerve wracking finish.

In the next singles and doubles, however, we rediscovered long defensive clearances and smashes, managing to win both games

to square the match at 2-2. Not for the first time, all would depend on the last game. The lead was exchanged several times and the score reached 18-18. The Telford pair however remained a little bit steadier and ran out winners 21-18.

While they will be disappointed not to add to their medal haul, the team should be congratulated on coming fourth in the West Midlands. They played with grit and unswerving sportsmanship and were a credit to the school.

■ M.R.

Basketball

U16 Basketball

The season was one to remember as the U16 basketball team set out with confidence, desperately trying to achieve a coveted place in the play-offs.

We started off the season with a convincing win against Bishop Challenor, resulting in an inspiring score line of 37-10 in our favour with James Giblin taking MVP honours. Following this excellent start, we let ourselves down with a poor performance against Baverstock, losing 41-26. However, we managed to put this behind us and storm to victory in the following two games, beating Yardley's 48-11 and Cockshut Hill 58-8.

Then, in the toughest game of the season, we were taught a lesson by the Dame Elizabeth team (from the age group below ours!) beating us 61-26. Such a result was to be expected as they were easily the best team in the league; however a resilient performance by the boys meant we made them work for their points for

the entirety of the game. The next game was to be perhaps the greatest match any of us had ever played in. After falling behind early on, to an almost one man team, we realised that something needed to be done about the 6ft

5in City of Birmingham giant that was stealing the game away from us. A half-time change of tactics saw Gilad Grant marking a man twice his size in a David vs Goliath encounter. In, without doubt, the performance of the season Gilad proceeded to shut their man out of the game. This allowed us to make a comeback and even saw us taking the lead early on in the 4th quarter. Despite this, it wasn't to be, and we lost in an exceedingly close

encounter, 41-40.

The last game of an up and down season lay ahead and we had no idea what was in store. However a spirited performance saw us run out 50-18 winners against Sheldon Heath,



and so the season came to a close. Umar Ahmed top scored with 79 points followed closely by Tom Kostuch with 70 points. Special

mentions go to James Giblin, Jawaad Farooq and Gilad Grant who all received MVP honours at some point in the season. The boys can look

back with pride at an extremely enjoyable season of Basketball.

■ **Umar Ahmed, 11X**

U14 Basketball

The Under 14 basketball team consisted of many players from years 8 and 9 and was for many of the players, their very first time playing competitive basketball against other schools. Naturally for the players this was an exciting prospect and all of the players were committed and ready to do something new. Many weeks of training had passed, which were spent building up our basic skills of basketball, into more complex motions that could be used in a typical match that we would face. With the help of Mr Duncan, and two sixth formers with a lot of experience, the newly formed team were well on their way to having a successful and prosperous first season of competitive basketball.

At long last our first game of basketball had dawned upon us, and our opposition were a strong looking Baverstock school side. After a seemingly snail-paced first quarter, Camp Hill was given a team talk and we soon found our feet, somewhat cruising through the game with a very commendable win of 39 points to 8. A very pleasing first result for our team, and this only equipped us with more confidence going through to our second game. Samson Gahir proved to be our biggest threat going forward with a very impressive 8 baskets, Jacob Smith and myself were second top scorers with scores of 6 baskets a piece.

Our second game proved to be a great deal more difficult than our previous one. We played host to an extremely tough looking Yardley School team, and their height certainly played to their advantage in the duration of the game. Nevertheless, Camp Hill rose to the challenge but unfortunately were unable to match the talent that Yardley had to offer. A hard-fought game was played and to our disappointment, Camp Hill lost the game



falling 14 points short of Yardley's score of 27. Although this game had been lost, many positives had come through and the team ensured that the negatives were worked upon.

Our third match was against an extremely experienced and driven side, they came in the form of Queensbridge School, our near neighbours. Queensbridge had produced an array of talent with one of their players using immense skill to run past our players and score. Despite our best efforts, Queensbridge proved to be the better side in winning the game 37-17. A very commendable endeavour by the players but our strengths were matched and our weaknesses exploited.

In our final game of the basketball season, the team was looking to go out on a high note by winning the game and to our joy we achieved just that. Our final game saw us finish the season against a newly formed St Aquinas side. Intricate skill, clever passing and excellent defence aided us in winning this match. The

team explicitly displayed the skills that they had built up over the course of the season and a very enjoyable game was played, with many of the year 8 players scoring as well as the year 9s. The season was rounded off with a very pleasing win of 36 points to 10, with top scorers on the day being myself with 10 baskets, Samson Gahir with 8 and Jei Diwaker with 6 baskets.

Overall in my view this has been an extremely enjoyable experience for myself and the team as a whole, learning new skills and participating in competitive matches on behalf of the school. Special thanks to Mr Duncan, and the others who helped us on our way to playing some brilliant basketball throughout the season. I'm sure this experience will be taken with us into further years and we will be anxious to play more competitive basketball in the near future.

■ **Aly-Raza Ismail, 9M**

Chess

Chess at this school goes in phases. I'd like to start by reminding readers of the glory days of 2009–10, when we won the Under 18 UK National Schools Chess Championship, Divisions I and III of the local league, the Invitational Tournament and the Closed Quickplay, Best in Birmingham in the Under 18 tournament, and beat Eton College on our way to the national finals of the Yateley Manor Chess Competition, which we only lost on age handicap. Unfortunately we then lost five of our top six players, so it could only get worse: we also suffered during 2010–11 from a

distinct lack of fixtures.

Anyway, 104 boys entered the Individual competition, which started in mid-September. 58 made it to the final round, and 30 of these qualified for the Megafinals in May, where several achieved considerable success. Zack Von-Schaxmann and Andrew Pearson tied for first place in the Individual and were supposed to play off, but I don't think this happened!

We couldn't go to the Invitational Tournament at Five Ways because it clashed with Millfield, which was, as is becoming traditional, described in inimitable style by Hok Chiu in his annual epistle to the Camphillians. The Millfield tournament, like the rest of inter-school chess, is in a bit of a decline, and we weren't

too impressed with the playing area which also contained a volleyball court (in use) and the lack of base rooms. However, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, and we're going back again this October. Kyle Reed and Kieran Bakhtiari won board prizes, Marvin Miu beat everybody at badminton in the evening, and the Mafia game was played with great gusto in the minibus.

We didn't do very well at the Under 18 tournament at KES in November, but the sandwiches were nice, and Sulamaan Rahim and Kuran Rati scored 3½ out of 5. Then we hosted three tournaments in the spring term. The first was for Year 7s. KES, Five Ways and, eventually, Bishop Vesey's turned up. There were two

rounds. At the end of the first round, KES were winning, but we managed a magnificent 8/8 in the second round to share the trophy. Then, in the Under 14 tournament held one Saturday in March, we fielded two and a half teams of eight. The B team won a trophy for Best B team: the Board 1, Kabeendan Murugesu, could hardly lift it when it was presented in assembly. The A team finished just outside the top placings, while the tournament was won by newcomers Hampton School (who still haven't paid the entry fee!). Then there was the Closed Quickplay Tournament, which is for players not registered for Divisions I or II. Five Ways ignored this rule, and turned up with some ineligible players. A diplomatic crisis ensued, which fortunately was solved without the imposition of sanctions or a no-fly zone, and, while a number of small boys from Five Ways ran up and down the dining room shouting their heads off, Camp Hill concentrated on chess, and won the tournament rather easily, with 21½ points out of 24.

The poor old Birmingham and District Junior Chess League consisted of five schools this year. (I remember when there were nearly twenty, but I am very old.) Division III, for example, consisted only of Camp Hill, so we won that. We also won the Year 8 division, and the Year 7 division, where there was only one match. There was only one match in Division I. As Emperor Hirohito would have said, events in this match *'developed not necessarily to our advantage'* but we still got the runners-up trophy, and we also came second in Division IV.



So even after such a short season, we are the guardians of a great deal of trophy-ware. The final order in House Chess was Beaufort, Tudor, Howard, Seymour, which was a remarkable change: Beaufort 'won' the wooden spoon last year.

The local portion of the Yateley Manor Chess Competition (formerly the Times) almost didn't get off the ground, partly because two of the four e-mail addresses supplied to me by the organisers didn't work. However, we did eventually get things going and managed to come third, losing narrowly to Five Ways and less narrowly to KES. Despite this, we entered something called the 'Last Chance Saloon', which involved us going to Nottingham High School one Sunday and playing against their B team and King's Grantham in their extremely grand dining area. We won this event, thereby gain-

ing both a place in the Yateley Manor national stages, and our first digital chess clock. We drew Norwich School in the first round of the nationals but Ofsted decided to come and look at the Maths Department on the same day, and we had to default. (We would have lost anyway.)

Mr Walker continued to run his marvellous Year 7 tuition sessions throughout the year, and past captains Simon Williams and John Emanuel came in to help our more senior players improve their game. I hope in 2011–12 we can scrape up a few more inter-school fixtures: there are rumours of a tournament in Grantham, for example. But the boys are always enthusiastic, and while that continues, Camp Hill chess continues.

■ **A.M.R.**

Cross-Country

On Wednesday 22nd September, the School took part in the annual South Birmingham Cross-Country Championships near Becketts Farm.

On a dry and hard surface the boys ran very strongly. In their first competition representing the school, despite nervous tummies and last minute toilet visits to the hedgerow, the Year 7 team ran hard to achieve overall first place.

Team scorers were Aqueel Zulfikar, Aaron Drinkall, Ed Connolly and Cameron Walker. Individual exemplary performances came from Cameron who placed 2nd and Ed 3rd. In the eldest age group, the Year 11 team also won with Ben Evans coming 2nd, Sumant Kapoor 6th, Will Higgins 7th and Oliver Tonks 8th.

The pinnacle achievement of the afternoon came in the combined year 8 and 9 race. The team placed 3rd, however there was a real battle at the front. Oliver Paulin competed with another runner who was at least 14 and a half inches taller, with a stride length double Oliver's! Oliver was in second place until

the final lap when he pushed ahead on the last steep climb and, once in the lead, never looked back; a superb win. From this competition, many qualified for the West Midland Championships on October 2nd. Cameron Walker ran well against tough opposition but Ed Connolly really pushed hard from the start and finished strongly to qualify for the county team.

Later in the season Oliver ran in the English Schools' Championship and on a fairly robust course, around a beautiful park in the town of Widnes, very close to the delightful and popular city of Liverpool, Oliver gave his best and came in the top third of the best runners in the country.

This is by far the most successful achievement by a Camp Hill pupil since Josh O'Donnell competed in 2008. Oliver missed the next competition due to a skiing injury, however we congratulate him and look forward to further exemplary performances next season.

■ **G.H.**

Football [Soccer]

1st XI Football

If there was ever a season of two halves, this was it! Despite greeting the new season with a reasonably optimistic outlook we found ourselves undergoing some wretched form – we only managed to play 4 games in the first term, losing all 4. Because most other schools are engaged in leagues, our fixture list was somewhat repetitive – indeed, we were on first name terms with the Baverstock players by the end of the year!

The squad had enjoyed a decent time of it the previous year and were able to bring through the majority of the team into the upcoming season. We lost departing captain Matt Mears and key players Amar Rajgor, Jayven Athwal and Nathan Brown as they moved on to greater things but the core of the squad was retained, leading us to mistakenly believe that we could look forward to some good performances. The fact that our top scorer from the preceding year was actually in the Lower Sixth, as well as 3 of the back 4 only added to the air of confidence. In the absence of the departing Year 13s the new generation

of lower sixth formers looked promising and went on to make a very significant contribution to the team.

The poor form in the first term may well have been down to a huge player turnover, with a total of 25 players making appearances for the first team. The squad had some experienced members but key players were all too often unavailable due to various other commitments such as school trips and university visit days. Our first game saw us take on Bournville School in the cup – as these are the only competitive games we play the match took on an extra edge and it was extremely hard fought. Unfortunately Camp Hill squandered a 2-0 lead (including a 35-yard wonder strike from Johnny Kay) and ended up losing on penalties, as was to prove a bit of a curse throughout the season.

Perhaps suffering somewhat of a hangover from that game and robbed of some important players, we went into the following game at KE Stourbridge with nothing to play for except pride and slumped to our worst performance of the season in a 7-1 loss. The remainder of the term saw us show great spirit and grit but the team was still gelling together and as such we struggled, narrowly losing 2-1 at near neighbours Baverstock and going down 4-0 to a very good King's Norton side. We consistently created chances but all too often they were spurned and our lack of a ruthless streak cost us dearly.

And then came the transformation... a long break without fixtures due to inclement weather did wonders and the team suddenly clicked after the Christmas holidays – maybe we finally started listening to Mr Speake's inspiring team talks! We started the new year like a house on fire, winning 4 games on the trot and scoring 20 goals in the process. Where once we couldn't hit a barn door from 10 paces we couldn't stop banging in the goals. Victories were recorded



in the local derby against Baverstock (4-0), at old foes Old Swinford (5-0), King's Worcester (3-1) and KE Stourbridge (8-3). However, the old inconsistency, and possibly complacency, crept back in during the final months of the season and Camp Hill were only able to gain 2 draws and a loss from the last 3 games.

Our final game of the season epitomised the never-say die spirit of the team as Alistair Carr scored a last minute equaliser to cap off the campaign. Both of the draws were followed by penalty shootouts and Camp Hill remained true to their traditional English heritage by gloriously failing twice! It appears so many training sessions with Mr Speake have left us bereft of the mental toughness required.

All in all the balance sheet reads: played 11, won 4, drawn 2, lost 5 – goals scored 29, goals conceded 24. So on the face of it a half decent season, which does some semblance of justice to what was in reality a very good squad. As well as managing to win a few games, the team was hugely enjoyable to play in and has left us with some fantastic memories. Sukhvir Lyall was prolific up front, playing off Johnny 'Emile Heskey'

Kay and they were ably supported by talismanic captain Sean Miller who scored 10 goals in as many appearances. Michael Koppel was exceptional in marshalling the midfield assisted by Ed Wallace, and emerging talents Josh Distin and Jamie Taylor provided both goals and width. The back 4, led by vice-captain Alistair Carr, was the foundation of our (limited) success and special mention must go to ever-present Kieran Patel and the always reliable Tom Hollywood. Filling the holes left at left-back and goalkeeper was to prove problematic but Sohail Arfan, Serge Wicker, Sam Mather, Asim Shoaib and Simon Atkins all gave very good accounts of themselves when called upon.

I'll finish by thanking Mr Speake and Mr Garrod for all their time and effort in attempting to get us to look something like a team – we can even forgive all those cliché-ridden team talks! Oh, and it was nice of you to let us win the staff vs pupils game as well. Best of luck to the team for what I hope will be a very fruitful upcoming season.

■ **Alistair Carr, U3**

2nd XI Football

A season that started with some good performances and close games was promising, but the post-Christmas performances never really lived up to our early season potential.

The first match, with many players making their debuts for the school, saw the team comfortably beaten 4-1 by KE Stourbridge, who were by far the better team. Although Nathan Cornwall's well-taken goal provided hope at 2-1, poor defending meant that a heavier defeat would not have flattered our opponents.

The team's second game proved to be far more fruitful, however, with Nathan scoring again in a deserved 2-0 victory, the other goal coming from Karndeepp Uppal. The smaller pitch was perhaps a contributing factor to the scoreline since our defence was not exactly blessed with pace, but good support came from Simon Atkins in goal when he was needed to keep a clean sheet.



A trip to Kings Norton was the most evenly contested game, with the considerable slope working to the side attacking downhill; it came as no surprise that each half was won by the team shooting down the slope. Lewis Black-

wood scored the equalising goal in a 1-1 draw, but there were many half-chances to win the match towards the end.

The 4-3 loss to Old Swinford that followed (on another hilly pitch) threatened an exciting

comeback, but the ultimately deserved defeat was far more memorable for a goal scored by Sanjeevan Ghag, whose stunning 30 yard screamer into the opposite corner belied his reputation of a steady but unspectacular left back.

After Christmas, the team had less success, all matches ending in defeat. A speculative long range effort from Karndeeep that was helped in by the opposition goalkeeper was the only high point of a 5-1 loss to a very good Kings Worcester side, but lacking a strong and pacy striker to replace the injured Nathan, the team struggled for goals for the remainder of the season. A severely depleted side lost 7-0 to KE Nuneaton's recreational side, but a stronger side still succumbed to a 6-0 loss to Old Swinford.

The lack of cutting edge up front was perhaps most evident in a physical final game of the season against Baverstock, where we lost an even game 2-1. Yiannis Georgiou completed a good season by powering in a free kick, but it was still a disappointing result in the end.

Although the season was not entirely successful, a good time was still had in playing for a team represented by 27 pupils across the entire season, who all made valuable contributions.

■ **James Jordan, U6**

Rowing (Indoor)



Swimming

A busy year for Camp Hill's swimming team began with a trip to Warwick School, competing in a mixed gala with five other teams. The team swam well, despite only managing a solitary victory through debutant Fabian Evans. But there were several other encouraging performances, notably from Charlie Song, Luka and Matija Novovic, Alex Owen and Josh O'Donnell, who went well under 30 seconds on his freestyle relay leg. It was also pleasing to see Adam Titchen and Stephen Mander of Year 7 swim well on their first gala for the school.

A fortnight later, our U14, U16 and U18 swimmers travelled to Bromsgrove School in high hopes. Not for victory, but instead for the post-match free food. In the pool, competition was tough against a team led by a swimmer who is part of Team GB's 2012 development squad, but there were excellent wins from Ben Griffin, Sumant Kapoor and Andrew Jeskins. Camp Hill's greater strength in depth told in the U16's where we won both the relays to snatch victory in that age group, whereas the junior and senior teams swam well but had to settle for second place, meaning Bromsgrove won the overall event. The team could all be pleased with individual contributions and were glad to report that the promised sandwiches, Jaffa Cakes and crisps were up to their usual high standard!

Towards the end of the autumn term, Camp Hill's junior swimmers got a chance to



shine in a match against Camp Hill Girls, where reputation was at stake. The lads did not let the school down; the combined Year 9/10 team led the way, storming to victory in their age group with wins from Fabian Evans, Gully Bates and Kieran Bakhtiari. The Year 7 team also did well with fine debuts from Vasil Pirozek, Thomas Haddon and Harry Wilson. However, top billing went to the Year 8's two-man team of Matija Novovic and Alex Lane, who somehow managed to find the energy to race 30 lengths between them. Not content with winning all five individual events, they then proceeded to win the 4 x 1 length freestyle relay as well, confirming overall team victory for Camp Hill Boys.

Early in the spring term we travelled to St

Martin's School to compete in a gala also featuring Solihull School and Camp Hill Girls. All of the school's swimmers got their chance to shine in an exciting, fast-paced match for all year groups. The year 10 team of Luka Novovic, Fabian Evans, Lewis Hedges, Kieran Bakhtiari and Charlie Song were our top performers, winning all but one event as they won their age group comfortably. The seniors, despite being hit by injury and exams, also swam well, with wins from Alex Owen, Andrew Jeskins and Ben Griffin. There were also victories for Alex Zhang from Year 9, and Lewis Evans from Year 7 on his first swim for the school. Sadly this was not enough, as the team finished a close second, just 13 points behind Solihull.

Our final inter-school gala came in March as we hosted the return fixture against Bromsgrove School in another joint match with Camp Hill Girls. Once again we were up against a very strong team and with the senior team decimated, with excuses ranging from rehearsals for Cabaret to concussion, the result of the gala was never in doubt. The team however did not let themselves down, and credit must go to Luka Novovic, Fabian Evans, Lewis Hedges, Ben Griffin and Sumant Kapoor, who not only found themselves swimming in their own age group, but also gave a good account of themselves in the under-18 age group against much bigger opposition! Thanks also to Tom Perkins and Tom Chalklen, whose help with timekeeping and scoring was much appreciated.

The school's inter-house swimming gala took place in February, with Mr Nash's 'Green Machine' carrying forward a commanding 20

point lead from the standards into the main event. Beaufort, however, had a marginally stronger team on paper, so the contest looked as though it would be close. In the end it was decided by the relays, which tested each house's strength in depth in each age group. Beaufort did just enough to clinch the relay cup, and with it the overall house swimming trophy, to make it a seventh victory in eight years for the Reds. The close nature of the gala was demonstrated by the fact that two of the Victor Ludorum awards were shared. Congratulations to Lewis Evans (Beaufort) and Billy Chapman (Seymour) in Year 7, and Jack Bristow (Tudor) and Alex Owen (Seymour) who shared the senior crown. In the other age groups, Matija and Luka Novovic, both of Beaufort, swept all before them to win the Year 8 and intermediate categories respectively. No school records were broken, though, which means that

Mr Caves' four school records remain

On a personal note, I would like to thank Mr Jack for all that he continues to do for swimming at Camp Hill, from organising galas to running after-school training on a Friday night. It has been great this year to have a strong Year 7 presence at these sessions, hopefully this will continue into next year, particularly as some of the old guard are moving on!

Speaking of the old guard, I would like to thank the Year 13s who have given a lot to school swimming over the years (even when we didn't have a functioning pool!), particularly Robby Williams, Nathan Hehir and Jack Wishart (too often injured). It has been an honour to captain a fantastic bunch of lads, I wish them all the best of luck for next year.

■ **Andrew Jeskins, U5**

Tennis

U15 Midlands Regional Semi-Final

Having won their area league during the summer term of 2010, the U15 Tennis team (Charlie Song, Kameran Ali, Ben Palmer and Oliver Tonks) met Kenilworth School in the second regional round of the Aegon Year 10 Competition in October. The winners would gain a place in the Midlands regional final and be one step away from the National Finals at Bolton Arena.

Our opponents had qualified for the National Finals last year and provided formidable opposition. The overall match score was Camp Hill 2 Kenilworth 4. Despite losing the match the U15 team can be proud of reaching this stage of such a large nationwide competition.

Senior Tennis

Before the winter weather arrived the Senior Tennis team completed their Senior Students league programme this term with two matches against Bishop Vesey and Haybridge HS, Hagley. Unfortunately both teams proved to be strong opposition and Camp Hill lost both matches.

During the summer term the Seniors were also unlucky to be drawn against a very strong Warwick School team in the first round of the Glanville Cup. The team went down 0-6. The squad comprised of school tennis stalwarts Kameran Ali, Tony Song, Oliver Palmer, Chris Williams, Ben Palmer and Amit Joshi and Mark Gilbert, who both made their debuts for the school team.



U15 Tennis

The U15 'A' team (Charlie Song, Ben Miller, James Ternent, Giles Moss and Fateh Singh) played two matches in League Division 1, losing to KES 1-5; with only Charlie Song registering a win, but then gaining a convincing victory against Kings Norton 5-1.

The U15 'B' team (Fateh Singh, Kieran Bakhtiari, Daniel O'Brien, Adersh Saravanaa, Oliver Jebson, Dilan Parmar and Faaris Zaki) had a really successful season, winning their Division 2 league convincingly. They beat Bishop Challoner 5-1, Sheldon Heath Academy 6-0, Bournville 4-2, and came out on top in an exciting shoot out after drawing the match with Archbishop Illesley 3-3.

U13 Tennis

Like their U15 counterparts, the U13 'A' team (Alex Lane, Dominic Paver, Alex Tassa, Niyamal Ali and Alex Hughes of Year 7) played two matches in League Division 1, losing to KES 1-5, but then registering a win against Kings Norton 6-0.

The U13 'B' team (Alex Tassa, Niyamal Ali, Tom Wood, Ed Saunders, Carl Lawrence of Year 8 and Harry Atkinson, Andreas Kavalieros, Aaditya Thakral and Nishant Chaudhari of Year 7) won one match in their league against Bishop Challoner 6-0 and were unlucky to lose a tie break shoot out after drawing the match with Bournville. With five Year 7s making their Camp Hill Tennis debuts, prospects for next year look good.

■ **C.M.J.**

Camp Hill Rugby Football Club

A season of consolidation. The 1st XV won 15 out of 26 league matches finishing 4th in Midlands Division One (West); our best finish ever at his level. At times we looked very good although, we fell away towards the end of the season having lost a couple of players who went 'walkabout' in the antipodes. At one time third place looked well within our grasp but the mid-season weather meant that we did not play a league game from 20th November until 8th January.

Old Boys of the School featured strongly in the 1st XV with a total of 7 Old Boys featuring in the side. The former pupils who scored the most points were:

- **Ian Briggs** (Left School 2007) [see picture below] 330 Points (14 Tries)
- **Simon Edwards** (Left School 2001) 89 Points (13 Tries)
- **Rob Obeng-Manu** (Left School 2007) 25 Points (5 Tries)

Ian Briggs's total is the second ever individual points total, the record being held by Sean Morrissey, also an old boy.



We featured well in the Greater Birmingham team in the Tri-Counties Competition with no less than 19 Camp Hill players selected for Greater Birmingham including 12 in the final. Rob Hill and Simon 'Barney' Edwards were both selected for the senior North Midlands team although Barney was unable to play due to an injury in training. Mick Stephens also played for North Midlands Under 20s.

We again regularly fielded four and even five teams most weeks. Many thanks to Chairman of Selectors Rich Hudson whose commitment in rounding up players each week was again phenomenal.

Colts managed to put a team out for the season with varying levels of results. The squad was young by comparison to most of the

opposition. We look forward to improving as the lads get more experienced.

The Victor Saville Award this year went to Alex Weir. This award is made to the pupil who has done most to foster links between Club and School. On the International front Dan Toth continued to be a regular member of the Hungarian national team.

The ladies team as ever continued to perform at an excellent level, finishing second in their league, National Championship One (North), the losing margin of 2 points being only as a result of achieving fewer bonus points. A great achievement at this level just one below the highest league in women's rugby.

Mini and Junior sections have once again been an example to the rest of us in commitment and willingness to volunteer. Chairman

Andy Fleming has taken the 'helm' with great distinction.

As ever the Club can only exist as an amateur operation because of the dedication of many people and on behalf of everyone I offer many thanks to all of the volunteers. Thank you all.

We welcome any involvement from School, both boys and parents. Mr Caves will point you in the right direction as he is School/Club liaison officer. Our thanks once again to Mr Roden for taking an active interest in the Club as President.

Finally we all had a good time at the annual School v Club matches which were keenly contested to a good skill level.

■ **Dave Maiden**, Chairman
Camp Hill Rugby Club Ltd

Tanworth and Camp Hill Cricket Club

Although the 1st XI season ended in relegation from the Cotswold Hills Premier league, there is a lot to be excited about going on at 'TACH'.

Led by ex-Camp Hill student Dave Terrace, the first team rued the lack of key players and bad luck to be relegated from the Premier League. However, there were a number of encouraging performances from youngsters (including KECH student Kieran Patel) and the not so young (KECH alumni Ian Jordan, Dave Pearce and Chris Pearce). The experience that the young players obtained in the Premier should stand us in good stead for a promising future.

The 2nd and 3rd XIs both had successful seasons with the 3rd XI securing promotion in the West Midlands 3rd XI, mainly thanks to the efforts of our younger players. The mid-week team gained valuable experience against quality Birmingham league clubs and the team of the year was the Sunday XI where old boy Paul Scott had an incredible batting season!

Off the field, we were awarded an 'Outstanding Services Award to Cricket' from

Warwickshire CCC for our NatWest Force Day – a volunteering initiative to improve the facilities of the club. The day was a great success securing £3000 worth of equipment for the club, enlisting the help of four Warwickshire players and being covered by the local press. We have also hosted many fundraising events and finished off the season with a great tour to ...Weston Super Mare!

The main benefit from the merger for Camp Hill is the thriving youth section helped by qualified coaches and great facilities so even if you are new to cricket, or a player looking for a new club, contact Dave Terrace on 0772 333 4792 to find out how to join our friendly and progressive side.

■ **Dave Terrace**

Pictured below:
Dave Terrace [R] receiving Award
from Neil Carter of Warwickshire [L]



Results Summaries

WINTER RESULTS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
Rugby	1 st XV	19	7	0	12	307	502
	2 nd XV	12	8	0	4	325	112
	U16	8	4	1	3	166	98
	U15	16	9	0	7	361	293
	U15 B	3	0	1	2	51	65
	U14	16	13	0	3	435	222
	U14 B	5	2	0	3	84	136
	U13	14	5	1	8	260	278
	U13 B	7	2	0	5	86	257
	U13 C	1	0	0	1	22	32
	U12	10	5	0	5	160	156
	U12 B	6	1	1	4	62	165
	U12 C	6	2	0	4	84	177
	U12 D	4	1	0	3	30	90
	U12 E	1	0	0	1	10	20
Hockey	1 st XI	17	2	3	12	27	72
	2 nd XI	14	4	1	9	19	30
	U15	9	5	1	3	22	28
	U14	7	3	0	4	12	33
Basketball	U16	7	4	0	3	285	190
	U14	4	2	0	2	105	72
Football [Soccer]	1 st XI	12	4	2	6	30	27
	2 nd XI	8	1	1	6	9	29
Badminton	U18	2	0	1	1	15	21
	U16	11	10	0	1	46	11
	U15	3	2	0	1	10	5
	U14	13	10	0	3	49	16

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	7	2	1	4	Asim Shoaib 113*	Chris Curtis 5/23
2 nd XI	3	0	0	3	Lawrence Welch 48*	Sohail Nazir 2/5
3 rd XI	1	1	0	0	Rajan Bhambra 20	Junaid Saeed 3/12
U15	5	2	0	3	Charanjit Kalsi 74	Charanjit Kalsi 3/10
U14	6	5	0	1	Mustafa Chaudhry 42	Nimreth Phull 4/6
U13	4	2	0	2	Dominic Paver 50*	Azeem Hanjra 4/11
U13 B	1	0	0	1		
U12	4	2	0	2	Aaron Drinkall 31*	Henry Houlden 2/9
U12 B	2	2	0	0		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 st IV	4	0	0	4
U16	2	1	0	1
U15 A	2	1	0	1
U15 B	4	4	0	0
U13 A	2	1	0	1
U13 B	3	1	0	2

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	8	12	7	7	2

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	18	6	6	9	0

Sports Day 2011





House Reports

Beaufort

Once again it has been another successful and record-breaking year for Beaufort, winning the House Championship for the fifth year in succession. Over the course of the year the House has won 8 of the 13 point-scoring events, accumulating 77 points in the process: a new record. These events were basketball, cross-country, quiz, swimming, chess, rugby, hockey and athletics. This is a fantastic achievement for the House, and every member of Beaufort deserves to be praised for their eagerness and participation.

The year began with the football competitions, and first up was the five-a-side. Under the guidance of house football captain Sean Miller, the seniors put in a commendable performance to finish joint first with Howard. The intermediates could not replicate this however, and finished second to a strong Howard outfit, a result which was repeated in the junior section. In the eleven-a-side, the team could not continue their five-a-side heroics and we finished in joint third place. Next up was the senior house rugby, where the stakes were running high between the houses. After some closely fought games, Beaufort managed to retain their senior crown with two wins and one draw, with house rugby captain Dominic Fitzgerald leading his troops to glory. The intermediates could not follow this lead though, as they drew all three games to finish in an unusual four way tie. With all to play for it was up to the year 7 and 8 teams to clinch victory for Beaufort in the spring, and they did this superbly with a win for the year 7s and third place for the year 8 team, to secure the overall house rugby trophy for Beaufort for the fourth year in a row. The house basketball competition was also won in clinical fashion, with wins for seniors, intermediates and junior sides ensuring maximum points for the house. Special mention goes to basketball captain Danish Mirza for running training and selection sessions for the house. The final event of the autumn term was the cross country, in which all junior and intermediate boys must participate by competing in the standards event. After this Beaufort had

a narrow lead, so it was up to the runners competing in the finals event to secure victory. With Beaufort victors in every age category through Sean Miller in the senior race, and brothers Ben and Ed Connolly in the intermediate and junior races respectively, we held onto our lead to regain the cross country title ahead of Howard.

After the Christmas break it was up to the house to prove that we had talent away from the sports field in the house quiz events. Building upon our senior victory that was already in the bag, the intermediates and juniors carried on in fine form to win the competition for Beaufort. The major event that dominated the spring however, was the house swimming competition, an event that has been fought closely for the last few years. There were some fine individual performances from house swimming captain Andrew Jeskins, and Victor Ludorum winners at intermediate, year 8 and year 7 age groups through Luka and Matija Novovic, and Lewis Evans respectively. This, along with the fine team effort, ensured that Beaufort won the house swimming cup, beating Tudor by 17 points.

Going into the summer break it seemed as though the house had it all to lose, and that nothing short of a catastrophe could deny us the overall House Championship. With this in mind, the Beaufort athletes prepared to clinch the title in the penultimate week of term on sports day. With a small lead already in the bag thanks to the juniors and intermediates in the standards, victory was ensured through strong performances from the seniors and once again the intermediates, as well as the valuable points scored by the juniors, with a grand total of 1157 points. Special mention must go to Victor Ludorum winners Kyle Reed of Year 10 and John Lutwyche of Year 12, who also broke two school records on the process.

So once again 2011 has seen the House Championship shield return to the red side of the school. We say goodbye to the departing year 13, wish them well for the future and thank them for their seven years of contributions to Beaufort house. We must especially thank House Captain and Vice-Captain Jacob Hanvey and Rajan Bhambra for their superb leadership throughout the year, as well as Sean Miller who has been awarded the Vivian Bird trophy for his outstanding input to house sports over the years.

Next year the House Championship will start again, presumably for the 103rd time, and the members of Beaufort house must prepare for battle once more. After five years on top the other three houses will be highly motivated to

knock us off our perch, and yet again we must be at our very best if we are to maintain our position. It is up to the Upper Sixth, in their final year, to lead by example and ensure that the best efforts of Beaufort House are represented in all competitions. We are certainly seeing some of the finest days of Beaufort in living memory, and we don't want them to end yet.

■ **John Lutwyche, L3**

Howard

In the last academic year Howard House finished a tight third, just half a point separating us and Tudor in second. This reinforces a trend I have noticed over the previous couple of years; that Howard is a gradually improving House. This is largely down to the strong crop of debutants which take to the sporting field year upon year, proud to be wearing the Howard Blue.

Last year, the title of House Captain was given to Josh Tibbetts and under his leadership Howard was victorious in both the House football and House cricket. These events are traditionally held at the beginning and end of the school year respectively, implying that although we started and finished strongly, we did not fare so well around Christmas and into the Spring Term. If we are to be more successful next year, it is important not to falter through overconfidence.

It is also important to mention the athletics in 2010–11. Despite not coming out on top, we snatched the relay trophy from an otherwise all conquering Beaufort team. Special praise goes to our Year 8 team who convincingly finished in first place in their year group, but specifically Ed Walden, who won all of the events he participated in and therefore claimed the Victor Ludorum.

A single point more in any event over the whole of last year would have put Howard House into second place, it is essential that everyone in the House remembers this over the course of the coming year. Apathy is unacceptable: put everything you have into House events in the knowledge that any individual can genuinely make a difference to the final standings.

Having said that, I am going into next year more confident than ever that Howard can succeed not just in the continued improvement seen over the previous years, but actually take the House Championship itself. This confidence comes from the massive potential we have in the lower years and all the way through the House. Also, the enthusiasm of the senior boys taking part in their final Championship at the School is bound to make a significant difference.

■ **Luke Pritchard Cairns, L4**



Beaufort House: Jacob Hanvey

Seymour

Another year has passed, and it is time to reflect on the events of the 2010–11 House Championship. Similarly to recent years, Beaufort retained their dominance while we fought with Howard and Tudor for the remaining places. In the end there were only two and a half points to separate second and fourth place however we unfortunately finished on the wrong side, placed in fourth. Though this was not through a lack of effort, and had a few results gone our way our position may have been very different.

Nevertheless, the Seymour men remained

defiant under the influential house captain, John Erafej. Along with John, other senior boys led the way, with Veer Mann claiming the Vivian Bird Trophy. These lads supported the house to ten second and third finishes out of the 13 competitions, not forgetting the importance of the younger boys' roles in these results especially with their impressive standards.

The year started slow with disappointing finishes in soccer, cross country and rugby. We managed to pick things up, retaining our crown of badminton and achieving a good position in table tennis. We grew in confidence as the year came to a close and the Seymour men didn't falter as we pushed hard in the

summer putting Beaufort under pressure in athletics and Howard in cricket. I'm sure some of these second places can be converted to firsts and we can contest for the shield in the future.

I'd like to say thank you to every person in Seymour, whether you fought in a battle of minds in chess and House quiz, a battle against yourself in cross-country standards, or a battle of brawn in rugby. The effort put in doesn't reflect the result but the Seymour spirit remains strong and we look forward to competing in the upcoming House Championships.

■ *Jag Gill, L1*

Tudor

Another year, another abject failure to reclaim the House Championship. However, Tudor members' effort cannot be faulted, and we scored what would have been a competitive score had it not been for Beaufort's record year. As it was, we took second place with a score that would have been competitive in any year other than this.

The year began slowly, with Tudor coming last in football (which we had won the previous year) and in cross country. In fact the Autumn Term in general was disappointing, with our highest position being a solitary second place, in basketball. However, we recovered well and in the Spring Term, we managed to go a whole term without falling below second place in any event. The Summer Term represented somewhat of a relapse, with a return to last place for cricket and athletics; however, we had achieved enough of a lead over Howard and Seymour in the Spring Term to hold on to 2nd place. Beaufort were nowhere in sight, having won pretty much all the events in which we came in 2nd.

Highlights of the year include the tennis and table tennis competitions, both of which we won comfortably. Unfortunately, these were also the only events we won, but we did manage to come first in the swimming standards by a convincing margin, before our lead was overhauled in the House Gala.

Thanks to all those who have supported Tudor's performance over the last year, with special thanks to two groups of people: firstly, the leaving Upper Sixth, who have served the House with distinction over seven years; and secondly, Mr Garrod and Mr Jack, who stepped into the breach when our Housemaster Mr Nash broke his arm in a skiing accident, rendering him unable to manage the House for almost half the year.

With the year 13s leaving, we are left with only one year of pupils remembering the last Tudor victory, in 2006; let's hope for a better next year to avert a school remembering nothing but victories for Beaufort!

■ *Andrew Pearson, L3*

House Quiz News 2010–11

This was the second year in which the House Quiz played a part in the overall House competition. Following Beaufort's victory in 2011, it was up to the other teams to raise their game and challenge for the spoils. This year was a case of déjà vu as Beaufort established a strong lead in the Senior Quiz open to Years 12 and 13. Their three victories out of three with a points difference of +33 blew away the competition. Congratulations to the team of Nafees Mujtaba, Peter Liu, Andrew Jeskins, Alex Riley and captain Robert Smith. Howard finished second with one win a points difference of -8.

Beaufort's exceptional form continued in the Intermediate phase open to Years 10 and 11. Three more wins out of three ensured that victory was assured in the overall competition barring a mathematical freak result. Much fun was to be had on the picture rounds featuring Star Wars and Harry Potter Lego minifigures. The winning team consisted of Ed Maclean, Andrew Hawking, Usama Hamid, top points-scorer Sanjay Nath and captain Fraser West. Tudor finished a promising second which suggested hope for future years. The big question was now could Beaufort achieve the grand slam.

To great surprise, the Beaufort Junior team were beaten by Tudor in their first fixture to end hopes of the clean sweep. Beaufort recovered with a victory over Tudor meaning they still had a chance of victory in this section. This left the final where Seymour could still achieve overall victory if they lost by only a narrow margin. The early exchanges were tight and both sides

were flummoxed by the challenging picture round, where they had to identify artists from portraits. The outcome was decided on the final buzzer round where a consistent Beaufort overcame Seymour who were too prone to schoolboy errors like confusing the characters of In the Night Garden with those of Waybuloo. The seven point margin of victory was enough for Beaufort to gain the Junior crown at Seymour's expense leading to a clean-sweep in the Quiz for Beaufort in 2010–11. Well done to Anthony Lim, Shreshth Malik, Gethin Bradnam and captain Will Maclean.

The final result of the House Quiz competition: **1st** Beaufort with 8 wins out of 9; **2nd** Tudor with 4 wins; **3rd** Howard and Seymour with 3 wins. Beaufort Senior Captain, Robert Smith, was duly presented with the House Quiz Trophy in assembly.

■ *G.N.H.*



Camp Hill Old Edwardians' Association

Chairman's Report

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Association. We have not, as yet, made the progress that I promised last year in improving our contacts with former pupils. This is entirely my fault as other demands on my time have meant that I was unable to give as much time to the Association as I had hoped. A "must try harder" comment at the bottom of my end of year report is all too reminiscent of school days.

The annual dinner was again an extremely enjoyable evening. We employed AIP, the School caterers, and the food and service were excellent. George Cookson organised the 6th form bar staff and the raffle, as ever an invaluable contribution to the evening. The Headmaster gave us an update of the incredible achievements of the current crop of Camp Hill Edwardians both academic and extra-curricular and we all basked in reflected glory.

Our guest speakers were sensational. Head Boy, John Eraifej, spoke without notes of all that Camp Hill has meant to him and we were impressed and inspired by this exceptional young man. John proved that the Head had made the perfect appointment when, 10 minutes into dinner, we found that the bar had run out of beer (thanks very much to the bar company). Quick as a flash, John volunteered to go to the supermarket and off he went returning shortly afterwards with a boot full of cans – this boy will go far.

Our second guest speaker was Mike Southworth. Having joined the teaching staff in 1966, Mike spoke with his usual panache and eloquence of his time in the staff common room. Mike had either taught or worked with masters who had taught every old boy in the audience. I said to Mike that he may have secured an annual booking – I wasn't joking.

As ever, we mourn the loss of a number of old boys; John Daniell, Mike Parkes, Hugh Roden, Colin Simpson, Mike Woodward and, most tragically of all, 21 year old Rhys Jones all left us this year.

I will end my report with my thanks to our committee members for their work through the year, to those members who have supported the Association and to the Headmaster for his unstinting support.

■ **Martin Crutchley**, *Chairman*



Richard Boot OBE

Richard Boot (School 1962–69) was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to business in the West Midlands.

Richard says he wasn't bright enough to go to university but this typical piece of self depreciation falls apart with only a cursory glimpse at his career. Having qualified as a chartered accountant, Richard spent 20 years as a partner at KPMG. In the 1980s he joined the Institute of Directors (IOD) as Regional Secretary and was West Midlands Regional Chairman between

1994 and 1997 and again in 2007 until April 2010. He served 14 years on the IOD's National Council.

Richard embarked on a new phase to his career when he set up a new business, **Active Human Capital**, 5 years ago and in the summer he was given a lifetime achievement award by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Our congratulations to Richard on this well deserved recognition.

■ **Martin Crutchley**, *Chairman*

Trip to RAF Halton

19th October 2010

On a rather cool but sunny day members of the Old Boys Association and friends from the Sheldon RAFA club left Notcutts for a day with the RAF training establishment to witness the Graduation Parade (known to most older members as the Passing Out). We arrived slightly late but our hosts led by F/O Rob Blackallan, the Station Adjutant and Visitor Officer, were waiting in the long pretty drive up to the House named after the Station.

Quickly we were herded outside in order for the RAF photographers to take a group photo and then inside for a tour of the house which was originally built for the Rothschild family. In fact they had eight similar properties in the area years ago and were very well known. The mansion was taken over by the Army in 1914 and used by them until the RAF took it over after the war and used it for engineering training purposes. Those who trained there were known as 'Brats' and interestingly the previous Chairman of RAFA Sheldon was there in 1938 and his widow was in our party.

The visit to the house was conducted by a Sqdn Leader and a lady guide, each group

consisting of about 20 persons and lasted three quarters of an hour. We then moved into the mess in the centre of the building in an extremely ornate setting with long windows overlooking the grounds which made a lovely panorama in the sunshine. The hot meal was a choice of curry or lasagne with summer berry cheesecake to follow and a soft drink, very acceptable. Sadly alcohol was not available at this hour of the morning!

Then it was back to the coach and a trip to the parade ground where we had reserved seats for the Parade. Some lucky members made the raised seats in the centre where the families sat. We did feel the cold a bit here because there was a waiting time for the events to start, which were heralded by a single pass flyover by a Tucano from 19 Sqdn. Parents of the trainees were in attendance watching their sons and daughters in the ranks. The support of these people is extremely important to the services.

The RAF Central Band provided the music and the review was taken by Group Captain P. J. Sagar from Headquarters 22 Group Cranwell. He inspected the two flights accompanied by the Escorting Officer. The Officer Commanding the intake was F/Lt Regan, yes, of all things she was here again! Afterwards she came over to the museum and talked to many of our Old

Boys to their delight. This was not such a big surprise this time but very pleasant indeed. There was a short service and dedication and a speech by the reviewing officer reminding the new members of the RAF of the great responsibility that they have to uphold the work of Fighter Command in the early part of the Second World War. Then followed marching at various speeds, presentation of trophies and awards which concluded the ceremony ending with the dismissal and march-off when the recruits joined their relatives.

We retired to the Museum for a short period to enjoy a cup of coffee to end our day with the RAF. Our thanks were given to F/O Rob Blackallan for the hospitality all the station staff gave us and the hope that we should be able to return some day, and this was promised. The weather was dry during our visit and on the way home we passed continuous heavy showers and high winds which we felt lucky to have avoided. We were able to make a contribution to the Wings Fund and to the RAF Benevolent Fund. Twenty-six old boys were there and fourteen of the RAFA joined us.

■ **Roland Staples** ('Basher')



Group photograph kindly supplied by the RAF (Crown Copyright Reserved)

Obituaries

DANIELL, John Francis 1937–2011

The evidence of the esteem in which John was held was shown by the numbers attending his Memorial Service at St John's Church, Henley in Arden on 21st January 2011 following a private cremation.

The strength and backbone of Camp Hill Rugby Football Club is made by such characters as John. He attended King Edward VI Grammar School at its' original site at Camp Hill Birmingham from 14th September 1938 to 28th July 1943

John joined Camp Hill Old Edwardians RFC in 1943 and played for the 1st XV whenever available during service with the Royal Navy and some time at Cambridge University. At Cambridge he read Urban Estate Management, played rugby for Trinity 1st XV and had a trial for the University side. Following his obtaining his qualification he spent his business life in the building industry initially in London where he played for Streatham from 1951 to 1954. Following his return to Birmingham he became Camp Hill's Club Captain in two very successful seasons – 19 wins in 1955/56 and 22 wins in 1956/57. He was awarded his colours in 1954/55; he made more than 180 appearances for the 1st XV.

In 1958 he took on the task of succeeding the legendary Don Scull as Hon Secretary. During the six years in which he held this office there occurred the gravest crisis in the Club's history – the fire which destroyed the Club House in 1959 and it was under his leadership and expertise that we have the present brick built Pavilion. John also took on the task of designing, overseeing and working to provide a very successful drainage system for the 1st Team pitch which lasted for many years and eliminated the dreaded bog in front of the stand.

John became Club Chairman in 1964 and under his aegis the new Teddy Parker Club was opened, the Club's 75th Anniversary celebrated and preparations made for going open. Only one man, the late Den Harris, had previously served the Club as Captain, Hon Secretary and Chairman, John unquestionably proved worthy to follow such illustrious footsteps.

The following thoughts are submitted by David Messenger who was Club Secretary for several years during John's Chairmanship:

'Going Open' – John gave a lot of deep thought and reflection to the Pros and Cons. He came to the conclusion that going open would be in the best interests of the Club and put his full weight and influence behind the 'open' movement.

Another event occurring during John's period of office was when Maynard, then owner of the house on the left-hand side of the drive, illegally installed a bollard at the road end of the drive to stop us from using this entrance. John was steadily supportive of the D.I.Y. occasion when club members removed it and dumped it on Maynard's lawn. He continued to support the Court proceedings next year in the

County Court to obtain an injunction against Maynard.

John was an enthusiastic sportsman, an accomplished swimmer and played Cricket, initially for Camp Hill Old Edwardians and then for Claverdon. His activities extended beyond sport, he painted in oils and watercolours, walked, played the clarinet and was a member of the Henley-in-Arden Campanologists.

He leaves a widow, Joan, grandchildren and two children Paul, another sportsman who played Rugby for Moseley before moving to Wales and a daughter Philippa who is a G.P. in Moseley.

■ **Ken Birrell, David Messenger, Dennis McFarlane, Paul Daniell and David Phillips**

JONES, Rhys 1989–2011

Born 19th August 1989, Rhys Jones sneaked into the class of 2000 and became the baby of the group, however much he disapproved. It was not a role befitting to him and he took on the unlikely precedent of staying on at Camp Hill for an extra 8th year, so finally fulfilling his role as almighty guru to the following year group. In all possible walks Rhys was strong willed and self-assured and was a vivacious role model.

His focus may have lay outside the orthodox curriculum but through his intelligence and charm Rhys earned plenty of respect, including from a number of teachers, and would always entertain with 'mature' conversations on a plethora of issues. You may describe him as an untapped potential but I think this would contradict his values; he was passionate and committed but not one to be taken as a sheep in a flock.

He was always a powerful and resilient character and this was ultimately typified by his response to illness. In 2005 when fellow students were stressing over prospective GCSE results, Rhys was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The shock and fear he faced is not palpable and somehow owing to his amazing endurance they were if ever shown. Instead Rhys emitted a positive and inspiring attitude that did not take the endurances of endless chemotherapy and radiotherapy to be the fulcrum of his life; in fact he was more akin to humour the burden. We can all point to a naivety towards what Rhys was facing, it is hard to imagine dealing with cancer at such a young age, and even more amazing to think that Rhys did this without bitterness, excuse or pity; in personality he was barely ill at all.

It is amazing, but maybe not surprising in Rhys' case, that he was cleared of cancer in 2008. However, his family was never at rest from the illness and Rhys was to spend the next year caring for his mother, who has now thankfully overcome breast cancer. He had continued sitting his A Levels and spent a year at Gloucester University studying English Literature. Such achievements are truly remarkable and are a great testament to the guy. In partnership with the school, whose support has been amazing, we have



established a Rhys Jones Memorial Prize for outstanding achievement in the 6th Form and hope that this spirit can be embraced for years to come.

Sadly in the summer of 2009 Rhys was told the tumour had recurred, a short holiday it must be said. Such recurrences are never a good sign and ensue an even more difficult period. As always surrounded by tough and loving people, Rhys remained the pinnacle of strength and continued with his pursuit of fun and frivolity. His endurance is something very hard to contemplate but his affection and temperance were something that can only be adored. He passed away 19th February 2011, skilfully avoiding Valentine's Day.

His funeral took place in March, and was a full house, although many more could well have been filled. His coffin was taken in to the sounds of the imperial march, a typical request from the man himself, and the service was truly fitting.

This is a sad story, but an inspiring one at that. We were lucky to know Rhys and extend our gratitude and condolences to his family: Judith, Paul, Aiden and Lydia who he loved dearly.

■ **Billy Roden**

PARKES, Michael John 1942–2011

Mike's untimely death came as a shock to all who knew him, as he was such a physically strong and vibrant character. He had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September and attended the Club on Vice-Presidents' Day in October having only told his intimate friends of his condition as he did not want to spoil everyone's day. He bore his illness with great stoicism and fortitude.

He was a legend in his own lifetime. Back in his schooldays, Mike, as House Captain of Tudor House, was very much involved with athletics and at the Inter-Grammar School Sports of 1960 as a seventeen year old, cleared over 7 metres to establish a new school long jump record.

Leaving School in May 1960, he enjoyed the next few years playing lead guitar in music groups and travelled around the country for various bookings. Initially he started 'The Paramounts' which, apart from his cousin Roger Holbeche on bass guitar, included two sixteen year old former Camp Hill boys namely singer Phil Brown and drummer Paul Twiby, who was known in those days as 'Biz'. The group used to rehearse in Mike's bedroom in Wythall. His mother Kath, who is now in her late 90s, used to love having us there but dad Reg could not stand 'this awful row' and always shot off to his local pub!

The group did well in its two years' existence and included an all-night rock concert as back-up to such big local bands as Carl Wayne and the Vikings, Micky Jay and the Jaymen and El Riot and the Rebels. The band eventually went their separate ways until Mike and Biz (later to be known as Oscar) joined new bands before the final parting of their musical waves in 1965. Happy Days!

When he decided to concentrate on his rugby Mike was a sensational winger. In the Club's

75th Anniversary Season (1968/69) he scored 8 tries against Warwickshire Police – a Club record – beating the previous mark of 5. He was awarded his 1st team colours that same season. In all he played over 1000 games for the Club, scoring a total of 386 tries and also represented the Combined Old Boys (COBs).

Mike arranged the Club's first overseas tour in 1987 to Cyprus which was an hilarious occasion, assisted by Brian Trumper. In fact the whole tour was a resounding success. It was in the twilight of his playing career, in that inimitable 5th team, that a legend was born. All those who were privileged to have played with him, will vouchsafe for his incredibly quick wit, exercised in the dressing room, which he also took onto the pitch. However when it came to playing the game he was deadly serious.

Brian is particularly happy never to have played against him, as he would not have liked to receive one of his trademark hand-offs, quite legitimate but never liked by any opposition! He also evolved the 'mole' trick where he would set up a ruck, keep hold of the ball and whilst mayhem abounded, he would drop to the floor and crawl out with the ball...and score in the corner!

There are so many funny stories about Mike and we will mention but one. Playing away at Bedworth, on a parks pitch, Parky scored a try in the corner; unbeknown to him in a pile of dog 'mess'. A ringlet firmly attached itself to Mike's forehead and as he jogged jauntily back to the half-way line he called out to Geoff Trippas: 'Trippy, I can smell it but I can't see it!' A sight never to be forgotten.

Another great interest Mike had after leaving school was motor cars. Apart from owning an Austin Healey 3000, a Ferrari (his real pride and joy) and a Mercedes (he acquired his MJP 1 number plate from the Mayor of Southport) his business prowess lead him to become Managing Director at Venetian Flooring as well as for other subsequent and related building companies. This allowed him to run the Formula Ford motor racing team which enjoyed plenty of success in the seven years of his close involvement.

Mike spent the last twenty years of his life with Pauline Bryan who nursed him through his terrible illness. They had spent a great deal of time in Cyprus where he loved to 'do up' his properties there and he was rightly proud of those lasting achievements. He was very proud of his children, Katie and twins Andrew and David, as well as his many grandchildren. Their grief is shared by his many friends at Camp Hill RFC and fellow old boys. Mike was a regular attendee at the CHOE Association Dinners each year knowing that he would be seeing anything up to a dozen of his old school friends at what is always a happy occasion.

It was a privilege to have known you Mike. God Bless.

■ **Brian Trumper and Oscar Twiby**

SIMPSON, Colin 1929–2011

Colin passed away aged 82 following a heart attack. He was a lifelong runner, a member and later Secretary of Small Heath Harriers (later Solihull and Small Heath AC) and a Founder Member and Treasurer of Midland Masters Athletic Club.

His sporting career began when, at the age of 15, he outpaced a policeman after an incident involving matches and some dustbins. The breathless officer gasped, 'With speed like that, son, you should take up running!' which he did, joining Small Heath Harriers in 1944 and becoming Warwickshire Mile Champion four times in the 1950s.

A well respected administrator for Birmingham City Council and the University of Aston, where he worked as a Personnel Officer, he ran lunchtime training sessions along the canals, encouraging students and staff to take up the sport.

As a veteran athlete his achievements continued with appearances representing Great Britain in World Championships in Toronto, where he won a silver medal in the 800 metres, Budapest, Rome, Hanover and Eugene, Oregon.

He was a pupil of King Edward VI Grammar School, Camp Hill, where in his fifth year he won the Victor Ludorum in the school sports. After he left he joined the Old Boys Association and helped to raise funds to build the swimming pool at the new site. Latterly he was an active member of the association and, with his wife Margaret, enjoyed many excursions with them.

When he first retired in 1981 he became a great supporter of several charities and often acted as a volunteer driver for the Spastics Society (as it was then). He also joined Solihull Blind Tandem Club, enabling blind people to enjoy the exhilaration and freedom of cycling. When my mother became involved with the Variety Club Children's Charity he could always be called upon to help her at events, especially at the West Midlands Safari Park, where he enjoyed acting as unofficial traffic controller for the coaches and buses and at discos for children with special needs. An eternally busy man, he nevertheless actively sought opportunities to help others.

Colin was an avid traditional jazz fan, film buff, wit, raconteur, bon viveur and loyal West Bromwich Albion supporter and season ticket holder. His early retirement at 52 allowed him to pursue his beloved athletics and enjoy the company of his grandchildren. In his last few months his heart condition forced him to reduce his pace to slow walking and his last diary entry, five days before his death, read simply: 'End of an Era'.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, son Roger, daughter Lyn and three grandchildren Oliver, Matthew and Sarah.

■ **Roger Simpson**

WOODWARD, Michael Stephen 1936–2010

Mike passed away at St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth after a long battle against cancer at the age of 73. He was educated at Camp Hill 1947–1955.

Mike was a dental surgeon, owning a practice in Ivybridge but it is as a talented cricketer and administrator that he will be remembered by most. He played for Camp Hill Old Edwardians after leaving School and in one match against Old Silhillians, he took six wickets in eight balls, including a hat-trick.

Mike met his future wife Angela while at school in 1955, but it was several years later before they started going out together. 'I had a ticket to a dance at the university, which was a bit naughty as it wasn't in my name,' said Angela. 'Mike was on the door, he recognised me and a bit later he came over and asked me to dance. After that we started going out together.' The couple were married in 1961 at St James' Church in Shirley. They had two sons, Stephen and Andrew, who gave them three grandchildren.

Mike and Angela moved to Devon to work in 1964 after Mike had completed his training as a dentist. He joined Plymouth Cricket Club where he enjoyed a near 20-year career, playing 196 1st XI matches and taking 466 wickets. Mike served as Chairman of Plymouth 1984–90 and was at the forefront of introducing County League cricket to Devon. He served on the Devon County Cricket committee from 1996 until standing down due to ill health in 2010.

■ **Martin Crutchley**, with thanks to the Devon Cricket Board

YETMAN, Frederick Bramwell 1928–2011

Fred joined the School in 1943 and was entered in Form Vb, where I was also a member and we were friends for some time. His father was an officer in the Salvation Army and was moved to Birmingham by the army living in the City.

Fred stayed at Camp Hill in the sixth form until 1946 when he joined Birmingham University gaining a BA. While there he became a member of the flying club, learning to fly on Chipmunks at Castle Bromwich.

The last time I met him was in New St just as he joined the RAF as a pilot eventually reaching the very high rank of Air Commodore. Among his appointments were OC RAF Lyneham for two years in 1978 and during our two visits to the station we saw his name on the honours board with photograph. He was also later OC Queens Flight at RAF Northolt, the story of which was published in *The Chronicle* of 1999.

Sadly, despite several approaches he refused to join our association. He died on 12th August at the age of 83 and leaves a wife Heather and two children.

■ **Roland Staples** ('Basher')