

The Chronicle 2012



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& VISITS • DRAMA • SPORT • COMPETITIONS & CHALLENGES



Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Mike Roden BSc NPQH

Welcome to the Chronicle for the 2011–12 academic year at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. The boys have enjoyed another tremendous year as the school has continued to provide an amazing array of extra-curricular opportunities. Whether the boys have been involved in our highly valued and extensive House system, taken part in inter-school sporting fixtures and competitions, or in the many and varied trips and visits, the school continues to offer what must be, compared to our income, one of the best 'value for money' educations in the country.

At Camp Hill Boys' we are proud of the achievements of all of our students. The examination results in August were, once again, the best of any school in the Midlands and the north of England. One particular statistic has given me great pleasure this year. We regard ourselves as an 11–18 school and thus, I am particularly delighted that all of the students in Year Eleven qualified to enter our Sixth Form.

The Year Eleven achieved another excellent set of GCSE results. 85.4% of all GCSE's were at A*/A grades and a staggering 54.3% were at A* grade. One student achieved eleven A* grades, four achieved ten straight A* grades, one achieved ten A*'s and one A grade. Seventy-six out of a year group of ninety-one achieved straight A*/A grades. Eighty-four students in the year group achieved at least 5A*/A grades (ninety in 2011, eighty-seven in 2010 and eighty-four in 2009). These results meant that the school was prominent, once again, by being ranked seventh place for %A* and thirteenth for %A*/A for state schools (published by the Times newspaper).

At A Level, it has been, in fact, a record breaking year. 32.1% of all entries (excluding

General Studies) were passed at A* grade and 91.6% A*/B. Some sixty-five pupils achieved at least one A* grade. Fifteen students achieved three A* grades, four achieved four A* grades, four achieved four A* grades and an A grade and one student, an astonishing five A* grades and one A grade. Sixty-three boys achieved straight A*/A grades at A Level, one hundred and three boys achieved at least AAB grades (excluding General Studies). The percentage A* result placed the school fifth in the national league tables for state schools (published by the Times newspaper). All twenty students receiving offers, achieved entry into Oxford and Cambridge – another school record. Ninety-six students achieved entry into their first choice university and seven into their second choice university.

Kate Balkham, Anne James and Graham Hardy all completed twenty-five years service at Camp Hill Boys at the end of the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their outstanding service to the school.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to Sarah Blayney, and three long standing members of staff, Anne Patrick, Stuart Davenall and Philip Carman. Our Graduate Trainee Programme Students, Ruth Messenger and Daniel Honnor both successfully completed their course and have been appointed to teach at Cardinal Pole Catholic School and Bedford Modern School respectively. 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 ensuring the successful production of another impressive chronicle of school life.

■ **Mike Roden**, Headmaster

Editorial

Every year I am forced to remark how hard it is to augment the superlatives of the year before, as I observe the ever-increasing range of Camp Hill Boys' achievements with delight, if not surprise.

So, as I add my welcome to that of the Head, this year I offer an alternative greeting, and trust that none will consider this treatment too light – the pages which follow need little introduction or qualification from me for their merit to be felt. In honour of the vitality and wit of the boys (not to mention Miss Blayney's roots) and in the best traditions of Irish poetry (may Heaney and Yeats forgive me) – a homily to our centre of life and learning.

**There once was a school called Camp Hill
Which had pupils of consummate skill.
And each year's magazine
Showed them loyal and keen
To the field and the stage and the drill.**

**Though they faced their exams with some fear,
Their success caused their teachers to cheer.
So it's praise through and through
In these pages, to you,
And hooray! for another great year.**

■ **Bex Lockyer**, *Editor*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Again, my sincerest thanks to Bob Weaver of Byte & Type Ltd, who has battled against the odds this year to produce such a glorious testament to the School's life.

The Chronicle 2012

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Leavers

Philip Carman 1983–2012



Philip Carman arrived at Camp Hill in 1983 via Sheldon Heath and Oldknow Schools, having graduated from Birmingham College of Art with a B.A. (Hons) in Fine Art in 1971.

Phil is a unique character ... caring, considerate, patient, tolerant of others, helpful, thoughtful ... and forthright, outspoken, a staunch defender of what he believes is 'right', and a perfectionist. He has been an outstanding professional. He was an innovative and inspirational Head of Department, whose students adorned the school with incredible pieces of art – works that were always meticulously presented and organised; those who were fortunate to visit his displays for external moderators will know how much he cared about the presentation of his students' work. His original ideas in both 2 and 3D artwork and ceramics earned him a strong reputation with the exam boards, and his summer schools for Year 6 pupils were always very popular and provided a further opportunity for Camp Hill art students to gain yet more invaluable experience. His expertise helped vast numbers earn offers to top universities and, even with the demanding nature of 'art' students, he welcomed them all, seeing it as a challenge to knock them into shape in his own inimitable fashion!

The enormous impact Phil would have on the students in his care was apparent from the start of his appointment; I know of the memories that students have of Phil some 40 years after their time together at Sheldon, and his ongoing contact with former Camp Hill students such as John Light only highlights the

esteem in which they hold him. In fact, on our way to St. David's in Pembrokeshire this year, on our annual climbing trip, we dropped off a painting that Graham Fowke (who left in 1991) had completed as a student. Phil had used it as an example and wanted to return it to him now that he was about to retire.

As if he wasn't busy enough in the school day, Phil was always a fantastic supporter of extra-curricular activities. His contribution to drama was outstanding. I refer here not to his leading roles in CHAOS, where his inability to remember his lines, dances or cues is legendary – in fact, his final line ever was *'the line, what was it, oh, I can't remember'* – but rather to his brilliant sets and back stage teams that helped performances run so smoothly. Then, having committed many hours to the preparation he tirelessly monitored events before quietly removing stages and sets afterwards, thankless tasks which are easily unappreciated.

Phil devoted a vast amount of time to the students because, for him, they are the core part of our role as teachers. I have always admired the relationships that Phil nurtured with his tutor groups and it is no surprise to me to have heard him described as another 'dad' at school. He was very protective and caring about the boys, treating each as an individual with his own unique needs.

Recognition of Phil would be incomplete without mention of his contribution to school sport. His dedication to the rugby teams he ran throughout his time at Camp Hill is an example to any teacher/coach. He trained, refereed, organised tours, designed kit and ties, seeded and turfed bare patches on the fields ... the list goes on and on. His team meetings were renowned for their strict agendas and clear, concise message. Actually, any meeting for that matter: the phrase 'and another thing' has become infamous! His refereeing remains an art form in itself, particularly on tour where weaker opponents may have needed to be helped along a little (!), but it was his willingness to share his considerable experience and expertise when on the touchline that many will remember!

Beyond rugby, Phil was always a willing contributor to other school sports, be it umpiring cricket fixtures, where the name Trigger Carman was a little unfair, I thought, or helping to officiate at athletics meets. Whatever the occasion, his desire to give the boys every opportunity to compete and represent the school set a superb example. As a committed housemaster for Howard he ensured that the opportunities for the boys to gain leadership and organisational experience reached all ages and his fiercely competitive nature meant that his house teams could always be relied upon to give their all for the full range of house activities.

Phil was happy outdoors, too. Although the D of E scheme was in its final stages at

school in the late 80's he was very keen to carry on the tradition of walking and climbing trips which provided amazing experiences for the boys (and staff!). He organised many expeditions which would never have happened were it not for his enthusiasm and organization. And then there was skiing. Phil's first trip was in 1993 when he went with us to Austria, as a novice skier. He quickly realised that this sport was a natural extension of his love of the outdoors and, thankfully, he volunteered to be the party leader two years later. Phil's ultimate aim was for the boys to have fantastic experiences on these trips and those of us who have travelled with him (and not just on the ski trips) knew that the pupils' enjoyment was his barometer for success. He took to skiing like a duck to water and quickly established a kamikaze approach on the slopes. In spite of this I can honestly say that he never had a ski accident ... although he certainly left many in his wake!

Amazingly, there is more: language exchanges, the battlefields trip, helping with chess, picture framing, his unique golf swing, his antics when cycling to work (*'Don't hurt him, he's only an old man'* is an instance I remember). The list seems endless.

I hope that this has given a flavour of what Phil is all about, as it really is impossible to cover all that he has done, partly because so much of it was completed as a last minute favour, out of the public view and recognition that his dedication deserved. His legacy will live long at Camp Hill, and we all wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

■ P.B.

Stuart Davenall 1982–2012



After trying out local Birmingham schools for five years Stuart at last found his real home at Camp Hill in September 1982. I arrived a year later to find a true gentleman with a penchant for old fashioned puns and colourful waistcoats who had an excellent rapport with both students and staff.

His style of physics teaching is genteel and extremely effective as he always has the respect of his students. His ability to bring enjoyment to even the most mundane demonstration is legendary. Outside the school Stuart's passion is restoring old cars and helping his brother to race them. Over the years he has helped many staff with car problems as he has immense knowledge and shows extreme patience when giving explanations to those who have little idea what lies underneath the bonnet. For many years Stuart was 'Mr Minibus' and without him the minibuses would have frequently ground to a halt.

He also was responsible for looking after the Sixth Form block and its pool table and food and drinks machines. For one year Stuart and I shared the role of Head of Physics for reasons that are lost in the mist of time. At the end of the year Stuart became sole Head of Department and in his last year the numbers wishing to study AS physics had climbed to nearly eighty. He was an inspirational HoD who was excellent at giving support without interfering unnecessarily as he trusted the members of his department. He used these skills to train two young GTP students (Oliver and Dan) and to help raise up the new Head of Department.

Outside the classroom Stuart spent many years providing the lighting and sound for the many school productions. In the early days this did not involve the expensive system that we use today but invariably meant Stuart spending many hours attaching lights to the Hall ceiling and being available for the many rehearsals. When younger Stuart went on many school trips such as D of E to Arran, the Battlefields trip the Paris Art trip and the Year 7 French trip.

Stuart's presence in the Science Prep Room will be sorely missed by all, and many boys who left years ago will have fond memories of his work in the classroom. It is rare in these modern times to be able to describe someone as a true gentleman and a scholar yet Stuart was both.

■ S.T.

Anne Patrick 1999–2012

Anne is a Brummie – born in Acocks Green within the sound of the bus bells at the nearby bus station. She went to Harrison Barlow Girls Grammar School in Acocks Green but after she left they changed their name to Ninestiles, presumably because it just wasn't the same without Anne.

Anne trained in London, before teaching in Derbyshire and Buckinghamshire and then returning to the West Midlands. She says that she's taught in every school in the city, as a result of being a supply teacher here. She's also had jobs at Great Barr and Lea Mason School. She was Head of RE at Lea Mason, but sadly the school closed and Anne was made redundant



at the age of 50.

A year of supply followed, before she applied with a sense of gloomy resignation, for a post at CHB. She expected it to be old fashioned and stuffy. She thought she'd hate it. But she'd give it a go and if it was ghastly she'd move on. To her surprise she found CHB was great: in her words, *'fab staff, fab Senior Leadership Team'*. Of course, things have changed tremendously since 1999! Anne was also offered the chance to teach history here, but happily for Rachel Turner, she turned the offer down. Anne said she didn't want to join the History Department because she (and I'm quoting again) *'simply didn't know enough. But then when I met Mike Southworth I changed my mind'*. I suspect that came out wrong.

Anne and Phil Warren had at least one area of excellent fit: Phil didn't like to teach non-examined compulsory KS4 RE; Anne loved it. She introduced a GCSE style philosophy and ethics course. She loved introducing topics and ideas with videos. I'm not sure if it's true to say she pioneered the use of VHS to deliver large parts of the curriculum, but I think I can safely say right until July 2012 she was still pioneering the use of VHS to deliver large parts of the curriculum. You may think labs are the real pressure point in the rooming timetable. Nonsense; the rooming timetable starts with putting Anne in a room with a video cassette player.

Anne has taught RE at every key stage here. She is full of admiration for the abilities and brains of the boys she teaches. She said that teaching A Level RE to boys at this school is the high point of her academic life.

What about outside school? Well, I have to mention Anne's love of Alan Shearer, Newcastle and the late Bobby Robson in that order, chronologically at least. Anne's admiration for Sir Bobby dates from the time when she first knew just how serious her cancer was – it was on the same day as Bobby Robson wrote an article talking frankly about his cancer. Anne found his words inspirational; when she wrote to him to say so, he sent her messages of great comfort. And I also have to mention her work with the Solihull Society of Arts as actor, committee member and even director.

I know what she's retiring from; what's she

retiring to? The pull towards Newcastle grows stronger: not only to that team who did so well in the first decade of the century – I'm talking 1900 to 1910 of course: playing at their world famous ground – the Sports Direct Arena. But also her growing family as she now has not only a daughter there but a genuine Geordie grandson to boot; which is the standard way Geordies greet southerners, I believe. And tantalisingly, she says she is writing a book, but won't tell me what it's about.

Anne, a big, big thank you for all you have done for this school in the last 13 years.

■ M.J.G.

Sarah Blaney 2010–2012



Sarah joined the Modern Foreign Languages Department at the school as a newly qualified teacher in September 2010, after completing her Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Birmingham University. Highly qualified, following her French degree at the University of Cambridge, a year at the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and a Master's qualification in Translation from Queen's University Belfast, she quickly settled in to become a popular and highly effective teacher. Her friendly and engaging manner and her obvious desire for the boys to succeed and, above all, enjoy their language learning made her well-liked and respected by her pupils.

It would have been entirely understandable if Sarah had focused on establishing herself at the school and on honing her classroom skills as a MFL teacher. Yet Sarah was keen to play a full and active part in the wider life of the school. She undertook to teach Key Stage Three German, which was somewhat outside her comfort zone, I'm sure she would be the first to admit, but she approached this task as a consummate professional and achieved some impressive results. She brought an enthusiasm and vitality to her General Studies lessons that captivated the boys and gave her the opportunity to demonstrate her wider skills and knowledge. Sarah also volunteered as an EPQ tutor

and accompanied several MFL trips to France and Germany.

Sarah was a popular and sociable colleague both inside and outside the staffroom and her soft, lilting Northern Irish brogue is remembered with fondness. She has left Camp

Hill Boys to take up a teaching and research position at the University of Warwick, where she will be specialising in the poetry of Martine. This will undoubtedly entail some field work on that balmy, sun-drenched Caribbean island and thus, given the hardships she will

have to endure, we wish her well for the future and thank her for her contributions to school life at Camp Hill Boys.

■ **R.A.S.**

Ruth Messenger

2011–2012



Ruth joined the History Department in 2011 as our second ever Graduate Trainee. She came to us with a wealth of experience from her work both in Britain and abroad: teaching English in Vietnam, travelling through South America, recruitment consultancy in London and debt collecting in Redditch. She showed her enthusiasm and passion for teaching History from the outset. In her interview lesson she was able to impress the class with bowls of rice and the Battle of the Somme!

Demonstrating her commitment to the wider life of the school by making up a non-existent form (10N) and winning tickets for them to the Radio 1 Teen Awards, Ruth's comfortable and confident contributions on live radio showed a teacher very much at ease with her environment and responsibilities. She proceeded to teach all of years 7–10 and the Year 12 Historians. Her willingness to try new approaches, to take students outside their comfort-zone and encourage more collaborative learning, provided many ideas for the rest of the department to take on board. It was no surprise that Ruth was selected as the first student on the Graduate Training Programme to be formally observed by Frances Child, the programme director.

All Ruth's year 10 students gained A or A* in their Paper 1, and she can be proud of her achievements in the classroom, with her GCSE and AS Level classes both performing admirably. She was also clearly capable of maintaining student interest in History as shown by the numbers wanting to continue with the subject. Ruth also showed her abilities through taking two further placements during her GTP year,

at Bartley Green School – a mixed comprehensive, and Baskerville School – a special school for students catering for autism-spectrum needs.

Making a fantastic contribution to the wider life of the school in great ways and small, Ruth's willingness to make tea for anyone and everyone in the staffroom will be sorely missed. She was able to accompany students to the Cold War Museum, Conwy, the First World War Battlefields and Kenilworth Castle. A diligent co-tutor for 7M, she will be remembered for the introduction of the Year 7 Castle competition which surpassed all expectations.

Ruth will make an excellent teacher of History and she has a very promising career ahead of her. Her ambitions to teach and live in London were rewarded by appointment to a full-time post at Cardinal Pole Catholic School in Hackney, a javelin's throw from the Olympic Park. Ruth has made an important difference at Camp Hill Boys through her approach to teaching and she deserves all our gratitude for a very successful training year.

■ **G.N.H.**

Dan Honnor

2011–2012

Dan came to the school in Year 12 and it was obvious from the start how bright, enthusiastic and intelligent he was. He went to Cambridge to study Physics after a very successful two years at Camp Hill Boys. Throughout his time at University he maintained contact with Mr Andrew Rogers and as soon as he graduated he made it known that he wanted to teach Physics.

I was able to put him in touch with the Foundations' GTP Head, Frances Child, and he was accepted to start here in September 2011.

The GTP course is not an easy route into teaching and many students buckle under the weight of paperwork and the sheer number of hours required; not Dan, he attacked the course with gusto and remained fully in control. He was a delight to work with and keen to get the best out of every lesson. The boys bonded with him and he maintained excellent classroom control whilst drawing the best from everyone. As the year went on his knowledge and understanding of the teaching process and the ability to put it into practice grew

exponentially. The whole department were impressed with his progress and his innovative ideas were a breath of fresh air! I know I speak for everyone who helped him through the year when I say the experience was very much an excellent two way process, we are all better off for it. Dan graduated with flying colours – rated 'outstanding' – and we wish him the very best for the future which has started for him at Bedford Modern School.

■ **S.D.**

School Activities

Schools Aerospace Challenge 2012

or – 'We went flying and met the Duke of York!'



Responding to the 2012 challenge to outline the possible future RAF pilot selection requirements for Unmanned Air Vehicles (Drones), we were delighted see Camp Hill provide two of the twelve teams invited to the August residential semi-finals of this internet based competition hosted by Cranfield University.

Our teams looked at many aspects of UAV operations, including the current controversies surrounding the increasing reliance upon these aircraft by the RAF and United States Air Force. Cranfield Summer School 2012 was truly international for the first time, with 12 semi-finalist teams of Air Cadets from Canada and Australia working alongside cadet and school teams from across the UK, including, of course, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

I have no doubt at all that, in response to my enquiries, our March invitation to visit the Psychology Department of the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre at RAF College Cranwell, together with a briefing on conventional pilot training from 16(R) Squadron, definitely served its purpose in inspiring our boys to greater things. My thanks, again, to the Chief Psychologist and the many personnel of the Royal Air Force who gave generously of their time in support of our endeavours.

As Teacher I/C, I **never** do actually get to go to the Summer School, so ...

■ C.J.



The Cranfield Summer School experience in their own words:

Monday: Arriving late on Sunday night, we had an early start to make lectures; these introduced the basic aeronautical concepts which we would need in the coming week. Following a briefing on helicopter flight, we were given the opportunity to fly a two-man helicopter. The experience lasted 20 minutes and we were all surprised by the immense difficulty of keeping the aircraft under control.

Tuesday: Today saw us expanding on the theory work, whilst also participating in team building activities arranged by the RAF.

Wednesday: We left the University for a visit to the museum at RAF Duxford. After initially being lectured by a former Concorde pilot on what it was like to fly the aircraft, we were treated to a Spitfire display from a pilot in the fully functioning WW2 fighter plane. We also got free entry to all the exhibitions.

Thursday: The day brought a different experience in the form of a Royal visit in the morning. Prince Andrew visited the University to see what we were doing on the course and ask us about aspects of the overall competition. After lunch, a Hawk TMk2 flew in from RAF Valley in

Wales giving us the opportunity to question the pilot and photograph the plane. In the evening we were spoken to about the development of the British BAe Hawk aircraft and its subsequent adaption for use as a trainer on the aircraft carriers of the United States Navy.

Friday: We built on the theoretical background received throughout the week and analysed flight data recorded whilst airborne aboard the University Jetstream Flying Laboratory Aircraft. The experience lasted half an hour whilst a variety of manoeuvres were performed, often at the expense of feeling quite queasy. We returned home after lunch very grateful to the organisers for the overall experience – a must for anybody interested in aircrafts or engineering.

■ Nick Wilson, L.Art

■ Howard Jones, L.Art

Team Stealth — James Featherstone, Hugh Sanders and Howard Jones

Team Solution — Nick Wilson, Evan Phoenix and Sam Archer

Schools Aerospace Challenge Coordinator — Mr Christopher Jackson

With the kind assistance of Mr Richard Surr.

Also see: <http://www.aerospacechallenge.org/>



Predator in Kandahar



Engineering in Education Scheme

Team AEC

A team comprising Ahmad Khattab, Alex Naylor, Jason Pereira and Sumant Kapoor were selected by Aero Engine Controls to solve an engineering based problem. AEC is a multi-national engineering company specializing in 'engine intelligence' and is at the forefront of the aerospace industry. One example of their work is the design and manufacture of the engine controls systems for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner (a high efficiency commercial jet).

In September the team took part in the launch day at Cromwell Business Park, to meet the mentors and get given the project. During the day there was a multitude of activities, one of which was a competition. This entailed building a bridge using straws, tape, and paper; the winning team would be the team who built a bridge which could hold the greatest weight, and would be rewarded with a trip to the JCB factory and some vouchers. The team followed all of the specification and finished on time, however the bridge didn't hold very much weight, resulting in us not winning. Despite this, the competition was still a valuable experience, as the team learnt how important it is to follow a specification carefully and work together in order to perform tasks efficiently.

In addition to taking part in the competition the team used a matrix to choose one project from six to take forward and work on for the subsequent eight months. The team selected a project which entailed the design and manufacture of a fixture which would test the brinelling effect.

Shortly after the Launch Day, the team were invited to visit the AEC headquarters. It was then that we received our (somewhat daunting) project brief, before being familiarised with the assisting engineers and taking a tour of the company. The problem required the team to investigate the effects of Brinelling on a bolt fixture and design a fixture to test this. Brinelling is essentially a failure of a materials surface, due to loads that exceed the materials stress limit. The result is a permanent dent, or 'brinell' mark. Brinelling presents potential problems for engineers at AEC, as many of the vital systems they produce utilise bolt fixtures. If Brinelling occurs, components may become loose and cause damage to

components near to them as well as themselves. Knowing accurately when Brinelling will start to occur will allow AEC engineers to use materials efficiently, without compromising safety.

The team started by researching various topics related to material sciences (such as Hooke's Law and the Young Modulus), in order to gain an in-depth understanding of the situation. We then came up with some initial design ideas, ranging from Sumant's overly basic '*clamp design*' [A], to Alex's downright monstrous '*plate with arms*' [B]. Somewhere in between came Jason's simple yet efficient '*hollow cylinder*' [C]. Ahmad produced detailed computer graphics for each design and after thoroughly analysing and scoring each design on its merits in terms effectiveness, ease of use/manufacture and material efficiency, it was clear that Jason's brainchild was the one the team would take forward.

A few days before breaking up for Christmas Holidays, the team embarked on a three-day residential trip to Birmingham University. The team were given talks on presentation and report writing skills, before dropping off bags at the hotel on the first night. Members of the team met up with others from the hallway and engaged in riveting games of Irish Snap and mind bogglingly epic Mafia. It was back to work the next day however, so the team got cracking. As the team had made good progress on product design, the goal of the residential was to not only finalise these designs, but have a prototype made. Detailed engineers drawings were required, so Ahmad and Jason lead the way in producing these. Alex and Sumant focused on ensuring that the technicians were able to manufacture the components to the correct specification. The product was made and the residential finished with a mock presentation on our project. It would be fair to say that at that point in the project, presentation skills were not up to scratch. Last minutes notes scribbled on hands, mistimed slide changing, and atrocious attempts at humour all featured.

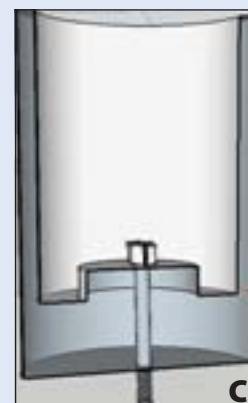
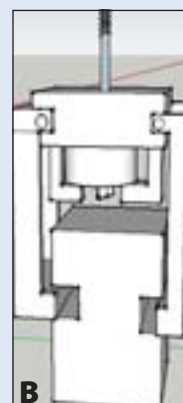
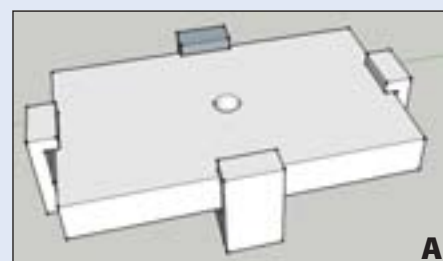
After testing the rig and coming-up data, the team realised it was necessary to start on the report. Many late nights and missed deadlines later, the team were finally ready for the Presentation Day. On arrival, we got on with setting up our stand for judges and members of the public to view. The team nervously waited at the desk, rehearsing the presentation in our minds. The presentation came and went, with only a few minor stumbles. The judges were impressed with the team's performance and thorough report. We reflected on the ups and downs of the project and could let out a sigh of relief, as the hard work had paid off.

The team would like to thank Mr Nash, Aero Engine Controls and the Engineering in Education Scheme for all the work they have put into providing us with the unique opportunity to experience engineering in action.

■ Sumant Kapoor, L2



[Below] The rig in use



Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

On an uncharacteristically warm afternoon in October 2011, eight lucky students had the pleasure of being excused from senior games, in order to attend their EES interviews. We were competing for a place with Eaton Aerospace – a global technology leader in power management solutions, who employ over 73,000 workers, and had total sales in 2010 of over \$13.7 million – or so we memorised in an attempt to impress our interviewers.

Clearly this tactic worked for James Featherstone, Rowan May, Robert McDonald, and Sam Styles, who were dubbed by Eaton: the Leader, the Organiser, the Thinker, and the Do-er, respectively, and thus our enthusiastic team of wannabe engineers was born.

The injured Mr Nash, sadly, could not make the launch day, and so the DT department's newest recruit, Mr Cattermole, was charged with driving the teams to the event. Mr Cattermole, whilst a brilliant and inspiring addition to Camp Hill, had clearly not mastered the location of his new school yet, as, after over ten minutes of driving, we ended up back at the King's Heath High Street, and not, as he intended, at the launch day in Solihull. After hurried apologies, and friendly calculations of how much petrol money Mr Cattermole had cost the school, we arrived at Cranmore Business Park, where we met with over 200 other lower sixth formers from across the region, who were going to be taking part in the scheme alongside us.

Soon after arriving, our team was given, as a team-building exercise, its first task: to make a miniature bridge across a gap of 30 cm, with the winner being the one which could carry the most weight without crumpling. With a motivating thirst to prove ourselves better than the other Camp Hill team, we set about making an extremely sturdy and attractive bridge, and submitted it to the judges with 20 seconds of our allotted hour remaining. It was to our dismay that only upon returning to our table did we read that our bridge had to be 30 cm in width, as well as in length, meaning our construction was disqualified before judging even began.

Our mentoring engineers, Steve Nicholson and Peter Willetts then arrived, bringing with them the brief for the project we would be working on over the next 6 months. We were asked to come up with a replacement to Eaton's current system of trimming their many different types fuel hoses, which they were selling in large quantities to both commercial and military consumers. The hoses were currently being trimmed with an ordinary craft knife, however as this risked causing injury to the factory worker, and occasionally meant entire assemblies had to be scrapped, if the craft knife caused any kind of indentation on the main body of the hose, our team needed to

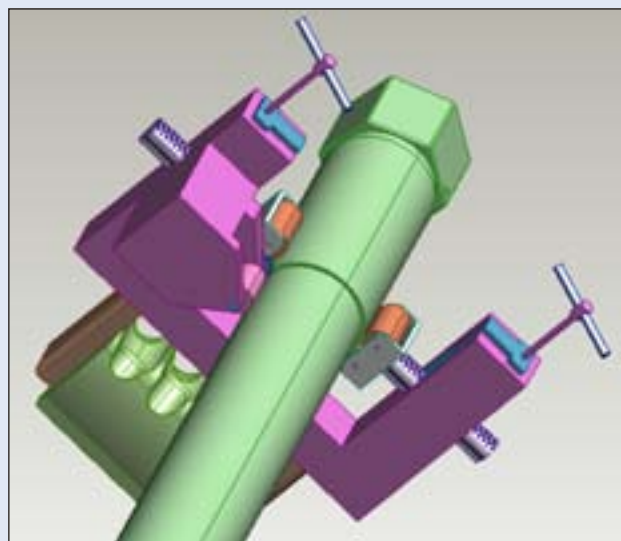
design a safer and more efficient method of doing it.

Upon returning to school, we began lunchtime meetings to try to brainstorm how we would tackle this problem. In the weeks that followed we progressed slowly through research, hastily scribbled drawings of our ideas, and making jokes at the expense of our rugby-loving mentor Pete, who could seemingly only make it to meetings when his 'training' allowed. As the three-day residential at Birmingham University drew rapidly closer, our organiser Rowan, upon reading through the minutes he had been meticulously taking for two months, realised that we'd done essentially no real work in that time, meaning we were facing the wrath of Mr Nash, if we couldn't come up with a decent plan quickly. Terrified out of our habitual procrastination, we sketched a hand-held cutting tool, to be made out of MDF in the workshops of the University, as a prototype of our final design.

The residential was perhaps the most enjoyable and rewarding part of the scheme, and we are thankful to its organisers for providing us with an experience of what university life might be like. Our meals were paid for, our beds made, and we were treated to hearing Mr Nash almost demolish our hotel room doors, as he gave us what he thought was a friendly knock at 7 o'clock every morning. Despite our stupefying lack of sleep, we managed to cobble together a wooden prototype of our cutting tool, having immense fun in the process. We then headed back to school, and after the fun of Christmas and January examinations were over, began the write up of our project.

This was a long and laborious process, however we were told by our engineers that this sort of paperwork was what professionals have to do on a regular basis, and so we do not lament the sleep we lost in the week before the deadline, when, unsurprisingly, the majority of the work was done.

As we look back on our time with the scheme, we remember fondly the time we spent working together, and although the eight students who took part from Camp Hill now comprises five



engineers, a physicist, a mathematician, and a computer scientist, we have all learned a great deal from the EES, and would recommend it to any who are applying for a scientific degree.

Thanks must go to our esteemed leader, Mr Nash, and the rest of the DT department who have helped us along the way, and we wish the best of luck to the participants of the EES 2012–13!

■ Robert McDonald, L1

VDI Pupils' Forum

The VDI (Association of German Engineers) Schülerforum (pupils' forum) is an annual event held at the Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences) in Frankfurt. Teams, each usually comprising three pupils, give a presentation on a topic of their choice related to the broad theme of science and technology. Camp Hill Boys is invited to take part every year and we entered three teams in the competition. Our boys delivered the main part of their presentation in English and then gave a summary in German. The German participants do the reverse. The Camp Hill Boys teams and their chosen topics were as follows:

Alcohol as a fuel — Connor Burns,

Richard English and Oliver Paulin

Goal-line technology — Giles Moss,

Hamish Wells and Ayrton Gill

The Future of Interplanetary Travel —

Matthew Else, Gaspard Bulso, Joe Cullen

The following is account of the trip by two of the participating boys.

■ R.S.

Nerves. After getting up at a time not hitherto known to man and suffering through a slow 2 hour flight, a 15 minute trip on the underground was all that separated us and our German partners, awaiting our arrival. Our hosts for the rest of the week were waiting, and the feeling was comparable with that before a German Oral, except this was an extended, 4-day version.

Within minutes we paired off and welcomed the new German culture and families temporarily into our lives. However, one thing was clear to see; these nerves were unjustified. Although our nights were extremely varied, one factor grouped us together – the welcoming and enjoyable nature of our hosts. There was now a new boulder on the horizon however; our German speeches.

A prompt start to a busy day. We took the train which, with typical German efficiency, was fast, comfortable and arrived on time! The university now loomed in front of us, an intimidating building that promised nothing but nerves and confused German. After a quick introduction, which we didn't understand, it was time for the first group of Richard English, Oliver Paulin and Connor Burns to present their topic; *'Alcohol as Fuel'*. After a shaky but promising start, it was then the turn of Giles Moss, Ayrton Gill and Hamish Wells to deliver on their very serious subject, *'Goal Line Technology'*. After a few well placed jibes concerning the 2010 World Cup and a break, during which everyone indulged in the free drinks, food, frisbees and especially pens, the *'Alcohol as Fuel'* speech made a reappearance, this time in the daunting, concrete Auditorium. However, after the first trial run, Richard, Oliver and Connor were

more than ready to step up to the podium.

The penultimate session saw two simultaneous presentations, *'Goal Line Technology'* and *'The Future of Interplanetary Travel'*. Giles, Ayrton and Hamish were ready to tackle their presentation, but the third group of Gaspard Bulso, Matthew Else and Joseph Cullen had yet to present anything. Hindered by a lack of practice and feeble technology, it wasn't looking too good. The final presentation of the day was a repeat of *'The Future of Interplanetary Travel'*, but this time with practice and friendly technology, it was a great improvement. It was so interesting that Frau Waldmann almost stayed awake!

Extremely relieved, the party settled down to a cheap lunch and some fun with the frisbees. After losing three, we were led downstairs to a tour of the car maintenance facilities, where we learnt the incredible stability of this business. After yet more frisbee fun and drooling over some of the prizes, we came to a presentation called *'Einstein goes Facebook'* (no one has worked out what it really means). Deeply curious, we settled down in the Auditorium and were confronted with an enjoyable, very technical presentation (which we didn't really understand), about Einstein going onto Facebook and interacting with scientists looking for the Higgs Boson. This was followed with the presentation of prizes, which again we didn't understand, except the fact we missed out on the prize we had coveted to our great disappointment. We went home having accomplished everything we had set out to do; two tricky presentations, nice food, lots of new German vocabulary and plenty of frisbees!

After having spent another night with our partners – and in high spirits after a rare England win in the Euros – the next day was greeted with anticipation and excitement; the only downside another early start! Following another journey on the train – which soon took up the role of our second temporary home – we arrived at a large water park. A haven of slides, waves and a multitude of swimming pools, we soon inevitably descended into a competitive game of *'Piggy in the Middle'*; the old rivalry stoked again and another victory for the homeland! Upon finishing, the opportunity of spending the rest of the afternoon with our partners was taken without hesitation and a variety of activities – from parties to travelling around town – were undertaken. The only

downside was the looming prospect of leaving the next day.

The morning came, the sorry goodbyes were said, and the flight was over all too soon. Unfortunately, the trip was ending just as it began – but the enjoyment of the last four days far eclipsed the feeling of returning home to sunny Britain. Nerves from that initial journey were a long lost memory, and the good friends we made on the trip will not be forgotten. The opportunities that we had were incredible and our thanks must go to Mr Jackson and especially Mr Surr, for their continued help with our projects and actually making the trip possible. Although our views of Germany have changed over the trip – alongside the previous exchanges visiting us – one thing remains certain; the ball crossed the line!

■ Giles Moss, 10Y

■ Gaspard Bulso, 10X



Debating

Due largely to the efforts of Tom Williams and Alex Wood, Chairman and Secretary respectively of Senior Debating Society for the last year, Camp Hill has seen debating within school flourish. Not only have the Intermediate and Junior Societies grown and thrived within the last year, but we have seen the senior section continue to develop and nurture fantastic debaters.

From contentious issues such as Gay Marriage and Education Reform, to more fun and light-hearted themes such as balloon debates, Senior Debating Society has continued to entertain audiences and encourage budding debaters for another school year. Encouragingly, integration with the Girls' School has also increased; to the point where the society is evenly attended by both genders and starting this year is a rotation between male and female Chairpersons.

Over the past year, the quality of debate has risen as well and now the Debating Soci-

eties are as much a training-ground for potential competitive debaters as they are a forum of intellectual discussion. As a result of the growing quality of debating, we have seen boys compete and debate excellently in several external competitions and training events over the past year. From the ESU Mace Competitions and the Birmingham City Library Teen Debate,

to university led competitions at Birmingham and Nottingham, our entrants have done exceedingly well in all of the competitions which they entered; for instance two Year 9s achieving 'The Best Novice' Awards. Over the next year, Senior Debating Society hopes to continue to organise and cultivate talent, and we hope to continue our involvement and our success within external competitions as well including The Debating Matters and Warwick University Competitions.

However, not content with running the most successful and popular society within



school, and organising and excelling within external competitions, School Debating has started to (and hopes to continue to) arrange charity events within school. This year saw a Christmas-themed debate between the teachers, the motion being 'This House believes that Santa Claus does not exist'. Held at lunchtime in the hall during December, the event was a huge success; not only was it incredibly entertaining for the audience, but it raised hundreds of pounds for a charity to help children with their speech. It is an event which shall hopefully be continued for years to come.

Debating at Camp Hill has exceeded all expectations within the last year and hopefully this is just the beginning of a bright and active future for years to come. Thanks to Mrs Jackson and all other staff involved, for their support and organisation.

■ **Loughlan O'Doherty, L5**



National Commonwealth Youth Summit

On the cold, snowy morning of Wednesday 4th April 2012 three boys from the Camp Hill community – Shihab Mozumder, Arjun Varma and Ehsaan Khan – set off from New Street Station to go to London for the National Commonwealth Youth Summit. With all expenses paid, this would be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We arrived slightly early and met up with the facilitators who were from various Commonwealth Countries all over the world. Ehsaan thought we were staying at the Pall Mall until he later realised that this was the road leading up to Buckingham Palace not a Five Star Hotel.

We left our bags at the LSE halls of residence (our accommodation for the two days) and set off for the Commonwealth, a Private Members' Club of the Royal Commonwealth Society. Here we met all the participants – some of whom were from Birmingham and the rest from Manchester and Londonderry in Northern Ireland. We started off with a visit from an Oxfam Education volunteer who began with a quiz. Next was preparation for the High Com-

mission visits, with corruption high on our agenda for discussion.

Firstly we went to the Bahamas High Commission; the official there invited us in to a modern building and we were offered refreshments. He spoke and showed a video about all of the positive sides of the country and how they were a very successful tourist destination. Then we were given a short period of time to ask questions, such as 'Is funding reduced for

islands that are further away from the USA?' The High Commissioner arrived just before we left to take some photos. Next was our visit to the South African High Commission which was situated within a rather imposing, historically proud building. We were given a short tour and led to a grand

room where we met three officials; the High Commissioner did not come in at all this time. They discussed questions that we asked such as about the townships on the outskirts of Cape Town (their second largest city). They focused on illegal immigrant settlements rather than the small overcrowded towns. We were then given some presents and left for



dinner at the Commonwealth Club.

After dinner we had a walk along the South Bank and went on the London Eye from which we could see the Shard – the tallest building in Western Europe. We then went for a walk down the renowned Oxford Street and went to eat at a small but not very well known American food chain called McDonalds!

On Day two we set off for Marlborough House, donated to the Commonwealth Secretariat by Queen Elizabeth II. We first started with preparing a presentation for our High Commission visits. Camp Hill's was by far the





best! We had an interesting debate for which the motion was 'What can young people do to change the world?' From this debate we explored many important

issues and came forward with ideas to solve these.

We had a visit from the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General, who told us about her role in the Royal Commonwealth Society. A Regional Action Plan was made with all the other schools from Birmingham and a Facilitator named Domini Bingham, a Royal Commonwealth Club Board Member came later in the

term to try to implement this plan at Camp Hill. We gave presentations of our Regional Action Plans and then agreed upon the final Communique. This was then presented to the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General. We then had photos with the other participants and left for Birmingham.

■ **Shihab Mozumder, 9M**



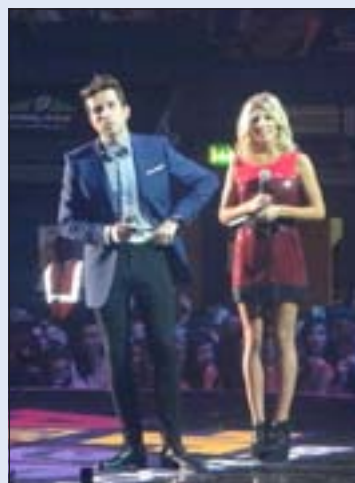
Teen Awards

On 26th September, at exactly a bit past nine, tension in EPL was building. After entering a national competition on Radio 1, Chris Moyles had set Miss Messenger the task of answering questions on Cheryl Cole - unfortunately not in person. With an hour's revision under her belt, it was time.

The bar had been set at five in just a minute by her rival from another school. After answering the first two confidently, the name of Cole's maiden album and her date of birth pushed Miss Messenger back. It was looking unlikely, but then she suddenly upped her game. In the space of a few seconds she answered three consecutively and confidently ended the minute with the total of seven. That was it. She had been victorious. Raucous cheers and clapping erupted in the room and, much to the delight to this group of year 10s, we were going to the teen awards in London.

Teen Hero Awards

Now one of the key points of this event, aside from the music, is to celebrate the achievements of some inspirational teenagers who



have done things that deserve a commendation. There were three of these teen heroes, the first of whom is Alec Martin. After initially being diagnosed with Dyspraxia and then Asperger's, he suffered for a number of years with cancer and eventually battled through it, now having to walk on crutches. However, instead of submitting himself and becoming depressed, he raised £3,067 for charity through a twenty-four hour gaming relay.

Another winner was Pippa Haynes, a seventeen year-old who participates in the Army Cadets. From a young age she helped her mother after her illness meant she couldn't walk. She slowly brought her mother back to strength and now looks after her and the local community, contributing to the society and helping others.

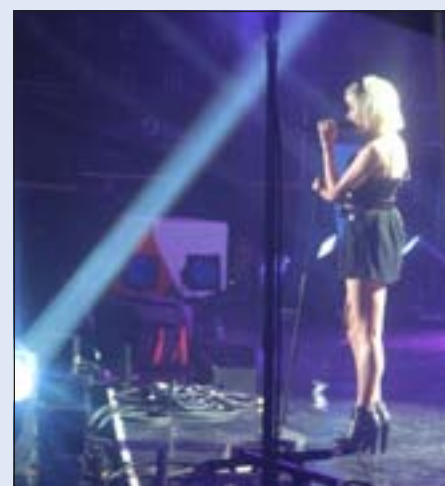
The final winner of a teen hero award was Charlie Ward, a sixteen year-old who appeared on the cover of many a newspaper. When on holiday in Shell Island, a six



year-old girl fell in the river and under a drain pipe before being swept out into the estuary. After her parents both jumped in, Charlie swam out and saved her, bringing her to shore. He is described as a 'caring man' and saved the girl's life. They are all great people and it is fantastic their achievements are being recognised.

Our sincere thanks to Miss Messenger and other staff involved for giving us this great opportunity.

■ **Giles Moss, 10Y**



Camp Hill Media Days

Lights, camera, action! It was a busy time for the English Department at Camp Hill last year, as we organised not one, but two Media Days for both our students and Year 5 students from Wheeler's Lane



Primary school.

In the spring term we invited sixty students from Wheeler's Lane to participate in a 'Mini' Media Day. This was led and (partly) organised by two of our Year 11 students: Philip McCahill and James Ducker. During the day the intrepid Year 5s had an opportunity to take part one of a range of media related workshops led by dedicated Camp Hill staff, including Mr Rogers, Mr Pitt and Mr Downing.

In the summer term all of Year 8 had a similar opportunity, but this time we were lucky enough to welcome a range of guests to help us with the workshops and including Jim Lee, a continuity announcer for Radio 4, Kester Demmar, a television producer for the BBC, Mark Gough, a Central News Reporter, David Barnes from Packt Publishing and Olivia Swinscoe from Birmingham City University's School of Media. Overall it was an exciting and interesting day for all those involved.

Camp Hill's Media Days have gone from strength to strength over the last few years, so it will be interesting to see what July 11th brings in 2013...

■ J.L.P.



Design 2011-2012

Once again the design department has experienced an excellent year. Students studying GCSE Resistant Materials and Systems and Control worked hard throughout the course, in particular towards their coursework, gaining considerable success.

AS Product Design students produced a variety of interesting designs to the 'lighting' brief, some taking advantage of CAD/CAM equipment to manufacture the outcome.

A2 students undertook a number of challenges, including: bike storage on board a narrow boat, nurses workstation, posture support when learning to play the guitar, hospital ward rounds trolley, play group room divider, artist portable storage/easel, car roof rack adaptation for the storage of canoes/wind surfers.

The variety of designs certainly kept members of staff and students interested and provided exciting stimuli for discussion and innovation. Mr Downing would like to congratulate all A2 students and wish them all the best for their futures, particularly Zoe and Abbie from Camp Hill Girls who began the Product Design course with a Graphics background; both achieved A* – it just goes to show what hard work can achieve.

The Department is proud to announce that Camp Hill now has FIVE Arkwright Scholars in the Sixth Form – Ajay Dhunna, Jordan Salmon, Adeel Ali, Hok Chui and Anthony Featherstone. Scholarships are awarded on merit after completing an examination and interview. There are only 350 awards made each academic year across the whole of the United Kingdom. The list of recipients and their school reads like a 'Who's Who' of state and public education in Britain.

In our endeavour to keep abreast of changes in design and manufacturing techniques the Department was successful in bidding for £20,000 from the Headmaster's funds. This money was spent on updating our facilities and equipment. The purchase of the laser cutter is already reaping rewards with uses for the machine being developed almost day by day. This also provided the initiative for a change in room usage with the graphics room being transformed into a machining centre – now meaning that all of the departments CAD/CAM equipment is contained in one area.

Finally, our thanks go out to the Old Boys' Association who rallied round in our hour of need to help with the repair of an ageing lathe. Particular thanks go to those who machined a new tool post cam lock, saving the school £700 for a replacement part.

■ K.D.

Domestic Trips

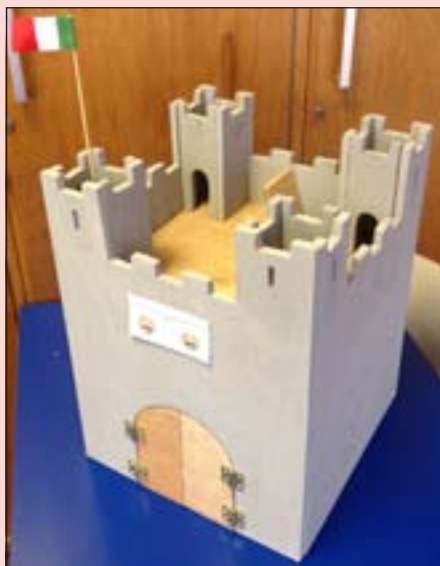
Kenilworth Castle

Visit 27 June 2012 and Castle Building Challenge

Venturing across the causeway, eager for any sight of action, determined to earn their spurs, held back from excessive enthusiasm by their commanding officers, the Camp Hill army descended upon the gift shop as if they were besieging a medieval castle – which was very appropriate as they had just visited one. The History Department offers its humblest apologies for the high level of tat which was purchased: I wonder how many swords, bows and arrows, catapult pencil sharpeners are still in one piece – indeed I know of one weapon confiscated on the day which has yet to see the light of day again.

These purchases were just reward following a successful day of fieldwork: the Camp Hill army braved the clement weather, a few angry wasps, some even angrier nettles and an invading force of grass pollen to find out about the history and development of Kenilworth Castle. The army was a credit to the officers and showed discipline and teamwork as they marched around the interior and exterior of the fortification, they showed insight and cunning as they planned grand strategies with the artefacts and models inside the gatehouse tower.

Upon returning to Camp Hill, the boys were able to put their research into practice with classwork activities and the Castle Building Challenge. Orchestrated by Miss Messenger, this involved copious amount of card-



[Above] Winner



board and toilet rolls crafted cunningly into the shape of medieval castles in their various incarnation. In the final days of term, the products arrived, some with spectacular detail, some on a spectacular scale, and some spectacularly edible – including Miss Messenger's own creation. The winners were congratulated in the final assembly of the year to the rapturous applause of the whole school. Well done to Jas Rudzki on his spectacular Jas-Burg which won this year's competition.

■ G.N.H.



Cold War Museum Visit 2012

On the occasion of our fourth annual pilgrimage to the home of all things apocalyptic, the weather proved itself suitably bleak.

The ancient double-decker bus delivering us to the silo of destruction was itself a pinnacle of cold-war technology, yet still managed to deliver us safely and on time. The exhibits themselves allowed us to consider a world as it might have been, and how military hardware developed over the decades in ever more sophisticated and destructive forms.

Still, the boys were able to explore such chilling examples of man's capacity for self-annihilation with the responsibility, interest and good humour expected from a Camp Hill

student. We even succeeded in triggering no bomb scares this year, which to all staff involved was a blessed relief.

■ G.N.H.





Conway, North Wales

When we first stepped on the coach bound for the Conway Centre nothing could dampen the excitement and breathless anticipation in the air. Not even Wales' usual bad weather could turn aside the expectations of a good time. We waved goodbye to our parents as we started on our journey to the centre. The Conway trip promised a good time and I can assure you we weren't disappointed.

The fun began before we even arrived when the teachers took us for a trek up Llyn Idwal. Half way up we stopped for lunch beside a glorious lake with the rest of the climb towering high above us. The sun had made an appearance earlier on so some students went for a splash around in the water while others relaxed on the bank. After lunch we made our way back down through the hills and all bundled back onto the bus. A short while later we arrived at the centre. There was time for a quick tour and a briefing before we were whisked off to our first activity. Some took to the waters of the Menai Straits on kayaks and sailing boats while others were given challenges on the high and low ropes. When we returned to our dorms

we were supposed to go straight to sleep but of course we didn't. We all regretted it in the morning.

On day two we woke up to a day of glorious sunshine, a clear sky and members of staff telling us we were late for breakfast. We then travelled to Aber Falls and Caernarfon Castle. At Aber Falls we were treated to a lesson on the dynamics of flowing water by the Headmaster involving throwing oranges into the river and watching them float downstream. At the same time downstream Mr Holland was leading the biology experiment which involved catching minute creatures from the river bed to analyse the water pollution levels in the stream. Unfortunately we caught more oranges than we did water life. Mr Holland was undoubtedly hoping that the other group would have more success.

Meanwhile the other group were being given a tour of Caernarfon Castle. They were educated on the castle's fascinating history and on how to defend a castle from attack in medieval times. Once everyone had com-



pleted the activities and the tour we set off back to the centre. There we had a satisfying dinner followed by evening activities. The centre and school staff had organised a variety of activities including rugby, football, cricket





and orienteering. The on-site shop was open at this point and so we got a chance to spend our money on as many chocolates and sweets as we liked. At the end of the day Mr Watkins showed us a short video of our day at Caernarfon and Aber accompanied by our favourite tunes.

Day three and four were the activity days. We participated in a huge number of activities including canoeing, zip wire, climbing and high ropes. Each group did two activities each day followed by evening free time. Everyone was almost guaranteed to be soaked by the end of the day. The Headmaster and staff made sure of that. Of course we got our revenge at the end of the activities when we soaked them back. The weather was perfect, totally uncharacteristic for Wales, with a clear sky and fantastic sunshine. Of course evening free time topped it all off at the end of the day with the usual sporting activities as well as quizzes, scrabble competitions and other such games. At the end of the two days Mr Watkins treated us to another one of his presentations and told us all to start packing our bags for when we left the following day.

And so came our fifth and final day at the Conway centre. One more activity later came to moment the staff had all being waiting for. No, it wasn't getting rid of all of us back at

school, it was the staff vs. kids cricket and football matches. We were feeling confident of victory, after all how many hours had we put in in the school yard, practising our skills with make-shift goalposts and stumps? What a perfect way it would be to end the week – by beating the staff in the sporting competitions. Luckily for the staff, we were exhausted from a long week spent having fun. The staff, however, were fresh and well rested which is why they beat us in each of the two games. After the games we all piled onto the coach had a last glance at the Conway centre then drove off back to Camp Hill.

The week seemed to go by so quickly. All of a sudden we were standing back at Camp Hill after a week at the Conway centre. Everyone



on the trip will always remember the fantastic time we had in Wales. We will also remember that nothing on the trip could have been possible without the help of the staff here at Camp Hill.

■ **Ashar Aslam, 85**

■ **Nishant Chaudhari, 85**

St David's Outdoor Pursuits 2012

Once again, due to severe weather, we had to cut short our Outdoor Pursuits event. Although the boys were disappointed to miss the final climbing session, they understood that we really had no choice but cancel the last day for safety reasons.

Nevertheless, we did have enough time to introduce basic climbing techniques to a slightly larger than usual group of Year 9 and 10 boys who were eager to explore all possibilities. We must also thank our small but expert group of Year 12 climbers, Evan Phoenix, Howard

Jones and Jake Thomas, who took more responsibility and showed themselves to be very capable and willing to learn new techniques concerning general safety and rope management.

We hope to maintain this unique event and any boys who may be interested should be aware that information is usually published at the beginning of the summer term.

Finally, without the dedication and expert help of Messers Bruten, Downing, Hardy, Cookson and, this year Dinham, we could not possibly run this event. Only those who have actually experienced the trip



know exactly how much effort goes into making it a success.

■ **P.T.C.**



Foreign Trips

China

On a bright Monday morning in the October half-term thirty-two students, four members of staff and three accompanying adults set out for the People's Republic of China. None of us had ever been before and we did not know what to expect. Briefing after briefing, the days slowly whittled down until the big day arrived.

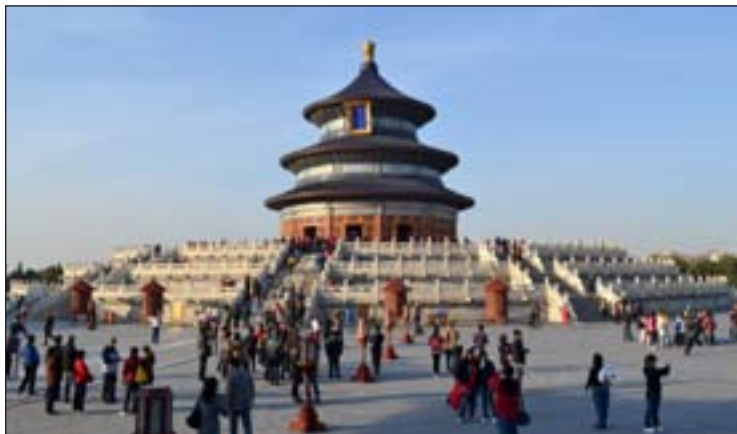
The journey itself was a ten hour flight, but we passed the time eating, sleeping and sampling the array of media provided by British Airways. As soon as we landed we were instantly hit by the vastness of the capital city, Beijing, with its population of around twenty million people living mostly in the apartment blocks that dominate the city's skyline. We checked in at the three star Rainbow Hotel, a place where we would call home for five days and four nights.

As soon as we dropped our luggage our excursions began with a visit to the Temple of Heaven, a series of Ming and Qing dynasty buildings that serve as the spiritual centre for the people of Beijing. The temple itself is a work of art, and we could only marvel at the skill of construction required to build without nails or adhesives. Walking through the park, there was the nice distraction of seeing the locals playing cards, drinking tea and generally relaxing while watching the hysteria of thousands of people walk by.

After visiting the Temple, we were surprised to be given a free tea ceremony. We were introduced to five different blends of Chinese tea, which were all made fresh in front of us. These teas claimed to boost longevity, reju-

venate the mind and support healthy digestion. Sadly however, the effects didn't seem to be immediate! That said it was nice to observe some of the many traditions associated with drinking tea in China. For those with deep enough pockets, we were able to purchase boxes to take home.

During the day we got our first experience of street vendors. Walking, talking shops – they can spot a tourist a mile off. The major sellers were watches. Rolexes, Hublots, Breitlings, and more, who would have thought in China they go for less than a fiver? This leads nicely to our visit to the local supermarket. High street



brands for a fraction of the price. I'm talking 2L Coca Cola bottles for 59p and microwaves for £20. To the parents: wish you were here, right?

Day two of the trip was probably the day we were most looking forward to. Why? It was the day we got to see the Great Wall. When we woke up we knew it was going to be a long day as we would also see the Ming Tombs and an evening acrobatic show. If that wasn't busy enough, the guides threw in a trip to see how jade sculptures are made. The tour showed



how craftsmen take rough blocks of jadeite and nephrite and turn them into a vast range of sculptures and ornaments. Some truly magnificent pieces were showcased, and while they may have been slightly over-budget cufflinks, necklaces and earrings were available within our price range.

We then moved onto the highlight of the day, the Badaling section of the Great Wall of China. This part was renovated in the 1920's and has become the most popular of any parts of the Great Wall. Although this is apparently one of the easier sections to climb it does not feel like that when going up. Our guides told us of the ancient Chinese proverb, that *'To become a hero you must climb the first section of the Wall'*. A heroic effort was definitely needed to reach the top, as it involved ascending over 1000 steps going up 300 metres in alti-

tude. This challenge proved difficult with only ten students, Mr Caves and Mr Roden reaching these dizzying heights. The views from the top were, as expected, spectacular.

The Ming tombs awaited, which held the bodies of ten of the thirteen Ming Dynasty emperors, as the area near the foothill mountains of Beijing has some of the best feng shui to protect the emperors in their spiritual future. As only three tombs are opened to the public, it was impressive to see the extent that the Chinese support their emperors even in death. We visited the Changling tomb, famous not only for it being the most complete tomb, but also for the Spirit Way, a seven kilometre avenue that is partially lined with stone sculptures and monuments to protect the ancient emperors from harm. Respect and consideration is the norm around these sculptures, but 'planking' was all the rage back then. Needless to say it made for a good photo opportunity!

To cap the already spectacular day we were treated to an Acrobat show. Balancing on chairs, balls, heads – you name it and they did it. Performing to the limit of human capabilities, they performed unnervingly, something that only the Chinese can do. Death defying stunts performed in front of our eyes, it was certainly a case of 'do not try at home'.





Day three came about before we knew it, as we ventured to central Beijing towards Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Thousands of tourists lined the streets of the famed area, of which many were in fact Chinese. The memorial hall of Chairman Mao was close to where we were walking, protruding from which there



was a zig-zagging line of epic proportion. As much as we wanted to see him, we didn't have a couple of hours spare to queue! The largest city square in the world certainly had us stunned, as the hustle and bustle of tourists kept us on our toes. Walking through the various gates, our eyes eventually focussed on the giant portrait of Chairman Mao watching over us, as we took a moment to appreciate the grandeur of it all.

After entering the 'Gate of Heavenly Peace', we came into the Forbidden City. It is now run by the 'Palace Museum', as various artefacts and antiques have been preserved for the public to see within. We first came to a large map

detailing the locations of buildings in the City. Gazing upon the abundance of small icons displaying buildings, we were truly struck by the size of it. The clicking of cameras, the sound of chit chat lined the air – as palace after palace, building after building lined the area. We circled the city, and soon found ourselves back in the Square.

We then moved to the more tranquil environment of the Hutongs. How we moved was an experience in itself, as in pairs we were taken in rickshaws. Gaining considerable speed, we had time to take in the smells and sounds that this traditional Chinese area offered. The Hutongs are narrow streets, lined with small concrete houses, which used to be plentiful in Beijing itself. Although many have been demolished, we were lucky enough to visit a set of houses, and even got to look around one. This was a different side to the China we had seen before – a smaller, more emotional event. The house was quaint, and was decorated beautifully. We were all very grateful to the family, as they let us into their home (thirty-two 15–18 year olds!).

Beijing was, of course, the setting for the 2008 Olympics, and being in Beijing we were given a chance to see the world famous Birds Nest Stadium and the National Aquatics Centre. These feats of



architecture were overwhelming, as was the sight of a McDonalds inside the Olympic Park!

The evening came around, and our day was made even better by a boat ride on the Shichahai River. The boats were pretty small, and we all packed in to two separate vessels. The teachers seemed to enjoy getting off their feet (presumably to give their ageing muscles a break from all the walking!). The boat smoothly sailed around the river, as various restaurants and clubs lit the banks in a neon glow. The dinner that night was also special as it was the birthday of one of the students. Oliver Lester celebrated his birthday in Beijing, and in the restaurant he was presented with a birthday



cake, an event I am sure he will never forget!

The sadness of the fourth day being our last was soon quashed, as we started the day with a scenic coach journey to the Summer Palace. As we approached the former Imperial Palace, we were greeted by jade bridges leading up to a beautiful palace, dotted with weeping willow trees. The Palace itself was busy with commotion, with various tour groups being guided and shown around. Street performers and painters greeted us as we walked around, as we took in the stunning views of the lake and jade bridges. Due to the clash of tourists in this area, there was an opportunity to have pictures taken not only next to monuments, but with other tourists too. We were greeted by a vast array of people, from as local as China, but as far out as Ecuador.

Most people's thoughts of China are automatically cheap goods. There's only so much street vendors can carry in a briefcase, so we indulged in the real market side of Beijing as we visited the famous Silk Alley and Friendship Store. Floors and floors of market stalls, all selling designer brands at criminally low prices. To say we had fun haggling is a vast understatement, as prices were lowered until we bought items for virtually nothing. Electronics were in abundance, as headphones, watches, iPhones and iPods lined market stalls. This gave everyone a nice release in terms of shopping, and also just having fun and experiencing haggling first hand. The coach afterwards was lined with Dre Beats, Ralph Lauren polos, Nike trainers and a couple of snapbacks, as we compared who got the best deals, and who got taken for a ride!

After the shopping experience, we had a chance to relax by seeing a Kung Fu Show. Little did we know that we wouldn't be calm, but on the edge of our seats. The show was a play run by martial arts experts – Shaolin monks turned actors. Their bodies twisted and turned in ways that didn't seem possible; stunts that we couldn't even think of were performed before our eyes. A disciplined, routine was performed in front of us, and we marvelled at

every minute of it. Afterwards, the ride back to the hotel was appreciated, as our final day in China was a very long one, and we had to be up early the following day.

Throughout the five days, we would have not been able to truly take it all in without the help of our guides. Interpreting, teaching, and always willing to help, they made sure our trip was both safe and enjoyable.

The inevitability of the final day was realised as we said a sad farewell to the hotel staff and our tour guides who had served us so well over our stay. China was left in our wake as we set off for Heathrow, saying goodbye to a country that will forever have a place in our memories. We set foot back in England, and realised that our Chinese adventure was over. Back at school, we met our anxious parents and enlightened them with stories of our travels.

Huge thanks should go to the staff and adults who made the trip possible and I'm sure they enjoyed their time in China as much as we did. Mr Caves, Mr Roden, Mr Jackson and of course a very big thank you should go to Mr Phipps. The time and effort needed to organise easily the biggest trip ever undertaken by the school was mammoth, and Mr Phipps took it with a pinch of salt, allowing everyone to have an experience of a lifetime.

■ **Alexander Owen, U7**



Polish School Exchange 2012

2012 sees the fifth school exchange with our partner school in Poland, II Liceum Ogólnokształcące (II L O), a sixth form grammar school in the small city of Swidnica in South West Poland. Seven sixth form boys travelled Ryanair to Poland in March and their exchange partners are coming to Birmingham in November. Our visit is always planned to coincide with the annual English language British American Days competitive events held in the Polish school. We provide the native speakers for the panel of judges, and one or two student teams, for two days of drama, cultural quizzes, music and singing. It is presumed that we will win so we are really the novelty act! Part of their normal school timetable is still running and we attend the English language lessons, a special '30 words of Polish', and at least one afternoon in the gym... where we think they always turn up with their 1st team! This year, however, we had the football talents of James Giblin, so it wasn't quite so one sided, and basketball is their real sport anyway!

Camp Hill students stay with their host families, in Swidnica or one of the outlying villages, experiencing a couple of days in a Polish sixth form and then out sightseeing with the locals. We all go on the early morning bus to the city of Wroclaw on the Saturday. The weather this year was mild and sunny so we saw the city at its best, including the Panorama exhibition and the cathedral island waterfront along the river Odra. Wroclaw was the German city of Breslau, indeed all this region was German until 1945. There is a lot to take in from this visit in social, political, historic cultural terms. Culturally, lunch for our young people was, inevitably,



in McDonald's on the main square, followed by a couple of hours in the newly built indoor waterpark, just out from the city centre. They also ate in every one of Swidnica's pizza houses and twice in McDonalds; their argument being that there is more than enough traditional Polish food in their host's home!

Sunday is spent with the host families, and where they go is very much up to individual interests; Ksiaz Castle, the nearby Owl Mountains towards the Czech border, the mysterious and once top secret, German Reise Project underground facilities at Walim, or simply seeing friends in Swidnica. Our visit coincided with the first Sunday of the month; market day in the cathedral square and crowded with locals who all seem to know each other. A genuine treasure trove of rural bric-a-brac and the hoarded and excavated relics of the regions rather complicated recent history; all very reasonably priced in zloty, unless you speak English...

Sincere thanks once again to Mr Jacek Iwancz and Ms Iwona Juzwa of II L O, and Mr and Mrs Rogers for their continued enthusiastic support of the school exchange.

It will be our turn to look after our Polish visitors in November. Apart from what their hosts arrange, they get two days in the Sixth Form at Camp Hill and a group excursion to London by train on the Saturday. It will soon be time to think about arranging the next exchange, so look out for the adverts.

■ C.J.

“Of all the places to visit on a student exchange, Poland would not normally appear on the top of the list. Put simply, unlike the school French and German exchange programmes, we had no prior teaching in the Polish language. So, instead of a trip to bolster our communication and language skills (which were improved nonetheless), the trip was tailored to be a cultural visit, to get a first hand view of a place of which, to be frank, I knew very little of beforehand. None of us knew a word of Polish, but we discovered that our exchange partners were near fluent in English. Due to them, I believe we got the most out of our few days in Poland; a vibrant, welcoming and modern country.

□ James Johnston, L7

The Poland trip was a thoroughly enjoyable experience which let us have a freedom that you don't really get with other school trips. By staying with another student of similar age it meant rather than doing the typical tourist activities we got to experience what people of our age in Poland actually do – from going bowling, to visiting the large city of Wroclaw, we all had a great time. This trip is highly underrated and I can't understand why it isn't hugely oversubscribed each year.

□ James Giblin, L3

The Poland trip is one unlike any other I have been on. The local school could not have done more for us in terms of involving us and welcoming us into their community, and all of the pupils couldn't get enough of us. The activities in Swidnica were fun, yet the best parts of the trip, in my opinion, were the evenings and days in which our hosts took us out. It was an unforgettable experience and I genuinely feel like I learnt more there than I would on any other 'academic' trip. I would recommend the trip to anyone who likes meeting new people and seeing new places. ”

□ James Featherstone, L3



Trip to Paris

Year 7 (31 May – 4 June 2012)

On a blustery spring morning, a group of young Edwardians gathered outside the school, many of us unaware that this would be the adventure of a lifetime. We were met by the five valiant teachers who would be undertaking this venture, so fraught with peril. Taking care of forty-seven unruly Year Sevens turned the hearts of many, but not they.

Thankfully, there was no cause to bring buckets as Mr Renault's words of advice (namely, 'No kissing or hugging or we will be sick') seemed to have sunk in. The mood of the party was relatively sullen, but brightened considerably on the discovery of the DVD player. As the coach rumbled forward, a chant of 'Oh my god we're moooving!' shook rubber from the tyres as we moved out of Birmingham. The students settled down and the film began. Several (apparently hilarious) escapades of Will Smith later, we stopped at a service station for a little 'wee-wee break' (as it was aptly named by Monsieur Renault) and to change drivers. On came Mr Renault's worst nightmare; the perfect partner to Mr Smith. It was Terry, he of the rolling gait and supreme disdain of the French, armed with a bottomless reservoir of scintillating wit. He played a number of pranks on Mr Renault; one of the more notable was when he presented the teacher with an Italian licence, instead of a French one!

Just as the novelty of the journey had begun to wear off for most, we made a timely arrival at the Eurotunnel. Finding out that we were almost an hour early, (due, no doubt, to Terry and his objectionable, yet highly effective methods of driving) we stopped for some lunch in the soaring cavern of the Folkestone terminal. While the teachers sat down to a dainty nibble of tea and bis-



cuits, the students proceeded to colonise the terminal and in one case, manage to spill half a bottle of Coca-Cola on to the painstakingly polished floor. Within the hour, we were back on the coach, replete, happy and reeking of the odious perfume of Duty Free Givenchy. With another robustly riotous rendering of 'Oh my

men with slightly alarming hairstyles (one, a foot-high Mohican, dyed red and with sharp metal spikes on the ends) popped in and out of the carriage. Thirty-five minutes later, we pulled out of the train and into France. We gawped out of the windows at a new country, making occasional observations such as, 'They stole our grass!' When we arrived at the meeting point, we went home with our new families, handed them our gifts and then fell, quite drained, into bed.

When we met up the next morning, the coach buzzed with chatter about our host families and how Alex Millicheep had turned down a room with a PS3 in favour of one with electric curtains. We proceeded to drive into downtown Paris, past the spectacular Arc de Triomphe and alighted a short while later. This left Mr Renault to help us navigate to Le Musée du Louvre. In this, he failed dismally, and left it to Miss Blaney who, with her infallible sense of direction, found the place immediately. Of course, our main objective was to see the Mona Lisa, yet in the art section, we were side-tracked



god we're moooving!' we drove onto the train. We were allowed to get out and sit/stand in a small area in front of the coach, therefore being able to see out of miniscule windows. As the train began to jolt into motion, several brawny

by the other paintings, which included a woman depicted holding a man's severed head over a dish and several rather disturbing pictures of a baby which seemed to be suffering from severe obesity and acute constipation. We also saw a man painting a copy of a real painting (the copy looked better than the genuine article). When we finally found the Mona Lisa, we had sustained heavy losses, as over half of the class had disappeared. They then rematerialized from nowhere just as we left the Mona Lisa room. We then went on to the Egyptian section, and finally exited to have our heads guillotined by the banister and





make our way to lunch. After lunch, we walked to the boat that would take us onto the Seine and set off, snapping pictures of the Eiffel tower, Notre Dame (looking out for the hunchback),

who had mysteriously disappeared. We arrived home for a belated lunch at around three p.m.

We met up at 8:00 in the morning for our final day in France. This was the day that we had



and many other striking buildings. Groaning and tired, we returned to the coach and set off for home.

Saturday was the day that the teachers got a break and we were left in the capable hands of our hosts. The host families were all old friends so half of them arranged to go to a type of park, an area of fields and woodland that was nearby. This was going nicely when the other half of the class arrived, through no sort of arrangement, but merely by chance. We built dens, threw sticks at each other and, in one case, slid down extremely steep hills on a frisbee. There were a few mishaps, as was to be expected, including one case of one boy falling down a hill and a massive hunt for another

all been waiting for; the day that we went to Parc Astérix! It was a cloudy day, the first since we had been in France and the skies threatened rain. Inside Parc Astérix, the sheer size was enough to make you gasp! There were rides of

every description, rollercoasters, spinners and log flumes. The question as to what was the best ride was contested by two spectacular rollercoasters: Ozlris and Zeus. Zeus seemed to win the vote as it was truly the most spectacular ride of all time. The entrance was between the legs of a statue of Zeus, the king of the Greek Gods, the same shade of green as the Statue of Liberty, but brandishing a lightning bolt. If you looked up as you walked underneath him, you would see brightly painted orange floral underpants, in sharp contrast with the rest of him. This ride was made entirely of wood with only the metal rails breaking this trend. You would rise up almost forty metres into the air and then hurtle straight down again at speeds of almost 60 m.p.h. This glorious day seemed like it would never end, but it did with a massive battle, using the deadly plastic weapons purchased at astronomical expense from the innumerable gift shops dotted around the exit. At 5:30, we set off back to the meeting point and our host families.

Alas, alack and woe betide us, the time had come for the party to depart and to return to the prospect of kiss and hug laden parents. As we boarded the coach again, shouting goodbyes to our hosts, we took one last look around at the quiet, peaceful suburb of Paris and reflected on all the enjoyment and experiences that had been packed in to this short trip. I, and I am sure my peers are with me, would like to express our extreme gratitude to the teachers who came on this trip: Messrs Renault and Tucker and Misses Lynn, Blaney and Balkham. May they go on many more Paris trips and discover the glory of Zeus for themselves! This trip was one to be remembered, and will stay with all who went on it for the rest of their lives! I hope that this article will inspire future Year Sevens to make the right decision and go on this unforgettable adventure!

■ **Muhammad Ali, 7J**



Czech Trip

July 2012

On the 20th of July 2012 a group of Camp Hill boys gathered eagerly for what has been described as 'the best trip ever' – The Czech Trip. At school awaited a top of the range Johnson Executive Coach that, along with the Kořen campsite, would be our home for the next 10 days. There was no waiting around, and after all of us had said our good-byes and given our mums an extra big hug to last us for the next week and a half, we set off on the nearly day long journey.

We arrived in Kořen around 1:00pm local time, and quickly ran to our chalets to 'dib' who got what bed – a ritual of any school trip. When this was done we quickly got involved in a number of sporting activities including football, basketball and volleyball. Table tennis was also a big hit, with Miss Lynn eyeing up any potential rivals that may challenge her.

Food soon became the word on everyone's lips – the snacks at the tuck-shop could only do so much – and we were all pleasantly surprised with what was served. This was finished quickly as most of the boys were keen to truly meet their Czech counterparts for the first time. The boys and girls then went about their own business, some playing sports whilst others just relaxing in their chalet. Our behaviour was referred to as generally excellent throughout the trip – it was Mr Holland who had to be kept under control!

Day 3 brought the first full day at the camp, and some of the Year 10 boys decided to start their day with a few laps of the camp followed by a dip in the swimming pool. The pool was cold at the best of times, but at 7:00am the temperature was low enough to make even Mr Nash squeal. Breakfast was at 8:30, and we all fuelled up, preparing ourselves for a busy day. It was a day of competitions – basketball, volleyball and table tennis. The latter was a definite shocker, with Mr Southall – a newly appointed PE teacher – losing to one of the smallest Camp Hill Boys, and Miss Lynn, the top seed, also

getting knocked out! The day was concluded with a walk through Kosi Potok (Blackbird Brook), where we stopped for a quick photo opportunity at 'Devil's Rock', and with a trip to the beautiful town of Mariánské Lázně – home of the wondrous singing fountain. It would be true to say that Mr May did hype the fountain up a little too much, however we were told to count ourselves 'lucky' that we got to see the Fountain sing ... twice.

The next day was just as jam-packed! Both staff and (some) pupils arose early to continue their exercise routines. The weather was brilliant, and made the visit to Karlovy Vary even more enjoyable. The spa town was home to some beautiful pieces of architecture, including the famous Hotel Pupp – the location of the James Bond film, Quantum of Solace. We also enjoyed watching the geyser which spouted water at over 70°C, however the taste of the water was less impressive (it's not nick-named 'blood water' for nothing). The water was said to have some sort of healing capabilities, and some boys jumped on this idea, filling as many bottles as they could find with the foul tasting liquid. Porcelain cups were a popular souvenir item used for tasting the water – Mr Holland being the man he is almost opted to buy a toilet-shaped one, but eventually didn't as he said he might 'loo'-se it!

The evening's activity was the singing competition – a great event that really got both the English and Czech groups involved. There were 8 acts in total, each one extremely talented however it came down to the judges for the final word. It was an international panel: the two excellent drivers for Camp Hill – Chris and Rick, a Czech teacher, a Czech consultant Cardiologist and a Teddy Bear called 'Bob'. It was a nail-biting ordeal for everyone involved – some men were slain (that was quite messy) – but in the end, nothing else mattered as the judges decided to award three joint prizes, something that had never happened before. This result was greeted by a raucous 'yes, yes, yes!' by some of the boys. The night ended with the standard staff cover of 'Imagine' that had been slightly adapted to relate to Kořen, and a

traditional sea-shanty, led by Mr May.

Day 5 centred mainly on sports, and after breakfast, the activities continued with an international volleyball match (that we won convincingly) followed by a Staff vs. Czech/UK Elites. The win for the elites was even more convincing in this match, so much so that the score was eventually forgotten (that or Mr May was too embarrassed to actually tell anyone)! Two international football matches were also played, with Camp Hill Boys winning both. The games were fairly close however, and one year 9 boy was heard saying he had no idea that girls could be 'so big and strong'.

The sporting theme was continued with the afternoon's activities at the Sports Complex in Tachov. Mixed groups of both Czech and UK students took part in a circuit of five events: ten-pin bowling, archery, shooting, mini golf, and football. This was a great experience, which was made even better by the visit to a brand new open-air swimming pool. This managed to turn even the most mature of us into little children when we saw the impressive array of slides and other amazing features. Back at the camp we enjoyed dinner, and were then called together for the 'Tour Shirt Presentation Ceremony'. Everyone was pleased with their brand new, and in no way garish, purple polo shirt, however these were soon discarded in favour of our best clothes – it was time for the disco, and everyone was dressed to impress. Many showed off their moves, including Mr Holland and Dr White, who both claimed to 'still have it' – whatever it is!

A 7:00am wake-up call began day 6, and the coach was strangely quiet on our trip to Prague, save for a chorus of gentle snoring (and some chainsaw-esque snoring from Mr Nash)! After spending some time taking in the architecture of both Prague Castle and the adjacent St Vitus Cathedral, we then walked towards the Old Town Square via Charles Bridge. In the square we waited, feigning patience, to watch the world famous Astronomical Clock chime (free time was next, and we were itching to get going). After a quick photo beneath the clock, we walked

to Wenceslas Square where we were finally given some free time to explore and buy souvenirs. After experiencing the mayhem of Prague's rush hour, we returned to the Camp. The evening's activity was a mixed group quiz – this was an extremely competitive event, and some groups got a bit over-excited, thankfully Mr Nash kept them in place.

Plzen zoo, our destination on the following day, was an amazing place. This activity was definitely a hit, especially with Mr Holland who almost jumped into the enclosure of the brown bears to join them (Mr Holland loves bears). The great weather made the visit even better, however we were glad to get back to the relative comfort of the coach after a couple of hours of walking in the summer heat. We were then taken into Plzen itself where some members of Staff, and some brave year 9 boys, climbed the never-ending stairs of the tall-





to spend any more time in that castle. After spending some time watching the various acts, we made our way back to the camp, just in time to fit in the final of the table tennis before dinner. A short presentation ceremony followed dinner, in which we all gave our thanks to the cooks, drivers, and other Camp Staff who had given up their time to help us out. The night was ended with the second and final disco. There didn't seem to be as much dancing going on (except from Mr Holland) as many of us decided to get to know our Czech friends a bit more before we left – 'a triumph of integration' said Mr May.

On the day of departure, we were as depressed as you would expect – back to England, and back to bad weather! We'd cleaned out our chalets (a tough task), retrieved any cereals that may have gone AWOL, and packed our belongings, the only things left to do were to put our bags on the coach and say our good-byes. After some awkward farewells (and some even more awkward hugs) it was time to go. We arrived back in England in record time and at fight-

ing weight (we stopped off at Burger King about three times)! Coming home to a grey sky made us realise just how lucky we had been in the Czech Republic, and reminded us of all the great times we'd just had.

On behalf of everyone on the trip, I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make it so great. Mr Holland, Miss Lynn, Dr White, Mr Southall, Mr Nash, Mr May Jnr. were absolutely fantastic, and without them, the trip would have been nowhere near as memorable. However, the biggest thanks of all go to Mr May (Senior) whom without, the trip wouldn't have been possible. He has been running this trip for many years now, and has perfected it for maximum enjoyment for all!

■ **Jordan McDonagh, 10Y**

est spire in the Czech Republic (102.6 metres) up to the viewing platform of St. Bartholomew's Cathedral. Some of the older boys decided to, instead of exploring the local area, wait half an hour for some pizza (apparently it was definitely worth it!) The evening's activity was another joint one (though I'm sure there were some who wished it wasn't as they didn't want to embarrass themselves in front of the Czech girls) - Ice Skating/Hockey Training in Tachov. Everyone had a good time and made it through unscathed (save for a few bumps and bruises). Mr Southall and Ms Lynn had the 'honour' of being dressed in full ice hockey kit, which was Mr Southall's excuse for him falling over quite a bit. They certainly looked the part though, and Miss Lynn even performed like a professional after scoring two goals, one in a match and one in a penalty shoot-out. For a lot of people it was their first time skating, and many made excellent progress. The penultimate day was a great success!

We arose rather wearily on the final day at camp, as we were not ready to leave. The coach journey to Domazlice, a small, picturesque town at the centre of the cultural region of Chodsko, was quiet – probably due to the fact we'd all tired ourselves out ice-skating! Domazlice was a great place to visit, mainly due to the number of souvenir shops there were. One of the year 10 boys bought a ukulele, and then played it incessantly for the rest of the visit – much to the enjoyment of everyone else (!) On the way back to the camp, we stopped off for a 'brief, quiet excursion' to Horšovský Týn to have a quick look around the castle that stood there. The teachers' hopes were dashed, however, when we walked straight into the middle of a full-blown Rock Festival taking place opposite the castle. From this point on we were hooked, and no matter what the teachers tried to do, there was no way they were getting us

Selected highlights from Mr May's Daily E-mail Reports to Parents

Dear Parent(s)

Day 1–2 (Friday 20th – Saturday 21st July)

After braving the mayhem of the M25, the Titanic trial of the English Channel, the Teutonic trauma of the German Autobahn, travelling on the excellent, well appointed Czech motorways (the Czech Tourist Board asked me to say that), we arrived at Kořen at 1:00pm. The boys quickly got involved in all manner of physical activities including football, basketball, swimming, trampolining, table tennis (thank you Mr Duncan, that net came in really handy), and eyeing up our 30 Czech companions for the week, 23 of whom are...well...girls. Oh, some of the boys found a wasp nest beneath their chalet which was rapidly dealt with by a Czech SWAT team. We've had some rain today but from tomorrow, the forecast is...sunshine all the way! It's that old Camp Hill magic!

Day 4 (Monday 23 July)

Well, what a day! Once again, the Staff managed to survive their early morning 'Boot Camp' programme. Fabulous weather for our visit to Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), another beautiful spa town in West Bohemia. The boys were very impressed with the architecture and commented on the fusion of Secession and Art Deco styles of some of the buildings. They also liked the ice cream and the magnificent Hotel Pupp (Quantum of Solace location, the Czechs were furious that the hotel was said to be in Montenegro in the film). After the evening singing competition the entertainment continued with contributions from the teachers including the old standard 'Imagine' (Kořen style) from the Camp Hill Staff, a short lecture on the sea-shanty (given by yours truly) and some excellent singing from Mrs Vranova, the Czech Party Leader. Integration continues apace and the Camp participants are getting along very well.

Day 5 (Tuesday 24 July)

The morning's fabulous weather saw the resumption of the punishing fitness regime. At about 07:00



Mr Southall and a group of Year 10 boys were doing something going by the rather benign name of 'Interval Training'. It consisted a set of sprints followed by 10 press-ups, a lap of the Camp, 10 more press-ups, 1 min rest then off again for another lap. This was repeated 4 times. A session of water-boarding would have been preferable. All the boys survived the experience and then



joined Messrs Holland and Nash for a 'refreshing' swim, taking care to avoid any passing ice floes. Mixed Czech/UK groups took part in circus of activities which included, ten-pin bowling, archery, shooting, mini golf and football. Thankfully there were no casualties. Then came the disco! Lots of integration took place and there were some slick moves on the dance floor performed by Dr White and Mr Holland – a few of which seemed to defy gravity. What is it with these Biologists? I must remember to include it in the Risk Assessment for next year.

Day 7 (Thursday 26 July)

After a hearty breakfast, we set off for Plzen Zoo which actually looks nothing at all like a typical zoo. It's a cleverly arranged animal and plant conservation facility and a beautiful place to just walk around. Many of the plants are labelled and match the natural habitat of the adjacent animals.

Day 8 (Friday 27 July)

So...our last full day of what has been a truly memorable Camp, one of best I can remember. I'd like to thank our Staff and also Mr and Mrs Vrana, the Czech leaders for working with us to provide the boys with such a valuable experience, and of course the boys themselves who were a credit to the school and to your good selves.

**Yours Truly,
P F May**



Ski Trip 2012

Saas-Fee, Switzerland

Sleepily roaming the semi-dark corridors of an unfamiliar Swiss hotel at 0245 hrs in a ridiculous attempt to find a blanket cupboard or linen chest from which I could borrow enough bedding to replace the warm, soft duvet I had just donated to a pupil due to 'unforeseen circumstances', is not one of my favourite moments from the 2012 ski trip. It needs to be noted here that the thought had (fleetingly) crossed my mind that I could always 'appropriate' the duvet belonging to my roommate, but since the said roommate was none other than M. Roden Esq., I reluctantly pushed that idea to one side. Eventually I 'made do' with an ad hoc assortment of odds and ends and waited, slightly chilled, for breakfast.



Later on that day, happily skiing and admiring the alpine splendour, the soles of both of my ski boots, simultaneously, parted company from the uppers. Had I been travelling at my normal rate I might not be writing this piece now! Some unkind and unworthy ex-colleagues might well

respond 'so what?', but holding grudges for more than a few days at most is not my style. Finally I was accosted by an irate Swiss ski-technician who accused me of stealing a set of high-quality skis. When I pointed out that we returned exactly the same number of skis as we originally took, he utterly failed to see the mathematics involved. In a blinding moment of inspiration, the likes of which one experiences only once in a lifetime (apparently), I suggested that he should remove himself to Zurich, there he and



his newly acquired, arithmetically challenged, friends, could use his grasp of complex mathematical concepts to more creative ends.

You may think from these illustrated samples that the trip was a complete disaster. Not so. We actually laughed quite a lot and not always to the discomfort of the same member of staff. The boys, however – let's not forget them – skied magnificently well on perfectly groomed pistes and constantly assured us that they were having a great time. Fortunately for them they were all asleep when the coach driver, on the return journey, decided to improvise on the approved route and brought us to a halt in the middle of nowhere in particular. But eventually we returned, safe and sound, able to look forward to the 2013 ski trip to France. Sorry, Italy!

■ **P.T.C.**

The Battlefields Tour 2012

Late on the 31st May, thirty-four boys and five members of staff arrived at School for the start of the annual trip to the battlefields of World War One in Belgium and France. After a long journey through the night, we arrived in the Belgium town of Ypres, the scene of bitter fighting throughout the War. The magnitude of what happened here was brought home to us by the 55,000 names, carved on the Menin Gate Memorial, in remembrance of those who died in the area between the start of the War and August 1917, and who have no known grave.

We began the next day at Vimy Ridge where the Canadian Army Corps won a famous victory in 1917. We were given a guided tour, by Canadian university students, of the preserved trenches and, also, of part of the elaborate tunnel system through which the Canadian forces, out of the enemy's sight, were moved up to the front. After the tour, we visited the imposing memorial erected to the missing of the Canadian army.

In the afternoon, our exploration of the Somme battlefield began with the massive Lochnagar mine crater, the firing of which



marked the start of the Somme offensive in July 1916. We also enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of the newly reconstructed trench system in Thiepval Wood. This was led by Teddy Colligan, curator of the Ulster Tower, who is an expert on trench warfare, especially in the Thiepval area.

Over the next days, we visited a bewildering number of places; we often found ourselves stopping at the road side or being led into a field or a cemetery, where our own two veterans, Mr Bulloch and Mr Southworth, shared their expertise and firsthand experience (!), in order to explain the significance of the sites. Being able to stand on hills overlooking the former battlefields was much more informative than sitting in a classroom, trying to decipher a map. This, together with seeing the vast numbers of graves and memorials brought home to us the sheer scale of the fighting in the Great War.

It was not all work; we had plenty of time in the evenings to relax, to enjoy the food and the company and even to get to know the staff better. For us, it was one of our best moments at Camp Hill, a completely enjoyable week and a very rewarding experience. We should like to thank the staff who made the trip possible – Miss Messenger, Mrs James, Mr May – and especially to Mr Bulloch and Mr Southworth for organising such an exceptional trip.

■ **Jacob Bruten, 10Z**

■ **Tom Else, 10Z**

■ **Joseph McElroy, 10W**

■ **Hamish Wells, 10Z**

[See photo gallery on the next two pages ►](#)



A photograph of a cemetery with rows of white headstones on a green lawn, decorated with colorful flowers. The headstones are arranged in neat rows, and the flowers are planted in small beds between them. The scene is peaceful and well-maintained.

Maths Matters

Once again the boys have relished the opportunities that have been provided and they never cease to amaze with their ability. The year began, as usual, with a busy round of open meetings and the assistance of the students was crucial in making these important evenings so successful.

Senior

In the first week after half term we hosted the Birmingham heat of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge. As we were running the event we were able to enter two teams, although only our A team were official entrants. The A team consisted of Michael Liu, Marvin Miu (both of Year 13), Sam Childs and Xincheng Wang (Year 12). Four year 13 boys made up the B team; namely James Wallis, Cameron Whitehead, Dwayne Spiteri & Andrew Pearson.

They lined up against eighteen other Midlands schools to answer problems over three time limited rounds; a Team round consisting of ten questions to be answered collaboratively, a Number Cross and a Relay round. Each successful solution gained points towards an overall total. The first round was tough and our A team made a disastrous start; the B's fared a little better with 7 correct solutions. An excellent 55 out of 60 in the Number Cross puzzle put the A team back on track but they were still well behind the pace being set by Camp Hill Girls' and our B team.

Our teams were joint top in the final, relay round and made up considerable ground on the girls. Unfortunately, the gap proved too wide to bridge and we missed out on the 'official' top spot. The B team did win overall (congratulations to them!) but their unofficial entry meant that the girls would be making the trip to the National Final in February. Thanks to the boys for their enthusiasm and interest and hopefully we can make it all the way next time.

The following week, AS level mathematicians and invited 'others', from Years 11 and 13, took part in the **UK Senior Maths Challenge**. This was a tough paper, testing the skills of stu-

dents of all abilities. It was very pleasing, therefore, to see how well the boys had performed when the results were returned; between them they gained 34 bronze, 40 Silver and 26 Gold certificates. Seven boys qualified for the follow up **British Maths Olympiad 1**, a challenge aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country. A further seven made it into the inaugural Senior Kangaroo, a new competition



[Above] Senior Kangaroo Group

aimed at the best school aged mathematicians from across Europe and beyond. Robert Walters, of Year 11, performed amazingly on his first attempt at this level of challenge and qualified as best in school (quite brilliant!). Karndeepp Uppal, Cameron Whitehead, Alex McCormick, Ben Griffin, Rory Luscombe and Robert Smith (of Year 11) were the other automatic qualifiers. In the end, twelve boys participated in the BMO 1: Max Cheung was invited by the UKMT, following his superb performances last year. James Wallis, Ross Mackie and Andrew Pearson had missed out narrowly and were entered by the school.

The results of the BMO 1 saw Sam Childs and Robert Walters top score, with good solutions to three of the six very challenging questions. Congratulations to the other boys too; to merely qualify is a significant achievement, so to produce competent solutions to at least one question, as these boys did, is superb.

Many thanks to Mr Jack for providing lunch time and after school mentoring sessions on Algebra, Number Theory, Proof, Combinatorics

and Geometry; topics that the students would expect to meet in the BMO.

Intermediate

February gave the boys from Years 9 to 11 a chance to test their mettle on the **Intermediate Maths Challenge** and a good paper produced some superb performances. There were 226 entries with the boys securing an impressive 73 Gold certificates, 87 Silvers and 66 Bronze. Well done to Max Cheung for his 'Best in School' award.

We had an impressive thirty-seven qualifiers for the European Kangaroo, sat by two million pupils across Europe. Of these, special congratulations to Daniel Owen, Kingsley Bates, Parvesh Konda, Jonathan Saad, Sulamaan Rahim, Robert Smith, Hamza Javed, Michael Jones, Luka Novovic, Oscar Bocking and Ben Blayney for their certificates of merit, placing them in the top 500; quite superb!

An amazing thirteen students made it into the harder Olympiad and, once again, acquitted themselves very well. As with the Kangaroo, the students qualify based on their result in the IMC. The Olympiad is aimed at the **best** 1000 or so students in the country and qualifying alone is a significant achievement.

Muhammad Ishmael earned a Certificate of Participation, while Certificates of Merit, indicating excellent answers to at least one question, were gained by Sam England, Aakash Masani, Tom Meehan, Oliver Millington, Giles Moss, Jaskaran Rajput and Fateh Singh.

Distinctions are awarded to the top 250 candidates; five were awarded to Camp Hill students this year. Max Cheung, Andrew Hawkin and Robert Walters all received certificates of distinction for their excellent solutions while Muhammed Khan and Terence Wu received certificates of distinction and a medal, indicating a placing in the top 100 nationally; hugely impressive performances.

Junior

During the summer term the students in Years 7 and 8 were given their opportunity to excel; 165 boys sat the **Junior Maths Challenge** this year and produced some impressive results, gaining 58 Gold certificates, 67 Silver and 40 Bronze. Anthony Lim produced the top score and was one of the six qualifiers for the follow up **Junior**



IMOK 2012 Team



BMO 2012 Team

Maths Olympiad. This challenge is taken by the top 1000 (or so) of the 250 000 mathematicians that sit the JMC. To be invited to take part is a considerable achievement in itself.

The boys produced some excellent solutions, with all candidates making a reasonable attempt to at least one of the harder, section B questions. Youcef Barigou, Joel Clark, Paul Gardner, John Hayton and Adam Titchen were all awarded certificates of participation for their solutions. Anthony Lim scored well on section A and fully answered three of the six section B questions. This impressive performance earns him and a certificate of distinction and a Silver medal, placing him well inside the top 50 mathematicians nationally; quite superb!

Wolverhampton Team Challenge

In the latter part of the Spring Term we once again sent a Year 10 team, comprising Gaspard Bulso, Sam England, Giles Moss and Aatif Syed, to Wolverhampton University to take part in the second Further Maths Network Year 10 Team Maths Competition. We travelled as holders of the Cup and found ourselves up against strong teams from Queen Mary's Walsall, Sutton Coldfield High School for Girls, Edgbaston High School and 'some girls grammar school from Kings Heath'.

The boys scored well in rounds 1, 2 and 3. Round 4 was worth 20 points and was based entirely on materials issued to the teams in advance. Our boys had assumed the materials had been issued as a matter of interest. Since they weren't interested, they didn't read them. There were six true-or-false questions in the round. We scored the expected score of 3 out of 20 for Round 4 and settled for defeat. However, it turned out we'd done enough in the other rounds to beat Queen Mary's Boys into 2nd place and claim the trophy once again!

Congratulations to Gaspard, Sam, Giles and Aatif, who should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. I even remember having a conversation with Giles one morning about the advance topic! We will make sure they read the advance notes next year!

Team Maths Challenges

For the second successive year we hosted one of the Regional heats of this year's **Team Maths Challenge**, aimed at students from Years 7 to 9, with a maximum of two year 9's. The team of 4 (Muhammed Khan, Jonathan Saad, Antony Lim and Paul Gardner) was selected from Challenge results and the ability demonstrated in classwork and exams.

The competition had the usual four rounds (Group Round, Number Cross, Mini Relay, Relay) and they were superb throughout. Sutton Coldfield Girls' provided a stiff challenge throughout the day but the boys managed to pull away with a strong performance in the



[Above] Wolverhampton Team 2

final relay to win overall.

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 9, one year 8 and two year 7's (Nathan McClelland, Adam Titchen, Liam Garside and Firnaaz Mohideen). They really enjoyed the day and actually came first in the mini relay round! Their overall performance placed them third, behind our A team and Sutton Girls, an incredible achievement.

Five Travel to London

Following their success in the Regional Final of this year's **UKMT Team Maths Challenge**, our team travelled to the Royal Horticultural Halls, London for the **National Final** of this increasingly popular event.

Mr Thompson met the boys at Birmingham International and they made it to the venue in good time and spirit, practising some maths on the train journey. They took their place in the hall and surveyed the 79 other teams that had qualified; it was going to be VERY competitive! The day began with a separate poster competi-



[Above] Team with poster at National Final



[Above] Senior 'A' Team



[Above] Senior 'B' Team

tion. This year's topic was 'Proof by Colouring' and the boys brought some resources with them but also added to the design on the day. They were given some other questions to answer 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 worked as a team of four on eight individual problems/tasks, the mini relay where they worked in two pairs, the cross number where they again worked in pairs and the final relay where they, yet again, worked 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, particularly in the first round, and this meant they were not challenging for top spot this year. A strong finish to a very long and grueling day found the boys finishing 26th; a superb effort.

The day was not done, however. When the positions for the competitions were announced the team found that they'd come **second** in the poster competition; a brilliant achievement. They duly collected their very impressive prizes and feasted on Millie's cookies by way of celebration.

South Birmingham Team Challenge

On Tuesday 3rd July the school took part in yet another competition; this time the South Birmingham event that is aimed at year 9 students. Mr Thompson accompanied the team to Swanshurst School and the boys (Mohammed Khan, Nathan McClelland, David Johnson, Joe Malt, Fraser Doshi-Keeble and Thomas Wemyss) settled down to defend the Shield we've won for the last two years.

An enjoyable day, with Countdown and KenKen rounds separating the main competition sections, meant lots of maths and a busy schedule. No intermediary scores were announced during the day so the final results were eagerly anticipated. I'm pleased to say that the boys maintained our undefeated record in this competition and duly collected their Medals and Shield. Congratulations to the talented team that defended the title so ably.

So another year ends! The boys have once again relished the opportunities provided and they never cease to impress us with their amazing 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 witness such fantastic feats from the students.

■ P.A.B.

Music

Christmas Festivities

Christmas is an enjoyable but very busy time for all school musicians. In the last week of the Autumn Term we had the following events:

- ✱ A grand Christmas Concert featuring our best musicians.
- ✱ The School Choir sang for the Old Folks Carol Service at The Hub, Hazelwell Church.
- ✱ The School Choir sang carols for the All Saint's, King's Heath Day Centre and then sang for the school Carol Service in the evening. We were delighted that Robert Smith, now organ scholar of Somerville College, Oxford, returned

to play the organ for us.

In the holidays our musicians continued to be active. Oliver Palmer got together a choir of Sixth Form boys and girls to sing carols on Harborne High Street. They really enjoyed themselves and raised £148.34 for the Edward's Trust Charity.

The Brass Quartet not only be performed at our Carol Service, but played Christmas Carols at the West House Festive Fayre and at a Wassail Evening at St Faith and St Laurence Parish Church, Harborne. They were Pete Brookes and Oliver Palmer (Trumpets), Edward Lawrence (French Horn) and Ben Palmer



School Choir at the Carol Service

(Baritone Saxophone).

■ S.F.P.



[Above] Enjoying refreshments after the Carol Service



[Above] Brass Quartet at West House Christmas Fayre



[Above] Brass Ensemble playing before the Carol Service

Open Day

Open Day is a good performing opportunity for some of our smaller ensembles. A Sixth Form rock band played in the Ensemble Room, whilst Clarinet Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble took turns in the Cloakroom. These groups left an excellent impression on all who heard them.

■ S.F.P.



[Above] Guitar Ensemble at Open Day



[Left] Clarinet Ensemble at Open Day

'Grade' Examination Results

Congratulations to the many boys who took and passed 'grade' examinations this year. The table below shows just some of the results, those of grade 6 and above.

Special mention should be made of the four boys who reached grade 8, and of Marvin Miu who passed his piano diploma in addition to the violin diploma that he already has!

■ **S.F.P.**

Ajinkya Bhalerao	Trumpet	6 – Merit
John Bristow	Guitar	8 – Merit
Dominik Brundler	Clarinet	7
Gaspard Bulso	Trumpet	6
Max Cheung	Guitar	7
Hannan Currah	Tenor Horn	7 – Merit
Alan Egan	Tuned Percussion	6 – Distinction
Richard English	Double Bass	6 – Merit
Andrew Featherstone	Jazz Saxophone	6
Azeem Handra	Piano	6
Jonathan Hart	Oboe	6 – Merit
Sumant Kapoor	Violin	7 – Merit
Joseph Khalique-Brown	Saxophone	6
Ed Maclean	Jazz Saxophone	7 – Distinction
Marvin Miu	Piano	Diploma
Alex Pattison	Double Bass	8
Kyle Reed	Piano	7
Hal Smart	Saxophone	6 – Merit
Sam Way	Bassoon	6 – Distinction
David Wen	Piano	8 – Distinction
Jacob Werrin	Flute	8 – Distinction

Terence Wu

Terence Wu (Year 11) has been very successful in the Dudley Music Festival, gaining many of the most prestigious prizes in the guitar class:

- First place for Classical Guitar 13–16 years
- Marjorie Dean Trophy
- First place Guitar Recital Trophy for Classical Guitar Recital
- Gwenyth and Basil Poole Memorial Trophy for the best music recitalist of 2012 in the Festival

Picture [right] shows Terence Wu with his guitar teacher and all his trophies.

■ **S.F.P.**



Jamie Phillips

It's really great to hear of the success of past pupils. Jamie Phillips has been appointed Assistant Conductor of the famous Hallé Orchestra in Manchester.

Jamie studied music A level at Camp Hill and was a leading member of all music ensembles. His conducting debut was with the school Concert Orchestra in Birmingham Town Hall in December 2008, and he went on to form his own Chamber Orchestra, many of the players being drawn from the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Jamie attracted considerable attention as the youngest competitor in the 2011 Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors in France, when he reached the semi-



finals. More recently as the youngest of the three finalists in the Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award 2012 in Salzburg, he was invited to conduct the Camerata Salzburg at the 2013 Salzburg Festival.

The Assistant Conductor works with the Hallé's Music Director, Sir Mark Elder, to help

prepare concerts, conducts Hallé concerts in Manchester and around the country, and acts as Music Director and conductor of the Hallé Youth Orchestra.

■ **S.F.P.**

Birmingham City Music Service

Congratulations to the many boys representing the school in the City of Birmingham Music Service Ensembles.

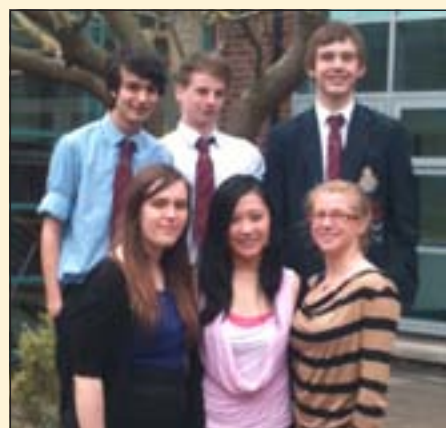
Most of these ensembles rehearse on a Saturday morning, and these boys give up a lot of time to achieve high standards on their instrument in their chosen ensemble. Many performed in the Adrian Boult Hall or Symphony Hall in the Music Service Gala Concerts over the summer, and it was good to see how many Camp Hill Boys were represented in each ensemble, from Orchestras to Bands, Recorder Groups to Guitar Ensembles.

Particular congratulations to the Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra which passed the Regional stage of the National Festival of Music for Youth, and gained a place in the finals. Conveniently for us this was held in Birmingham Town Hall. Other groups had come from as far as Cornwall and Cumbria. They played extremely well, and I was proud to note that there were ten boys from Camp Hill playing – one tenth of the whole orchestra.

■ S.F.P.

Name	Year	Instrument	Ensemble
Ashar Ali Aslam	8	Guitar	Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar Ensemble
Amman Bhambra	9	Cello	Birmingham Schools' String Sinfonia
Arundeeep Bharj	8	Tuba	Birmingham Schools' Training Brass Band
Peter Brookes	13	Trumpet	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Peter Brookes	13	Cornet	Birmingham Schools' Brass Band
Gaspard Bulso	10	Trumpet	Birmingham Schools' Concert Band
Billy Chapman	8	Double Bass	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Max Cheung	11	Guitar	Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble
Hannan Currah	11	Tenor Horn	Birmingham Schools' Brass Band
Jonathan Davies	13	Clarinet	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
James Duncan	12	French Horn	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Richard English	10	Double Bass	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Ciaran Fitzpatrick	11	Violin	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Jonathan Frere	13	French Horn	Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra
Thomas Haddon	8	Trombone	Birmingham Schools' Training Jazz Ensemble
Jonathan Hart	8	Oboe	Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra
Andrew Hawkin	10	Oboe	Birmingham Schools' Concert Band
Aaron Hsu	13	Viola	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Tom Isaac	7	Violin	Birmingham Schools' String Sinfonia
Yongwon Ju	10	Violin	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Edward Lawrence	11	French Horn	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Joseph Lawrence	10	Double Bass	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Edward Maclean	11	Tenor Saxophone	Birmingham Schools' Jazz Ensemble
Robert McDonald	12	Guitar	Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble
Marvin Miu	13	Cello	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Matija Novovic	9	Violin	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Luka Novovic	11	Guitar	Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble
Ben Palmer	12	Clarinet	Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra
Oliver Palmer	13	Trumpet	Birmingham Schools' Jazz Ensemble
Alexander Pattison	13	Double Bass	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Alexander Pattison	13	String Bass	Birmingham Schools' Jazz Ensemble
Alexander Pattison	13	Cornet	Birmingham Schools' Brass Band
Jason Pereira	12	Trumpet	Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra
Thomas Perrett	9	Viola	Birmingham Schools' String Sinfonia
Manish Sabharwal	13	Viola	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
William Tetlow	8	Euphonium	Birmingham Schools' Concert Brass Band
William Tetlow	8	Euphonium	Birmingham Schools' Training Wind Orchestra
Kushal Varma	8	Flute	Birmingham Schools' Flute Choir
David Warren	13	Guitar	Birmingham Schools' Jazz Ensemble
Jacob Werrin	13	Flute	Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Fraser West	11	Trumpet	Birmingham Schools' Brass Band
Thomas Woods	7	Tuba	Birmingham Schools' Training Brass Band

Camp Hill Joint A-Level Group



Music Outside Camp Hill

It is great experience for our musicians to perform outside school, and this term we have been given a number of opportunities.

The Swing Band were asked, along with some of our talented guitarists, to perform at the AFS 'Seasonal Celebration' in the Botanical Gardens. The event was in the old large dance hall, and the band were placed on the stage. The band played before the event, and sounded wonderful in such a flattering acoustic. Alex Pattison (Year 13) did a really good job rehearsing them and conducting them. A guitar duo of Luka Novovic and Terrence Wu also contributed some stylish and attractive duets.



The Swing Band also performed at Highbury Hall [pictured above] for a Wedding Anniversary celebration. It was a fine venue to play at and they performed very well. The boys were very pleased to be given a small fee plus food and drinks.

We have an excellent senior guitar ensemble at the moment, [pictured below at Winterbourne]



made up of Terrence Wu, Luka Novovic, Max Cheung and Archie Attack, all of whom are in Year 11. I was very pleased that they agreed to play at an event out of school after their GCSEs. This was a celebration held at Winterbourne – now part of Birmingham University – in Edgbaston. The boys played extremely well, and I was very pleased to receive this note afterwards:

Dear Mr Palmer,

Thank you to yourself, your wife and of course those most delightful musicians! Please can you try to ensure our appreciation is passed onto them.

The 100 Year Moor Pool Centenary Celebration was very special and unforgettable. Everything was just perfect and really want to thank everyone at Camp Hill for their effort and contribution.

It was quite magical listening to the music through the french doors whilst standing on the terrace with neighbours and friends. Many, many thanks.

J.M. (MRA Committee Member)



[Above] Guitar Duo at Winterbourne

We were once again invited to take part in the Friday Lunchtime Concert series at the Bournville Friends' Meeting House. We generally take some of our best sixth form soloists, but this year I asked three of our small ensembles to play. They were the Clarinet Ensemble (directed by Mrs Sharon Wall), the Guitar Quartet (rehearsed by Mr Adrian Rose) and our new Wind Quintet.



[Above] Clarinet Ensemble at Bournville Friends' Meeting House

All of the participants played very well, and the concert was a great success. A number of the regular concert goers complimented us on the standards achieved, and I am pleased that they have invited us back again next year. The Meeting House gave us a donation of £40 for the concert which we have given to *AidFirst*.



[Above] Wind Quintet at Bournville Friends' Meeting House



[Above] Guitar Ensemble at Bournville Friends' Meeting House

AidFirst is a group of dedicated Camp Hill students operating under the Envision Umbrella Charity to promote the education of first aid within the KS3 syllabus.

■ S.F.P.

Teatime Concert

The Spring Term Teatime Concert is now a firm fixture in the Music Department calendar, and it was again well supported. This is an opportunity for our Junior musicians to perform.

Our two most inexperienced joint groups, Training Band and Training Strings, performed

very well under the batons of Mr John Meadows and Mrs Anne Hagyard.

I was also pleased that we had a number of excellent performances by some smaller ensembles and soloists: Jonty Hart (oboe) and Fazal Shah (recorder) performed some technically difficult music with great ease and style.

It was also the inaugural performance of two other groups in the Boys' School: our newly

established Junior Guitar Ensemble directed by our second guitar teacher Miss Palmer, and a Junior Tabla Ensemble coached by Mr Harjinder Matharu. They both did very well.

■ S.F.P.

[See photo gallery on the next two pages ►](#)







Senior Concert

The Senior Concert came early in the Summer Term. Once again this was an event packed with riches.

Concert Band began the evening with an exciting *Pirates of the Caribbean Suite* which set the tone for the evening. Concert Orchestra later performed the beautiful *Chanson de Matin* by Elgar with style, and then *Capriol Suite* by Warlock with rhythm and energy.

There were many chamber ensembles represented: Clarinet Ensembles from both schools, Flute Choir, Lower String Ensemble,

Oboe Ensemble and Horn Ensemble were just some of them, most directed by our Instrumental Teachers. In the Flute Choir Jacob Werin was one of the soloists in his final concert.

Chamber Choir (CHG) and School Choir (CHB) were both well prepared and performed with great musicality.

Special mention should be made, however, of those items organised by the pupils themselves. Firstly, a barbershop quartet of Ed Lawrence, Oliver Palmer, Ben Palmer and Tom Dowling was a delight, sung well with comic

lines and acted out passages.

As usual the leavers had prepared a duet for the Heads of Music to perform together – which all seemed to enjoy! The leavers then gave us an impassioned version of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, complete with virtuosic guitar solo by David Warren. Finally some great music by Swing Band, directed by Alex Pattison and Oliver Palmer played us out. A long night, but a great fun!

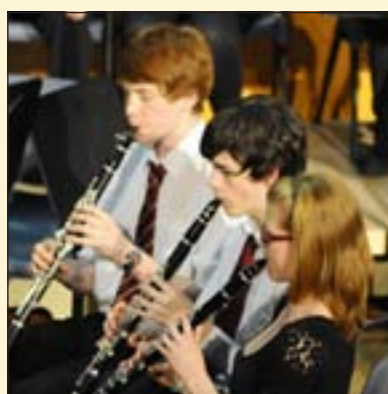
■ S.F.P.

[See photo gallery on this and the next three pages.](#)









Drama

A View from the Bridge

Senior Drama 2012

This year's senior production of *'A View from the Bridge'* was certainly ambitious. Such an intimate play with such a small cast that deals with dark and, at times, very serious themes would certainly be a challenge for all those involved. However, it was a challenge which was easily met by both the director Mr Southworth and the cast.

Set in 1950's New York, specifically *'the slum that faces the bay on the seaward side of Brooklyn Bridge'*, the play follows the tragic downfall of Eddie Carbone, a proud longshoreman and a happy family man. Played by seasoned Camp Hill thespian Thomas Dowling, such a complex character certainly required a sensitive approach and an astonishing amount of versatility, and would push Tom's acting ability to its limits. With great consideration comes great results, and over the three nights and the matinee, Tom stunned audience after audience, making his Eddie one of the finest performances to grace Camp Hill's hall for years.

However, the limelight should not just be shone upon Tom, but also upon the girls of the cast. Emily Presswood once again lent her hand to the production, and was excellent in her role as Eddie's wife, Beatrice. Tom and Emily's on-stage chemistry demonstrated their ability and the quality of Mr Southworth's casting,

and led to a heart-breakingly poignant finale. Jenni O'Kane's Catherine was also wonderfully depicted; the tension between her and Eddie was certainly palpable at times.

Playing the illegal Italian immigrants, brothers Marco and Rodolpho, were Loughlan O'Doherty and Chris Sherwood respectively. Rodolpho is a feminine singer and in a world of hardened longshoremen he sticks out like a camp sore thumb. Needless to say Chris was outstanding in his role, although the extent to which he was actually required to act was questionable. Oppositely, and rather ironically, Loughlan exuded manliness and the testosterone-fuelled gravitas which he brought to Marco filled the stage like the heavy musk Marco would have possessed. Seriously though, the infamous feat of lifting the (immensely heavy) chair above Eddie's head one-handed was first successfully pulled-off only in the dress-rehearsal, and throughout the

performances it was certainly touch and go!

Alex Wood's Alfieri bound the whole play together, and not only were his scenes alongside Eddie excellent, but his moments with the audience were also incredibly touching. Alex expertly rose to the challenge. Other highlights from the cast included James Featherstone's incessant wish 'to go play bowling', and Oliver Palmer's inability to open doors.

However, the cast's contribution was only part of the battle, and credit must go to Mrs James as well, for her organisation as front-of-house once again, and credit must also go to Mr Carman, who made another excellent set, sadly for the last time. *'A View from the Bridge'* was a truly wonderful performance, and was not only an enjoyable experience for the audience, but it is safe to say was enjoyable for the cast and all others involved.

■ **Loughlan O'Doherty, L5**









Bugsy Malone

Junior Drama 2011

The Actor's View

It's a shady night in New York 1920, the streets are controlled by the mafia, a Roxy Robinson slyly walks down the street, careful to look out for danger, when he turns into an alleyway, only to get splurged.

Fat Sam quickly hears news of this event, and quickly has his gang and club on their toes, looking out for Dandy Dan's men and their newly developed guns. Bugsy Malone is Sam's only hope of surviving it all, but he's caught up with his own business with Blousy Brown, an actress aiming to make it big time. But what will come of Sam's gang, Bugsy and Blousy? Will all end up well, or just a big pile of splurge?

The Junior Drama production for 2011 was Bugsy Malone, and this year's drama production was something to truly marvel at. As it was the last year for the infamous Tom Dowling and Kieran Ahern (not forgetting of course Alan Egan) it was obviously going to be the big one, the one that would leave a legacy for the directors as they both move on to Oxford. And a legacy it did leave, with it being the biggest Junior production put on by the school, with tables, chairs, wine glasses (not to mention my desk and bottles of 'whiskey') and a revolving stage to cope with the various scenes. Of course we cannot forget the 'Splurge guns' possibly the most enjoyable prop I have ever encountered, even if it did land us in hot water with Mrs Lockyer (*cough* Tom Dowling *cough*).

Backstage though was full of as much drama as on stage, with people not learning lines, friendships being made and broken, all ably overseen by Assistant Director Loughlan O'Doherty, who helped us work together to pull off this great performance. The cast was excellent and there were some great performances, especially from the girls, the most notable being Annie Pearson as Tallulah and Kate Ramsden as Blousy. The boys also put in great performances from Daanish Butt as Cagey Joe and of course the main man Max Laverty as Bugsy (I was also informed that much of the audience said that the young man playing Fat Sam 'stole the show').

Through Junior Drama I had possibly one of the best experiences ever, from the production itself, and from the fun backstage, if I were to give any advice to a new year 7 this year it would be do Junior Drama in years 8 and 9, because you'll never regret it.

A big thank you also to all of the staff who helped with it, especially Mrs Lockyer, Mr Southworth, Mrs James, Mr Carmen and the caretakers for being so kind to let us use the school at weekends.

■ **Carl Lawrence, 10Y**

The Assistant Director's View

And they call him... Bugsy Malone! As the music faded on the first night, and Blousey finished her 'oh so sweet' opening solo, the audience could not have understood the treat that they were about to be delighted with. Eleven year old Mafiosi, boxers-come-tenors and more splurge than science thought possible to be contained in one room, Bugsy had something for everyone, and then some more for anyone who wanted seconds too.

Continuing the current trend of the recent Junior Drama shows of bigger production, more ambition and poorer jokes, it only seemed right to take the next logical theatrical step and attempt a Junior Musical for the first time ever! Very much the domain of two dramatic veterans of Camp Hill, Kieran Ahern and Tom Dowling, the artistic direction of the production was mostly their responsibility, with Mrs Lockyer overseeing the production as usual. Helping Tom and Kieran as a Director-in-waiting was Loughlan O'Doherty.

The gruelling audition process began before the summer holidays, in July. Max Laverty snagged the eponymous role, with Fat Sam being played by Carl Lawrence, his arch-nemesis Dandy Dan by Sam Morris, and janitor-dancer Fizzy, by Kai O'Reilly. With the cast secured and looking as strong as it was, it was time to start rehearsing! They were joined by Annie Pearson (Tallulah), Kate Ramsden (Blousey) and Halle Bertie (Lena), alongside a host of beautiful dancing girls, from KECHG. It must be noted that the company around these leading lads and ladies brought dedication worthy of major roles, which made the show the great success it became.

Throwing a spanner into the works was the realisation that if we were to actually perform Bugsy Malone, it would require singing and at least attempts of dancing. Therefore, we sought the consultative help of Mr Palmer, to help us strum upon the cast's vocal chords and at least push them over the fine-line that separates noise and coherent music. The cast were actually very talented singers and so relatively little training was required of them. For the dance sequences we sought the help of Charlie Stopes-Robinson, who, being the choreographer extraordinaire she is, managed to turn many a pair of two left feet into fully functioning appendages.

Like always, despite the many rehearsals, we found the production date creeping up on us rather quicker than we would have liked. Much cramming of line-learning and many last-minute 'contingency rehearsals' later we found ourselves at the doorstep of the dress rehearsal. It was at this point that many of the cast realised the huge scale of this year's production: the set design, as well as the props and the quality of the costumes

were truly astonishing. Many thanks must be given to Mr Carman, Mr Downing, Mrs James and Mr Southworth for once again pulling the strings behind the scenes to make sure not only the production was possible, but that it achieved its fullest potential.

Mention must be made at this point of the wonderful work of the band as well, both in rehearsals and the live shows. For his hard work in training the musicians, thanks must be given to Ben Palmer and for his dedication to conducting the band, Oliver Palmer, whose efforts are all the more impressive considering his illness at the time.

In the words of Fat Sam, we soon found ourselves at 'the big one, the shake-down' and soon enough Act 1 was beginning on our opening night. Whatever pre-show concerns we had backstage soon dissipated, as the actors soon sunk comfortably into their roles. The playful spirit of Bugsy Malone was captured brilliantly by the cast and by the second night Fat Sam had even begun using his own improvised jokes!

Needless to say, Bugsy Malone was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by all those who watched it; many called it 'the best Junior Drama show ever'. It will certainly prove to be a tough act to follow next year, and it served as a wonderful legacy of Tom and Kieran's seven years at the school. However, it would have remained just a distant desire within the director's heads had it not been for Mrs Lockyer; her commitment of vast amounts of time, incomprehensible volumes of energy and excellent advice on all aspects of the show, allowed the whole production to be possible.

■ **Loughlan O'Doherty, L5**









Poetry Competition

Religion

A challenge to secular society?
Stories fabricated from insecurity?
Explanations for natural obscurity?
Or evidence of a higher authority?

An alternative to Darwin's "evolution"?
A product of an overactive imagination?
A solution for the mystery of earth's creation?
Or a way of controlling the entire nation?

Set rules to suppress man's bad behaviour?
The accounts of historic and holy endeavour?
A guidance for a warped and uncertain future?
Or a cult beliefs that, seemingly, live on – forever?

A well for man's thirsty curiosity?
An attempt at universal equality?
A quashing of capability for atrocity?
Or a cause of constant animosity?

An eternal legacy, from deep in the past
The existence of God, of no creed or caste
2012 – Are these days our last?
If religion is fact – you should find Christ, fast

■ Daniel Miller, 11Z

SENIOR

WINNER



Shadows' Call

A light greets us at the beginning,
And so our journey starts.
A world of joy we soon discover,
Hidden from the darker parts.

We grow – as is natural,
And soon we're on our way,
Into the depths of an unknown life,
Where the animals do stray.

It comes as quite a shock to us,
That not everything's so bright.
That darkness litters this small world,
And overwhelms the light.

We struggle through our journey,
With our hands up in defence.
And we skirt around the shadows,
To maintain some sort of sense.

And yet alone, we persevere,
Against the pitch, we fight, we shove,
Towards a shining beacon –
The lighthouse that is love.

We give ourselves completely,
It's what we think is right.
We're now with those we love so dearly,
There's no need now to fight.

But that's a lie unknown to us,
And love is soon to fall.
On cue we are alone again,
And we answer shadows' call.

The dark infects our very self
And heralds our demise.
With nothing now to ever live for,
Life flashes before our eyes.

We die – as is natural?
Though the irony it seems,
Is that the light that brought us to this world,
Now brings us to our knees.

■ Jordan McDonagh, 10Y

INTERMEDIATE
WINNER



Snowfall

From the heavens I gracefully descend,
A glistening matrix of transparent crystals,
Among millions rolling through the sky,
A sea of white from afar

My journey has been long but will be over all too soon,
I go in whatever direction the gentle breeze chooses to
carry me in,
Falling, floating, tumbling, sailing, flying,
Weaving through the paths of my friends

For I am a snowflake,
Beautifully complex yet as pure as can be,
The six outstretched arms and their prickly fingers of my
flawless design reach out to touch the world around,
As I soar calmly in the wild icy storm

I see the end of my time approach,
A tender hand of a young human child,
The heat of the open palm beckons me,
In it I land with incomprehensible softness

It is there that I indulge in my final luxury,
The blissful warmth seeps into me,
In happiness I fade away,
With my ocean of companions outliving me from the cold
floor below I melt into nothingness

■ Billy Chapman, 8S

JUNIOR

WINNER

The three illustrations on this spread were
specially created for *The Chronicle* by
Hok Chiu, 11Y

A Patient World Waits

Maybe no-one cared, maybe nobody knew,
When bankers catch colds, we all get the flu.
It's evident now, as the markets start failing,
Whilst loved ones watch, the world begins ailing.

Some try an old remedy for all aches and pains,
A tincture prescribed by John Maynard Keynes.
But this healing, say others, has one simple flaw,
Can we afford it? We'll only want more.

So the surgeons are called with their scalpels and saws,
As cutting out dead tissue is their only cure.
The crash team in 'resus' are shaking their heads,
'If we do not act quickly, the patient is dead.'

'Stand clear!' calls the woman from Germany's team,
As she charges electrodes with feverish gleam.
And the Frenchman announces that Europe is fine,
While behind him the monitors stay in flatline.

The patient is fading, that soon becomes clear,
And now the consultants can only shed tears,
For in Europe's hospice, all wrapped up in fleece,
Is the shivering carcass of what once had been Greece.

■ Alex Pattison, U1



A Letter to Her Grave

Why didn't you say?
Why didn't you tell me?

He had knocked on our door, once before
This dark fiendish foe
A ravenous snake, he gnawed at you, eating you up
From within
But you were unyielding, strong, and fended him off
You, me and Dad, we beat him away
And expelled him forevermore
Yet how could we know, this dark fiendish foe
Lingered behind, lying in wait, coiled
Ready to strike once more

Why didn't you say?
You fought each day, just to live another
Yet you were mute, mustering a smile
Not wishing to upset me

I woke to hear your weeping cries
In the night, and like a mouse
I softly crept downstairs
And heard you confess his return
A lump in my throat, I fled upstairs
To bury my head in my pillow
It was a nightmare, yet I could not wake, as I
Felt my heart break, I saw you the next day
Alas I could not admit my knowledge
My cowardice still haunts me

Why didn't you say?
Why was life so cruel?
It all happened far too quick
You were far too weak to fight again
But cancer has no remorse
It sheds no tear for its victims
But now tears are clouding my vision
As I play out our last
Memories together, over and over again in my head

I pushed you away, and
Tried to forget, hoping it wasn't true, too busy
To spend but a moment with you

A lone tear hits the ground
My grief manifests itself, as I realise I never
Really took the time just to tell you
Though now I will say it a thousand times
Too late, for now you are gone
Deep in your grave, but remembered eternally
In the bottom of my heart
I'll love you forever

■ Aatif Syed, 10Z



The Wind

It is a strong and ferocious hand,
But a gentle and relaxing breath,
It rules the Earth and beyond,
Yet destroys it mercilessly,

It is the giver of colourful life,
With it we can live and play,
Without it we are a barren wasteland,
Like a desert with no oases,

It nurtures and cares for the trees,
But tears them apart as well,
The birds are at its mercy,
As it carries them over the seas,

Some like to call it a king,
Others think of it as God,
But I don't care about what they call it,
Because I just call it the wind,

The waves of the ocean tell us,
A mighty power is at hand,
It is the wind that sways and dances,
While making the leaves depart from their trees,

It howls and roars over the mountains,
It floats over the highest of hills,
It nudges the clouds on their path,
And makes them scream desperately,

Its beauty and might is shown,
As it spins and destroys our cities,
But to an onlooker who's far away,
It's just dancing joyfully,

It travels with the best of grace,
It crashes to give us the greatest of frights,
It manoeuvres round all obstacles,
Like a bat dodging the trees,

Some like to call it a king,
Others think of it as God,
But I don't care about what they call it,
Because I just call it the wind.

■ Monim Wains, 7M



Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Camp Hill's 1st XV went into the 2011– 2012 season off the back of an intense and gruelling pre-season regime and full of enthusiasm, excitement and expectations. Under the dynamic leadership of Tom Dowling, there was an air of optimism about the squad even before our first match; which we knew would be a tough test away to Old Swinford. As would be the case throughout the season, we travelled to Stourbridge in high spirits and put the long journey and annoyance at Swinford playing a 'weakened team' behind us to pull off an impressive 25-17 victory that blew off many of the cobwebs and set us up well for the games ahead.

A convincing 36-3 win over Wolverhampton Grammar followed a week later and a 10-7 victory over Bablake; a side Camp Hill have generally struggled against, really showed the character of the side. Having defended for much of the second half, Camp Hill's determination paid off and Nathan Quadri was resolutely able to gather a turnover from the forwards and run the length of the pitch to touch down in the very last play. Camp Hill's stubborn doggedness first demonstrated here became a significant factor in future games.

Disappointing defeats to King Henry VIII (24-25), Old Swinford (0-56) and KE Five Ways (3-5) threatened to halt the team's momentum but the victory over KES sandwiched between these results served as a reminder that Camp Hill were definitely a force to be reckoned with. The 12-8 victory over our rivals will no doubt be the highlight of the season for many and the outstanding performance of the squad on that Saturday will surely serve as a yardstick for future 1st XV's. It is fair to say that this result combined with the commitment of the squad and coaches alike changed what could have been a devastating set of results into a few minor setbacks and gave us the confidence to embark upon a seven game winning streak, which included wins over KE Aston, Nuneaton and Lichfield as well as Solihull VI Form, Queen

Elizabeth, Birmingham Metropolitan and Lawrence Sheriff. Scoring 250 points from twelve different try scorers during this run of success emphasised how damaging this team could be in attack; with the ability to score from anywhere on the pitch. Adding to this, only 51 points were conceded at this time, showing the tenacity and effectiveness of Camp Hill's defence.

Unfortunately, between Christmas and Easter tour, we were only able to secure one win out of seven games; a 50-0 victory over Wolverhampton. Two defeats to Bishop Vesey and a heavy defeat to Solihull were tough affairs but one-score losses to KE Stratford and Princethorpe were games in which the team should have done better and were let down by our discipline and lack of clinical play. The loss that hurt the most amongst these was undoubtedly to the Leys School, who not only knocked us out of the Daily Mail Vase competition, but went on to win it themselves. The 8-33 scoreline flattered the opposition here and left our squad thinking of what could have been.

Our eagerly-awaited Easter Tour to Ireland saw the team put on three impressive displays, losing two close matches to Port Laois RFC and Newbridge College but securing a 64-0 victory over North Kildare in a game which featured every Year 13 in the squad. This was a fitting way to end a great season for Camp Hill, with Lawrence Welch's first ever school try in his last ever match bringing a huge smile to everybody's face. Ending the season with thirteen wins and eleven losses is fairly bittersweet. There is no doubt that this squad has performed excellently over the course of the season, but all boys acknowledge that this record could have been improved. Special mentions must go to Tom Dowling, who has embodied everything a Captain should be, as well as David Williams and Lawrence Welch who not only assisted him tremendously as vice captains, but were central to the team's success. Top try scorer Rob George tore many a team apart on his way to scoring 15 tries in 19 games, and Chris Curtis has possessed the ever-reliable boot, kicking 142 points and keeping the team in difficult games. Player of the Year Jag Gill was instrumental in the effec-



tiveness of our set-pieces and always led from the front, putting his body in the way of danger at numerous times over the course of the season. It is difficult to mention all of the boys who played a role in this year's squad, but all

can rest assured that they have inspired the next generation of Senior Rugby Players at the school.

Many thanks go to Mr Caves, Mr Carman and Mr Warrillow for the endless work they

have put in to Senior Rugby this past year and to all of the parents who have made the journey through the season exciting and worthwhile.

■ **Jack Lea, L3**

2nd XV Rugby

Although he is far from gone, and still coaches rugby at the school, this was Mr Carman's final year as a Camp Hill teacher. It was fitting, therefore, that the Second Team he orchestrated was a successful one. If anything, the team went beyond successful; their record of 16 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss was historic, and no other Camp Hill team, either this year or for several years previously, can match that. The Second Team won the school's 'team of the year' trophy, and deservedly so; they played some fantastic rugby at times during the season, scoring 502 points in 17 games.

Despite having more than their fair share of big wins, however, it is the close, hard-fought victories that will live longer in the memories of those at Camp Hill. The first real challenge of the season came against the First Team from Fairfax, which meant a lot of players pitted against boys one or two years older than themselves. The difference in experience showed early on, so much so that when half time came, Camp Hill found themselves three tries down. A second half performance, however, stemming from equal parts luck and ruthless determination, saw the team not only fight their way back into the game, but see the final whistle blow with them 34-26 to the good. This team performance was to set the tone for many like it throughout the course of the season.

Perhaps the two most notable fixtures on the calendar were KES and Solihull School, two teams that over the years had consistently beaten, sometimes by huge margins, the majority of Camp Hill's senior sides. Most probably expected this to be the case again in the Second Team clash against KES, but people had not accounted for one of the strongest sides Camp Hill has been able to field at this level in years. The boys rose to the occasion magnificently, dominating a larger KES pack up front with a display of controlled aggression and technical superiority at the breakdown. Out wide, the opponents were unable to cope with the pace and handling of the Camp Hill back line, most notably James Bruten, who put in an inspired performance at full-back, scoring a try and setting one up for Lewis Hedges to finish. This gave Camp Hill a commanding lead, and although KES hit back with a try and penalty of their own, the team held their nerve to see out a 10-8 victory against one of their biggest rivals.

In an ordinary season, a victory against KES would have been seen as a high point,



something in itself to remember the year by. For this year's Second Team, however, it proved to be only a stepping stone. The match following the Christmas break was the one against Solihull School, a side who turned out to be the most technically gifted and well-drilled the team would face all season. This game, however, proved to anyone who doubted it that there is much more to rugby than this; the level of physicality and the team spirit of the Camp Hill side matched, and for large portions of the game overcame, the slick Solihull outfit. They fashioned two tries, one in each half, but Camp Hill created two of their own, Evan Phoenix crossing in the corner to add to a fantastic try from Kyle Reed. This left the game at 12-10 to Solihull, approaching the final whistle. Camp Hill regained the ball close to their own line, and clawed their way up the pitch, finally being rewarded with a penalty on the touchline, within range of the posts. Despite David Watson's strange willingness to take it quickly, Josh Bridgeman stepped up to go for goal, a kick which even without the huge pressure on his shoulders would have been a difficult one. In a moment which will go down as one of the greatest Camp Hill rugby has seen, however, he maintained his cool to slot it through the middle of the posts, to the delight of himself and the whole team.

Despite this fantastic victory, Camp Hill's luck started to wear thin as the season came to a close, and in yet another nail-biting affair, the team finally faced their first loss – a cold, hard match against KE Stratford. It is a huge credit to the boys, however, that despite this setback, they continued to train and play with as much energy as they had throughout the season. If anything, that loss gave them an incentive to prove that it was an exception rather than a rule; apart from an away draw against a tough Bishop Vesey side, Camp Hill swept aside every other team they played, and continued to improve, leading up to what was a fantastic tour of Ireland. This was where the Second

Team showed how good they really were, as they played three games which on paper looked to be competitive, but which were completely controlled by Camp Hill, who over the course of the three games score 163 points and conceded just 12. This was simply down to all of the boys playing fantastic rugby, with a pride for their team and their school. Although it seemed unfair to pick out any one player from three amazing team performances, Jake Thomas epitomised this ethos with his commitment and physical presence in the centre, which led him to be nominated the 'Player of the Tour' by the team.

Part of the reason the season as a whole was so successful was the way in which the three year groups gelled together into one cohesive unit. This was down, in no small part, to the way in which some of the Year 11 boys stepped up to senior rugby and played hugely significant roles against players much more experienced than them. An obvious example of this was Kyle Reed, the top scorer for the season, but special mention must also go to David Watson, Ben Connelly and Tom Murphy, whose willingness to physically confront bigger, older players was a contributing factor in a lot of the team's victories, and has earned them all a deserved first team place this season. This would not, however, have been complete without some more experienced players who led from all areas of the pitch. This particularly includes Umar Ahmed, who as well as turning out consistently high performances led the forward pack with a calm, mature attitude. Despite all these stellar performances from all over the pitch, however, the boys' voted, almost unanimously, for Josh Bridgeman to be the Player of the Season, high praise indeed considering he stood out in such a fantastic group of individuals. His ability to maintain focus under pressure, and make decisions effectively when called upon, was a shining example to the rest of the boys, and he played a huge role in the success of the Second Team.

However, what truly made it all possible, and kept the boys focused and disciplined throughout a very long season, was the leadership at the highest level. I would love to be self indulgent here, and suggest that this came from the captain, but I would be lying; the real source of the team's success over the course of

the year was the coach, Mr Carman. He was the voice of unwavering support, and a fantastic example of dedication to the team, and the boys took a huge amount from this. Ultimately, he engineered what many of the team, myself included, could truthfully call the best rugby year of our lives, and something that we as a

group were proud to be part of. Looking back, then, despite a fly-half who couldn't pass, a welsh full-back and a coach who knew how to get on the wrong side of a referee, the 2011/12 season for the Camp Hill Second Team really was historic.

■ **Hugh Sanders, L5**

U16 Rugby

The U16s enjoyed a fine season, ably lead by Captain Tom Murphy. It was perhaps the shock to the system from playing senior rugby that put the team into a good position in terms of both fitness, and training. This was soon reflected in our play: getting through the first few rounds of the Daily Mail Cup before coming a cropper in a home draw against Bishop Vesey, leaving

us in the Vase play-offs.

Fortunately the team put in some excellent performances, with some outstanding back play and steady secure forward work. This eventually put us through to the regional final of the Vase, and despite a close defeat, the team put in their second best performance of the season (only narrowly behind the 19-12 loss to KE Five Ways; the most energetic and heartfelt performance of the season).

Special mention must go to some of our continued star players: the likes of Ben Conolly, Tom Murphy, Asif Javed, and the quieter but no less effective play of Lewis Hedges and Idris Mohammed, as well as a thank you to Mr Carman for his support and coaching. As a whole, a great end to our year group's final season together, well done lads!

■ **Thomas Chalklen, 11W**

U15 Rugby

It was a mixed year in terms of results for the U15 team of 2011–2012. After the success of the previous season, the team knew it would be a difficult challenge to maintain such a decent record. The season began well with a win against Queen Mary's School in the Daily Mail Cup, however we failed to progress any further due to an impressive performance from a much improved Solihull School.

As the season continued it was clear that the team were beginning to gel together with some convincing wins against Lawrence Sheriff School, KE Aston and Bablake. Leading up to the Christmas Holidays it was unfortunate that quite a few games were lost to the weather. We were unable to play against teams such as King Henry VIII – a game which always proves to be eventful. Players such as Jacob Bruten, Andy Featherstone, Jordan McDonagh and David Yate managed to keep a well constructed offensive and defensive back line. Special mention should go to Jacob Bruten, who over the four years of rugby hasn't missed a single game – his commitment should be commended as he has played a vital part in the team during his time. Returning to school after the holiday period, it appeared that the team had lost some



motivation as a string of losses followed. The occasional win provided some encouragement leading up to the tour to Carlisle – for many of us this was our second time on tour, for others it was their first and they were keen to make an impression. The week before the tour, a game with Fairfax School was arranged and the win that followed lifted the team's spirit as tour approached. As expected, the tour proved to be a huge success, as the team pulled together to win all three matches played.

The match against Wigton Rugby Club is one I'm sure all the boys will remember, due

to the horrendous yet enjoyable conditions. Good forward support play and handling from the backs were the factors that lead to the dynamic win against the opposition, who were noticeably older and had a larger physical presence. Special thanks must go to Mr Duncan and other members of staff who have provided the team with support over the years. As the team enter the older and more demanding stages of rugby within the school I wish them all the best.

■ **Andrew Elliott, 10W**

U14 Rugby

We went into the season hoping to improve on last year's performance. The team started on a high when we won the first game of the season 24-15 against Fairfax. After our first game, we worked hard to shake off our summer unfitness however we lost the next two games. The second of these two games saw a few new faces enter the team for the first time. These new players were to play other games for the team and Chao Chen was to become a common choice for the coaches after he scored on his debut.

We spent the remainder of the first term



struggling for form. We could go from winning 27-0 against Princethorpe to struggling to make a mark on the game the next week. However, we were soon starting to look forward to the prospect of our first rugby tour to Carlisle towards the end of the season. We also managed to go into the tour on a high after winning the last game before it 25-7 which was an encouraging performance before we headed up north for three games against Cumbrian opposition.

On tour we won our first match 54-7 against a relatively weak Cockermouth side. This game produced the only hat-trick anyone could manage through Wes Blackhurst. The next game on the tour was against Ullswater School, the Cumbrian U-14 champions, who proved to be tough opposition as expected and we lost 14-5 with Alex Lane scoring our try.

Our final match was a very physical encounter against a physically bigger and stronger Wigton club side. We lost the game 41-10. However, the score line doesn't quite reflect how well we played. Niyamal Ali scored both of our tries.

The Saturday evening also offered the opportunity for a formal dinner where awards were given out. This was a special evening for the team as it highlighted our successes throughout the season. The awards given were as follows:

Best Back – Will Houlden, **Best Forward** – Wes Blackhurst, **Most Improved Player** – Will Maclean, **Captain's Award** – Dom Paver, **Season's Highest Try Scorer** – Wes Blackhurst, **Players of the Tour** – Jake Corr and Arun Sohan-Pall, **Tries of the Tour** – Alex Lane and Niyamal Ali.

I would also like to take this opportunity

to thank our coaches for their sterling work throughout the season, especially Mr Surr. Though we finished the season with seven wins and ten losses, we scored 311 points and conceded 345, which illustrates the narrowness of our losses. It was a good season for the team and we should aim to improve next season.

■ **Dom Paver, 9M**

Afterword by Mr Surr

Dominic is too modest to beat his own drum but he has been an effective and well organized Captain and has been vocal and encouraging both on and off the field of play. There was never a question of him not giving his full commitment to a game and leading from the front.

■ **R.S.**

U13 Rugby

In our second season, the U13 team developed a lot, with new players joining the A Team, as well as some improvements in those who were already regular starters. We started the season well with three hard fought matches against Fairfax, Old Swinford Hospital and Bablake, all of which we won, but with close scores: 14-12, 22-10 and 15-14 respectively.

As the season progressed, all matches were approached with determination and credit has to go to Harry Atkinson who dominated in the forwards scoring 10 tries. The forward pack worked efficiently together, with a solid front row of Ahmed Ayad, Harry Wilson and Usman Naveed who put in some excellent tackles. Other players who were strong in defence were Tom Haddon, Rowan Osborne and Lewis Evans who all produced some great work off the scrum. In the middle of the scrum there was stiff competition between Alex Bonner, Rezwanul Chowdhury and Patrick de Vos



for places in the second row, which benefitted them on the pitch. Mention must also go to Billy Chapman and Jonty Hart for their commitment to training despite not being able to play on Saturdays.

In the backs, there was also effective displays of defensive and attacking play, with Arran Kingston playing a significant role, giving great ball to Henry Holden at fly half, who organised the backs very well. In the centre, a regular partnership of Ed Connolly and Cameron Steel provided us with many tries, 17 of

them coming from Cameron Steel and his strong running. At full back Andreas Kavalieros made some great tackles. On the wings, Cameron Walker, Aqueel Zulfiqar and Dan Western have all improved and have provided some strong defensive and attacking work.

The season was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody and next year we hope to keep up the team spirit and produce some more great performances.

■ **Mackenzie Wells, 8M**

U12 XV Rugby

The U12's had a disappointing season registering only three wins and one draw from fourteen matches. The season started promisingly with a 14-7 win over Bablake. We defended on our line for most of the match and made full use of our two chances with Siddarth Sharma scoring twice following some aggressive periods of play. Mason Jolley converted both. The next two games were close but we lost both, 27-17 to King Henry VIII and 12-0 to Adams Grammar School. The next match was against rivals KE Aston. The side performed disappointingly in defence with no one tackling effectively enough which resulted in the opposition scoring six tries (five by their powerful and quick outside centre!). We battled back with Johannes Beckett scoring both tries, of which one was converted. However we



lost 41-12.

The next match was a frustrating loss because we had a lot of possession and attacking play. We were affected by the unavailability of our flanker and fly half. The final result was a 12-29 defeat with both tries being scored by Captain Johannes Beckett. In the penultimate match of the Autumn Term we triumphed

with a convincing 30-0 win over King Edward's School, Litchfield. This victory gave the team a much needed boost. We lost the next two matches convincingly to strong KE Five Ways and Solihull sides, 7-31 and 0-50 respectively. The only try in the two matches was scored by Tom Perry who intercepted in the first minute against Five Ways. Solihull had a powerful

centre and pace on the wing which helped them breach our defensive line. We did win against Princethorpe College in a great all round team performance. However a frustrating draw against KE Stratford followed as we surrendered a clear lead with some weak defence once again. The next match was tight again but we lost by a conversion; 10-12. The main fixture list was concluded with three heavy defeats. The Greater Birmingham

brought the season to a close. The side unfortunately come last in our group and then lost narrowly (5-7) against Fairfax to come last in the tournament overall.

If the team is to have a more successful season next year it is clear we need to tackle! In spite of the win-loss ratio the whole squad showed great commitment with a 95% attendance at training.

The end of season certificates were

awarded to:

Top Try Scorer and Best Back – Johannes Beckett (with 10 tries), **Best Forward** – Siddarth Sharma, **Most Improved Player** – Zulfikar Kahn. I would like to thank, on behalf of the squad, all the parents who came to watch us whatever the weather, even when we were losing heavily. We would also like to thank Mr Roden for his coaching and support this year.

■ **Johannes Beckett, 7J**

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

The start of 'summer' heralded the beginning of the 1st XI cricket season. In this truncated period, we only played five matches; the weather having a lot of impact on our fixtures. We kicked off the season with a disappointing 24 run loss to Solihull Sixth Form. Aman Sahota was the stand-out bowler, with figures of 3-28 restricting Solihull to 150 from 30 overs. We got off to a good start, but nobody was able to support the impressive Asim Shoaib who top scored with 48 and Charanjit Kalsi, who chipped in with a useful 25.

The next match was in the cup against Joseph Chamberlain College. A strong bowling performance allowed us to bowl out JCC for 77, with Chris Curtis and Josh O'Donnell taking three wickets apiece. This was never going to be a challenge for our openers and we duly completed a ten wicket win, with Chris and Asim both finishing with 37 not out. We went into the next match against Aston without our Captain Asim. Things took a turn for the worst when bowler Aali Mughal got injured in a freak catching accident and could no longer play a role in the match. This left us with ten men

and this was reflected in our under par batting score of 92. Aston were never troubled and easily chased down the target. The next match was in the second round of the cup against KE Nuneaton. Things started off well as we restricted Nuneaton to 88 off 20 overs with Aman and Osama Hamid taking two wickets each. However, our batting collapsed and despite 24 from Asim we lost by 30 runs.

Next was what turned out to be the final match of this short season. We were desperate to finish on a high against KE Five Ways. Five Ways batted first and finished with an imposing 134-8; Umar Ahmed being the pick of the bowlers with excellent figures of 4-12. However, again our batting was suspect and an all too familiar collapse occurred. Asim, the only bright light in our batting order, top scored with 30, but with no-one supporting him, he was left with too much to do. So a disappointing season came to a close. The fact that we lost four out of the five matches does not do justice to the talent and potential in the team. There were times of



brilliance during which the team showed glimpses of its true capabilities.

We would like to thank Asim Shoaib for his motivational Captaincy this season and Mr Duncan for coaching the side and organising fixtures. Next year we hope that the weather allows us to play more matches so we can gel together as a team. Perhaps our true potential will be realised and we will be rewarded with the successful season that the team deserves.

■ **Osama Hamid, L2**

2nd XI Cricket

What a washout! When was the last season in which the 2nd XI only played two matches? Still, we can at least boast that we won all our matches.

The first was at home against KE Aston; it was an extremely close match. Aston asked us to limit the game to 20 overs, which turned out to be the correct tactic from their point of view, since they were all out in less than 19. We generously gifted them 13 extras – that's nearly one an over – and one of their batsmen was pretty useful, scoring 30 of their 78 runs. He was only in Year 11 and he's considering Camp Hill for the 6th form, so I encouraged him to come here for his cricket in future. Arjan Nagra took 3 for 8. The score book says we took four catches; fortunately, it doesn't say we dropped about twelve.

Our reply started spectacularly badly. 1 for



2 after one over; 9 for 3 after three; 18 for 4 after 6; 20 for 5 after 7. Finally, Varun Deshpande and Ruari Keavy stopped the rot. Hasaan Qazi and Samir Bashir followed them and their example. Varun scored 11, Ruari 12, Hasaan 16 (equal top score with extras) and Samir 15 not out. Arjan Nagra had the honour of scoring the winning run off the third ball of the final over.

Our second game was away to Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall. It's very difficult to get continuity of team membership at this time of the year – the boys have so many other activities to fit in and, of course, the Year 13 boys can be up to anything. Only 4 players

from our first game were in the second match. But our catching did show continuity; it was once again shocking. Queen Mary's batted first; one of their players made 45 of their 88 runs. Hasaan Qazi took 3 for 10, to make him the team's leading wicket taker for the season.

Although this was a 25 over match, the total was not as easy as it looked, as the outfield was so waterlogged it was almost impossible to reach the boundary except with a 6. Queen Mary's didn't get any 4's (other than all run for a misfield). But James Giblin and Umar Ahmed put on 32 in 8 overs for the first wicket, and things were looking pretty good.

Although several batsmen gave their wickets away cheaply, Umar was always keeping the score ticking along nicely. Osama Hamid, batting at number 8, joined him in the 16th over, and the two of them took us home inside 19 overs. Umar's 45 not out was the biggest innings of the season; James Giblin scored 18.

Rory Luscombe captained the team well; he was always encouraging, always organised, always sporting and he always won. But the team's catching was atrocious.

■ **M.J.G.**

U15 Cricket

Consisting of three precious matches, this season was short yet challenging. No more could have been expected from the weather. We comfortably won two of the three games, losing to our rivals Bishop Vesey once again.

We had an easy start to the season against Stratford. Having bowled them out for 37, it was an easy chase. Jei Diwakar picked up 3 wickets for 11 runs. But it wasn't as easy as predicted. Even though we lost 6 wickets we chased down the total in a mere 10.4 overs, ending in style with Hanan Hashami hitting a huge six! It was a great way to start the season.

Our cup match followed against Aston Manor. Having bowled first once again due to the strength in our bowling attack shown in the previous match, we bowled them out for a plain 24 runs. This was due to some excellent bowling from Mustafa Chaudhry and Tom Else both picking up 3 wickets. For Tom Else these 3 wickets were picked up in just 3 balls. A hat trick – the first ever in the history of this team! Reverting back to our normal batting order, the game was finished in 9 overs. Bishop Vesey



followed, and we failed to continue our winning streak. Vesey batted first and managed to score 152. Mustafa Chaudhry was once again the pick of our bowlers picking up 3 wickets, plus he was the most economical giving away only 18 runs of the 5 overs he bowled. The chase began. It wasn't a great start, having lost both our opening batsmen in the first over. Then Jei Diwakar and Chad Aktinson cre-

ated a partnership. Jei Diwakar managed bat throughout but after the loss of the wicket of Chad, wickets started to fall at regular intervals. Jei managed to stay unbeaten for 38. The team managed to finish on a total of 99 runs for the loss of 10 wickets. It was a great effort and the result does not reflect what was deserved.

■ **Jei Diwakar, 10X**

U14 Cricket

The season began on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning in May as the team travelled to Stratford for what would be the first match of the new season. Unfortunately this was last time 'beautiful' and 'sunny' would be used to describe the weather for the rest of the 2012 season, with a number of the matches being cancelled due to the rain.

None-the-less we started strongly, having chosen to bowl first. Stratford managed 86 from their 20 overs, with both Ed Saunders and Dawood Ahmed taking two wickets. Our innings began positively with 14 runs from the first 2 overs; unfortunately it took us another 10 overs to get past 30 runs. Despite an excellent 41 n.o. from Ed we were always struggling to catch up with the run rate and ended up an agonising 5 runs short.

Matches against Washwood Heath and KE Five Ways followed. We proved too strong



for Washwood Heath, after bowling them out for 50 we easily chased it down with overs to spare. This also meant that we would be progressing to next round of the Cup. Five Ways,

however, provided much tougher opposition. We were put into bat, and after suffering an awful start to our innings, Alex Lane and Dom Paver managed to steady the ship with 17

and 37 respectively. Unfortunately, despite some early wickets, our total of 67 proved to be 'below par' and Five Ways reached our total with a couple of overs to spare.

For our next game the team travelled to Moseley where we would play the quarter final of the Cup. They chose to bat first on an excellent dry and flat wicket. A great display of bowling and fielding meant that we restricted Moseley to a very get-able score of 70. With the threat of a heavy downpour looming the total of 37 from the first 10 overs was the initial target. This early target led to some poor decision making and we found ourselves 6 wickets down for just 21 runs after the first 10 overs; the situation was bleak. To the crease came Aman Bhambra and Satnam Ajimal, the pair

managed to increase the run rate with some big hitting and, with the help of others, got the total down to just 3 runs needed from the final over. Unfortunately we were now down to our final batsmen; Kingsley Bates and Arun Sohan-Pall. The pair's cool temperament proved sufficient as we passed the total with two balls to spare. A fantastic performance by the team!

Due to the weather we then had to wait until after the summer break before we could finally play our semi-final against Aston. Aston had proved to be strong opposition in the past and they were previous winners of the cup. Despite this we began strongly after they chose to bat first. Satnam was the pick of the bowlers with 4 wickets from his 5 overs, and we kept Aston's total down to just 109 from

their 25 overs. Our innings began strongly with a great partnership between Ed and Alex but unfortunately, when Ed was finally dismissed, the team suffered a lower order batting collapse; only one of the final seven batsmen managed to get more than 4 runs. The 7 run loss left us tantalizingly close to a first cup final for the team.

It may have been a disappointing season in terms of weather but despite this the team performed superbly over the season. Thanks must go to Mr. Bruten for all the work he put in as coach and also I'd like to thank all the boys that played in the team this year.

■ **Will Houlden**, 9S

U13 Cricket

Refreshed from nearly a year of waiting for Camp Hill competitive cricket, the cricket team was ready for what would hopefully be another successful season.

However, the weather got the better of us and matches over matches kept on getting cancelled and rescheduled, and this was what happened for the majority of the season. Eventually, we got a game after eager anticipation of a dry Saturday with KE Stratford. Losing the toss and batting, we played very positively and managed to put up a total of 75-7, key performance going to Arran Kingston with a strong 15 with the bat and Dan Western with statistics of 3 wickets for 4 runs in a total of 4 overs. Then we had to defend the total and defend we did with sharpness in the field resulting in 2 catches and 3 run-outs and tight bowling from all our bowlers, limiting them down to 42 runs all out.

Two weeks later, we were scheduled to go up against a very strong team – Washwood Heath. Again, we lost the toss and had to put up a good enough score to defend, the key



performance with the bat goes again to Arran Kingston, top-scoring with 13 runs in our 64. We then went to the field and knew we had to defend not the best total. We were up against a strong batting team who caught up to our total fairly quickly – again, Dan Western shone with the ball with 3 wickets for 12 runs in a total of 4 overs. Unfortunately, we lost this match

and it was the last match of the season. All we can do is learn from what came of this season, and hope for better weather as well as a better result next year!

Thanks to all the squad players and to Mr Tranter and Mr Duncan for trying to keep our spirits up in the incessant rain.

■ **Aaditya Thakral**, 8M

U12 Cricket

The season of 2012 for the new Year 7 squad had drama and anticipation despite the lack of games that were played – we were only able to play five due to the appalling weather.

The first match was on 11th May against KE Five Ways who had a strong squad, with both opening batsmen getting over 25 runs each. They put on a partnership of 57 runs, and with help from their number 3 and number 5 batsmen were able to get a score of 100 for 3 wickets off their share of 20 overs. Zain Butt was the pick of our bowlers getting figures of 2 overs, 2 wickets and 4 runs. Our reply didn't get off to a good start with Five Ways' opening bowler, Umar, getting both of our opening batsmen out for only 15 between them. Fifth batsmen, Sam Cullen, achieved a score of 20 and the only



boundary for Camp Hill in a loss by 19 runs. Umar was the pick of the bowlers with 2 wickets and 8 runs.

The next match was on 12th May and Camp Hill were trying to get a good start to

this match against Stratford. We won the toss and put them into the field first. The opening batsmen getting muddled up caused a run out and a wicket down for the side. Adam Ahmed and Safee Saleem got a decent partnership to

steer us in the right direction and got 25 runs between them. Barga was the best bowler for their side bowling only 2 overs and getting 3 wickets. With an overall score of 78 all out, the win was looking bleak. Stratford's turn to bat and opening bowler, Hamza Arshad, toppled over the stumps for the opening batsman to stroll away with a duck. The third and fourth batsmen put up a good fight but eventually got out to some good bowling. There were four main bowlers in this attack: Hamza Arshad, getting 2 wickets off 3 overs; Adam Ahmed getting 3 wickets off 3.4 overs; Garen Boora, getting 3 wickets off his 4 overs and Sam Cullen, getting 2 wickets from his 3 overs. Eventually, Stratford battled hard but came stumbling down with a score of only 57 and Camp Hill had their first victory!

The next match against a tough side like Aston was going to be challenging – especially in blazing hot conditions which was rare for this English summer! We won the toss and decided to bat hoping we could keep up the good work from our last match. But this was not to be as opening batsmen, Garen Boora and Zain

Butt, were out for 1 and 0. Adam Ahmed and Safee Saleem came in hoping to lift us up, and they sure did, making a huge partnership with many boundaries. Safee Saleem unfortunately got out to some good bowling by the opposition after a good knock of 19, which left the rest of the batsmen to carry on the good work. They adapted well and carried on until Adam Ahmed stumbled after getting out on a LBW decision on 31. Sam Cullen (who was dropped on 11) and Raiyaan Ismail carried on until the last overs getting 9 runs off the very last over. The final score of 105 for 6 looked very promising considering our last games. Klair showed amazing bowling with figures of 2 wickets in 2 overs. Their turn to bat and a tough score to achieve – but Klair (also captaining the side) getting a half century, not out, smashed our chances of success. They eventually put us out of our misery, with a poor fielding display too, with Aston getting 109 for 3. Nobody really was the pick of the bowlers for us.

Our next game was an important cup match against a less experienced side of Baverstock. We were hoping to improve on our last

match and we did, knocking them over for 23 runs off their 20 overs. Hamza Arshad got 4 wickets off only 1.2 overs. We were hoping to get this score in just under 6 overs, which was achieved with the help of Safee Saleem and Varsith Dasari and we made it with 24 runs and 1 wicket – we were through!

Our next match was the Cup match against Bishop Vesey on what looked like a small pitch, but proved not to be as we only hit 2 boundaries in the whole innings. We chose to bat first again, trying to keep up the scoring streak but it didn't quite work as the highest score was 15 runs by Garen Boora and our final total was 77 all out. Mittal was pick of the bowlers with 5 wickets. The home side dominated and after 15 overs and reached our low score and we were knocked out of the tournament.

No games were played after that fixture as rain started getting heavier and heavier by the day – typical English summers! We hope for better luck next year. Thanks go to all the players in the squad and the coaching team of Mr Tranter and Mr Duncan.

■ **Sam Cullen, 75**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

The season started with the same high-powered enthusiasm and optimism as every season does with Camp Hill hockey, with expectations high for what looked to be at least a mildly successful season, if not better. Lead by the high and mighty voice of Milan Vashi as the captain, the season got underway.

Unfortunately for the team, the first game was against Bablake, a side who we knew would be tough in any circumstance. With Camp Hill having little time to gel as a team, they suffered a hefty loss which cannot have helped the confidence for the rest of the season.

However despite this, there was a strong perseverance from the team throughout the season and they were duly rewarded, with a

3-1 win over Old Swinford and a 3-0 win over Bishop Vesey. Camp Hill were unlucky not to come away with more wins in the season, with many matches being very closely contested but our side just not able to finish when it mattered.

Top scorer of the season was Charanjit Khalsi, and with him only being in Year 11 this bodes well for the rest of his senior hockey career. Thanks must be shown to Milan Vashi, Jaypal Gahir and Aman Sahota who contributed dearly to school hockey and will be sorely missed next season.

Overall, the season turned out to be mediocre, with our biggest downfall yet again being that we do not possess our own astro-turf pitch and thus are already at a disadvantage before



the season starts. However hopes are high for next season, with new players, a new captain, and a new frame of mind, hopefully things will be more successful.

■ **Devinder Manu, L4**

2nd XI Hockey

Starting the year with only 17 players in a hockey squad that is supposed to constitute both the 1st and 2nd teams would not seem like a good omen. Although our first game was played with the same players who generally play 1st team, after that, we managed to scramble together enough players to field two teams, although a few players continually played for both teams throughout the season.

The first victory of the season came in only the second game, against Solihull Fourths,

where Andy Newman and Devinder Manu scored a goal apiece, to give us a 2-1 victory. Skimming over a couple more losses, though only narrow defeats by a few goals, we come to the team's most successful game of the season, a 7-1 demolition of KES Sixths. With 4 goals from Anthony Pulikal, and 3 from Charanjit Kalsi (though this should read 5 goals from Anthony, as Charanjit tapped a shot in from on the line, to claim a certain goal for Anthony as his own!) the team played extremely well. Fast-paced passing and running, as well as solid performances at the back from Hannan

Currah and Jaskaran 'the Power' Rajput gave the team the advantage, and we never looked in danger of losing our well deserved victory. KES would soon have their revenge though, as their fourths proceeded to beat us 6-3 just two games later. Although, this was our worst loss of the season (by goals conceded), the team deserved praise for their determination and commitment, even in the face of teams much more practised and experienced than ourselves. This was particularly evident during a victory over Solihull Fifts, who we suspect played players who were actually better than

'Fifths' would suggest. Playing a tight game, we managed to turn constant pressure into a number of short corners, from which Josh Lee scored a brace, leading the team to a 2-1 victory.

However, the most memorable game of the season was by far the last, a new fixture against the private school of Princethorpe, which, upon arrival, drew this remark from one member of the team, 'the school's so big it would hold the population of China, and the grounds the rest of Asia!' Hyperbole yes, but the school was huge, and when we saw that their school had a turret and sheep, we knew we were beaten. It started badly, with only 9 players on the pitch we were hard pressed to prevent a first minute goal, but when reinforcements arrived things began to look up, and we scored through a good finish from Zak Asif, only to concede minutes later; 1-1 at half-time. After an inspiring team-talk at half-time, involving how to place a hockey stick flat on the floor, the team were back to face the onslaught from a much strengthened Princethorpe, who decided to put on some first team players. Despite their

robust midfield, we started strongly, and scrambled a second goal from Anthony Pulikal, to leave us with a 2-1 lead. Despite many desperate attempts from Princethorpe to score the equaliser, the final whistle blew on a 2-1 victory, cueing much celebration and feasting upon the refreshments provided, and much gnashing of teeth from the opposition.

To end on such a high note was fantastic for the team, and a real testament to how the team played all year. Despite knowing that we were severely hampered by our lack of practice on an astro-turf, the team were always upbeat and motivated. Special mentions must go to Anthony and Charanjit for scoring more than half of the teams goals between them, and Hannan Currah, Dani Szucs, Tom Perkins and Josh Lee, for playing



many second team games immediately after first team games, making up the numbers. Well played all, and, looking forward, the future seems good.

■ **Josh Lee, 11X**

U15 Hockey

This season would be the last that this team would play together, so we aimed to make it the best season of our school career. The squad was strengthened with the arrival of new players, but the season did not start as we would have wished.

Our opening game was played in the heavy rain against King Henry's. We started the game well but could not capitalize on our chances and eventually lost 3-0. We looked to build on this loss and later secured our first win of the season against a tough Old Swinford team. After drawing our first encounter with them 2-2 a few weeks earlier, we came out with a 4-0 win with goals coming from four different players. We secured another win the following week against Aston, with one goal coming in the first minute of each half. With our goalkeepers Dilan Parmar and Matthew Else playing very well and lots of goals being scored by our outfield players, we headed into our remaining fixtures feeling confident.

Unfortunately we lost our remaining fixtures against KES and Solihull 2-0 and 3-1 respectively. We were treated with a tour to



Carlisle at the end of the season where we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, returning with a draw, a win, and a loss. The last game proved to be the best game we had ever played due to our outstanding teamwork and the emphatic score-line. Mr Hardy had given us a new formation which boosted our squad as we won the match 6-0, with goals coming from Jacob Smith (4), Alex Davis (1) and Gethin Bradnam (1).

The tour ended with presentations in which **Player of the Season** was awarded to Nimreth Phull and Jacob Smith, and **Most Improved Player** to Mustafa Chaudhry. The team would like to thank Mr Hardy for taking us on tour, and Mr Willis for being a great coach for the season. We look forward to the challenge of Senior Hockey.

■ **Jacob Smith, 10X**

U14 Hockey

Our first year of school hockey sure was a promising one. Our first match showed this with a 0-0 draw against Aston in a very even match with chances for both sides. We went into our next match against Old Swinford thinking we half knew how to play hockey. Within minutes the strong Swinford side proved us wrong with a goal. We didn't really switch on properly and

ended with a disappointing 6-0 defeat.

Hoping to improve in our next two matches, we then went to a strong Bishop Vesey side that dominated and ended up with another 6-0 loss. King Henry's were next. Unknowing regarding the level of hockey they played, we went anyway with high hopes. This resulted in a, you guessed it, 6-0 defeat. We then travelled to Aston, hoping to improve on our last performance. After an excellent per-

formance, we left with a 0-0 draw although we felt that we could have converted at least one of many good chances we had.

The next match saw the return of Old Swinford. After a poor first half in which we conceded three, we came back stronger in the second half and only conceded one more goal. Our next match against Princethorpe saw the loss of a major morale booster in Talvin Rai but we still managed to let in a respectable (for us)

six goals for another 6-0 defeat. We then took the long journey down the A45 to King Henry's for a second time that season. With the return of Talvin, we were hoping to improve on our last meeting with them – we managed to succeed in this with a (still disappointing) 5-0 loss.

Our final match of the season was a daunting one. We were to face Solihull whom we had to cancel previous matches against because they were 'too good'. With the addition of county player Dominic Paver, we went hoping for the best. After a goalless first half we took to life with a goal by Azeem Hanjra who had only been in the team for a few weeks. This was followed by two more by Ross Breillat and Dom Paver to make an extremely promising 3-0 victory – our first of the season.

Notable mention must go to Neil Naik, Wajahat Ahmed, Ross Breillat and Shreshth Malik for always being available for matches



and to Talvin Rai for leading the team effectively. Thanks must also go to Mr Watkins for training us every Tuesday and taking us to games with the help of Mr Hardy. Hopefully

we will be able to take this first season away as a fond memory and improve our hockey through the coaching of Mr Willis in U15.

■ **Ross Breillat, 9J**

Athletics

The weather!! — *Never on the field of sporting conflict has so much water fallen, and athletics been completed, by so few!*

— However, on the odd occasion athletics did take place, results were very pleasing.

The Senior Foundation match was cancelled for only the second time in at least 25 years. Last year the senior team devastated the other Foundation Schools but this year we had an even stronger team. How frustrating, not to see the likes of John Lutwyche, Josh Distin, Rob George, Anki Bhatt, Chris Williams, Aaron Hsu and Josh O'Donnell, (the nucleus of possibly the strongest team in the history of the school), compete for one last time!

The first actual competition of the season, organised by Solihull School, involved Years 8 and 10. Both teams performed extremely well, especially as it was difficult to select, with confidence, the strongest team. Cameron Steel won 100m and 200m, Ed Connolly 1500m and Lewis Evans HJ with second places going to Ed in Hurdles, Cameron in TJ, Beant Thandi in HJ and Josh Mukherjee in both Javelin and Shot. They placed second overall just 3 points behind Solihull.

Year 10, who were the most successful team

this year, won their age group with first places going to Matt Lord, Jordan McDonagh, Jacob Bruten, Oliver Paulin, Aaron Sandhu, Sam England and Ahsan Khan. The combined totals were RGS Worcester 255, Solihull 273 and CHB 321 points.

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 and qualified for the Regional A Final. Best individual scores came from Jordan McDonagh 39 points, Aaron Sandhu 35, Sam England 30, Jacob Bruten 36, Matt Lord 32, and Joe Cullen 36.

In the same competition, the Junior team also won but only with sufficient points to qualify for the Midlands B Final. Highest scores here were from Cameron Steel 48 points, Billy Chapman 30 and Lewis Evans 29. In the next round, both teams performed well but found the competition very strong and placed 5th and 7th respectively.

On the Tuesday before 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. Winning positions from Tom Mansfield in LJ, Daniel Hill TJ and Rajdeep Hayer Shot with second places from Tom in 1500m, Shreyas Annadate Discus and Johannes Beckett Javelin. The team placed first overall and obviously are a strong unit, but unfortunately this was to be their only inter-school competition. Year 8 found the competition fierce and even Cameron placed second. The team finished 4th out of 7 teams.

Year 9 also struggled against strong opposition, with best results coming from Wesley Blackhurst, Amman Bhambra, Satnam Ajimal, Sulamaan Rahim, Will Houlden who all came second. Third position overall was an encouraging result. Year 10 fought hard to finish second, with wins from Jordan in TJ, Andrew Elliot in Discus and Ahsan in Javelin. Total scores placed us third with 286 points behind Old Swinford 294 and Aston 314.

The Junior Foundation Match, is split into two; Years 9 and 10 followed by Years 7 and 8 (but the latter was washed out!). In the first half of the competition, both Years 9 and 10 were outstanding and it was even more impressive since 4 of our top athletes from Year 10 were unavailable as there was a GCSE exam the following day.

Congratulations to those who stepped in at



the last minute and to Aaron Sandhu for scrambling a team together at the last minute which beat KES and Aston. Wes Blackhurst also had to re-organise the Year 9 squad and his efforts were rewarded when the team placed first over the other foundation schools. Final results were Five Ways 79 points (they only participated in year 9) Aston 281, KES 292.5 and Camp Hill 332.5. Last year we won the Foundation Championship and given there was just one competition this year, we can say that the title remains with us for another year!

For many reasons, Aaron Sandhu was the only athlete to compete in the West Midland Championships this year. He came a pleasing 3rd competing against boys a year older than himself. In the Year 8 Event, Cameron Steel and Lewis Evans enjoyed county competition in preparation for the serious English Schools' format next year.

Certainly the most notable achievement of the season came in July when Nick Wilson competed in the Aviva ESAA English Schools' Track and Field Championships at the Gateshead International Stadium. Nick won his heat and then qualified for the final, placing eighth; a tremendous success considering he was racing against others a year older.

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 competitive spirit, fun and overall success. 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.

■ G.H.

English Schools Track and Field 2012

On July 5th, I travelled up to Gateshead with the West Midlands Schools team, having been selected for the region to compete in the 110m hurdles. The senior team had been selected on the season's performances so far, with the majority of the team in the UK top 10.

Despite bad weather, the competition got under way after only being postponed for an hour, and by the time of my heat the rain had passed. I ran well to win that race, qualifying for the final with the fourth fastest time - putting myself in serious contention for a medal the next day. The weather was better on the Saturday, however my race was not. After a poor start, I hit a hurdle badly toward the end of the race and landed awkwardly, slowing me to a jog over the line. Positives can be drawn from the weekend however, as I was in the first of the two-year age groups, competing primarily against people older than me. I hope, therefore, to win or at least medal next year.

■ Nick Wilson, L.Art

Badminton

At KS3, Parvesh Konda, Shreshth Malik, Jay Chandarana, Alex Tassa and Fazal Shah took the team to the City Finals. The KS4 team, consisting of Jalees Hamid, Varun Deshpande, Saif Ahmed, Nimreth Phull and Devjeet Bhomra repeated the feat and then went on to finish 4th in the Regionals. Both teams performed with great credit.

In matches against KES we fared well, the highlight being the Under 18 team of 12 players inflicting a 35-1 defeat on our neighbours. At the summer (!) Birmingham School Games

two badminton teams went to play at Nechells, the favourite venue of our intrepid coaches Russell and Smith. We knew the courts well and also some of the opposition.

In Year 10, Nimreth, Aatif, Jei, Ahsan and Kaif played three matches, losing in the final to Bishop Vesey but collecting silver medals for their efforts (they also drove a bus on the Alexander Stadium track). In Year 9 Parvesh, Alex, Jay, Ashley and Fazal played five matches, winning them all without dropping a single game. They defeated Holte in the final to return with the gold medals. Fantastic!

A fine season overall, well done to all players.

■ M.W.D.

Basketball

U16 Basketball

With numerous training sessions being disrupted by rugby practice, hockey matches and other extra-curricular commitments, it was a wonder that all but one player were able to make the first game. We got off to an encouraging start to the season at home to KE Five Ways, a team that had been practising together for four years compared to our two months. Right from the success of the tip-off through to the end of the first quarter, we played very well to clock up a four point lead. The second quarter began much more competitively but effective breaks down the sides of the court and great passing from Jalees Hamid led to baskets scored by Jacob Smith and Luka Novovic.

By establishing a strong lead towards the end of this period, we worked hard and dominated the rest of the match, leaving us as 21-8 victors. Special mention goes to Pavan Bhambra for an excellent defensive display and Jacob Smith for his cool head in the key. A week later came our next match away against St Thomas Aquinas. On entering their gym, we were terrified to see

a basketballer's worst nightmare, a 7-foot giant! After speaking to him at the end of the match, we found out he played not only for City of Birmingham but also at national level. Despite this initial discouragement, we started the game competitively yet soon into the second period, we were stunned to see a slam dunk from the giant, but we didn't give up hope and managed to claw some points back through great playmaking from Aaron Gill and Daniel O'Brien.

There were 3 games after Christmas which resulted in 2 wins and a loss. Against Bishop Challenor's, we were far too good and dominated the game. Jei Diwakar had his strongest match scoring 6 points; the match ended with a final score of 24-8. However, the best performance of the year was against the International School. From the start, instead of missing the basket during the first quarter as usual, we couldn't fail but score. The opposition, although skilful, were demoralised and struggled to get back into the game. Hamza Zulfiqar had a great influence in this game and we won 32-10. It was a break of over a month before our final match against Yardleys. After the first quarter we were 11-2 down. Despite this rather slow start, the boys warmed up and then competed superbly to bring the score very close. Jacob and Pavan dominated the scoring and

Oliver Lester, Aatif Syed and Aaron provided excellent assists resulting in a final score of 27-30. Unfortunately due to the opposing schools cancelling at the last minute we only played 5 fixtures in the season, winning 3 and losing 2 which sadly was insufficient to qualify for the play-offs. Season statistics had Jacob and Pavan topscorers with 33 and 29 points respectively and both these players also won most valuable player awards. The boys can be proud of an extremely enjoyable and reasonably successful season of basketball and the year 10s have shown that the sport has a bright future at Camp Hill.

■ Pavan Singh Bhambra, 11X



U14 Basketball

What more can be said, other than this was a truly successful year for Under 14 basketball. With a team made up of several players who had represented the Basketball team the season prior, we had a very experienced side and were expecting, from the outset, a decent season. After an unsuccessful season in the league last year, we were optimistic of achieving greater feats, striving to make it to the play-offs. Under the strong guidance of Mr Duncan, we were assured that all would fall into place if we put our minds to it and that is exactly what we did.

After a long wait, the first match of the season arrived and we faced what seemed a strong Wheeler's Lane side. However, we realised that we shouldn't just judge the opposition on how they warm up – first impressions could be deceptive. We soon realised that we were the superior team and began to boss the game. However, sloppy defending meant that the result did not portray the level at which we controlled the game. William Houlden produced an excellent performance and top scored with 14 points as we won the game 36-24.

After a positive start to the season we headed over to KE Sheldon Heath. Although the opposition had two rather 'intimidating' figures, Camp Hill kept cool and composed to see through a 34-26 win. Sheldon Heath were let down by a single individual who thought he could 'own the game' but Camp Hill played as a team and saw through the win.

After well deserved wins against our first two opponents, we were to face a very daunting opposition, Yardleys. The school had a formidable figure in their ranks who played for City of Birmingham and so we were all quivering in our boots at the sheer size and skill. After a tough game in which the ball just wouldn't drop for us, we eventually lost 18-38. We played well but our

lack of composure in the last third simply let us down.

We then faced two further sides (Nines-tiles and St Thomas Aquinas) in which we ran out comfortable winners. William Houlden again top scored in both games with the side also using Aman Bhambra's formidable height to make him the second highest scorer in both games.

After having only lost one game, we were through to the much coveted play-offs. But to make it to the final we had to face Yardleys yet again. This time the match was much tighter and some great defensive play meant that the match was in the balance throughout. However, in the end it seemed that a certain Yardleys player was just too good and he seemed to carry the team throughout. Eventually, the match ran out 24-31 and it was an undeserved loss. After such grueling defensive play and hard fought match, we were exhausted but still had to face Arthur Terry to claim 3rd in the North-South Birmingham play-offs. We held our nerve and although many of us were exhausted we managed to see through a convincing 22-16 win to gain bronze medal. We were expecting this to be the end of the Basketball season but to our surprise we were invited to the Birmingham School Games after our success in the play-offs. We faced the elite sides of Birmingham and struggled, after a long break from Basketball, to re-ignite the brilliant play of earlier in the season. Although we lost our first couple of games and with a sense we had nothing to play for, we managed to seize the opportunity and win two successive games and somehow



managed to make it to the semi-finals. Now we had to face a strong Aston side that had easily swept the competition away in the early stages. With several 6ft players in their ranks, their height was just too great and we were forced to have to fight for bronze yet again. Who would we face? Inevitably, it was a Yardleys side, who were greatly angered by the fact they had lost in the semi's. We used this to our advantage to seize the bronze medal in an enthralling match which led to our reserve (Wesley Blackhurst) scoring the final basket in over-time, with William Houlden and myself taking the duty of marking 'the danger man'. After playing much of the season in which we thought was a 'Barcelona' playing style with slick passing moves, we turned to good old fashioned 'rough 'em up' Chelsea style of play, playing excellent defence.

Thanks must go to Mr Duncan who supported and guided us through an excellent season and a special mention to William Houlden who was our top point scorer and player of the season. Credit must go to all of the team who all helped in an excellent season of Basketball.

■ **Satnam Ajmal, 9S**

Chess

Once again the biggest problem faced by Camp Hill chess players in the year under review was a lack of fixtures. But we had a good time, upheld certain traditions and challenged others, and appear to have won a few things; the engraving bill proves that at least.

The Individual Competition attracted well over 100 entries, of whom 64 made it to the final round. The winner, perhaps unsurprisingly, was Kyle Reed, and over 30 students were invited to attend one of the Megafinals in May.

From those who went to Worcester (yes, according to the organisers, Camp Hill is in Worcestershire) Kabeendan Murugesu, Ashrit Chohan, Oliver Whitfield and Jason Pereira

qualified for the Gigafinal at Derby University in July.

Then there was the Millfield Tournament, which was as usual described by Hok Chiu in the newsletter. (I have just received news that Hok cannot attend next year, so I will have to get somebody to imitate his inimitable style.) There are some other traditions. Firstly, that we eat fish and chips at Winston's Fish Bar on Weston-Super-Mare sea front. The waitresses seemed amazed that we were a chess team, and made references to 'that chavvy one' which was a little unfair to Zack Von-Schaxmann, especially since he went on to get a board prize. Secondly, that the tournament will get a little smaller, which duly happened. Thirdly, that the Mafia game shall be played in the minibus, and it was. Oh, by the way, we came second in the Major division, so all got a trophy; as well as Zack, Andrew Pearson won

a board prize; and Dwayne Spiteri and Jalees Hamid came first and second respectively in the reserves' tournament.

Another more unfortunate tradition is that we don't do very well at the Under 18 tournament at KES in November, although Andrew Pearson won another board prize at Board 2 (curiously, for a score of 3/5). Then we hosted two tournaments in the spring term. The first was for Year 7s. KES and Windsor High School came, and KES won by a rather long way. Then the Closed Quickplay in March took place in the sports hall classroom. I asked the site staff to provide 40 playing places, which they did. I should really have asked for a place for me, though, and found myself scoring (for ten teams, four from Camp Hill) from a chair with a clipboard. As a result, I don't remember very much, apart from the fact that we tied for first place with KES. It was very nice to welcome



Queensbridge School to this tournament.

I can remember the Under 14 tournament rather better, mainly due to the efforts of a certain Kings Heath taxi company to stop us getting there. We'd better draw a veil over the efforts of our A team: at least they didn't come last. Vamsi Pratapa could have won a board prize, but didn't. A better result was obtained in the Reserves' (or Nomads') tournament, in which we fielded five enthusiastic young players. Mild-mannered Primo Agnello emerged the winner. In the final, his opponent suffered a bit of an emotional crisis, at one point trying to claim that Primo should miss a turn after not pressing his clock. And then there was the Lightning Tournament! We hadn't entered that before, so took two teams of six along to find out what it was all about. The organisation was fiendishly complex, but handled with aplomb and good humour by Mr Simpson of KES. Just before the final round, our A team were winning, but then Five Ways won. Subsequent investigation revealed that three of our players (at boards 3, 5 and 6) had played the same Five Ways player in different rounds, so either some of the Five Ways players were shape-shifters,

or bending of the rules had taken place. This reminds me of the reference to Pythagoras in Bertrand Russell's *History of Western Philosophy*: 'Some say he was the son of the god Zeus, others that he was the son of a rich citizen of Samos. I leave the reader to choose between these two alternatives.'

I could at this point deal with the sinfulness of eating beans, but instead, shall turn to House Chess. There were two competitions: who could win, and who could field the fewest players. Howard went into an early lead in this latter competition, but Seymour won in the final round by producing a team of three (there are supposed to be eight). In the real competition, the final order was Beaufort, then Howard and Tudor in equal second, then Seymour.

Yet another chess tradition is that, every year, the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League shall get smaller. Amazingly, this didn't happen this year, because Windsor High School returned after a hiatus, and nobody dropped out. (I fear for the worst for 2012-13, though. I have had to take over as Secretary because nobody else would do it, so expect fixture clashes, schools left out, etc.) I did have

a web site about the League, but I changed my I.S.P. and now cannot work out how to update it. Never mind: in 2011-12 we jointly won Division I, won Division III and Division IV outright and, I think, jointly won the Under 13 division. A satisfactory season. There were some good matches: in the autumn term, we visited KES, who had signed two England Under 12 players to their squad. Unfortunately (for KES) their PE department had insisted that one of these play U12 C team rugby that afternoon, and Max Cheung drew with the other whizz-kid to achieve a 3-3 draw.

There once was a national competition sponsored by the Times newspaper, but the Murdochs had other things to think about, and sponsorship passed to the BCF/ECF, and then to Yateley Manor Preparatory School. I think it's now passed to somebody else, which is good, because the entry fee has been abolished for 2012-13. In 2011-12, the 'local' portion of the competition included Pitsford School, Northamptonshire, who we beat, and Magdalen College School, Oxford, whom we didn't.

Bob Walker continued to run his marvellous Year 7 tuition sessions throughout the year. Such things cost money; we will do our best to support players wanting to improve their game, but our resources (and time) are not infinite. Hopefully the new arrangements for what used to be called 'Club Fund' will enable us to do a little more. (As a start it can help pay for some of that engraving!) The ECF has a new hyperactive Head of Schools Chess, so hopefully we will be able to scrape up a few more fixtures for 2012-13. Once again, by popular demand, Camp Hill Chess continues.

■ A.M.R.



[Pictured left]
Millfield Tournament Team

Cross-Country

This year the South Birmingham Cross-Country Championships were held at Rowheath Park. It was the worst of conditions, hot and dry, an anathema to the rugged, hard-man nature of cross-country athletes!

The Year 7 team ran well and four including Tom Mansfield, Mason Jolly, Daniel Hill and Johannes Beckett finished in the top 15 to qualify for the West Midlands Championships on Saturday 8th October. Tom competed for the lead with another boy and it was only over the last 40 metres that he managed to out sprint him for an outstanding first place. Ed Connolly, running against boys a year older, was our best finisher in the combined year 8/9 team, followed by Wes Blackhurst who also qualified for the next round. For the second year running Oliver Paulin had a great race which ended with a controversial finish. Oliver and another runner, who was at least 14 and a half inches taller with a stride length double Oliver's, battled for the lead over the 3 lap course. After initially taking the lead the other boy sneaked ahead on the final lap. As they both approached the finish Oliver was about

30 metres behind when he noticed the leader slowing down. Oliver was catching him quickly but it was impossible to beat him to the finishing funnel. Oliver kept going as the boy further slowed down. After entering the funnel, the leader was just about to take his 1st place ticket when Oliver raced past him grabbed the ticket and claimed 1st place and a superb win! Ben Connolly managed an excellent 7th.

On 21st January, Oliver competed in the West Midlands Cross-Country Championships at Warley Woods, a delightful spot between Smethwick and Quinton. Running as a year 10, in the Year 11 age group, he finished a superb 10th place and eventually was selected, to run for the county in the English Schools Cross-Country Championships on 17th March in Taunton, Somerset. The English Schools Championship is one of the most prestigious events on the cross-country calendar and all athletes, who in the future may represent their country, can be found in this event. On a long yet flat course at a military air field, dodging planes and missiles, Oliver came in 249th out of more than 360 competitors, which was 6th in the West Midland team. This was a tremendous result and bodes extremely well for Oliver, as he is determined to qualify again next year and finish in the top 100.

English Schools' Cross Country Cup

For the first time in living memory ... we entered this competition. Unfortunately no school in the Birmingham area was able to organise the first district round. So on the day before, we were informed that we could travel to sunny Bromsgrove and join in with the Hereford and Worcester competition being held on Tuesday. At very, very, very short notice the boys managed to scrape two teams together.

More competitive than anything they have done before, they all finished the course. Our accomplished champion, Oliver Paulin, however ran the 5km in approximately 18 mins which is equivalent to 10.36 miles per hour (correct to 2 decimal places) and was an impressive 4th. Well done to Dan Hill, Ed Connolly, Cameron Walker, Jake Webb, Jonathan Saad and Jacob Bruten for their courage, enthusiasm and overall jovial spirit.

■ G.H.

Football [Soccer]

1st XI Football

By 1st XI football standards at Camp Hill, this was an excellent season, the team beating Kings Norton for the first time in recent memory, winning seven out of the eleven games and then making history by going on the first ever football tour to sunny Bolton. Eleven games is an unusually high number of games for a season at Camp Hill and due to the fact we aren't in a league the fixtures became repetitive playing KE Stourbridge three times and Worcester twice.

Most of this year's team were new players to Sixth Form and out of our fifteen players with highest appearances ten are from the lower sixth boding well for the coming season. Our loss of key player and Captain Sean Miller was soon replaced by a new and exciting centre midfield partnership of James Giblin and Gilad Grant; this along with the pace and experience of the remaining Upper Sixth players meant we began the new season confidently.

Unlike the previous season where the high turnover of players created instability in the squad, this only strengthened our side and added to the spirit of the team which proved invaluable throughout the season. We got off to a fine start beating Kings Norton 2-0 in a solid victory with Sukhvir Lyall grabbing a brace. Our next encounter was with Birmingham Metropolitan College – a huge college



that compete in under 18 divisions. We went into the contest unsure of the opponents' ability but managed to reach half-time at 2-2. However Birmingham Met soon showed their true class, and, as our team began to tire, they began to dominate leaving the final score at 11-3, although Gilad did manage to grab some consolation with a 40 yard wonder strike. It would have been interesting to face this side towards the end of the season when the side had gelled more and improved fitness.

With a loss like this, the results for our next games could only get better and sure enough they did. We faced one of King Edward VI 6th Form College's lower teams and had ourselves to blame for being 2-0 behind heading into half-time. However the team showed their mettle and got two goals back to make the final score 2-2. For our next game we had to

make the short trip to Moseley School, where we had to adapt our style of play to the Astro-turf. Despite having to play on this surface, the team played well together and secured a 4-1 win which could easily have been a greater victory if we had been more clinical with our finishing. Our final two fixtures of the autumn term were wins against two good sides, Shenley Court and Old Swinford Hospital, where we recorded 4-0 and 3-1 wins respectively. This was a very positive finish to the first half of the season and the boys were looking forward to playing more fixtures and earning more good results.

After a long break due to the Christmas holidays and the January exams, the boys may have been lacking in match fitness coming up to Old Swinford, whom we had played earlier in the football season. This lack of sharp-

ness and creativity showed as we lost 2-0 to a team we could easily have beaten. A 2-1 defeat came against a tough King's Worcester side in a match which saw Sam Archer stick out a strong hand to save a certain goal. However Sam soon remembered that he was not the goalkeeper and the referee duly awarded a penalty. He was lenient enough not to send him off too! With seven out of eleven players in the first team having to attend Year 12 Higher Education Day, we went into a match against Baverstock weakened. However the experience of the Year 13 players showed as they managed to run out 6-5 winners in a very exciting match. The final match of the season, before football tour, was a new fixture against KE Five Ways on their 3G pitch. This match was arguably the most enjoyable match of the season because it was played in good spirit knowing that that was the last time the Year 13's would play competitively

with the Year 12's, as there were no Year 13's taking part in the football tour. A 6-5 result was repeated and the match was a fitting end to the regular football season.

All in all, this was one of the most successful football seasons in Camp Hill history with the record as follows: played 11, won 7, drawn 1, lost 3 – goals for 31, goals against 29. This impressive record shows that the team were able to play good football together and outperform previous Camp Hill football teams. Sukhvir Lyall was chief goal scorer, netting 12 of our 31 goals with his well-timed runs and clinical finishing. Jacob Deasy accompanied Sukhvir up front and there was good understanding between the two. The midfield was made up of Elliot Black, Josh Distin and the two secure centre midfielders James Giblin and Gilad Grant, who often were the providers for Sukhvir and Jacob. Josh's explosive pace

was instrumental in some of the team's great performances, and Elliot's skill and trickery created various chances as well. Our rigid defence was marshalled by the Captain, Jamie Taylor, Sam Archer, Jack Yates and Karndeepp Uppal who were interchangeable with the tenacious Oliver Tonks and Shivum Dheir. The acrobatic Akaash Harnal made some glorious saves and, with the help of the back four, recorded well deserved clean sheets.

I know the team would like to thank Mr Speake and Mr Garrod for the all the effort they put into coaching the team and all the banter that ensued. We would also like to thank Mr May for coming on the first and, hopefully, not the last, football tour. We would like to wish Year 13's the best in all of their football related endeavours and good luck to the new crop of talent coming in from Year 11.

■ **James Giblin, L3**

2nd XI Football

The 2nd XI football season saw some good performances that have gone some way to denounce its unjust reputation as a bunch of no-hopers.

The first match of the season saw the team requiring some new blood as a large number of players who had represented the school in the previous season had moved on to pastures new. Despite narrowly losing 2-1 to a strong Kings Norton side, the team showed plenty of potential with Matt Plenty scoring a well-taken goal in his debut match.

The team's second game at KE VI Stourbridge conformed to the old football cliché of a 'game of two halves'. We allowed in three goals before the half-time break; however, in the second half, Camp Hill began to dominate and started playing what can only be described as 'liquid football' which resulted in Hemesh Shelat and Zaid Al-Shammary finishing off two well-constructed moves. Unfortunately an equaliser never materialised and the full-time result was 3-2.

A trip to Old Swinford resulted in the only game in which the side did not score this season as we lost out to a more physical team who stopped us playing our passing game. Long balls to their towering striker caused havoc at the back and resulted in the side losing 2-0 in a fiercely contested affair. A return fixture to KE VI Stourbridge saw a frustrating display from the side. Despite scoring four times, we leaked goals in the second half due to a lack of match fitness which resulted in a 7-4 loss. However there was a memorable performance from Shivum Dheir who scored two goals, the other two being scored by Zaid and Patrick McElroy.

The Christmas break didn't do us any favours as the first match back saw the team comfortably beaten 8-1 by King's Worcester. Two weeks later the boys returned to Worcester with redemption in mind and arguably

we had our best performance of the season against tough opposition. Qasim Ali slotted home to give Camp Hill an early lead; however King's Worcester's quality shone through and they managed to score three goals. A well put together consolation goal by Asim Shoaib encapsulated the spirit that was shown by the side.

The penultimate game of the season resulted in well-deserved win at Handsworth Grammar School.

Camp Hill completely dominated the tempo of the game which saw Zaid slot home through the keeper's legs before half-time. Constant attacks were not converted until Elliot 'Messi' Black weaved in out of five helpless defenders in the box before tucking it in the bottom corner. The attack was complimented by a solid defensive performance which saw us keep a clean sheet for the first time with the full time result being 2-0.

The final game of the season saw the team return to where it all began with a trip down the road to Kings Norton. Regrettably, we could only field a depleted side; however there were no nerves shown as Qasim Ali nonchalantly toe-poked the ball into the top corner from outside the box early on. Umar Hanif was unfortunate to have an equally spectacular volley dubiously called offside. Despite the attacking flair shown by the side, a lack of match practice for some of the players who had been called in led to Kings Norton scoring two goals



in the second half, resulting in a repeat of the 2-1 score line from earlier in the year.

Although the team was not entirely successful, we only lost by more than two goals on two occasions and a good time was had in playing for a team represented by 24 pupils across the entire season. The standout players of the season were top scorers Zaid Al-Shammary and Shivum Dheir who scored three goals each and put in consistent performances over the season, especially Shivum who managed to score despite playing at left-back (although he spent more time in the opposition box than his own). As well as Zaid, four other players represented the team in every game this season: the captain, Hemesh Shelat, Thuli Weerasena, Zak Ahmad and Will Higgins.

■ **Thuli Weerasena, L4**

Football Tour 2012 – Bolton

As Senior Vice-Captain of the XI football team, I believe it is more than prudent for me to unravel the mysteries of the mildly adventurous trip away, known only as Football Tour 2012. It started off as a dream. A dream all too commonly visited by myself and James Giblin that would see a coach-load of adrenaline fuelled teenagers voyaging around the country searching for no more than an old-fashioned game of 11-a-side football. *Ask and you shall receive* was the shout from Mr Garrod, and in super quick time he had arranged a tour that would go down in history as one of the events that happened in April that month. Our destination: Bolton.

We left school on a brisk Friday morning in a state of confusion having had our sole fixture cancelled, but despite this setback we boarded the coach with a sense of anticipation in the air. Windows down, cruising at 70, Snoop Dogg loud on the stereo, you didn't have to be a genius to guess Mr Garrod and Mr May were up top, and in total control. Our first surprise of the tour came early on, and as the coach whizzed past signs for Bolton there were more than a few startled faces, no more than Shivum Dheir of course, who sat wide-eyed and dumbstruck as he stared down at his meticulously produced route planner. Mr Garrod had, in fact, arranged a stadium tour of the very famous Old Trafford, which was a well-received masterstroke that had the 'life-long' Manchester United supporters licking their lips.

The tour of the stadium was an unforgettable experience; even the bitter Ollie Tonks declared that it was *'quite alright'*.

Our home for the night was to be the Premier Inn, but after dropping the luggage off in our respective rooms, there was still just enough time for a group meal and a trip to the bowling alley. Despite bringing his own shoes, gloves, and specialised bowling ball, James Giblin failed to impress the crowd and ended the night with a disheartening score of 82. As we sprinted back to our bedrooms, news broke out that Mr Garrod had once again waved his magic wand, and organised a new match for the team early the following day. The next morning was something of a shock for the late sleepers, as we awoke at 7:30 for one of the biggest games of our lives. The match was an overwhelming success, with Sam Archer and Jack Yates controlling the defence, Gilad and James patrolling the midfield, and Elliot Black motoring down the wings, we won comfortably 4-2, though it really should have been more (no thanks to Jacob Deasy).

Our trip back to the Inn was dominated by the raucous chanting and general lad-ish behaviour of J. Giblin, who put us all in great spirits in preparation for the exciting encounter that saw Bolton Wanderers play host to the seemingly unstoppable Queens Park Rangers. Despite the Wanderers coming out winners, the most memorable accolade of the match was the performance of Fabrice Muamba, playing in his last game in English football before his major heart scare later that month. If you're reading this Fabrice, we wish

you the very best for the future. The rest of the afternoon was spent training with the internationally acclaimed coach Mick Wild, who taught us the do's and 'do not's' of high-level football.

After a couple of intensifying hours with Mick, we were to be transported from the Premier Inn to the Deveres Hotel inside the Reebok Stadium, giving us a magnificent view of the pitch in the comforts of our own room. A swimming session in the hotel's pool was arranged to improve team chemistry. Dinner was served later that evening, and following the End-of-Tour Awards (of which the winners can be seen below), the day culminated in free-time exploring the area. Indeed the hustle and bustle of the Bolton Retail Park proved an immediate hit for the pranksters that made up this fine football team. Unfortunately however, due to the early start on Sunday morning, the players were tucked up and ready for bed by 9pm after a fatiguing, yet exceptional couple of days.

A huge thank you must go Mr Garrod, who arranged everything from the hotels to the last-minute game changes, and of course to Mr May, who took out the time to supervise the boys and allow this momentous weekend to take place.

Award Winners:

Best Dressed – Elliot Black, **Fussiest Eater** – Jacob Deasy, **Cleanest Trousers** – Thuli Weerasena, **Biggest Lad** – James Giblin, **Friendliest** – Shivum Dheir, **Player of the Tour** – Elliot Black, **Man of the Tour** – Elliot Black.

■ **Elliot Black, L7**

Swimming

After a long Summer's rest, the swimming team's first outing was a match against Warwick School, Solihull School and the linked girl's teams. Although competition was tough, with other swimmers at county and regional level, there were individual successes.

Kieran Rickards, on his first swim for the

school, won the U18 Individual Medley, while Fabian Evans and Ben Griffin won the U18 Breaststroke and U18 Butterfly respectively. New Year 7's Daniel Higgins and Marco Fiorino also placed well. Overall, the team finished a close third by three points behind Solihull and although this broke Camp Hill's spirits, it certainly did not affect their appetites as the free food was demolished in a faster time than either of the other schools.

A week later, the swimming team went with

the Girls' School to Bromsgrove in our annual fixture. In past matches we had little success, mainly due to a student at Bromsgrove being in the Training and Development squad for the 2012 Olympics. As an example his personal best for 50m freestyle is 22.9 seconds. His appearance this year meant successes in the U18 category were hard to come by. However there were two individual victories. Fabian Evans gets a special mention, as he seemed to be 'chilling' on the



first length before finishing with a flourish in an impressive 35.2 seconds.

Other mentions go to Daniel Higgins for a massive PB in butterfly and Aneel Parmar on his first swim for the school. The highlight of the event were the relays, especially seeing Charlie Song poised and focused for the U16 freestyle relay, before toppling headfirst into the deep end.

The English Schools Swimming Association relay gala incorporated two events per school per age group, a freestyle and a medley relay. This meant the best of the best swimmers in the region competed, with qualification to the national finals depending on milliseconds saved on takeovers and turns. Though they did not progress, our teams performed well with Alex Owen, Kieran Rickards, Fabian Evans and Jack Bristow finishing second in their U18 medley heat, beating the KES team!

Early in the spring term, the team competed against St. Martin's and Camp Hill Girls' School in a fixture using all five age groups, allowing us to dust off some cobwebs. Moreover, another school's sudden departure from the competition gave us the opportunity to swim two people in each event. Although these 'bonus' swimmers did not count to the overall scores, it did help to settle some rivalries in the team and decide the order of the later individual medley relays. Overall there were many excellent finishes with 1st place

swims from Daniel Higgins, Balraj Singh, Joseph McElroy, Bhalraj Rai, Kieran Rickards, Alex Owen, Fabian Evans, and Luka Novovic. The team finished in first place and were also congratulated for their good organisation and excellent conduct on the poolside.

A week later we were back at St Martin's for a match involving Princethorpe. Again the team performed well with many excellent finishes across the board, from Craig Stewart and Marco Fiorito in Year 7 to Jordan McDonagh, Abhimanyu Yadav, and Alex Zhang of Year 10.

Also featuring in the Spring term was the House Swimming competition, arguably the most hotly contested of all galas. The pre-gala Standards points scores were close: Tudor 203 scaled points, Howard 196, Seymour 191 and Beaufort 182. The competition started well for Seymour with Daniel Higgins about 3 seconds clear of the rest of the competitors. However Beaufort began the fight back to try to retain their title, with wins from Lewis Evans and Matija Novovic. The competition continued at a ferocious pace and after the breaststroke events, Seymour had taken the lead. This was clearly the news Seymour's captain, Alex Owen, needed to spur him on in the Plunge, a special event where the aim is to glide the furthest from a standing dive. After a lengthy time not breathing (leading to some audience member's questioning his health) he emerged, set-

ting an incredible new record of 23.40m. Despite these heroics, the double point relays were to prove decisive, and Tudor's strength in depth took them to a 30 points winning margin, with Seymour second, Beaufort third and Howard with the wooden spoon. Thanks go to the enthusiastic Year 8 audience, James Wallis' timetable database and all of the staff who give their time for this event.

The swimming year finished with the Bromsgrove School U15's and U18's Invitational Relay Gala for top schools from around the Midlands. The gala was tough with so many strong schools, but our U18 freestyle team of Kieran Rickards, Luka Novovic, Ben Griffin and Jack Bristow and our U15 freestyle Team of Matija Novovic, Bhalraj Rai, Jordan McDonagh and Joe McElroy, both got through to their B Finals where they performed with credit.

Well done swimmers, and particularly to captain Alex Owen, Ben Smith, Jack Bristow, Aaron Hsu and Josh O'Donnell who have been key members of their age group throughout their time at Camp Hill. They move on with our best wishes. Thanks go to Mr Jack for his enthusiasm and dedication, and for managing us and keeping us in check throughout this year of swimming.

■ **Alex Owen, U7**

■ **P.R.J.**

Tennis

Despite a truly appalling summer term's weather, the school tennis teams managed to dodge the frequent downpours to complete a full programme of matches.

The Senior team (Kameran Ali, Charlie Song, Ollie Palmer, Mark Gilbert, Ben Miller and Ben Palmer) had a good run in the Glanville Cup during the summer term, beating St Peter's Collegiate and Wolverhampton Grammar School before losing to a very strong St Edwards Cheltenham team in the final regional round of the competition. The seniors also played Solihull School in our annual fixture but narrowly lost the match 2-4.

The U15 teams both completed their league programmes. The A team (Giles Moss, James Ternent, Gethin Bradnam, Tom Wood and Alex Lane) lost heavily to KES but gained a convincing win against Kings Norton. The 'B' team (Gethin Bradnam, Tom Wood, Alex Tassa and Dominic Paver) won their league by beating Bournville 8-4, Bishop Challoner 8-4 and Baverstock 10-2.

The U13 teams were also able to complete all their matches. The A team (Alex Hughes, Harry Atkinson, Nishant Chaudri, Cameron Walker and two Year 7 pupils, Liam Garside and Johannes Beckett) were unlucky to lose



to local rivals KES on a tie break decider after the match was drawn at 3-3. In their remaining match they registered a convincing 10-2 win against Kings Norton. The B team consisted of all Year 7 players (Liam Garside, Johannes Beckett, Garen Boora and Rohan Sharma) The boys acquitted themselves well, predominantly playing matches against Year 8 opposition and gained three wins against Bournville 8-4, Baverstock and Bishop Challoner 10-2.

Like their U15 counterparts, they also finished the term as league winners.

Liam, Johannes, Garen, Rohan and Alex Millicheap also represented the school at the Sports Partnership Year 7 and 8 Slam. The team performed well, registering wins against Bishop Challoner 'B' and Kings Norton, but lost the deciding match of the tournament against Bishop Challoner 'A'.

■ **C.M.J.**

Norman Green 2012

*Sports Day cancelled
due to recurrent poor weather*



Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 st XV	24	13	0	11	574	411
	2 nd XV	17	15	1	1	502	139
	3 rd XV	2	1	0	1	50	57
	U16	9	4	1	4	222	118
	U15	19	11	0	8	466	389
	U15 B	2	0	0	2	17	29
	U14	17	7	0	10	311	345
	U14 B	3	0	0	3	27	160
	U13	15	6	0	9	229	361
	U13 B	4	1	0	3	84	100
	U13 C	2	0	0	2	17	66
	U13 D	1	0	0	1	15	22
	U12	14	3	1	10	149	372
	U12 B	8	0	0	8	41	310
	U12 C	5	2	0	3	74	41
	U12 D	4	2	0	2	64	50
HOCKEY	1 st XI	13	2	0	11	15	70
	2 nd XI	13	5	1	7	22	31
	U15	11	3	2	6	15	25
	U14	9	1	1	7	3	35
BASKETBALL	U16	5	3	0	2	116	112
	U14	7	5	0	2	186	163
FOOTBALL [SOCCER]	1 st XI	13	7	2	4	38	37
	2 nd XI	8	1	0	7	13	25
BADMINTON	U18	1	1	0	0	35	1
	U16	10	7	1	2	35	22
	U14	6	4	0	2	21	16

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	5	1	0	4	Asim Shoaib 48	Umar Ahmed 4/12
2 nd XI	2	2	0	0	Umar Ahmed 45*	Arjan Nagra 3/8
U15	3	2	0	1	Jei Diwakar 38*	Tom Else 3/2
U14	5	2	0	3	Ed Saunders 41*	Alex Lane 4/4
U14 B	1	1	0	0		
U13	2	1	0	1	Arran Kingston 15	Dan Western 3/4
U12	5	2	0	3	Adam Ahmed 31	Hamza Arshad 4/1
U12 B	2	1	0	1		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 st IV	6	2	1	3
U15 A	2	1	0	1
U15 B	3	3	0	0
U13 A	2	1	0	1
U13 B	3	3	0	0
U12 A	3	2	0	1

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	12	8	6	2	1

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	21	6	10	3	3

House Reports

Beaufort

The summer term was a figurative and literal wash-out. The frequent and often prolonged periods of rain have struck the cricket and forced delays in the tennis. Indeed for the first time in living memory Sports Day had to be cancelled, much to the regret of all concerned. The ground was so waterlogged that it would have been a danger to life and limb to attempt any track events and even field events would have meant the loss of boys and equipment as they sank into what had now become a quagmire. Only freak, high temperatures or the hot air from a teachers' training day could have stood any chance of even beginning to dry out the pitches.

The little sport that took place in the summer term produced mixed results for Beaufort. In the table tennis we came joint second with Tudor with Captain Peter Liu, Chris Williams, Antony Pulikal and Jalees Hamid representing the seniors, James Ternent, Jacob Smith, Azeem Hanjra and Shresth Malik the intermediates, and Beant Thandi, Lewis Evans, Vikram Sanger and Rajdeep Hayer the juniors. Similarly, we came a close second behind Tudor in the tennis competition with our senior pair, Ed Thompson and Antony Pulikal, winning their age group.

Shortly before they departed on exam leave, we had a House meeting, at which we said goodbye to the Upper Sixth boys and thanked them for their contributions to Beaufort over the years. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them again and, in particular John Lutwyche and Lawrence Welch for their efforts this year as House Captain and Vice House Captain respectively. Congratulations also go to Chris Williams who was awarded the Vivian Bird for his contribution to House activities and for representing Beaufort in a wide variety of sports over the years. We wish all our departing Beaufort boys success and happiness for the future.

After last year's glittering successes, this has been a somewhat fallow year. Nonetheless, I have been impressed yet again by the boys' enthusiasm and keenness to take part in House events. There is much to look forward to next year, not least because of the House Festival that will take place in October. I am confident that we will enjoy success in 2012–2013 and wish the new Beaufort House Captain, James Giblin, and Vice House Captain, Rory Luscombe, all the best in their new positions.

■ **R.A.S.**

Howard

It has been a delight to take over the reins of Howard House this year. I owe a great deal of thanks to Mr Phil Carman who has steered me through as we have made the transition. All members of the House, past and present, will share my gratitude for all the time and effort that has gone into the enjoyment, development and excellence of legions of Howard boys over the years. Mr Carman has been Head of Howard House since 1994, presiding over three House Championships and significant changes to the structure and format of the annual House Championship. We look forward to seeing him around as he continues with his 2nd XV rugby responsibilities and we are sure he will still be able to follow and support us over the coming years.

Howard have had a fairly successful championship overall this year, though the early pressing for first place was washed out with the summer rains. Congratulations go to the footballers, basketballers, hockey players and badmintonists for winning their tournaments this year. Honourable mentions too for the cricketers who were only two final ball hiccups away from winning this maximum pointing event and to the intermediate tennis team who made a clean sweep of their matches. Many thanks to all those willing to contribute throughout the year, especially those forced to adjust to the weather-impacted summer schedule. The high levels of enthusiasm and competitive spirit shown throughout have been inspirational: Howard have shown resilience in adversity and a willingness to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

It only remains for me to offer my thanks to the Year 13, they have been a fantastic year group with many talented competitors across the range of activities. Particular gratitude must go to Luke Pritchard-Cairns as House Captain for all his efforts, to Robert George and his effective liaison with the Junior section of the House and to Chris Curtis, winner of the Vivian Bird Trophy for his outstanding contribution in seven years of House competition. It is fair to say that they have left the House in a strong position for the current year 12s to show leadership and work for future success. Hugh Sanders has been selected as new Howard House Captain for 2012–2013 and he and his team have already been able to show their value as we have battled the elements to bring this year's competition to a close. Who knows, the Howard drought may also come to an end soon!

You can now follow the trials and tribulations of Howard at @howardyoudo on Twitter.

■ **G.N.H.**

Seymour

As a house, Seymour had an inspiring year for the next generation, taking our first victory of the House Championship since 2004. It also put an end to Beaufort's seven year reign as well as making our 36th! Alex Weir was awarded the Vivian Bird Trophy for seven years' service to the House.

Under the House Captaincy of Jag Gill and Mr Watkins' leadership, we were able to secure victories within the major sporting categories, including



rugby, cross country, cricket and athletics, not to mention the victories in some of the 'minor' activities such as quiz and badminton. Along with all

of the other events, it ensured us a 10 point victory over all of the houses with 65.5 points.

Our strengths lay throughout the whole of Seymour, from Juniors to Seniors, as shown by our high standings in the various standards and in the events themselves. Hopefully our success will carry through to next year, as we hope to retain the title once again and extend our lead on the overall standings.

■ **Jake Thomas**

Tudor

Well, what a busy and exciting year it has been on the Tudor House front – we have had a year to be proud of.

Can I say a big thank you to the Year Thirteen lads, who have now moved on to pastures new? Without their help and support the running of the House would have been a far greater and more onerous task. Thanks must go to Ben Smith for his help and support as House Captain. I would also like to say a thank you to Andrew Pearson, who helped me by doing the job of House Secretary.

Jack and Patrick have taken up the reins as the new House Captain and Vice Captain with gusto and

are getting straight down to business, supporting and encouraging other members of the house.

This year's activities have not always run to schedule, but Tudor members have got on with the challenge. Even if this has meant that our best teams have not always been put out into the field due to the weather. I would like to congratulate the House tennis players, who struggled to complete and win the competition even in the trying circumstances.

I am honoured to have seen how the members of Tudor House during this year have applied themselves and worked together. Also many members have been prepared to step up to the mark and be

counted when needed, especially at the last minute. We have shown an overall good team spirit and may it long continue.

We trust that Tudor will return in September ready to lay the foundations for another good year and an enjoyable House Festival on the 3rd of October.

■ **A.J.N.**

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2011 – 2012

ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	2.5	1.5	5	3.5
BADMINTON	1.5	3.5	3.5	1.5
BASKETBALL	5	7	2	2
CHESS	4	2.5	1	2.5
CRICKET	4	7	10	4
CROSS COUNTRY	7	3	10	5
FOOTBALL [SOCCER]	1	7	5	3
HOCKEY	2	7	2	5
MUSIC	2	1	3	4
QUIZ	1	2	4	3
RUGBY	7	5	10	3
SWIMMING	5	3	7	10
TABLE TENNIS	3.5	1	2	3.5
TENNIS	3	2	1	4
OVERALL TOTAL	48.5	52.5	65.5	54

Camp Hill Old Edwardians' Association

Chairman's Report

It is with a great deal of personal regret and embarrassment that I report the Old Boys' Association has done very little in the last twelve months. This is entirely my responsibility. Having taken over from the 'Old Guard' of Birrell, Phillips and, more recently, Staples, family illness and professional changes have meant that I have not been able to devote any time to the Association. I offer my apologies to all Members and, especially, to the Committee Members who have been unable to fulfil their roles.

I will be contacting all Members of the Association in the near future in order to arrange a meeting to discuss our future course.

The Headmaster is very keen to significantly increase and expand the School's links to former pupils and he is making personnel and other resources available from within the School. There are exciting times ahead at Camp Hill Boys and Mr Roden wants to ensure that former pupils play a full part.

The Association's Annual Dinner was held at the School on 9th March. Unfortunately this clashed with a function already arranged by the *Class of '53* so our biggest single group of regulars were unable to attend. The 2013 dinner date has been pencilled in on 9th February – to be confirmed shortly.

Oscar Twiby penned one of his wonderful interpretations of 'Grace' which led us into an excellent meal of leek and potato soup, steak and ale pie, followed by syrup pudding and custard. George Cookson's merry band of School rugby players manned the bar.

The Headmaster proudly provided us with his Annual Report on the School's boundless achievements. Head Boy Ankit Bhatt followed in his predecessors' shoes and spoke eloquently and movingly about his time at the School. Yet another impressive young man who is destined for a glittering career in the medical profession. The evening ended with a stirring rendition of the School Song. Generous donations from Don Phelps and John Davis paid for wine on the tables and dinners for the Head Boys and 1st XV Captain.

I am afraid that I have been unable to gather obituaries for those 'Old Boys' that we lost during the 2011–12 academic year. I hope to rectify this and add them to next year's *Chronicle*.

■ **Martin Crutchley**, Chairman

Dear Headmaster,

I am an Old Boy 1947-1952...Camp Hill days. I read and re-read the School Chronicle with great interest and indeed pride at the excellent achievements of pupils. I am always very impressed with the many and varied activities in which the boys are interested and involved, including the 'great outdoors'.

There is a section in the Chronicle relating to the Old Boys and their outings and I wonder whether my own personal activities are worthy of a mention in dispatches, and may also be of general interest to the School.

I have very recently completed The Pilgrims' Way (Camino Frances: The Way of St. James). This is a walk of 490 miles from St Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostella in Spain, following in the footsteps of Pilgrims from centuries ago.

I actually started walking on 21st July and walked every day until I arrived at Santiago on the 20th August. This Pilgrimage was a tremendous, fascinating and interesting experience which I undertook in memory of my dear wife who died in June of this year and also to raise some funds for the local Hospice. I was very pleased at the interest that my walk generated and also the success of the fund raising.

Prior to this achievement I have been very active, particularly over the last 20 years, and completed the following challenges –

12 TGO Challenge Walks, wild camping across Scotland... about 215 miles... the last in 2011 and the next one in May 2013

17 International Challenge Walks

4 London Marathons

1 x New York Marathon

3 x Half Marathons

Hadrian's Wall, 2011

Pembrokeshire Coastal Path

South West Way

The Welsh 3000's in under 24 hours

The Yorkshire Three Peaks

Wainwright's Coast to Coast, England

West Highland Way

... and many many others

Walks in the Alps, Snowdonia and the Lake District at high levels

Plans for next year include:

TGO Challenge number 13

Julian Alps

Walking in Ireland

Coast to Coast - England (for training for the Scottish Challenge)

So you will appreciate from all this that I have been very active over the years. I realise that, at the age of 76 years, I am fortunate to have the physical AND mental capabilities to take on these challenges and I do hope that my record so far will be inspirational to others of my age and also, perhaps, of interest to some of the boys.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Wood

In Memoriam

The following 'Old Boys' passed away during the 2011–2012 academic year

Brian Bicknell

Robin Cull

Lindsay Douglas

Simon Fenn

Don Howles

David Hughes

Alan Humphries

Peter Jackson

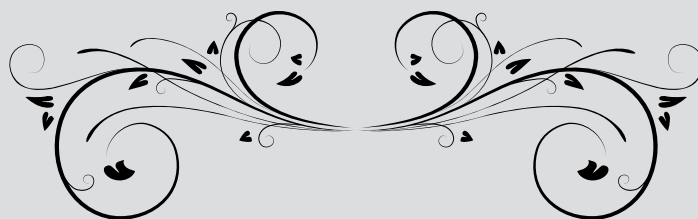
Roy Lawrence

Chris Millward

Michael Pratt

Harry 'Jim' Turner

Anthony Wright





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